

Hearing on Nollac Case to Open Jan. 24

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Ann Landers C-1 Sports D-1
 Count Marco C-1 Travel A-12
 Public Notices D-3 Women's News B-1
 Obituaries A-2 Want Ads D-3

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HOSPITAL PLEDGE . . . Maurice D. Schwartz (left), president of Pacific Smelting Co. of Torrance, hands a completed pledge for the Torrance Memorial Hospital Building Fund to Mrs. Boris Woolley, president of the hospital board. Schwartz pledged \$25,000 to the fund on behalf of his firm. Also present for the proceedings was Richard A. Sullivan, M.D., medical director of the hospital. (Press-Herald Photo)

Firm Pledges \$25,000 For Hospital Drive

Zinc Smelting Company Makes Latest Pledge

Pacific Smelting Co., one of this city's own "home town" industries, this week pledged \$25,000 for the Torrance Memorial Hospital Building fund.

The pledge was announced by Maurice D. Schwartz, president of the firm, and Mrs. Boris Woolley, president of the hospital's board of directors.

Pacific Smelting Co. is engaged in the production of zinc oxide, zinc dust, and metallic zinc. Located here for the past 25 years, the firm's products are used throughout the world.



ALLAN B. HILL Killed in Action

Schwartz said the gift to the hospital building fund is a reflection of the firm's interest in a developing community.

"Our business has prospered and grown with the community of Torrance for 25 years," Schwartz said. "We feel that a company must be an integral part of a community, giving as well as receiving from it."

"It must, indeed, put something back. The new hospital will serve all of the people of Torrance for many years to come. We are happy to play a part in its development," he concluded.

Schwartz, in addition to his duties as president of Pacific Smelting Co., is a vice president of the National Association of Secondary Material Industries and a past president of the Secondary Metal Institute, a division of the national trade association.

He was the recipient of the Phoenix Award from the Philadelphia Meals Association in 1965. The award is given annually to an outstanding man in the industry.

"WE COULD almost have predicted this pledge since Pacific Smelting has always led in activities that help people," Mrs. Woolley commented in accepting the pledge. "They pioneered in a profit sharing plan for employees in 1952 and have for 14 years awarded scholarships in Torrance high schools."

A surgical room in the new hospital will be named for the firm to recognize the pledge, it was noted.

Pays Its Own Way Airport Fund Has Healthy Surplus

(Editor's Note: This is the second in a series of articles delving into the history, development, problems, and future of the Torrance Municipal Airport. Later articles will explore the views of local residents and city officials regarding the airport, as well as the spectre of future expansion.)

By NATALIE HALL Press-Herald Staff Writer

Torrance Municipal Airport has the authorization to sell an additional \$325,000 worth of airport bonds. But if Airport Manager Jack Egan has anything to say about it, those bonds will never be sold — resulting in a tremendous savings in interest payments for the airport budget.

Egan believes he can avoid borrowing the \$325,000 because airport finances are currently in such strong shape. The local flying field is completely self-supporting and a surplus of \$15,000 to \$20,000 per year is not uncommon.

In fact, Egan has about \$120,000 in surplus funds stashed away right now. The funds will

be used for major airport improvements in the near future. In the meantime, they're making more money for the airport through the city's lucrative investment program.

EGAN is quick to point out that the airport still has roughly \$90,000 left from the last series of airport bonds issued by the city.

That's in addition to the \$325,000 in bonds that have yet to be sold. So there appears to be no need to cash in any more bonds, at least for the present.

Background facts are that the Torrance electorate approved Airport Revenue Bonds in the amount of \$1,250,000 at the 1962 regular election. Series "A" was issued in 1963 in the amount of \$425,000, and Series "B" was sold in 1965 in the amount \$400,000. Authorized but still not sold are \$325,000 worth of bonds.

Selling bonds may sound like an easy way to raise cash, but as Egan points out, it's an expensive way. For example, the Series "A" bonds in the amount of \$425,000 are being reclaimed over a 24-year period at a total interest of \$269,500 — more than half the amount of the loan itself.

IT SHOULD be clarified that both the principal and the interest on these bonds are paid for from airport funds. The local taxpayer does not pay one cent of it. Therefore, if Egan can avoid selling a new series of bonds (and saving that tremendous interest), the benefit of the savings will accrue to the people who do pay for the airport: i.e. airplane owners and land leases.

The Torrance Municipal Airport has the advantage of having plenty of peripheral land to lease to nonairport businesses, such as car dealers, gas stations, department stores and many more. Lease money from these outfits accounted for roughly two-thirds of the airport's revenues (or \$180,000) during fiscal 1967-68. The remaining third (\$90,000) was collected through aeronautical services, such as renting tie-down space.

Airport rates to flyers are ad-

justed every two to three years and were raised somewhat in February, 1968. However, Egan states that Torrance air field rates are comparable to neighboring municipal fields.

NOT ALL major airport projects are financed strictly through local funds, however. Torrance has undertaken five projects with the support of the federal funds, paying only about 46 percent of project costs with local funds.

Best known — and most troublesome — of these projects is Federal Airport Aid Project-03 (FAAP-03), which helped Torrance acquire a runway "clear (See AIRPORT, Page A-2)

Financing Sidewalk Work At Root of City Dilemma

Torrance residents whose sidewalks are cracking up will be asked how they feel the repair problem should be financed.

After a heated discussion at last night's City Council meeting, councilmen decided that 1,000 notices should be sent area residents whose homes are involved, informing them of their responsibility for the repair, and inviting them to attend a hearing on the matter. The city manager's office was assigned the mailing task.

No date for the hearing has been set yet.

CITY MANAGEMENT officials estimate the cost of repairing the average hazardous sidewalk would be from \$75 to \$125 per residence.

The root of the problem stems primarily from elm trees. Elm roots are cracking up Torrance sidewalks at a rate which has city officials alarmed.

The city hires a five man crew to work on a full-time basis trying to uproot the problem, but they can only repair 2,500 square feet of sidewalk per month. At that rate, they can't even keep up with the problem, let alone conquer it.

When the program started two years ago there were about 50,000 square feet of sidewalk needing replacement. Now, that figure stands at 100,000 square feet in spite of daily replacement efforts.

These sidewalk problems must be repaired, city management officials say, because they present a hazard and open the city to possible lawsuits.

Several solutions to the problem were discussed.

- The city could hire two additional repair crews at a cost of roughly \$120,000 the first year;
- Require individual property owners to pay a percentage, say 2/3, of repair costs if their properties are involved;
- Require property owners to maintain their sidewalks completely at their own expense;
- Replace those trees causing the root problem.

City officials suggested sending cards to owners of cracked sidewalks saying, "Don't Despair, Just Make Your Repair," and presenting an estimated bill.

"I don't think it's funny," retorted Mayor Albert Isen commenting that he would hate to be around when those residents received their repair bills.

Councilmen Give Youth Voting Job

City Councilmen have voted to make the president of the Torrance Youth Council a voting, bona fide member of the Torrance Youth Welfare Commission.

Current Youth Council president is Lenny Schapira of South High. The Council is made up of teenage representatives of several Torrance area high schools.

Suggesting the idea to the council was Stanley Dunn, a member of the Youth Welfare Commission.

2 Inches Of Rain Recorded

A Pacific storm which hit the Los Angeles basin Monday dropped more than 2 inches of rain on Torrance in a 24-hour period.

Instruments at the Torrance Municipal Airport recorded 2.05 inches between 3 p.m. Monday and 3 p.m. Tuesday. The season total is now 4.83 inches.

During the season a year ago, a total of 8.08 inches of rain had been recorded.

Civil Service Group Envisions Lengthy Hearing

The first Civil Service Commission hearing for suspended Public Works Director Walter M. Nollac has been scheduled for Friday, Jan. 24, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., in the City Council Chambers, City Hall.

Hearings will resume Saturday, Jan. 25, 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., and Monday, Jan. 27, 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. The Civil Service Commission will set further hearings later.

An estimated 20 to 35 hours of commission time will be involved before the case is settled.

NOLLAC FACES charges involving 17 counts of misconduct and incompetency brought against him by City Manager Edward J. Ferraro. If he is found guilty of any charges, Nollac may appeal his case to the City Council. The council may lower the penalty, but may not stiffen it.

Personnel Director Ted Donovan said the commission had considered accepting a hearing officer from the state to advise them on the case and lighten their workload.

HOWEVER, they were forced to abandon the idea because

Realtors to Hear Scout Leader

Dr. Paul St. Amand of the Los Angeles County Heart Association will address members of the Torrance-Lomita Board of Realtors Wednesday, Jan. 22. Dr. St. Amand will discuss "How to Have a Heart Attack."

there is no provision in the municipal code for employing such an officer.

"I'm sure we'll have a code change as soon as this hearing is over," Donovan said.

Nollac faced conflict of interest charges before the Civil Service Commission in August, but was found innocent of any wrongdoing. He claims the charges stem from "personal animosity" on Ferraro's part.

Trustees To Meet At West

The Torrance Board of Education will meet at West High School Monday at 7:30 p.m. in cafeteria 5.

The meeting, which is open to the public, will be the third meeting this year to be held away from the district offices. Previously the board met at South and North High Schools. A March 17 meeting is scheduled to take place at Torrance High School.

Purpose of the meetings in the field, according to board president Dr. Owen Griffith, is to enable residents of the community to attend board sessions close to home.

Agendas for all board meetings are available at the public library branches on the Friday preceding each meeting, Dr. Griffith stated.

Search for Beauties Begins

Applications are now being accepted for the 1969 Miss Torrance Beauty Pageant, to be held April 15 at Torrance High School. The contest is open to all single girls who will be between the ages of 18 and 26 by Sept. 2, 1969, and who reside in the Torrance area.

Miss Sharon Terrill, last year's Miss Torrance, was named Miss California, and went on to represent her state in Atlantic City's Miss America pageant.

The sponsoring Torrance Jaycees have promised the most glamorous and extravagant pageant ever.

Applications may be obtained either at Torrance City Hall or the Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce.



PARENTS TO BE . . . Mrs. Robert Tiede, R.N., a delivery room nurse at Torrance Memorial Hospital, uses a model to show Mr. and Mrs. Richard Silva the position of the fetus prior to labor during a session of a special childbirth class at the hospital. The 10-week course, begun last Sept. 30 as a pilot program, will move into its third session in February. Mr. and Mrs. Silva, who are expecting their first child, are enrolled in the current session. (Press-Herald Photo)