

Torrance Herald

OFFICE AND PLANT AT 1619 GRAMERCY AVE., TORRANCE

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3, 1957



10¢ Per Copy 36 PAGES

43rd Year—No. 79

12

Squabble May Delay South High PICK POLICE CHIEF, ASSISTANT

A Penny for your Thoughts

After checking first to see that they had set their clocks back Sunday, the HERALD photographer asked a group of Torrance residents:

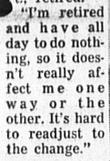
"How does the switch from daylight saving time to standard time affect you?"

Jean Wren, 17217 Crenshaw Blvd., secretary.



"As a working girl, I don't have any time to work in my garden now. I like daylight saving time. They ought to leave it just like it was."

J. Rome Gateley, 117 E. 216th St., retired.



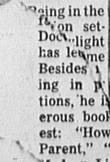
"I'm retired and have all day to do nothing, so it doesn't really affect me one way or the other. It's hard to readjust to the change."

Lloyd Reist, 3252 Dalemead St., assistant principal, Seaside School.



"I prefer daylight saving time. I'd much rather go to work in the dark and come home in the daylight than the other way around. Who can get up in the morning and mow the lawn?"

Joe Rode, 3408 N. Cosbey, Baldwin Park, city aquatics rector.



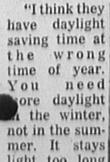
"Being in the pool set, I don't mind daylight saving time. Besides, I'm going to be in the pool in the morning, so I don't mind it."

M. Behrufford Trezise, 3232 Eldorado, secretary.



"I'd just as soon have daylight saving time all the time, but the change doesn't upset me. I enjoy the daylight when I go home from work."

R. R. Lucas, 2726 Andree Ave., city fire marshal.



"I think they have daylight saving time at the wrong time of year. You need more daylight in the winter, not in the summer. It stays light too long in the summer anyway. If you want to go to a drive-in movie, it's midnight before you can get home."

New School to Open Next Year

South High School has been tentatively scheduled to open its doors in January, 1958, after Christmas vacation, and school officials are hopeful that a dispute with the contractor will not delay the opening date beyond that time.

Originally scheduled to open in September, the school was delayed by a construction strike last summer which idled workmen for about 45 days. The board Tuesday night granted a 64-day time extension to the Crown Construction Co., general contractor, for delays as a result of the strike. This would make the school's completion date early in January.

Construction Delays
The school construction officials and the Crown Co. are in disagreement over two construction problems, one of which has been submitted to arbitration and the other which may go to an arbitration board.

School officials contend that the Crown Co. did a messy job on brickwork both on the inside and outside of the school and are demanding that the firm clean the brick. They maintain that the firm failed to take care to clean the cement off the brick when it was laid. The firm's officials claim they have tried all reasonable means to clean the brick and have failed.

Cleaning Ordered
The School Board Tuesday night ordered the company to clean the brick somehow. It indicated that it might settle for sandblasting the exterior brick and painting of the interior brick if nothing better could be arranged. Sandblasting will not be allowed on the interior, the board decided, because of possible damage to the acoustical tile, already put in.

This matter may go to arbitration if the firm objects to this plan.

Second Dispute
The other dispute concerns placing birch plywood behind blackboards in the classrooms. School officials claim it is called for in the contract; Crown officials deny this. The board Tuesday appointed J. E. Byers to represent it before an arbitration board on this point. J. E. Crockett, director of new construction for the schools, said he believed that the dispute might be settled without delaying the opening of school.

At the present time, South High youngsters are attending classes in Torrance Elementary and Torrance High Schools on a temporary basis.

Grand Jury Ends Investigations On Police Bail

Grand jury investigations into alleged mishandling of bail monies in Torrance and other South Bay cities ended yesterday afternoon. Although it couldn't be confirmed, the jury apparently voted an indictment in the matter.

Ending of the grand jury probe yesterday climaxed a series of investigations arising out of alleged discrepancies in bail accounts in the area—namely in the Torrance police department—which were handled by Jack Gee, who served as a warrant officer for various police departments on a contract basis.

Grounds for the complaints were uncovered earlier this year by Assistant D. A. William E. Keene while he was assigned to the South Bay Municipal Court. Keene turned the matter over to the criminal complaints division of the grand jury before he left his post here to enter private law practice.

Investigations of Keene's findings by Deputy District Attorney Fred Henderson showed that 85 warrants given to Gee to collect were missing and that about \$3500 in bail money was involved in the warrants.

Several Torrance officers appeared before the grand jury during the hearings. None were implicated in the missing funds during the probe.

All Quiet on Asiatic Flu Front Here

Although a few cases of Asiatic flu have been reported in the Torrance area, there apparently has been no widespread occurrence of the disease.

Torrance school officials reported no unusual number of absences among students although they said there are a few cases rumored to be of the Asiatic flu.

School officials have ordered enough vaccine to inoculate teachers and school employees directly dealing with the children. The shots will be made available to employees who want them, officials said.

Rivets Reports

It'll be soupy this morning but sunny this afternoon, with a high in the mid-70's, according to the HERALD weather dog, Rivets. Low clouds and fog will hover over the area during early morning hours.

High and low temperatures this week included Sunday (82-52); Monday (77-55); Tuesday (77-52); and Wednesday (77-55).



CHIEFS CONFER . . . Percy Bennett, who was named this week as chief of police, confers with Assistant Chief M. H. Porter, whom he appointed yesterday. The two officers were appointed to the top police jobs after they each placed first in Civil Service examinations.

Percy Bennett Gets Top Post

Percy Bennett, 55, a veteran of 25 years on the Torrance Police Department, was appointed to the chief's post this week by City Manager George Stevens after results of a Civil Service examination were announced. Bennett placed first.

As one of his first official acts as chief of police, Bennett named Lt. M. H. Porter to be assistant chief. Porter also finished first in the examination for the post, beating out Lts. Alex Thompson and D. C. Cook.

Both appointments were effective Oct. 1.

Bennett joined the force as a patrolman in 1932 and worked up through the ranks of the department, serving as assistant chief under Willard H. Haslam, and as acting chief since Haslam's retirement last spring.

Here Since 1924
He was born in London, England, and came to the United States when he was about 5 years of age. He has lived in Torrance since 1924.

Chief Bennett and his wife, Addie, who live in Waverly, have two sons, Melvin, 29, who is a member of the Torrance police department; and Warren, 22, a cost analyst with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's office.

Bennett has completed all the FBI police science courses, and is a strong advocate of police training classes. A number of his officers are currently taking university and special police training courses.

The new chief is a member of the Redondo Beach Elks, Torrance Lodge of the Masons, American Legion, and is an honorary member of the Waverly Business Men's Assn.

Porter, 47, who lives with his wife, Ruth, in Hollywood Riviera, has been a member of (Continued on Page 16)

No Decision Yet On Location of Muny Court Here

The temporary location of a Torrance branch of the South Bay Municipal Court—where and if—is still up in the air despite reports to the contrary, City Manager George Stevens said yesterday.

Court Clerk Ernest W. Stout and Robert Beam of the County Property Management division yesterday looked over the City Council chambers of the new City Hall as a possible location for the court, and conferred with City Manager Stevens.

After inspecting the council chambers yesterday, the officials decided to look again at the old City Hall. Cost of the old City Hall was said to be a factor against its remodeling, but the new City Hall has only limited facilities for the court clerk, bailiff, and auxiliary personnel.

Three Sites Eyed
Apparently, three sites are under consideration for the site:

1. The old city hall, El Prado and Cravens.
2. The council chambers of (Continued on Page 16)

Vico Quits Commission, Says the 'Thing's a Joke'

Recreation Commissioner George Vico is adding his name to those who recently resigned from the advisory board, he told The HERALD yesterday.

"I'm through right now," he said, adding that he was sending in formal notice of his resignation immediately.

"The whole thing is a joke," Vico said. He took a verbal poke at Mayor Albert Isen, saying he was primarily responsible for the problems of the commission.

In resigning, Vico followed the lead of three other commissioners — Herma Tillim, Mrs. William Boswell, and J. H. Paget. They resigned earlier this fall.

Blasts Council

Mrs. Boswell was particularly critical of the city council at the time of her resignation, saying, "Our decisions not only were ignored, but hopelessly debilitated by the city council."

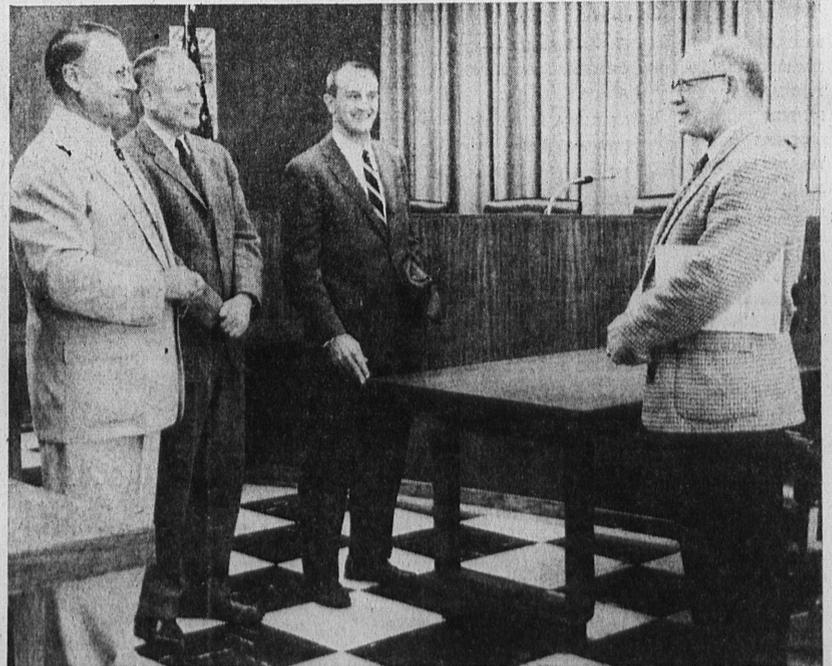
Members of the city's recreation commission have expressed displeasure at the council's handling of the \$3 million recreation bond issue which will go before the voters here Oct. 29.

The board has recommended a minimum of \$5 million for the program, and the council cut it to \$3 million. Commissioners Tillim and Paget quit shortly after then and Mrs. Boswell a short time later.

Wanted to Help

In announcing his resignation yesterday, Vico said he had accepted appointment to the commission in the belief that he could serve the city and its recreational needs.

"As it turned out," Vico said, "the commission's advice has not been seriously sought, nor heeded."



STUDY COURT FACILITIES . . . City and county officials here study possibility of establishing a branch of South Bay Municipal Court in the present city council chambers in Torrance. Left to right are City Manager George Stevens, Assistant City Manager Don Mansfield, Robert Beam of the County Administrator's Office, and Court Clerk Ernest W. Stout. The city has offered use of the current city council chambers or the old city hall in downtown Torrance.

SUBSCRIBERS

Call FA 8-4000 Before 10 a.m.

If you fail to receive your HERALD on Sunday or Thursday morning.

Subscriptions: By carrier—45 cents month