

Torrance Babe Ruth All-Stars Win S. Cal. Title

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PAY \$100,000 FOR OLD CITY HALL

A Penny for your Thoughts

Do you think the city should underwrite the Torrance Area Youth Band with tax money? Why? That was the question your Pennies photographer asked people on the city's streets this week.

After a long trek through the city he found five people who bravely voiced their opinion. Their answers and pictures appear below.

Mrs. LaVon O'Quinn 18806 Wall St., Gardena:

"Yes, I think it should. Most cities do not have enough facilities for their youth. The band helps to keep children that might otherwise get into trouble out of mischief. It is a small investment for such a large reward."

Mrs. Charles Pinion, 1115 W. Chandler St., Wilmington:

"Yes, and as the mother of a grown son I think the young people need more city sponsored activities and groups. It helps them to stay out of mischief and is very encouraging to them. The city should definitely help the band."

Mrs. Dee Dieter, 3518 227th Pl., Torrance:

"I certainly do think that the city should help pay the expenses of the band. Such things and activities as this are the things which we look back on in our own youth. It is a part of growing up and of being educated to appreciate music."

Art Hassen, 241-A W. 220th St., Torrance:

"The only hope for the world is the beauty and love that comes from the arts. Therefore, it should be a special fund, apart from taxes, for the promotion of music, especially youth groups."

F. J. Fredrichsen, 805 East 65th St., Inglewood:

"I do not live in Torrance but I have been in the area long enough to know about the Youth Band. I think that the city should use tax money to support the band if it is necessary. The Youth Band is a very fine thing."

EFFECTIVE FIREMEN

A garden hose was used by R. R. Sanderson to put out a fire which gutted the interior of his car Tuesday, according to the Fire Department. Firemen said the 1957 model Ford caught fire while in the garage of Sanderson's home at 337 Via Pasquale.



MISS AIRPORT DAY . . . Sharon Smith, 17, who will reign as queen Sept. 12 at the second annual airport day to be sponsored jointly by the city of Torrance, the Airport Commission and the Torrance Chamber of Commerce. She will be presented with a trophy by Mayor Albert Isen as one of the main events of the day. General Chairman Joe Doss, a member of the airport commission, has plans for a handicap race for private flyers from Torrance to Las Vegas, flying demonstrations and exhibits of commercial, private and military aircraft.

Leaders React to Chamber Idea

The HERALD'S suggestion for eventual complete independent financing of the Chamber of Commerce, has received mixed reaction from officials and community leaders approached.

Generally, it is agreed, the program is one that should become a goal of the Chamber, one that might eventually be achieved.

"I view with mixed feelings," City Manager George Stevens said. "I can see where a chamber of commerce operating completely independent of any political pressures could avoid all conflict of interests."

On the other hand I believe cities should help in the promotional financing of chambers, a policy that is practiced up and down the Pacific coast. I believe money so spent comes back twofold to the citizens."

F. E. THOMPSON, General Petroleum plant manager and former Chamber president, liked the suggestion.

"I can see a long term program to achieve this desirable goal," he said. "We should try to avoid as far as possible all conflict of interests. I think the idea has great merit."

GLEN KOGER, a member of the Chamber's executive committee, feels that city support is necessary.

"During the time I have sat on the Chamber board I can recall no single incident when political pressure has been exerted. Right now the Chamber has a job to do in securing additional membership support and that isn't easy. I feel more widespread support by individual members is the answer. Large contributors can just as often become special interests as well as any political body."

MAYOR ALBERT ISEN said he has always favored divorce of the Chamber from municipal financing.

"However, I want to make it very clear that I think the present Chamber regime is doing a splendid job for Torrance and I feel any city contribution is being used effectively for the purpose it was intended," he said yesterday.

Marijuana Plant Grower Arrested

His agricultural efforts got a young laborer into trouble with the law here Wednesday.

Sheriff's deputies arrested Jimmy Bruns, 19, for raising marijuana plant by a clothesline pole in the back yard of his home at 3713 W. 173rd St. Investigators said Bruns admitted carefully cultivating and harvesting the eight-foot tall narcotic plant for the past three months.

Several stalks from the loco weed were found in his car, deputies reported.

Three Women Hurt in Crash

Three women were injured Tuesday in a two-car collision on Western Ave. at Plaza del Amo, according to police.

Gladys M. Mills, 22, of 25360 Oak St., Lomita, suffered a head gash that required eight stitches to close. Lesser hurts were suffered by Amalia Garcia, 33, of San Pedro, and Virginia Smith, 22, of 25358 Oak. Officers said the autos involved were driven by the Mills and Garcia women. All were taken to Harbor General Hospital.



CRASH VICTIMS . . . Maria Vinca, 19, of Long Beach, consoles Clara Hagadus, 15, Los Angeles, after the car they were passengers in and driven by Fabian Meszaros, 21, also of Los Angeles, crashed into a car driven by Thomas Pierce, 37, of Long Beach. The accident occurred Sunday night at Carson and Figueroa. Four persons were injured and Meszaros was charged with hit and run after he left the scene on foot. (Herald photo)

City Nurse a 'Florence' Or 'Holmes'?

Hiring of a personnel nurse for municipal employes was delayed by the City Council Tuesday night after some city fathers expressed fear she might be more of a Sherlock Holmes than a Florence Nightingale.

Hiring of the nurse was postponed after Councilmen questioned a part of her job description in which she would call on workers who are taking sick leave.

Mayor Albert Isen was concerned that such visits might constitute invasion of privacy and Councilman Nickolas Draie called it a form of "checking up."

"LET'S CALL a spade a spade," countered Councilman Robert Jahn. "We've been losing a great deal of time and money . . . employes on sick leave have been seen on fishing boats and at race tracks. She'll save her salary many times over."

Councilman George Bradford said such a nurse is used by many industrial firms.

Jahn's motion to hire the nurse at a monthly starting salary of \$461 was shelved by a tie vote. Councilman Willys Blount took sick leave before the issue arose because of a virus infection.

City Administrators said the nurse's visiting duties would be only a part of her function. By treating minor wounds and advising employes, she would help reduce the city's compensation costs they declared.

The Council also balked at creating a senior airport attendant to serve as a leadman among the field's four service employes. Some said such a position was not needed among such a limited number of workers, although creation of the post was urged by Airport Mgr. Jack Egan.

Approved positions included those of a traffic and lighting engineer, zoning coordinator, equipment superintendent, building maintenance supervisor, senior utility maintenance man, personnel assistant and account collector.

Probe Man's Death After Picnic Row

Death of a Torrance man, who according to police, died Sunday night after he chased and beat his girl friend in the Malibu area, is being investigated and an autopsy ordered. Howard Hirdler, 28, of 1639 W. 203rd St., was pronounced dead on arrival at Woodland Park hospital, Woodland Hills, at 6:35 p.m., sheriff's deputies reported.

Sheriff's deputies said Hirdler and his girl friend, Jacqueline Burns, 25, also of the 203rd St. address in Torrance, were returning from a picnic in the Malibu area.

The couple were in a car driven by Hirdler's brother, Keith, 36, Lakewood. Also in the auto were the brother's wife, Jeanne and daughter, Faye, 13, and Linda Brown, 14, a friend.

DEPUTIES were told by a witness in the car that Howard Hirdler was intoxicated and had already chased and beaten Miss Burns during the return trip.

When the man again began beating the woman Keith Hirdler stopped the car on Cornell Rd., a mile north of Mullholand Dr., and fought with his brother as Miss Burns fled. It was then Howard Hirdler ran after the girl, but fell and struck his head on the pavement, witnesses said.

Mayor Invites Krushchev Here

Premier Krushchev has been invited to visit Torrance in a telegram sent Secretary of State Christian A. Herter yesterday by Mayor Albert Isen of Torrance.

In his invitation, Mayor Isen suggested that Torrance, an "All-American City" award winner, be seen by the visiting Russian leader next fall. He termed Torrance a "model industrial community of 100,000 which offers inspection of a blue book roster of industries and exhibits the high standards of living of typical American workers."

Sniper Who Used Female Targets Held

Sniper Michael Edwin Smith, 21, who stalked his women targets on the streets at night, will face preliminary hearing in Compton Municipal Court Aug. 18, on a charge of assault with intent to commit murder.

Smith, of 1051 Spicer St., told detectives, "I was just playing a game like on television," when he was arrested Monday after his mother, Mrs. Catherine Rupard, 40, who lives with her son, called police. She said she became suspicious when she found a .32 calibre gun belonging to Smith was empty after his return before daybreak Sunday. Investigators credited Mrs. Rupard with preventing a possible tragedy.

Mrs. Elaine Thomas, 44, of Long Beach, came close to death, police said, when one of Smith's slugs lodged in her hair after the 6-foot, 2-inch tall, 220-pound service station attendant fired at her through the open window of her moving car Sunday night. Ten minutes later Smith fired another shot at two women as they got out of their car at 595 Truman Boyd Manor, Long Beach.

Smith, who is being held in jail in lieu of \$5000 bail, said he fired the other five shots at random.

Home Savings Bid Accepted

A \$100,000 offer for the 23-year-old former city hall building here was accepted Tuesday night by the City Council.

The 10,000-square foot structure at 1511 Cravens Ave. was sold to the Home Savings & Loan Assn. of Los Angeles, which will use part of it for a local office.

K. D. Childs said the Torrance Recreation Dept. and the Chamber of Commerce will be allowed to continue to occupy parts of the building.

The Recreation Dept. will remain in its offices in the west end of the building for at least a year without rent. The Chamber will continue in its space at the south end for a minimum of two years at a rental of \$150 per month, \$100 per month less than had been originally proposed by the company.

THE OFFER accepted is a come-down from the nearly \$117,000 tendered by the firm Monday. Childs said the figure was reduced after an architectural study of the concrete facility indicated an expense of about \$25,000 to have it remodeled.

Home Savings will occupy the northeast section now being used as a Recreational Dept. Arts and Crafts Center.

Childs said his company, largest of its kind in the world, wants to occupy the building by Aug. 22 so that it can begin doing business by Oct. 1.

The firm's interest in Torrance was indicated by Childs' statement to the Council that it has about \$90 million in outstanding loans here.

PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS by the Council to sell the building were unsuccessful as no bid was received that met or exceeded appraisals. The latest appraisal three months ago put a \$96,500 price tag on the facility.

This, however, did not indicate part of the parking lot to the south of the building which is included in the Home Savings deal.

Councilman Nickolas Draie pointed out that the money from sale of the old city hall can be earmarked to erect fa-

cities for the Recreation Dept. on the present civic center site. The old city hall was abandoned as such three years ago when a new municipal center was completed at 3031 Torrance Blvd.

Sale of the old city hall follows purchase of the nearby Civic Auditorium by the Security-First National Bank of Los Angeles.

Councilman John Beasley predicted that the downtown area of Torrance will become the city's financial center.

Hospital Plans Have Approval

Another step was taken today in the construction of the new \$15,000,000 Harbor General Hospital in Torrance.

Supervisor Burton W. Chace made this announcement following approval of plans and specifications for relocation of old buildings and site clearance by the Board of Supervisors.

The project, estimated to cost \$55,155, will make room for construction of the proposed laundry and the central heating and refrigeration plant.

Chace said that Ward Buildings F-10, F-11, F-12, and F-13, as well as the covered walks, are scheduled for relocation. It is also planned to construct a temporary roadway paralleling the existing drainage channel.

"Approval by the Board of this project means we are just that much closer to the construction of the Harbor General Hospital which is very badly needed in the area," Chace said.



NEW PREXY INSTALLED . . . Mrs. Charles Shute, retiring president of the Women for Good Government, hands over the gavel to the new president, Mrs. Clyde Haslet. Looking on are Mrs. Holly Holmes, founder-advisor to the Torchbearers, a local youth group which studies American government, Holly Holmes, Jr., and William Rehm. The installation took place last week at a luncheon meeting of the group at the Fish Shanty. (Herald Photo)