

Redondo Youth Killed in Crash

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BOARD APPROVES PAY HIKES

New Raises Fall Short of Teacher Plan

Salaries of all employees of the Torrance Unified School District were increased two and a half per cent, effective Sept. 1, after more than an hour of discussion at Monday's meeting of the Board of Education.

But no one, including board members, is happy with the increase. The hike was a compromise measure that left a bad taste in the mouths of trustees, administrators, teachers, and classified employees.

The compromise measure was adopted after the board heard recommendations for increases of three and a half per cent from Dr. J. H. Hull, superintendent of schools, and a Torrance Education Assn. plan to increase maximum salaries.

Four of the five board members also arrived at the meeting with plans of their own.

THE COMPROMISE increases were adopted on a 3-2 vote only after member Albert Charles changed his vote. An earlier motion by Board president Bert Lynn had failed, 2-3.

The TEA proposal called for a two per cent increase in the lower ranges, and asked that maximum salaries be hiked about seven per cent. Both the TEA plan and Dr. Hull's recommendation were considered too expensive by most board members.

It became doubtful early in the session that any increase could be approved, but trustees continued to discuss the several plans before them. Member William Hanson had asked that no action be taken until a survey of area industry could be made.

Dr. Kurt Shery, who agreed in principle with the TEA proposal, argued against postponing any action. He came up with the two and a half per cent figure on the basis of his \$300,000 cost. The TEA plan would have cost nearly \$500,000, and Dr. Hull's proposed hike was pegged at \$402,000.

CHARLES, WHO had proposed a plan for automatic increases on the first half of the

Police Nab Two Men In Robbery

Two men believed implicated in Friday night's robbery of an area gas station have been arrested by Torrance police on charges of armed robbery.

Arrested were Patrick George Hartigan, 22, of Redondo Beach, and Ronald Edward Jones, 28, 4621 W. 170th St. Police said the two men were believed to have robbed Bill's Richfield Service Station, 16400 S. Crenshaw Blvd., of about \$173.

Bill Holliday, the service station operator, called police about 10 p.m. Friday to report two men had driven up, asked for gas, and then demanded to know where the safe was.

When Holliday told them there was no safe, one of the men opened the cash box and removed about \$130. The two men took another \$43 from another attendant and ordered both attendants to "walk around the station."

Schools to Use New Book Service

A new method of cataloging and placing library books in the Torrance district's various libraries may save the district several thousand dollars per year. The Board of Education voted to adopt the new plan at its meeting Monday.

An agreement will be signed with the Professional Library Service to procure, catalogue, and place the books in the proper schools.



DEATH CAR . . . Firemen work to free the body of Dennis Michael Compton, 18, of Redondo Beach, from the twisted wreckage of his car Monday morning. The youth, southbound on Hawthorne Avenue, was killed after his car jumped the center divider and collided headon with a truck about 10 a.m. (Herald Photo)

Vehicle Crosses Divider

An 18-year-old Redondo Beach youth died in the wreckage of his car Monday morning after the car jumped the center divider on Hawthorne Avenue and collided head-on with a truck.

Dead is Dennis Michael Compton, who was pronounced dead on arrival at the Little Company of Mary Hospital.

Compton was southbound on Hawthorne when his car jumped the divider just north of Spencer Street and traveled across all northbound lanes before colliding with the truck.

Compton's was the ninth traffic death in Torrance this year compared to five throughout 1962.

The driver of the truck, a cement mixer, was Spencer Willard Coffman, 50, also of Redondo Beach. His truck was northbound in the outside lane.

The accident, which occurred about 10 a.m., tied up traffic in the area for more than half an hour. The traffic was rerouted around the crash scene while the area was cleared.

Snake Thief Could Serve As Appetizer

A 4-foot, 7-inch boa constrictor believed stolen from a Dominguez-Carson area backyard the past week may eat the hand that took him.

Ryan Gordon, 15, 21540 Craig Court, reported to Los Angeles County sheriff's deputies that his snake has not eaten since he was brought from a pet shop one month ago.

Gordon, who believes someone may have stolen the snake from the backyard, said the snake eats chickens by squeezing them to death and swallowing them whole.

Rights Forum

Councilman Blames CORE for Heckling

Heckling and booing which disrupted a scheduled Civil Rights forum at Torrance High School Saturday night was blamed on the Congress of Racial Equality by Councilman Ross Sciarrotta at Tuesday's Council meeting.

Sciarrotta said the heckling and booing was "fixed to make this city look bad."

Sciarrotta said he could offer no proof now, but he would continue to look into the matter. He promised the City Council a full report as soon as he is able to present one.

The meeting was broken up shortly after it began when Lt. D. C. Cook of the Torrance Police Department declared it an unlawful assembly and ordered the crowd to disperse. Cook told THE HERALD he felt the temper of the crowd created a possibly riotous situation.

NUMEROUS persons were arguing in the crowd, and speakers were being booed. Charles F. Catterlin, president of the South Bay Bar Assn. and moderator of the slated panel discussion, was unable to begin the panel discussion because of the booing.

About 40 hecklers demanded

Trials Proceeding Slowly While Attorneys Question Jury Panels

Jury selection in the trial of a second group of demonstrators arrested at the Southwood Riviera Royale tract continued yesterday in Division 3 of South Bay Municipal Court.

Defense attorneys were closely questioning prospective jurors on their attitudes and knowledge of the case.

The trial was proceeding at a rate somewhat faster than the trial of 23 more demonstrators before Judge Otto B.

Willlett, Judge Willlett has recessed his court until Sept. 4 for a lack of prospective jurors.

JUDGE William B. Keene, presiding in Division 3, ordered the 23 defendants and their attorneys of record to be present in court at all times. The Judge's order was viewed as a means of speeding up the proceedings.

Attorneys in Willlett's court have been appearing in relays and further stalling the already slow proceedings. Judge Willlett also excused the 23 defendants in his court from appearing until a jury has been selected.

MEANWHILE, a fourth division has been added to the South Bay Judicial District. Napa Justice Court Judge Wade Shifflett is presiding over a court meeting in the

Man Burned In Apartment Mattress Fire

The occupant of an apartment at 16724 Crenshaw Blvd. suffered second degree burns on his right hand yesterday morning when fire broke out in a mattress.

Fred L. Scander was taken by police to a medical center for treatment after being given first aid by firemen. The blaze was reported at 12:53 a.m. Smoking in bed was the apparent cause, firemen said.

The burning mattress had been dragged through two rooms, leaving burning embers behind it when the mattress was taken from the apartment, firemen added. When the fire department arrived on the scene two garden hoses had been run into the apartment.

Engines from Torrance Fire Department's station three responded to the call.

Redondo Beach city council chambers.

An additional 32 demonstrators were arraigned before Judge Shifflett Tuesday afternoon. The latest group is charged with various misdemeanors, mostly trespassing, growing out of demonstrations at the tract Aug. 10 and 11.

Judge Shifflett set trial for the 32 in Division 4 at 9 a.m. Monday, Aug. 25. Another group of 21 demonstrators is now slated to begin trial in Division 3 on the same day.

AT LAST COUNT, 135 persons faced trial on the charges of trespass or other misdemeanors growing out of the demonstrations. In addition to the two trials now under way

and the two set for Monday, groups of 16 and 12 face trials on Aug. 29, and another eight are to appear for trial on Aug. 30.

In Division 3, Judge Keene has said he will hold court at night if it is necessary to speed up the process.

Defense attorneys have a total of 125 challenges of prospective jurors in each of the trials now under way. Despite the large number of jurors called in each panel, no jurors have been seated in either court.

CITY OF TORRANCE officials will appear before Superior Court Judge Alfred Gitelson tomorrow in a related proceeding. (Continued on Page 26)

Council Approves Extra Help In City's Legal Department

Torrance Councilmen granted a request from City Attorney Stanley Remelmeyer Tuesday for additional help on the city's legal staff. Remelmeyer asked for the additional help because of prosecution of demonstrators on trespassing charges in South Bay Municipal Court.

The Council also ratified earlier approval of Remelmeyer's hiring of Mark Wood and Walter Anderson to prosecute cases in two of the trials. Seven trials, involving 135 begin by Aug. 30.

Remelmeyer also received approval to hire Fred Benson to handle the city's regular criminal calendar while Charles F. Catterlin works on the CORE cases. A research man was also approved by the City Council.

The City Attorney will present bi-monthly financial statements to the council.

DURING THE discussion of the CORE prosecutions, Councilman Nicholas Draie asked the Council to study the possibility of adopting a resolution on Civil Rights. He encountered immediate opposition from Ken Miller, who asked Draie, "Why raise an issue where no issue exists?"

Miller insisted that everything the city has done has shown that everyone receives equal rights in Torrance. He said the action speaks for itself and there is "no need for a resolution."

George Vico agreed with Miller. "What good does it do to write an ordinance or resolution?" asked Vico. The matter was settled when the Council agreed to have City Attorney Remelmeyer present a study report to the Council.

WILLIAM UERKWITZ, representing the Southwood

Homeowners Assn., protested that the Council would even think about a resolution. He backed Miller in the contention that deeds have proven the fact. Uerkwitz asked that residents of the city be notified when the study report was placed on the agenda.

In other business, the Council raced through a 61-item agenda in record time. The long agenda was due to the

fact that no meeting was held last week.

A report to the Council on the Pop Warner Football Assn. was presented by Jack Jasper. Mayor Albert Isen and Councilmen were given tickets to the Pop Warner opening day ceremonies at North High School Sept. 14.

The Council also adopted a resolution on weed abatement.

(Continued on Page 26)

A Penny for your Thoughts

"Do you think the recent improvements in downtown Torrance help the business climate in the central section?" The Pennies Photographer inquired of five local women.

Mrs. Steward Kulp, 20622 Mansel Ave.:

"City-sponsored improvements will not help because the stores are still inadequate. It is too bad, but some stores suffer from the inadequacy of others. In general, the conditions are just not conducive to shopping."

Mrs. Andrew Bairden, 5409 Michelle:

"No, improvements will not help. There is just not a large enough variety of stores. The money being spent for improvements is just not worth it without additional attractions by the stores."

Mrs. Ben Molina, 15510 Onyx:

"Downtown Torrance is too mixed up for the improvements to help. The entire street pattern in the area leads to disorder. It is too easy to get lost. Some of the stores should also be renovated."

Mrs. Robert Gatto, 20705 Mansel Ave.:

"The trouble with business in the central section rests entirely with the stores. I would prefer shopping in modern, air-conditioned stores. Owners should modernize their stores before improving parking conditions."

Mrs. Kenneth Tillung, 5609 Sara:

"If there were anything worth buying in downtown Torrance, I would certainly find a place to park. It is not well located or compact and the stores are not well known. I think the new parking should have been diagonal instead of parallel."

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