

# City Opens New Door for Beach High Rise

Torrance

## Press-Herald

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# GRAND JURY PROBE BEGINS



ON CAMPAIGN TRAIL . . . Senator Pierre Salinger (center right) signs autographs during visit to Torrance Park Sunday afternoon, his second visit to Torrance during the weekend. Salinger met with area Democrats at a reception Friday afternoon, and then returned to the city Sunday where he spoke at a rally in the park. While in the area he conferred with Assemblyman Vincent Thomas and other Democratic leaders.

## New Hearings Ordered On High Rise Proposal

The door to Torrance — opened and shut several times in the past 18 months — is open again to the possibility of high-rise apartments along Torrance Beach.

It was opened last night at the city council meeting on motion of Councilman Kenneth Miller. Miller was one of four members of the council who voted down the high-rise proposal Aug. 11.

In moving for reconsideration of the case, Miller said he was convinced the City Manager had looked at the situation objectively during a meeting held two weeks ago. That meeting, blessed by the council, was called to determine if it would be feasible to construct a proposed 22-story tower on the Redondo Beach portion of the bi-city site.

FERRARO reported that the construction was "both possible and profitable" in a lengthy communication to the council.

Citing his conviction that the report was objective and thorough, Miller said, "I feel it is necessary for this council to direct the Planning Commission to reconsider the Sovereign Development proposal to determine whether conditions that were unacceptable at the time of the previous meeting can be resolved."

Miller referred specifically to parking and beach acquisition problems contained in the proposal for the Torrance site.

REVENUE of \$28,900 which

would be lost to Torrance if a Redondo Beach project is approved, also was cited by Miller. The councilman warned he would fight a proposal similar to the last one, then added his motion did not "guarantee my vote in favor of high-rise."

"I hate to win a battle and lose the war," Miller concluded.

The motion got a quick second from J. A. Beasley, but Stanley Dunn, representing the Riviera Homeowners Association, appeared before the microphone to protest the motion. Dunn said he felt "we should get a hearing in Redondo Beach before we are railroaded into high-rise here."

THE HOMEOWNERS asserted Redondo Beach would

meet great difficulty in granting the variances required to permit high-rise on the small section of the property located in that city.

Before the council voted, assistant city manager Jerry Scharfman, filling for City Manager Ferraro, asked if the council wanted "a study or public hearings." Councilmen agreed they wanted hearings.

The motion carried, 5-1, with George Vico voting against it. Councilman H. T. "Ted" Olson was not present at the meeting.

In a related matter, Ross A. Sciarrotta Sr. asked that an informal study of the future of the remaining Riviera beach area be made at the same time. Sciarrotta indicated that such a study may influence his vote on any high-rise proposal.

## Second Front Page In Today's Issue

Something new has been added to your Press-Herald today.

The front page of section C-1 has been turned into a second front page and features community news, three of the Press-Herald's top features, and photos.

The popular "Penny for your Thoughts" column, a front page feature in this newspaper for more than half a decade, will be found there as will the witty Ann Landers and the controversial Count Marco.

Other popular features of the Press-Herald, including the giant crossword puzzle, San Francisco's Herb Caen, and travel writer Stan Delaplaine appear each Sunday.

## Limit on Pigeons Held Up

The war on pigeons, declared last week by the City Council, was temporarily halted last night when councilmen continued the second reading of the ordinance until Oct. 27.

Members of the California State Racing Pigeon Association's Harbor Club appeared before the council to ask that the ordinance be delayed. The club, through its spokesman—Dr. J. H. Hull, superintendent of Torrance Schools—offered free legal aid to the city.

DR. HULL told councilmen that racing pigeons is a big sport in the state and asked that the ordinance be referred to committee where a new ordinance — satisfactory to everyone — might be drafted.

Councilman Kenneth Miller suggested that a conditional use permit might solve the problem. Racing pigeons are distinguished from the "ordinary, common, garden variety," Dr. Hull said, and may cost up to \$100 each.

## Heliport Considered For Area

Location of a heliport at Redondo Beach Boulevard and Daphne Avenue in Torrance is now being considered by the Federal Aviation Agency.

An application for the heliport was filed by Inter-City Airways, Inc., of Paramount. Officials of the firm estimate the private port will be used for about 400 landings monthly during the next five years.

Comments from the general public will be accepted by the Federal Aviation Agency until Oct. 20. All communications should be addressed to the Chief, Airspace Utilization Branch, P. O. Box 90007, Airport Station, Los Angeles, Calif., 90009.



ANNIVERSARY . . . Holding up trophies to be part of the South Bay Toastmasters Club's 20th anniversary celebration tonight at the Redondo Beach Elks Club are retiring President Charles Hopkins, Torrance; Toastmaster John Chawick; and incoming President Robert Dreizler. The club will hold a ladies' night and special program in honor of the anniversary.



STARTING YOUNG . . . Joan Leslie Grasso, 7-week-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Grasso, 23301 Arlington Ave., got into the act early yesterday at the downtown Goldwater Headquarters when she visited the office with her parents. Although a little young for membership, she got to wear the campaign button that identifies the Teenagers for Goldwater Club. (Press-Herald Photo)

## Hahn, Civic Officials Tour Dominguez Channel

Mayors and other civic officials from surrounding cities joined Supervisor Kenneth Hahn and County officials Monday for a bus inspection of the 18-mile Dominguez Channel, the largest single construction job in Southwest Los Angeles County history.

The last segment of the channel — a County Flood Control District project — is now under construction between Avalon Boulevard and Vermont Avenue.

The channel winds its way from Inglewood to an outlet in the Cerritos Channel, providing drainage for the heavily populated Southwest area of the County. The channel solid ground, literally lifting much of the area out of a swamp.

TOTAL COST of the channel is estimated at \$28 million, and during the time since it was first begun, the channel has resulted in the construction of more than \$500 million worth of assessed valuation.

The channel was built in segments on a pay-as-you-go basis without federal or state subsidies.

"This is truly a local project," Supervisor Hahn told the mayors, councilmen, and chamber of commerce representatives on the bus inspection trip.

CONSTRUCTION of the channel was begun in 1953, following one of the worst deluges in the area's history in late 1952. Funds for the entire project were not available, giving rise to the section-by-section construction plan.

"No single project has given me more satisfaction," Hahn said. "Dominguez Channel is not a glamorous job, but it saves lives and property during heavy rains."

The channel is a concrete lined ditch from its point of origin in Inglewood to Vermont Avenue. Between Vermont and the ocean outlet, it is an earth-filled and rock-lined channel. The final segments are lined with clay to keep salt-water out of the underground water tables.

Accompanying Mayor Albert Isen from Torrance were Chamber of Commerce manager J. Walker Owens, Councilman George Vico, and Dr. J. H. Hull, superintendent of schools.

## Mayor Isen Faces Panel During Quiz

Mayor Albert Isen was scheduled to be the principal witness today as the Los Angeles County grand jury opened its second day of inquiry into alleged irregularities in Torrance city government. He is one of nearly 20 persons who have been subpoenaed to give testimony in the investigation.

Deputy Attorney General Jack Goertzen and Deputy District Attorney Richard Caballero began presenting witnesses Tuesday, after briefing the grand jury on the cases to be presented.

Ex-Councilman Robert B. Jahn was called before the panel Tuesday and assertedly told the jurors that he had been under a surveillance for several weeks before his arrest last year on a charge of driving while drunk.

OTHERS called Tuesday included Officer James Weyant, one of the arresting officers, and former officer Roger Jacobsen, a member of the city's vice detail at the time Jacobsen later was convicted of a grand theft charge and served a jail term.

Former City Manager Wade Peebles has denied issuing an order for the surveillance and arrest of Jahn and testimony before the grand jury sought by Goertzen and Caballero apparently is intended to support their request for a perjury indictment.

ALSO to be considered by the grand jury will be information surrounding the allegation that Peebles accepted a \$2,700 swimming pool from contractor Robert Burke. Peebles has testified that it was a wedding present, Burke said it was in payment for some engineering work Peebles did for him.

The grand jury will determine whether bribery indictments should be issued in the case.

The panel is expected to hear testimony again tomorrow, and for three days next week.

## New Work Schedules Win Okay

An ordinance which will give the city's police department more flexibility in scheduling shifts was adopted last night by the City Council on its first reading.

The ordinance, first requested by Chief of Police Walter H. Koenig, permits the department to schedule work hours and days off by the month instead of the week.

The old ordinance required five days work and two days off each week, restricting the police to a routine work schedule. Koenig said the workload reaches a peak at different times and more men are needed, but the present rule prevents effective use of the manpower.

THE NEW ordinance requires only that department personnel get 10 days off during January, and nine days off duty in March, May, July, August, October, and December. Eight days off are required for February, April, June, September, and November.

The total number of days off duty—104—is unchanged. The ordinance must pass on a second reading. It becomes effective in about 30 days.

IN OTHER ACTION last night, the Council:

- Denied a claim from North American Aviation Inc., for \$32,768 for alleged water damage to equipment in February, 1963. The claim was referred to the City Attorney.
- Postponed until Oct. 27 a

(Continued on A-2)

## Auto Hits 12-Year-Old - - -

Linda Pochatco, 12, of 1303 Greenwood, suffered minor injuries and was taken by ambulance to Little Company of Mary Hospital Tuesday after she was struck by a car at Carson and Flower. Driver of the car, Ramond Korziuk Zaleski, 29, of 5235 Lorna St., was not cited by police.

## Robbery Try Thwarted - - -

A holdup man gave up his attempt Tuesday when a customer walked into the liquor store where he was holding the owner at bay with a revolver. Zoltan Grand, 58, owner of Manor Liquor at 17310 Crenshaw Blvd., told police the holdup man, displaying a revolver, entered the front door and ordered him into a rear stockroom. A customer entered the front door and the holdup man left through a rear exit.

## Ex-Officers Seek Hearing - - -

Attorney William J. McCabe formally asked the city's Civil Service Commission to open hearings on the cases of two former police officers this morning. McCabe, who represents ex-officers Stanley Ray Martin and John Paul Brady, had handed notices of the request to City Councilmen last night. The officers, who resigned from the force after admitting they falsified a report, are seeking reinstatement on grounds that their resignations were given under duress.