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Torrance Press-Herald

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NEW JUDGE ENROBED . . . Newly appointed Municipal Court Judge Raymond Choate (center) was enrobed here Thursday following his resignation as president of the South Bay Bar Association. Judge Choate, who got his new robe of office from Superior Court Judge John Shidler (left) succeeds Judge William B. Keene (right), who was elevated to the Superior Court bench. Judge Keene was saluted at a luncheon sponsored by the Redondo Beach Chamber of Commerce following the ceremonies at the South Bay Municipal Courts building in Redondo Beach. (Press-Herald Photo)

City Hits 133,477, County Estimates

Torrance now has a population of 133,477, the Regional Planning Commission reported in its third quarter population estimates released this week.

The new figure showed a gain of nearly a thousand residents since the July 1 mid-year estimates. At that time the County planners estimated Torrance's population at 132,636. The city began the year with 128,739.

Torrance lost a little ground in its continuing struggle to overtake Glendale and become the third largest city

in the County, the new figures reveal.

Torrance began the year needing only 3,697 to catch up to Glendale, which posted a population estimate of 132,436 at that time. By the July 1 reporting period, Torrance had narrowed the gap to 1,768.

The Oct. 1 figures released this week, however, indicate that Glendale had outgained Torrance slightly during the third quarter and had widened the gap to 1,835.

Redondo Beach population has grown from 55,696 to 56,175 since July 1, the compilation shows. Current populations for other nearby cities include Compton, 77,271; El Segundo, 16,408; Gardena, 44,151; Hawthorne, 46,164; Hermosa Beach, 17,915; Inglewood, 87,112; Lawndale, 26,002; Lomita, 19,864; Manhattan Beach, 35,934; and Palos Verdes Estates, 12,307.

The third quarter figures show the city of Rolling Hills now has a population of 1,980, a gain of only 26 since Jan. 1. Rolling Hills Estates with a current population of 5,290 shows a gain of slightly more than 100 since Jan. 1.

Call Santa Lines To Open This Week

The eighth annual "Phone Santa" program for Torrance area youngsters will begin at 10 a. m. Wednesday and continue from 10 a. m. until 5 p. m. through the next three days, it was announced here yesterday by Roger Wright of the sponsoring Wright Anserfone. The number to call: 320-1311.

To make sure Santa gets the message, special phone lines are being set up and a large number of men from throughout the city will be on hand to help with the calls, Wright said. Among those who again are volunteering for the popular program are school and city officials, doctors, bankers, utility executives, realtors, architects, lawyers, and businessmen, according to Sonny Schwartz, who is coordinating the program.

The number will be in operation only from 10 a. m. to 5 p. m. Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, Wright said.

Christmas Workshops Scheduled

An adult Christmas workshop, an extension of the workshops at Joslyn Studio of Arts, will be offered at two Torrance parks. This program is sponsored by the Torrance Recreation Department.

Mrs. Erika Muhl and the Joslyn Studio of Arts' staff will be at McMaster Park, 3624 W. Artesia Blvd. tomorrow and Tuesday and at Walteria Park, 3855 W. 242nd St., Tuesday and Wednesday. The workshops will be held from 7 to 9 p. m.

Projects will include candles, ornaments, wreaths, and door decorations. Registration will be held at the parks. A 75 cent fee is charged for the workshop.

North High Art Work On Display

North High School's Pageant of Christmas will add a six-foot mosaic statue of Madonna and Child this year, according to art teacher Gary Parton.

The newly completed statue will be displayed tomorrow and Tuesday at the Torrance school's Educational Materials Building, 2334 Plaza del Amo.

Parton also said the Madonna and three other reproductions in the Pageant of Christmas collection will be displayed during North High's annual Christmas concert Wednesday evening.

The other works include a 4-by-6-foot reproduction of Botticelli's "Adoration of the Magi," a 4-by-5-foot stained glass window, and a student reproduction of a 6th century mosaic of the Archangel Michael.

The new addition to the Pageant of Christmas collection is a sculptured statue of Madonna and Child which has been covered by more than 35,000 pieces of venetian glass.

Native of Torrance Among New Attorneys

Sidney Croft, 529 S. Gertruda Ave., Redondo Beach, has been notified that he passed the California State Bar examination.

The son of Mr. and Mrs. Harry A. Croft, the new attorney was born at Torrance Memorial Hospital and attended Redondo Beach schools from kindergarten through high school.

He was graduated from UCLA in 1962 and received his law degree from UCLA last June.

Young Croft's mother is a teacher at Hillcrest School in Redondo Beach and his father is an executive with the U. S. Steel Corp. in Torrance.

The new attorney plans to practice law in the South Bay area.



SIDNEY CROFT Passes State Bar

Workshop Precedes Meeting

Lomita Mayor Clyde S. Bernhardt today reminded Lomita residents of a study session which will precede tomorrow's City Council meeting. The session will begin at 6 p. m. and is open to the public.

Council meetings are held regularly on the second Monday of each month at 7 p. m. The sessions are held at the Lomita Park Community Building and will be preceded by the informal workshops.

During the regular session tomorrow, councilmen will:

- Consider the award of a contract for additions to the Lomita Park Community Building.
- Receive plans and specifications for an improvement project on Narbonne Avenue.
- Consider an appeal from the Planning Commission which will permit a convalescent hospital.
- Review a Planning Commission recommendation to establish a city operated business license department.

Thief Enters By Air Vent To Loot Cafe

A burglar got \$345 from Stellino's Delicatessen and Restaurant early Friday morning after he pryed open an air conditioning vent on the roof.

Police said the thief removed the vent and kicked in a ceiling cover to gain entrance to the building.

Owner Frank Stellino said the burglar took \$300 from two cash registers and got \$45 out of a storage bin.

City Will Host Annual Meeting

The Torrance Recreation Department will host the annual installation dinner for the California Park and Recreation Society's District 9 Thursday.

Bike Auction Slated

The Torrance Police Department will conduct its semi-annual bicycle auction Saturday at 10 a. m. The auction will be conducted at the rear of the Torrance Police Station with Officer Peter Morrison serving as auctioneer.

Pay Hike Before Council

Formal action to place a proposal before city voters which would grant City Councilmen an increase in their monthly salaries is expected Tuesday. The measure, which will be submitted to the voters at the April municipal election, would authorize a salary of \$300 per month for councilmen and \$400 a month for the mayor. The council will convene at 8 p. m., following an informal session with members of the Citizen's Advisory Committee for Community Improvement scheduled for 7 o'clock. The session was requested by the committee to discuss goals of its work.

Beating Charges Dropped

A Torrance man accused of beating his mother Thanksgiving Day will not be prosecuted, according to Torrance police. Mrs. Marilla Riddle, 35, declined to file a complaint when she was released from Little Company of Mary Hospital, detectives said. As a result, the charges against Robert M. Riddle, 28, of 20339 Anza Ave., have been dropped. Riddle has indicated he will leave Torrance to live with his mother.

Boy Struck By Auto; Police Hold Suspect

Bandit In \$69 Holdup

A lightweight woman bandit got \$69 from a Torrance man just after 11 p. m. Friday, Torrance police said.

Daniel Vidal, 1528 W. 203rd St., told police he was approached in the 1800 block of 212th Street by a 19- or 20-year-old woman and a male accomplice.

The pair displayed a nickle plated revolver and demanded her purse, Vidal said. He said the woman is 5-5 or 5-6 and weighs about 95 pounds. The man, he said, is about 22 years old, 5-6, and weighs 150 pounds.

Earlier Friday evening, a 27-year-old secretary was robbed of her purse in downtown Torrance. Rita Reining told police she was walking toward a mail box on Marcelina Ave. when she was approached by a 20- to 22-year-old man who displayed a blue steel revolver.

"I'll take your purse," he told her. The girl said the man grabbed her purse and fled on foot, headed north of Cravens Avenue. She said the purse contained identification and credit cards and 60 cents.



INTERCITY LINK . . . Supervisor Burton W. Chace, center, joins with Mayor Jack Hopkins of Rolling Hills Estates (left) and Torrance Mayor Albert Isen in formal opening of the new \$1.5 million Hawthorne Boulevard link between Newton Street in Torrance and Palos Verdes Drive North in Rolling Hills Estates. Opening of the link completes a through route across the top of the Peninsula to the ocean front near Point Vicente. (Press-Herald Photo)

Driver Denies Charge

Two persons were arrested here Friday evening on felony drunk driving charges following two major traffic accidents. Three persons were injured in the crashes.

Police also lodged a misdemeanor drunk driving charge against a third driver after a parked car was struck on Lomita Boulevard. Nearly two dozen traffic accidents were reported here Friday afternoon and evening.

David D. Townsend, 41, of 23038 Huber Ave. was arrested about 7 p. m. after he allegedly struck a 12-year-old boy on Crenshaw Boulevard some 500 feet north of Del Amo Boulevard. Police also charged Townsend with hit and run driving.

THE YOUTH, John David French of 4151 W. 182nd St., suffered a broken left leg and abrasions on his right arm. He was taken to Little Company of Mary Hospital.

A witness told police he saw the Townsend vehicle, headed south on Crenshaw Boulevard, strike the boy and stop about 400 feet south of the accident scene.

Police investigating the accident were told by Townsend he saw the boy lying on the side of the street and stopped to offer help. He denied responsibility for the accident, officers said. A half-pint of whiskey was found under the seat in the Townsend vehicle, police said.

Officers took Townsend to Little Company of Mary Hospital for a blood alcohol test, then removed him to the Torrance City Jail.

IN A SECOND major accident, police charged Richard Wayne Huston, 20, of Inglewood, with felony drunk driving and also arrested a passenger in the car on a charge of drunkenness.

The passenger, Lyle Richard Knight, 19, also of Inglewood, suffered minor injuries in the accident, officers said. The crash occurred just before 10 p. m. at Pacific Coast Highway and Prospect Avenue.

A witness at the scene told (Continued on Page A-2)

Torrance Home Building in Slump

An almost complete stoppage of residential construction was noted here during November, according to reports just released by the city's Building Department.

John J. McKinnon, superintendent of building, said 201 permits were issued by his department during November, for a total value of \$1,239,215 in new construction.

Residential building, however, accounted for only nine permits and construction worth slightly more than

\$225,000. Seven permits call for construction of single-family homes, while two permits were issued for new duplex units.

For the fifth time this year, there were no new apartment units planned during the month.

Value of the permits issued in November was the lowest since February of this year, when new construction hit a long-time low.

Alterations or additions to homes and other buildings

in the city accounted for the vast majority of permits, McKinnon said.

Three permits calling for construction of industrial facilities here totaled \$460,720. The largest of the permits was issued to Volvo, Inc., and was valued at \$301,100. Under it, Volvo will build an office, warehouse, and data processing plant. A second permit issued to Volvo was valued at \$38,070 and calls for construction of a paint and body shop.

The third industrial permit was issued to Mobile Oil, Inc., for foundations for facilities at the General Petroleum refinery here. It was valued at \$170,000. An \$80 million expansion program currently is under way at the refinery, located at 190th Street and Crenshaw Boulevard.

Only one other permit topped the \$100,000 mark. It was issued for an office and factory at 3425 Lomita Blvd. and was valued at \$121,550.