

Ranchero Days Celebration Begins Today

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Torrance

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RODEO ACTION . . . Nine-time World Champion cowboy Casey Tibbs, shown here as he rides one of rodeo's meanest broncs, will enter the Torrance Ranchero Days rodeo Saturday and Sunday. Tibbs joins other members of the Rodeo Cowboys Association in competing for prize money in the 11th annual Torrance celebration. Other Ranchero Days activities include a parade on Saturday and carnival rides and booths, opening today at 4 p.m. at the Del Amo Center.

School Board Approves Budget; Votes Tax Cut

Parade, Rodeo Will Highlight Western Event

An air of Western excitement will prevail this afternoon as the 11th annual Ranchero Days celebration opens its four-day run.

Scheduled to highlight the first day of the observance is opening tonight of the more than an acre of carnival booths and rides at the Ranchero Days site in the Del Amo Center, Sepulveda Boulevard east of Hawthorne Avenue.

The carnival will remain open through Sunday, featuring exciting midway rides and booths operated by a score of local service clubs.

AND THE weekend promises even more Western-style thrills, say Ranchero Days planners.

A 135-unit marching parade gets under way at 10 a.m. Saturday, featuring 90 minutes of equestrian riders, bands, antique cars, and television and motion picture personalities. Former California Governor Goodwin J. Knight will be grand marshal.

The parade will begin at Carson Street and Cabrillo Avenue, proceed north on Cravens Street to Torrance Boulevard, then west on Torrance Boulevard to Madrona Avenue. Awards will be presented following the parade at the rear of the City Plunge.

THE OFFICIAL Ranchero Days Rodeo, sanctioned by the Rodeo Cowboys' Association, is set for two action-packed runs, Saturday and Sunday at 2 p.m., at the Hawthorne - Sepulveda location. Many of the West's top rodeo champions will compete for honors in the 11th annual event, which has gained nationwide attention for the caliber of riders it attracts.

Tickets may be purchased at the gate for \$1.50.

Reigning over the entire celebration will be Miss Ranchero Days, 17-year-old De-Dee Risler, and her court, Sharon Meffon, Karen O'Caïn, Pam Burnett, and Judy Pinkney.

The girls will select the winners of an expense-paid trip to be awarded Sunday at 3 p.m. at the rodeo.

Armed Duo Takes \$200, Cigarettes

Six cartons of cigarettes and \$200 in cash were taken from a South Torrance liquor store Monday evening just before midnight by two armed bandits.

The two men, one armed with a shotgun and one with a knife, entered the store, located at 23804 Crenshaw Blvd., just before the midnight hour.

"I ain't fooling," one of them told Kelso Fortner, on duty at the store, when Fortner inquired, "What's up?"

The two men, both in their mid-twenties, fled from their mid-twenties, fled from the store in a red convertible, witnesses said.



TWISTED CYCLE . . . The motorcycle on which Officer Carel Van Wankum was riding when he was injured during a weekend crash rests on a sled at the Torrance city yard. Van Wankum was thrown some 60 feet in the crash, which occurred at Torrance Boulevard and Hickory Street. He remains in critical condition at Little Company of Mary Hospital. (Press-Herald Photo)



CADET . . . David W. Osterberg, son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Osterberg of 16622 Falda, has completed six weeks of training at Keesler AFB, Miss., as a participant in the new two-year Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps program. A graduate of North High School, Cadet Osterberg is a student at the University of California at Los Angeles.

Hearing Set

Injured Officer Critical

Torrance police officer Carel Van Wankum, seriously injured in a Saturday car-motorcycle crash, remains in critical condition at Little Company of Mary Hospital. A spokesman for the hospital told the Press-Herald today the officer is showing some signs of improvement.

Meanwhile, the driver of the car which struck Van Wankum late Saturday evening has been ordered to appear in court for a preliminary hearing. The driver, Orville Pinson, 34, of 1309 Kornblum Ave., is charged with suspicion of felony drunk driving.

Van Wankum suffered serious injuries of the back and head when his motorcycle collided with the Pinson vehicle at Torrance Boulevard and Hickory Street. Surgery was performed Sunday evening to relieve pressure on Van Wankum's spine.

DOCTORS have given the officer a 50-50 chance of living, but they have expressed fears he may be unable to use as much as three-fourths of his body because of paralysis.

Van Wankum spent a restful night following the Sunday surgery, but he remains unconscious at the hospital, according to a report issued by the intensive care unit.

Following the Saturday crash, officers arrested Pinson and charged him with suspicion of felony drunk driving. Pinson was released on a \$1650 bond and arraigned in South Bay Municipal Court.

Project Voted

Authorization for a highway improvement project on Avalon Boulevard north of Walnut Street was reported today by Supervisor Kenneth Hahn.

Taxpayers Get 12-Cent Break In New Budget

Torrance taxpayers will get a small break when their tax bills are presented in November, following final action Monday evening by the Board of Education on an \$18.4 million budget.

The break comes in the form of a 12-cent reduction—give or take a few decimal points—on the school tax rate. For the average homeowner, it will mean about \$6 total reduction on his tax bill.

Mrs. Kenneth E. Watts, president of the board, cast the deciding vote, breaking a deadlock which developed two weeks ago. At the earlier meeting, trustees split 2-2 on a motion to levy the current tax rate for the new fiscal year.

TRUSTEES Bert M. Lynn and William J. Hanson were absent from Monday's meeting—but the two had split on the earlier vote. Dr. Kurt Shery, who voted to reduce the tax rate two weeks ago, joined Mrs. Watts Monday in opposition to Dr. Donald E. Wilson.

It was Dr. Wilson who suggested Monday that the current rate be maintained. He charged the board was reducing the rate at the expense of teachers and the educational program.

"No one of us knows all the answers," Mrs. Watts told her colleagues. "Last year," she continued, "the bond rate went up and the taxpayers paid it. I think they're entitled to this decrease."

MRS. WATTS made reference to the state bond redemption tax—a tax which is levied according to the amount which must be paid to the state. The rate is inclined to fluctuate because of changes in the assessed valuation. It jumped upward by 17 cents last year, but fell

by about the same amount this year because of a \$20 million hike in the district's assessed valuation.

Speaking on the taxpayers' role in the schools, Mrs. Watts said there was a "fine line between what we'd like to see done and what we think the taxpayers will support." She also said she favored the budget as presented.

ON A ROLL call vote, Dr. Wilson opposed adoption of the budget. He called the action an "erroneous step," but added, "I won't prolong the argument if your minds are made up."

S. E. Waldrip, assistant superintendent of schools, told trustees the tax rate for the 1965-66 fiscal year would be about \$4.40 per \$100 assessed valuation. Last year's rate was \$4.52 per \$100. Waldrip said the final figure may change, once the correct valuation of public utilities is gaged Monday that the cur-announced.

Waldrip also told trustees levying the present rate would add \$312,000 to the district's reserve—which now stands at more than \$3.5 million.

AS FINALLY adopted, the budget calls for \$18,459,274 in expenditures during the next year and provided \$634,000 for salary hikes. The general purpose tax rate, levied to finance day-to-day operating costs for the district, will increase from \$3.03 per \$100 to about \$3.065 per \$100—up about 3.5 cents over the current rate. The community services tax will be pegged at 10 cents per \$100, the maximum under state law.

Local boards control only the community service and general purpose tax rates, while others—including employe retirement, bond redemption, and state loans—are governed by state law.

SESSIONS SLATED TODAY

Wirtz Assigns Mediator In Harvey Plant Strike

Secretary of Labor W. W. Wirtz has assigned a federal mediator to meet with officials of the Harvey Aluminum Co. and the United Steel Workers of America in an effort to end the fourth-month-long strike at the Torrance area Harvey plant.

Wirtz named Charles J. Reynolds to conduct the sessions. Reynolds will meet with both sides in the dispute today in Los Angeles. The

meeting will be conducted by representatives of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service.

Action by the federal government followed an announcement late yesterday by Governor Edmund G. Brown.

The governor said he was asking the State Department of Industrial Relations to intervene in the strike. Brown said he was seeking "an im-

mediate end to the threat of further violence."

ERNEST B. WEBB, State Industrial Relations Director, was named by Brown to "personally take a hand" in the strike. Negotiations broke down last July 22.

Sheriff's deputies have been stationed at the plant since Sunday in an effort to enforce a court order prohibiting demonstrations within 600 feet of the plant. Only isolated incidents have been reported since the last major demonstration Friday evening.

Torrance police have not been assigned to duty in the area since the weekend.

NEW CHARGES of police (Continued on Page 2)

Construction to Begin On New Police Facility

A construction contract which will eventually triple police department facilities here was awarded by the Torrance City Council last night.

The contract, awarded to Parr Contracting Co. on a low bid of \$335,950, calls for construction to begin within 10 days on a major two-story addition to the existing Torrance Police Station.

The new wing will be built on the western side of the present station and include a basement, as well as two floors above ground. The outer shell for the second floor will be completed now, although no partitions or finishing work will be done at this time.

The low bid was \$25,000 under the engineer's estimate and only \$16,350 more than a bid rejected in February. Councilmen rejected the earlier bids to add the second floor shell and had expected that addition to add about \$50,000 to the construction costs.

Construction will require about nine months, City Manager Edward J. Ferraro told councilmen.

In other action, the council:

- Adopted, on first reading, ordinances which will require the removal of all abandoned driveways and which require property owners in R-1 and R-2 (residential) zones to dedicate right-of-way for street widening purposes before issuance of a building permit. Both new laws are subject to a second reading.

- Accepted a petition signed by 44 residents opposite the Del Amo Center south of Sepulveda Boulevard expressing concern about the heavy traffic about the shopping center. Councilmen previously have asked for a study of traffic in the area.

- Set 7 p.m., Aug. 24, for a meeting with representatives of the Torrance League of Women Voters to discuss possible changes in the city charter.

- Authorized Fire Chief J. J. Benner to hire an engineer to begin designing a one-story addition to Fire Station No. 1, located at Crenshaw Boulevard and Carson Street.

Two Firemen Injured . . .

Firemen Chuck Brennen and Gerald Colwell were injured as firemen worked to put out an oil sump fire in a field to the rear of 20404 Anza Ave. Monday afternoon. Colwell returned to work after treatment and Brennen will be off about a week with a sprained ankle. Bn. Chief Frank Tuttle said the burning sump was extinguished before oil storage tanks in the area were endangered. Black clouds of smoke pouring from the area attracted large numbers of motorists, causing some difficulty in laying lines to the fire, Chief Tuttle said.

Redondo Cyclist Dies . . .

A 20-year-old Redondo youth was killed Sunday in Canoga Park when his motorcycle collided with a car. Roy Beck of 114 N. Helberta Ave. was dead on arrival at a Canoga Park hospital after the collision. A passenger, Patrick O'Connell, 24, of Canoga Park, was injured when he was thrown from the motorcycle. Driver of the car was Nancy Stewart, 17, of Canoga Park.

Beauty Queen Named . . .

Miss Beth Lorine Adams, 22, of Torrance has been selected as Miss Los Angeles County and will represent the county in the Maid of California contest to be held in Sacramento during the annual State Fair. Miss Adams was selected Sunday during competition at Marina del Rey. She will ride on the county's float in the annual Tournament of Roses parade next New Year's Day.