

Urban Renewal Plan Clears Major Hurdle

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Teenager Called Hero in Rescue

An 18-year-old Carson area youth yesterday was credited with saving the life of an 8-months-old boy left in a burning car.

Allen Paul Leavy, son of Mrs. John E. Leavy, 25, of 23327 Panama Ave., was pulled from the burning car by Ronald W. Richards, of 22044 Selwyn Ave.

Capt. William Culbreth of the Los Angeles County Fire Station No. 36, said the inside of the car was gutted by the fire. Damage was estimated at \$1,000.

Richards reportedly was parking his car in a shopping center at the southwest corner of Avalon and Sepulveda boulevards about 1:45 p.m. when he saw

smoke coming from a nearby car.

He ran to the car and saw the infant lying on the front seat. The back seat was on fire and the windows were almost completely closed, it was reported.

Richards tried to open the door on the passenger side, but it was locked. He then ran around to the driver's side, opened the door, and pulled the child from the burning car.

Mrs. Leavy, who has four other children, told county firemen she had left the youngster on the car seat and gone into a store only moments before Richards pulled the boy from the burning vehicle.

Cause of the fire was not determined, Capt. Culbreth said.

Councilmen Back Down On Pay Hike Proposal

School Board Reacts Loudly To Pay Matter

By JERRY REYNOLDS
Press-Herald City Editor

Proposed amendments to the city charter which—if approved by voters—would have tripled the salaries of Torrance councilmen were removed from the April 18 ballot last night by the council. Councilmen acted unanimously to remove the ballot measures, which would have provided for a monthly salary of \$300, just one week after approving them by the same unanimous vote.

Although the action came in the aftermath of a blistering attack on the proposal by members of the Board of Education, councilmen were quick to point out they were acting out of concern for a \$2.3 million library bond issue.

A. Sciarrotta Sr. said it had become clear "less than 36 hours after last week's meeting" that a majority of the council would act to remove the salary issue from the ballot.

"The library bonds are critical to the future of the city," H. Ted Olson declared. "I don't want to be a party to anything that might lessen the chances (of passage)."

COUNCILMEN J. A. Beasley and David K. Lyman both said their first reaction was to leave the salary issue on the ballot. Both said they felt (See BOUNDARY on A-3)

Board Delays Vote On Boundary Issue

Approval of attendance boundaries for the new Grace Wright Elementary School in the West Torrance area was postponed Monday for at least two weeks by the Board of Education.

Trustees put off a decision on the boundaries following some four hours of debate, despite pleas from the 400 or more persons who jammed the meeting for a decision.

Several key disputes involving the new Grace Wright and Sam Levy schools were settled by trustees, however, during the long meeting.

Trustees voted:
• Not to open the two school prior to summer sessions.

• To proceed with the construction of eight new classrooms at Hickory Elementary School.

• To require graduates of the new Levy School to attend Torrance High School.

THE QUESTION of transporting classes now on double sessions at Hickory and Meadow Park schools to the new Levy School for the remainder of the semester will left open until the board meets March 20.

Dr. J. H. Hull, superintendent of schools, had recommended that the new Levy School be opened April 1 and the Wright School opened April 15. Parents of students who attend the two schools—as well as those of children who will remain at the three older schools—argued that opening the schools for the final six weeks of the term would "completely disrupt" the five schools involved in the boundary changes.

Trustees quickly agreed on that point and voted unani-

mously on motion of Bert Lynn and Mrs. Kenneth Watts, not to open the two new schools prior to the start of summer classes.

PLANS FOR the eight new classrooms at Hickory School were approved when board members indicated they did not intend to change their minds about the Hickory-Levy attendance boundary. The board voted Feb. 6 not to transfer students now attending Hickory School to the new Levy School.

Instead, the eight additional classrooms will permit the school to handle 1,050 students.

Trustees split over the question of where graduates of Levy School will go to high school. Residents of the area favor South High.

THE BOARD voted 3-2, with Mrs. Watts and Dr. Kurt Shery dissenting, to send the students to Torrance High School. Trustees noted they have been trying to equalize enrollments and facilities at each of the city's four high schools.

Those students now in the eighth grade at Meadow Park School will be permitted to

attend South High and students now attending South High will be allowed to graduate. Bus transportation to South High will be discontinued, however, after the 1967-68 school year.

In addition, students with brothers or sisters enrolled at South High will be allowed to transfer from Torrance High.

MOST OF the debate was devoted to the Wright School boundary issue.

Under the plan recommended by Dr. Hull, all students with an Anza Avenue address would attend the new school. Other boundaries would be Del Amo Boulevard on the north, Hawthorne Boulevard on the east, and Torrance Boulevard on the south.

Protests came from residents of two large apartment complexes on the west side of Anza Avenue which border on the Victor School grounds. Most favored a plan in which the middle of Anza Avenue would be the west boundary.

DR. HULL said he agreed the middle of Anza Avenue would be the best natural boundary, but that 317 stu-

Two Die In City Traffic

A 6-year-old Torrance girl and a 24-year-old Redondo Beach man were weekend traffic victims, according to police files.

Young Coleen M. Kelly, of 2502 W. 230th St., was killed Saturday evening when she was struck by a car as she attempted to cross Crenshaw Boulevard at 229th Street.

Investigating officers said there was no crosswalk at the part of the roadway where she was struck. Driver of the vehicle was Louis Edwin Hyatt, 50, an El Camino gardener who lives at 711 Border Ave. He was not cited.

THE KELLY girl received head and abdominal injuries described as massive. She died at Little Company of Mary Hospital about three hours after the accident.

Kenneth Duane Bales, of 1812 Harriman Lane, was dead when taken to South Bay Hospital early Monday after a truck in which he was riding went out of control on Torrance Boulevard near Prospect Avenue, struck a concrete bus bench, and threw him and the driver from the vehicle.

Kenneth Elliott, 26, of 1808 Harriman Lane, Redondo Beach, was reported to be driving at the time of the crash.

Burglars Take Tools, Clothing

Theft of power tools, clothing, and a sewing machine from his apartment was reported Monday by Daniel Ballint of 20335 Anza Ave.

Police said the apartment had been ransacked by the burglars. The loss was estimated at \$700.



TREASURER HONORED . . . Thomas C. Rupert (at right), Torrance City treasurer, accepts a resolution adopted by the State Legislature from Assemblyman Lawrence E. Townsend (D-Torrance), author of the resolution. Rupert was praised for his work as city treasurer and for his contributions to the city through service clubs and civic organizations. Appointed treasurer July 14, 1964, Rupert was elected to the post in April, 1966, by a landslide vote. (Press-Herald Photo)

Pair of Holdups Net Gunmen \$550

Gunmen escaped some \$550 late Monday and early yesterday in two robberies.

More than \$500 was taken from a liquor store at 23421 S. Western Ave. about 11 p.m. Monday by two men. Clerk Allen G. Thompson said he was putting a six-pack of beer into a sack when one of the two suspects stuck a revolver in his ribs and told him to "lay down."

The two men cleaned out the cash register and then one of the men forced him to open a safe at the rear of the store, Thompson told police.

Thompson said one of the men asked him if the cooler could be opened from the inside and then ordered him to remain in the cooler for five minutes.

The second holdup occurred about 12:30 a.m. Tuesday in a bar at 3100 W. 190th St. Arthur C. Kolstead told police three men got about \$50. A fourth man left just before the robbery, he said.

Police said the four men had been playing pool and drinking for some two hours when one of the men approached Kolstead and told him, "I'll take your money now."

Kolstead said he was marched at gunpoint into the restroom before the three men remaining inside left the bar.

Contract Awarded At North

A construction contract for a new industrial arts facility at North High School was awarded Monday night to Donald V. Burnette of Los Angeles.

Burnette submitted a low bid of \$319,000 for the project. He was one of 11 firms bidding on the project.

Estimated cost of the project, district officials said, has been set at \$346,251.

The new building will include graphic arts and auto shop facilities. A special physical education room also has been included.

Urban Renewal Plan Approved

Torrance councilmen, acting as directors of the city's Redevelopment Agency, last night unanimously approved the Meadow Park Redevelopment plan.

Councilmen acted without debate. They had taken the matter under study following a public hearing last Feb. 6. The city's Planning Commission recommended approval of the redevelopment plan, which calls for the development of an industrial park on the 54-acre tract west of the city's airport.

A second public hearing has been scheduled for 8 p.m. Tuesday, April 11. At that time, councilmen—acting as councilmen—will hear arguments on the proposal.

"No one is particularly happy with this project," H. Ted Olson said. But, he added, "no other plan is feasible at this time."

A report on alternate methods of financing the project was given to councilmen

earlier this week and made public last night. That report, however, urged approval of the urban renewal program as "the best over-all solution" to problems created by the proximity of the airport to the area.

Suggestions that private enterprise develop the area were called unworkable because of the large number of small parcels of land which are involved. Revenue bonds—which the city would issue—"have been found to be unmarketable," the report said.

A general obligation bond issue of \$1 million to purchase the property involved in the redevelopment project was turned down by voters in 1957, the report indicated.

Olson, in his comments, urged the city not to abandon the search for alternate ways of financing the project. He suggested that a way might be found at some later time and the federal government repaid, thus getting the city

"out from under" conditions imposed by the federal regulations.

Key to much of the debate has been the city's uniform Housing Code and its related inspection and enforcement program. Enforcement of the code through eventual inspection of all houses in the city—over a 15- to 20-year period—is a condition of the redevelopment project.

In a report on the housing code enforcement program, however, City Manager Edward J. Ferraro indicated inspections would be made only on a voluntary basis.

Councilmen, on motion of David K. Lyman and Olson, declared it a matter of policy that no house shall be inspected unless the occupant has given his permission.

Other policy matters which will liberalize the housing inspection program will be taken up when the second public hearing is held April 11, it was indicated.

Issue Bench Warrant for Area Youth

A bench warrant has been issued for an 18-year-old Torrance youth who failed to appear Monday in Superior Court.

Judge Bernard Lawler issued the warrant when Tobl Michael Graves, of 2246 W. 239th St., failed to appear in Department A of the South Superior Court.

Graves was to be arraigned on a burglary charge. Bail was set at \$2,000.

County Backs Beach Bill

County Engineer John A. Lambie has been asked to testify in favor of an Assembly Bill calling for an extension of state financial participation in beach erosion control projects, according to Supervisor Burton W. Chace. The bill would be particularly helpful in the project to improve Torrance Beach. The county already has allocated \$600,000 for the work between Redondo Beach and Malaga Cove in Palos Verdes Estates.

Miss Torrance Deadline Near

Friday will be the deadline for receiving applicants in the current Miss Torrance competition, according to spokesmen for the sponsoring Junior Chamber of Commerce. Entry forms may be obtained from the Torrance Chamber of Commerce for the April 1 judging. Girls with an eye to the title must be between the ages of 18 and 28, single, and live within the city of Torrance or have a Torrance mailing address.

Cityhood Backers Meet

Members of Area 11 of the Dominguez-Carson Citizens Committee for Incorporation will meet at Carson High School Friday night to select a chairman and to discuss plans for the cityhood campaign. President John Junk of the Citizens Committee said the Dominguez-Carson area had been divided into 14 sub-areas and that the chairman in each would be members of an executive committee. Norton Grant, president of the Carson Homeowners Association, called the meeting.