

State Code Hikes Building Costs

By NATALIE HALL
Press-Herald Staff Writer

City voters got more than they bargained for April 9 when they threw out the city's Uniform Housing Code. For one thing, building costs have risen due to the more stringent provisions of the state code, which city officials must enforce in the absence of the Uniform Housing Code (UHC).

And higher costs may well cause a pronounced dropoff in local building activity, according to Building and Safety Director John J. McKinnon.

McKinnon explained that state codes are naturally behind the times because the state doesn't have the staff to bring them up to date as often as individual localities can. This is sure to lead to steeper costs, McKinnon stated.

For example, the lumber standards in state building codes are based on antiquated ideas. Local builders will now have to meet unnecessarily harsh lumber standards to comply with the state building code.

(McKinnon noted that the

city's Uniform Building Code went out the window along with UHC.)

"These antique provisions will increase the cost of building a house in Torrance," McKinnon underlined.

Code complexities have local building contractors in a dither. McKinnon said his department has been swamped with building permit applications from builders who rushed through their plans in order to meet the June 10 deadline. Plans submitted after that date are being

judged in accordance with the state code standards.

McKinnon said his staff has had to work overtime to try to catch up on the work stacked up as a result of this rush. Bundles of permit applications haven't even been touched yet.

However, once this rush is past, McKinnon believes there will be a marked slump in the number of applications filed.

The individual homeowner who wants to remodel his house will feel the pinch, too, McKinnon emphasized. "These people will suffer," he

said, "and want to know what happened. They'll want to know why they can't do the same thing now that the fellow down the street did last year with his house."

Termining the state code "arbitrary," McKinnon pointed to the fact that the state code, for instance, requires two stairways serving an upstairs addition. The city code only required one. This new stipulation will cause extra expense and take up more floor space.

The introduction of a new set of codes has also caused

havoc within the city's Department of Building and Safety. "We now have to train our people to use the state housing laws," McKinnon said. "It's causing us a lot of confusion and 'tra work'."

McKinnon terms the whole housing code situation a "vast misunderstanding," commenting that there has been a lack of communication between local people and government on the terms of the recent housing code initiative.

McKinnon stressed the point that he isn't trying to

be an "I-told-you-so." His only purpose is to "make the people aware of what's happened in a sensible, logical manner." And he's not trying to pin the blame on any individual or group.

(In Sunday's edition of the Press-Herald, McKinnon will explain why the city's Uniform Building Code went out along with the Uniform Housing Code, which was abolished by local voters April 9. He will also discuss UHC's connection with federal urban renewal projects.)

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Ann LandersC-1 ObituariesD-3
College ReportB-8 SportsD-1
EditorialsC-2 Women's NewsB-1
HollywoodE-4 Want AdsD-4

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'Political Payoff' Charged During Wrangle About Park

Employees Ask More Vacation

City employees want longer vacations.

At last night's City Council meeting, Ray Saukkola, president of the Torrance City Employees Association, asked councilmen to okay a new vacation schedule for miscellaneous employees.

At present, those employees who have been with the city five years or less receive 10 working days of vacation each year. After five years of service, the employee receives an extra day of vacation for each year until he has been with the city 10 years (15 days vacation).

For each two years after 10 years service, the employee earns one additional day of vacation. That amounts to 20 days vacation (four weeks) after 20 years on the job.

As of Jan. 1, 1969, Saukkola would like the employees to receive 15 days vacation after five years and so forth.

The council asked city management officials to present a study on this proposal within 60 days.

Sales Tax Gives City \$155,000

Chairman Richard Nevins of the State Board of Equalization reported that \$155,000 was mailed to Torrance Tuesday as its share of a \$19.2 million "windfall" of the local sales tax.

The accelerated payment was authorized by the 1967 legislature to bring local sales tax remittance in line with accelerated payments of the state sales tax under legislation enacted in 1965.

The \$19.2 million was divided among 400 cities and 58 counties. The lion's share went to Los Angeles County and its cities. Los Angeles receives \$3.4 million.

Boy Confesses

The mother of a 17-year-old Torrance boy summoned police to their home Monday evening after he confessed to her that he had a stolen stereo set and an AM/FM radio and speaker in his room. The boy was under the influence of an intoxicant when he was taken into custody by juvenile authorities, police said.



HAPPY MOTHERS ... Mrs. Malcom Bader holds her new daughter, Deanna Dawn, while her mother, Mrs. Anna Minten, looks on happily at her side. Mrs. Bader, an RH negative mother, gave birth to her daughter at Torrance Memorial Hospital last Thursday. The baby was RH positive. A new drug, RhoGAM, assures Mrs. Bader that she can have more children without the RH complications. (Press-Herald Photo)

For RH Mother

Rare Serum Flown Across Continent

Hope for normal birth has become a reality for millions of unborn babies of mothers with Rh negative blood with the development of a new drug RhoGAM.

First recipient of this new drug at Torrance Memorial Hospital was Mrs. Malcom Bader, mother of a baby girl, Deanna, born on June 13.

Doctor Gene Burke, Torrance Memorial pathologist, said since mothers who have already formed Rh antibodies cannot be helped by this new drug, RhoGAM must be given to a mother following her first pregnancy and each subsequent pregnancy.

"In addition, RhoGAM must be administered within 72 hours after delivery," he said.

EFFORTS of Mrs. Bader's attending physician to provide immunization for the 17-year-old mother, reached almost heroic proportions.

RhoGAM has only been available since June 3 and demand far exceeds supply. Although the hospital has RhoGAM on order, none had arrived. Calls to other local hospitals produced another zero. As a last resort, Mrs. Bader's physician called Ortho-Diagnostics, a division of Johnson and Johnson, the local distributor of RhoGAM.

Don Walton, regional director of Ortho-Diagnostics, agreed to try and locate a vial in time to meet the 72-hour deadline. He placed a call to New Jersey and requested an emergency supply for Torrance Memorial Hospital. The company complied and notified the physician that a single vial of RhoGAM would arrive via Flying Tiger Airlines. Mrs. Bader's husband was alerted to meet the plane.

He rushed the vaccine to the hospital in time for Mrs. Bader to receive the injection.

Doctor Burke said RhoGAM is used to suppress the formation of active antibodies in the Rh negative mother who has delivered an Rh positive infant.

"Injection of RhoGAM suppresses the mother's antibody response to the 'foreign' Rh positive cells of the infant. This antibody response to the infant cells is the cause of this type of blood disease in the newborn. When the formation of Rh antibodies is prevented in the mother, risk of disease is prevented in subsequent pregnancies," he said.

"HOWEVER," Doctor Burke added, "since this mechanism is akin to passive immunization, this injection must be repeated after every birth of an Rh positive infant."

Doctor George Peeke, Torrance Memorial chairman of OB-GYN Department, said ap-

proach was made to the city's financial situation for the next five years. The report will be presented at the July 23 meeting.

Mrs. James Van Oppen, speaking for the League of Women Voters, blasted the 50/20 plan as a "political payoff" and termed it a poor use of public funds. She urged the council to accept government grants in securing the entire 52 acres for Columbia Park.

THE CITIZENS Advisory Committee, in a memo to the council, also underlined the "great need for a park of this magnitude" and implored the council to go ahead with purchase plans.

Voters League Says Benefits Cost City Park

The City of Torrance needs a "money tree" to solve its financial problems. Or so thinks Mayor Albert Isen, who broached last night's discussion of a regional park site with grave doubts about the city's ability to finance such a venture.

A heated debate about the proposed 52-acre Columbia Park, followed City Council acceptance of a 17-acre gift from CBS. The CBS site, located within the proposed park boundaries, is the largest donation of land the City of Torrance has ever received.

In discussing the financial angle of the regional park, Mayor Isen flatly stated that the city "can't afford" the project. He said it would be misleading to tell people they are about to get a 52-acre park when the city would be hard-pressed to raise the purchase money, let alone the high cost of development.

THE CITY has managed to balance the budget for the forthcoming fiscal year, Isen stated, but in fiscal 1969-70, the city will begin to feel the pinch of the new 50/20 retirement plan, which will cost roughly \$210,000 the first year, police

and firemen may retire at age 50, after 20 years of service, at half pay.

Councilmen agreed to postpone a decision on the purchase of additional land until City Manager Edward J. Ferraro comes up with a projection of the city's financial situation for the next five years. The report will be presented at the July 23 meeting.

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Councilmen agreed in principle that the city should have the proposed 52-acre park, but warned of the "fiscal suicide" that would result for such an undertaking.

Mayor Isen said that if the people want Columbia Park, they should begin work on a

Flames Damage Market ---

A short circuit in a storeroom freezer was blamed for the fire which caused an estimated \$50,000 in damage to Central Market, 2213 W. Lomita Blvd., in Lomita early this morning. Owners Ed and Emma Kinser were called by the Fire department at 3 a.m. just as the last of the blaze was being extinguished. Five units were employed to fight the fire, which was confined for the most part to the back storage section. Mr. and Mrs. Kinser reside at 3306 Hodge Ave., Redondo Beach.

Saukkola Wins Law Degree ---

Ray Saukkola, president of the Torrance City Employees Association, was granted his bachelor of law degree June 13 from the University of San Fernando Valley College of Law. He will take the bar exam in August. Currently a civil engineer with the City of Torrance, Saukkola eventually hopes to specialize in the real estate and land development aspects of law.

Crash Kills Housewife ---

Mrs. Mae O. Clayton, 47, of 26238 President, Harbor City, was killed Saturday in a traffic collision near Lomita Boulevard and Normandie Avenue. Her husband, Lemuel, 47, was treated at Harbor General Hospital and released. Driver of a second vehicle, Solana T. Mays, 24, of 343 W. 234th Place, Wilmington, received minor bruises and cuts.



TRAVELING QUEEN ... Miss Sharon Terrill (right), currently reigning Miss Torrance, and Mrs. James Hussey, president of the Torrance Jayettes, check for tickets Monday as they prepare to leave Los Angeles International Airport for Santa Cruz. Queen Sharon is an official entrant in the Miss California judging which is preliminary to the annual Miss America Pageant. Scores of friends were at the airport to wish Sharon well. (Press-Herald Photo)

New Salary Hikes Voted

A 7 per cent increase in salary was given to classified and administrative personnel by the Torrance Unified School District board of education Monday night.

The pay raise, according to the board, represents mostly increases in the cost of living.

Vacation and insurance benefits for classified personnel were also approved, but longevity, uniform allowances, and sick leave appropriations were rejected by the board.

The school district will provide \$125 annually towards health insurance and will allow 20 days vacation after an employ- has been with the district 20 years.

Sam Hunegs, representing the employees, asked the board to reconsider the rejected items at a future meeting, but the board said studies are needed to determine their merits.

Board member Bert Lynn criticized the sick leave proposal which he said, "Pays an employee extra for being well!"

ELEMENTARY school principals will receive a 7 per cent increase in pay. The administration recommended a 2 per cent basic adjustment in the schedule and 8 to 9 per cent increases in specific categories, but the board agreed only to give the measures further consideration.

Bill Leahy, principal of one school, said a moral problem is created when maximum administrative salaries are so close to teacher salaries.

Woman's Purse Snatched

An elderly Torrance woman was knocked to the ground by a purse snatcher Monday evening as she was walking near her home.

Mrs. Ellen H. Blackshere, 66, of 1525 Marcelina Ave., told police she was walking on Marcelina Avenue near Cravens Avenue when a woman ran past her, grabbed her bag, and shoved her to the ground. Police said Mrs. Blackshere received a bump on her head and leg lacerations.

A short time after the incident, Mrs. Blackshere's purse was returned to the home of a friend whose address appeared on a piece of paper in the purse. About \$42 in cash and valuables were missing, Mrs. Blackshere told police.

Two teenage boys returned the pocketbook, saying they had found it on the street.