

# Presentations from Verdi Win Warm Response from Audience

An imaginative and sensitive manifestation of the present popular interest in Giuseppe Verdi was the recent presentation of an "All Cerdi" program given at Mira Costa Auditorium by the South Bay Torrance Symphony Orchestra under the inspired guidance of Elyse Aehle, well-known as one of the foremost conductors of Verdi's operas in the Los Angeles area.

Every time one hears a production by this orchestra one is again impressed by the sincerity of its musical utterance and, above all, by the

serious devotion of its conductor.

The program was very well put together. Beginning with some of the less familiar compositions of the master it continued with selections from many of the most loved of all his famed operas, and ended with his great masterpiece "Aida."

**GLAMOROUS** soprano, Evelyn Wald, entering in a gorgeous, red velvet gown, sang "Face, Pace, Mio Dio" from "La Forza Del Destino" and "Ernani." She has great dramatic power and perfection of tone production, ranging from powerful fortes to the most exquisite of lovely, tender pianissimos. In "Aida," her singing of the ethereal ending of "Ritorna Vincitor" left the audience breathless with her delicate artistry. Even her delightful, feminine elegance as she entered in "Aida's" lovely white robes was an intimation of her mastery of this role which she sings with flawless aplomb.

Whenever dramatic baritone, Enrico Porta, stepped on the stage the audience showed their great pleasure in this tremendous voice and vivid interpretation of the music. His singing of the extremely difficult "Crede" from "Othello" was a high point of the evening. It made a fiery, dramatic impact on both audience and orchestra. "Eri Tu" from "The Masked Ball" and the "Suo Padre" from "Aida" were equally admired.

**THE BELOVED** arias "La Donna e Mobile" from "Rigoletto" and "Celeste Aida" were beautifully sung by the handsome young tenor Rafael Enriquez with fine musical understanding and a flexible, well-pitched, sweet voice. His interpretation of Alfredo's entrance in the beginning of the second act of La Traviata was charming, but it would have been more charming in costume as were the other singers. His lack of costuming under the circumstances de-

## ...Renewal

(Continued from Page 1) valid it will be presented to the City Council, which must submit the issue to voters at the next municipal election.

Kessler said the petition asks that the "burden of proof" for inspecting a home under the Uniform Housing Code be placed on the city and that the city be required to demonstrate that inspection is required because of some "external cause."

"What we want to do is protect our rights," Kessler told the council. "All we have done is give safeguards to the homeowners."

**KESSLER ALSO** said his group was not at the hearing "to fight city hall" but wanted to "work with city hall."

Petitions calling for outright repeal of both the Uniform Housing Code and the ordinance establishing the City's Redevelopment Agency will be circulated beginning Friday, representatives of Active Citizens of Torrance (ACT) told the council.

Those petitions must be signed by 15 per cent of the city's eligible voters since they seek to call a special election.

**SPEAKERS** favoring the redevelopment plan recalled the history of the area, noting the city has prohibited most construction since 1954 because of poor drainage.

All speakers at the hearing gave their testimony under oath under provisions of state law governing the proceedings.

At one point, the seven-man council was sworn in to answer questions of financial interest in the project. All seven councilmen said they did not have any financial interest in the project in answer to a question raised by one speaker.

**MAJOR** opposition hinged on the housing code inspection program, which ultimately involves the entire city. The code was adopted as part of the "Workable Program for Community Improvement" which is required by the federal government for participating in the urban renewal program.

Councilmen, in approving the project plan, said they felt the redevelopment represents the "best possible solution" to the problems which have arisen in the area.

David K. Lyman said the problem would not go away if the council turned down the urban renewal program. "I have seen no other sensible solution," he said.

**MAYOR** Albert Isen said he had come to the "ultimate conclusion" that the project was in the city's best interests.

The mayor did express hope, however, that the inspection clause of the housing code can be modified.

Ross A. Sciarrotta Sr., in a prepared statement, said he objected to federal funding of many projects but labled the Meadow Park project "different" because much of the problem, he said, was caused by the federal government.

**SCIARROTTA** also told the crowd he felt that "cooperation with neighbors and city officials to keep our neighborhoods up to par is no crime as I see it."

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## ...Libraries

(Continued from Page 1) five branch libraries and a new central facility. A sixth branch library is being planned.

"It is my hope that the Torrance library system will be an active cultural center of the community," the new librarian said. "Eventually," he added, "this will come about. If the bond issue passes, these plans will come about in the immediate future. If it fails, it will be years before we see this take place."

**APPROVAL** OF the bond issue will not increase property taxes, McMullen said. He noted the city council, in a resolution adopted two weeks ago, has pledged it will repay the bond from the city's general fund without increasing the overall tax rate.

A two-thirds majority is required for approval of the bond issue.

## HANDY MACHINE

A portable electric hand drill is probably the first machine the average handyman acquires. It is especially valuable for work that cannot be taken to the workbench.

said, "are not an invasion of private rights but a vigilance required to guarantee everyone's rights."

Lawrence P. Irwin, deputy executive director of the Redevelopment Agency, said last night's action clears the way for the city to prepare the Part II application—which includes a transcript of last night's proceedings—for review by federal officials.

That review, he said should begin about the end of April and require some 60 days.

"I estimate that we can begin buying property by Sept. 1," Irwin told the Press-Herald.

## ...Lieutenant Girl Hurt When Hit By Truck

(Continued from Page 1) time, and he plans to use the time to move his wife, Julie, and step-daughter, Denise, 14, to his assigned country. If his assignment is in Vietnam, he will move his family to Bangkok, Thailand.

Three other former Torrance police officers are now in Vietnam as AID advisors. They are Sergeants Jack Hahn and Glyn Boyce and Officer Virgil Crink.

Hamilton, 46, was born in Massachusetts, served in the Navy during World War II, and joined the Torrance Police Department in 1948. He was promoted to sergeant in 1955 and to lieutenant in 1960.

He has served as commander of the Detectives Bureau and Records Division and will resign from the department as commander of the Planning and Research Division.

## Elderly Man Found Dead

A 79-year-old Torrance man died Sunday shortly after lunching with his son, Torrance police have reported.

Oran C. Sullivan, 79, of 3212 W. 185th St., was pronounced dead at Harbor General Hospital about noon. Police said Sullivan and his son, Glen, had lunch about 11 a.m. and the elderly man returned to a trailer at the rear of the North Torrance home. The son discovered his father slumped over a table in the trailer about noon.

He summoned a physician, who called police. The probable cause of death was reported as a heart attack.

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