

City Manager Sees No Tax Hike in Balanced Budget

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Boy Wounded by Shotgun Blast

Herald Stand On Merchants' Move Supported

The HERALD'S contention that the Retail Merchants Association was within its rights in asking the City Council whether El Prado Park could be used as off-street parking received widespread support throughout the business section of the city this week.

A front-page editorial published by the HERALD Monday pointed out that President Carl C. Duncan of the Retail Merchants group was merely acting in his capacity as president of the group when he signed a letter asking the Council to consider the proposal. It was not his idea, the editorial stated, and he should not be subject to censure for his action.

The entire controversy over the relative positions of the merchants group and the parent organization, the Chamber of Commerce, has been the subject of discussion during the past several weeks. Speaking on the matter Monday, the HERALD editorial stated:

"The situation certainly raises the question of whether the merchants, with their own important problems, will not in the future have recurring incidents that will place the actions they must take, to further their own interests, in a singular category. The overall function of the Chamber of Commerce is to attract industry to Torrance and to evaluate the needs for development of the whole community. The direct function of a Retail Merchants organization is to promote the commercial welfare of its members, to sponsor community-wide sales, to encourage the improvement of the downtown shopping center, and to do all within its power to attract new business."

The editorial went on to say that the retailers might find it necessary to form an aggressive organization "that will be their own mouthpiece."

Publication of the editorial by the HERALD was prompted by the display of tempers on both sides of the fence following the proposal concerning El Prado.

Truck-Trailer Turns Over on Highway 101

To avoid three children who apparently were about to enter the street, a Hollywood truck owner and driver swerved Tuesday morning, causing his trailer to whip from side to side, capsizing the truck and trailer. It happened on Pacific Coast Hwy., 550 feet southeast of Calle Mayor St. The driver was Jack A. Johnston.

Industry Leads Way

An Editorial

Peculiarly, those who stand to pick up the biggest share of the check, are thus far most active in urging the passage of the \$10 million bond issue for Torrance schools. We refer to industry, notably General Petroleum. Time was when most industrial leaders held the position that any bond issue only increased taxes and took a dim view of any cause, regardless of merit, that cost them money.

The attitude of Torrance's fine industries should be an inspiration to every other property owner and to every voter. It is a challenge to union members, to business men, and to all others to get out next Tuesday and vote "Yes."

City Receives Hospital Plan

A proposal for use of airport land for a 49-bed hospital was presented to the Torrance Airport Commission last week by the Howard S. Miller Co., Los Angeles building contractor.

The firm asked for a 300 foot frontage on Pacific Coast Hwy., somewhere near the entrance to the airport. With a building covering 26,000 square feet, facilities would include 11 general hospital rooms and eight obstetrical rooms, two rooms each for major and minor surgery, and one delivery room. Cost of the building is estimated at \$507,000.

The building would be completely air conditioned, which would minimize aircraft noise, the proposal stated, with heavy construction of walls and roof also sealing out sound.

Architect Named
Architect of the building would be Herman Light, designer of University and Bella Vista Hospitals, and some Harbor Hospital units. Walter Metzger, administrator of Mt. Sinai Hospital, would be consultant.

"With the present rapid influx of people into the Torrance area, we feel that a facility such as this will be sorely needed," Miller said.

Commissioner Robert Hilborn questioned whether a hospital so near to the airport would receive airport approval, but the proposal was sent for further study to a committee, consisting of Jack White, John Crain, and Robert Jahn.

More Land Recommended
In other action, the application of Kemp and Albright for an additional 70 by 300 foot addition west of property planned for construction of Hody's Drive-In on Pacific Coast Hwy. (Continued on Page 21)

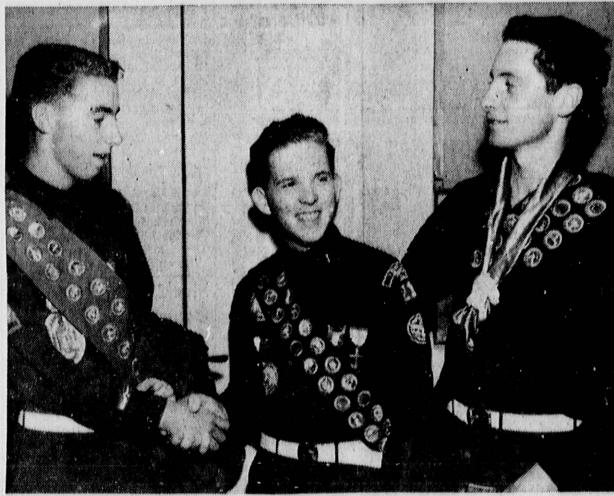
'Miss Torrance' Dates Disclosed

Opening of the 1955 Miss Torrance Contest was announced yesterday by James Van Dyck, director of the Torrance Area Youth Bands, Inc., sponsors of the beauty competition.

Selection of the city's reigning beauty is slated for July 29. Entrants must be between 15½ and 30 years of age, unmarried and residents of Torrance, according to Van Dyck. The winner will be chosen by a panel of judges on the basis of appearance and poise. Contestants appear in both bathing suits and formal gowns in judging that is open to the public.

This is the fourth year the contest has been sponsored by the Torrance Area Youth Band. Last year's winner was blonde Norma Quine, who was awarded a trip to glamorous Las Vegas. The 1953 selection, Sandra Lea Constance, went on to a modeling career after representing California in the world famous "Miss Universe" contest in Long Beach.

Applications for entry may be secured at the Torrance HERALD, 1619 Gramercy Ave. All applications are subject to approval by a Youth Band committee.



SCOUT HONORED . . . Named to represent the Harbor District Explorer Scouts at the Philmont, N. Mex., camp, this week was Jack McNeil. Shown are Don Kelley, last year's representative; McNeil; and Bill Sells, 1953 camper. All are members of Post 219-X.

A BALANCED BUDGET ON SAME TAX RATE HINTED

The 1955-56 budget for the City of Torrance can be balanced with no increase in the tax rate for operational purposes, City Manager George Stevens told members of the City Council Tuesday.

A "raw" budget, exceeding \$2 million, has been prepared by the city manager according to the requests submitted to him by the various city departments. Stevens indicated that the departments were not too much over what they might expect to receive in the new budget.

Maintaining the present tax rate and adding only 5 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation to retire bonds voted during the past year will provide enough for adequate increases in personnel and equipment required by the expanding municipal operations, Stevens said. The Council is considering adoption of a use tax which would make this possible.

A preliminary budget, prepared on the basis of estimated revenues and expenditures, will be presented to the Council next week.

In preparing this budget, Stevens said he was estimating that the city's assessed valuation would be about \$96 million.

Walteria Lake Tests Approved

A move which could mark the beginning of the end for the infamous "Walteria Lake" received the approval of the City Council here Tuesday evening when that body approved a request by the County Flood Control District for permission to make test hole borings in the lake area.

According to City Engineer Ronald W. Bishop, who relayed the request to the Council, the county wants to make the test to determine the best possible location for a spreading basin in the area.

Areas Listed
The test holes will be drilled on the unpaved portions of 236th St., Madison St., Ocean Ave., and Samuel St., Bishop reported to the Council. After drilling, the holes will be cased and capped with a steel plate on which a four-inch pipe nipple extension will be welded. This will enable observation of ground water levels in the future, he explained.

Lake Studied
The lake, most of it lying less than 75 feet above sea level, has been studied during recent months as an ideal water conservation basin which could be used to replenish the dwindling supplies of usable water under this area. The water could be impounded during rainy seasons and put back into the underground water tables through the use of deep wells, many city and county officials have said.

Restriction of the huge lake to a relatively small spreading area would permit the rehabilitation of the balance of the land for improvement. It is now used solely for farming and gardening. Building in the area is now restricted.

Want Ads Pay Off Again — On First Day
Another happy Want Ad user has discovered how quick and easy it is to buy or sell through the classified pages of the HERALD. Happiest folks around the other day were the B. A. Hoff, recently of 3201 Opal St., who wrote: "Many thanks! We sold all of our things the very first day. Fact is, so many people called and came by that we even sold a couple of our neighbors' items. "We were able to move on time with all our furniture gone, thanks to your sure-fire classy classified!"

Suspect Faces Court June 3

A Torrance man has been charged with "assault with a dangerous weapon" following the shooting Monday night of a 16-year-old youth in front of his residence.

The charge was leveled against Lyle Kenneth Stoner, 51, a steamfitter, living at 4244 W. 179th St., where the shooting took place.

In Harbor General Hospital with wounds of hand and groin received from the blast of a 12-gauge shotgun is Marcellus Hart, 16, of 4100 W. Sepulveda Blvd. Attendants at the hospital said Wednesday that the patient is "doing very nicely."

Capt. Ernest Ashton, Torrance detective, who made the arrest of Stoner Tuesday morning at his residence, said the Hart youth was sitting in the front seat of a parked car when the shotgun blast pierced the vehicle's door and wounded him.

Ran to House
An hour before the shooting, Ashton said, Donald Fiehton, 19, had taken refuge in the Stoner home, saying that he was pursued by Hart and another youth.

At this time, Stoner said, he ordered the two youths away from his house, and they left. When Stoner's 22-year-old son looked through a front window about an hour later and saw that the youths were parked outside, Stone picked up the shotgun and went to his front yard.

Standing near the parked car was Hart's companion. Inside the car were Hart and, to his left next to the empty driver's seat, a 15-year-old girl. Stoner said that after he had shouted to the boys "Now scatter!" that he was struck on the back of the head by a pipe, fired one shot as he fell, rose and fired another.

No Marks Seen
Detective Ashton stated, "I observed no mark on the head of Stoner from the effects of a blow."

The detective added that Mrs. Stoner said her husband was facing the street, away from the house all during the incident. The Hart boy got out of the car, fell to the ground, and was transferred to the hospital.

Since juveniles were involved, Sgt. D. C. Cook, head of the Juvenile Department, and Detective Sgt. Percy Bennett instituted a thorough investigation Monday evening that carried through much of the night. Other related juvenile charges are being probed in connection with the case.

Stoner, who is free on \$1000 bond, will be arraigned tomorrow in South Bay Municipal Court.

NTCIA Parade Will Honor Queen Saturday

A parade to raise support for the North Civic Assn. candidate for Community Fair Queen will be held starting at 2 p.m. Saturday.

Mrs. Norma Prange will travel in the first car of the parade, which will travel through all parts of North Torrance. The parade will start at McMaster Park and end up at Redondo Beach Blvd. and Prairie Ave., with a rally at Border's Market.

Year's Building Total 4 Million Ahead of 1954

Building permit figures in Torrance for May brought the year's total to \$18,727,302, some \$4,600,000 ahead of the pace set in 1954.

According to Walter Bradford, senior clerk in the City Engineer's office, May totals were \$4,651,259. May, 1954, totals were \$2,462,187.

Builder Milton Kauffman contributed \$2,907,520 of the total with permits for 300 new homes in the territory between Torrance Blvd. and Sepulveda Blvd., west of Hawthorne. Permits for 48 homes near 184th and Amie Ave. were taken out by Prairie Vista, Inc., with an estimated value of '413,040.

Herald Editors Bow Heads for Short Edition

Due to the Memorial holiday Monday and attending production problems, it has been necessary for Herald editors to condense or withhold many features. The size of the paper was reduced reluctantly and was done only because of necessity. THE HERALD apologizes to those advertisers whose late copy could not be included, as well as several faithful news contributors.

City Approval Of 174th-Yukon Signals Voted

City Manager George Stevens was instructed by the Council this week to proceed with the negotiations with State Division of Highways officials for the installation of a traffic control signal at 174th St. and Yukon Ave.

The State has agreed to the signal as a result of a traffic survey made some time ago, and is prepared to install what it calls a "two phase, semi-traffic-actuated signal system with high intensity lighting to be interconnected with the signals at 174th St. and Crenshaw."

The State was awaiting approval of financial participation by the City of Torrance. Councilmen expressed the hope that the agreement could be reached soon so the signal could be engineered and installed by the time school opened in September. The addition of the new North Torrance High School just a few blocks south on 182nd St. will increase pedestrian and auto traffic across 174th St., considered early, Councilmen indicated.

Home Savers' League Meeting Set Tonight

All units of the Home Savers' League in south Torrance will meet tonight at 7:30 in the all purpose room at Hillside School, 25600 Crenshaw Blvd., to present the new gravel pit variance.

The group, formed six weeks ago to fight changes in the operation of the Torrance Sand and Gravel Pit, is headed by Lee O'Malley. He urged all persons in the area to attend the meeting, and said that 150 had participated in previous meetings.

BUILDERS TOLD CITY'S NOT 'SOUTHWEST L.A.'

Subdividers building in Torrance are going to be requested to include the word Torrance in their advertising rather than refer to the area as "southwest Los Angeles," as the result of a suggestion made to the City Council Tuesday night by Councilman Willys G. Blount.

Specific reference was made by the Councilman to the Kauffman-Wilson advertisements appearing in the metropolitan newspapers which repeatedly refers to this area as "southwest Los Angeles" and never as Torrance.

The Council voted to instruct the mayor to write to the builders to ask them to refer to their developments as being in Torrance.

"If they're ashamed of Torrance, let them get out," Blount said.

His sentiments met with no objection from the Council.



THE SANDS OF TIME . . . Miss Shirley White, selected as "Miss Torrance" in 1952, marks down the date of the 1955 contest to pick the most beautiful and poised girl in Torrance. The contest will be held on July 29 under the sponsorship of the Torrance Area Youth Band. Entry applications will be available at the HERALD office.