

# Ex-Torrance High Student Killed in Merced Crash

Your Complete Community Newspaper

## Torrance Herald

OFFICE AND PLANT AT 1619 GRAMERCY AVE., TORRANCE

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# COUNCIL SPLITS ON PAY HIKES

## New Library, Fire Station Get Approval

A \$7 million city budget calling for 3 per cent pay hikes to all city employes and earmarking funds for fire station and library expansion was approved by the city council after two nights of discussion Tuesday.

The 3 per cent pay increase voted by the council Tuesday came after the group had approved a flat \$20 a month increase the night previously.

COUNCILMAN George Vico, wading through his first city budget, said Tuesday he wanted to reconsider the council's action on the \$20 raise. On reconsideration a switch of Vico's vote swung the council over to a percentage raise for all employes.

Monday night the council had voted 4-3 for the flat raise after it adopted a new integrated pay plan which would eliminate pay inequities.

SUPPORTING the percentage increases were Vico, Willys Blount, George Bradford, and J. A. Beasley.

At the same time, the council earmarked nearly \$300,000 for capital improvements, including \$70,000 for a new fire station on the airport to replace the ancient Waleria station; \$45,000 for new library facilities in West Torrance; and \$25,000 to purchase a fire station site in the West Torrance area.

OTHER CAPITAL improvement projects include major street and sewer improvements in the Victor Tract area, traffic signalization of major street intersections, and improvement of 226th St. west of Hawthorne Ave.

An additional sum of approximately \$69,000 was held in reserve, but will be used mostly

for city bus replacements, it was indicated.

IN OTHER action by the council Tuesday, a plan for a senior citizen's village was delayed until an agreement could be reached on exclusion of the backers' tax exemption rights; a proposed ordinance which would restrict the distribution of handbills was tabled; and the council labeled as "politics" a letter from School Superintendent J. H. Hull asking for city support of a school override tax election. The letter was filed without action.

## Board Holds Changes in Boundaries

Changes of boundaries for eight Torrance elementary schools were delayed Tuesday night by the Board of Education, as parents from two different areas appeared to present their views.

The board heard protests from parents in the Hillside and Carr attendance areas.

A CHANGE in boundary between the Waleria and Hillside areas was proposed, with Rolling Hills Rd. to be the new boundary. Parents from Hillside whose children would go to Waleria spoke in opposition. If the change must be made, they asked that eighth graders be allowed to stay at Hillside.

School officials said that with present population trends, Hillside will have empty classrooms.

THE CARR AREA parents would have their children attending the new Madison School, 175th and Doty, if the change were made. They feared for their children's safety along Prairie at 171st St., they said.

School officials noted that they have asked the city for crossing guards and for sidewalks along the east side of Prairie to protect youngsters. Children have been crossing at 174th St. to attend Perry School for years, they noted.

Although no protestants were present, action on boundaries between Steele, Flavian, and the new Towers School was delayed.

## All-Woman Air Races to be Largest in 14 Year History

The 1960 All-Woman Transcontinental Air Race, usually called the "Powder Puff Derby" will be the largest in its 14-year history, according to sponsoring Torrance and Long Beach officials.

A record-breaking 77 planes have already entered the classic with a few more expected as the deadline approaches. This year's race will start at the Torrance Municipal Airport at 9 a.m. Saturday, July 9th, and will proceed to Wilmington, Del.

"MUST STOPS" are Chattanooga, Tenn., and Roanoke, Va. with alternate stops at Needles, Calif.; Prescott, Ariz.; Winslow, Ariz.; Albuquerque, N. M.; Amarillo, Tex.; Oklahoma City,

## City Retail Sales Make New Gains Chamber Says

A report just issued by the State Board of Equalization showed Torrance Taxable Retail Sales researched an all-time high of \$33,603,000 for the 4th quarter of 1959, according to an announcement today by the Torrance Chamber of Commerce Statistical Department.

This figure was a whopping 12 1/2% million higher than the corresponding period in 1958

and \$16 million over the 1957 figure. The total 12 months taxable sales for 1959 was \$99,858,000 which means that the City of Torrance received \$998,580 from the 1 per cent of the sales tax.

"This is only the start," said Chamber President J. H. Paget, who predicted at least a \$10 million increase for 1960. The 1959 figure was an almost un-

believable \$30 million over 1958 and \$31 million over 1957 figures.

Cities passed by Torrance's retail "surge" were Culver City, Puntington Park, Lakewood, Compton, Alhambra, Downey, Richmond, South Gate, Pomona and Modesto.

Torrance now ranks 9th in Los Angeles County compared to a ranking of 18th in 1958. Statewide the jump was from 38th to 25th.

## Student Dies When Vehicle Hits Bridge

A Torrance High School graduate and student at El Camino College was killed near Merced just before noon Tuesday when his car went out of control and struck a bridge abutment.

Killed in the crash was Kerry Sexton, son of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth B. Sexton, who have resided at 1828 W. Sepulveda Blvd. here for many years.



KERRY SEXTON Dies in Crash

YOUNG SEXTON was enroute to Sacramento where he was to be employed during the summer, his father told the HERALD yesterday. The Sexton boy was alone, and there were apparently no witnesses to the accident, he said.

As a boy, Kerry attended elementary school here and was graduated with the Class of '59 from Torrance High School. He had been attending El Camino Junior College.

MEMORIAL services are pending at Stone and Myers Mortuary. Details on the services may be obtained by calling the mortuary at FA 8-1212.

The family is suggesting memorial contributions to the Youth Center of the First Christian Church of Torrance for those friends who might care to offer a tribute.

Contributions to the Youth Center may be sent to Mrs. Edward Pietzschke at 2765 W. Carson St.

In addition to his parents, the youth is survived by a sister, Mrs. James N. Matchetts of Minneapolis, Minn., and an aunt and uncle, Mr. and Mrs. A. William Finch of Torrance.



GETS SENDOFF . . . Postman Clyde E. McNew who retired this month gets a final tribute from Postmaster Clara Conner and associates at the Torrance Post Office. Sitting in the postmaster's chair, McNew receives a pin from Ray Comerkesi, president of the National Association of Letter Carriers while Jim Fitzpatrick, secretary of the carriers, and Herb Stullenburger, mail superintendent look on. His associates gave him a 35 mm camera and projector.

## Inflation Cited

## School Board Adopts \$11.9 Million Budget

An \$11.9 million budget for the 1960-61 school year was approved tentatively by the Torrance Board of Education Tuesday night. The final budget will be adopted in August after assessed valuation figures are

released and the district's income will be known.

The money will be used to provide schools and teachers next year for some 27,000 students, an increase of about 2000 over this year.

REASONS FOR an increase of about \$1.4 million over last year's budget are the enrollment increase, inflation, higher maintenance costs as buildings get older, and salary increases for employees, according to Assistant Superintendent S. E. Waldrip.

The district is currently at its tax ceiling as far as direct educational expenses are concerned. However, the board discussed the possibility of levying a 10-cent "community service" tax, authorized under the law.

Noting that the schools had been used last year by more than 300,000 persons for non-school events, the board considered the possibility of levying this tax.

THE DISTRICT will have additional financial problems next year because local taxes must provide 56 per cent of the total budget, compared with 51 per cent this year. Under state law, state support decreases as the total volume of local support increases. Because of the financial problems, the board has called

## Dog Licenses Due on July 1

Torrance dog owners were reminded this week that dog licenses are due again July 1.

License Inspector Gale Whitacre reported that tags for all dogs over four months of age will be issued at the city license department in the city hall or at the South Bay Humane Society, 20336 S. Earl St.

Annual fee for each dog is \$3. Whitacre said, no license will be issued unless the owner shows a rabies vaccination certificate indicating immunity through June 30, 1961, he added.

## Car Demolished In Train Crash

A teenage driver escaped serious injuries here Tuesday when his auto collided with a freight train at 203rd St. and Western Ave.

Pulled from his late model sedan which was demolished, was Russell Drake, 17, of Redondo Beach, who told officers he did not notice the train or hear the warning whistle.

## A Penny for your Thoughts

"What field or fields do you believe offers the greatest future for America's young generation and why?"

Answering were:

Del' Hinkle, 1049 W. Fiat St., steel worker:

"I have five of my own so I should be interested in this question. There are so many fields and such a wide variety that I think if the youngster is brought up right and kept under control they'll find their own field, the one best suited to them, and the challenges it has to offer them. What would be a challenge to one might not be to the other."

Rena Angelico, 18750 S. Vermont, waitress:

"I think it depends upon the individual themselves, their interest and their aptitudes. Everyone is different so not all people are interested in the same thing, and might not be interested in the field that might seem to offer the most."

Mrs. Betty McBeety, 1061 W. Greenhedge, housewife:

"I think probably a professional field such as dentist or medical doctor because they can advance farther in that type of work, serve the community, and it possibly offers the best financial security."

Mrs. Mayme Harger, 1538 W. 205th Street, housewife:

"It seems electronics and TV are the fields one hears most about now so I guess they're the ones that will take the lead. Getting the education is the most important thing in any field, though. I think electronics are connected with just about any field in some way so that might be the best thing to go into."

Mrs. Ralph Walker, 21424 S. Berendo, housewife:

"I think the fields of science, electronics, and mechanics are the three fields offering the most for the future because the future of America is going to depend entirely on electronics and science, what with rockets, space ships, and missiles. Just look at the progress we've made in those respects in just the past 10 years."



CIVIC LEADER HONORED . . . John J. Preis, general manager of the May Co. South Bay Store, received the first Torchbearer of the Year award given by the Torchbearers Auxiliary of the City of Hope at a gala testimonial dinner Saturday night at the Ambassador hotel. Here Norman J. Freeman (right), president of Torchbearers, reads the citation to the capacity audience while Preis listens.