

Coroner's Jury Frees Five Youths in Knife Slaying

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Torrance Herald

OFFICE AND PLANT AT 1619 GRAMERCY AVE., TORRANCE

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JUDGES BACK TORRANCE COURT

Majority of Jurists Sign Local Order

A majority of Los Angeles County's 102 Superior Court judges have signed an order recommending that Torrance be designated for permanent location of Superior Court facilities for the Southwest Court District, the HERALD learned yesterday afternoon.

By noon yesterday, 68 of the jurists, or more than half of those eligible to cast a vote on the matter, had approved the recommendation of a three-man committee of their colleagues that the permanent facilities for the district be built here.

JUDGES WERE still being contacted yesterday in an effort to complete the canvass on the matter.

Threatened opposition to the selection of Torrance as the site melted at a hearing called by Presiding Judge Louis Burke Tuesday afternoon. It was reported unofficially after the Tuesday meeting that 34 Superior Court judges had attended, and that 32 of those had signed the order at the meeting.

A LAST-MINUTE offer by the city of Hawthorne to make a city park available to the county for the court facilities was called "too little and too late" by those close to the Torrance campaign. The Hawthorne offer was made this week after the committee had recommended that Torrance Civic Center was the most logical place for the multi-million-dollar development.

Another last-ditch effort on the part of Inglewood may have backfired, it was indicated here. Information circulated privately to Superior Court Judges after the public hearing on the matter was believed by many local officials to have been received coldly by many of the judges.

THE MATTER will be sent to the County Board of Supervisors in the near future for their approval, which is considered to be assured in Torrance's favor.

It will be several years before the permanent facilities will be constructed, county officials have indicated.

State Set To Widen Hawthorne

Bids for widening Hawthorne Blvd. between Pacific Coast Hwy. in Torrance and Manhattan Beach Blvd. will be opened by the State Division of Highways on June 8, it was announced in Los Angeles yesterday.

Plans for the project call for the widening of the roadway from four to six lanes for the distance of 5.7 miles to connect with an existing six-lane roadway north of Manhattan Beach Blvd.

A total of \$750,000 has been allocated from state highway funds for the project according to state officials.

Cook to Head Vice Detail, Bennett Says

Lt. D. C. Cook has been assigned to head an administrative vice detail authorized by the City Council last week, it was announced yesterday by Police Chief Percy Bennett.

The veteran Torrance Police officer has been in charge of the record bureau and for many years was head of the juvenile bureau. He has also been active for many years in the Torrance Mounted Police.

The new vice detail will work with Sheriff's Department officers in the investigation of narcotics, gambling, and morals offenses, Bennett said.

RODNEY LORENZEN NEW CARRIER OF THE MONTH

Rodney Lorenzen, who credits a close study of the contents of the HERALD with his sales success, emerged this week as the winner of the "Carrier of the Month" title, according to Circulation Manager Darrell Westcott.

Rodney, who resides at 1019 Sierra Place with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Vernon T. Lorenzen, says his study of the HERALD permits him to point out the many features and values to be found exclusively in each issue of this newspaper. These in turn lead to sales, he says.

His formula, coupled with dependable delivery service, has enabled the young businessman to build up a successful newspaper route near his home.

Rodney's father is employed by a Los Angeles sheet metal firm which manufactures catering trucks. They have resided in Torrance for nine years.



RODNEY LORENZEN Carrier of the Month

Panel Finds Knife Death 'Justifiable'

A Penny for your Thoughts

Five ladies gathered at the Garden Valley Assn. for Retarded Children, located at 1119 Redondo Beach Blvd., were asked this question.

"What is your interest in this organization?"

Mrs. Gerson Jacobson, 2913 W. Carson Ave.:

"As philanthropy chairman for the Torrance Junior Woman's Club I have a very definite interest in organizations such as this one. Our club has aided this group financially and we supply toys and games that are suitable for the children here."

Mrs. Max Stern, 17214 Ardath Ave.:

"I have worked with this group since its beginning and derive a great deal of pleasure and satisfaction out of my association with the Garden Valley Assn. These children need all of the help we can give them."

Mrs. Joseph Boylan, 2714 Grand Summit Rd.:

"I have always been interested in philanthropic work and it has been my privilege to serve on club committees that are active in helping others. As I have children I am interested in helping those less fortunate than my own."

Mrs. G. R. White, 1027 W. 158th St.:

"This is a very worthy activity and help that the association is giving these children is remarkable. Garden Valley has made great progress since it was founded and we feel it is filling a need in our community."

Mrs. Lee Clotworthy, 1703 Juniper Ave.:

"Organizations such as the Garden Valley Assn. deserves the help and support of individuals as well as clubs. They not only need financial aid but workers to give their time to projects sponsored by their officers."

Five Torrance and Redondo Beach youths who were jailed last week end on suspicion of murder after the fatal knifing of a Torrance youth in a gang fight, were freed by a coroner's jury who decided that the death was justifiable.

Released by Torrance police after the inquest decision were Morris W. Gregory, 20, Hermosa Beach; Richard A. Snyder, 20, of 1624 Fern Ave.; Jack L. Stover, 17, 18520 Burin Ave.; David J. DiMeglio, 17, Redondo Beach, and Dennis Amundson, 16, also Redondo Beach.

THE FIVE were taken into custody by Torrance detectives late Thursday and early Friday after William C. Conger, 19, of 5009 Sepulveda Blvd., died at Little Company of Mary Hospital of wounds he received in a knife fight at Hickory Ave. and Carson St.

The fight started when two groups of youths exchanged words near the Torrance civic center while stopped at a boulevard stop.

Area's First Church Notes End of Era

Sunday's services at St. Mark's Presbyterian Church in Lomita—the area's first organized congregation—will mark a farewell to a site the church has occupied for more than 50 years.

Following services in the old church building at 245th and Woodward Ave. Sunday, the congregation will move to a new church at 241st and Pennsylvania Ave. for services on May 21.

The Rev. Eldon Durham is pastor, and will speak at the 9:30 and 11 a.m. services Sunday.

were in one car, police said, while Conger, DiMeglio, Amundson, and Stover were in the second car.

Records of the case and transcripts of the inquest are being studied by Deputy Dist. Atty Jack Cravens. He has not announced a decision on filing other charges.

Haulers Get Right to Use City Streets

Contract haulers for the San Diego Freeway project won permission Tuesday night to move their trucks along Madison Ave. and Newton St. to Hawthorne Ave. in the Waller area from the Torrance Sand and Gravel property at the south edge of the city.

Reversing its decision of a week ago, the City Council Tuesday voted to permit the trucks to move over the streets for a period of six months after resident of the area jammed the city hall council chambers to seek the reversal.

Citing the acreage which was to be made available to the area for Little League fields and other recreational use by removal of the fill dirt, the residents convinced the Councilmen that there was more to be gained than lost by permitting the trucks to use the short lengths of the two streets for a limited period.

Charles Shepard, representing Torrance Sand and Gravel Co. agreed to post a crossing guard at Madison and Newton St., if the police deemed it necessary, and agreed to furnish materials to restore the road after the hauling has been completed.



WORK PARTY . . . Dale Dandoy inspects repair of fence in South Torrance while Bud Hebson and Nick Draie man tools in Chamber of Commerce-sponsored clean up, paint up, fix up. Local activity is part of a national program for month of May (Herald Photo)

Torrance Man Hanged For Bahamas Slaying

A footloose Torrance man and his pal from Arkansas were hanged at Nassau Prison in the Bahamas Tuesday for the slaying of a Florida charter boat captain last year.

Alvin Table, 23, who formerly lived here on Susanna Ave. in southwest Torrance, was hanged at 7 a.m. Tuesday, and an hour later his cronies, William Sees, 23, followed. Neither body had been claimed yesterday and were scheduled for burial in a cemetery near Nassau.

THE PAIR was captured by Cuban police shortly after the April 24, 1960 slaying aboard a charter boat operated by the victim, Capt. Angus Boatwright. They had forced the

boat's crew and passengers ashore at Elbow Kay and were fleeing when they were grounded in Cuba.

Testimony at the trial indicated that Sees had gone aboard Boatwright's craft after a boat he and Tables and an 18-year-old girl had been aboard crashed on rocks in the Bahamas. He drew a gun and ordered the crew and passengers to the boat's stern. When Boatwright reached for his rifle, Sees shot him.

TABLE THEN came aboard forced the rest off, and he and Sees fled in the boat. The 18-year-old girl refused to leave with them. An hour after the shooting, a Coast Guard plane picked

up the abandoned party. Boatwright had radioed the Coast Guard when he saw the distress signals sent up by Sees and Table.

The pair appealed their convictions to the Privy Council in London but were notified last week that the appeal had been denied.

Reports here indicated that both men were confirmed in the Anglican Church during the week before their execution.

Sign - Up Slated

Registration for summer activities sponsored by the Torrance Recreation Department will begin at the city plunge from 3 until 7 p.m. on May 18, 19, 21, 22, 23 and 24 and from 9 a.m. until noon, 1 until 5 p.m. on May 20.

Council Mulls Move to Name Acting Manager

Councilmen Tuesday took under submission for one week, the suggestion by Councilman Willys G. Blount that Finance Officer Jerome Scharfman be named acting city manager until a permanent replacement can be found for George Stevens, whose retirement will become effective at the end of June.

Nothing that Stevens and his top assistant, Chapman Rone, would be leaving the city this month, Blount suggested that Scharfman be given the post on a temporary basis because he is now working with the 1961-62 budget, and would be in a position to keep it in shape.

The move by Blount apparently squelched rumors that Mayor Albert Isen would try again for the immediate appointment of Public Works Director Wade Peebles to fill the post. Isen tried and failed last month to have Peebles elevated to the post on Stevens' retirement.

School Advisors Warned to Study Moves for Rezoning

Members of the Torrance Educational Advisory Committee were urged Monday to become acquainted with plans to rezone 115 acres of industrial land for residential use, and to express their views on the matter.

Speaking to the group was Robert I. Plomert Jr., head of the property tax division of Mobil Oil and representative of the Torrance Industries Tax Committee.

"REZONING would help to destroy the balance of land zoned for industry," Plomert told the TEAC. "Locating industry there would create jobs and taxable wealth which would not be a burden on the community," he added.

He expressed the fear that rezoning this area would be the first step to rezoning the 350 acres of similar land which lies adjacent to the property at Crenshaw Blvd. and 230th St.

"SUCH REZONING is a method of 'raising taxes which benefits neither industry nor the average homeowner,'" Plomert said.

He pointed out that the rezoning case before the Planning Commission would mean 600 new homes, at least 480 new school children, which, in turn, would mean a new \$500,000 elementary school plus the added expenses of teachers and supplies for the school.

COSTS OF school construction was the topic of a separate report given to TEAC by S. E. Waldrip, assistant superintendent of schools.

Since 1955, the district has built 19 new elementary schools and additions to 24 schools at an average square foot cost of \$12.75, Waldrip said. The district also has built two new high schools, North High and South High, at costs of \$15 and \$16.50 a square

foot respectively, he said.

HE SAID that elementary building costs are cheaper than money allowed by the state for such projects and that high school costs are in the middle of the scale of comparable districts. Although it is cheaper to build a whole plant at once, Torrance has had to build most of its schools in units because it has not had the money to build so many new complete plants at once.

The type of material — frame stucco, concrete, brick, etc. — apparently has little effect on the total cost, he noted. Things which do affect the total cost, he said, include (1) the general economy and prices; (2) competition among bidders — a amount of construction work available; and (3) the total size of the project to be built.

"The building program," he noted "is a compromise between the best buildings for

the educational program and money available to build them."

IN A DISCUSSION of basic skill subjects, Curriculum Consultant Trudy Aldershof pointed out that reading, writing, arithmetic, study skills, civics, and arithmetic are required by state law for half of the school day in elementary schools, for 600 minutes in seventh and eighth grades, and are offered for four years in high schools.

New methods of teaching basic subjects are constantly being sought, she said.

MRS. BARBARA Hollenbeck, South High teacher, demonstrated what she calls a structural approach to teaching grammar. Through this method, students analyze the speech parts through constant use. "Grammar is used for better communication, not merely for its own sake," she said.