

Pellet Gun Vandals Strike Here

ARMED FORCES FETE SATURDAY

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Torrance Herald

Teachers Backed
In State Tiff
(Dorais, Page 28)

51st Year — No. 38

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OFFICE AND PLANT, 1619 GRAMERCY AVE — TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, MAY 14, 1964

10c Per Copy 60 PAGE

MOSK RIPS COUNCIL DECISION

A Penny for your Thoughts

With but four weeks of school left, seniors at the city high schools are beginning to look forward to the round of special activities, so the Peninsula photographer asked several people to comment on the all-night graduation parties.

Jeanie Shackle, North High:
"I think all-night parties are fine as long as they are properly supervised and there are plenty of activities and games for the seniors to do. A good party can really top four years of high school. I am all for them."

Mike Hester, Torrance High:
"I think the all-night parties are a good thing because it is the last time for the seniors to get together and enjoy themselves. They have to be supervised, but they are a lot of fun and I think we should continue to have them."

Diana Worthen, South High:
"I think all-night parties are great for everyone. It is the right time for the senior to have that last get together before everyone leaves for college. If they are properly planned, everyone can have a good time."

Maria Anderson, West High:
"I think the parties are a real good thing. It is the last chance seniors have to have a night together. They should be properly supervised, but they do provide a chance for the senior class to enjoy itself."

Mrs. A. H. Anderson, 20909 Tomlee:
"I believe the all-night parties are alright. They are all sponsored and well chaperoned by the schools, and at West High the kids will be taken from the school and brought back by bus. I am in favor of them."

Top Defense Aide to Lead City's Salute

Festivities for the annual Armed Forces Day celebration will begin at the Torrance Civic Center tomorrow evening at 9 with a giant fireworks display. Following the fireworks, several displays will be opened to the public.

Assistant Secretary of the Army Edmund T. Pratt Jr. is due to arrive at 3:50 this afternoon at Torrance Municipal Airport to assume his duties as grand marshal for the parade.

Police Week

Station To Host Citizens

National Police Week currently under way will be observed in Torrance with ceremonies in front of the city hall Friday morning and open house at the police station Saturday afternoon.

Uniformed officers will participate in the one-hour ceremony Friday at 9 a.m. Acting Police Chief Mervyn Porter will present a plaque to Richard Keeler, a passerby who stopped to give aid to officer Leo Gonzales who was shot during a recent robbery.

THE CEREMONY also will consist of the flag raising and taps.

Saturday from noon to 4 p.m. the public may tour the police station where the police communication system and function of the various bureaus will be explained. The detective, juvenile and traffic bureaus will have an exhibit set up in back of the station.

Also on display will be a police motorcycle, car and the radar unit which will be explained by Officer Dick Winne. "The whys and hows of the radar unit will be explained. Most people say the radar unit is a speed trap and not worthwhile but we say it does have its place depending upon its use," Don Hartel, police department public education officer, said.

PLANS FOR the afternoon also include public demonstrations on the pistol range which is located at the rear of the police station.

Last year's open house at the station was a success with more people than anticipated turning out, Hartel said.

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More than 100 units, representing all branches of the Armed Forces, area high

Five public address locations will be manned by members of the Junior Chamber of Commerce during Saturday's parade. The systems will be located along Torrance Boulevard at Hickory, Crenshaw, Cota, and Cravens Avenues, and at El Prado and Cravens in Downtown Torrance, according to chairman Larry Johnson.

schools, and other organizations, will take part in the parade, scheduled to move at 10 a.m. Saturday.

PRATT WILL lead the parade from the formation area on Cabrillo Avenue down Cravens Street to Torrance Boulevard and then past the civic center and the display area. Pratt will take his place on the reviewing stand at city hall when the parade reaches the Civic Center.

During his whirlwind tour of the area, Pratt will visit an American Legion Post in the San Fernando Valley, hold two press conferences, and tour several defense plants in the area.

Pratt will be the principal speaker at a luncheon following the parade. The luncheon will be held at the Space Systems Division of the Air Force Systems Command near International Airport.

TROPHIES will be presented to outstanding exhibits and units in the parade. Major trophies include those for the best exhibit area entry, presented by the Chamber of Commerce, and the Mayor's Trophy for the best local entry. A total of 15 trophies will be presented.

Lt. D. E. Nash, parade chairman, said the formation area, located between Del Amo Boulevard and Carson Street on Cabrillo Street, will be closed to traffic at 8 a.m. Saturday. Streets along the parade route will be closed from 10 a.m. until the conclusion of the parade on Saturday. All streets along the parade route will be posted "No Parking Anytime" on Friday.

Following the parade, many units will be placed in the display area, where they may be viewed until 5 p.m. Saturday.



AWAITING AID . . . Six-year-old Steve Henricks, of 26637 Indian Creek Road, Palos Verdes, is comforted by his mother and a friend after he was bumped by an auto on Hawthorne Avenue north of 244th Street Tuesday evening. Steve received minor injuries it was reported after he was rushed to Little Company of Mary Hospital for checking. (Ray Deurloo Photo)

Police Question Pair In Pellet Gun Capers

Police stopped two 20-year-old men Tuesday night for questioning after a local resident complained that a pellet gun shot had been fired through a window of his parked car.

The incident follows similar complaints Sunday in Garden Grove, Rossmore, and the Carson area in which thousands of dollars in damage was reported after vandals fired rifle pellets into window glass of parked cars.

In Torrance Tuesday night, Donald Hammond, 32, of 343 Palos Verdes Blvd., called police after he discovered the window on the driver's side of his car had been shattered and had a small hole in the center of the window.

Hammond said he was visiting at 500 Calle Mayor when he heard pellets break the glass on his car which was parked in front of the residence. Hammond added that he saw a small foreign car drive up, turn out its lights and after the shots drive away with its lights still out.

As Hammond was waiting for police to arrive a small foreign car with two young men slowly drove by and both of the occupants watched Hammond.

Police stopped the vehicle in the area a short time later, but the two men said they were just returning from dropping off a friend and denied any involvement in the pellet gun shooting.

Officers saw a pump air rifle on the vehicle's floorboard behind the front seat. One of the men said the rifle was his and he had left it in the car following a hunting trip.

Both young men returned with police to the location of Hammond's parked car where Hammond said he could not make a positive identification since he only heard the suspect's car transmission.

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Due to lack of sufficient grounds to hold the two men, police told them they would be listed as suspects and released.

Cook Keeps Status on City Force

Lt. Douglas C. Cook, suspended from the force on March 6 and dismissed on March 17 with the formal listing of five charges against him reported back to Capt. John Maestri yesterday afternoon for assignment after winning reinstatement before the Civil Service Board and the City Council. Lieutenant Cook will be assigned as a watch commander in the patrol division, Captain Maestri said.

Cook's reinstatement was affirmed after a stormy session of the City Council Tuesday night which ended with two councilmen leaving the room and a 3-2 majority of those remaining upholding the recommendation of the Civil Service Board.

COOK HAD been discharged on a five-count statement of charges which stemmed from testimony given by Cook before attorney general investigators last December.

Of the five counts lodged against the veteran officer, only one was sustained by the Civil Service Board after two days of hearing.

Civil Service Commissioner Lawrence Townsend, who had presided at the hearings, read the findings to the City Council, and said the board recommended that the lieutenant be suspended for 30 days, the maximum suspension which can be assessed.

HIS REPORT touched off more than an hour of discussion, which ended with the vote to drop the suspension order and reinstate Cook to duty.

Councilman J. A. Beasley contended that if Cook were guilty only of bad judgment, as Commissioner Townsend said his Board had ruled, then the attorney general's report was a farce and should be burned in public.

"Did you find that the testimony given by the attorney general was untrue?" David Lyman, newly seated councilman, asked Townsend.

TOWNSEND told the councilmen, and was supported by City Attorney Stanley Remelmeier, that the reports issued by Jack Goertzen, deputy attorney general, were not in evidence at the hearing. Consideration was given only to testimony given by Goertzen as a witness at the hearing Tuesday afternoon.

"We did not consider the truth or the untruth of his report," Townsend said.

Beasley attempted to send (Continued on Page 3)

Mayor in Rebuttal To Blast

Attorney General Stanley Mosk yesterday ripped the City Council decision to permit reinstatement of police Lieutenant Douglas C. Cook without a suspension penalty.

The City Council has indicated "a disregard for perjury by failing to discipline Lieutenant Cook," Mosk said in a statement released yesterday afternoon.

"I have been concerned with the growing problems of perjury, the lack of respect for the oath," Mosk said. He said the City Council action "contributes to this lack of respect."

MAYOR ALBERT Isen immediately branded Mosk's statement as "sour grapes."

"His statement is misleading in that the City Council had disciplined Lieutenant Cook by agreeing with the Civil Service Commission that he was guilty on Count 3," Isen said.

Mosk pointed out that perjury is ordinarily a crime, but said immunity was granted in the Cook case in order to obtain from him "a second and truthful statement."

He said it was unfortunate when "an official body serves notice that public employees need not be concerned with telling the truth under oath."

THE MATTER was heard in full by the Civil Service Commission at which Mr. Mosk's representatives testified, Isen said after hearing the Mosk statement.

"A majority of the Commission indicated to the City Council that in their opinion Lieutenant Cook was guilty only of a mistake in judgment," Isen added.

South High Class
Forty South High sophomores were guests of the Board of Supervisors during the Tuesday session of the board.

In The Herald Today

AFTER HOURS	28	LANDER'S	17
AMUSEMENTS	40	LEGAL NOTICES	45
ARMED FORCES	4	MARCO	39
BOOKS	28	MORLEY	28
BRIEF	28	MORNING REPORT	28
CHURCH	20	OBITUARIES	1
DEATHS	3	PUBLIC NOTICES	45
DORIS	28	QUOTES	28
EDITORIALS	28	SOCIETY	17-18
ENTERTAINMENT	40	SPORTS	44
HOPPE	28	WANT ADS	44-45
KNIGHT	32	WARY WISE	45