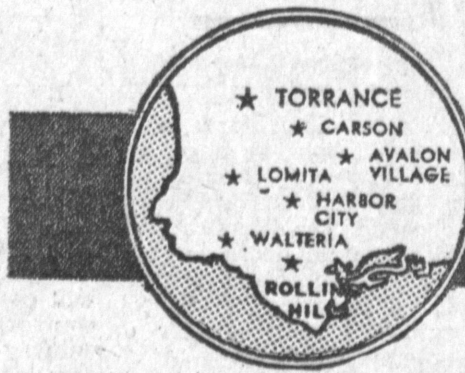


FBI Takes up Hunt for Missing Girl in Area

Area-Wide
Want Ad Service
DA 5-1515



THE PRESS IS THE HOME-OWNED NEWSPAPER OF TORRANCE

TORRANCE PRESS

3238 SEPULVEDA BLVD., TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA

Inside the Press

Mike Callas 1D
Classified 5-10C
Darlene Cope 3D
Entertainment 3C
Sports 1-3D
Theater Guide 3C
Women 1-2C

VOLUME XIII, NUMBER 36

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23, 1961

10c A COPY



AWAITING NEWS — Mrs. Laura Tompkins, mother of 11-year-old Karen Lynn, here is comforted by sister-in-law Mrs. Thomas W. Tompkins as family awaits news of the missing girl. Below, father of the girl, William Tompkins, a sailor stationed in the Far East, sits with son Mike, 8, in the family's living room. He arrived early this morning at Los Angeles International Airport in a flight arranged by the Red Cross.



Torrance Man Rejects Federal Aviation Post

A Torrance man, offered one of the nation's top administrative positions by President John F. Kennedy last week, Monday rejected the post in order to remain on his present job.

Francis T. Fox, general manager of the Los Angeles Department of Airports, turned down the position of deputy administrator of the Federal Aviation Agency.

In a statement issued by the Los Angeles department yesterday, Fox stated that he will be available to the federal government on special assignments in national aviation development.

Statement of city officials yesterday indicated that Fox would receive a substantial raise, to \$35,000 per year, which would make him the highest paid public official on the city's payroll.

Melvin J. Erickson, president of the Los Angeles Airport Commission, stated, "Fox is one of the most outstanding general managers in the country today."

School Board Resists Organized Demand for 'Across Board' Pay Hike

Members of the Torrance Board of Education Monday night agreed to study further demands of local teacher organizations for an "across the board" hike in pay, although they did point out that normal increment increases in the fall would hike some salaries by more than four per cent.

Spokesmen for the teachers indicated that unless the demanded pay hike were granted, "plus increments," teacher morale and quality of education would suffer.

After administration spokesmen recommended the additional raise, Board Member Bert Lynn said, "In a few years the money granted in

the 50-cent tax override will be used up and you'll have to go to the public and ask for more."

Board members, in another action, agreed to hold meetings each week rather than twice a month as before. Meetings will be held Monday at 7:30 p. m.

SCHOOL AHEAD . . .

Thousands of Area Youngsters Planning End of Summer Celebrations — Then School

Thousands of area youngsters will return to school early next month tanned and rested after a carefree summer in the sun.

Days of lounging on the beach or on the rim of the backyard pool will come to an end as the rigid regimen of class and home work start over.

Teachers and school administrators are readying classrooms and preparing study outlines waiting for

the opening gun to sound on September 14.

Parents, too, are busily using up the remaining days of summer as mothers make last minute purchases of school clothes to replace those tattered during vacation or repair those that can still see another semester of service.

Businessmen and shop owners have opened their doors and their stocks to "back-to-school" shoppers

and have been stockpiling needed items so that they can offer particular values at tremendous savings to their customers.

Homeowners and parents of pre-school youngsters must again worry about who will cut the lawn or baby-sit as the school-agers give up their summer jobs.

Everyone agrees . . . it's been a grand summer . . . but there's also a small sigh of relief that it's over.

Council Gives Final OK to Lower Budget

Five Cent Slash in City Taxes Approved

Torrance city councilmen last night gave final approval to the 1961-62 budget and okayed a 5-cent cut in property assessments when they established the city tax rate at \$1.238 per \$100 assessed valuation.

In a work session held in the council chambers Monday evening, councilmen had cast an informal vote approving the reduction in property taxes and last night's action affirmed the vote.

Officials reported that in addition to the 5-cent reduction, an additional two cents will be taken out of the city's general fund and

applied to increased salaries and retirement tax payments for city employees.

City Manager Wade Peebles indicated that the city will have a reserve of \$123,000 at the end of the year.

Money will be allocated for specific purposes, including:

ALLOCATIONS

General Fund, \$0.904; Library Fund, \$0.069; State Employees Retirement System, \$0.160; payment of principal and interest on municipal improvement bonds, series 1955, \$0.028; and parks, playgrounds and recreational centers, \$0.065.

No taxes were levied for the fiscal year for special assessment districts. These included Municipal Improvement District No. 1 and Municipal Water Districts Nos. 1, 2 and 3.

Council also ruled that the ordinance setting the tax rate should become effective immediately. Approved and effective ordinance must be filed with the county auditor not later than Aug. 30.

Cut in the basic tax rate for the city climaxed a long fight, spearheaded by Councilman Nicholas Dralle, to reduce the tax burden in Torrance.

'ONLY ONE CLUE' . . .

Aura of Fear Grips Neighborhood as FBI, Police Widen Search for Missing Girl

An aura of fear gripped parents of teenage and pre-teen youngsters this week as police agencies and FBI agents scoured the area for an 11-year-old girl, missing since last Friday night.

Parents are keeping a watchful eye on their youngsters and awaiting with dread the news that the youngster has been found.

For most are convinced that the girl could not be alive, a feeling that is shared by the majority of the

veteran police officers assigned to the case.

Homicide officers were called into the case Monday and are checking out every possible clue in the disappearance of Karen Lynn Tompkins, daughter of Mrs. Laura Tompkins, from her home at 21110 Dalton Ave., in the city strip.

The girl's father, William Tompkins, a sailor stationed in the Far East, is reported en route home from Hong Kong by air.

Officers admitted Tuesday that their only tangible clue was the disappearance on the same day the child was found missing of a middle-aged resident in a nearby trailer park. This suspect has a record of burglary arrests and detectives are trying to determine his whereabouts.

Meanwhile more than 300 reports received by the Los Angeles City Police Department from informants who believe they have seen the girl, are being checked out. One such report indicated that she had been seen as far away as Salt Lake City.

All points bulletins, describing the blonde, blue-eyed youngster, and the clothes she was wearing at the time of her disappearance have been circulated to police agencies throughout the western portion of the United States.

Pair Plead Guilty in 'Sex School' Morals Case

Victor A. Southward, 40, and his girl-friend, Billie June Black, 33, both of 20925 Avis St., arrested recently on several charges of contributing to the delinquency of minors, pleaded guilty to one charge each.

Hearing was held in Superior Court room in the psychiatric unit of the Los Angeles General Hospital. Superior Court Judge Walter Odemar officiated.

Hearing was continued until Sept. 15 for sentencing, pending a probation hearing.

Couple were arrested by Torrance juvenile officers after complaints were lodged by parents in the neighborhood. Investigating officers alleged that the pair were running a "sex school" and that youngsters involved ranged from 11 to 18 years of age. Police were alerted when a teen-aged girl reported that Southward had attempted to molest her.



NEAR TRAGEDY—Gusts of wind last weekend cancelled out the scheduled paddleboard race from Catalina to Manhattan Beach but didn't deter three navy 'chutists' who were slated to give a free fall exhibition. Near tragedy occurred, however, when the parachute of Donald Butchel of Hermosa Beach failed to open. Butchel fell from 10,000 feet to within 500 feet of the water before auxiliary chute opened to slow his fall. Above shot, just as second chute opened, was caught by Walter Elswick, marine and boat photographer, aboard Coast Guard boat patrolling area.

ARGUMENT . . .

One Dead, One Wounded As Father Fires Shots

Richard R. Henke, 61, of the Lomita area, Sunday morning shot and killed his son in front of their home and later critically wounded his son-in-law.

Henke, who lived with his son Charles, 37, at 245 East 99th St., Los Angeles, said he killed his son at 3:15 a.m. Sunday as the son and a still unidentified woman were entering the son's car.

After the shooting, Henke said he drove to the home of his son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. John Blamor, 24121 Eshelman Ave., and shot Blamor in the chest. Blamor was reported in critical condition in Harbor General Hospital.

Hospital authorities said the bullet injured Blamor's spinal cord, but the extent of injury has not yet been determined.

Henke said he argued with his son but couldn't remember what about. "I got my gun and shot him. Then I went to Lomita, woke my son-in-law and shot him. It was after that I came to and realized what I had done," he told Los Angeles Police Sgt. E. C. Henry.

Neighbors said Henke had been morose since the death

of his wife nine months ago. He was arrested by deputy sheriffs from Lennox station and later turned over to Los Angeles officers.

County Approves \$2½ Million Cost For Sup. Court

Total cost of the new Superior Court building, scheduled for construction in the Torrance Civic Center, will be in the neighborhood of \$2,350,000, supervisors were told yesterday.

Figure was estimated by the architectural firm of Adams, Morgan, Latham, Kripp and Wright, retained by the county for the preliminary planning of the new facility.

Supervisors approved the cost and ordered the Long Beach firm to go ahead with the initial planning.

See 36 Pages of Back-to-School Values