

SHERIFF TO DISCUSS POLICE SITUATION

Council to Ask Aid in Reorganization of Torrance Department

A meeting of Sheriff Peter Pitchess and the members of the Torrance City Council's police and fire committee has been arranged for tomorrow in Los Angeles.

The meeting was brought about by City Manager Wade Peebles to discuss reorganization of the Torrance Police Department.

It has been said that the Torrance Councilman may ask the sheriff to supply an expert in police administration to "sit" with Chief Percy Bennett until department efficiency improves.

Personal Interest

It also has been reported that Sheriff Pitchess has expressed a personal interest in helping the Torrance police.

Chief Bennett will not attend the meeting, according to reports at press time.

"There is a possibility," said Peebles, "the sheriff's department can release someone on contract to work with Chief Bennett to reor-

ganize the police department so that we can have one of the best in the country."

Parks Dept. Asks Public To Assist

The city requests the public to please check their property for any open containers that might hold water, or any stagnant water, capable of breeding mosquitos.

The city park department is doing everything possible to spray all open areas containing water that might be a possible breeding area. The city would appreciate help from all citizens. Please call Torrance Park Department, FA 8-4257, or the Health Department, FA 8-3310, for further information.

Dog Sought to Spare Boy Pasteur Shots

Little James Selvidge of 3507 W. 187th St. was bitten on the face and on the foot Monday by a dog while the four-year-old youngster waited at the corner of 187th St. and Cerise Ave. for his older brother to return from kindergarten.

Little James will have to start the Pasteur treatments tomorrow, Sept. 19, if the dog is not found.

The animal was described as a large white dog. No other description is available.

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Selvidge, parents of James, ask that anyone who might have seen the incident or have any knowledge of any dogs in the area which fit the description to please call them at 323-6028.

Thieves Get Tires, Rims

Driver training cars at West High School are without tires or wheels this week.

Some time during the weekend thieves climbed a chain link fence to the yard where the vehicles were parked and made off with the items.

School officials estimate the loss at approximately \$560.

Also taken in the theft were several large metal letters from a wall that spelled out the school name.

'Tax Hurricane Looms,' Says Hahn

READ IT FIRST IN THE PRESS

• TORRANCE
• SOUTH BAY
• CARSON
• LOMITA
• HARBOR AREA



THE PRESS

3238 SEPULVEDA BLVD. — Phone DA 5-1515

VOLUME XV, NUMBER 44

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1963

10c A COPY

Council OK's Going Outside City for Police, Fire Chiefs

The three top officers of all police and fire departments of California cities of more than 80,000 population are eligible to take examinations for the position of police and fire chief of Torrance when they become vacant.

This action was taken last night by the Torrance City Council by a vote of 5 to 2.

Previously, city law restricted the eligibility for police chief to the top two ranks and to the next officer immediately below for fire chief.

Benner to Retire

This means that the succession of both police and fire chiefs in Torrance will become a matter of statewide interest to career officers seeking advancement.

The council action centers first on the fire department because Chief J. J. Benner has said that he will retire next Jan. 1.

Police Chief Percy Bennett has given no indication that retirement looms in his plans for the immediate future.

In acting, the council followed the recommendations of the Fire and Police Council Committee under chairmanship of Councilman Victor E. Benstead.

The Recommendation

The recommendation to council said: "Instruct the city manager to submit to the City Council for review the job classification statements for the position of fire and police chief based on the following philoso-

phy: "To permit the best qualified persons in the first three ranks of Torrance police and fire department and any other qualified persons (in those ranks) from other California police or fire departments, of cities exceeding 80,000 population, to apply for the position of fire or police chief when said positions become vacant."

Create a Problem?

Dick De Young, who represented the firefighters union, spoke in opposition to the action of the council.

De Young said that such action would "create a problem of bad morale" on the department.

"There is no reason to go outside the department," he said. "We feel there are qualified people within the department to fill the position of chief and those people will feel that there is no chance for promotion if eligibility is extended to those of other cities."

Councilman Benstead commented that if the men on the local departments are "up to standard," they will not need to worry about the competition from men of other cities.

Chest X-Ray Unit At Camino College

A Chest X-Ray Mobile unit operated by the California Chest Survey Co. will be on El Camino College Campus, Wednesday and Thursday, Sept. 19 and 20, 1963. Hours: 9 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Public is welcome. Fee: \$1.



PRETTY Pam Wallace, 17, admires the trophy she won recently when chosen "Miss Walteria" by the Walteria Business Mens Club. Pam of 181 Via Monte D'Oro, was crowned and re-

ceived her trophy at a recent luncheon sponsored by the business mens club at the Polynesian Restaurant. She will reign over all major activities of the club. —PRESS photo

SCHOOL DISTRICT TO ACQUIRE FIVE ACRES IN VICTOR TRACT

Members of the Board of Education Monday night started the ball rolling to acquire approximately five acres of undeveloped land in the area of the Victor tract for a school site.

The land, bordered by Del Amo Blvd., Spencer St., Earl St. and Anza Ave., will be purchased at a price not to exceed \$200,000.

Board members decided that if the area should be built up with homes, there will be an overload on the existing schools in the area.

The land is being purchased for future use should the growth in the area come about and another school become necessary.

In other actions, board members put off until next week their decision on the amount of the proposed tax override.

In a discussion of the tax it was brought up that the cost of educating a high school student is rising every day plus teacher's salaries must be kept higher than other districts to attract the best teachers and keep them once they are here.

It was learned also at the Monday night meeting that summer school attendance at Torrance schools was 1,000 higher than last year.

This makes a total of more than 12,000 boys and girls who attended summer ses-

sions this year. As part of a new plan to bring board meetings to the public, members of the school board met at West High in front of about 150 parents, teachers and PTA members.

All Three Types Of Sabin Vaccine Available Sunday

An excellent opportunity will be provided for the residents of the South Bay area on Sunday Sept. 22 when all three types of Sabin vaccine will be available at the El Segundo High School for those who have not completed the series.

School officials are so confident of the effectiveness of this type of immunization that all students are required to have started a polio immunization series within two weeks after the opening of school.

The El Segundo Jaycees are holding the clinic on Sept. 22 at the El Segundo High School cafeteria on the corner of Main and Oak Sts. from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The nominal donation of one dollar is approximately one fourth of the usual charge. Record forms will be available and must be signed by parents for those under 18.

What Does 'L' Stand for?

There's a new byline in The Press.

It's on Page A14. The byline is L. Cutler Wayne which will keep you up-to-date about the activities of those business firms which cater to the palates and pleasures of people.

Turn to Page A14 and you will meet B. Franklin, pepperoni pizza, and dime-automated player pianos.



It's so easy to place a Press want ad. Just pick up the phone and call DA 5-1515. An experienced, courteous ad-taker will word a low-cost, result-getting want ad. Do it now! Just dial DA 5-1515 and turn your "don't needs" into ready cash!



GREETING Senator Barry Goldwater of Arizona is Luke Bomke of 261 Via Bunea Ventura, Hollywood Riviera. Bomke is an employee of Pittsburgh Plate Glass here in Torrance. Senator Goldwater, presented by the Council of Republican Volunteers, spoke before a near-capacity crowd Monday night at Dodger Stadium. —PRESS Photo by David Ranns



SMALLEST DOG award at a recent amateur pet show went to Dennis Finch of Torrance and his dog Bambi. Children and their dogs competed in the show at the C.M.A. Discount store on Western Ave. last weekend. —PRESS photo

Supervisor Kenneth Hahn this week issued a statement to give "advance warning" to the homeowner, City Councils, and School Board" of an impending tax jolt caused by a change in the formula of assessing business property.

Hahn said the tax increase loomed "like a hurricane" and citizens, although hoping it won't materialize, should be prepared. He advised City Councils and School Boards, which obtain the majority of their operating funds from property taxes, to begin now evaluating their financial position and proposed spending. Every effort should be made to reduce government spending at every level. New tax reform laws to relieve property owners should be enacted by the Legislature. As it looks now, a hurricane certainly is in sight.

Supervisor Hahn's statement follows:

"Assessor Watson has announced plans to adjust the formula of assessing business property next year, a move which will eliminate approximately \$600 million from the tax base.

"This will leave the small property owner to pick up the tab, and I think every homeowner should be warned that County Chief Administrative Officer Lindon S. Hollinger estimates this will force a possible jump in the tax rate of approximately 15 to 17 cents in 1964.

"The public deserves to know the potential impact of Assessor Watson's statement that he will reduce by \$600,000,000 business property assessments by changing the formula of assessment from the 39 per cent ratio to 25 per cent.

"The small homeowner is right now up to his financial eyeballs in taxes. The proposed shifting of taxes could also create serious problems in many of the school districts and city councils which have a tax limitation in their cities. Such basic services as police and fire protection will be threatened and the ability of many schools to meet the educational needs of our children will be seriously curtailed.

"I have asked County Auditor Roscoe Hollinger to immediately determine the potential effect of this new tax rate on the operations of the county's 98 school districts, many of which are at their legal ceilings.

"The average homeowner cannot fully understand the impact of this shift of assessments. It will reach him in November, 1964, when the Tax Collector sends the bills.

"I am gravely concerned about many of our senior citizens who have saved and put away for a rainy day so they would be assured a small home and ability to pay their taxes. This will present a serious financial problem for retired people on fixed income who saved for their senior years not knowing there would be a major change in the tax assessment procedure.

"A Citizens Assessment Review Commission should be formed to evaluate the ratio formula announced by the assessor for business and industry, and determine if it is fair and just to the small property owner.

"This commission should project the effect of the assessor's announcement on the homeowner, business community, city councils, and school districts; review the processes and procedures used by the assessor in determining the ratio to assess business property, and make recommendations for legislation, if necessary, for a complete overhaul of the assessment laws."