

Alternate Sites Pressed for Auditorium

Torrance

Press-Herald

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ALL ABOARD . . . Torrance Councilman J. A. Beasley shouts "All Aboard" as a Minibus prepares to leave the City Hall for a tour of the Garrett Corp. facilities here. The Minibus, a newly developed prototype which is capable of speeds of 45 to 60 miles per hour, was brought to the city Friday for inspection. Beasley has suggested the Torrance Municipal Bus Lines might cut an annual deficit by using the "economy size" buses. The City Council's transportation committee, which Beasley heads, will look into the proposal early next year. (Press-Herald Photo)

Vice Raiders Arrest Six on Dope Charges

'Messiah' Slated at El Camino

The El Camino College Community Orchestra and Choir will present the concluding performance of the major portion of Handel's "Messiah" in the Campus Theater today at 2:45. The orchestra, under the direction of James Mack, music instructor, will be featured in the "Overture" and "Pastoral Symphony" portions of the concert. "Instrumental divisions of the orchestra for this concert are patterned on a form that musicians call Baroque," Mack explained.

AN ADDED quality will be given the orchestra accompaniment with the use of an attachment to the piano that gives the instrument the simulated sound of the harpichord. Miss Loretta Nicassio will serve as accompanist. Crist L. Mikkelsen, vocal instructor at El Camino, will conduct the Community Choir with Joan George, Beverly Nytral, and Kathy Taylor as soprano soloists. Admission will be free.

Electric Guitar Stolen at North

Theft of an electric guitar amplifier from the band room at North High School was reported to Torrance Police about 1 p.m. Friday. Norman McCracken Jr., 15, of 18222 Cranbrook Ave., told officers he had placed the amplifier in the band room about 11:30 and found it missing when he returned at 12:55. He valued the instrument at \$99.50.



GIFTS FOR VIET NAM . . . Fourth grade students Frances Katsuki and Grant Whitman, who attend Madrona Elementary School, show some of the gift boxes which will be delivered at Christmas to children in South Viet Nam. The project was inspired by lessons on Viet Nam. Students in Miss Brenda Bateman's and Mrs. Eather Salzborg's classes studied maps and read articles, then packed the 60 gift boxes for delivery by the Junior Red Cross.

Police In Two Forays

Arrest of a Culver City man and his estranged wife, believed to be major suppliers of narcotics in the Torrance area, was disclosed Friday evening by the Torrance Police Department.

Sgt. Lee Ashman, commander of the city's vice detail, said his officers and state narcotics agents arrested John E. Allen Jr., 34, and his wife, Frances Ann, 27, shortly after 7 p.m. Friday in Culver City. Both were returned to Torrance and charged with possession of dangerous drugs with intent to offer the drugs for sale.

More than 100,000 Benzedrine tablets, worth about \$20,000, were seized as evidence, Sgt. Ashman said.

TORRANCE police also reported the arrest of four steelworkers on charges of possession of marijuana and other dangerous drugs.

The four, all employed at the Bethlehem Steel Co. plant here, were arrested about 8:30 p.m. Friday in front of a liquor store at 18303 S. Western Ave.

Taken into custody were: John Hadley Randle, 28, of 1300 S. Main St., Los Angeles;

Rex Michael Pearson, 27, of 3127 W. 133rd St., Hawthorne;

Albert Carmen Vincent Burnett, 30, of 719 Holland Ave., Los Angeles; and,

Thomas Jordan, 25, of 1200 W. 35th St., Los Angeles.

SERGEANT Ashman said the Allen home, located at 3829 1/2 Westwood Ave., Culver City, was placed under (Continued on Page A-2)

Judge Armstrong To Preside Over Municipal Court

Judge Donald Armstrong has been elected presiding judge of the South Bay Municipal Court for 1966. Elected at the Municipal Court Judges' annual meeting Thursday, the judge will take over the office just vacated by the elevation of Judge William B. Keene to the Superior Court.

Judge Armstrong announced that effective Jan. 3, Judge Otto B. Willett will be assigned to the criminal calendar in Division 3 of the court in Torrance. Judge Raymond Choate will be assigned to Division 1 of the court, 1231 North Pacific Ave., Redondo Beach. Judge Choate will handle the master civil calendar, traffic court, small claims and other matters referred to him by the presiding judge. Judge Armstrong will preside over the criminal calendar of Division 2 of the court in Redondo Beach.

Judge Armstrong was appointed to the office in 1957 and re-elected in 1960. He was born in Whittier, graduated from Santa Monica High School, received A.B. and

J.D. degrees from the University of California at Berkeley. He is a former assistant United States Attorney for the Southern District of California, a former deputy commissioner of corporations and was city attorney for Palos Verdes Estates for 11 years before being appointed to the bench. He is a member of the Los Angeles County Bar Association, formerly a member of its board of trustees, a member of the South Bay Bar Association, and a member of the American Judicature Society and the Chancery Club.

He valued the instrument at \$99.50.



JUDGE DONALD ARMSTRONG Presides Over Municipal Court

Driver Hits Center Fence

A 32-year-old Torrance man was treated for injuries last night following a traffic accident on Pacific Coast Highway in front of South High School.

Norvel Clinton Humphreys Jr. of 20912 Hampshire St. was treated at Little Company of Mary Hospital and released. He suffered a cut upper lip and contusions about his left eye.

Humphreys, driving east on Pacific Coast Highway, struck a chain link divider fence about 11:40 p.m. He told police he didn't know how the accident happened. "I was driving along and suddenly I struck the fence," he said.



MICHAEL J. HAND Gallantry Rewarded

Ex-Swim Instructor Viet Hero

The gallantry of Michael J. Hand, who received the Silver Star for his actions at Dong Xoai, Viet Nam, was reported in the Press-Herald on his birthday, Dec. 8, it was learned this week.

The serviceman's sister, Cecile Hand, who lives at 26311 Burchfield on the Palos Verdes Peninsula, said this week that her brother had probably been awarded the Silver Star, one of the highest of battlefield honors, as the result of action taking place last August. She said the serviceman's family had been notified of his decoration, but did not know the nature of the award.

The Press-Herald reported on Dec. 8 that Pfc. Hand (he has since been promoted) was cited for acting as a live target so his comrades could locate and destroy a snipers' nest. In the same action, he exposed himself to rescue a wounded team member under hostile fire.

Hand attended school in New York and was graduated from New York State Ranger School where he studied forestry.

He came to Southern California in 1961 and worked as a swim instructor at Adli Swim School in Waltham until entering the service in (Continued on Page A-2)

Makes Civic Center An 'Asphalt Jungle'

Construction of a major civic auditorium complex outside of the Torrance Civic Center has been recommended by the Citizens Auditorium Advisory Committee in its final report.

The report will be handed to the City Council Tuesday at a pre-council session scheduled to begin at 5:13 p.m.

The committee, formed to evaluate a feasibility study conducted by Economic Research Associates of Los Angeles, said construction of a facility at Civic Center would create "an asphalt jungle" in the middle of the Civic Center if sufficient parking is provided.

The group also cited a "direct loss of parking revenue" and possible destruction of the "park atmosphere" as reasons for locating the auditorium complex elsewhere in the city.

ALTERNATE sites north of Civic Center, near the airport, or in the vicinity of Sepulveda Boulevard and Madrona Avenue were suggested. The report warns that such sites "have been considered but not examined."

Another alternative is to construct the complex in the Civic Center and provide underground parking. Such an arrangement would be possible, the committee said, if federal civil defense funds could be obtained.

The committee, chaired by J. B. Mosley, recommends construction of a three-fold complex containing a flat-floor arena capable of seating 5,000 persons. In addition, the committee recommends a 2,500-seat "theater type" building and a little theater with a capacity of 400

seats. The little theater should be built so it can be partitioned into a 200-seat facility, the report says.

ECONOMIC Research Associates recommended a similar facility with a 3,000-seat main arena, or about half the size of the committee's proposed complex.

"The size of the auditorium facility recommended by Economic Research Associates appears to be directed almost wholly toward a community service auditorium," the committee report notes.

"Economic Research Associates do not seem to feel that a Torrance auditorium could attract a substantial amount of outside patronage," the report continues. "The committee feels that by enlarging the auditorium it follows that the productions themselves will largely pay for the cost of the facility and its operation."

"The only reason the people don't come here (to Torrance) is that the city does not have the facilities," the report adds.

Financing of the complex, which could cost between \$3 and \$5 million, should be through general obligation tax supported — bonds, the report says. Such a method requires approval of the city's voters.

THE COMMITTEE also recommended that construction begin "as soon as practicable." The group, however, made it clear it means three to five years.

The committee noted a "noticeable change" in the public's attitude toward the auditorium complex follow-

ing the receipt of tax bills earlier this month.

"The committee doubts if a bond issue would receive favorable public acceptance as long as the tax assessments are in a state of flux, the report says. "Reports are widespread of massive boosts in tax valuations. This has resulted in a public feeling of resentment and doubt. The tax situation is further complicated by the schools de-

(Continued on Page A-2)

School Board to Meet . . .

Trustees of the Torrance Unified School District will meet tomorrow at 7:30 p.m. at the district offices, 2335 Plaza del Amo. The board will be asked to call for bids on site work at the Sam Levy and Spencer Street elementary schools. The work, which will cost an estimated \$100,000, involves grading and preparation of the acreage for actual construction. Both schools will be ready for use early in 1967, Dr. J. H. Hull, superintendent of schools, said.

Brown Poodle Sought . . .

A 15-year-old student at Stephen M. White Junior High School today is searching for a brown poodle in order to escape the painful Pasteur anti-rabies treatment. Frank Gagne, son of Mrs. Mary Gagne of 310 E. 231st St., was bitten by the large brown poodle Wednesday afternoon while on his way home from school. Gagne said he was walking on Moneta Street near White Junior High School when the poodle bit him. Mrs. Gagne asked that anyone having information about the dog to call her at TE 5-3519.

New Traffic Rule Given . . .

Vehicles making left turns onto Pacific Coast Highway from southbound lanes of Hawthorne Boulevard will be restricted to using the center lane only to start the turn, Torrance traffic officers warned yesterday. Previously vehicles were permitted to start the left turn from the two center lanes, but traffic officers now must enforce the single lane regulation. Police also advised motorists yesterday that U-turns are prohibited at all signal intersections except where permitted by sign.