

Isen Wants No Part of 'Super-Government'

Torrance

Press-Herald

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GETTING THE WORD . . . Santa is getting an earful as brothers Bobby and Tommy Jones, 7 and 5, spin off their lists during a visit yesterday to one of his headquarters in the Del Amo Center. The boys are the sons of Mr. and Mrs. James Jones of Redondo Beach. Santa has only a couple of days left to make sure he has completed his lists. (Press-Herald Photo by Hal Fisher)

Board Picks New Project For Grace Wright School

Trustees of the Torrance Unified School District Monday evening officially named the second of two elementary schools being planned for construction early next year.

By a 3-2 vote, the board designated a school to be located on Spencer Street west of Hawthorne Boulevard at the Grace Wright Elementary School. Two weeks ago, a school in the Tract 2200 area was named in honor of the late Sam Levy.

Mrs. Wright, who resides at 1532 El Prado, was a member of the first Board of Education and one of the principal figures in the movement to establish the Torrance Unified School District.

termed the action "entirely out of order."

THE SCHOOL, to be built on a site of slightly less than five acres at Spencer Street and Del Amo Boulevard, will be ready for use early in 1967. Plans, which have been approved by the board, call for the construction of two-story classroom buildings, the first since the Torrance Unified School District was formed.

Mrs. Wright was first elected to the board for a one-year term in 1947 and re-elected in 1952 and 1956, but was defeated in the 1961 election. Mrs. Wright served longer than any other member of the board.

She also served as the first moderator of the Torrance

Education Advisory Committee (now the Educational Council of Torrance), a position she held for many years.

FOLLOWING approval of the new name, trustees authorized district officials to call for bids on site work at both the Sam Levy and Grace Wright schools.

The project, which involves grading, installation of curbs, gutters, and sidewalks, and other site work, is estimated at \$102,444 for both schools. Work is expected to begin shortly after the first of the year.

Actual construction of the two schools will get under way in the Spring, according to Dr. Bernard Garen, supervisor of construction for the school district.

COUNCILMAN J. A. Beasley, who favored ratification of the agreement, said the organization would not cost the city anything, but would provide vital information related to transportation problems and especially to matters involving freeway planning.

"If you get in, how do you get out?" Isen asked. "I think this is just an attempt to form a super-government."

Ferraro told the council the group had been formed in reaction to an attempt to form metropolitan governments in 1960 and 1961. "Problems are becoming too

(Continued on A-7)



NORTH POLE HOOK-UP . . . Temporary Santas take calls from Torrance area youngsters during "Phone Santa" program last week end. From left are consulting engineer Jack Eardley, City Manager Edward Ferraro, and Chamber of Commerce President Bruce Jones, manager of the downtown branch of Bank of America. Other Santas are pictured today on Page D-1.

Conference On Agenda

Authorization to attend the annual convention of the National School Boards Association in Minneapolis, Minn., April 23 through 26, was voted by the Board of Education Monday.

Trustees voted to permit Dr. J. H. Hull, superintendent of schools, and all five board members to attend the conference.

Mrs. Kenneth E. Watts, president of the board, and trustees Bert M. Lynn and Dr. Donald E. Wilson indicated they would not attend the sessions.

Pact on Transit Held Up

Torrance may be a developing regional center, unable to solve many of its problems alone, but Mayor Albert Isen doesn't want any part of a "super-government."

The mayor expressed his fears of a "super-government" last night during consideration by the City Council of a plan to make Torrance a part of the Los Angeles Regional Transportation Study (LARTS). He labeled LARTS "a branch of super-government" and succeeded in raising enough doubts to get action on the agreement postponed.

LARTS is a branch of the State Division of Highways and is essentially a data collection and analysis organization, according to City Manager Edward J. Ferraro. The group's primary purpose, he added, is to serve as an aid to communities on planning matters related to transportation problems.



HELPS INJURED BROTHER . . . Nicholas B. Pica, 30, of 1303 Florwood Ave., Lawndale, checks injured brother, Frank, 27, after the two were forced over a 25-foot embankment along Hawthorne Boulevard near Palos Verdes Drive North Monday night by a runaway truck. Both were hospitalized with head injuries. (Press-Herald Photo by Ray Deurloo)

Brakes Go Out On Hill

Torrance police have credited a 32-year-old truck driver with saving "dozens of lives" Monday evening because of "good judgment, clear thinking, and extremely good driving."

The truck driver, Joseph F. Kelly Jr. of Long Beach piloted a 25-ton truck down a two-mile stretch of Hawthorne Boulevard just after 5 p.m. Monday when his brakes failed.

No deaths or serious injuries were reported, although a utility pole and a traffic signal were sheared off before the big truck was stopped in a Christmas tree lot at Hawthorne Boulevard and 238th Street.

TWO PERSONS suffered possible concussions and lacerations of the scalp when their pick-up truck was side-swiped and forced off the road. They are Nicholas B. Pica, 30, of 15303 Florwood St., Lawndale, and his brother, Frank, 27, of Los Angeles.

Both are reported in "fairly good" condition at Little Company of Mary Hospital.

Several other persons reported minor injuries, but all said they would seek private medical aid.

WHEN the hair-raising ride ended, several persons rushed to the truck to Kelly to congratulate him for his driving.

"It was just luck," Kelly said. "Thank God I didn't kill anybody."

Kelly told police officers his brakes failed near Silver Spur Road. "I felt the brakes go out," he said. "I tried the emergency brakes and they didn't hold."

He hit the horn as the truck started down the grade

Further Studies Ordered On Civic Auditorium Plan

Further study of the proposed civic auditorium complex in Torrance was ordered by the City Council last night, following presentation of the report of the Citizens Auditorium Advisory Committee.

The report, which was labeled a "fine job" by councilmen, ended more than a year of study by the citizens committee. It recommends a complex of three facilities, including a 5,000-seat main arena.

The complex recommended by the committee is about twice the size of the auditorium facility recommended in Economic Research Associates (ERA) in a report presented to the Council last year.

larger facility would attract outside business and rentals would therefore pay much of the cost. "The large auditorium won't cost the citizens any more than the small one," Mosley said.

Main point of the report, however, is a recommendation that the auditorium be located outside the civic center area because sufficient parking is not available in the civic center. An alternate plan suggested by the committee is to provide underground parking for a civic center complex if federal civil defense funds can be secured.

"Civic center is more than the hub of the area," Mayor Albert Isen commented. "It is the nerve and heart and an auditorium located anywhere else would not be good."

ISEN PLEDGED every effort to locate the auditorium

in the civic center. "I don't see any asphalt jungle if we coordinate parking with the courthouse," he added.

Councilman H. Ted Olson asked that representatives of Economic Research Associates review the citizens committee report for possible comment. The two groups will be asked to meet with

(Continued on A-7)

Assessor to Speak Here . . .

Los Angeles County Assessor Philip E. Watson will speak at a meeting sponsored by the Torrance League of Women Voters Jan. 12. Watson's topic will be "Assessments: Where Do We Go from Here?" The program will begin at 8 p.m. at the Torrance Recreation Center, located in the civic center behind the municipal plunge.

Lomita Lights Yule Tree . . .

Ceremonies presided over by Mayor Clyde Barnhardt marked the second annual "Christmas in Lomita" program Monday. Climax of the presentation was the lighting of the city's official Christmas tree in Lomita Park. Lomita School mothers presented a musical program and awards for the Junior Chamber of Commerce-sponsored home decoration contest were made. A children's program is scheduled tonight, and the community's youth will go caroling Thursday, Mayor Barnhardt said.

Hoodlums Tear Up Park . . .

Hoodlums ranging through the city's El Nido Park at 182nd and Kingsley Avenue destroyed 33 valuable trees, including cedar and eucalyptus, ripped wash basins out of park restrooms, and smashed windows in a public telephone booth, police reported yesterday. The trees, ranging from 6 to 40 feet tall were chopped down. Posts in the park's parking lot were ripped out, signs smashed, and other property damaged.

'Business As Usual' Set For City's Trash Crews

City trash collection crews will maintain normal collection schedules this week and next, although Friday collections will be made earlier than usual.

City Engineer Walter M. Nollac asked residents whose rubbish is collected on Fridays to place containers on the curb before 8 a.m. No special collections will be made for persons who miss the regular pickup.

Nollac said the earlier starting time would enable city crews to go home early on both Christmas and New Year's Eve.