

Council Urged to Set Up Library Plan

Torrance

Press-Herald

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NEW LEMON PICKER... A powered bucket, operated by a foot treadle, has been developed by the Handling Equipment Corp., 22900 Frampton Ave., and is being offered to fruit and nut growers of California as a means of cutting harvesting costs. Sales Manager Bob Godfrey demonstrates the new hoist to Torrance Chamber President Bruce Jones (standing left), Past President George Post (center) and President Don Myer of the developing firm. (Press-Herald Photo)

Fiery Freeway Crash Cremates Young Bride

Five-Year Plan Suggested for Library System

First steps toward establishing an independent municipal library system in Torrance may be taken Tuesday when the City Council gets a long-awaited report on the libraries.

City Manager Edward J. Ferraro will recommend "immediate steps" to operate a city library system and ask that the city serve notice "by Feb. 1, 1966, that it intends not to become a part of the Los Angeles County Library District plan."

A five-year transition period, during which the city will increase the level of its library services while expanding the book collection, will be recommended to the council.

Ferraro also will recommend construction of three new libraries — one in North Torrance, one in Southeast Torrance, and a new main library in the Civic Center Complex — by 1975 to meet increasing needs for library services.

decision to end the contract arrangement and so notified the city last year.

WHILE FERRARO has asked that "immediate steps" be taken, he will recommend that the massive report be referred to the city's Library Commission for study and then to a committee of councilmen, administrative staff members, and other interested citizens.

No extensive investigation of financing a municipal system was made, Ferraro said. He did note, however, that a municipal system would be less expensive than the County District Plan being offered the city "from an operations point of view."

Growth and "home rule" were cited by Ferraro in his arguments for a municipal library system. A doubling of (Continued on Page A-2)



SAFETY MONTH... Mayor Albert Isen talks with James Becker, chairman of the Torrance Safety Council, after signing a proclamation designating the month of January as "Safety Month in Torrance." The mayor urged all residents to take an active part in the program designed to call attention to the "staggering waste of life and property" caused by home and traffic accidents. (Press-Herald Photo)

Groom Gravely Injured

A 19-year-old Wilmington bride was killed and her husband gravely injured in a fiery crash on the San Diego Freeway here Friday night.

Cremated in the small sports car in which she was riding was Mrs. Martha Mae Humphrey, who lived at 315 Gulf Ave., Wilmington. Her husband, William, 23, was taken to nearby Harbor General Hospital where he was admitted with critical burns.

Traffic on the busy freeway segment was jammed-up for nearly an hour after a heavy sedan hit a bump in the shoulder area, flipped across three freeway lanes and came down atop the Humphrey sports car, exploding in flames.

Humphrey was thrown from the blazing vehicle but his wife of a short time was pinned inside.

Driver of the sedan, Victor Alfaro, 49, of Long Beach, was arrested on a charge of felony manslaughter. He was booked in the prison ward of County General Hospital where he was reportedly suffering from a ruptured spleen. A passenger in the Alfaro car, Helen Birdwell, 56, sustained minor injuries.

Pueblo Residents Ask for Priority on Street Work

Residents of the Pueblo area of Torrance will seek to speed construction of Del Amo Boulevard through their community following a meeting here Wednesday evening.

Councilman David K. Lyman, who serves as the council's liaison with members of the newly formed Pueblo Community Center advised residents to write to the council and ask for a change in the priority now assigned to the \$1 million project.

"You should come to the council and ask," Lyman told the group. "You can change it if you get four votes, and I'll work with you."

PRIORITY FOR the street is now assigned to a segment between Madrona Street and Crenshaw Boulevard. City Manager Edward J. Ferraro told the Press-Herald Friday that design work might begin on that segment in about four or five months. He estimated

construction could begin "in about a year."

Ferraro also said construction of the Crenshaw-Western portion of the street is at least three years away if the priority assignments are not changed.

Improvement of the street, a major county highway, has been of prime concern to the residents in the Pueblo area. They say badly needed improvements to their homes have not been made because they are unable to get building permits.

THE CITY cannot issue permits for major improvements to homes which are in right-of-way areas for the street. Some 20 to 22 homes are affected, while several other homes will have to be moved to get proper setbacks.

The proposed improvements on Del Amo Boulevard may cost as much as \$1 million, Jerry Scharfman, assistant city manager, told the Pueblo residents. Construction involves a major storm drain, right-of-way acquisition, actual street and sidewalk construction, and traffic signals and safety lighting.

SCHARFMAN, reporting on a series of questions raised by the residents at a meeting in December, said:

• A temporary traffic signal at Del Amo and Crenshaw boulevards can be installed in May or June. A corner lot, needed for improvement of the street, has been condemned by the city. No traffic signals can be installed until the court has decided the condemnation issue.

• A meeting between the

city, residents of the area, and United States Gypsum Co., will be arranged to discuss disposal of waste materials at the plant. The waste, known in the Pueblo as "The Gray Mountain," is not a health hazard, although residents of the area consider it a nuisance.

• A fertilizer plant has been ordered to repair damage to sidewalks caused by loading trucks. Scharfman said the firm has "been using city sidewalks for a loading dock."

• Trees and other plants at the intersection of Van Ness Avenue and Del Amo Boulevard will be removed. The plants, located on city property, severely restrict visibility at the intersection.

SCHARFMAN also asked the residents to cooperate with the city in an effort to clean up the Pueblo area. "We are trying to help you, now we need your help," he told them.

The group will sponsor a "Clean Up Pueblo Day" in conjunction with a citywide "spring cleaning." Under a new policy adopted in November, city trash crews will cooperate with homeowners and collect all rubbish which is set out on two days each year.

No date has been set for the first such day, but Lyman told the Pueblo residents he would ask that the first date be established as soon as possible.

The Pueblo Community Center meets on the first Wednesday of each month at St. Joseph's Church recreation hall. Tony Gasset is president of the group.

Student Held To Answer in Coed's Death

Long Beach State College student Johnny Lew, 28, was ordered held to answer Thursday in the shooting death of 21-year-old Karen Gervasi, 22520 Evalyn Ave.

Miss Gervasi, also a Long Beach College student, was slain in Lew's Ingewood apartment last Dec. 14. She died from a bullet wound in the head, a bullet Lew contends was fired accidentally while he was showing the victim the gun.

Lew, a former Hong Kong policeman, was ordered held on the charges when he appeared before Superior Judge Robert S. Antram for preliminary hearing Thursday in Ingewood Superior Court. Arraignment has been scheduled for Jan. 20 in the same court.

Raids Net 35 Dope Suspects

Raids throughout the Southwest and Long Beach areas late Wednesday and early Thursday netted 35 persons, two of them juveniles, on charges of violating various state narcotic laws, according to Sheriff's deputies.

Among those arrested by local police and Sheriff's deputies were James Lee Gwynn, 36, of 313 Beryl St., Redondo Beach, booked on suspicion of selling marijuana; Robert Nolan, 22, 17208 Billings Drive, Gardena, booked on suspicion of selling dangerous drugs; and Donald William Barton, 47, 1103 W. Don St., Wilmington, booked for possession and for selling dangerous drugs.

Officers making the raids confiscated about three grams of heroin, nine kilos of marijuana, and 2,600 units of various barbiturate. All had a sale value of about \$4,000, the Press-Herald was told. Among others arrested were a Compton family of five and three men who were in court on other charges at the time of their arrest.

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Cemetery Up Before City On Tuesday

Proposed construction of a 55-acre cemetery south of 235th Street and west of Crenshaw Boulevard will be before Torrance Councilmen Tuesday at 8 p.m.

The proposal was continued Oct. 22, pending study of plans for a municipal golf course. Since that time, however, plans for the golf course have been revised to exclude the 55-acre parcel.

Attempts by the City's Planning Commission to reach a compromise for residential development of the area and an adjacent parcel owned by Don Wilson apparently failed last Wednesday evening, although two more sessions have been scheduled by the commission. Owner Dan E. Butcher is seeking a conditional use permit for development of the cemetery.

Arsonist Guilty Of Manslaughter

A 27-year-old grocery store clerk charged with starting a series of fires in Torrance last September which resulted in the death of one man has pleaded guilty to manslaughter.

Thomas Lee Olson, arrested here Sept. 13, also pleaded guilty to one count of arson. He will be sentenced by Judge Allen Miller in Ingewood Superior Court Feb. 3.

Olson was charged with one count of murder, six counts of arson, and one count of attempted arson.

The murder charge was filed following the death of Joseph Miller, 46, of 28202 Delos Drive, Miller sustained a heart attack while fighting a fire at his home which Olson was accused of starting.

Olson was arrested by Torrance Police after he was seen leaving the scene of one

Tape Recorder Taken from Car

Theft of a stereo tape recorder and several tapes from his car was reported to Torrance Police Friday afternoon by Anthony M. Augustyn of 20556 S. Madison St. The items were valued at \$245.

Augustyn told police the theft occurred while his car was parked in a lot at 190th Street and Western Avenue. Officers said there was no sign of a forced entry.

City to Honor Slain GI - - -

A 19-year-old Lomita serviceman, killed last Dec. 10 near Da Nang, South Viet Nam, will be honored tomorrow evening when the Lomita City Council adjourns in his memory. Spec. 4 Robert R. Bohler, son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Lefevre, was killed when he stepped on a land mine. A paratrooper with the 502nd Airborne Infantry Regiment of the 10th Airborne Division, Bohler had won "Soldier of the Month" honors from his division earlier in the year. During the regular meeting, councilmen will consider resolutions setting up procedures for a municipal election to be held April 12.

Contest Entry Suggested - - -

Torrance would like to commemorate the 10th anniversary of its All-America City award by winning a second such honor. Councilmen will be asked Tuesday evening to authorize participating in the 1966 All-America City Contest, sponsored by Look Magazine and the National Municipal League. Awards, to be presented in November, will be based on citizen participation in civic functions and accomplishments during 1965 and part of 1966, according to City Manager Edward J. Ferraro. Torrance received the All-America Award in 1956.

Joins Foreign Service - - -

Torrance Police Sgt. John Hahn of 320 Via Linda Vista has been accepted by the U. S. Department of State for service in the diplomatic corps. Sgt. Hahn will leave his position with the Torrance Police Department Jan. 24 to begin training in Washington, D. C. His wife, Maxine, also a Torrance Police Officer, will remain here until the sergeant completes his training and is assigned to permanent duty with the foreign service.