

Council Shies Away from Johnson Firing

Torrance Press-Herald

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Torrance Soldier Dies In Thailand Accident

Torrance High Grad Dies When Auto Hits Tree

A Torrance serviceman stationed in Bangkok, Thailand, was killed in an automobile crash in which seven other persons were injured, it has been reported.

Airman 2.C. Stephen J. McGuire, son of Mrs. Betty Jean Gartrell of 1811 Marinette St., died last Wednesday evening when the car in which he was riding and a truck collided near Bangkok.

The driver of the car, reported to be Airman Albert Brown of northern California, was injured. Six Thais also were hurt in the crash.



STEPHEN J. MCGUIRE Dies in Thailand

Jury Pay Approved By Council

Employees of the city of Torrance who are called for jury duty may serve without loss of pay following action by the City Council last night.

Councilmen unanimously approved a policy recommended by T. E. Onovan, personnel director for the city, assuring that city employees will be paid their regular wages provided fees paid for jury service are deposited with the City Treasurer.

Donovan estimated the policy might cost \$10,000 per year — a figure which Mayor Albert Isen said was "still too high." City Manager Edward J. Ferraro agreed with Isen, but said it was extremely difficult to get exact figures.

Ferraro said the policy will permit city employees to serve on juries without financial loss and pointed out the \$10-

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Attorney Says Council Can't Enter Dispute

Orin P. "Bud" Johnson, fired last Thursday from his job as assistant city manager, lost a major chance to be reinstated last night when the City Council was told it has no jurisdiction in the matter.

City Attorney Stanley Remelmeyer told the Council it can create and abolish positions and set salaries "but the city manager alone has the power to hire and fire his assistants."

"The council has no jurisdiction in this matter," Remelmeyer concluded.

Johnson had asked the council to reinstate him "without prejudice and vindicate my name." He said City Manager Edward J. Ferraro's decision to discharge him "was based on rumors and hearsay."

The former city aide told councilmen his attorney had advised him the council, in setting March 1 for abolition of his position, had pre-empted Ferraro's authority. "The city manager has used authority outside his scope with the effect that he ignored the council's decision," Johnson said.

Councilmen last December set March 1 as the date on which the assistant city manager's post held by Johnson is to be eliminated. Instead, a senior administrative assistant is to be hired. The March 1 date was set by councilmen after Ferraro had asked to eliminate the post on Jan. 1.

Johnson said his potential candidacy for a seat on the city council, given as the reason for his dismissal, was "more of an excuse than a reason."

"I HAVE made no decision to run for council," Johnson declared. "If I decide to file as a candidate, I can assure you that I will terminate properly before I file," he added.

Johnson also claimed rumors were circulating in the city that he had been fired because he "was a leak in the city manager's office — a leak to the mayor." He said such rumors were dangerous to him.

Miss Torrance Contest Search Begins For New Queen

Search Begins For New Queen

Entries for the 1966 Miss Torrance Contest are now being accepted by the contest committee, Flavio Bisignano and Leonard A. Ensminger, co-chairmen of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce-sponsored event, announced today.

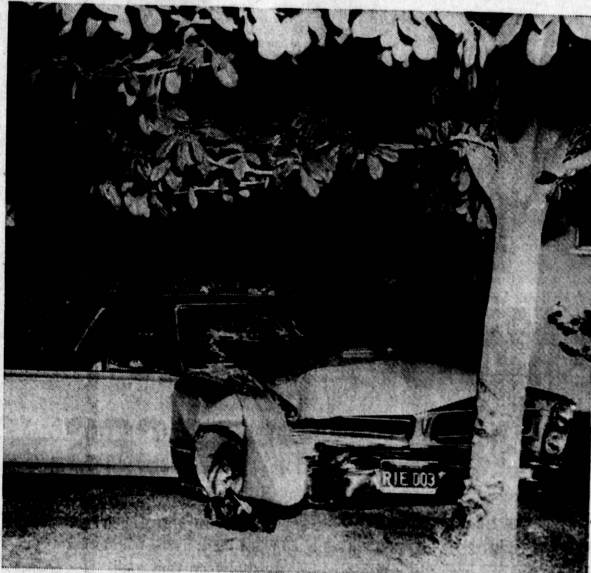
The contest will be held at 7:30 p.m. Friday, March 11, at the Torrance Recreation Center building, 3331 Torrance Blvd.

The winner of the Miss Torrance Contest will reign for one year as official hostess of the city of Torrance. In addition to the Miss Torrance winner, two girls will be selected as Princesses to assist her in special events.

CONTESTANTS will be judged on their overall attractiveness, including poise, speech, charm, and figure. During the judging session entrants will appear in both semi-formal dress and swimwear.

Application forms and contest rules may be obtained at the offices of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, 1510 Cravens Ave., between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

In addition to Bisignano and Ensminger, other committee members include: William R. Chase, Clifford J. Peterson, William Robison, Robert R. Rojo, William E. Shawger, Robert H. Vroman, Wayne Woodman, all of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, and Douglas Hedde, president of the Torrance Junior Chamber of Commerce.



TWO YOUTHS HURT . . . Two youths required hospitalization with head injuries last Friday night when their late model sedan jumped a curb on Hickory Avenue just north of Sonoma and slammed into a tree in the Anthony Zamperini yard. Taken to Little Company of Mary Hospital for treatment were Steven M. Blankinship, 607 Madrid Ave., and Marvin R. Richards, 18919 Patronella Ave. (Press-Herald Photo)

MUNICIPAL ELECTION

Candidates May Secure Papers For Nomination

Nomination papers for candidates at the general municipal election to be held April 12 will be issued by the Office of the City Clerk beginning tomorrow, City Clerk

Vernon W. Coil announced this morning.

Papers must be returned by noon Thursday, Feb. 17, Coil explained.

At stake in the election will be the mayor's post, now held by Albert Isen, and City Council seats held by J. A. Beasley, Ken Miller, and Ross A. Scliarotta Sr.

Terms of City Treasurer Thomas Rupert and City Clerk Coil also expire.

CANDIDATES must obtain the signatures of not less than five nor more than ten registered voters on nomination papers and, according to the city charter, must have resided in Torrance for at least one year prior to the date of the election.

Any registered voter may circulate a nominating petition, Coil said.

Recent changes in the state Election Code now permit a candidate to prepare a statement of qualifications not to exceed 150 words. Such statements must be prepared on a standard form, which may be obtained from Coil's office.

THE STATEMENTS will be assembled in a pamphlet and mailed to voters with the sample ballots, Coil explained. Potential candidates will be required to pay a deposit of \$75 at the time they secure



JAMES BECKER New Chamber President

Becker To Lead Chamber

James Becker, manager of the local office of the Southern California Gas Co., will be installed Thursday night as president of the Lomita Chamber of Commerce, succeeding Ray Ferrin.

Installing officer and principal speaker will be William Fisher, also a member of the Southern California Gas Co. staff.

Thursday's affair will begin 6:30 at the Wayfarer Restaurant in Lomita. Dinner is planned for 7:30 p.m., according to Manager Ray Reed of the Lomita Chamber. H. J. Osborne is chairman.

A special plaque will be presented to Earl Fischel, Lomita Postmaster from 1939 until his retirement last year. Also to be honored will be Romily Harvey, assistant postmaster for 35 years.

At U. S. Steel

Employe Service Awarded

Sixteen employees with a combined total of some 475 years of steelmaking know-how are in the honor spotlight this week at U.S. Steel's Torrance Works.

Saluted for long and faithful service, the U. S. Steel veterans were guests at a special service awards luncheon at the Palms restaurant, hosted by William G. Davis, general plant superintendent.

Top honors and a stainless steel watch went to Hans Nelson, 1104 Portola, for his record of 40 years on the job. Nelson is an employee in

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he claimed this week, a position he has taken from the beginning.

Lynn favors the multidistrict approach to vocational education, and says Torrance homeowners and taxpayers should not be asked to expand the \$3 million on capital improvements alone.

"A broader base (multidistrict) approach will mean broader and greater guidance from labor, business, and industry," he said.

Lynn also said he had been informed through the State Department of Education that more funds would be forthcoming from state sources if the multidistrict approach was followed.

Lynn Opposing Bond Issue

"Reluctantly, I recommend a 'No' vote. Reluctantly only would one present facts opposing all or a part of the coming Torrance schools Bond Issue."

With those words, Bert M. Lynn, past president of the Torrance board of education and an outspoken critic of budget "fat", reaffirmed his opposition to the \$12,500,000 construction bond issue which will be placed before the voters on Feb. 8.

"Taxes have a way of going only one way — UP," Lynn told the Press-Herald. "Remember, your tax bill goes up as your assessed valuation goes up, even if the tax rate is constant," he said.

Approval of the \$12.5 million

bond issue will be taken as a mandate to spend it, Lynn charged.

Lynn favors a smaller bond issue, and says that the amount could be reduced by as much as 25 per cent without jeopardizing the educational program of the Torrance district.

Dr. J. H. Hull, superintendent of the district, has maintained that defeat of the issue next month would bring the district's building program to a halt and would trigger a return to double sessions.

Items which could be eliminated from the current issue, Lynn says, include the \$3,000,000 vocational center — which he calls a foot-in-the-door for

a fifth high school — and two new school sites.

The district now has two new school sites, plans for the schools, and the money to build them, Lynn said.

"I would recommend approval of a smaller bond issue," he said. The board member, who opposed the \$12,500,000 figure when it was brought before the board, said the "water must again be squeezed out . . ."

Lynn has taken up the fight against budget "fat" before and was successful in leading the fight against a tax override proposal until it was brought back at a lower figure. The approved figure was still more than needed,

Commissioners to Stay . . .

Terms of several city commissioners were extended by the City Council last night following a brief personnel session. Mayor Albert Isen, speaking for the council, said the terms of commissioners now serving will be extended until the April 12 municipal election. Councilmen elected to office in April will be able to fill commission vacancies under the arrangement, Isen said. He warned that all commissioners whose terms normally expire this month "are serving until appointments are made."

FBI Arrests Local Man . . .

Charles Elmer Seargent, 27, of 2270 W. Sepulveda Blvd., was held in lieu of \$10,000 bail following his arrest Sunday by FBI agents in connection with a \$200,000 cash theft in Seattle on Aug. 5. Seargent has been accused of transporting \$5,000 of the money across states lines and into California. The theft occurred at the home of a wealthy Seattle restaurant owner shortly after his death. The thieves carried away \$200,000, leaving another \$56,000 because they couldn't carry it, reports from Seattle indicate.

Store Loses Guns, Cash . . .

Thieves who let themselves into the Leonard's Department Store at 25405 Crenshaw Blvd. sometime Sunday night left through a service door with \$72 in cash and guns from the sporting department valued at nearly \$1,000, store personnel reported to Torrance police Monday morning. The thieves made unsuccessful attempts to open two safes while in the store.

Flames Damage House . . .

Flames which began in the basement spread up the stairway to the main floor and into the attic doing an estimated \$10,000 worth of damage Saturday afternoon. Estol Human, owner of the newly remodeled house at 20362 Earl St., said he had just completed the remodeling at a cost of several thousand dollars. Firefighting operations were directed by Battalion Chief Ray Flagg.