

Young Mother Returns From Viet Nam Post

"We just really had no business there . . ."

So spoke Mrs. Samuel Thomsen, wife of the United States consul in Hue, South Viet Nam, on her return to Torrance last weekend.

Mrs. Thomsen, the former Judy Wolf, and her two small children returned to Torrance after Presidential directive ordered dependents of Americans stationed in Viet Nam evacuated from the troubled land.

She was among the first to be evacuated, largely because of the nearness of Hue to the North Viet Nam border. Her son, Samuel, is the youngest American to be evacuated from Viet Nam. He is now seven weeks old.

Thomsen, a State Department official, has been assigned to Viet Nam for nearly two years. He spent 18 months in Siagon, capital of the country, before moving to Hue last July. He is still in Hue, although Mrs. Thomsen said he would return to Torrance about May 1 for a month-long home

leave. He has, at least for the moment, been re-assigned to Hue.

Asked about her feelings on leaving, Mrs. Thomsen explained that she had "mixed emotions." She obviously wanted to remain by her husband, but she added, "we had no business here."

"My husband, with the help of the military, was responsible for the American community there," Mrs. Thomsen explained. "They spent too many hours protecting the American community, hours that should have been spent fighting the war."

She has no bitter feeling about the evacuation order and says she disagrees with wives who wanted to stay. "The evacuation is certainly a good thing," Mrs. Thomsen said, "if there's a war—then women and children have no business there."

Her life in Viet Nam was pleasant, she said. "We were made to feel welcome in Hue," Mrs. Thomsen explained. The family "lived quite well" in a comfortable home, despite the absence of modern facilities. "We had a lot of help," she added.

Outside Hue, artillery and small arms fire were almost constant, said Mrs. Thomsen. She described Hue as a small, provincial city, located on both banks of the Perfume River. Nine American families, including a missionary family, comprised the American community. All except the missionary family, have now been evacuated.

"Viet Nam is a beautiful country," Mrs. Thomsen said. She also said the very beauty of the land was one of the "frustrating things about living there." Because of the war, she said, it is impossible to obey the natural urge to "get in the car and go."

Demonstrations in Hue were becoming more frequent when the evacuation order came. While there was no Viet Cong activity within the city, the artillery fire was a constant reminder of the closeness of the fighting. She believes the new war effort will ease the frustrations of the people who "have been fighting an awful long time."

Young Samuel was born in the Thomsen home in Hue Dec. 20. He joined an older sister, Katy, who is now 2.

Mrs. Thomsen is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Don Wolf of 21804 Halldale Ave. The Wolf family has lived in the area for 30 years. Mrs. Thomsen is a graduate of Narbonne High School and the University of California at Santa Barbara. Her husband is a UCLA graduate.

The Wolfs have two other children. Mrs. Donna Gazeley is a teacher in the Torrance schools and a son, Robert, is a salesman in Torrance.

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Across-the-Board Pay Hikes Granted by City

Council Sinks Proposal for District Study

A proposal to create a committee to study possible changes in the method of electing city councilmen was killed last night when the council voted 6-1 to table a resolution creating the study group.

The resolution had been placed on the agenda at the request of Councilman David K. Lyman, who cast the one vote in favor of the committee.

Lyman told his colleagues after the vote that he had "some remarks on the subject. They are the last I am going to make, but I am going to make them," he added.

A STRONG supporter of the district system for city elections, Lyman has urged the creation of a study group on several occasions. "It is quite evident," he said, "that the vast majority of this body does not want to do anything on this matter. I have attempted to do something and I want it known."

H. Ted Olson suggested that the study "go farther." He urged the council to direct the city manager to take a look at the city charter "and give us his opinion as to areas which need study and how we would go about it."

That brought Mayor Albert Isen into the discussion. "We are the policy makers," Isen said. "When we toss this to the city manager, we are being lazy."

IN OTHER action, the council:

- Denied a variance which would have permitted the Rose Bud Dairy to maintain its cows within the city limits. The dairy must now remove the cows from the city.
- Adopted an emergency ordinance declaring a 90-day moratorium on construction and demolition of buildings in the Meadow Park urban renewal area. The ordinance, which provides for the council to grant exceptions, extended a building ban which has been in effect since last November.



INSTALLED . . . Seated recently as president of the Research Employers' Club for 1965 was Ernest M. Soule who resides at 3144 W. 181st St. Soule is taking a leave of his regular duties to direct activities of the huge employees' group.

All City Wages Up 3.5 Per Cent

City employees got a 3½ per cent across-the-board salary increase last night by a 6-1 vote of the City Council. Councilman H. Ted Olson cast the dissenting vote.

The increases are retroactive to Jan. 3. At the same time, the council approved a \$10 monthly uniform allowance for police and fire department personnel, effective July 1.

Olson said he realized his vote was "unpopular" but added that he did not want to "perpetuate inequities" now in the salary schedules. "It is not my intent to see you paid sub-standard wages," Olson said, "but we need to do this systematically."

City Manager Edward J. Ferraro, who was not at the meeting, had recommended increases in six classifications of employees. His recommendations were based on a salary survey completed by his office and were designed to eliminate the "inequities."

FERRARO HAD made no recommendation for a general increase, although he made no specific recommendations against them.

The raises were approved after a hour-long hearing in which representatives of three employe groups made presentations.

Miscellaneous employees, represented by Sam Hunez of Local 1117 of the State County, and Municipal union, asked for a 7½ per cent increase, while fire department personnel sought a 5 per cent increase.

The Torrance Police Officers Association, through spokesman Mel Hone, asked the council for a 5½ per cent raise.

FIREMEN ASKED for a \$100 uniform allowance, payable once each year, while policemen asked for the \$10 monthly allowance finally approved.

The votes followed an attempt of Councilman Ross A. Sciarrotta Sr. to delay action one week.

"I know what I want to do right now," Ken Miller told Sciarrotta. It was Miller who moved for the 3½ per cent increase.

COUNCILMEN also took initial steps to conduct a survey of the city's salary and job relationships and possible reclassification of employees. The present classification system was denounced by J. A. Beasley as "the biggest hodge-podge ever conceived by a human mind."

Beasley also said he would be "very reluctant to vote another general increase without the survey."

The survey referred to the (Continued on A-3)



BACK FROM VIET NAM . . . Mrs. Samuel Thomsen, shows here with her seven-week-old son Samuel and her daughter, Katy, 2, has returned to Torrance from Hue, South Viet Nam. Mrs. Thomsen, wife of the United States consul in Hue, was evacuated from the troubled land last week. The boy was the youngest American evacuee.

EXTEND LOCAL AREA

Public Hearings Begun On Telephone Proposal

Details of Pacific Telephone's proposal to extend Torrance's local calling area and eliminate multi-message units were made public today by the company in testimony before the California Public Utilities Commission.

Hearings began this morning in the new State Building, First and Broadway streets, Los Angeles.

If approved by the Commission, the plan would expand local calling areas in the Torrance exchange to include a large number of the present multi-message unit (MMU) areas.

Within this area, all flat rate residence customers would have no restrictions on duration or number of calls to or from Torrance. A person could call whomever he wants and talk as long as he wants.

For a basic monthly increase of \$2.40 for one party flat rate residence customers, Torrance's new local calling area would include El Segundo, Inglewood, Long Beach, and the southern portion of the Los Angeles exchange.

THE PRESENT local calling area for Torrance includes Lomita, San Pedro, Redondo, Hawthorne, Gardena and Compton.

Pacific stressed that local calling areas should take care of day-to-day calling require-

ments and that expansion of these areas will better meet a customer's daily needs.

will be needed throughout the state to provide the improved service. Of that, \$45 million would be for the Los Angeles portion of the plan. Additional equipment will be needed to handle a greater volume of calls. In addition, revenues will be lost by the elimination of multi-message units. Thus, said the company, an increase is needed in basic monthly rates to "break even" on the plan.

Under the proposal, the balance of the present multi-message unit areas would be converted to long distance with the charges itemized on the customer's bill.

IN APRIL 1963, the Commission requested the company to study the local calling areas in Los Angeles, San Francisco-East Bay and San Diego. Plans to expand the local calling areas were submitted in November, 1963, and were revised in June, 1964.

The company said local calling areas generally were last established some 25 years ago and since then there have been considerable changes in population patterns and calling habits.

Pacific stressed that local calling areas should take care of day-to-day calling require-



ELEVATED . . . Police Chief Walter Koenig (center) congratulates Joe B. Miles (right) on his promotion to the rank of captain, and Philip Wilson (left) who was elevated to the rank of lieutenant after a badge ceremony at the station Monday afternoon. Captain Miles is currently assigned as commander of the detective division. Lieutenant Wilson is assigned to the planning and research section of the personnel and training division.

City Urges New Senate Adjustment

Torrance councilmen have recommended that a new state senate district coincide with the boundaries of the 17th Congressional District when the State Senate is reapportioned.

The recommendation was approved last night following a report by a special council committee on reapportionment.

The council also urged that the boundaries of the 67th and 68th Assembly district, which comprise the 17th Congressional District, be adjusted to bring both districts into line with the 46th Assembly District in population.

The boundary change would put the western portion of the city north of Pacific Coast Highway, now in the 46th district, in the 67th and 68th districts, and in the 17th Congressional District.

Airport Group Change Hinted

At the request of Councilman J. A. Beasley, the city council has instructed City Attorney Stanley Remelmeier to prepare the necessary ordinances to change the membership of the Airport Commission.

Beasley suggested that the commission be increased from five to seven members, but asked that the method of appointment of commission members not be changed.

Site Rezoning Flayed . . .

A bill authored by Assemblyman Vincent Thomas was introduced in Sacramento Tuesday which would block city officials from upgrading through zone changes any land designated for a state college campus. The proposed law was aimed specifically at the type of action which sent the Rolling Estates site for a college skyrocketing in price, delaying the opening of a four-year college in this area.

Shed Blaze Kills Boy . . .

Flames which trapped him in a blazing shed behind his home inflicted fatal burns on 10-year-old Alton William McClanahan of 1825 W. 189th St., Gardena, Monday. Gasoline which was stored in the shed apparently ignited.

College Bid Reopened . . .

A resolution urging state college trustees to abandon the Palms Verdes Peninsula site of the state college proposed for this area was adopted by the City Council last night. The resolution asked the trustees to locate the college in Torrance and pledged full cooperation to "insure the successful establishment and operation" of a college in Torrance. Delays in land acquisition on the Peninsula prompted the Torrance council action.