

Inquest Set in Gun Slaying; Cabbie Freed

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MAN OF THE MONTH . . . Lt. Col. Alfeo Bernardi (left), chosen as the first South Bay Man of the Month, receives his award from D. Loring Marlett (center), general manager of the sponsoring Great Lakes Properties, and Paul Moore, deputy to Supervisor Burton W. Chace. Bernardi, a Mira Costa High School teacher, is commander of a Green Beret unit of the Army Special Forces at Fort MacArthur.

'We've Got to Be There,' Visitor to Viet Nam Says

By JERRY REYNOLDS
Press-Herald Staff Writer

"The United States government is doing a hell of a job in Viet Nam."

That is the assessment of one man who is, perhaps, no more qualified to make such an assessment than any other man on the street — except that Flavio Bisignano has just returned from a unique journey to that battle-torn nation.

Bisignano, owner of a chain of six beauty colleges in the Southland, spent 17 days in Cam Rahn Bay as a crewman on a converted World War II victory ship delivering supplies to Viet Nam. It took him eight months to make arrangements for the trip, because he says, "I had to go."

Why did he go?
"I was motivated by curiosity," he explained. "I wanted to make my own protest against these young people who don't want to help the United States. They don't appreciate this country."

Bisignano added that he is "glad he went." And, he continued, "I feel I contributed something to the war effort. Our ship did deliver war supplies."

After 17 days of seeing how things are being done in Cam Rahn Bay, Bisignano is convinced the United States is doing the right thing in Viet Nam. He is convinced, too, that the vast majority of Vietnamese are friends of the United States.

His opinions, Bisignano warned, are personal ones, but he sees Viet Nam as "the outpost for the salvation of the Free World." And because of that, he can't understand why more of America's allies — he mentioned England in particular — don't help the United States more in Viet Nam.

"There should be more allied troops there," he commented. Bisignano said Korean Marines now in Viet Nam — there are 20,000 on

duty now and 20,000 more on their way — are "the toughest group" in Viet Nam. "I'm glad they're on our side," he said.

Morale is high among American troops, Bisignano said, but he feels U.S. troops should get a little more time off for "rest and recreation." "We aren't geared for guerrilla wars," he said. "The Green Beret is quite new to us." Bisignano feels the United States and South Vietnamese troops can clear the South Viet Nam of the Viet Cong, but he foresees no march on Hanoi.

"At best, it will be a stalemate at the 17th parallel (the present border between North and South Viet Nam) unless we change our philosophy and become an aggressive nation," he said. But, he added, it is worth the price because failure to preserve the independence of South Viet Nam means the loss of all Southeast Asia.

"And then we could be fighting them at Carson and Crenshaw," he said.

In the meantime, Bisignano feels the American public should be told more about why the United States must fight in Viet Nam. "You have to see what it's like over there," he said, "and then you appreciate this country."

Bisignano feels the American people are well-informed about the course of the war, but that not enough emphasis is placed on the reasons behind the fighting. "We have to be there," he declared, "and I think the American public should be better informed on why we have to be there."



MOTORIZED PRIZE . . . Press-Herald carrier John Roddy, son of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Roddy of 3312 W. 188th St., takes a ride on a motorized skateboard — it's a Toby Cart — after being named winner of the Press-Herald Junior Dealer Contest for April. John won his prize by adding the most new subscribers to his route during a month of spirited competition among Press-Herald carriers. "Good service, politeness, and courtesy are his watchwords," Darrell Westcott, circulation manager, commented. (Press-Herald Photo)

Huge Traffic Control Project Due for City

Council Group Named to Study 'Cemetery' Land

Plans for a 100-acre parcel of vacant land in South Central Torrance were referred to a committee of the City Council last night following more than an hour of discussion in the council meeting.

The committee, which includes David K. Lyman, George Vico, and H. Ted Olson, will meet with owners of the land to determine if an acceptable plan can be developed.

Center of the zoning controversy, which has plagued the city council for several months, is land located south of 235th Street and west of Crenshaw Boulevard now zoned for industrial development.

The parcel is owned by Don Wilson and Dan E. Butcher, who holds 59 acres, has proposed development of 161 single-family homes and some apartments and commercial areas. Butcher, who owns the western 54 acres, wants to develop a cemetery.

Residential zoning is opposed by several city departments and commissions. The Planning Commission previously voted for the cemetery plan, but asked that the entire parcel be developed as a cemetery. Councilmen, however, turned down the plan.

Wilson presented plans last night which provide for a narrow city park of about 3.5 acres and told councilmen he "can live with the cemetery." He said efforts to dispose of his land for industrial uses had been unsuccessful.

USE OF the land for a large city park has been ruled out because, according to Lyman, "we can't afford the land." Lyman said his group has studied the area in "great detail."

"It's a question of dollars and cents," he added, "we can't afford it."

Olson, warning that he had

not made up his mind on the proposals advanced to the council, suggested that the cemetery development might be "a good compromise." When Wilson indicated he would not be interested in developing his acreage as a cemetery, Olson even suggested Butcher and Wilson might trade — acre for acre — to move the potential housing tract closer to a school.

"We're trying to be reasonable," Olson told Wilson, "but (Continued on A-4)"

Coroner's Panel to Hear Case

A Torrance cab driver arrested early Saturday on suspicion of murder was released late yesterday afternoon pending a coroner's inquest.

Robert Charles Andrus, 25, of 2014 Torrance Blvd., was released from the Torrance City Jail to await a coroner's inquest which is scheduled Tuesday at 10 a.m. The coroner's jury will determine what charges, if any, should be brought in the case.

Andrus was arrested early Saturday following the death of James Howard Sonju, 17, of 21013 Donora St. Sonju was shot once in the chest in a downtown Torrance parking lot.

Police said the shooting occurred during an apparent street fight involving Andrus, Sonju, and several other teenagers and young adults.

Children's Zoo Proposed Again

Development of a children's zoo in Torrance, first suggested several months ago by Councilman Ken Miller, moved a small step closer last night when Miller asked that a two-acre school site be considered for the zoo.

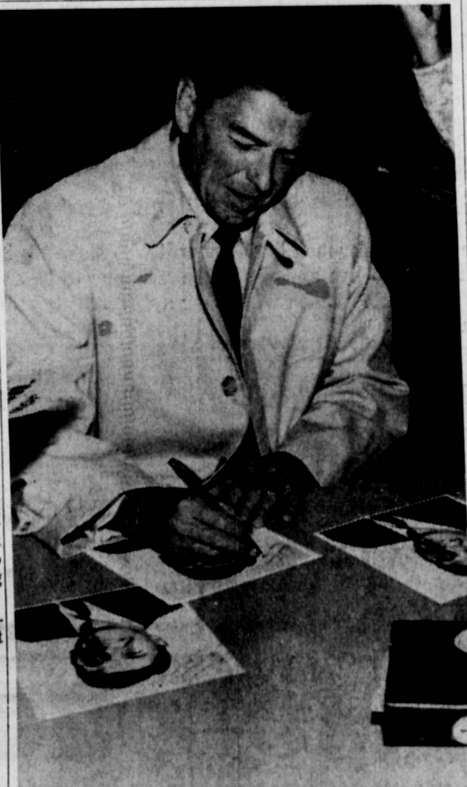
Noting that a 17-acre parcel of surplus Navy land has just been given the Torrance schools by the federal government, Miller suggested that two or three acres of the land might be developed jointly by the city and the schools as a zoo.

Miller said parking — one of the biggest problems raised in a report on the feasibility of a children's zoo — is available at the site, located on Crenshaw Boulevard. The parking is now used exclusively for the Torrance High football stadium and is unused for most of the year, he said.

"With the cooperation of the schools and the service clubs in the city" Miller said, "we could develop a project for the benefit of the entire city." Use of the Navy site for the zoo would permit the schools to use the zoo for educational programs in the morning hours, he said, while the public could visit it during the afternoons and on weekends.

City Councilmen, on Miller's motion, asked City Manager Edward J. Ferraro to arrange a meeting with school officials to explore the idea. And, if the project does win approval, the city will get a chance to put a buffalo on display.

H. Ted Olson said a chief of the Cherokee Nation has offered a buffalo to the city — provided the city fathers will pay the freight to ship the animal to Torrance.



VISITS TORRANCE . . . Republican Ronald Reagan takes a few moments to sign some pictures during a brief visit to his Torrance headquarters at 1323 El Prado during Monday's showers. The GOP gubernatorial candidate stopped in Torrance to greet backers during a series of appearances throughout the Southwest County area. (Press-Herald Photo)

For Torrance Schools

Bonds Most Important On Ballot, Hull Says

"If school bonds don't pass at the June 7 election, Torrance is on the margin of being in quite a predicament." So said Dr. J. H. Hull, superintendent of schools at a luncheon meeting of the Educational Council of Torrance Monday.

With the district needing 150 classrooms in the next three years, the board will have three choices, he said. "We can either overload classrooms by cutting off a teacher and putting more children in every class, we can run classes in the cafeterias, or we can put third graders on double sessions wherever necessary," he stated.

The major reason for needing 150 classrooms during the next three years, he pointed out, is growth. "But other factors also enter the picture," he said. "We need classrooms for programs which are established by the federal and state legislature. We need to ask ourselves whether we plan to take care of all our educationally handicapped youngsters or just a few. We need to ask ourselves whether or not we intend to follow through on programs of reading. If we want these programs, then we must provide housing for them."

"A number of things hinge on the passage of our \$9 million bond issue June 7," he said. "School bonds will be at the bottom of a long list of other issues. Our bonds, which will be labeled 'FF' on

Approve 6-Year Program

A six-year program to install traffic signals at 50 intersections throughout the city was approved by the Torrance City Council last night. Councilmen also established a priority list for the intersections.

Cost of the program will be more than \$1 million, according to Walter M. Nollac, director of public works. Nollac also warned that priorities may change during the six-year project since the list will be "continuously re-evaluated and updated."

Nollac said about \$140,000 will be spent annually during the course of the signal program. At that rate, six to seven intersections would get signals each year, he said.

Top priority was accorded the Torrance Boulevard and Cabrillo-Sartori intersection. The remaining top five intersections are Hawthorne and Spencer, Ocean and Sepulveda, 235th Street and Crenshaw, and Anza and Carson.

In other action last night, the council:

- Adopted a new ordinance prohibiting the sale of obscene literature to adults and of "harmful" materials to children. The ordinance is based on a statute adopted by the city of San Diego.

- Approved a request to have the city's Water Commission review a study of rates charged by the Torrance Municipal Water Department prior to action by the City Council.

- Approved a request to hold the 1967 Boy Scout Week parade here Feb. 4, 1967.

Special Clean-Up Day - - -

City crews will make special clean-up rounds of the city Saturday morning in the first of a city-sponsored "Clean-Up Day" event. Discards which will not be handled normally by city rubbish crews will be carted away if the material can be handled by two men who must load it on a city truck. Only scheduled calls will be made, and deadline for getting on the call route is Thursday. Torrance residents are asked to call the city at 328-4214 and make arrangements for the Saturday pick-up.

Truck Swerves, Flips - - -

A swerving trash truck, trying to avoid collision with another vehicle, flipped over at the intersection of Crenshaw and Carson Monday evening, tying up traffic for more than an hour during the heavy homebound period. Driver Tom Lanns of Los Angeles said he could not control the truck after it began to turn. The truck toppled onto two vehicles waiting at the intersection. One driver, Earl E. Harris of 3101 Opal St., complained of back pains and received a facial cut. The driver of the second vehicle was Robert E. McDonald of 20530 Anza Ave.

Senate Gets Court Bill - - -

An Assembly bill which would add a fourth judge to the South Bay Municipal Court District in October was approved by the Assembly Monday after receiving a "Do Pass" recommendation from the Committee on Criminal Procedures. Introduced by Assemblyman Charles E. Chapel, the bill has been approved by the County Board of Supervisors, the State Judicial Council, and the South Bay Bar Association. Judge Donald Armstrong is presiding judge. Also assigned to the court are Judges Otto B. Willett and Raymond Choate.