

# Assistant Chief Gets Fire Department Post

Torrance

## Press-Herald

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**AID FLOOD VICTIMS** ... Members of the Co-Rec Club of Torrance have been collecting clothing to aid victims of the Fairbanks, Alaska, flood. Club members will conclude a door-to-door drive tomorrow and start shipping the clothing to the disaster stricken city. Sorting the clothing out are (top, from left) Nina Waldroupe, 14, Sue Weatherman, 13, and (bottom, from left) Teresa Walker, 13, and Kim Hons, also 13. The Seaside Community Church will pay shipping costs and cartons have been donated by Bekins Van and Storage of Torrance. (Press-Herald Photo)

# Civil Service Proposal Sparks Council Debate

## Isen Loses Bid To Change Law

Dispute over the role of Torrance's Charter Review Committee and a proposed ordinance providing for a one-year probationary period for city department heads broke into open argument between Mayor Albert Isen and councilmen last night during the city council meeting.

The dispute grew out of an ordinance sponsored by Isen which would amend the civil service rules and regulations to change the present six-month probationary period for new department heads to a one-year period. Leading the debate against the amendment, Councilman Ken Miller said, "It's a hamstringing on the Review Committee and not the proper direction that this council should give them."

"I don't believe the issue itself, as far as department heads are concerned, is the probation time. The issue is allowing the committee to have the proper evaluation of all subject matter," he continued. "Nobody was there except myself and the members of the committee and one newspaper. I don't want to go back walking on broken glass on what I said, but I honestly thought the council wanted, when they set up the commission, that they should be outsiders and that we should talk honestly to them."

MILLER PROPOSED that the ordinance be put off until such time as the Charter Review Committee has finished its study. The mayor's ordinance grew out of a report by City Manager Edward Ferraro suggesting that department heads be hired and fired by the city manager and not under civil service.

Mayor Isen objected to Miller's recommendation on grounds that the Charter Review Committee is only supposed to review the charter—not ordinances governing civil service. "They (the Review Committee) have no authority to go into the matter. This is not a civil service matter. We had a civil service ordinance with which we have been working for 15 years, as I can remember, and this is not part of the charter," Isen retorted. "It seems like everybody in this city has free speech except the mayor. Now certainly the mayor has the right to express his opinions and this is in the proper form to do them." However, councilmen disagreed with him and voted to table the ordinance until the Charter Review Committee has done its work. A report by the group is expected in October. City Manager Ferraro defended his actions before the Review Committee, which included suggesting non-civil service department heads by stating, "I went before them, and I poured out my heart to them."

IN OTHER ACTION, the council passed an ordinance for a tax levy for the 1967-68 year which reduces property taxes by 10 cents. Total valuation for the city has been set at \$388,733,750, which is a 22 per cent increase over the 1966-67 schedule. Even though a tax cut is being put into effect, the city stands to gain an estimated \$1 million. (See COUNCIL, Page A-2)

## Vote on Renewal Sought

### Plan Weekend Petition Drive

Plans for a weekend drive to secure some 10,000 signatures on petitions calling for a citywide vote on the Meadow Park Urban Redevelopment project were announced here yesterday by Active Citizens of Torrance (ACT).

In announcing the drive for Saturday and Sunday, Mrs. Carmen Rivera of ACT said the group also is seeking complete repeal of the city's Uniform Housing Code.

She said the group has secured some 7,000 signatures on the twin petitions since the signature campaign was launched in March. At least 7,800 valid signatures are needed to force a special election on the issues, she said.

GOAL OF THE petition drive is to force a vote on the ordinance which established the city's Redevelopment Agency. Effect of a decision to repeal the law would be to cancel the urban renewal project here by abolishing the agency which directs it.

Final approval of the city's Meadow Park Redevelopment Project — which would convert a 54-acre section at the west end of the Torrance Municipal Airport into an industrial park — is expected from Washington shortly, it has been reported.

Release of some \$5 million in federal funds to finance the project may come as early as next month, spokesmen for the Redevelopment Agency have said.

MRS. RIVERA said her group is seeking only to "get the issues on the ballot and let the voice of the people of Torrance be heard." "The people," she added, (See PETITION, Page A-2)



ROBERT R. LUCAS  
Torrance Fire Chief

## Lucas Picked as New Fire Chief

Appointment of Robert and El Camino College. He also has completed numerous courses in fire prevention and related fields.

During World War II, the new fire chief was a flying officer in the Royal Canadian Air Force.

The 47-year-old chief is married and makes his home at 2014 W. 237th St.

He is a member of California Fire Chiefs Association and the International Association of Fire Chiefs.

The appointment, Ferraro said, was effective Monday. Salary for the post is \$16,188 per year.

A resident of Torrance for 21 years, Lucas joined the Fire Department in 1946. He was promoted to fire engineer in 1948 and to captain in 1952. Lucas was named a battalion chief in 1955.

Since October, 1961, he has been deputy fire chief.

Born in Tacoma, Wash., he attended Washington schools

## Schools to Receive Added \$1.6 Million

Torrance school officials now have \$1.6 million they did not have when they approved a final budget of \$22.3 million two weeks ago.

This unexpected income is due to an increase in state allocations and enrollment increases. If placed in the district's reserve fund, it would boost that fund close to the \$5 million mark.

There has been some indication that instead of padding

minor changes in the blue-prints have been made.

Hillside Student Service Center additions — working drawings have been completed, but have not yet been approved by the board. This work will be included in the same contract as the Madrona project.

North High School bleachers, track renovation, and new baseball field — plans have not yet been completed, but work is needed on the inadequate visitors' bleachers, and some major work is needed to put the track in shape.

Torrance High School baseball field — Torrance has been playing at the city park across the street from the high school for several years. The new field is to be built adjacent to the new Torrance High stadium.

Science and locker facilities for elementary schools — plans will be available next week, including plans for three textbook storage rooms.

Some of the money may be expended by the board for items previously trimmed from the budget.

BUT WITH the good news of increased income came some bad news that told of a 60 per cent cut in federal funds earmarked by the district for its communication skills program.

The cut means a \$25,000 reduction in \$42,000 originally set aside for children who are learning English as a second language, according to Dr. Albert N. Posner, assistant superintendent for educational services.

Five building projects which will be given priority this fall, subject to approval by the trustees, were listed Monday. They include: • Madrona Student Service Center and multi-purpose building additions — plans for this work were completed some time ago, but some

## Weekend Accidents Kill Two

Two Torrance residents were killed Sunday in separate traffic accidents in Redondo Beach and Orange County.

Dead are Thomas Conley, 16, of 5425 Koya Drive and Jerry Leon Buchard, 21, of 4807 Sharynne Lane.

Conley was killed instantly shortly before 6 p.m. Sunday when his auto jumped the divider on 190th Street at Flagler Lane and hit a vehicle driven by Clarence Scott, 62, of Hermosa Beach.

SCOTT SUFFERED minor injuries and Conley's passenger, Robert J. Fleming, 18, of 19417 Pruitt Drive, suffered major injuries. Fleming was reported in serious condition Tuesday in County General Hospital after being transferred from South Bay Hospital Monday with head and chest injuries.

Conley was the second fatality within a week on 190th Street near Flagler Lane. James Tarantino of Long Beach was killed Aug. 13 when his auto also went out of control at the hilltop on 190th Street.

IN THE OTHER accident, L/Cpl. Jerry Leon Buchard was killed when an auto in which he was sleeping smashed into a guardrail on the southbound San Diego (See DEATHS, Page A-2)

## NO PLACE TO MEET

### Pueblo Head Start Class to End

By ED FREUDENBURG  
Press-Herald Staff Writer

Lack of an adequate site and building will force a halt to the Pueblo Head Start project Aug. 31 for an undetermined period, possibly extending into months.

The center has been informed by the Los Angeles Catholic Archdiocese that it will have to vacate its present facility in St. Joseph's Mission by the end of the month.

Although residents and project officials have known that the project was to be removed from the church grounds, no provisions have been made to continue the program elsewhere.

Leonard Pacheco, director of the Council of Mexican-American Affairs, said that his organization has had difficulty in finding a suitable site in the neighborhood and has only recently requested a portable unit to house the project.

Part of the lag in searching for a new site was due to a false belief that the Torrance School District was going to supply facilities.

Mexican-American Council representative Carlos Mendez said that a mother in the Pueblo program had informed him that a representative of the schools had offered a building for the area several weeks ago.

However, Dr. Walter Buettgenbach reported that "the school district couldn't give a unit to the project because portable units are very much in demand." He said he had not given any commitment to the project and had not previously been contacted.

Mendez, when told of the school district's position, said he "didn't think that the church would postpone operations." He also said that he would probably ask for a three week extension for use

at the church until a new site and building was found.

However, St. Joseph Mission Father de LaCerno said he had received orders from the Archdiocese that the center would have to leave the church grounds.

"The site can only be used for worship," he explained.

Mendez' three-week delay in finding a new site may turn into several months if Economic Youth Opportunity Agency planner Ted Bartlett's estimate is correct.

Bartlett said that the normal time for construction is four to six weeks after a site is secured "if they are lucky" using "pre-fabricated buildings."

In the Del Amo project's case, a meeting Tuesday with residents of the area was the first attempt by the Mexican-American Council to find a site on the boulevard by (See PUEBLO, Page A-2)

## Hit-Run Charges Jail Man

A charge of felony hit and run driving has been issued against Kenneth Ray Rulo, 23, of 229 N. Irena St., Redondo Beach, who allegedly was involved in an accident Sunday in which 13-year-old Larry Jacobs was seriously injured.

Rulo was arrested Monday by detectives as he was leaving his home in Redondo Beach.

Investigators found the 1967 model pick-up truck seen by witnesses driving away from the accident at 17209 Crenshaw Blvd.

THE TRUCK allegedly hit a parked car belonging to Robert Whistler, 17217 Crenshaw Blvd., as it was traveling south about 8:25 p.m. Sunday. The parked car was forced over the curb and struck Jacobs while he was riding a bicycle.

Jacobs, 17033 Delia Ave., was later taken to Gardena Memorial Hospital suffering from three fractures in his right leg, a fractured skull, and scalp wounds. He was reported in fair condition Tuesday. (See HIT-RUN, Page A-2)

## Torrance Man Jailed in East ---

A Torrance man has been jailed in Watertown, Conn., on robbery and aggravated assault charges in connection with a robbery in which one man was killed and a police officer wounded. Thomas C. Dyer, 20, of 1316 W. 221st St., was arrested Monday. Dyer, a traveling companion, Timothy Williams, 21, of Signal Hill, and a Connecticut teenager were cornered in a motorcycle shop Monday, authorities reported. Williams was killed when he darted from the shop after a four-hour battle with police. The police officer, shot in the stomach, was reported in good condition. Dyer is being held in lieu of \$12,000 bail. A fourth man, wanted in connection with the incident, surrendered to Watertown police Monday night, it was reported.

## Murder Trial Delayed ---

Trial of Ralph P. Rodriguez on charges that he beat and killed stock car racing champion Karolina Lee Robinson in a parking lot here on May 4 has been continued to Oct. 23. Long Beach Superior Court Judge Donald Dunbar rescheduled the case when the Los Angeles County coroner — listed as a key witness in the case — was unable to attend. Rodriguez is charged with attacking the wealthy sportswoman with a tire iron following a traffic argument. The suspect's attorney, Wesley Russell, has said Rodriguez acted in self-defense.

## Infant Girl Dies ---

Meningitis has been blamed in the death of Pamela Darlene Rivera, four-month-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Rogelio Rivera of 2168 W. 235th St. The girl died at Harbor General Hospital about 4 p.m. Tuesday, authorities said. The girl had been taken by her mother to a doctor earlier in the day and was hospitalized about 2 p.m.