

New Skills Center May Open in September

First students to enroll in one of the most unique educational centers in the nation may be attending classes next September.

Opening day for the Regional Occupational Center to be built in Torrance is expected to move a step closer tonight when representatives of six area school districts meet to sign a joint powers agreement creating the new center.

The occupational center is the first such school in the nation to be governed by its own board, a step which will, according to planning director Wilbur Lorbeer, "offer importance, stature, and support for the occupational program."

Unified school districts in Torrance, El Segundo, Inglewood, and Palos Verdes and the Centinela Valley and South Bay Union High School

Districts are parties to the agreement.

The center is to be built on a 10-acre site at 2300 S. Crenshaw Blvd.

Immediately after the agreement is signed tonight, the newly created "joint powers" board will meet to elect its officers, consider hiring a superintendent for the center, and begin the work of establishing a budget for next year.

Under terms of the agreement, each district will share the costs of operating the center and each of the six districts will be entitled to enroll 11th and 12th grade students. Enrollment eligibilities are to be determined on the basis of assessed valuation and current high school enrollments, Lorbeer said.

Torrance, for example, will pay approximately 24 per cent of the costs and be en-

titled to enroll about 27 per cent of the students.

Initial enrollment will be limited to about 200 students and the first programs probably restricted to business oriented areas such as secretarial training and computer programs.

Facilities for 800 students may be available by February, 1967, Lorbeer said.

Board members selected to serve to date include Bert M. Lynn, vice president of the Torrance Board of Education; Ted Merrill, Inglewood Unified School District; Dr. L. W. Busby, South Bay Union High School District, and Howard West, Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District.

The Centinela Valley and El Segundo representatives will be named prior to the first meeting of the board tonight.

The Occupational Center, according to Lorbeer, will offer high school students who do not plan to attend college an opportunity to acquire a job skill which they can use immediately on graduation from high school.

Students will attend for a minimum of three hours each day and will receive 30 credits for a full year of instruction. Students will complete their academic programs at their home high schools and graduate with their own classmates.

To develop modern, effective programs, the center will maintain liaison with industry in the area through an advisory council and several "occupational subject area" advisory committees.

Efforts will be made to avoid duplicating programs now offered in local high schools and junior colleges,

Lorbeer said. But, he added, some duplication may be necessary.

The program will be open to adults throughout the area, he explained, although high school students always will have priority for classes.

The center will in no way be a technical or vocational high school, Lorbeer said. Nor is it a school for would-be drop-outs.

"We're not going to try to correct disciplinary problems," he declared. "We are going to offer training."

Industry will set the standards for most of the programs, Lorbeer said, so that students who complete the program offered by the center will meet the specifications set by local employers.

Plans call for the center to operate on a 12-month basis once it is established and the planning staff hopes

to develop schedules whereby "any person can start any program any day of the year."

"We don't want to tell them to come back next February," one official said.

To finance the center, which was created under a special state law, a tax of up to 15 cents per \$100 assessed valuation may be imposed throughout the six-district area. A total of 10 cents of the tax rate may be used for yearly operation, while an added 5 cents is restricted to capital outlay purposes.

A preliminary budget for the 1967-68 year will be submitted to the new board tomorrow. It calls for expenditures of \$639,803 and reserves of \$460,197 for a total of \$1.1 million.

The budget can be financed with a tax of 7.433 cents since the combined assessed

valuation of the six-district area is nearly \$1.2 billion, Lorbeer said.

Torrance's share of the proposed budget would be a little more than \$213,000.

Several school districts in the nation have organized and opened such centers under cooperative programs, Lorbeer said, but none of them has established such a multi-district center which has its own governing board.

Tentative plans and target dates are "just that," Lorbeer emphasized. The governing board must set policies and make the decisions which will affect operations of the center, he said.

Tonight's meeting is open to the public. It will be held at 7:30 p.m. in the board room of the Torrance Unified School District, 2335 Plaza del Amo.

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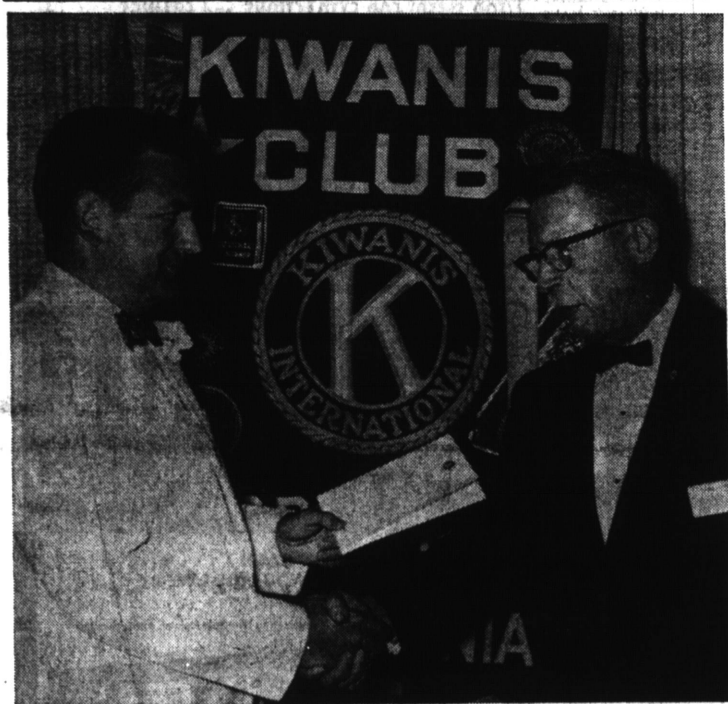
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PRESIDENT INSTALLED . . . H. T. (Ted) Olson (left), Torrance city councilman and governor of Division 19 of Kiwanis International, hands certificate of office to D. D. (Dud) Cook during installation ceremonies for the Torrance Kiwanis Club last weekend. Cook, an executive with a Torrance industrial supply firm, will serve during the calendar year. (Photo by Jim Giacalone)

Isen Protests Talk Of Police Mergers

Supervisor Burton W. Chace has challenged Mayor Sam Yorty of Los Angeles to substantiate charges that cities contracting for Sheriff's Department police services are not paying their fair share.

On Chace's motion, the Board of Supervisors Tuesday ordered that Mayor Yorty be informed of the facts relating to contract cities.

CHACE'S MOTION had the endorsement of Mayor Albert Isen of Torrance. Isen appeared before the Board of Supervisors to oppose any merger of the Sheriff's Department and the Los Angeles Police Department.

"Our agreements with contract cities were given a clean bill of health by the 1964 Grand Jury," Chace said. "Accurate books are kept to make

certain that each city contracting services is paying its share."

"If Mayor Yorty has any specific information that the contract cities are not paying their way, we certainly would welcome having the information," Chace said.

Mayor Isen supported Chace's position, pointing out that the contracts were "very fair and equalized tremendously."

THE BOARD of Supervisors has called for a study of the feasibility of merging the Los Angeles Police Department with the Sheriff's Department to avoid duplications of services and excess spending. The matter has been referred to the Efficiency and Economy Commission for study.

Isen indicated that he vig-

orously opposed any ideas of a Sheriff's Department-LAPD merger.

"I urge the Board of Supervisors to instruct the Commission studying the matter to drop any merger ideas," Isen said. He agreed that moves of economy should be probed, however.

"I have no quarrel with efficiency and proper consolidation of services," Isen said. He said a merger, however, might result in a "free ride" for the city of Los Angeles.

ISEN WAS critical of the Los Angeles Police Department for its refusal to join Torrance in a reciprocal police aid agreement. Torrance has such an agreement with other neighboring cities.

In citing the need for such an agreement, Isen called Supervisors' attentions to the 1965 disturbances at the Harvey Aluminum Co.

"The factory is in the City of Los Angeles and the parking lot and surrounding trouble areas are in Torrance," Isen said. He said the Torrance officers and Sheriff's deputies bore the burden of policing the Harvey situation.

The Board took no direct action on Isen's statements, but advised him to present these arguments before the Commission as part of the study.

Library Bond Election May Be Held in Spring

Conflict In Dates

Voters will be asked to approve a \$2,350,000 bond issue to finance a municipal library system here April 18 if the Torrance Board of Education agrees to the proposal.

Trustees will be asked to combine a special city election with a scheduled election for members of the Board of Education, following action by the City Council last night.

Councilmen initially were asked to schedule the library bond vote on April 11 — one week before the school board balloting.

CONSOLIDATION of the two elections, Councilman Ken Miller said, would result in a savings to taxpayers in the cost of the election. He also said most of the people voting in the school bond election would be likely to be interested in the city's library system.

"I would like to see this council go on record as favoring the April date," Miller said.

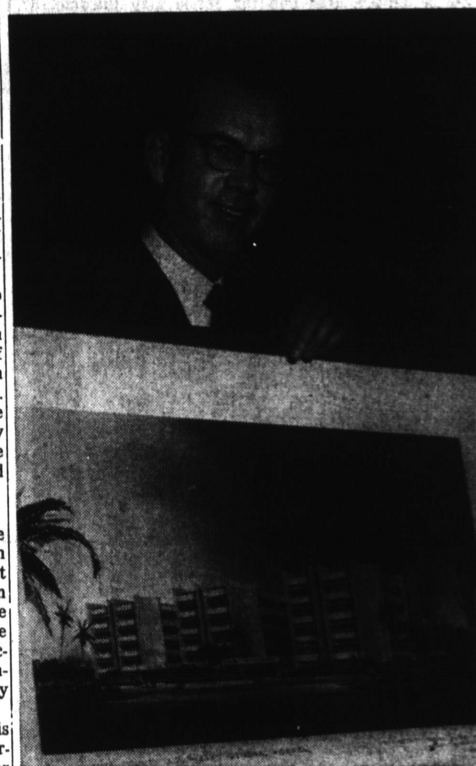
"WE CAN'T ASK the people to go to the polls twice in one week," Ross A. Sciarrotta Sr. remarked.

Councilmen then asked City Manager Edward J. Ferraro to approach the school board on the matter, to determine if any legal obstacles will prevent consolidation of the two elections, and to report his findings next week.

IN OTHER action, the council:

- Approved increase in taxi fares sought by two firms serving Torrance and authorized each company to add four taxis to each fleet. New rates are 50 cents for each flag stop and 10 cents for each 1/5 mile, rather than the current 10 cents for each 1/4 mile.

- Appropriated \$10,000 to beautify the railway right of way on Madrid Avenue between Carson Street and Torrance Boulevard. The project is part of a prolonged effort to reduce noise from trains using the tracks and is being started in conjunction with the relocation of the railway depot from Carson Street to Madrid Avenue to a site west of Crenshaw Boulevard.



SHOWS PLAN . . . Supervisor Kenneth Hahn displays the architect's sketch of the new Southwest County General Hospital, to be built on a 30-acre site at 120th Street and Compton Avenue. The hospital will be financed with Los Angeles city and county funds and will provide 438 beds.

OFFICIALS CLAIM

Bootleggers Do A Brisk Trade

Up to 30 per cent of the room additions built on Torrance homes may be illegal, according to John J. McKinnon, superintendent of building and safety.

McKinnon offered the estimate after Councilman Ross A. Sciarrotta Sr. asked to have an ordinance prepared which would require city inspections of all homes in the city which are sold.

Purpose of the inspections, Sciarrotta said, would be to make sure additions and alterations which may be built are done according to city requirements—and with a building permit.

Many people, he added, do

not secure a building permit because they don't want the assessor to add the improvement to the tax rolls—and in many instances the addition or alteration doesn't conform to city codes.

Mayor Albert Isen told Sciarrotta he was "treading on quicksand" and suggested such a program would not solve the problem.

But, Ken Miller—who is a real estate broker—said, such inspections now are required when a VA or FHA loan is involved.

Councilmen will consider the proposal when City Attorney Stanley Remelmeier, who already is studying the problem, submits his report.

Condemnation of Dump Site Voted

Torrance councilmen last night ordered a condemnation action filed "before the end of February" on a 42-acre site now being considered for a city dump.

The council, however, refused to reverse its decision of a week ago when appraisals of the land were delayed for at least 90 days at the request of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce.

Councilmen did, however, ask City Manager Edward J. Ferraro to approach qualified appraisers to determine the cost of an appraisal on the land.

The land, located adjacent to the present city yard at Madrona Avenue and Del Amo Boulevard, is owned by the Mobil Oil Co.

THE CONDEMNATION action was ordered to freeze

land values before new assessments become effective in March. Councilmen fear a major expansion program which is nearing completion at the Mobil refinery may affect the value of the property being considered for the dump site.

Councilman George Vico asked for the matter to be reconsidered. One reason, he said, is that work is proceeding on preliminary plans for the extension of Madrona Avenue through the refinery site.

Vico suggested appraisals for both street right of way and the dump site might be done at the same time.

FERRARO said the appraisal of the street right of way was needed to compare costs of an elevated street and (See DUMP on Page A-2)

Sniper Shoots at Bar Trio . . .

The manager of a Torrance bar and two waitresses escaped possible death early Tuesday when a sniper's bullets slammed into the car in which the three were riding. Charles Irvin Whitson, 27, of 20424 1/2 S. Western Ave., told investigators he and waitresses Shirley Billings and Donna Steinberg, both 23, were leaving the tavern at 20706 Normandie Ave. when four shots were heard. Window's on the driver's side of the car were shattered and Whitson received a minor cut above his left ear.

Building Code Session Set . . .

Members of the Citizens Advisory Committee on Community Improvement, organized by the city to implement its urban renewal program, will meet with North Torrance area residents at 7:30 this evening in the cafeteria at Madison Elementary School, 17515 Amie Ave. The meeting has been called to give residents of the area a chance to inform themselves about city plans to enforce strict compliance with city's Uniform Housing Code. A North Torrance area near Hawthorne and Artesia has been selected as an early enforcement area.

Two Servicemen Die in Asia . . .

Two more Torrance area servicemen have died while on duty in Viet Nam. Casualty lists released Tuesday included the name of Army Spec. 4 Jimmy A. Miller, son of Harold X. Miller, 1520 W. 219th St. No details of his death were released. News of Miller's death came as funeral services were being planned for Norman Byron Wensel, who died while on guard duty in Viet Nam on Jan. 4. Wensel, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Norman Wensel, 24318 Marigold Ave., Harbor City, had lived in this area five years. The Rev. Marvin Rygh of the Resurrection Lutheran Church will conduct his funeral services at 11 a.m. Thursday at the Halverson-Leavell Mortuary.

Supervisors Commemorate The Late Mrs. Sciarrotta

County Supervisors adjourned their meeting Tuesday in memory of Carmen Marie Sciarrotta, wife of Torrance City Councilman Ross Sciarrotta.

The adjournment came on the motion of Supervisor Burton W. Chace.

Mrs. Sciarrotta, who died

last week, lived in Torrance since 1949. She is survived by six sons and two daughters, in addition to her husband.

"This is a tragic loss for the Torrance community," Chace said. A commemorative scroll will be sent to her family.