

Council to Abandon Standing Committees

(Story in Column 4)

Torrance

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TO THE LEFT . . . Torrance Princess Etta Cumiford gets instructions on maneuvering the model yard and stay rig at the U.S. Naval and Marine Corps Reserve Training Center in West Los Angeles. Showing Miss Cumiford how to move the model is RM1 William T. Bixby of Santa Monica. The Torrance princess visited the Reserve Center to welcome Naval Reserve units to the ninth annual Armed Forces Day celebration scheduled here May 17 and 18.

Armed Forces Day

Navy Reserve Unit Will Enter Parade

Believing a repeat performance of a good thing is always welcome, Torrance Princess Etta Cumiford previewed the activities of the Navy Reserve Unit (NRSD-48-L) at the U.S. Naval and Marine Corps Training Center at Santa Monica.

For the sixth consecutive year, the Navy Reservists will be represented in the annual Armed Forces Day Parade and Celebration here May 17 and 18.

They will enter a specially selected and trained 50-man marching unit in the parade competition for the Secretary of Defense Trophy. It's awarded to the best reserve forces entry in the nation's largest civic-sponsored Armed Forces Day observance. The trophy is provided by the AirResearch Manufacturing Co. of The Garrett Corp.

Cmdr. Dennis Venning, USNR, explained to Miss Cumiford. A current nine-to-twelve-month waiting list seemed to prove his point.

THE RESERVIST requires only two years active duty rather than four. For the academically qualified high school senior and college freshman or sophomore, the ROC—Reserve Officer Candidate—program permits a student to remain in college and, an earning his degree, qualify for an ensign rank, followed by three years active duty. By reenlistment in the reserves, he can advance to ward Navy retirement benefits.

The huge military observance, with its "Report to the Nation" format, will feature parade entries from all branches of the Armed Forces, active and reserve, National Guard, ROTC and auxiliary components, Medal of Honor recipients, and area high school bands.

Teachers Ask Board for 7 Per Cent Salary Hike

Police, Firemen Win Approval of Retirement Plan

Torrance police and firemen will get their 50-20 retirement plan—if the city can come up with a way to pay for it.

City Councilmen voted general approval of the plan at Monday night's adjourned meeting. However, they as-

Ad-Hoc System Slated

City Council standing committees fell before the axe at last night's regular meeting, ending a long-time tradition that never actually had any legal basis in terms of City Charter provisions.

The 6-1 decision means that the Council formally disbanded the six member committees set up to research proposals dealing with the airport, parks and recreation, public buildings, public works, finance, and police and fire.

Councilmen replaced the former system with a plan to appoint three-man ad hoc committees to deal with specific questions as they arise. These committees would be automatically dissolved after members had studied the issue and submitted their report.

COMMITTEES will be appointed on a rotating basis, with Mayor Isen assigned to appoint members from an alphabetical list.

The council will meet as a committee-of-the-whole to ex-

POLICE MUST KEEP ITEMS

Owners Unable to Identify Stolen Goods

By NATALIE HALL
Press-Herald Staff Writer

Torrance police are trying to give away \$60,000 worth of color TVs, stereos, appliances, guns, cameras, bicycles, and miscellaneous items of every description.

But their efforts are doomed to failure, according to Lt. Robert C. Wright.

Warehouses crammed with stolen goods are nothing new in police work, but when burglary victims are unable to positively identify their own property, police have no choice but to keep the property locked away until it can be auctioned off, Wright stated.

THE FRUSTRATING part about the whole situation, Wright continued, is the fact that it's so unnecessary. The problem wouldn't exist if people would write down the serial numbers of all valuable

possessions and otherwise mark those items which do not have serial numbers.

"We've recovered many expensive belongings," Wright underlined, "but we've been unable to return them to their owners for the simple reason that people reporting thefts have no record of these serial numbers."

To compound the problem, Wright said, few manufacturers and retailers keep serial records.

BURGLARY suspects aren't much help in this department either. "They commit so many crimes they sometimes can't even remember where they took the goods!"

Every major appliance is marked with a serial number, usually stamped on a little metal tag attached to the rear of the set. Find these numbers, write them down, and file them in a safe place

where they will be accessible if the items are ever stolen, Wright asked.

Unnumbered possessions may be initiated with a knife or screwdriver. Better yet, Wright said, scratch the name and address on the item so that it cannot be eradicated.

WRIGHT stressed that no article may be returned without positive prior identification. "People will come in and say it looks like their property but if they're not sure, we can't release it to them."

The stolen goods problem is no small one, Wright continued. There were more than 200 burglaries in Torrance during the month of March. Of these, Wright said, more than half involved the theft of car stereos and accessories, valued at about \$11,000.

"We probably won't be able

to return more than 10 per cent of what we pick up," Wright stated.

AUTO STEREOS, he said, are particularly hard to return because their serial stickers can be easily removed. These stereos should be indelibly marked in some other way, Wright warned.

The law is on the side of the victim when a burglar goes to pawn stolen goods. Every item pawned in the state of California, Wright said, must be registered with law enforcement officials. If the victim knows his serial numbers, the pawned articles will be quickly returned.

Wright emphasized that guns are frequently stolen. Owners of firearms, he said, should have them registered at the local police station for added protection.

Bicycles should be licensed.



RONALD WANBAUGH
Killed in Vietnam

Soldier Dies in Vietnam

Army Cpl. Ronald Nelson Wanbaugh, 20-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Pearson Wanbaugh of 1318 Hickory Ave., was killed in Vietnam last Friday, it was learned here Monday.

Corporal Wanbaugh, attached to D Group, 3rd Squadron, 5th Cavalry, was on a combat mission when he was shot and killed.

A 1964 graduate of Torrance High School, Corporal Wanbaugh was graduated from El Camino College in February, 1967, and entered the Army July 19, 1967. He arrived in Vietnam last Christmas Day.

He was born in Torrance Aug. 19, 1946, and attended Fern-Greenwood Elementary School.

In addition to his parents, Corporal Wanbaugh is survived by a sister, Sandra Lee, an 18-year-old El Camino College coed.

Funeral arrangements are pending at the Halverson-Leavell Mortuary.

Proposals Get Cool Reception From Trustees

By HENRY BURKE
Press-Herald Staff Writer

Until a dollar figure is reached for the 1968-69 fiscal budget, the Torrance Board of Education is not ready to make a salary commitment to teachers.

The board held a special meeting yesterday to discuss salaries and an 18-point benefit program submitted by the the district's Negotiating Council. Two items were withdrawn prior to discussion.

The salary schedule presented to the board calls for an across-the-board pay hike of 7 per cent. This would provide for a minimum salary of \$6,634 and a maximum of \$13,057 over a 13- or 14-step grid range.

ESTIMATED COST of the increase was set at \$895,000.

The Negotiating Council, composed of teachers and administrative personnel, sought to eliminate the final step.

Only a teacher with 14 years or more experience who has a master's degree and 36 units, or a teacher with a bachelor of arts degree and 72 semester units qualifies. The difference between Step 13 and Step 14 is about \$1,100.

Board President Bert Lynn said he favors a plan to crack the \$13,000 salary barrier, but he is not willing to eliminate the final step. Board member Bill Hanson also wants to maintain the same 14-step grid.

MRS. POLLY WATTS said the board has a commitment to act in good faith with the teachers, but she wants to look at the entire package before arriving at a decision.

Included among the 16 benefits is the payment of hospital insurance. An increase from \$100 to \$140 was re-

quested, but the issue was talked down to about \$120.

Teachers whose extracurricular activities compare with coaching athletic teams are being considered for extra pay, but no agreement has been reached.

COMMENTING on each proposal was Dr. Robert Morton, assistant superintendent of personnel. A subject covered by him in detail was the possibility of semi-annual salaries (See **TEACHERS**, Page A-3)

Council Approves Jet Ban

There will be no jet traffic at Torrance Municipal Airport in the foreseeable future.

Councilmen last night rallied behind a resolution banning all commercial commuter or freight jets at the local airport. The Torrance field, they ruled, should be reserved for private executive planes.

Councilman Ross Sciarrotta brought up the subject in response to a pre-election scare among local residents last month.

Rumors about jet traffic in Torrance circulated after Airport Manager Jack R. Egan made public statements suggesting the possibility of jet traffic in the future.

SCIARROTTA vigorously objected to Egan's statements, asking that city officials be required to check with the city manager before releasing that sort of information.

Sciarrotta said the council (See **JETS**, Page A-3)

Downtown Group to Meet ---

Members of the Downtown Torrance Association and nearly 200 businessmen and property owners of the Downtown Torrance area are expected to attend the first major report meeting of the group at the Palms tonight beginning at 6:30. Ken Norwood, professional city planner who has been retained to survey the downtown area, will make his first official report to the group at tonight's meeting, according to Lucius Babcock III, president of the association.

(Photo today on Page D-4)

Torrance Girl Killed ---

An 18-year-old Torrance girl died Monday about 1 a.m. after she was injured in a Venice traffic accident. Kathleen O. Mills, of 2259 W. 230th St., was killed when her car and one driven by Richard Evans, 25, of Los Angeles, collided in the Venice area. A passenger in Miss Mills' vehicle, Eileen Pruett, 19, of Mar Vista, sustained leg and shoulder fractures. Evans sustained minor injuries.

Bus Fare Hike Begins ---

Torrance bus riders began paying a 35-cent base fare today. The 10-cent increase was decreed by the City Council last March in hopes that it will trim the municipal bus line's huge annual deficit. In November, Torrance voters will have a chance to decide whether to keep the bus system under local control or sell it to the Southern California Rapid Transit District.