

Navy Turns Down Plan to Move Rail Spur

By NATALIE HALL
Press-Herald Staff Writer

A railroad spur is proving to be a thorn in the side of city planning officials.

For the past two years, City Manager Edward J. Ferraro and his staff have been trying to come up with a plan that would allow them to rip out the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railroad spur that runs along Madrona Avenue from the main line north of Del Amo Boulevard to a terminus near the Torrance Municipal Airport.

Ferraro stated that the spur track should come out for two reasons:

- It interferes with the

essential widening of Madrona Avenue, slated to take place between 1970 and 1972, and

- The track along Madrona is incompatible with surrounding residential and municipal zoning.

For years, the city has sought additional north-south thoroughfares to relieve traffic on Hawthorne Boulevard, with the problem becoming more acute with the development of the Del Amo Center and other traffic-producing institutions.

According to Walter Nollac, public works director, Madrona Avenue is the most logical street to improve as an

alternate to Hawthorne Boulevard. Its location coincides with heavy traffic patterns and, when extended, it will match up with Prairie Avenue on the north and proposed Madison Avenue on the south.

Prairie, of course, extends miles northward through other cities, making it a "natural" for channeling in traffic. The industrial area and proposed hospital complex north of the airport will bring in an estimated 10,000 workers within the foreseeable future, pointing up another reason to make Prairie the key north-south alternate.

Nollac explained that the city is limited in the number

of "feasible" north-south routes available. The other possibilities, it seems, are all blocked somewhere along the line by industrial plants, parks, or the airport.

When the possibilities are reviewed, Madrona continues to emerge as the most likely candidate for major improvements.

Cost estimate for improving and extending Madrona between 190th Street and Sepulveda Boulevard is pinpointed at \$1,710,000—if the railroad spur stays where it is. If the spur comes out, costs would be considerably less and the city would be rid of five hazardous railroad-street crossings.

Public Works Director Nollac stated.

Removal of the spur would also cut down the engineering problems involved in building a railroad and street along side one another. Nollac explained that the current railroad track and Madrona Avenue are on widely different levels south of Del Amo Boulevard, which would require the city to foot the bill for construction of a retaining wall between the street and the tracks.

Ripping out the Madrona spur seemed the natural solution to the problem—especially since all but one of the companies located along that

section of the spur no longer need rail transportation.

But the city has run into one major snag in trying to remove the spur. Nollac says that the spur could come out if the city could receive permission from the Navy to run a line through Naval Annex property. This plan would enable the railroad company to service the Temcor Manufacturing Co. and the A. J. Bayer Co., located on Toledo Street east of Crenshaw Boulevard, and then travel southward across Sepulveda Boulevard to make stops at furniture manufacturing plants near Lomita Boulevard.

The one company along the

Madrona spur north of Monterey Avenue still needing rail service is Boise Cascade, situated just north of the Civic Center. Nollac noted that the company could be served by rail service from the east, leaving the way clear to remove the present Madrona spur from the mainline track to Sepulveda Boulevard.

Unfortunately, negotiations with the Navy for the 15-foot strip of land on the northernmost boundary of the Naval Annex along Jefferson Street have proved fruitless so far.

In early April, after months of consideration, the Navy Department finally informed the (See RAIL SPUR, Page A-2)

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Threaten Walkout In Salary Dispute

Teachers Seeking New Hike

By HENRY BURKE
Press-Herald Staff Writer

The possibility of closing down Torrance schools was hinted by an official of the Torrance Education Association unless a pay raise of 8 per cent is approved by the Board of Education.

Teacher representatives made it clear at Monday's board meeting that they will accept nothing less than an 8 per cent increase in salary for the 1968-69 school year. Although the board did not make an offer Monday, it was previously expressed that a 6.5 per cent amount was practical.

Teachers in the district polled during the week rejected the board's proposal by a 7-1 ratio.

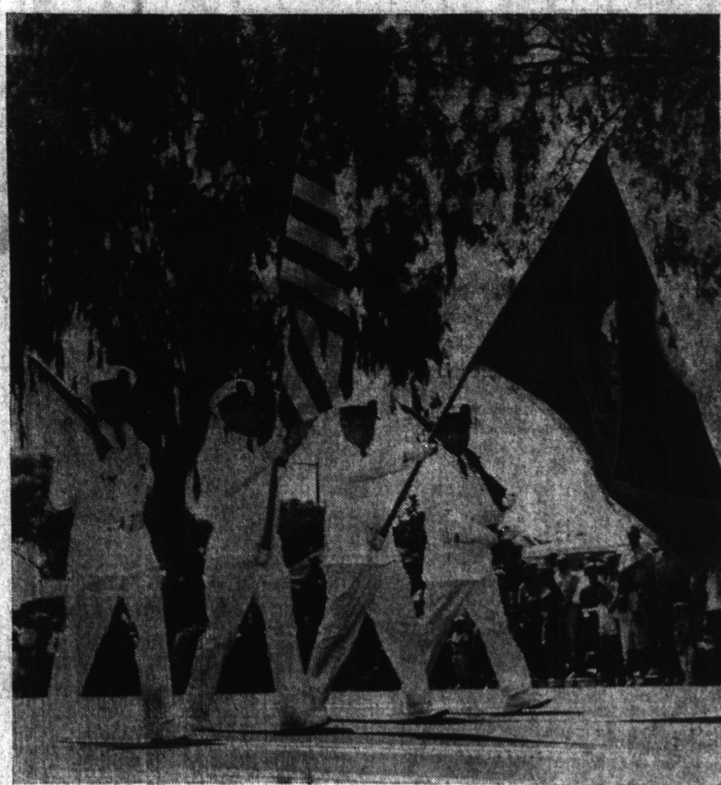
A similar poll will determine what action the 1,500 educators will take if their demands are not met by the five board members.

STRONG support for a plan to "quit teaching" and thereby force the schools to close was mentioned by Noel Marble, executive secretary of TEA.

A decision will not be made, however, until after the Negotiations Council and Dr. Robert Morton complete a round of talks today and the board reconvenes for an adjourned meeting at 4 p.m. Friday.

The 1.25 per cent difference disputed by the board and teachers represents approximately \$180,000. The budget for the Torrance Unified District in 1968-69 is \$30,000,000.

UNLESS a decision is made by Friday, the schools will close. (See TEACHERS, Page A-2)



PASS IN REVIEW . . . Members of a U.S. Navy Color Guard unit pass in review during Saturday's ninth annual Armed Forces Day Parade here. More than 100,000 persons lined the city's streets to witness the salute to the nation's Armed Forces. General James K. Woolnough, commander of the U.S. Continental Army, served as grand marshal for the parade. The general also spoke at the afternoon Awards Luncheon. (Press-Herald Photo by Hal Fisher)

HOSPITAL BIDS OPENED . . . A low bid of \$6.4 million was received here Monday for construction of the new Torrance Memorial Hospital near Lomita and Hawthorne Boulevards. The nine-story structure will be started later this year with completion due

two years later. The hospital complex was designed by the architectural firm of Vege and Chatworthy. The new hospital is the result of a merger between Torrance Memorial and Riviera Community hospitals.

FOR NEW HOSPITAL

\$6.4 Million Bid Opened

A low bid of \$6,418,000 for construction of a new 250-bed Torrance Memorial Hospital has been received.

Kemp Brothers of Whittier submitted the low bid. Bids were opened Monday afternoon at a 2 p.m. meeting at the hospital.

Architects Gene Vege and Richard Clatworthy opened

bids from six construction firms. One of the six firms, however, was allowed to withdraw its bid when officials of the company discovered a \$500,000 accounting error.

ATTENDING the meeting were directors of Torrance Memorial and Riviera Community hospitals, which have

merged to construct the new completion at a later date and nine-story, \$8 million facility. The new hospital complex for the land, movable equipment, landscaping, and architect's fees are not included.

Groundbreaking ceremonies are scheduled later this year, with completion due in about two years. The 175,000-square-foot hospital will be fully air-conditioned and soundproofed. It is located adjacent to the Torrance Municipal Airport.

MRS. WOOLLEY said the hospital directors hope industry and residents throughout the community will unite in the effort to raise the \$4 million needed to off-set the bank loan.

"Increasing population," Mrs. Woolley said, "has created a critical need for additional hospital beds in this area even before the new facility can be completed."

THE HOSPITAL currently is trying to raise \$4 million in public contributions to off-set the bank loan.

The base bid by Kemp Brothers includes a nine-story building in which the top two floors will be "shelled-in" for

City's Fireworks Group To Hold Study Session

The City Council's Committee on Fireworks will hold its first public session Monday, June 3, at 4 p.m. in City Hall to discuss ways to limit the number of fireworks stands permitted in the city around the Fourth of July.

The city code restricts the number to 27, based on a ratio of one stand for every 5,000 residents. However, councilmen granted applications to all 32 civic groups desiring to operate fireworks stands this year.

MAYOR ISEN has pointed

Rites Slated for Veteran Fireman

Gordon E. Northington, a 29-year veteran of the Torrance Fire Department, died here Sunday.

Services for the 54-year-old retired fireman were sched-

uled at 10 a.m. today at the Halverson-Leavell Mortuary Chapel with burial following in Green Hills Memorial Park.

A native of Oklahoma, he began his career with the local fire department in 1936 as a "call fireman" and rose to the rank of battalion chief prior to his retirement. The chief retired Sept. 1, 1965, because of a heart disability.

Chief Northington was born in Altus, Okla., June 16, 1913, and had lived in Torrance for the past 32 years. His home was at 1609 Beach Ave.

The chief was a member of the Torrance Masonic Lodge 447.

He is survived by his widow, Dorothy; his mother, Mrs. Beulah Northington of Torrance; two children, John Steven of Long Beach and Mrs. Cheryl Shaeffer of Torrance; three sisters, Mrs. Erna Akin of Plainview, Tex., Mrs. A.B. McFee of Torrance, and Mrs. Opal McMullen of Oxnard, Calif.; and a granddaughter, Shelley Lynn Shaeffer of Torrance.



GORDON E. NORTHINGTON
Retired Fireman Dies

Parade Winners Named

By all assessments, Torrance's ninth annual Armed Forces Day Parade and Celebration was the most successful ever.

From the view of General James K. Woolnough, who was participating in his first one, to Mayor Albert Isen, who has ridden the parade route in each of the nine celebrations, Saturday's parade was the best.

A crowd estimated at more than 100,000—some estimates went as high as 125,000—lined downtown streets and Torrance Boulevard as marching soldiers, sailors, marines, reservists, and students paraded in ranks along the two-mile parade route.

FOUR DOUBLE winners marked the judging as high ranking military officers (See PARADE, Page A-4)

Candidates Meeting Set . . .

The Torrance League of Women Voters will sponsor a "Meet the Candidates" night Monday at El Camino College. The session will be held in the Little Theatre on the college campus, beginning at 8 p.m. All candidates in the 17th Congressional District have been invited to attend, according to Mrs. William Birdsall, voters service chairman for the League. A question and answer period will be held after all the candidates have made a brief statement.

Torrance Men in Court . . .

One Torrance youth has been ordered to stand trial on attempted murder charges and a second youth given until next Monday to enter a plea to the charges in Superior Court. Donald Ray Wilson, 19, of 1528 W. 216th St., and Joseph A. Van Kralingen II, 20, of 1512 W. 216th St., were in court here Monday. They were arrested April 21 and charged with trying to kill a Hermosa Beach landlord. Wilson pleaded innocent to the charges and was ordered to stand trial July 1. Van Kralingen was given until next Monday to enter a plea so he could consult with the public defender.

Council Meets Thursday . . .

The Torrance City Council will meet this week on Thursday at 5:30 p.m. The meeting was moved ahead two days because the three new councilmen were attending a seminar for new city officials. All controversial measures at last Tuesday's meeting were put off until Thursday because the three newcomers were attending a Southern California Edison Co. retreat at Big Creek, Calif.