

Tie Vote Defeats Expense Account Hike

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START CONSTRUCTION . . . Groundbreaking ceremonies for the new Torrance Memorial Hospital were held here yesterday afternoon, marking the start of construction of the \$8 million, 250-bed facility. Present for the ceremonies were (from the top) Frank M. Cooper, administrator of the hospital; Richard Sullivan, M.D., former chief of staff and a member of the hospital board; Jack Broken, M.D., chief of staff; and Mrs. Boris Woolley, president of the hospital board. The new hospital is the result of a merger between Torrance Memorial and Riviera Community hospitals. (Press-Herald Photo)

Torrance Hospital Building Under Way

The first scoop of earth was turned yesterday marking the beginning of construction of the new \$8 million Torrance Memorial Hospital at 3330 Lomita Blvd. Presenting the opening remarks at the ceremonies was Torrance Mayor Albert Isen, who recalled the very first Torrance Memorial Hospital built in 1924, where his father had served on the original board of directors. "That hospital," said the

mayor, "was a 32-bed facility that cost \$100,000 to build and contained \$30,000 in equipment." **ISEN PREDICTED** the ceremonies would mark the beginning of a "glorious future" for the new hospital. He said it was the result of hard work in pushing the idea through. The City Council, Isen said, had quite a hassle deciding where to place the

facility, but felt confident that this was the ideal spot. The council zoned the land for hospital use but conditioned the zoning on actual commencement of construction. The initial building permit was issued for \$5.5 million for construction of seven floors. The construction contract awarded to Kemp Brothers of Whittier on a low bid of \$6.4 million calls for construction of an additional two floors as shells.

THE HOSPITAL is a result of the merger between Torrance Memorial and Riviera Community hospitals.

The main address was given by Samuel Stewart, executive editor of the South Bay Daily Breeze and member of both hospital boards, who had a major role in the events that led to the decision to build the enlarged facility.

Funds for the hospital will come from a \$3.2 million federal grant, donations from private citizens, loans, and fund-raising activities.

Attending the groundbreaking ceremonies were Mayor Isen, Councilmen Ken Miller, Bud Johnson and Bill Uerkwitz, city treasurer Tom Rupert, hospital benefactor and industrialist Leo M. Harvey, hospital directors, staff officials, doctors, nurses, and numerous area residents.

At the conclusion of the program, Jack Bookken, M.D., chief of staff at Torrance Memorial Hospital, and Don Kemp, president of the Kemp Brothers Construction Co., gave the go-ahead to the bulldozer that began the two-year construction project.

Rehearsals Under Way For Summer Musical

Rehearsals are now underway for the Torrance Recreation Department's summer musical, "Fiorello," with performances scheduled for Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, July 26, 27, and 28.

Based on the political career of Fiorello Henry La Guardia, the musical endeavors to portray the late mayor of New York as he really was — a peppery and ambitious, yet honest politician.

Taking the part of Fiorello La Guardia is Richard Harris, while Vivian Alvarez plays the mayor's wife, Marie.

Others in the cast include Judy Ines as Thea, Ron Marzilli as Morris, Dan Carlson as Niel, Bill Mooneyham as Ben, Debbie Scott as Dora, Phil Sarazen as Floyd, Debbie Timko as Mitze, and Bill Morgan as the Senator.

"Fiorello" is under the general direction of Chuck Slater, with Donnelly Penn as the musical director, Kay Turney as the dance director, and Ron Large as the orchestra director.

Tickets may be purchased at the Joslyn Center, 3335 Torrance Blvd., or from participants in the musical.

Guns, TV Taken by Burglars

Burglars pried open windows in two North Torrance homes and escaped with goods valued at more than \$1,500 in two incidents reported to police Tuesday.

Wilsey Mitchell Jr., 24, of 17103 Atkinson Ave., said a color television set worth \$840 was taken from his home.

Michael Gallagher, 28, of 19514 Anza Ave., reported the theft of two rifles, two handguns, a gold ring, and \$15 in cash. He said the total value of all items was \$605.

Court Action Started For Meadow Park Land

Mayor Raises Issue

By NATALIE HALL
Press-Herald Staff Writer
Mayor Albert Isen says he can't make ends meet with the \$175 expense account allotted him by the city each month, in addition to his \$100 salary as mayor. At Tuesday's regular City Council meeting, the mayor asked councilmen to raise the ceiling on his expense account to \$250. But a motion to raise councilmen's expenses from \$125 to \$150 and the mayor's expense ceiling to \$250 failed to pass. Voting against the raise were Councilmen Ken Miller, William J. Uerkwitz, and Donald E. Wilson. (Councilman Jay Beasley, who has been ill, left the meeting before the issue came up.)

MAYOR ISEN asked that the question of his expense raise be considered by itself, but the lawmakers decided to hold the issue until next week when Beasley will be present.

Councilman Miller said that the current \$125 ceiling on councilmen's expenses was adequate for him. He objected to any increase because Torrance voters had expressed themselves so vocally at the polls in April, squashing a measure to raise councilmen's salaries.

Miller said an expense boost would just stir up the issue and subject the council to criticism.

IN FURTHER action, councilmen voted to revise their policy concerning administrative leave practices.

Councilmen voted 4-3 to abolish the current practice of placing a three-day maximum on the number of days per month a department head may be absent in compensation for overtime work.

Instead, they instituted a new policy based on the discretion of the council and the city manager. The council, they decided, would consider time off for City Manager Edward J. Ferraro, and Ferraro, in turn, would consider his discretion in (See EXPENSES, Page A-2)

Police Pursue Parrot Pilferer

Somewhere in this vast metropolis there lurks a thief with a heart black enough to kidnap a 40-year-old parrot from a Torrance couple, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Cook, aged 82 and 79, who have lived at 1743 Arlington since 1923.

Last Wednesday between 3 and 5 p.m. the thief climbed the Cook's backyard fence and took the bird—cage and all. Although the



COMING HOME . . . Sharon Kay Terrill, newly crowned Miss California, is expected to arrive here sometime Thursday in her first visit to Torrance since winning the state's beauty crown. Miss Terrill will be honored Saturday evening at a dinner sponsored by the Torrance Jaycees and the Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce. During the evening, she will crown Darcy Barcroft "Miss Torrance." Miss Barcroft was a runner-up in the pageant which started Sharon on the way to the "Miss California" title. (Press-Herald Photo by Hal Fisher)

ARRIVES TOMORROW

Miss California To Be Honored

Members of the Torrance Jaycees and the Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce will honor Sharon Kay Terrill, newly crowned Miss California, Saturday at an invitational banquet.

Miss Terrill is expected to arrive here sometime tomorrow for her first visit since she won the coveted beauty title in Santa Cruz. It will be her only official visit to Torrance until the Miss America Pageant in Atlantic City, N.J., in September.

Events are scheduled to begin with a social hour at 7 p.m. Saturday at the Latitude 20 Restaurant. During the evening, Miss Terrill will crown her successor as Miss Torrance — Darcy Barcroft, a 19-year-old El Camino College coed who was one of the two runners-up in the 1968 Miss Torrance Pageant.

A press conference has tentatively been scheduled for 11 a.m. tomorrow and Miss Terrill will make an appearance on the television show "Good Day LA" Friday morning.

Mayor Albert Isen, in a proclamation issued last night, has called on citizens to observe July as "Miss California Month in Torrance."

TV Missing

Burglars forced a window at the home of Sam Gentile, 21602 Evalyn Ave., Monday night and stole \$1,150 worth of appliances and cash. Missing were a color TV, a color camera and flash equipment, and auto stereo tapes.

Condemnation Action Slated For 35 Lots

Nearly 15 per cent of the parcels located within the city's Meadow Park Redevelopment Project must be obtained through court action. City Councilmen, sitting as members of the Redevelopment Agency, voted 6-1 Tuesday night to institute eminent domain proceedings against owners of 35 lots located on the 56-acre site just west of Torrance Municipal Airport.

Sole dissenting vote was cast by Councilman William J. Uerkwitz, an avowed opponent of urban renewal.

THE COUNCIL'S condemnation action came after Lawrence Irwin, RDA executive director, stated that no more parcels could be acquired through negotiation proceedings at the present time. RDA will continue to hold negotiations open, however, in case any of the owners change their minds, Irwin said.

The RDA executive director reported that two of the remaining cases involved owners with lease problems, one with a probate, one with oil problems and one whom the agency has been unable to relocate. The other 17 owners have balked at the price offered by RDA, Irwin stated.

Under terms of condemnation proceedings, the courts will determine the fair market value of the land.

CITY MANAGER Edward J. Ferraro told councilmen the condemnation action would "materially aid our efforts" to reopen negotiations. Traditionally, redevelopment agencies offer more for land than courts think it is worth.

Councilman Orin Johnson objected to what he termed "hammer" tactics in forcing project land owners to negotiate with the city. However, Councilmen Ross Sciarrotta,

Ken Miller, and Jay Beasley insisted that the proceedings were merely "due process of law" and not pressure tactics.

Since last October, the Redevelopment Agency has been engaged in purchasing project land and relocating residents and businesses. At (See RENEWAL, Page A-2)

Delay Vote On Salary Increases

Action on salary increases for the city's top echelon executives was postponed last night when Torrance councilmen decided to include the city treasurer and city clerk in the hike and called for more figures.

City Manager Edward J. Ferraro had recommended that a 5 per cent hike—equal to increase voted for civil service employees last month—be approved.

In addition, Ferraro had asked that an added 5 per cent hike for City Attorney Stanley Remelmeyer be approved, along with an additional 3 per cent for two administrative assistants in Ferraro's office.

FERRARO made no recommendation for adjustment of his own salary, but he objected to a proposal by Councilman Orin Johnson that would have closed the gap between his own salary and that paid to Jerome I. Scharfman, the assistant city manager.

Johnson, noting that Scharfman's salary is lower than that paid to Walter M. Nollac, director of public works and a civil service (See SALARIES, Page A-2)

Teenagers' Deaths Probed . . .

An investigation into the circumstances surrounding the deaths of two area teenagers is under way this week, Kern County coroner's officials have announced. The bodies of Linda M. Harrison, 18, of 234 Via Linda Vista, and Danny Roznoski, also 18, of 2514 Alford Lane, Redondo Beach, were found last Friday by a fisherman. The two teenagers had been on a camping trip in Kern County.

Street Extension Voted . . .

Torrance councilmen moved closer to extending Madrona Avenue north from its present terminus at Del Amo Boulevard to 190th Street last night by initiating a condemnation suit against Mobil Oil Corp. Councilmen, acting on a recommendation by City Attorney Stanley Remelmeyer, ordered a suit filed to obtain a 100-foot right-of-way through the refinery property. Remelmeyer said the action was necessary because Mobil Oil Corp. has refused to negotiate with the city for the purchase of the right-of-way.

Torrance Serviceman Dies . . .

A 20-year-old Torrance serviceman was listed Monday as killed in Vietnam. He was identified as Thomas Williams, 3428 W. 186th St. No details were given about his death. Also reported killed in the war zone was Gary D. Holton, son of Mrs. Mary L. Holton of 13812 S. Bernardo St., Gardena.