

State Funds Accepted for Regional Park

(Story in Column 4)

Torrance

Press-Herald

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Present Gun Controls

Chief Says Laws Are 'Mish-Mash'

(Editor's note: In its continuing series on gun law enforcement, the Press-Herald today presents the views of Chief of Police Walter R. Koenig. The series, prepared after some police officials complained that current laws are not being adequately upheld by the courts, will conclude Sunday by presenting the

views of Municipal Court Judge George R. Perovich Jr.)

By NATALIE HALL
Press-Herald Staff Writer

Torrance Police Chief Walter R. Koenig has termed current gun laws as "mish-mash" of helter-skelter legislation.

Although Koenig said he believes some changes in gun laws are necessary and overdue, he feels it would only add to the confusion to tack a slew of new laws onto the books at this time.

"The public is inclined to think there is a simple answer to the problem of guns, but there just isn't," the chief related.

KOENIG said he'll reserve judgment on specific changes until in-depth studies of the gun problem have been completed. He is a member of two statewide police organizations which are currently making just such studies. Results of the study will not be completed for at least six months, Koenig said.

Simply making gun laws "stricter" would offer no solution, he believes. Koenig compared firearms laws with narcotics legislation,

which has sometimes been so impractical that juries wouldn't convict and judges wouldn't pass sentence. Meaningful gun laws must be enforceable, too, he said.

KOENIG noted that mandatory gun registration would also be meaningless without a comprehensive program of keeping it up to date. Registration, he said, might turn out to be nothing but a "flock of numbers in a file."

"What would we do with the file? Where would the program go from there?" he asked.

The chief said there is general agreement among law enforcement officers the present gun laws should be properly "implemented" which he said includes enforcement. However, he clarified his position by stating, "There is so much misinformation about guns, I can't blame any DA, city attorney, or city prosecutor for having an attitude different from mine."

Koenig agreed that there should be mandatory prison sentences for serious gun crimes, but this, too, remains to be studied in depth for more specific recommendations, he said.

Board Declines Action On Freeway Alternates

Redondo Beach Urges Adoption Of 'Red Route'

Torrance school trustees declined to endorse a specific route for the proposed Torrance Freeway Monday evening, but indicated they would keep a close watch to protect the interests of Torrance during the adoption of a route.

While trustees were discussing the proposed freeway, Redondo Beach councilmen endorsed a route which they described as the "least offensive" to that city.

The Redondo Beach council called on the state to adopt a route which runs south from the San Diego Freeway from the area of Rosecrans Avenue, paralleling Inglewood and Anza Avenue to a point south of Pacific Coast Highway. The route then turns east along the foothills of the Palos Verdes Peninsula.

THE ROUTE is coded red, brown, and yellow by the state.

Torrance Board of Education members declined to endorse a specific route after Mrs. Kenneth Watts, vice president of the board, pointed out that all proposed routes would affect the Torrance school system.

Mrs. Watts, presiding in the absence of Dr. Owen Griffith, said she also had serious doubts "that our endorsement of one particular route will have much effect on the outcome by the Highway Commission."

PRINCIPAL concern voiced by Dr. J. H. Hull, superintendent of schools, was about noise factors.

Dr. Hull said he was concerned because in one school he had visited near Alhambra, it was impossible to conduct normal classes—although the school was soundproofed—because of

of noise from the adjacent San Bernardino Freeway.

The superintendent also said it was generally agreed that the "blue route"—the westernmost of the proposed alternatives—was in the best interests of Torrance. That route would run near Hillside, Newton, and Towers elementary schools and west of West High School, he noted.

DR. HULL said school officials would meet with state highway representatives (See FREEWAY, Page A-3)

Police Arrest Suspect

Police have apprehended a Torrance youth suspected of driving a "get-away" car in an attempted burglary.

Arrested at 10:15 p.m. Monday was 19-year-old Robert M. Olson, 5108 DeLane St.

Homeowner David R. Kennard, 25, of 4903 Arvada St., told police he heard a noise in his garage about 10 p.m. and found two men inside the structure.

When the suspects saw Kennard, they fled, one jumping into the get-away car and the other running away. A neighbor followed the car and forced it to stop a short distance from the home.

An off-duty Torrance policeman who lives across the street from where the cars stopped helped apprehend Olson.



MICHAEL MURPHY
Going to Italy

Murphy To Travel To Italy

Michael J. Murphy, a graduate of Narbonne High School, who is now attending California State College at Long Beach, has been selected to attend the University of Florence, Italy, during the 1968-69 year.

Murphy is one of three Cal State Long Beach students selected for the international program. Dr. Thomas Lantos is director of the program for the California State Colleges.

He is the son of Tom J. Tower of 1720 W. 241st St., Lomita.

MURPHY WILL participate in an orientation session in San Francisco prior to leaving for Germany and Rome. He will study art and language while attending the (See EUROPE, Page A-3)

Judge to Assume Duties Sept. 16

Newly appointed Municipal Court Judge Thomas P. Foye is expected to assume his new duties in the South Bay Judicial District about Sept. 16, it was learned yesterday.

Judge Foye was named to the bench Friday by Gov. Ronald Reagan. The new judge succeeds Judge Donald Armstrong, who retired Aug. 16 after 11 years on the South Bay Municipal Court.

The 50-year-old Republican attorney is a resident of Manhattan Beach and has been in private practice since 1951. He did serve three years on the legal staff of the Garrett Corp.

A former mayor and councilman in Manhattan Beach, he served as a judge

pro tem in 1965. Most recently, Foye has served as an attorney for the Redevelopment Agency of Redondo Beach.

A graduate of Loyola High School in Los Angeles, Judge Foye served in the Navy in World War II. He earned his law degree at Loyola University of Los Angeles after graduating from Notre Dame University.

He has represented the city of Manhattan Beach on the Inter-City Highway Committee.

Judge Foye is married and the father of five children.

His salary as a municipal court judge will be \$23,000 a year.



TO HOST COUNCIL... Torrance councilmen and other city officials will be guests of the Torrance League of Women Voters Thursday, Sept. 19, for the League's annual "Meet Your Councilmen" Luncheon. The event is scheduled for 11:30 a.m. at the Latitude 20, 3901 W. Pacific Coast Hwy. Mrs. Perry Baker (at right) is chairman of the event, which will include a panel discussion on "Torrance in the 70s." Mrs. Baker is pictured here discussing plans for the luncheon with Mrs. Lowell O'Brien (left) and Mrs. Don Vannorsdall, members of the committee planning the event. Reservations are available from Mrs. Stanley B. Jackson. (Press-Herald Photo)

City Eyes Plan to Have County Develop Facility

City councilmen are forging ahead with plans for the proposed 52-acre Columbia Park in North Torrance—and considering the possibility of requesting county funds for the park's development and maintenance.

The seven lawmakers voted 5-2 Tuesday night to

initiate a contract with the state of California to accept \$197,000 in state park funds to help defray purchase costs of the Columbia Park land.

Councilman William J. Uerkwitz voted against the measure on the grounds that it would lead to the further acceptance of federal funds and would force the city to join the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG).

ANOTHER dissenter was Councilman Orin P. Johnson, who said he saw no reason to sign the contract when the city doesn't know for sure which direction it's heading on the park issue and the grant money will still be available for some time to come.

Under terms of the Cameron-Unruh Bond Act of 1964, the money will revert to the state if the city of Torrance fails to use it by 1971. The funds must be used for a regional park of 50 acres or more.

Mayor Albert Isen, originally opposed to the idea of the mammoth park on the grounds that it was too expensive, suggested that the county be asked to bear the cost of developing the regional site. Isen reasoned that many persons from neighboring communities

would take advantage of park facilities.

THE MAYOR also commented that the idea of smaller parks scattered throughout the city should not be abandoned as a result of the Columbia Park project.

Councilman Jay Beasley agreed that the city could (See PARK, Page A-3)

'Profile' Series Features Most Unusual Miss

In its continuing series of profiles of men and women in Torrance, the Press-Herald today features a 17-year-old Torrance High School graduate who has achieved fame in the academic world.

Miss Susan Bundy is the subject of today's profile. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Reid L. Bundy. Bundy is co-publisher and editor of the Press-Herald.

With the cooperation of a modest Miss Bundy, the news staff has managed—we hope—to keep today's feature a secret from her father. The profile of Page D-1 today.

Trustees to Oppose Tax Limit Proposal

The Torrance Board of Education has voted to oppose the Watson Amendment scheduled to come to voters in the Nov. 5 election.

At their regularly scheduled meeting Monday night, the trustees termed the bill "negative legislation" and warned that its passage could only cripple the school district by forcing schools to find other sources of revenue to take up slack created by a property tax ceiling.

Board member Bill Hanson said, "I have never seen taxes lowered by removing local control; on the con-

trary, every time local controls are lost, taxes go up."

He further stated that a federal control of property taxes would put it out of the reach of any local opinion. "If the county is hard to reach," he added, "and the state is even more difficult, the federal government will be impossible."

Bert Lynn said the proposal "looks great" on paper—putting a limit on the amount of property tax that can be levied—but asked, "Where will the funds come from to offset the cut in property taxes? Income and sales taxes will necessarily increase to fill the gap."

Mrs. Polly Watts, presiding at the meeting in the absence of Dr. Owen Griffith, said she feared the increase in sales tax and income tax due to the property tax ceiling will "penalize the people who are the least able to pay."

Burton E. Belzer, the newest member of the board, said he felt the piece of legislation had a negative attitude and could see no validity in its promise of limiting taxes overall.

The motion was approved by a 4-0 vote. The measure will be Proposition 9 on the Nov. 5 ballot.