

Federal Grant Approved for Regional Park

Torrance

Press-Herald

Second Class Postage Paid at Torrance, California

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Series II, Volume V, Number 104

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3238 Sepulveda Blvd., Torrance, Calif. — Wednesday, June 25, 1969

By Carrier 50c Per Month
By Mail, \$18 Per Year

10c Per Copy

48 Pages



BEAUTY ON PARADE . . . Sharon Kay Terrill (left) of Torrance takes her final bows as Miss California 1968 and Susan Kathleen Hawk (right), Miss Torrance 1969, parades for the judges during the Miss California Pageant held last weekend in Santa Cruz. At the conclusion of the pageant, Sharon ended her reign by crowning Susan Anton, Miss Redlands, as Miss California for 1969.
(Press-Herald Photos by Hal Fisher)

Retirement Bill Clears Hurdle in Legislature

Torrance Police Chief Walter Koenig has moved one step closer to solving his retirement problems. The State Assembly has passed AB 1717, in an amended form, which would permit the governing body of a city to exempt a chief of police from mandatory retirement at age 60, keeping him on until age 65 if it desires. The vote was 47-1. The chief's problem stems from the fact that the city council recently adopted the California highway patrol retirement for city safety personnel. The plan would require Koenig and others to retire at age 60, even though the chief came to Torrance with the agreement that he would be retained until he was 65.

AB 1717 has now gone to a state senate committee. If the bill passes the senate, then Chief Koenig will be in the clear if he can convince the city council to pass a resolution retaining him.

Before AB 1717 was amended, it stipulated that the

mandatory retirement age was not applicable to local safety members who entered a city's employ above the normal age of recruitment. The amended plan requires the local governing body to give its consent to the extended service.

In some quarters, it is believed that Torrance city charter provisions prohibiting the city council from delving into city personnel affairs would prevent the council from taking action to retain Chief Koenig.

BUT CITY Attorney Stanley Remelmeyer said Tuesday he

didn't think such council action would amount to a violation of the city charter. Remelmeyer said he couldn't imagine any court ruling against city council action to retain Chief Koenig.

Koenig said Tuesday he was encouraged by the "tremendous show of public support" for him. He said that the state legislature had received more than 300 letters from local residents urging passage of AB 1717.

"I don't even know who most of these supporters are," Koenig said, "but I'm grateful to them."

TORRANCE officers and state narcotics agents seized uncut heroin believed to be worth at least \$80,000 in the apartment. One estimate put the "street value" of the haul at as much as \$1 million. Police Chief Walter R. Koenig revealed the arrests in a dramatic announcement before the Torrance City Council last night.

Later, a press conference at the police station, Chief Koenig said he had "never seen so much raw heroin in 30 years." During the press conference, officers gave these details of the incident:

OFFICER Pete Snodgrass of the Torrance Police Department and Senior Narcotics Agent Edmund Reyes of the State Narcotics Bureau went to the Spafford apartment early Tuesday evening after having made arrangements to purchase heroin from the suspects.

A 23-year-old Lawndale man was shot six times early Tuesday evening during a gun battle with Torrance police which resulted in the seizure of a large cache of heroin.

Raymond Charles Spafford, of 15601 Crenshaw Blvd., Apt. 234, was rushed to Harbor General Hospital following the gun battle. His wife, Sherron Yvonne Spafford, 23, of the same address, was booked at the Torrance City Jail on a charge of possession of heroin for sale.

Spafford will be booked on the same charge and on charges of assault with intent to commit murder, it was reported.

suspects were not at home, they entered the apartment to wait.

Spafford and his wife returned at 6:30 p.m., reportedly from a store where they had bought dextrose and balloons for preparation of the heroin for sale. Mrs. Spafford apparently remained in the parking

(See HEROIN, Page A-2)

Street Funds Voted

City councilmen last night voted to appropriate gas tax funds for the improvement of two area streets.

Councilmen voted \$10,000 for the improvement of Carson Street from Torrance High School to Western Avenue and another \$5,000 for improvement of 182nd Street from Prairie Avenue to Doty Avenue.

The Carson Street improvements are currently under design. Another \$8,000 has already been appropriated from the gas tax fund, and more money will be required to cover partial construction costs. County support will also be requested on completion of the design.

Property owners on the south side of 182nd Street, east of Prairie Avenue, have volunteered to dedicate right-of-way needed to widen the street. Widening would eliminate a bottleneck at this point and provide a parkway on the south side of the street for pedestrian traffic.

The city hopes to complete the work prior to, or immediately after, school opens in September. School boundary adjustments in the area will increase the pedestrian use at this location significantly.

City Pays \$15,000 for Nollac Case

It cost the city of Torrance \$15,808.75 in legal fees to prosecute Walter M. Nollac, former city engineer, who was recently dismissed on charges of inefficiency and failure to perform duties.

City councilmen last night voted to appropriate an additional \$3,508.75 to settle the bill with prosecuting attorney Walter N. Anderson, who represented the city. Earlier, the council had appropriated \$12,300 for legal fees.

The total bill of \$15,808.75 covers both the first and second hearings against Nollac.

Anderson was paid at the rate of \$35 an hour for preparation time and \$40 per hour for trial time since Feb. 1. Maximum rate per day was \$240.

The legal fees were appropriated from the general fund unappropriated surplus.

Huge Cache of Heroin Confiscated by Police

Suspect Shot In Gun Battle; Wife Arrested



GETTING TICKETS . . . Sister M. Magdalen, administrator at Little Company of Mary Hospital accepts a block of tickets to Friday night's Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce annual banquet from Robert Reis, vice president-membership affairs of the Chamber. On hand for the brief ceremony marking the sale of the largest single block of tickets were George Ebert (left), president of the Chamber, and Harry Gorman (right), president-elect. Gorman and other officers will be installed at the banquet, scheduled in Manhattan Beach Friday at 6:30 p.m.
(Press-Herald Photo)

On Friday Night

Chamber to Honor City's Top Citizen

The city's Distinguished Citizen for 1969 will be honored Friday evening during the annual installation and awards banquet of the Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce. Highlight of the evening will be the naming of the man or woman who will receive the Laughon-Whyte perpetual trophy. Winner of the award last year was Bob Vroman, who has served as president of the Torrance Tournament of Roses Association and been active for a number of years in both the Torrance Jaycees and the Chamber.

NEW OFFICERS of the

Chamber also are to be installed Friday during the banquet, scheduled at Lococo's Restaurant, 612 S. Sepulveda Blvd., Manhattan Beach.

Reservations for the event, which being at 6:30 p.m. with a no-host social hour, are available at Chamber offices until 5 p.m. today. Dinner will be served at 7:30 p.m.

Harry Gorman, manager of Del Amo Properties here, will be installed as president of the chamber, succeeding George Ebert.

VICE presidents to be installed include Lucius (Bud) Babcock, area coordination; Alan A. Smith, community de-

velopment; Robert Reis, membership affairs; Don McGrath, governmental affairs; and Clinton B. Cooke, economic development.

Bret A. Swartz will be installed as treasurer and new directors are Paul E. Anderson, Robert I. Boynton, Dan E. Butcher, Charles L. Butler, Neil E. Campbell, James C. Conn, Hubert L. Kaltenbach, William F. Parsons, Reis, and John A. Teske.

J. Walker Owens will continue as executive vice president and general manager.

Holy Land Slide Date Scheduled

The Rev. Hans Holborn, pastor of the Riviera United Methodist Church, will present an illustrated program on the Holy Lands Friday at 8 p.m. at the church, 375 Palos Verdes Blvd., Redondo Beach.

Viewers will see the sights of Israel, Egypt, Greece, Lebanon, and Jordan, with scenes associated with Biblical events and the lives of the persons in the Bible.

Light refreshments will be served following the program which is being presented in conjunction with the Rev. Holborn's forthcoming guided tour of these regions next April. The public is invited to attend this open meeting.

Youth Band To Appear In Concert

The Torrance Area Youth Band's Honor Concert Band will appear Friday night in a special concert with the South High School Madrigal Choir.

The concert, scheduled for 8 p.m., will be staged in the El Camino College Auditorium. There is no charge for admission.

James W. Davidson will conduct the honor band and George Andrews, South High music instructor, will direct the Madrigal Choir.

Featured will be a performance of Vivaldi's Gloria in D Major by the Madrigal Choir and the Bacchanale from the opera "Sampson and Delilah" by the Youth Band.



TOTALLED . . . Demolished when it collided with a concrete light standard in front of Torrance Police Station is the car shown above, driven by Daryl Johnson, 1000 Felder Ave., Gardena. Johnson suffered only minor injuries in the mishap, which occurred at 9:25 a.m. Tuesday. The light standard was not damaged.
(Press-Herald Photo)