

# Changes Asked in Police Retirement Plan

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# Press-Herald

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**GOING UP . . .** The Torrance Civic Center's newest facility is a temporary one which was erected Wednesday afternoon in what may be record time for a movie theater. Known as the Cine-Globe Theater, the portable facility is used by the Navy and Marine Corps for recruiting. Navy workmen are shown here preparing to inflate the dome (top), rigging the entrance area while the dome is partially inflated (middle), and adding the finishing touches as the inflation is completed. A 9-minute film, "The Navy-Marine Corps Team in Action," will be shown May 10 through 18 between 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. The theater, first shown at the 1964 New York World's Fair, is making its visit to Torrance in conjunction with Armed Forces Day events. (Press-Herald Photos by Hal Fisher.)

## Navy Set to Defend Its Parade Honors

(Related Story and Photo on Page A-5)

There is a connection between the Mispillion River and Torrance Boulevard!

Torrance Princess Etta Cumiford learned this week that connection is May 17—the date of the 10th annual Armed Forces Day Parade in Torrance.

Miss Cumiford ignored the Navy's more glamorous cruisers and carriers this year and chose to visit the USS Mispillion (A-105) to extend a formal invitation to Navy units to join the line of march.

**THE USS Mispillion** is a fleet oiler with a displacement of 35,091 tons, homeported in Long Beach. While on board, Miss Cumiford invited the crew to join the other "ships

afloat" Navy marching platoons scheduled to appear in the parade.

She has also reminded the Mispillion's crew of the many parade honors garnered last year by the Navy. Best regular forces unit entry was won by the U.S. Navy Recruiting Station, Los Angeles. Best military drill team trophy was earned by the Fire Control Technician Drill Team, U.S. Naval Schools Command, Mare Island, Vallejo, Calif. Best Senior ROTC unit drill team came from USC while its rival UCLA was recognized as outstanding entry—open class marching unit. Each will be defending its top rating in the 1968 parade.

**MISPILLION** crew members told Miss Cumiford, a 21-year-old secretary at Techni-Data Laboratories in Gardena, their ship was named for the Mispillion River in Delaware. This followed the Navy tradition of naming fleet oilers and tankers after rivers flowing in the continental United States. A quick check in an atlas revealed the Mispillion is a mighty creek about 10 miles long and that it empties at a mid-coast point into the Delaware Bay.

The Navy will be heavily represented in the two-day military observance here. The parade will be reviewed by Grand Marshal—General of the Army Omar N. Bradley.

In addition to the appearance of the noted trophy winners, the Navy will be well balanced with the following entries in Division I designated for Regular Forces.

For a first appearance in the parade is a striking 50-state flag team supported by a 75-member Drum and Bugle Corps from the Naval Training Center, San Diego.

Port Hueneme will be in (See NAVY, Page A-2)



**JOINS NAVY . . .** Torrance Princess Etta Cumiford aims a searchlight aboard the fleet oiler USS Mispillion toward Torrance as she joins the Navy for a day. Giving Miss Cumiford a willing assist is Seaman 2/C Rolland Gaillard of Oxford, Miss. Miss Cumiford was aboard the Mispillion to remind the Navy of the 10th annual Armed Forces Day Parade and Celebration scheduled here next weekend.

# Skills Center Seeking \$25 Million in Funds

## For Retirement City Council May Consider Chief's Proposal

City Councilmen have promised Police Chief Walter Koenig that they will consider his retirement problems as soon as possible as a formal agenda item.

At Tuesday's City Council meeting, Chief Koenig urged the local legislators to do all in

their power to keep him on the force until age 65. A series of circumstances may force Koenig to retire in May, 1970, when he reaches the age of 60.

Koenig's retirement problems stem from the fact that the City Council recently voted to adopt the California Highway Patrol retirement plan for Torrance safety personnel. The CHP plan includes a government code section which requires retirement at age 60.

AT THE time the measure was being discussed by councilmen, Koenig had asked that the council use its "bargaining power" to arrange a special exception in his case. However, nothing was done about it at that time.

Koenig feels that he should be allowed to stay on until age 65 because he was told that 65 would be his retirement age when he joined the Torrance force as chief five years ago.

Currently before the State Legislature is a bill, AB 374, which would make a modified version of the CHP plan mandatory throughout the state. The bill would allow chiefs of police to stay on the force until age 65.

**UNFORTUNATELY** for Koenig, the bill would not go into effect until July 1, 1971, which would be too late to affect his case. Also, as Koenig points out, there is some question as to whether AB 374 will pass the State Senate since it is strongly opposed by the League of California Cities.

If AB 374 does pass, Koenig's problems could be solved by an action of the City Council, making the "age 65" clause effective in Torrance immediately. (See KOENIG, Page A-2)

## MC Named For Salute To Mayor

R. S. (Dick) Fitzgerald will be the master of ceremonies at the "Appreciation Banquet" honoring Torrance Mayor Albert Isen. The banquet is sponsored by the Torrance Jaycees.

Fitzgerald, newly named director of beaches for the county of Los Angeles, is a former manager of the Redondo Beach and Torrance Area Chambers of Commerce, and was president of the California Jaycees in 1955.

Chairman of the event, Torrance attorney Jerry Tarlow, announced that the Jaycees regard the banquet as an occasion to mark the growth and progress of Torrance and to review some of the highlights of activity during Isen's 14-year mayorship.

The event is scheduled for Monday evening, May 26, at the Latitude 29 restaurant in Torrance.

Tickets will be available at the information desk in City Hall, the Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce, and the Torrance-Lomita Board of Realtors, 22833 S. Arlington Ave.



**IRA COOK Heads Benefit**

## Benefit To Help Teacher

Friends of Sandy will present a gala benefit show next Friday at 8 p.m. to help defray the medical expenses of Miss Sandy Van Steenburgen, a local third grade teacher who recently underwent a kidney transplant.

The event will be held in the Torrance High School Auditorium.

Ira Cook, "Dean of the Disc Jockies," from radio station KMPC, will be master of ceremonies, introducing the 20 variety acts. Cook has appeared in several motion pictures and has recorded albums of poetry, in addition to his radio announcing skills.

**MRS. PAUL WILLIAMS**, general chairman, has announced that ticket prices are \$1.75 for adults and \$1 for students. Reservations may be made by calling Mrs. Williams. Tickets will be delivered by volunteers.

Miss Van Steenburgen, who taught at Lincoln Elementary School, is now recuperating in a Boston hospital. She is unaware of the benefit being staged for her by parents of Lincoln School children.

Those who wish to make donations may send them to Post Office Box 425, Gardena, Calif.

## Federal Money Sought to Aid Local Center

A bill which would provide special federal funds to complete the Southern California Regional Occupational Center (SCROC) was introduced in Congress yesterday by Congressman Alphonso Bell.

Entitled the "Vocational Education Demonstration Act of 1969," the measure would provide a \$10 million grant the first year plus annual grants of \$1½ million for not more than 10 years.

The initial grant would finance the construction of the third major building planned for the Torrance center. The funds would also cover equipment for the building and the development of the educational program for the structure.

**PURPOSE** of the proposed grant would be to establish the center as a model of vocational education; a showcase for the nation.

Haig Marashlian, the SCROC official who masterminded the plan, told the Press-Herald that vocational programs similar to the one in Torrance are cropping up all over the country. The local center would help prevent duplication of efforts by developing a model program and sharing new ideas.

"We would actually be an educational laboratory, disseminating information all over the nation," Marashlian said.

**FUNDS** FOR the proposed grant would come directly from the federal government through Congress and would not be administered by any of the federal aid to education

programs. The bill provides for complete local autonomy, with the SCROC board taking responsibility for the expenditure of funds.

Marashlian noted that the grant would complete the center's master plan for site development. The first building is already completed and operational. A second building will open in September.

SCROC currently serves some 700 students from six school districts. Another 500 to 1,200 young people will be accommodated when the second building is completed.

**WHEN** THE third and final building is finished, the center will serve upwards of 20,000 students per year round the clock, Marashlian noted.

Most of the students attend high school part of the day, then come to the Regional Center to learn a trade which will suit them for employment upon graduation.

Marashlian is current trying to enlist the support of local groups and individuals for the proposed plan. "We are very hopeful that this bill will be passed by Congress," he stated.

## Collision Damages Two Cars

Two cars sustained major damage when they collided at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday on 190th Street near Kornblum Avenue.

Heading west on 190th Street was a car driven by Jane Kay Bently, 50, of 2020 W. El Segundo Blvd., Gardena. Mrs. Bently told police she couldn't stop in time to avoid ramming the rear end of a vehicle driven by Barbara Ann Jones, 22, of Inglewood. Miss Jones had stopped for a red light.

Mrs. Bently received a laceration on her left forearm. Her passenger, Freddie Lindsors, 52, of 2020 W. El Segundo Blvd., Apt. 2, suffered a leg abrasion and a lip laceration.

Police recommended that Mrs. Bently be cited for speeding.

## Cyclist Hurt In Collision

A 23-year-old motorcyclist was injured Thursday morning when he was involved in a collision on Pacific Coast Highway just east of Hawthorne Boulevard.

Patrick Gary Cahill, 20907 Amie Ave., was treated at Little Company of Mary Hospital. Police said Cahill's motorcycle and a car driven by Anthony J. Gallo, 50, of Torrance, collided about 6:40 a.m.

## Special Meeting Slated On Council Committees

City Councilmen will meet at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday — earlier than usual—in order to decide which of them will be appointed to the various council subcommittees.

The decision to meet earlier followed presentation of a special committee's report outlining a plan to re-establish the committee system. Members of the special committee were Councilmen Orin Johnson, Ken Miller, and Ross Sclarotta.

That the following standing committees be formed:

- Transportation Committee;
  - Financial Committee;
  - Recreation, Culture, and Parks Committee;
  - Police, Fire and Public Safety Committee;
  - Public Works Committee;
  - Civil Service Committee; and
  - Community Affairs and Development Committee.
- The special committee also

recommended that the committees be reorganized, with new chairmen appointed, following each municipal election.

Selection of committee members and chairmen will reflect both seniority and number of votes won in municipal elections. The mayor shall have first choice of a committee chairmanship, followed by Councilmen Jay Beasley, Miller, Sclarotta, Donald E. Wilson, William Uerkwitz, and Johnson.

## Burglars Take Cash, Jewelry

Jewelry valued at more than \$900 was taken from a North Torrance home Thursday by burglars who apparently crawled through a "doggie door" to gain entry to the home.

The theft was reported by Delmer Gardner, 39, of 2044 W. 171st St., about 6 p.m. He said it occurred between 11:15 a.m. and 3 p.m.

In addition to the jewelry, burglars also took \$192 in cash and a camera. The total loss was put at \$1,227.50.

A neighbor reported seeing two young boys in the vicinity of the house.