

# Building Permits Top \$6 Million in April

Torrance

## Press-Herald

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**BRIGHTENS DAY** . . . Torrance Princess Jenell Shawgo brightens the day with a smile for Marine S/Sgt. Gerald Larson of Sacramento. Sargeant Larson is convalescing at the Long Beach Naval Hospital from wounds received in Vietnam. Miss Shawgo chatted with the sergeant during a visit to the hospital to tell Marines about the 10th annual Armed Forces Day Parade in Torrance. Marine Corps units will be well represented, she told Larson.

## Torrance Girls Get Close Look at War

An afternoon at the Naval Hospital in Long Beach visiting Vietnam wounded servicemen was a sobering experience for three Torrance girls.

Miss Torrance, Susan Hawk, and Princesses Etta Cumiford and Jenell Shawgo have been touring military installations during the past six weeks to promote the nation's largest civic-sponsored Armed Forces Day celebration and parade to be held in Torrance next Friday and Saturday.

Grand Marshal of the parade is five-star General of the

Army Omar N. Bradley, highest ranking living military personality in the nation. The parade is dedicated this year to the memory of Dwight David Eisenhower. The two-day observance is co-sponsored by the city of Torrance and the Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce.

**THEIR HOSPITAL** visit caused Susan, Etta, and Jenell to each reflect more deeply the meaning of Armed Forces Day. President Richard Nixon has so designated this day for all Americans "to pause to ac-

knowledge their debt to the sacrifices of the men and women of the Armed Forces . . . a debt that never can be fully repaid."

The girls from Torrance saw the results of grim episodes in Vietnam experienced by a group of young men who either freely chose or responsibly accepted military duty.

Marine Lance Cpl. Rodney Todd from Hawthorne walked (See MARINES, Page A-2)

## New Apartment Units Set Pace In Construction

Building permits valued at more than \$6 million were issued by the city of Torrance during April, according to a report released this week by John J. McKinnon, superintendent of building and safety.

Total value of all building begun here in April was placed at \$6,142,760. The monthly total brings to more than \$15 million the value of new construction started in the city since Jan. 1.

The April, 1969, figures were about 40 per cent higher than those for the same month in 1968 when only \$3.8 million in new permits was recorded.

The four-month total was \$12.1 million in 1968, the report noted.

**NEARLY** 90 per cent of the April total provided for new apartment units — a total of 477 units to be built under 12 permits. Only four single-family homes were included in the totals.

Actual value of the 477 apartment units was placed at \$5,601,990 — with the largest single permit being issued to Blair Worthy Investments for a 97-unit complex at 3450 Maricopa St.

The permit was valued at \$1,154,395.

**OTHER** major permits were issued to Dojiri Haruichi for a 53-unit complex at 17622 Van Ness Ave. (\$696,200), Garnet Ltd. for a 51-unit building at 3707 Garnet St. (\$842,800), K. D. Kechner for a 36-unit building at 23104 Samuel St. (\$370,950), James Chinn for a 44-unit complex at 20810 Amie

Ave. (\$261,150), and S. N. Halikis for a 22-unit apartment building at 3530 Emerald St. (\$245,990).

Among other permits issued during the month was one for the Torrance Evangelical Church, 4450 Emerald St. The permit, valued at \$31,700, was for a new church and Sunday school.

**IN ADDITION**, the city of Torrance received seven permits for the demolition of homes and one beer bar in the Meadow Park Redevelopment Project area.

Since the first of the year, a total of 678 new apartment units have been started in the city with a combined value of more than \$8.2 million. Only 127 new single-family homes have been started in the same period.

## Victim of Refinery Fire Dies

A disastrous oil refinery explosion which occurred last March 27 claimed its second victim early Monday.

Stephen L. Yancy, 51, of 20813 Madrona Ave., died at Little Company of Mary Hospital about 2 a.m. Monday. Yancy has been hospitalized since the explosion.

A Long Beach man, 47-year-old (See VICTIM, Page A-2)



**PRESENT CHECK** . . . Joseph A. Metzger (right), president of the Advisory Board of Little Company of Mary Hospital, presents a check for \$5,000 to Sister M. Magdalen, hospital administrator. The funds will be used for construction and renovation of sections of the hospital now under way, according to the administrator. The project, now one-third completed, will cost a total of \$1.5 million and will add 44,000 square feet of space to the hospital.

## 'Grand Concert' To End Festival

The May Festival of the Arts will conclude tomorrow at 8 p.m. when the South Bay-Torrance Civic Symphony presents its Grand Concert at Torrance High School auditorium. Admission is free.

Featured guests will be composer-conductor Dr. William Grant Still and pianist Susan Lees.

The Grand Concert culminates the 2½-week May Festival, presented annually by the Symphony with the assistance of the Torrance Recreation Department. The Festival is a showcase for local artists, highlighted by an art exhibit at Joslyn Center, movies on art, auditions for young artists, and a youth concert.

**AT TOMORROW'S** event, Dr. Still will conduct his composition "Old California," a symphonic poem written to celebrate the 160th birthday of the city of Los Angeles. This symphony, which has been performed all over the world, depicts the American Indian and his tribal dances, the colorful Spanish era, and finally a merging of the various groups into modern culture of peace and plenty.

Often called the Dean of American Negro Composers, Dr. Still has enjoyed a distinguished career spanning almost a half century. Dr. Still was the first Negro to conduct a major symphony orchestra in the United States as well as in the deep South. He has won honors, commissions, and four

honorary degrees from leading American universities.

**THE SYMPHONY** Orchestra will also play the First Symphony by Bizet, the Suite of Dances by Khatchaturian, Overture to Rosamunda by Schubert, and March Slav by (See CONCERT, Page A-2)

## Police Explain Role in Schools

How closely do Torrance schools work with the police department?

Very closely, according to Sgt. Mel Hone and Officer Don Hartel of the Torrance Police Department. The two officers were guest speakers at a luncheon meeting of the Educational Council of Torrance Monday at the Torrance Recreation Center.

Appearing with them was Robert Ellsworth, child welfare and attendance officer for the Torrance Unified School District, who serves as the district's liaison officer to the police department, probation department, and welfare department.

**TOPIC** of the program was "Cooperative Education — The Schools and the Police."

Three-quarters of all cases involving juveniles are resolved on an informal basis,

## Change In Zone Delayed

Plans for a plush, 500-unit apartment complex on Madrona Avenue north of Torrance Boulevard—the site of a major pig farm until recent years—was shot down for six months by the City Council last night as homeowners of the area protested the planned development.

Mayor Isen, whose vote decided for the delay, said the six-month postponement would permit representatives of Torrance Unified School District to consider establishment of a school site in the area—one of the points raised by area residents.

**SPOKESMEN** for Boise Cascade, the firm that recently acquired the R. A. Watt Co., asked for the delay when it appeared that the project may be threatened by protests.

Councilmen Ken Miller, Ross A. Sciarrotta Jr., and Donald Wilson opposed the delay, and pressed for an immediate decision. Councilmen J. A. Beasley, Orin Johnson, and William Uerkwitz favored the delay, and Mayor Isen was put in the position of deciding.

Speaking against the 500-unit apartment project was Joe Alerio, 20425 Madison Ave., president of the Delthorne Homeowners Association.

**OPPOSITION** from the area homeowners came principally on the claim that children were forced to attend Madrona School, south of Torrance Boulevard, and thus had to cross major streets to reach school.

The addition of the huge apartment project would complicate the school attendance problems, Alerio told councilmen.

Others, including the League of Women Voters, opposed the plan on the ground that the area had no public park facilities.

## To Aid Teacher

### Benefit Show Slated Friday

Talented local performers will be presenting a benefit variety show Friday to help defray medical expenses for a young Torrance teacher who recently underwent kidney transplant surgery.

The performance will begin at 8 p.m. in the Torrance High School Auditorium.

Object of the benefit is Miss Sandy Van Steenburgen, a third grade teacher at Lincoln Elementary School, who had both kidneys removed in January. Until she received a transplant kidney from her mother April 18, Miss Van Steenburgen was kept alive by an artificial kidney machine at a cost of \$27,000.

**THE BENEFIT** is sponsored by "Friends of Sandy," a group of Lincoln School parents led by Mrs. Paul Williams, chairman. Tickets at \$1.75 for adults and \$1 for students may be reserved by calling Mrs. Williams at 327-9465. Tickets also may be purchased at the door.

Those who wish to make con-

tributions to the medical fund may send them to P.O. Box 425, Gardena, Calif.

A group of 20 acts has been lined up for the Friday performance. Master of ceremonies for the festivities will be Ira Cook, KMPC disc jockey.

**SINCE** January, the parents committee — with the help of their children — has sold candy, cookies and other items for the Sandy Van Steenburgen Fund. So far, the receipts have totaled \$900.

Reports from the Boston hospital where Miss Van Steenburgen is recuperating indicate that the patient is making slow progress. The kidney did not function at first and Miss Van Steenburgen was back on the kidney machine for awhile. But the kidney is now functioning better each day.

The blond schoolteacher is still unaware that her West Coast friends are staging this benefit, but she will be presented with a scrapbook commemorating the benefit events. The performance will also be taped and sent to her.



**TO CONDUCT** . . . Composer Dr. William Grant Still (right) displays his new key to the city of Torrance to Jan Darian (left), president of the South Bay Civic Symphony board, and Miss Elyse Aehle, symphony conductor. Dr. Still will conduct his composition "Old California" at the symphony's Grand Concert Thursday, May 15. The concert will culminate the May Festival of Arts. Dr. Still received his key to the city at the Festival's opening banquet at Joslyn Center. The Festival of Arts is an annual event presented by the South Bay Civic Symphony with the support of the Torrance Recreation Department. (Press-Herald Photo)