

Early Completion of Renewal Area Sought

Torrance

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MAYOR HONORED . . . Mayor Albert Isen was honored for 14 years of service to Torrance Monday evening as several hundred persons gathered at the Latitude 20 Restaurant. Among the numerous presentations made to Isen during the evening were one from Los Angeles County (top), made by Arlyn Webber (left), deputy to Supervisor Kenneth Hahn, and Paul Moore, deputy to Supervisor Burton Chace. A resolution of the State Legislature was presented to the mayor by Mrs. L. E. Townsend, wife of Assemblyman L. E. (Larry) Townsend (D-Torrance). The "Appreciation Night" event was hosted by the Torrance Jaycees. (Press-Herald Photos)

Local Leaders Speak

Support Asked for School Tax Reform

Taxpayers of the Torrance Unified School District today were urged to contact their legislators requesting passage of a \$372 million increase in state financial support as the best way this year to avert a financial crisis in many local schools.

"Specifically," said Dr. J. H. Hull, superintendent, and Mrs. Kenneth Watts, president

of the Board of Education, "we are urging support of AB 409 as the only realistic school finance measure and the most effective property tax relief the Legislature could adopt this year. It was developed by those in California who know the problem best."

Dr. Hull stressed that many local school districts, including the Torrance Unified School District, face serious financial problems next year due to lack of adequate state support coupled with a so-called taxpayers revolt.

increased its support on the average to 36.5 per cent, down 11 per cent.

"DURING the current fiscal year, the state's share of school support will drop below the 36 per cent mark," Mrs. Watts declared. "Although education is legally a state function, the state of California

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Man Takes Hamburger And \$100

A carry-out restaurant at 22243 Palos Verdes Blvd. was held up Monday night to the tune of \$100.

A 16-year-old clerk at the restaurant told police a man about 38 entered the shop and ordered a hamburger. When the clerk handed him the hamburger, the suspect pulled a revolver and said, "Don't say nothing. Give me all your dollar bills."

The suspect was reportedly wearing white pants and a dark blue jacket.

IN THE Torrance district, as in others throughout the state, the schools are threatened with serious educational cutbacks if they do not get more money, he added.

The biggest problem, according to Mrs. Watts, is that the state has not kept pace with either the demands for improved educational services or rising costs due to inflation.

Fourteen years ago, local taxpayers on the average paid 49.1 per cent of the cost of public schools and the state paid 47.5 per cent in a "near partnership." In 1967-68, local taxpayers had increased their share to 55.5 per cent, up 6.4 per cent, while the state de-

More than 550 American flags will fly Friday at Green Hills Memorial Park in San Pedro, in honor of the dead of our wars.

Memorial Day ceremonies at Green Hills will honor those who have fallen in battle and will also serve to launch a gift-giving project for men now fighting in Vietnam.

The program, which begins at 10 a.m. at Green Hills, 27501 S. Western Ave., will open with music by the Ft. MacArthur band under the direction of Chief Warrant Officer C. W. Courtway and flag raising cer-

Chamber Urges City to Speed Project Work

Development of plans to encourage maximum participation in the Meadow Park Redevelopment Project by the private businessmen here has been urged by the Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce.

Directors of the Chamber, acting on a report from the Industrial Development Committee, urged the city to continue to employ a paid staff to serve as general manager and agents for the sale and development of the property.

But, the Chamber directors added, plans should be made to allow a developer — or several developers — to purchase the property by bid and then develop the area according to a precise plan.

THE CHAMBER also suggested that the city encourage Realtors in the area to participate in the sale of property by establishing a system for payment of "a commission based on normal commission rates."

The Chamber's action was reported in a letter to the Torrance City Council. The letter was signed by J. Walker Owens, executive vice president of the Chamber.

Under plans developed for the Meadow Park project, the city will — through its redevelopment agency — acquire all the land in the 55-acre tract and then develop industrial and commercial lots at least one acre in size. Commercial developments would front along Hawthorne Boulevard, while the remainder of the property would be developed as an industrial park.

SOME SITES within the project area would have direct access to runways at adjacent Torrance Municipal Airport.

The city has reported inquiries from firms throughout the nation on the availability of land within the project area.

Directors of the Chamber expressed the opinion that a private developer would be unable to completely develop the 55-acre area "because of the variety of properties and suggested sizes of parcels possibly being offered for sale."

The Chamber board also noted government regulations which require that all property in the project area be sold at a

fair market value, adding such a requirement probably would "preclude any single developer taking over the total development of the acreage."

SPEAKING for Chamber directors, Owens said the board has recommended that the en-

(See CHAMBER, Page A-2)

Torrance Leads in Building

Torrance continues to set a fast pace for 13 area cities in new construction, according to a report issued today by the Redondo Beach Chamber of Commerce.

Morgan C. Moore Jr., president-elect of the Chamber, said the 13 cities have issued building permits for \$51.2 million in new construction during the January-April period this year.

That represents an increase of \$17.7 million over the same four months a year ago, he added.

TORRANCE, which recorded a four-month total of \$15 million, is nearly \$6 million ahead of second-place El Segundo, which issued permits for nearly \$9.2 million during the four months.

Redondo Beach, with \$6,573,362, and Carson, with \$6,374,214, follow. Others are Gardena (\$3,195,527), Inglewood (\$2,875,818), Manhattan Beach (\$2,828,729), Palos Verdes Estates (\$2,175,321), Hermosa Beach (\$1,066,487), Lawndale (\$913,950), Lomita (\$426,478), Rolling Hills (\$321,225), and Rolling Hills Estates (\$268,050).

FIGURES for the city of Hawthorne were not available, Moore said.

Only two of the area cities reported totals behind those for the same period in 1968. They were Lomita, which dropped more than \$1.2 million, and Rolling Hills Estates, which reported nearly \$90,000 under the 1968 totals.

Memorial Day Services Slated

More than 550 American flags will fly Friday at Green Hills Memorial Park in San Pedro, in honor of the dead of our wars.

Memorial Day ceremonies at Green Hills will honor those who have fallen in battle and will also serve to launch a gift-giving project for men now fighting in Vietnam.

The program, which begins at 10 a.m. at Green Hills, 27501 S. Western Ave., will open with music by the Ft. MacArthur band under the direction of Chief Warrant Officer C. W. Courtway and flag raising cer-

emonies conducted by

Seaman 2nd Class Thomas Dorris, Airman Tom Haydon, and Marine Sgt. Robert Reed.

ANNOUNCEMENT of the "Summer Santa" project will be made by Susie Schultz, president of the Harbor Area Junior Volunteers of the USO.

The USO group is organizing the project to collect personal gifts for men on the front lines in Vietnam.

Green Hills will be collection headquarters for the gifts which will be accepted for shipment to Vietnam from Me-

morial Day through July 4.

The gifts will consist of such personal items as cigarettes, foot powder, toothpaste, tooth brushes, and combs, as well as snack foods — small cans of fruit, dried fruit, popcorn and packaged drinks.

"AREA service, fraternal, civic, church and school groups are being asked to join the effort to make the Summer Santa project a success," according to Richard Hinchliff of Green Hills, coordinator for the gift project.

Following announcement of



SCHOLARSHIP . . . William K. Davis, right, is shown receiving a \$3,000 scholarship from Armco Steel's works manager, Clint Cooke. Davis, who is a 17-year old North High senior, has been nominated for "Best in the School" awards in foreign language, English, science, mathematics, and service to the school. He is also senior class vice-president. Bill spent last summer living with a family in Turkey under the auspices of the American Field Service program.

To Upgrade Program Middle School Plan Approved

A new "middle school" program will upgrade the quality of education for seventh and eighth graders at selected Torrance elementary schools, according to Dr. Edward J. Richardson, curriculum consultant with the local school district.

Slated to begin in the fall, the pilot program will establish Magruder Elementary School as the middle school serving sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students who were formerly assigned to Edison, Perry, and Madison Elementary Schools.

Madison school will be phased out and Edison and Perry Schools will become K-5 (kindergarten through fifth grade) institutions.

"ONE OF the main purposes

of the middle school program is to provide equal educational opportunities to all students," Dr. Richardson underlined.

He said the three schools are so small that they cannot offer the comprehensive departmentalized program available at larger schools. Dr. Richardson stated that seventh and eighth graders at the schools must travel by bus each day to centers where they can study such subjects as home economics and shop. Under the middle school system, the students will be able to study these subjects on their home campus, saving the time wasted in transit each day.

Dr. Richardson also stated that the students will have higher quality instruction in other subjects at Magruder Middle School because teachers will no longer have to "double-up" and teach subjects in which they have not specialized.

AT MAGRUDER, he said, teachers will instruct classes only in their major or minor fields of study. The heavier concentration of seventh and eighth grade students at the school will make this departmentalization possible.

Dr. Richardson added that the new plan will make it easier to hire and retain competent teachers. He attributed this to the fact that teachers prefer to teach their specialty subjects.

Another asset of the middle school program is that it may offer some sort of advanced

(See SCHOOL, Page A-2)

Nollac To File Appeal

Torrance Councilmen last night upheld the dismissal of Walter M. Nollac as the city's director of public works.

Nollac, who was present in the council chambers to hear the terse announcement, immediately said he would appeal the decision "within 30 days."

Nollac's only recourse at this point is to appeal to the courts.

MAYOR Albert Isen made the announcement at the beginning of last night's regular meeting. That session followed a closed meeting of councilmen at which the Nollac matter reportedly was discussed.

The vote was 7-0 "that the findings (of the Civil Service Commission) be sustained and affirmed."

Nollac was convicted of three counts of inefficiency and failure to perform his duties following a three-month hearing before the Civil Service Commission.

THE FORMER city aide was suspended from his post last Dec. 16 by City Manager Edward J. Ferraro after a brief listing 17 charges of misconduct and incompetence was filed by Ferraro.

Nollac was not found guilty of any misconduct or incompetence, but was judged guilty of "inefficiency and failure to perform duties" by the commission. The commission, nevertheless, recommended his dismissal and Ferraro immediately fired Nollac.

Utility Tax Wins Approval

A 5 per cent tax on utilities—including water—was adopted by Torrance councilmen last night. The new tax is expected to become effective next July 1.

Approval of the new tax came on a 6-1 vote with Mayor Albert Isen dissenting. Isen disapproved of the tax on water.

In an earlier move, councilmen rejected a 4 per cent tax with Isen and Councilman William J. Uerkwitz voting in the minority.

ADOPTION of the tax followed a study of the plan by a special council committee. The 5 per cent tax had previously been approved by the council, but final approval had been delayed for the study.

City officials, noting the state legislature is considering a statewide utility tax, have indicated that charter cities which have the tax in effect prior to legislative action may be able to retain more funds for local purposes.