

Principal Quits At First Rift In Schools Here

In the face of a storm of protests which created the first "incident" in the Torrance City School District's short existence, the resignation of Albert R. Beardsley as principal of Torrance Elementary School was accepted by the Board of Education Tuesday night.

Albert N. Posner, principal of Fern Avenue School was given the post as temporary principal pending selection of a permanent administrator for the school.

Nearly 50 citizens who virtually stormed the meeting and forced the Board to move from its regular meeting place in the Administration building at 2098 Torrance blvd. to the auditorium of Torrance elementary school demanded to know "why" Beardsley had resigned.

Some went away from the meeting unsatisfied with the Board's explanation that it did not desire to air the reasons, while others reassured the Board of their confidence in its judgment.

However, it was apparent from remarks made both by the members of the Board and those in the audience that Beardsley and Superintendent of Schools J. Heinrich Hull did not agree on policies in administration of Torrance Elementary School and that the Board was standing firm behind the superintendent.

Accusing Hull of being openly antagonistic, Mrs. Martha Plank declared that Beardsley "didn't have a chance" to do his job as principal of the school.

Dr. Howard A. Wood, president of the Board, declared that the Board had been "watching the situation and is following through."

This brought a question from Kenneth Beight: "What is the situation?"

Dr. Wood replied that the Board felt it advisable to accept Beardsley's resignation "for the good of the schools."

At the request of Dr. Wood the following statement of the Board was read:

"The Board of Education of the Torrance City schools, in full cognizance of its responsibility to the community, has made it a point for its members collectively and individually.

(Continued on Page 5-A)



RESIGNS . . . Principal A. R. Beardsley, of Torrance Elementary School, has resigned his position, this first break in Torrance City School System's program causing a storm of protest at the Board of Education meeting on Tuesday night.

New West Basin Water District Is Proclaimed

The Board of Supervisors at its Tuesday meeting canvassed the votes cast in the West Basin Municipal Water District election, held on Nov. 15, and declared the total vote as being 14,455, resulting in 11,120 votes for the creation of the district, and 1,321 against the proposition.

Chairman Darby stated that as a result of this official canvass, the Board of Supervisors took specific action, declaring the territory within the proposed boundaries duly organized as a municipal water district under the name of West Basin Municipal Water District.

Weather Report

TEMPERATURE		
Nov. 28	Max.	Min.
28	71	40
29	70	40
30	71	44
1	72	50
2	63	37
PRECIPITATION		
Nov. 28	Storm	Total (Season)
Dec. 1	Trace	.22
Dec. 1	.05	.27

PATRONS ALONG NEW BUS LINE APPLAUD SERVICE

The new Long Beach-North Torrance-Hawthorne service of Torrance Municipal Bus Lines is experiencing immediate popularity and has won acclaim all along the route, according to William Murphy, manager of the bus line.

"We are providing a much-needed service," Murphy said, "and patrons on each of the routes have told us of their appreciation for the new line."

The service started Monday, Dec. 1, and serves Carson street, Avalon boulevard or Alameda boulevard (alternate routes), Sepulveda boulevard, 101 highway and Pacific avenue, to 3rd street in Long Beach, and parts of

ASK \$950,000 FOR SCHOOL HOUSES HERE

Outlining recommendations for expansion of the Torrance City school system, Superintendent J. Heinrich Hull told Board members Tuesday night that he recommends a bond issue of \$950,000 for construction of at least five additional school buildings.

Basing his figures on the home building program under way in the various sections of the city, Hull reported that within two years the schools will have an enrollment of 4,000 students, pointing out that the present facilities are at near capacity with 2,600. The report assumes that the high school would become part of the city schools through unification of the district.

The additional buildings would be constructed close to the various developments in order to alleviate the transportation problem, Hull said. In the Hollywood Riviera where 500 new houses are under construction or completed, a school with seven classrooms, to house kindergarten and the first six grades, is contemplated at a cost of \$162,640.

For the 180 houses in Torrance Manor, another seven-

(Continued on Page 4-A)

Police On Trail Of 'Screwdriver' Burglar Here

Apprehension of a "screwdriver" burglar is expected shortly, according to Torrance police investigating four burglaries believed to have been committed by the same person.

The "screwdriver" thief for whom police are searching is believed to be a juvenile because of footprints found at the scenes of the house-breakings and because of the articles taken.

In each of the four burglaries entry was effected in the same manner. A screwdriver was used to break the screen of a rear bedroom window at each location, enabling the thief to release the window catch and crawl into the house.

The "screwdriver" robber made his first appearance Sunday night at the home of Raymond Tucker, 1217 Madrid ave., between 6 and 9 p.m. The only article reported missing was a woman's ruby ring. Striking three times Tuesday night, the culprit broke into the house of Mrs. P. V. Wooster, 2468 Carson st., some time between 5:30 and 9 p.m. Mrs. Wooster reported that many articles were strewn around but the only things missing were eight packages of cigarettes.

Between 7 and 11 p.m. the same night, L. D. Weitz, 1408

(Continued on Page 5-A)

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RECORD SAFETY PERFORMANCE . . . Employees of the Torrance Plant of Columbia Steel Company, a United States Steel subsidiary, are proud possessors today of the highest award to be granted by the National Safety Council as a result of completing 1,811,088 man hours without a disabling injury. The award in the form of a plaque reading "Distinguished Service for Safety" and a flag bearing the green cross of safety was presented Nov. 25. The above photo shows members of the Joint Management-Union Safety Committee and officials who attended the ceremonies. They are, left to right: Frank W. Smith; C. P. Monaghan; Bob Ortega; A. V. Berry; O. A. Kresse, general superintendent of the Torrance plant; Alex McJannet; Colonel F. C. Lynch, secretary-manager of the Greater Los Angeles Chapter of the National Safety Council; L. C. Burger, safety engineer, Torrance Plant; Harlow Dodson, assistant general superintendent of the Torrance plant; and Frank Scheliga. At the right is a reproduction of the certificate.

Torrance Merchants In Solid Front On New Clerks' Contract

Presenting a solid front in their dealings with the Retail Clerks Union No. 905 operating in the Harbor area under the direction of Haskell Tidwell, executive secretary, Torrance merchants now under contract with the Union joined this week with members of the San Pedro Business Men, Associated, in notifying the Union of their intention to terminate the current contracts on Jan. 30, 1948.

Yule Decoration Begun In Main Shopping Area

The first step towards installation of Christmas street decorations in Torrance was accomplished yesterday with wires being strung from light poles by Joe Webb, city electrician, aided by Dale Riley and a crew of workers.

The decorations, to feature colored lights, Santa Claus, stars, and other typical Yuletide emblems, will be placed along Sartori, Marcelina, and El Prado avenues, and Torrance boulevard, according to Harry Abramson of National Home Appliance Co. and Sam Levy of Sam Levy's Department Store, committeemen in charge of the project sponsored by the Retail Merchants' Division of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce.

When completed, the decorations will give the downtown area a bright holiday appearance. The sum of more than \$2,000 needed to decorate the streets of the shopping district was provided by Torrance merchants.

PERMIT ISSUED FOR NEW CATHOLIC CHURCH HERE

Establishment of a third Catholic church in Torrance was begun this week when the Catholic Archdiocese of Los Angeles took out a building permit to remodel the building at 4758 Redondo Beach blvd. into a church.

The other two Catholic churches are Church of the Nativity, 1447 Engracia ave., the Rev. Fr. P. J. McGuinness pastor, and St. Joseph's church, Pueblo, the Rev. Fr. Cyril Wood pastor.

The church permit was one of 21 issued during the past week by the city engineer's office. Permits were valued at \$118,455 raising the total for the year to yesterday, to \$6,841,848.

During the month of November 97 permits valued at \$374,995 were issued, bringing the official building in Torrance for the first 11 months of 1947 to \$6,493,793,793 on 1,158 permits. California - Nevada - Proper-

BLANKET ASSESSMENT GAINS, SOME 150 PERCENT, BRING STORM OF PROTESTS HERE

The present system of assessing property and of holding equalization hearings without giving notice to taxpayers of the tax value of their property came in for bitter attack by a group of Torrance taxpayers as they discovered that assessments on some Torrance commercial and unimproved property had been increased this year as much as 150 percent.

Represented and accompanied by C. T. Rippey, attorney, who himself criticized the equalization system, Jack Koeh and Sam Levy called on County Assessor John R. Quinn to protest blanket raises of assessments without notice, a procedure which is costing some Torrance taxpayers many thousands of dollars this year.

The land on which Koeh's Star Furniture Company is located at Post and Sartori avenues, was increased 150 percent in assessed valuation, from \$9,750 to \$25,500, by the Assessor this year. The building was increased nearly 50 percent, from \$12,200 to \$17,625 in assessed valuation.

Similar instances were cited by Levy, Rippey and other property owners.

Nothing can be done about it this year, Rippey said, since they did not appear before the Board of Supervisors sitting as a Board of Equalization to protest the increase in assessment. The same goes for Rippey himself, for Levy and many others experiencing similar "blanket" increases. However, the Assessor has promised to send a man to Torrance immediately to recheck valuations, leases and rentals, and make adjustments and corrections necessary.

"We trust the judgment of the Assessor," Koeh said, "and do not appear to protest assessments. Now, it is costing me nearly \$4,000 this year on my Torrance property because I did not go to the Board of Equalization meeting and pro-

AIRPORT COST TO CITY MORE THAN INCOME

Commissions paid to E. Y. Tarkington to manage Torrance Municipal airport for the month of November amounted to \$757.50, with the City paying an additional \$1,173.00 for insurance, according to the account on file in the City Clerk's office.

The income for November was \$1,104.02, and total expense including commissions and the insurance is \$1,937.25.

Since the airport was taken over by Tarkington on his 85 percent commission basis, in June, a total accumulative income of \$5,601.07 has been recorded. Expenses have been \$4,068.01, of which amount \$3,060.50 has been in commissions paid to Tarkington. The city has received the balance of \$2,127.44, out of which the insurance payment, power bills and other expenses have been paid, the records in the City Hall show.

A definite program for the improvement of the municipal airport is expected to grow out of a meeting, tentatively scheduled for Dec. 10 between the City Council, Tarkington, airport manager and Col. William Fox of Los Angeles.

Fox is director of the Regional Planning Commission for Los Angeles County, and one of the owners of Torrance Community airport, at Redondo Beach blvd. and Prairie ave. A full colonel in the Army Air Forces during World War II, Fox is an authority on problems of airport operation. He also heads the county's airport board, negotiating for several surplus airports and their operation. The county has expressed a desire to take over the Torrance airport if the City of Torrance is not able to successfully operate the former Army field built on property purchased from the Weston company on 101 highway.

The time for appealing the recent Superior Court decision denying the claims of a group of Lomita men to the airport on the basis of a purported lease and business arrangement to operate the airport, made with the now inactivated Third Group of the Civil Air Patrol, expires Saturday, and no further legal action is anticipated by the City.

However, the City has held up its plan for the development of the field in accordance with the right-of-entry and interim

(Continued on Page 5-A)

'Copter Mail Starts Jan. 10

Jan. 10 is the date for the tentative inauguration of helicopter mail service between Torrance and Los Angeles, according to Clarence Bellin, president of Los Angeles Airways, which has been negotiating the contract.

Location of the landing places for the helicopters will be determined after a survey which Bellin plans to make in the Harbor area during the next two weeks to locate sites in which his crafts can land and take off.

The service will be from Los Angeles airport and will include, beside Torrance, neighboring communities such as Wilmington, San Pedro, Long Beach, Santa Ana, Orange, Anaheim, Fullerton, Norwalk, Downey and Compton.

CHEST DRIVE HERE IS WITHIN SIGHT OF GOAL

Increased work on the part of Torrance volunteers last week brought the local Community Chest contributions to \$9328, or 64 per cent of the goal of \$14,525, according to Sam Levy, chairman. Levy said that gifts to date have been made by 1308 persons or approximately half of the expected contributions here.

B. T. Whitney, vice chairman of Special Gifts who is also working with colonels, Paul Diamond and William Zoeller in the business divisions said, "It will take the teamwork of everyone in the 35 cities and towns in the Chest to make this campaign a success. I do not believe that the people of Torrance will allow themselves to be on a losing team when that loss means a reduction of Chest youth character building programs, health and hospital care, and family and veterans guidance programs."

The following types of services were performed in the Torrance area during the year 1946-47: Veteran service, 19,89 cases; family case-work 279; child-welfare 58; hospital and

Pay-Less Drugs Grand Opening Slated Today

Pay-Less Drugs this week is staging the grand opening of the new Torrance store, 1289 Sartori avenue, in a three-day bargain event, details of which are given in a full page advertisement on 6-B of this issue.

Occupying the attractive store building formerly used by Owl-Sontag, the Pay-Less organization has stocked a complete line of drug store merchandise and sundries. Specially featured merchandise at cut-rate prices will prevail during the three-day grand opening event, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, according to Jack Osherenko, manager of the local store.

The Pay-Less Drugs is owned and operated by Nathan Sontag and David Albert, Jr. The organization now has two thriving units in San Pedro. A fourth unit in the chain will be opened about Jan. 1, in Wilmington, Albert states.

Manager Osherenko, of the Torrance store, operated the R & B and O.K. drug stores in San Pedro for 12 years and has a wide reputation for aggressive merchandising. He is a registered pharmacist.

TORRANCE WITHOUT CITY ATTORNEY THIRD WEEK

The City of Torrance has entered its third week without a City Attorney. Otto B. Willett having been appointed as City Judge on Nov. 13 to succeed Judge John A. Shidler, named Justice of the Peace of the Southwest Township nearly a month ago.

Judge Willett told the City Council the night he was appointed City Judge that he could not hold both offices, under provisions of the City Charter.

The City Charter reads that the "City Attorney shall be an elector of the City, admitted to practice before the Supreme Court of the State of California, and shall have been in active practice in said state for at least three years next preceding his appointment."

To be an elector of the City, the person must have resided here 30 days, in the County for 90 days and in the State 1 year. However, Civil Service regulations require that candidates must be residents of the City

for one year prior to application for the job. Similar provisions are provided for that of City Judge.

Willett has been performing functions as an attorney for the City Council as requested, but the actual appointment expected last Tuesday failed to materialize.

It is understood that the local attorneys who qualify for appointment of City Attorney are few, and include W. E. Kalb, Fleish, Albert Isen, Charles Mitschrich and C. T. Rippey. There are no names on the Civil Service list, it was said, and the appointment can be made temporarily subject to tests to be called.