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EL CAMINO STUDIES PARK . . . Serious consideration now is being given Torrance Ball Park as the home field for El Camino Warriors grid team next year. Studying plans for the potential use of the well-known ball park, now used by El Camino for baseball, are officials shown above, left to right: Forrest G. Murdock, president of El Camino College; George W. Stevens, Torrance city administrator; C. G. Arfwedson, business manager of El Camino; and Dale Riley, Torrance city superintendent of recreation. (Torrance Herald photo)

HULL FROWNS ON USE OF CITY PARK FOR NIGHT HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

The prospect that El Camino College might play its home 1948 football games at night in Torrance Ball Park faded yesterday as Superintendent of Schools J. Henrich Hull frowned upon the proposal that Torrance High School enter into an agreement with the city for the use of the park for night high school games.

President Forrest G. Murdock, of El Camino College, and Business Manager Carl Arfwedson, conferred with City Administrator George W. Stevens and Recreation Director Dale Riley at the park Monday regarding installation of bleachers and alteration of lights to accommodate the crowds expected at football games next fall.

It was pointed out that due to the expense involved, the city could not make the necessary improvements to the park, install new showers and locker rooms and bleachers for the single El Camino season. However, it was acknowledged, if the High School should decide to play at the field, financial arrangements could be made which would be worthwhile to the three government agencies, and needed alterations to the field could proceed.

With the decision of Hull not to consider the ball park as a field for high school night football, El Camino officials are said to have dropped any interest in the proposal, since city officials declare they do not desire to alter the park for the single season to accommodate one institution. The cost would run into thousands of dollars.

Hull expressed the opinion that whatever expenditure of school funds is made should be made on school property, and not in a transaction with the city involving use of property not belonging to the school district.

El Camino will seek arrangements elsewhere, and might possibly be able to provide a lighted field at Alondra park, if shower and locker rooms can be arranged.

Meanwhile, Torrance High School is faced with providing

March 4 Last Day To Register For City Vote

Non-registered electors of Torrance must qualify to vote for the coming city and school district elections before midnight, March 4, according to City Clerk A. H. Bartlett, who directs the handling of registration in the entire area for the County Registrar of Voters.

Those who have moved since last registering, or who failed to vote at the last general election and have not since registered, or newcomers who have resided in their precinct for 30 days, in the county for 90 days, and in the state for one year, must qualify in order to vote on April 13, when three members of the City Council, five City Charter amendments, and three members of the Board of Education will be decided.

In order to aid outlying districts, deputies are in the field, according to City Clerk Bartlett. In Southwest Torrance, serving Walteria, Hollywood Riviera and Seaside Ranchos, is George P. Thatcher, at 3908 Newton st., telephone Frontier 7160.

In North Torrance, serving residents of the whole area including the new Torrance Manor tract, is Mrs. Lela F. Gonner, 1802 Prairie ave.

Other deputies are in the field and those who desire may register daily in the City Hall, except Saturday, from 8 a. m. to 5 p. m., it was announced.

COMMUNITY STUDIES BOND PROPOSAL OF \$1,602,000 FOR NEW SCHOOLS IN TORRANCE

There are enough children of pre-school age in Torrance to fill two schools the size of Torrance Elementary School, according to a survey just completed.

Superintendent of Schools J. Henrich Hull said that the survey, made in connection with the proposed bond issue for new schools in Torrance, shows that there are 1489 children of ages one through five.

The pre-school survey, conducted by students of Torrance Junior High School, showed 136 children age five and not in school; 316 age four; 282 age three; 271 age two; 234 age one; and 250 under age one.

The Board of Education, in studying a bond issue for four new school plants and expansion of others, totaling \$1,602,000, is anticipating that enrollment in the elementary school will double in the next two years. Elementary enrollment now is more than 2000.

The building program and bond issue was endorsed in principle by the Torrance Education Advisory Committee last Thursday.

It proposes four 15-unit plants, each costing an estimated \$283,000, for Kettler Knolls, North Torrance, Walteria and the Riviera section; a 10-unit addition to Fern Avenue School, estimated to cost \$178,375; expansion of Perry School to cost \$52,000; expansion at Torrance Elementary to cost \$20,000; practical arts equipment at Torrance High School costing \$75,000; a cafeteria at the high school costing \$75,000; and an administrative unit costing \$75,000. "This is a tentative proposal, and we are getting an exchange of ideas," Superintendent Hull said. "Until the Board takes final action it must be so considered."

In several quarters, the amount is being considered out of proportion to needs of the next two years, and an effort is being made to reduce the request on the contention that 40 units will be sufficient to care for the needs of the district for several years.

The proposal calls for 70 units, the 15-unit plants including eight classrooms, kindergarten, rooms, cafeteria, and other facilities.

In Torrance, the Labor Relations Committee of the Retail Division of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce met with the union on Tuesday afternoon. A special contract was negotiated with the union's secretary, Haskell Tidwell, covering Torrance merchants and clerks, subject to ratification and approval by the retail division members here.

Port Retail Clerks Dispute Before N.L.R.B.

Next step in the dispute between the Retail Clerks Unions (A.F.L.) and the San Pedro Business Men Associated will be up to Washington officials of the National Labor Relations Board, it was stated here today. Eugene Purver, regional board examiner, said the findings of the Los Angeles board have been forwarded to Washington and any action taken will be announced from the national office. He declined to say what the local board had recommended.

The dispute grew out of "unfair labor charges" filed against the union for refusing to meet for collective bargaining and for picketing.

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Construction Starts On Five New Store Units

Ground was broken at the corner of Gramercy avenue and Cravens street this week to make way for the construction of a five-unit store building, to cost approximately \$26,000, according to Dominick Cusolito, of San Pedro, owner.

The building with 5000 square feet of floor space, will have two stores facing on Cravens and three on Gramercy. Being constructed by the firm of Hahn-St. John of Hawthorne, the building will be of modern design and frame-stucco construction.

Other buildings and construction for which permits were issued during the last week included the following:

J. Bates, 1828 Arlington ave., alterations, \$200; J. and P. Reller, 18404 Hawthorne ave., alterations, \$2000; C. M. Severin, 1403 Cota ave., residence at 2018 220th st., \$6750; Virgil Bolles, 16200 Atkinson ave., metal sign at 1750 Carson st.; Firestone Stores, Inc., 2525 Firestone Blvd., install steel doors at 1454 Marcella ave., \$800; W. J. Elliott, 1809 West 228th st., addition, \$3150; Chicago Bridge & Iron Co., 21401 South Madrona, addition to office, \$2000; Esther Engman, 2205 West 203rd st., alterations, \$200; J. E. Kettler, 22800 Narbonne ave., residences at 2756 and 2748 Gramercy ave., \$5880 each; and L. E. Kimmel, 4341 1/2 Prospect ave., Los Angeles, residence at 1620 Hickory ave., \$3800.

Torrance Stores Abandon Friday Night Opening

Abandonment of the plan to keep Torrance retail stores open on Friday evenings was voted this week by the Retail Merchants Division of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, it is announced by Charles V. Jones, president.

"Torrance merchants have agreed to maintain the regular Saturday evening store hours as has been the custom for so many years," Jones added.



PASSES . . . Rev. Frank B. Mechling, retired minister of the First Lutheran Church, passed away in Thornville, Ohio Feb. 19, it was learned early this week.

Catholic School Here Ready For Students Soon

Nativity Parish school, which is being completed for some 300 pupils of elementary grades, is entering final stages of construction, and will be ready for occupancy late in the spring, according to the Rev. P. J. McGuinness, pastor of Nativity Catholic church. The school is being built at Acacia avenue and Carson street.

Father McGuinness also announced that a drive for funds now is under way by members of the Nativity church to build a residence for the faculty of nine Sisters who will staff the Nativity Parish school. The residence will be constructed at 1421 Cota avenue.

The school opening is being anticipated by many parents who now are sending their children to out-of-town parochial schools, or public schools, and who desire to have them instructed in the local parish institution, it was said.

The eight-room school is being constructed at a cost of upwards of \$150,000, and the Sisters home will cost an additional \$40,000, according to reports.

DEADLINE ON CLASSIFIED ADS NOW TUESDAY, 6 P. M.

Effective immediately, the closing time for acceptance of classified advertising scheduled for the current week, will be Tuesdays at 6 p. m.

Both the Torrance Herald office at 1336 El Prado and the Lomita News office at 24702 Narbonne avenue will remain open an hour later than usual, until 6 p. m., each Tuesday for acceptance of classified ads. However, the cooperation of advertisers in submitting copy well in advance of this closing hour will be greatly appreciated. It takes time to do a job of handling and setting copy. Won't you give us an opportunity to render the best of service?

All classified ads are printed in BOTH the Torrance Herald and the Lomita News for ONE charge, and may be telephoned or left at either newspaper office.

TORRANCE HERALD, 1336 El Prado, Phone Torrance 444.

THIS CALLS FOR ACTION

(An Editorial)

From seven to ten homes in the vicinity of Prairie avenue and 182nd street would have gone up in flames early Tuesday morning if it had not been for a favorable wind.

Burning shingles flying from the house at 181st street and Prairie avenue threatened homes as far as 500 feet away. Had the usual wind carried one flaming ember to a nearby row of palms, the whole row of homes along Prairie avenue would have gone up in flames, with possible loss of several lives.

The reason? 1. No water. Only one hydrant in the whole area happened to be in front of the burning home. The pumper was too powerful for the gravity pressure on the nearby tank and caused a vapor lock, rendering the fire engine useless. Portable extinguishers were ineffective.

2. No fire fighting equipment except at the Central station in downtown Torrance. The little 40-gallon trailer stationed in North Torrance is a disgrace to the city, and almost wholly ineffective. It was 12 minutes after the call was placed before equipment reached the fire.

3. Lack of familiarity of residents of outlying areas with fire-fighting methods, and not enough water in a garden hose to make a spray.

Torrance finds itself in the position of locking the barn after the horse is stolen, but it MUST NOT happen again.

Nearly 200 homes have been built in North Torrance in the past six months. They need protection.

The City of Torrance should lose no time in providing a piece of adequate fire-fighting equipment, properly manned, in North Torrance at once.

There should be no delay in laying the water lines in North Torrance for which the people of the district voted and are now being taxed.

We cannot wait on ceremony. This problem demands action.

ARSON SUSPECT HELD AS TORRANCE HOME BURNS

George M. Winchester was booked on suspicion of arson by Torrance police Tuesday night, following his arrest at the scene of his burned-out home at 18101 Prairie avenue.

Torrance Fire Department members answered an alarm telephoned in by neighbors and arrived at the scene of the fire

early Tuesday to find the house completely engulfed in flames, according to Fire Chief J. E. McMaster. Arson was suspected due to the lack of evidence as to the cause of the fire and due to the nature of the blaze, McMaster said.

According to investigating officers, Winchester is said to have made the statement that he would burn down the house before he would grant possession to his wife, recently awarded the dwelling in a property settlement.

Although the house was beyond saving at the time of arrival of equipment from the central fire station, McMaster said, little help was realized from the use of the inadequate water supply and inefficient and antiquated "fire-fighting" apparatus of North Torrance. Only seven pounds of water pressure registered at a nearby hydrant, and the central station engine was unable to draw with very much suction due to the possibility of a vapor lock, McMaster said.

The 40-gallon "little red wagon" of North Torrance was used to little effect, the chief said. Hydrants in that locality are fed from an 800-gallon wooden tank filled by a well at Bailey and Hickman drives. The lines are in such a bad state of repair that a horse recently kicked a hole in one of the pipes, city officials said.

Urging all solicitors in this area to complete their assignments "as early as possible," the chairman pointed out that this year the Red Cross peace-time program will be the greatest in its history.

Internal Revenue Officer In City Hall Next Week

Archie N. Vance, chief field deputy of the Southern California Bureau of Internal Revenue, has announced the opening in Torrance of a temporary revenue office to assist residents with their 1947 Federal income tax returns.

The office will be open in the City Hall from March 1 through March 5 from 8:00 a. m. to 4:30 p. m., Monday through Friday.

"Again this year we will send deputies to numerous industrial organizations, but the number will have to be materially reduced because of our shortage of available working personnel," Vance declared.

Riley Given New Position

City Recreation Director Dale Riley was handed a new job by the City Council Tuesday night, in addition to his other duties and with no increase in pay.

Riley occupies the temporary appointment as license and sales tax inspector for the City of Torrance.

His job is similar to that of an agent of the State Board of Equalization, it was pointed out, although he still has the heavy responsibility of the Recreation Department.

ONLY ONE CANDIDATE ASKS FOR ELECTION AS FINAL DATE OF CITY VOTING DRAWS NEAR

Torrance voters this week were anticipating the filing of final petitions of nomination for office as members of the City Council and Board of Education, in connection with the April 13 municipal election.

Three members of the City Council will be elected, and three members of the Board of Education will be chosen.

In addition, two ordinances and three amendments to the City Charter of Torrance will be acted upon.

As the Torrance Herald went to press last night, only one petition for election to the City Council had been filed, by Nicholas O. Drale, of North Torrance.

However, petitions had been taken out by William E. King Jr.; C. Merton Gilbert, incumbent; J. Hugh Sherfey Jr.; mayor, presumably for B. C. Buxton, incumbent; George W. Downing; R. M. Watson and Vern Babcock, three petitions.

Councilman W. H. Tolson told the Herald yesterday that he was undecided as to his candidacy at the April 13 election. A former mayor, he has served the city in the capacity of mayor and councilman for several terms.

Likewise, Buxton declined to announce his candidacy. For Board of Education, petitions were taken out for Mrs. Grace Wright, vice president of the Board; Carl Steele and George P. Thatcher, incumbents.

Petitions of nomination for all city offices must be filed by March 4, next Wednesday at 12 noon, according to election laws.

In addition to the elections of members of the City Council and Board of Education, three amendments to the City Charter and two ordinances will be ruled upon by the voters on April 13.

Amendment No. 1 to the Charter is that one requiring that elections of members of the Board of Education be held in accordance with the Education code rather than the Elections code, thus removing them from the regular city elections.

Amendment No. 2 provides for the permanent establishment of the City Manager form of government for Torrance.

Amendment No. 3 asks that "draw poker" be eliminated from Torrance by making it illegal to license or conduct the game in Torrance or permit

(Continued on Page 6-A)

CITY WORKERS APPROVE FIVE-STEP SALARY RAISE

While the question of seniority rights of older city employees, particularly in the Police and Fire Departments, still is being pressed, Torrance city workers have voted 86 to 12 in favor of the five-step plan for salary adjustments, adopted by the City Council.

The State Personnel Board, which made a survey recently, upon which the salary plan was based, had ruled that the five-step plan be placed in effect as if all employees were "new." Members of the Police and Fire Departments, with pay scales well under those of Los Angeles and State departments, had urged that they be classified according to length of service, but the Council has denied this consideration.

As a result, beginning patrolmen will get \$242 instead of the present \$210 starting pay, but sergeants and fire engineers and inspectors actually take a beginning "cut." Where they now get \$260, the first step

provides a salary of \$253. The fifth step would place them at \$304, and by point of service most of them would be receiving this figure, had the five-step plan been adopted five years ago. Captains start at \$290 under the new plan, and now get \$280. However, they go to \$349 in five years, and each of them would get the maximum if seniority were recognized at this time.

The plan, which must be adopted in ordinance form, provides for five one-year step-ups in pay.

Approval by a great majority of city workers of the plan prepared the way for its final adoption by the Council, it was said.



THEY LIKE IT . . . City employees voted 82 to 12 in favor of the five-step salary plan by which most city employees get an immediate raise in pay, with annual increases for five years. Here are Sergeant W. H. Haslam, June Whitt and Engineer Gene Walker, Fire Department, casting their ballots in the election. (Torrance Herald photo)

Weather Report

Temperature recordings for the week as noted by the official weather station in Torrance were as follows:

Feb.	Maximum	Minimum
18	65	46
19	60	48
20	66	41
21	66	41
22	66	48
23	66	46
24	71	41