



VICTOR E. BENSTEAD  
Steelworker



WILLYS G. BLOUNT  
Salesman



GEORGE W. DOWNING  
Bookkeeper



C. ED JONES  
Auto Dealer



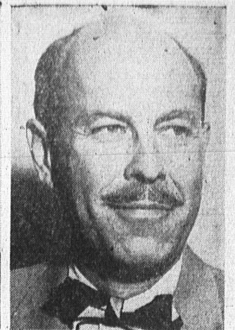
CARMELO S. MIRABELLA  
Boilermaker



ADELBERT J. PATRONSKY  
Salesman



FRANK SCHMIDT  
Electrician



HARVEY B. SPELMAN, JR.  
Salesman

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# TORRANCE HERALD

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BEACH BELLE . . . Kibitzers who watched this photo being made couldn't tell who was enjoying the pre-Easter balmy weather the most—Tolan Eillingworth or the photographer who snapped this seaside scene at Torrance Beach this week. The local beach is becoming more popular each day—obviously.—Herald photo.

## An Editorial

### HERALD Endorsements

Whom to vote for?

Many Torrance residents within the next five days between now and election will attempt to sift the political propaganda to find the answer to that question.

So much has been said by each candidate, and so many charges and counter charges have been hurled during the pre-election campaign, that it is going to be difficult for the average citizen to separate the wheat from the chaff.

The Torrance Herald feels it would be neglecting a community responsibility if it did not make some recommendations to the community and to explain those recommendations.

The publishers and editorial writers feel they could challenge anyone who claimed they knew more about the eight City Council candidates than the members of the Herald producing family. No one has had the association, the contacts, the intimate conversations with all eight candidates as the Herald. For this reason we feel we are well qualified and duty bound to pass on to the public our findings, our opinions, and our recommendations.

After attending and listening to many political huddles, both private and public, it is our opinion that Harvey B. Spelman and Willys G. Blount are deserving of your support.

We recommend that you vote for both these men at the April 11 Municipal election.

The Herald has been "accused" by Spelman's and Blount's opponents of backing these two candidates.

If it is a "crime" to back two men whom we feel are the best of the field, two homeowning, family men, two men who can call their political souls their own, men who are not fettered to big industry, small business, labor, management, nor gambling interests—if it is a "crime" to endorse two such men with these qualifications, then it can be said the Herald is guilty of this "crime."

And if guilty of such a "crime" as to support men in their efforts to bring better government into our city hall—then we recommend that all the voters of Torrance vote for Spelman and Blount and be so "accused,"—of following the dictates of their own consciences.

We can not put our seal of approval on the product which we know will be manufactured once the Drake-Cucci-Benstead political machine begins to function. It has been charged that if Benstead is elected, he will cast his vote with Councilman Nick Drake and Councilman George Powell to make the latter City Manager.

These men have not come forward to deny this. They have proposed this plan before too many people—some of whom would be willing to come forward to so testify.

C. Ed Jones, we feel can not sincerely, in his own heart, have the best interests of the City of Torrance above all other interests. Once unsuccessful in his try for election to the State Assembly we know he is preparing to run again. We admire him for his perseverance. But we can not condone his use of the seat on the City Council as a springboard to other offices. We have information that within 60 days after election there will be a vacancy on the city council.

This vacancy could be created either by the move regarding Councilman Powell or by Jones' resignation in favor of other political offices.

There is also another possibility of a vacancy. If the Drake-Powell-Benstead trio take over control on the City Council, it is certain that Councilman Bob L. Haggard will realize the futility of bucking the tide and will resign.

The other candidates: George Downing, Carmello S. Mirabella, Adelbert J. Patronsky, and Frank Schmidt, are undoubtedly good citizens but we feel they are not serious contenders in the race.

For these reasons we are supporting Blount and Spelman and sincerely hope the citizens of Torrance will do likewise, and

Vote for Willys G. Blount and Harvey B. Spelman for City Council, next Tuesday, April 11.

### Western Avenue Completion Due In Ten Days

The last link in Western avenue from Griffith Park to the sea is now open to through travel on a two-lane basis, and all lanes are expected to be completed by April 15.

That was the word yesterday from the Warren Southwest Construction Company, builders of the street.

This last four-mile section, extending from Torrance boulevard to Pacific Coast Highway in Lomita, has been under construction for the last half year. The builders are now working north from Pacific Coast Highway laying center lines and curbs, gutters and shoulders of the highway.

No special ceremony has been planned so far to commemorate the opening of the highway, long sought by County Supervisor Raymond V. Darby and Harbor District Chambers of Commerce.

### Local Juveniles Face Dope Charges

Being held on a suspicion of violating the state narcotics act are four youths, two of them Torrance juveniles, who were nabbed during the pre-dawn hours in Harbor City yesterday morning.

Picked up by Los Angeles Police at Pacific Coast Highway and Bell Porte avenue at 4:30 a. m. Wednesday morning were:

- Thomas T. Torres, 20, 324 Arlington avenue, driver.
- Ramiro S. Aleche, 18, of Redondo Beach and the two juveniles, one 16 years, the other 17 years.

Officers W. A. Tretter and M. E. Hollister of the Los Angeles Harbor Division of the Los Angeles Police Department said they found between the seat cushions the butt of a cigarette containing a green leafy substance similar to marijuana. The cigarette was still moist on one end, indicating, they said, that the cigarette had been smoked recently.

One of the juveniles was passed out in the back seat, the officers reported.

Later at the San Pedro jail the foursome denied possessing narcotics. They said they had

(Continued on Page 3)



### Dean Relected VFW Commander

Jess H. Dean, commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post, No. 3251, during the past year was reelected unanimously at a meeting of the post on March 27 in the VFW Hall at Washington and Arlington avenues.

Other officers elected for 1950-51 include:

- Carmello S. Mirabella, senior vice-commander; George Warburton, junior vice-commander; Art Moore, quartermaster.

The new officers will be installed Saturday, April 15 at a joint installation with the Post's Auxiliary. The ceremonies will be held in the VFW Hall.

Installing officer will be Harry Goodrich, department hospital chairman.

To be installed with Dean is Mrs. Frankie Brown, new president of the Auxiliary.

The public is invited to attend the installation rites.

### Blount, Spelman Closing Fast on CIO Candidates

That Victor E. Benstead, a member of the Civil Service Commission, would breeze into one of the two City Council vacancies following the tallying of votes to be cast at next Tuesday's election, was a foregone conclusion in C. I. O. pre-election circles this week. Predictions on the winners in the eight-man councilmanic race in other political camps, however, strongly challenge the C. I. O. candidate's victory.

### No Dummies They

Alarmed motorists who veered and skidded all over 182nd street at Baley drive yesterday trying to avoid the body of a man lying in the street, may be relieved—or angrier—to learn it was only a dummy put there by some boys who were greatly amused by the motorists' antics until police were called.

But the kids were no dummies. They fled before police arrived to confiscate their plaything.

Fruits of the campaign efforts will be realized next Tuesday, April 11, when the city's electorate, predicted to be the largest ever to enter polling booths, journey to 30 different voting places to cast their ballots. They will be voting for two council candidates, (eight running); a city clerk (two running); and a city treasurer, (two running).

In alphabetical order as arranged on the ballot, seeking office are:

#### COUNCIL

- Victor E. Benstead, steelworker.
  - Willys G. Blount, salesman.
  - George W. Downing, bookkeeper.
  - C. Ed. Jones, used car dealer.
  - Carmello S. Mirabella, boiler-maker.
  - Adelbert J. Patronsky, salesman.
  - Frank Schmidt, electrician.
  - Harvey B. Spelman, salesman.
- For city clerk, political hand-cappers give substantial odds to incumbent A. H. Bartlett and his 26 years of experience over Robert E. "Bud" Lee, creamery employee and Chairman of the Recreation Commission.
- In a fight for the city treasurer (Continued on Page 3)

### Honor Air Crash Hero

The widow of Army Captain William E. Blair, air force pilot who rode his flaming bomber to his death while his crew leaped to safety, will be awarded the Cheney Award, an Air Force communique revealed this week.

Mrs. Blair who lives at 2553 Sonoma street with her two children, Randy, five-and-half years, and Trudy, 16 months, will receive the high award during ceremonies to be held in the Pentagon Building in Washington, D. C. on April 21.

According to Brig. Gen. Edward H. Underhill, USAF, the Cheney Award is given each year for the most outstanding act of valor, extreme fortitude or self-sacrifice in a humanitarian interest performed by an Air Force officer or airman during the calendar year.

The award consists of a plaque, certificate, and a check for \$500. It was established in memory of Lieutenant William H. Cheney who was killed in an air collision at Foggia, Italy in 1920.

Blair, the pilot of a B-25, stayed at the controls of his flaming North American medium bomber while seven members of his crew parachuted to safety. He guided his plane to the outskirts of Chattanooga, Tennessee to avoid crashing the flaming ship into the densely populated area of the city and in so doing crashed to his death.

With funds contributed by school children the townspeople constructed a monument to Blair's deed.



HERO'S FAMILY . . . Mrs. William E. Blair reads the news to daughter Trudy and son Randy that their daddy, who died to save seven other men, has received the cherished Air Force Cheney Award.

### BOLD BANDITS STRIP OWNER'S CAR WHILE PARKED IN DRIVEWAY

While his car was parked in his driveway during the early morning hours of April 1, someone stole the fog lights, hub caps, chrome wheel rings, and fender skirts, Don Burge, 2624 Martha street, told Torrance police on Sunday.



RIBBON CEREMONY . . . Comely Joan Trefethen and Mayor J. Hugh Sherfy Jr. hold the ends of a satin ribbon as Bus Driver Milo Gilbert jockeys one of the city's motor-drawn coaches into the new Torrance Bus Terminal which opened this week. Hat-waving Charlie Gots rides bronco style across the concrete threshold of the new unloading zone at 1625 Cabrillo avenue.—Herald Photo.