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### ...Recreation

(Continued from Page 1)

Beasley, Paul Roettger and Marvin Goetsch, at members of the commission.

It was the recommendation also of Frank Carpenter, city director of recreation, that the plan be voted upon at a special election and not at the councilmanic election on April 8.

In taking the matter to the people, the commissions seeks to accomplish two things:

1. The vote will tell the commission if the people are in favor of the plan itself, and;
2. Once the funds are earmarked for recreation purposes by a mandate of the people, it would be impossible for future councils to sabotage the plan or impede its development by confiscating the funds for other municipal services.

Commissioner Beasley suggested the formation of a special assessment district and levying a 15-cent tax.

City Attorney Hall stated that monies so collected could not be allowed to accumulate and would have to be spent each year.

Another means of financing the plan was offered by Beasley, who proposed a one-half cent sales tax.

The plan as formulated by the commission includes such items as the acquisition of 35 acres of park sites, the erection of a \$125,000 community center and gymnasium, the construction of a \$250,000 swimming pool, two \$75,000 community buildings and gymnasiums for Southwest Torrance and Waverly, a \$80,000 gymnasium wing for McMaster Park in North Torrance, as well as tennis courts, horseshoe pits, lighted softball diamonds and other facilities.

### LARGEST LAKE

Lake Geneva is the largest lake in central Europe.

### ...More TUT

(Continued from Page 1)

nounced this. They are not ready. First things first. Right now the plan of action is to sell their organization to various homeowner associations in the city. The Pacific Hills Homeowners Association is one group already attracted by the lure put out by the TUT group.

It would be nice to say that no one is fooled by the glittering phrases in the articles of incorporation of the TUT group. Unfortunately many fair-minded, civic-minded residents are likely to be sucked in by the meaningless and hollow cliches of the Articles of Incorporation.

It is hogwash. The phrases and expressions are the same echoed by caricatures of senators that moviegoers have seen portrayed many times on the screen in cartoons. It is the same political tripe that has lulled thousands of audiences into sleep and the same boring routine which has caused all too many American citizens to abandon active participation in political affairs of the national, state, and city governments.

In typing the Articles of Incorporation the TUTters messaged up a nice clean sheet of paper which might have been used for something else.

The group claims they are for the small taxpayer. Strange is it not, that the group suddenly springs to life just before the council election and that during the formulation of the city budget and determination of the tax rate they were conspicuous by their silence.

TUT claims to be for the small taxpayer. Does this mean they are therefore against the large taxpayer. In this town large taxpayers buy 80 per cent of everything that is bought by the city. That is because 80 per cent of the assessed valuation of the city

is industrial. Columbia Steel, National Supply, General Petroleum, American Standard, Pittsburgh Paint, are a few of Torrance's valuable assets.

Now, if TUT is successful in its appeal to the small taxpayer (that is where all the voting strength lies) and takes over the city council, the tax picture is likely to change. If it changes to the disadvantage of industry, this will happen: Big industry will no longer regard Torrance as an attractive industrial location. They will stay away in droves. What happens to taxes? City spending? The small taxpayer will be called upon to share the loss in revenue.

Result! Mr. Small Taxpayer will be paying more and more taxes to run the city.

We put the question point blank at Al Isen.

"Are you a candidate for the city council?"

He neither confirmed nor denied it and only followed instructions in answering:

"No comment."

Selover was even less cooperative. Although he talked about a number of things about the TUT organization, he flatly refused to be interviewed.

We let him off the hook. Next time we talk, and he may consider this a warning, we are talking "on the record."

## Two Candidates Seek South Bay Judgeship

City Judge Otto B. Willett formally announced this week his candidacy for the office of judge in the newly-created South Bay Municipal Court District.

He will run for Office Number Two against Judge D. Clifford Higgins, of the Manhattan Beach City Court, who announced his candidacy last week.

A possible split in the allegiance of Torrance voters was averted when Willett filed for office Number Two. Running for office number one, and probably unopposed, will be Judge John A. Shidler, presiding judge of the Gardena Justice Court and president of the Torrance Board of Education.

Both Willett and Shidler are residents of Hollywood Riviera. Although Shidler has not formally announced his candidacy, it is a foregone conclusion that he will run for the office.

The election is June 3. Included in the area of the new South Bay Municipal Courts District are Torrance, Lomita, Harbor City, Redondo Beach, Palos Verdes Estates, Rolling Hills, Manhattan Beach, Gardena, El Nido and Lawndale.

Population of the area is estimated at 150,000 persons with eligible voter list of approximately 50,000 persons.

The race for the Number Two office probably will boil down to a three-man ballot with Collier Bridge, city judge of Hermosa Beach, running with Willett and Higgins.

The two successful candidates will take office in Jan. 1953 and will hold court in the new South Bay Courts building in Redondo Beach.

Judge Willett, in addition to his duties as city judge of Torrance, is also sitting in Division 11 of the Municipal Court of Los Angeles by appointment of Judge Phil S. Gibson, chief justice of the State Supreme Court and chairman of the State Judicial Committee.

The local judge was first appointed as Torrance city judge seven years ago and during the last decade has filled assignments in Division Number One of the Municipal Court of Long Beach (two years), and in justice courts of the Centinela, Gardena, Inglewood, Compton, South Los Angeles and the Downey townships.

He has also sat as judge in the city courts of Manhattan Beach, Hermosa Beach, Gardena, Hawthorne, Compton and Lynwood.

Willett is a native of Effingham, Ill., where he was born 40 years ago this month. He graduated from the University of Illinois in 1933 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Journalism. He received his Law degree from the University of Southern California in 1936 and was admitted to the bar the same year.

Judge Willett served both as city attorney and deputy city attorney for the city of Torrance before his appointment as city judge.

After passing the bar he became associated with his uncle, Oscar L. Willett, well known South Bay attorney and realtor, until 1940 when he moved to



D. CLIFFORD HIGGINS  
... Hat in the Ring

Torrance and opened a law office.

The local judge is past president of the Torrance Rotary Club, a member of the Masonic Lodge Number 447 of Torrance, Royal Arch Chapter Number 33, Golden West Commandery Number 46, the Redondo Beach Elks Lodge Number 1378, the Sigma Delta Chi and a member of the Al Malaikah Temple.

He lives with his wife, Glenna Rae, who is active in Cub Scouting, at 221 Via Los Altos in Hollywood Riviera. The Willetts have two children, Steven 10 and Bill 7.

Since the death of Judge George W. Downing in November, 1948, Higgins, who for 11 years was city prosecutor, has been city judge of Manhattan Beach.

He is past president of the Inglewood-South Bay Bar Association and a member of both the American Bar and the Los Angeles Bar Associations. By judicial assignment Judge Higgins has presided in the Compton and Gardena justice courts. He has also sat in the Torrance and Hawthorne city courts.

He was one of the organizers of the Manhattan Beach Chamber of Commerce and is



JUDGE OTTO B. WILLETT  
... For Office No. 2

a past president of it as well as the Harbor District Chambers.

He is also a past president of the Southern California Alumni Association of the Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity, a member of Phi Alpha Delta legal fraternity, Redondo Elks, Lodge No. 1378, Hermosa Beach Masonic Lodge No. 657 and the Modern Woodmen of America.

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### Torrance Herald

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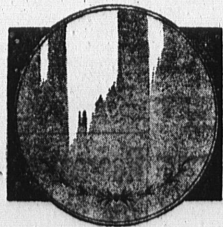
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