

School Business Manager Resigns

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ISEN SUCCEEDS DRALE AS MAYOR



LEARNING TO SWIM... More than 300 Torrance boys are participating in the annual YMCA "Learn-to-Swim" program this week. Here High School Coach Clifford Graybehl yells instructions to the shouting throng in a Hermosa Beach pool. The program has been co-sponsored by the Torrance Lions Club who furnished chartered busses for transportation.

School Business Manager to Quit At End of April

Emmett W. Ingram, business manager of the Torrance Unified School District since its formation in 1947, tendered his resignation to the board of education here Tuesday evening to be effective June 30. He will start his terminal vacation at the end of this month.

The second person to be employed by the Board of Education following its formation here nearly nine years ago, Ingram has served the district as business manager and assistant superintendent during the booming years of school construction that saw the development of about a dozen new schools in the city.

Ingram reported that he has purchased an established school furniture and supplies business which he will take over May 1. The school official will continue to reside in Torrance, he told the HERALD. He expressed his regret at leaving the district, but said the opportunity offered in the business he has acquired was too attractive to pass.

His resignation was accepted by the Board of Education Tuesday night. No decision on a successor has been made, although Superintendent J. H. Hull reported yesterday that several men had been interviewed during the week.



MAYOR ALBERT ISEN... Named to Succeed Drale

Benstead Shuns Post as Mayor

Torrance has a new mayor today—Albert Isen. Election of Isen to be mayor followed the resignation of Nikolaos C. Drale, who has held the office during the past year.

In stepping down as the presiding officer of the Council, Drale said that it had always been his opinion that the job of mayor was an honorary one and that it should be passed on to other members of the Council.

He indicated that Councilman Victor E. Benstead Jr. had been approached to take the position, but that Benstead stated that he did not want it. Isen was elected on Drale's nomination which was seconded by Benstead, Councilman Willys G. Blount did not vote on the nomination.

On Council for Year The new mayor was elected to the City Council a year ago at the same time Councilman Blount was elected to his second term. Drale was named mayor at that time by the Isen-Drale-Benstead bloc to succeed Marvin M. Schwab, who had served the previous year. Although Schwab and Blount both passed their votes on that occasion, Schwab cast his ballot for Isen's election Tuesday. Only Blount passed.

In accepting the new post, Isen recounted the highlights of the Drale administration. He pointed to the new fire stations, civic center, the airport commercial development, reorganization of the building department, and the practical solution to the downtown parking problem.

Leadership Lauded "The city government has kept pace with the tremendous growth of the past year," Isen said, indicating that much of the credit could be given to Drale's leadership. On the motion of Councilman Blount, a unanimous ballot was cast extending the thanks of the Council to Drale for his service to the city. Blount admitted that he and Drale "had butted heads for several years," but that he thought Drale had "done an outstanding job as mayor of the city."

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GOVERNMENT APPROVES \$86,000 FOR SCHOOLS

Favorable action on the application of the Torrance Unified School District for federal assistance funds under Public Law 874 was reported yesterday by Congressman Cecil R. King in Washington, D.C. Approved was assistance totaling \$86,999.85, according to Congressman King. Immediate payment of \$56,549 was approved, he said. This represents about three-quarters of the total.

The Torrance district qualified for the federal assistance by substantiating that much of the district's growth in school population was the direct result of federal projects in this area—particularly the primary aircraft industry, according to Warren Hamilton, director of special services for the district.

Questionnaires are completed by parents which allow school officials to arrive at figures showing the impact of federal spending in this area.

Monies received under Public Law 874 go into the general fund for operation of the schools, Hamilton explained. The money is given to the district with no strings attached, and it need not be repaid. The funds approved this week have been anticipated and have been included in the current school budget as anticipated revenue, Hamilton said.

At the same time, the school official reported that funds applied for by the district under Public Law 815 to be used in the new school building program had not yet been approved. Application for Federal funds to assist with the construction costs of several new Torrance schools including the new South Torrance High School, was made earlier this year.

Busy Week End Slated for Kids

A big Easter week-end for Torrance's small fry is planned with an Easter egg hunt Saturday, and a puppet show and fashion parade Sunday.

In the Saturday Easter egg hunt, 900 chocolate eggs, 100 paper eggs exchangeable for silver dollars, and 24 special Easter baskets will be hidden in El Prado Park for children from one to ten. The Torrance Recreation Department and the Torrance Downtown Business Men's Assn. are co-sponsoring the event. The scramble will begin with the arrival of the Easter Bunny at 10 a.m.

The park will be divided into three sections—for toddlers one to three years old, for children four to six, and for youngsters from seven to ten. Children over 10 may not participate. Some 900 paper eggs will be hidden, which may be exchanged for chocolate eggs and baskets. In addition, 100 paper eggs with the name of a local merchant on them will be hidden.

Children will find these will bring them a local merchant whose name appears thereon, and receive a silver dollar. All must be turned in before 5 p.m. to receive the money.

Mrs. Ruth Hatfield will direct the show, assisted by Les Breitenfeldt and Vern Clary, of the Recreation Department. Rev. Clifford Tierney, of the Church of God, will narrate. At 1 p.m. Sunday, the Master Park Play Crafters will present the "Easter Story" on the puppet stage at the McMaster Park Band Shell. Four scenes—the "Last Supper," "Christ Before Pilate," the "Crucifixion," and the "Ascension"—will be presented with puppets.

Youngsters Make Puppets The puppets and background scenery were made by a group of north Torrance teenagers and their parents, who have been preparing for the show the last two months. The fashion parade will feature competition for the most colorful outfit, the best matched outfits, the best-dressed girl, the best-dressed boy, and Prince and Princess of Spring.

For children from four to seven, winners of competition will receive trophy awards and Easter baskets. Contestants and their parents may pick up a number from the registration desk at the Band Shell in Torrance Park before 3 p.m., and when the master of ceremonies makes announcements, contestants will parade before the judges. Louis Bereskin will be master of ceremonies. Judges will be Mayor Nikolaos O. Drale, Dr. Joseph Bay, Mrs. Herma Tillim, Mrs. Joanne Kasten, and Mrs. Carl Lippincott.

Pilot Struck By Propeller

A 36-year-old pilot was reported in good condition at Torrance Memorial Hospital yesterday, after receiving severe leg and thigh injuries Sunday when struck by propeller blades at Torrance Municipal Airport. Walter Ellis, of 25714 Crest Rd., told police that he was trying to start his Stinson Voyager when the blades whirled around, hitting his left thigh. After cutting deeply into his flesh, the wooden blade shattered.

King Demands Report on Navy Depot Closing

Congressman Cecil R. King yesterday demanded that Secretary of the Navy Charles Thomas furnish a detailed report on the order to decommission the San Pedro Naval Supply Depot on June 30 and strongly protested the move in face of the critical Far East situation.

King pointed out that the San Pedro Naval Supply Depot was closed down in a similar move at the end of World War II, and later re-established to meet the Korean conflict.

The latest Navy order called for the depot to be absorbed by the Long Beach Naval Shipyard, with dismissal of nearly half of the depot's 800 employees held likely, King said. "I am heartily in accord with efforts to economize," Congressman King stated, "but such economy must be done without impairment to the fleet and the defense of our country."

King told the Navy Secretary that with the critical situation in Formosa and the Far East, "this is not the time to decommission an important supply facility on the West Coast."

More Personnel Indicated for Torrance Annex

Operations at the Torrance Storage Area of the Naval Supply Depot will be expanded as the result of the disestablishment of the San Pedro facility, Capt. A. F. Ryan, special assistant to the Chief of the Bureau of Supplies and Accounts for the Navy, told newsmen here Monday.

Making a special trip out to the Coast from Washington, D. C., as the result of an order to close down the San Pedro Supply Depot and incorporate it into the Long Beach shipyards, Captain Ryan said the move would possibly mean more personnel at the Torrance depot could not be determined until a later date.

At the same time, the Washington officials reported that the Harbor City fuel annex which has been part of the San Pedro facility, would become an independent activity with the closing of the San Pedro depot.

Stocks now in storage at San Pedro will be divided between Torrance and the new shipyard facility, Captain Ryan indicated. The additional stock for the Torrance annex could mean more personnel here, he explained.

Judy Torok Top Speller

Seventh-grader Judy Torok was named spelling champion of North Torrance Elementary School recently, and will enter the regional contest in Long Beach on April 16.

Marie Akashi was named alternate winner of regional competition will enter the National Spelling Bee, to be held in Washington, D.C. Finalists in the North Torrance bee were Laurel Dunn, Linda Millard, Valeria Truscott, Susan Hayes, Judy Sheets, Jerry DeLange, Marilyn Lush, Patricia Hoffenden, Barbara Guillano, and Nadine Truscott.

Norma Condon Gets City Title

Much to her surprise, a 28-year-old Torrance housewife, Mrs. Norma J. Condon, of 20931 Halldale Ave., was named "Mrs. Torrance," Monday.

She decided to enter the contest after reading about it, she said. Winning was "one of those things that is unbelievable," she said.

A member of the Halldale PTA, the Mothersingers, and Western Ave. Baptist Church, she has lived in this area for the past 14 years. She is a native of Kansas and a graduate of Torrance High School.

Baked A Cake As part of competition for the local title, she had to bake a cake and make a piece of clothing the value of which was not to exceed \$1, and she must do

the same in regional competition. She plans to enter a dress for her daughter in today's contest.

Her husband, Marshall, is a butcher in a Bellflower market, and she has three children—Roger, 8, Susan, 6, and Marty, 4.

With all her other duties, Mrs. Condon maintains an interest in ceramics, sewing, and singing, and her favorite form of entertainment is concerts and grand opera. She was chosen from 21 finalists of the 68 women entered in Torrance. It was sponsored locally by the Gas Co.

Building Pace Ahead of 1954

Building activity in Torrance kept pace with previous records during March and the 1955 total is still ahead of the record-breaking pace of last year.

Construction permits issued in March totaled \$2,773,450, according to Building Superintendent John Russell while the three-month total for 1955 soared to \$8,650,928. During the same period last year the total stood at \$7,287,280, more than a million dollars short of the new figure.

Figures for April should far outstrip any month so far this year, according to Senior Clerk Walter C. Bradford, whose staff processes the mountain of new permits each month.

Bradford said yesterday that enough applications for permits were on file with the city to insure a \$5 million month. Several large home tracts are now being processed and others in the final stages should be issued this month, he said. All in all, 1955 building in

Torrance appears to be headed for a new record, a total even higher than the all time high of \$45,086,552 recorded last year. In addition to the thousands of homes planned for construction here this year, several large industrial developments are expected to add to the building total this year.

Action to straighten out a confused school boundary situation between south Torrance and Redondo Beach was taken Tuesday night by the Torrance Board of Education.

City boundaries in the area were changed a year ago by agreement of the City Councils, but school boundaries were neglected. The south Torrance area has divided lots as the result of boundary changes, a condition the board is seeking to remedy.

Petitions will be circulated among residents of the parcels of land, much of which adjoins Palos Verdes Blvd.



NAMED MRS. TORRANCE... Mrs. Norma J. Condon, of 20931 Halldale Ave., receives the cup signifying that she has been named "Mrs. Torrance" from Paul Diamond, chairman. She will compete with other homemakers in regional competition in Inglewood today, with the winner going on to state competition.