

Parking Permit Program Given 11th Hour Reprieve

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Torrance Herald

OFFICE AND PLANT AT 1619 GRAMERCY AVE., TORRANCE

IN THE HERALD TODAY

Amusements	26	Public Notices	40
Ann Landers	13	Society	13-16
Births	40	Sports	38-39
Crossword	30	Want Ads	40-47

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SCHOOL BUDGET \$11.6 MILLIONS

Predict Hike Of 10% for School Year

Operating costs of the Torrance Unified School District will be up about 10 per cent for the 1960-61 school year it was indicated here Tuesday night with the presentation of a preliminary budget calling for expenditures of \$11.6 million.

The budget reflects no new costs, the board of education was told, only an extension of the present operations to cover an additional 2000 students which are expected to be in the city's school system during the coming year.

that Torrance taxpayers must provide 56 per cent of the total budget compared with 51 per cent this year. Under state law, state support decreases as total volume of local support increases.

"THE TIME is rapidly approaching when the board should consider an override tax election," declared Hull. "It may be necessary to use a portion of our reserve to finance any salary increases."

He declared that the problem of higher budgets in the future probably cannot be solved without additional money from some source. Since there seems little likelihood of more state or federal aid, the only available source is the local tax rate, he said.

At this point, more than 80 per cent of the budget would go for salaries.

THE MORE than \$1 million the current preliminary budget represents over the 1959-60 budget would go toward offsetting the extra costs of inflation, increased maintenance costs of older buildings, and regular salary increments for employees. It does not represent a general pay raise or any new programs, officials said.

Trustees, however, may revise many items in the budget before the tentative budget is adopted in June and the final budget in August. They indicated they will seek to keep Torrance's salaries "competitive." They noted, for instance, that several districts have raised beginning salaries to \$4900 or \$5000 while Torrance's are \$4740. The maximum here also is lower than many, it was noted.

SUPERINTENDENT J.H. Hull told the board that the budget is based on a \$30,000,000 assessed valuation increase, "which may be very optimistic."

An additional financial problem next year will be the fact

3 Teeners Jailed in Gang War

Three teenagers from the Pueblo section of Torrance have been petitioned to appear in Juvenile Hall following arrests Sunday evening by Redondo police in connection with firing a shotgun blast into a neighborhood where children were gathered.

Arrested were two 16-year-old boys and a 17-year-old boy. An 18-year-old was arrested but released Tuesday without formal charges.

According to Redondo police reports, the three youths were among a quartet which invaded a North Redondo neighborhood, fired the blast into a gathering crowd, then fled in a late model car.

They were picked up by Torrance police and turned over to Redondo police.

In another incident over the weekend, Torrance police arrested eight persons — five adults and three juveniles — for brandishing weapons.

The eight persons were reported members of the Jimtown gang in Redondo, which has had repeated warrings with the Pueblo gang. The weekend arrest was an aftermath to a raid on Pueblo two weeks prior, according to one Torrance officer.

Confiscated were five shotguns, a .22 rifle, a .32 Smith and Wesson revolver.

None of the weapons had been fired.

Parking Plan Gets New Life

A proposal by License Inspector Gale Whitacre that the city abandon its program of selling parking permits for city owned lots at \$4 a month was withdrawn Tuesday night after he reported that he had issued 10 permits in April, only two less than he issued in the first three months of the year.

Whitacre said the program could be continued with supplies on hand without additional cost to the city.

WHITACRE'S recommendation that the council extend the program followed a report in the HERALD Sunday that it had cost the city \$114 to issue 12 such permits during January, February, and March.

Under the program, purchasers of permits are allowed unlimited parking on one of the city-owned lots in the central business area for the \$4 a month fee.

IN OTHER actions, the city council approved a recommendation that plans be completed for addition of about 11,000 square feet to the city hall. Added will be larger offices for engineering and public works, as well as facilities for the recreation department, now occupying private quarters downtown.

Estimated cost of the program will be \$170,000, the council was told.

THE COUNCIL also set a public hearing for 7 p.m., April 26, to hear the complaints of city employees over recent changes in civil service rules and regulations. The hearing had been requested by firemen who claim operation of the new regulations is unfair to some classifications of city workers.

Also approved was the recommendation of the recreation commission that the city plunge be open during Easter vacation and on Saturday and Sunday until its regular opening season in June.

Election Next Tuesday

An Editorial

Next Tuesday the registered voters of Torrance have a date at the polls to elect three members of the city council from a list of 16 candidates, three of whom are incumbents seeking re-election.

The campaign thus far has been marked by a lack of issues and widespread apathy on the part of the electorate. From the dearth of real issues and tone of criticism advanced by most of the candidates seeking to unseat incumbents—Nickolas O. Drale, Victor E. Benstead Jr., and Robert B. Jahn—it is not illogical to assume the present council has compiled a satisfactory record. The evident lack of interest on the part of the voters at the moment seems to further emphasize this assumption.

The present Torrance city council, in the opinion of this newspaper, has made a generally favorable record that can be continued by the re-election of NICK DRALE and strengthened by the election of GEORGE VICO and GEORGE KURTZ.

NICK DRALE, dean of the city council, is seeking his fourth four-year term and draws support for his candidacy from all segments of the community. Always a conscientious, alert public servant, NICK DRALE has made important contributions to his city. His experience and mature judgment will be needed during the next four years. His re-election is strongly recommended.

GEORGE VICO is an old resident of Torrance with a youthful outlook for the very large percentage of residents and taxpayers who are vitally concerned with the recreational facilities within the community. VICO has dedicated himself to giving Torrance the best in these important facilities and his forthright approach to problems facing the community should be of valuable service in the deliberations of the city council.

GEORGE KURTZ, a comparative newcomer to Torrance city politics, has impressed many with his sincerity and stature as a candidate. He seems to possess qualifications that would be invaluable to him if he were elected to the city council. Citizens could vote for him with confidence.

There are others in the list who, of course, would make good council members and they are to be congratulated for their public spirit in seeking election.

No registered voter conscientiously can say he has no interest in next Tuesday's city election. Every election is important, and the good citizen never passes an opportunity to employ the physical symbol of his freedom and authority . . . the marking of his secret ballot.

VOTE NEXT TUESDAY!



UNEXPECTED CALLERS . . . Sunday afternoon is a traditional time for visits but David B. Ocobock, 17, of Los Angeles overdid it slightly last Sunday when he drove right into the home of the David Watsons at 2641 Brian St. Watson, his wife, Iris, and their three sons were away at the time. Ocobock, who said the throttle stuck on his auto, was only slightly hurt. (Herald Photo)

Torrance's Richest Third Grader Gets Back to Normal

For a few minutes this week, Patsy Chatelle, a third grader at Crenshaw Elementary School, was probably the richest 8-year-old in the city.

But today, she's being thank-



PATSY CHATELLE Takes Home a Prize

ed by the wife of a U.S. Navyman and her parents for reflecting the admonitions of her elders to be honest at all times.

IT ALL started Monday evening when little Patsy found a wallet containing about \$125 with only the name of a woman in it, near 190th St. and Crenshaw Blvd.

Taking it home to her mother, Mrs. Patrick Chatelle, at 3403 W. 190th St., Patsy explained her find, and the two of them returned to a nearby market and began making inquiries.

SOMEONE NEARBY, overheard the girl and her mother, identified the loser as Deanna Everetts, who resided at 3427 W. 189th St.

A check at that address ended the search. Mrs. Everetts, whose husband is stationed at a Navy Base, was tearful with joy as she regained the money. She gave Patsy a \$10-bill as a reward.

"I NEVER thought I'd see the money again," she told Patsy's mother.

She had just cashed a check, she said.

Patsy, in addition to her studies at school, is now busy figuring out what she is going to do with \$10.

YMCA Nears Goal in 1960 Fund Drive

Scott F. Albright, YMCA Board Chairman, announced today that the Torrance YMCA is nearing its 1960 current support campaign goal.

Albright reported that \$31,500 has thus far been pledged toward keeping the local "Y" operating for the next twelve months.

Albright credited the great success of this local drive to Campaign Chairman Albert Isen and to 221 volunteer campaigners. Final figures are not yet received on the work of the Torrance Fire-Fighters, but Albright stated that their report would be an inspiration to the whole community.

Albright reminded all citizens that the local YMCA goal for 1960 is \$32,000, and that \$500 is still needed in order to maintain all present "Y" services to the youngsters of Torrance.



WORK SESSION . . . Mrs. Dean Thurman, treasurer; Harold Ritz, 1st vice president; Mrs. Paul Snyder, recording secretary; Harold McBride, president; and Mrs. John Krappman, corresponding secretary, are pictured discussing program of Southwest Association For Retarded Children at recent meeting. Members, all parents of retarded children, banded together in interest of both children and parents. (Herald Photo)

Parents of Retarded Children Band Together for Mutual Aid

By BOB WILTON
Herald Staff Writer

Three definite stages confront new parents when they learn from their doctor that their baby is mentally retarded. First a shock when the impact of the fact that the perfect baby they had anticipated is not normal takes effect.

Then, hope as the child grows older and at times seems to be improving in speech, activity, and general interest in surroundings. This hope becomes a prayer that this child will out-grow the condition that has caused some part of its brain not to develop. Despair often follows as the

years go by and the child remains an infant mentally and some times physically. Part time care is a full time job for parents of these adolescent children, who, as they grow older, need special recreation and amusements, but none outside of their own homes and play-yards is provided. The future can be very dark for these parents who must care for their retarded children throughout their lives, or place them in institutions.

THE PROBLEMS become mountains for the parents of the mentally retarded children, who total three per cent of the

250,000 school children enrolled in the Southwest area of Los Angeles County; but they must be squarely faced by these brave mothers and fathers and there is no pattern; most cases, no reason for this affliction.

(Continued on Page 3)

A Penny for your Thoughts

"What would you like to see developed at the Torrance Civic Center?"

Answering were:

Joseph Cemore, 1642 West 214th St., supervisor, Todd Shipyard:

"I'd like to see a park with something for the teen-agers where they could get supervised recreation, with such things as a handball court, shuffleboard, and a pool. If it couldn't be free, then one with a season membership of say \$1, or something that the average person could afford . . . that would defray some of the cost of the upkeep, and still make it available to more of the kids."

Ernest Kendall, 1622 West 215th St., steel worker:

"I think any kind of recreation would be good if we don't go into debt for it — sort of a "pay as you go" plan. The main thing is to get the little kids off the street. They have to go someplace as you can't keep them in the house all the time. Older people can at least get together to play cards and talk."

Mrs. Mary Moran, 21336 Carolale, practical nurse:

"I think Torrance needs a bus depot more than anything else and the civic center would be as good a place as any for it. We really need some shelter during the winter months. I think a library would be another good thing for books are important to our young people, and it's a good idea to have the right kind available."

Mrs. Virginia Stephens, 529 W. 224th, cashier, Ryan Aircraft:

"I go along with the idea of a teen-ager center, something for the kids' recreation. We don't have any of our own, but I feel we have a very definite need as a community with the youngsters."

Mrs. Vickie Kapus, 2710 Loflyview Dr., housewife:

"I think anything for the kids, especially the teen-agers. Our children are only 3 and 5 but we are concerned about them already. The playgrounds are for the younger ones and seem to be pretty well supervised so what we really need is somewhere where the older ones can find things to do. A shallow pool for the smaller one, where they can play safely is always popular with both the kids and parents."