

# City on Way to Building Record

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## Torrance Herald

Serving Greater Torrance — Capital City of the Great Southwest

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Does Charter Need  
A Second Look?  
(Editorial, Page 20)

# BANK SUSPECT STILL AT LARGE

### A Penny for your Thoughts

The Pennies photographer asked several Torrance Student Council members, "What is the value of student government at the local high schools?"

**Judi Rynhart**, sophomore class president: "I feel as though student government has increased my knowledge of Torrance High and how the school is run. I only wish everyone were as lucky as I am in learning about the school and its government."

**Jane Allen**, ASB vice president: "Without the student government, the schools would be boring and dull, and inactive as far as the student is concerned. With student government, the students have a voice and chance to prepare for future leadership."

**Karen Keller**, senior prexy: "Student Council is working for the students. We are trying to make school more exciting. I've learned a lot about leadership on the council. It is a lot of work, but I've gotten a lot out of it. Everyone who has the chance should run for an office."

**Carol White**, commissioner of group control: "A person really gets a lot out of serving on the council. You get a better idea of how government is run, not only in school but in the city and state. It is rewarding when things you help plan turn out good."

**Sandy Coffee**, commissioner of pep: "Student Council provides training in leadership and gives the students a chance to have a system of representation. Students can voice their opinions this way and get a good education in political science, too."

**Jeff Carpenter**, commissioner of finance: "The value in student government is the faith that one develops in fellow students. It is an opportunity to help my school, my friends, and myself. I think any ability we can develop to help us help ourselves is something that we prize above everything."

### How Much? How Long?

## Board Faces Decision On School Override

By JERRY REYNOLDS  
HERALD Staff Writer

Dr. J. H. Hull, superintendent of schools, told board of education members and a large audience, "we must put our values for children ahead of our concern for taxes," during a discussion of the Feb. 4 override election in the Torrance district.

Dr. Hull, who cited the example of Louisville, Ky., told board members that the choice was between higher taxes or curtailment of the number and quality of services now offered by the Torrance schools.

The trustees devoted much of their four-hour meeting Monday evening to the coming override tax election. The board must make a decision on the amount and term of any

proposed override by the Oct. 21 meeting.

**IN RESPONSE** to a question raised by Mrs. Kenneth E. Watts, a board member, Albert Charles indicated he believed that a five-year override at 90 cents would be needed. Mrs. Watts agreed, but also said a three-year term would permit a lower override of something near 75 cents. Dr. Kurt Shery said he hadn't made up his mind, but that he was definitely decided on a three-year term.

Board President Bert M. Lynn suggested the board use a two-part ballot, asking first for a 60-cent override for three or five years. Lynn suggested the second item on the ballot include a 25-cent override for the same term, allowing voters to vote for a 60 cent or an 85 cent override tax.

The plan was ruled out, however, when Dr. Louis Kaplan, assistant superintendent for special services, told the board the idea is prohibited by law. Dr. Kaplan said the wording and form of the ballot is spelled out in state law.

The problem also has been complicated by the announcement that commercial and industrial property will be assessed at 25 per cent of its market value next year. Waldrip said as much as \$300,000 could be lost in the change. Dr. Hull told the board such a change will almost certainly offset any gain of the assessed valuation of the city.

The district currently collects a total of \$2.90 per \$100 assessed valuation. The tax includes a \$1.65 legal maximum, and added to that a 75-cent unlimited override tax voted in 1957. In addition, a 50-cent override voted in 1961 and due to expire at the end of this fiscal year, also is collected. Failure to renew the 50-cent override would drop the district rate to \$2.40 per \$100 valuation, further reducing district revenues.

**ADDED COMPLICATING** factors include new state programs, such as the elementary (Continued on Page 3)

## Supervisors Okay Carson Petitions

The Board of Supervisors, on motion of Burton Chace, has accepted the cityhood petitions filed by the Committee for the Incorporation of Carson.

In accepting the petitions, which were certified as more than sufficient by clerk Gordon Nesvig before presentation to the board, Chace noted that the Board of Supervisors is neutral on the incorporation proceedings.

R. B. Keith, chairman of the group, was present with members of his committee. Keith told the board that the signatures represented 30 per cent of the property owners and 33 per cent of the area's assessed valuation.

Keith also assured the residents of the area that all facts relative to the cityhood proceedings would be made known in ample time to allow each person to come to his own decision.

The proceedings are now being opposed by the Carson Homeowners Assn., which has to secure signatures of 51 per cent of the property owners to halt an election. A protest hearing is to be scheduled by the Board of Supervisors shortly, and following the hearing, election dates will be set by the supervisors.

**BOARD MEMBERS** face the double problem of obtaining more money to operate a school system which has had to deal with growth problems of much larger cities, while maintaining the present level of instruction. S. E. Waldrip, assistant superintendent for business, said the district is one of the 130 largest districts in the United States. Of the 37,000 districts, Waldrip noted, only 132 have more than 25,000 students.

## Dodgers Win Council Kudo

The Los Angeles Dodgers, world champions in baseball after sweeping the series from the Yankees in four games, will be honored at a future meeting of the Torrance City Council.

Councilmen voted to present the Dodgers with a plaque praising them for their showing during the 1963 season on motion of former baseballer George Vico.

Vico suggested that some of the Dodgers may be able to come to Torrance when the resolution is ready for presentation.

## CC Board Backs Open Chief Tests

The City Council has been urged to take another look at the recommendation to open fire and police chief examinations to qualified outsiders.

The Board of Directors of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, passing on the recommendation of its Governmental Affairs Committee, voted unanimously Tuesday evening to "go on record" as opposing the City Council rejection of the open examination recommendation.

**"IN ADOPTING** the position opposing the City Council action, the Board of Directors urged the City Council to reconsider the question of eligibility for the examinations when called in light of representation for all segments of the citizenry and in the spirit of America's competitive system," the directors' announcement said.

The Chamber of Commerce recommendation pointed out that competition now is restricted to two officers in the (Continued on Page 3)

## Trustees Urge Initiative Vote on State Finances

Trustees of the Torrance Unified School District have agreed to seek the cooperation of other state school boards in putting an initiative measure before the voters to force the

state to match local school funds on a 50-50 basis.

The board voted to act on the suggestion of President Bert M. Lynn, who said that petitions would be easily filled if PTA's could be enlisted. Lynn said he doubted such a measure would ever reach the voters because mass action would pressure the legislature into acting first.

Currently, the state provides about 40 per cent of the funds in the average school district. The ratio remained stable at 50-50 during most of the 1950s.

Lynn, who told the board members that some 600 different bills were submitted to the legislature last year, said a single effort was needed to return the school situation to a balanced position.

The board voted to seek support from the California School Boards Assn. at its convention in San Francisco later this year. Mrs. Kenneth Watts, a member of the board, reminded others that while the suggestion is one worth working for, it is no substitute for the financing of the Torrance district now.



**LITTLEST FAN . . .** Laura Bare, two-year-old daughter of Mrs. Gwen Bare of Torrance, probably holds a record for being the smallest interested fan at the North-South football game last week. Mrs. Bare, a teacher at North High, attends games regularly with the youngster. Little Laura seemed to be having a ball with her pop corn. (Herald Photo)

## Three Held For Record Bank Heist

One of two robbery suspects believed to have been the masked bandits who took \$80,000 in cash plus other securities from a Torrance area bank Friday morning is still being sought, an agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation told THE HERALD yesterday afternoon.

The suspect, fourth to be implicated in the robbery which has been described as the biggest in Southland history, has been the object of an all-points hunt since the arrest Saturday of three others charged with implication in the robbery.

Vigneau and Velasco have been arraigned before U. S. Commissioner on charges of bank robbery, and Reataza was arraigned on a charge of receiving stolen property. All are being held in lieu of bonds.

**ARRESTS** began early Saturday when Raymond A. Vigneau, 26, of 26025 Narbonne Ave., was apprehended by Santa Barbara County officers and California Highway Patrolmen near Buellton in northern Santa Barbara County.

His arrest was followed by those of Jorge Velasco, 25, of Lawndale, janitor at the bank who claimed he was forced to cooperate with the bandits Friday morning, and Avaline Reataza, 31, of Los Angeles, who was implicated with the crime although he apparently did not participate in the actual holdup.

## Coroner's Verdict on Death Due

Torrance Police officials are holding three youths on various charges this week pending the outcome of an autopsy report from the county coroner. The three were arrested after the death of Gilbert Nicolas, 18, 23633 Madison Ave., last Thursday.

The youth was found dead in his bed last Thursday morning. It is believed he died from a fatal injection of heroin, but specific identification of the substance is expected from the coroner today.

Being held are Kenneth Jarrett, 21; Patrick O'Hare, 21; and a 17-year-old boy. The 17-year-old is being held in juvenile hall, while O'Hare is being held for possession of narcotics. Jarrett is being held under a warrant issued in Long Beach.

Lt. D. C. Cook, head of the Torrance Police Department's vice squad, made the arrests with the help of Officers Jerry Garver and Leo Gonzales after an intensive investigation. Cook said all three suspects will be rearrested for murder if the autopsy proves heroin was the cause of death.

## September Permits Total \$10 Million

Building activity in Torrance appeared headed for a new record high this week as totals for September were announced by the City Building Department.

Permits issued during September totaled \$10,837,299, the highest total of the year. Totals for the first nine months stood at \$44,880,947, just \$2 million short of the 1956 record.

A total of 259 permits were issued in September, providing for 259 single family homes and 265 apartment units. Permits were issued also for 12 new commercial developments in the city.

**LARGEST** of the permits issued was one for \$2,338,405, issued to Torrance Knolls for 92 new homes. Several permits

topped the \$250,000 figure for apartments in the city.

Also issued were permits for 26 stores at the Airport Shopping Center. Issued to the Jefferson Corp., the permit was valued at \$279,450. Sepulveda Investment Co. received a permit for a two-story office building at 22410 Hawthorne Ave., valued at \$128,000.

**GILBERT D. SELLAN** will build a 24-unit motel at 4111 Pacific Coast Hwy. under a permit valued at \$147,260, while several apartments in excess of 20 units are now under construction.

Building activity had leveled off in the years since the 1956 peak was recorded, but the trend has been slightly upward since 1960. It is expected total construction will top the \$50 million mark by the end of the year.

## ROBERT WATKINS WINS CARRIER SELECTION

September had two highlights for Robert Watkins, 11-year-old Torrance HERALD carrier boy.

He began classes as a sixth grader at the Howard Wood Elementary School about the middle of September, and capped off the month by winning honors as THE HERALD'S "Carrier of the Month."

Robert, who lives with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles L. Watkins at 2322 W. 231st St., was announced as September's "Carrier of the Month" by Darrell Westcott, circulation manager for THE HERALD.

"Robert has consistently given top service to the 200 homes on his HERALD route," Westcott said when announcing the selection.

An avid Go-Kart fan, Robert has his own which he drives when time permits. At other times, he is busy with model cars, new and old. He has been busy lately with a model of the "Big T" to add to his growing collection of classic American cars.

Robert has two sisters, Mary 16, and Charlotte 14.



ROBERT WATKINS Wins Carrier Honors

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