



BILL OEHLERT, outgoing president of the newly-nationally chartered Chapter II of the Hi-Y, presents the gavel to Jerry Neely who was installed as president for 1952 at a meeting held at YMCA headquarters, Monday evening. Club adviser of Chapter II is Guy Sharrod, high school faculty member, who teaches mechanical drawing. —Press photo

## Shidler Conducts Town Meet at School Board

Chairman of the Board of Education, Judge John Shidler, conducted a regular town meeting at the regular Board meeting Tuesday evening when nearly 40 parents from North Torrance were present.

The parents complained about bus transportation, which appeared to be "busting" at the seams after four more class rooms had to be placed on double sessions at North Torrance Elementary.

### UNDERSTAND NEED

"We are fully appreciative of your needs," said Judge Shidler. "That is why we hired Bus Supervisor John Mock."

Parents pointed out that 51 lower grade pupils had to cross hazardous areas since the double session went into effect.

"We want something done," said one parent, "before one of the kids in this area is hit by an auto."

Shidler assured the parents that he and the rest of the Board were as much concerned over the situation as they were.

### SCHOOL POPULATION

It was pointed out that school population in North Torrance had increased by 300 students since the Fall semester.

After all the parents had an opportunity to air their complaints, Bus Supervisor Mock asked a committee of three parents to work with him. They will bring in a report at the next Board of Education meeting, scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 21.

Parents who volunteered their services on the committee were Jack White, president of the North Torrance Civic Improvement Association; Leonard Chanda, and Leonard Martin, in charge of Civil Defense for North Torrance.

## Request for Engineering Exam Made

Even though former City Engineer Jacob Joseph didn't fit the needs of Torrance, according to City Manager George Stevens, and even though his plans in Walteria staved off a major flood disaster during the recent rains, Torrance is still looking for a new City Engineer.

At a recent meeting of the Civil Service Board, Stevens requested the Board to order an examination for the position of City Engineer. Joseph informed the Press that he would take the examination when it is actually scheduled.

Stevens also requested that the residential requirements for applicants be waived, but requiring the successful candidate to reside in the City upon completion of his probationary period.

The City Manager's recommendation for a new city engineer examination was put in the form of a motion by Commissioner Fred Cook and seconded by Charles Schultz, Jr.



DANIEL D. RYAN, JR. —Press photo



VERNON G. GOCHNEAUR —Press photo

# STEEL WORKERS BACK ON JOB; CLERKS STRIKE IN AREA ENDS



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## Full Scale Work Resumed in City

Workers, their wives, families and merchants joined in heaving a sigh of relief Tuesday as two work stoppages involving thousands of employees of Columbia Steel Co. and the retail stores of the Harbor Area ended.

Sending nearly 1200 members of Milky Williams Local No. 1414, C.I.O., back to their jobs at Columbia Steel's Torrance plant was an order which came from the Union on Monday night, effective with the graveyard shift. Furnaces idle since Jan. 7 were fired and normal operations were reported as this edition of the Torrance Press closed its forms.

With the acceptance by the members of the Harbor Area Employers' Council and the Union of recommendations of the Employers' Council negotiating committee made Jan. 31, picket lines were called off several stores in Torrance and Wilmington, and normal business resumed.

Picketed were Sam Levy Department Store, The Gay Shop, Allen's Jewelers and McCown Drug Stores in Torrance and Harbor City. Gary's Jewelers closed Saturday when offered a contract not acceptable to the Employers' Council.

The Union had rejected counter-proposals of the entire Employers' group on Friday, and picketing followed refusal of the employers to accept union terms not agreed to by the group.

## Hall Finds Rubbish Tax Flaws

### Cans Cause Irritation in Walteria

A Walteria delegation of residents will conduct a garbage can parade to the City Council chambers next Tuesday night, Commissioner Austin Beasley, informed the Recreation Commission, this week.

"The people in my section are all up in arms over the careless way that garbage cans are treated by employees operating city dump trucks," said Beasley.

Beasley pointed out that he has had to buy three or four garbage cans within the last six months. He said that the waste retainers are tossed out of a truck and roll out into the street where they are hit and smashed by autos.

"My garbage can is in a mess," said Beasley, "but I'm not buying another one. We're going to bring those cans into the next Council meeting and let the City Fathers have a look at them."

### Stroh Asks Exams for Police Job

At the request of Chief of Police John Stroh, the Civil Service Board, at a recent meeting, approved promotional examinations for the positions of assistant police chief, lieutenant, and sergeant.

In a separate recommendation, at the same meeting, City Manager George Stevens, requested that requirements for the pending promotional examination for the assistant chief be amended to permit police sergeants with 15 years or more experience to take the examination; and that the County Civil Service Commission be instructed to proceed with the examination as quickly as possible.

Originally, only two men would have been eligible to take the examination. They were Captains W. H. Haslam and Ernest Ashton. Both men agreed, a day before the examination that it would have been unfair to eliminate other worthy applicants in the sergeant classification and demanded that the examination be postponed until the base could be broadened.

With Stevens' recommendation and the Civil Service Board's approval, the broader-based examination permitting sergeants to take it along with captains, should be given within the near future, it was pointed out.

Both food and money were taken at the high school, cafeteria manager Mrs. Carol Shepherd, reported today.

"Three cash registers are totally smashed," said Mrs. Shepherd, "and I don't know if we'll be able to use them anymore."

Also taken at the cafeteria were one case of eggs—30 dozen in all, costing \$15.00; one whole bologna—8 1/2 pounds, worth \$5.17; 10 pounds of ground beef, valued at \$6.10, and quite a bit of ice cream—no estimate given.

George's Meat'n Place was held up, but Torrance police were just beginning a preliminary investigation as the Press closed its forms.

### New Appliance Business Plans Grand Opening

Town and Country Television and Appliances is the name of the newest business in Torrance. You can trot down to 1334 El Prado now, but February 15th has been set as the opening celebration.

Daniel Ryan and Vernon Gochneaur, the owners, announced that \$5,000 in merchandise certificates will be given away in a drawing on the day of the opening. These certificates, they revealed, will be accepted as payment on any major appliance.

The store will open completely stocked with 1952 models of such well-known brands of television appliances as RCA, Philco, Packard-Bell, Bendix, Crosley, and Gaffers and Sattler.

Dan announced that he has already made a sale. His first customer is...

## Effectiveness of Trash Tax Questioned by Hall

The controversial city trash ordinance which would require each residence in Torrance to pay 75 cents per month into a "recreation fund" is so weak that the money collected could be subverted for other purposes by future City Council, according to James Hall, city attorney.

"The ordinance, which is legal must be adopted by a bare majority at the April 10th election is, in my opinion, being objected to by alert citizens as an unjust financial burden upon the people of the community. Money is in the city coffers to finance a good recreation program, they claim. While the people want a good program, they do not want it financed by such a tax, opponents say."

Hall told the Recreation Commission members present at a Monday evening meeting: "The ordinance to support recreation through a trash tax, doesn't have the force of the people or the City Council, since it wasn't submitted by a referendum or an initiative."

Hall further pointed out that it would take a petition representing 20% of the registered voters before the measure could be placed on the ballot as an initiative.

"There isn't enough time left for that," said Hall. Commissioner Austin Beasley thereupon said: "It will be folly to bring this up at the regular election when recreation will be used as a political football. It will do recreation undue harm for the next five years. It also puts us in the position of acting as a tax-finding agency rather than a Recreation Commission. I don't believe the Commission was established for this purpose."

Recreation Director Frank Carpenter disagreed with Beasley. He said: "If you want a bond issue to put in a swimming pool, you'd have to consider the financing of the project as a Recreation Commission."

### 1000 Barrel Oil Well to Be Expected

An oil flow of more than 1,000 barrels per day is anticipated by J. L. O'Donnell Oil Company of Long Beach for a new well being drilled at Western Avenue and Sepulveda.

"The well across the street may be a mere nothing with its production of 70 barrels a day," declared Fred McDowell, superintendent of the O'Donnell Oil Company, "if we are lucky."

McDowell pointed out that his firm has drilled to a depth of 5300 feet—using 24 workmen for the job.

"It looks as if we may not have to use a pumping unit on this well," stated McDowell. He pointed out that he believed there might be between one million and two million feet of gas pressure.

"If this gas pressure exists," said McDowell, "we will have a flowing well—using a concrete slab and a few valves which in the trade is known as a Christmas tree."

"Why Christmas tree?" McDowell was asked.

"Simply, because it will be Christmas every day," explained McDowell "if that well can produce 500 to a 1000 barrels a day without a pumping unit."

McDowell said that his company has contracted with McMillan to haul the petroleum by tank truck to their refinery in Long Beach.

"We will sell the natural gas to the Pacific Coast Gasoline Company in Lomita," he said.

### Discussion on Bonds Planned

Meeting of the Torrance Educational Advisory Committee will take place next Monday at noon in the Ding How Cafe, 1652 Cabrillo Ave., Torrance.

Topics for discussion will be "Distribution of the Bond Brochure," and "Shall the Bible be read in the public schools?" Moderator for the meeting will be Grace Wright, Board of Education member.



EXECUTIVE Secretary Warren Dale Isenberg, Jr., better known as Dale to his friends, took over chamber of commerce duties, Tuesday morning, following his appointment on Monday afternoon. —Press photo

## Isenberg Is Secretary Of Chamber

Warren Dale Isenberg, Jr., was unanimously appointed by Board of Directors action, as executive secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, this Monday evening and immediately took over the position, Tuesday morning, according to new Chamber President, Robert I. Plomert Jr.

Isenberg, 40 years of age, replaces Blaine Walker, who resigned Jan. 2. The new Chamber Executive Secretary lives at 2550 Sorrel Lane—right near the border of Torrance, with his wife, Jane and four children, ranging in age from 18 months to eight years of age—one boy and three girls. He has been a resident of Southern California and the Los Angeles area for 39 of his 40 years.

GENERAL MANAGER Prior to his present position, Isenberg served as General Manager of the Business Exchange Corporation in Los Angeles and the Pacific Exchange in San Francisco.

The new Executive Secretary's (Continued on Page Eight)

## Chamber Appointments Disclosed by Plomert

Majority of Chamber of Commerce Business, Wednesday Evening at 4 p.m., was taken up with the selection of an executive secretary, President Robert I. Plomert, Jr., informed the Press. Warren Dale Isenberg was selected. Other business included the hiring of a temporary

assistant secretary. She will replace Gladys Tucker, Feb. 11. Mrs. Tucker resigned last week.

The Torrance Press was officially accepted as a member of the Chamber at the same meeting.

### Council Meeting Reapproves 184 Tract Homes

City Council members called an emergency meeting of that body, last night to reapprove the 184 three bedroom home tract at Hawthorne and Prairie. Contractors for this development are Kissel and Wright.

Assistant to the Engineer Patrick pointed out that reapproval was necessary because signatures of the contractors were added to the map after the City Council had approved it.

Also slated for approval at the same meeting was the 101 tract subdivisions at 171st Street and Faysmith Ave. Contractors for this development are the Barton Construction Company.

### 5-Day Week Starts Here

Members of the Harbor Area Employers' Council in meeting assembled February 5, 1952, in the Council's office agreed to the proposals recommended by their Negotiating Committee, which have been accepted by the Retail Clerks Union, Local 905, thus ending strike action taken by the Union against several employers individually and the Employers' Council, a strike against one being considered a strike against all members.

Last Thursday night, Jan. 31, the Council's Negotiating Committee had recommended to the members terms of a settlement of the contract.

The majority of the employers objected and they drafted a counter-proposal.

The Union refused to accept this and two stores were struck Friday. Strike action and picketing against seven employers started Friday and Saturday. Acceptance by the employers, and by the union, of the negotiation committee recommendations ended the strike.

MEMBERS HAILED Announcing the settlement, "I want to thank the people of Torrance on behalf of the Clerks' Union for the wonderful support given them. We are happy the dispute has been settled and hope that everyone will put their shoulders to the wheel and work toward the betterment of our community."

Haskell Tidwell, Secretary of Retail Clerks Union, Local 905

(Continued on Page Six)

## \$10,000 Goal Needed for Polio Drive

Community spirit certainly supported the March of Dimes Drive in Torrance this week, incomplete returns of funds collected indicated today.

Chairman of the Drive, Postmaster Clara Conner, reported that she has received \$4,492.64 from eight separate sources within the community.

Although the campaign officially ended February 3, Mrs. Conner revealed that industry and most of the service clubs have not turned in their contributions, as yet.

\$10,000 GOAL Mrs. Conner said that the March of Dimes Drive in Torrance had set \$10,000 as a minimum goal. This money is to be used for research to combat polio.

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### Furnaces of Plant Fired

Full scale operation at Columbia Steel should start by tomorrow morning, both management and the Union agreed today.

Local 1414 of the CIO Steel Workers pulled their men off the job after the workers were fired, it was reported.

The Union called the work stoppage—"a continuous meeting." Management referred to it as "a strike."

The original dispute arose over the suspension of 13 men on January 4.

Officials of management pointed out that a foreman had asked the workers to carry out an assignment as hookers. It is reported that the employees refused, and the foreman sent them home.

MEN FIRED According to both management and the Union, it was agreed that the 13 men would return to work on Monday.

That same day, Jan. 7, Columbia Steel fired two of the workers, and the Union called a continuous meeting which shut the steel mill down until 8 p.m., Feb. 4, almost a month.

Joe McNally, chairman of the grievance committee for local 1414 said that management and the Union would get together shortly to work out the original cause of the dispute.

Don Hyde, an official at Columbia Steel, said that the two men would not be rehired until their case could be studied by the grievance committee and management.

McNally said that Don Baker, one of the men fired, is now in the Navy. It is believed that Dawson, the other fired man, has another job.

"Our stand still is," said Hyde, "we cannot bargain" while a strike is in progress."

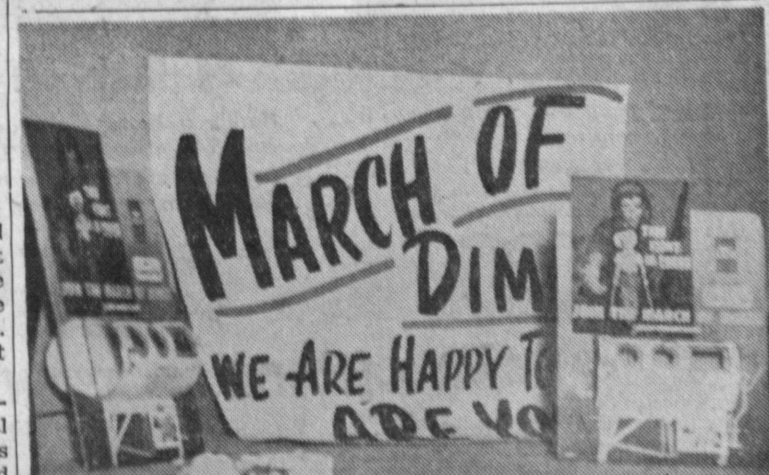
NO INFORMATION McNally and Union President Victor Teer said that they had (Continued on Page Eight)

### Special Meeting Opens Feb. 8

An emergency meeting will be held by the Recreation Commission, this Friday evening at 5 p.m., at the City Hall. At that time, the Commission will decide whether or not to recommend that the Council present or trash ordinance to the people at the April 10th plebiscite.

Recreation Director Frank Carpenter announced that the meeting will be open to the public.

All interested residents of Torrance are requested to be present to hear the pros and cons on this measure.



MORE THAN \$60 for the March of Dimes campaign was collected on the table shown above, which was placed in front of the Torrance National Bank, last Saturday. The street drive, which was engineered by advertising salesman Jim Felts, was one of the many activities held to collect funds. Postmaster Clara Conner was chairman of the March of Dimes drive. She was assisted by Felts and George Post who served as treasurer. —Press photo