

'BID For Better Government Ticket' in Council Race

Benstead, Isen and Drale Run

"BID for Better Government."

With this slogan taken from their initials, three prominent Torrance men by popular demand have agreed to run together as a ticket in the coming Municipal election pledged to give the people of Torrance a City Council working for the good of all of Torrance.

The "B" in the BID is Victor E. Benstead, devoted citizen of some 30 years residence who was only 7 votes short of election two years ago.

The "I" is Albert Isen, lawyer, property owner and business man who has lived here for 31 years.

The "D" is Councilman Nickolas O. Drale, incumbent who has battled for four years for better things for the people of the City, only to be denied cooperation of the ruling four on the city's legislative body.

Never, in the opinion of observers, has there been the need for the unselfish attention of an honest, fearless and compatible group to work for the interests of the City of Torrance as exists at this time.

EXPANDING
Torrance is expanding into a city of homes, business and industry, and the community needs men who are able to cope with ALL the problems facing such an expanding city, those urging the election of the BID ticket say.

Old-fashioned, narrow, selfish and arbitrary city politics have no place in a city trying to grow, was the unanimous opinion of the group fostering the candidacy of Benstead, Isen and Drale.

First to seek such running mates was the incumbent Councilman himself who is offering to take another "four years" of city politics to prove that he has been RIGHT in the progressive, humanitarian and business-like measures he has proposed.

NICK DRALE
"We want to 'knock out' the money changers from the temple," Drale declared. "We want municipal protection, fire, police, transportation, streets, health services, and the other necessities of government in ALL OF TORRANCE."

OPEN MEETINGS
"We want to open the Council proceedings to the public; to end 'closed door' meetings," (Continued on Page Six)

Siamese Read Classified Ads, Return Home

Local cat-lovers were probably aroused last week when they noticed ads in the Torrance Press classifieds seeking the return of 2 lost Siamese cats.

Speculation ran high as to the fate of the pussies, one a prize male and the other a female. Did they elope? Were they cat-napped?

Worriers and wonderers can cease their speculations. Both cats have returned to their owners. Mrs. James Starke, owner of the prize steel-point male Siamese, and C. J. Meadow, owner of the female cat, a recent mother of four kittens, reported that both truant felines returned home Thursday morning within a few hours after the Press hit the streets. Could it be that even cats read the Press classifieds?



JUDGE OTTO B. WILLETT, this week announced his candidacy for Municipal Court Judicial Office No. 2 of the South Bay Municipal Court District, to be voted upon at the June 3rd primary.

Torrance PRESS

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THIRD YEAR

TORRANCE, CALIF., THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1952

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NUMBER 44

FOUR POLICEMEN RESIGN; RAP WORK CONDITIONS



VIC BENSTEAD
On BID Ticket

ALBERT ISEN
Hat in Ring

NICK DRALE
Councilman Runs Again

TORRANCE UNIFIED TAXPAYERS FORMED

Articles of Incorporation of Torrance Unified Taxpayers as a non-profit corporation were filed with the Secretary of State and the County Clerk last week.

The organization, composed of citizens from all parts of Torrance, was formed several months ago to provide the ever-increasing group of small taxpayers a better voice in government affairs, officers of the new corporation said.

Specifically, its purposes are given in the articles below:

1. To encourage active participation in all things that have to do with civic betterment.
 2. To uphold the principles of good government.
 3. To cooperate with other organizations engaged in worthwhile endeavors for the public welfare.
 4. To encourage the registration of all qualified residents as voters.
 5. To provide for its members and the general public a voice and forum for the consideration of matters involving legislation and taxation by the City of Torrance, the Torrance Unified School District and the County of Los Angeles.
 6. To provide representation for all interested citizens and taxpayers within the municipal boundaries of the City of Torrance for the purpose of obtaining, fostering and maintaining their collective action in order that stable, just, fair and equal treatment shall be accorded the entire citizenry.
 7. To encourage and promote the education of citizens in the exercise of their privilege as electors.
 8. To foster and endorse qualified candidates for public office and to promote their election.
- General purposes also set forth in the articles which were prepared and filed by Attorney Albert Isen.
- Officers of the corporation are Frank S. Selover, president; J. A. Benzley, vice president; A. J. Patronsky, secretary; Albert D. Gianni, treasurer.
- One of the first activities of the group was to sponsor and promote a "register to vote" campaign to secure as large a body of electors as possible for the coming Municipal election.

City Hall to Register Voters 'til 9 Tonight

Today is the last day to register for the April 8th City election in Torrance, according to A. H. Bartlett, city clerk. Bartlett said that the City Hall will be open until 9 p.m. today to register latecomers who are unable to get there during working hours.

NEW REGISTRATION

In order to vote in the city election, new registration is necessary for the following conditions:

If anyone has moved, he must re-register. Anyone who has failed to vote at the last general election must re-register.

To be eligible to vote, a Torrance resident must have lived in the State of California for one year, prior to election day, 90 days in Los Angeles county, and 30 days in his precinct.

Here is a list of the people eligible to register Torrance residents who want to vote in the April 8th election:

TORRANCE CITY

City Hall, 1511 Cravens avenue.

Precinct 1, Willys G. Blount, 17036 Wilkie avenue.

Precinct 6, Mrs. Catherine Garner, 803 Amapola avenue.

Precinct 11, John M. Keane, 1620 Iris avenue.

Precinct 11, Mrs. Irene F. Wilkes, 2717 W. Carson street.

Precinct 12, Henry L. Powell, 24260 Ocean avenue.

Precinct 17, Mrs. Theresa H. (Continued on Page Six)

Polio Fund Hits \$5000 In Torrance

Incomplete returns on the March of Dimes campaign in Torrance, today showed that approximately \$5,000 have been collected, according to Postmaster Clara Conner, chairman of the drive.

She said that more money is coming in, but the final figures were not available at this time. "About \$6,000 should come when industry reports," Mrs. Conner said.

STEELE HOSPITALIZED

Board of Education member Carl D. Steele entered Torrance Memorial Hospital for an operation, yesterday. Steele's many friends are hoping he will make a speedy recover. He has been on the sick list for quite some time.

Flood Plan Will Ignore New Areas

Councilman Nick Drale's plan to develop a "pay as you go" flood control program for Torrance appeared to have been ignored this week.

However, at the City Council meeting last night—John Patrick—assistant to the engineer, submitted a plan, which almost completely ignores the needs of the outlying areas. The Central part of Torrance, as usual, will receive adequate protection.

WALTERIA LAKE

Walteria's lake—still almost deep enough to float a canoe—will continue to exist under the Patrick plan.

Former City Engineer Jacob Joseph had recommended this project as a top must, but the ruling four fired him.

Under the Patrick plan, the Walteria project for eliminating the lake which had previously been submitted to the County Flood Control design engineer, M. C. Tobin, will be withdrawn.

Patrick pointed out in his letter to the Council that it would cost \$3000 per acre to eliminate the Walteria lake. He pointed out that there are 600 acres involved which would be a total cost of \$1,800,000.

Only North Torrance received some consideration—although it was meager. Patrick recommended that a storm sewer be put in between Arlington Ave. from Redondo Beach Blvd. to eliminate the flood hazard on 164th Street.

Outside of that all improvements are slated in the Central Torrance area.

Cooler During Early Morning

Temperatures for the past week, beginning last Friday, started with the early morning hours being lukewarm and a gradual climb to room temperature by 9 or 10 o'clock in the morning.

Also, the first rain since February 2, was recorded this Monday. However, it barely turned out to be a drizzle with the gauge in the Torrance City Fire Department recording .03 of an inch. Lakes from recent floods continue to exist.

Here are the temperatures for the past week:

Date	Min. Temp.	Max. Temp.
Feb. 8	48	76
Feb. 9	53	67
Feb. 10	46	66
Feb. 11	45	64
Feb. 12	46	61

Mass Exodus from Unit Rocks City

The mass exodus of police officers from the Torrance Police Department has stirred the consternation of residents within the community.

Four officers turned in their resignations in the past few weeks.

They refuse to state publicly their reasons for their action.

Three of the officers had been on the force for five years, the fourth for one year.

Of the four well-trained officers, two left the department Jan. 31. They are Gale Whitaker, who served five years; Bruce Goole, one year.

Two more will leave the department by the end of February. Larry Benton terminates his job as a city policeman Feb. 18, after six and one-half years on the force.

HOLMES RESIGNS
Jess Holmes resigns February 25 after five and three-quarters years in the Police Department.

The men interviewed said that they were leaving the Torrance Force for "better working conditions" and "better wages."

None of the men would qualify what was wrong with the working conditions.

There have been rumors circulated that veteran officers with five years or more of service have had three-months of day work within that period. There have also been charges of favoritism. One officer, it is said, is permitted the use of a police car to travel to work and home. The rest of the officers, it is reported, are not given this privilege.

CHIEF OF POLICE
Here is what Chief of Police (Continued on Page Six)

'Town Meeting' Slated by New Taxpayer Group
A "Town Meeting" of residents of Torrance will be held Friday, February 15, at 8 p.m. in Walteria Park Recreation Building, it was announced this week.

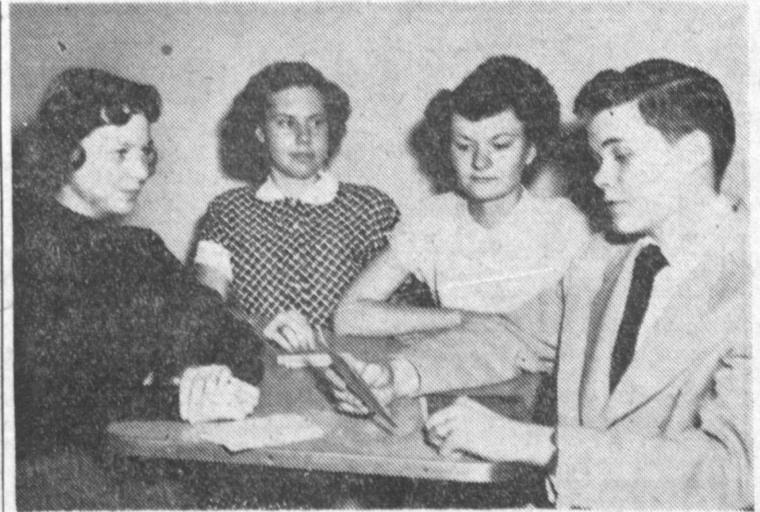
Sponsoring the meeting is the newly incorporated Torrance Unified Taxpayers, and the affair is in line with its program of keeping the electorate informed of what is going on in the city.

Speakers will be Jim Minter, president, Pacific Hills Homeowners Association, and George Olding, past president, Walteria Civic Association, whose topic will be "Needs of South Torrance"; Victor E. Benstead, civic leader for many years, Albert Isen, attorney and businessman, and Councilman Nick Drale, candidates for election to the City Council, whose topic will be "Bid for Better Government"; Dr. J. H. Hull, superintendent of schools, whose topic will be "The Need Behind the \$3,000,000 School Bond Issue."

Representatives from all sections of Torrance are invited, it was announced.



A TREMENDOUS CROWD of more than 500 stood in the background at Lloyd Dennee's Torrance store, Monday evening, as Mrs. L. C. Miller, of 1317 Beech Ave., was notified that she won the "Count the Dot" contest and will receive a new Emerson Television set. Store Manager James Nicola, standing next to her, made the announcement. Next to Nicola stood Maxine, wife of the firm head, Lloyd Dennee, himself, is at the far right and looks at one of the winning prize ticket which was drawn out of the box. —Press photo



AFTER THE NEED for the \$3,000,000 school bond election to be voted upon Feb. 26, was thoroughly explained at the Educational Advisory Board meeting, held at the Ding How Cafe, a panel of four Torrance high school students debated the pros and cons of reading the Bible in the public schools. Representing the belief that the Bible has a place in the educational system were members of the affirmative, left to right—Jo Ann Benard and Jean Wade, followed by Ann Carroll and Roger Wright on the negative. Speech instructor Desmond P. Wedberg, not in the picture, served as moderator for the forum, which was also recently presented over station KMPC. —Press photo

Pacific Hill Residents Blast City Councilmen

Pacific Hill residents in a board meeting of their Homeowners Association, conducted at 3031 Winlock Road openly blasted the present City Council, Monday evening, for permitting oil sumps and a long list of other ills to exist in the area.

It was pointed out that the signal at Newton and 101 hadn't been put in although there have been numerous injuries.

ORDINANCE 3167
Ordinance 316, calling for an agricultural zone where the present oil sump exists, has been ignored, it was revealed by one committeeman. Not only was the oil sump reopened illegally, but the operators are even breaking a State law as well as a City ordinance. The State law is the Kathy Fiscus law which makes it illegal to permit any large hole to remain unfenced. It was passed to protect children.

Other complaints by Pacific Hillers pointed to 88 homes that have no plumbing trap outlets. This, one member pointed out, could not have happened if the City Plumbing inspection had been alert.

BEASLEY APPEARS
Earlier in the meeting J. A. Beasley of the City Recreation Commission, appeared before the group, and informed them that two vacancies exist on the Commission which must be filled by (Continued on Page Six)

SPIRITED INTEREST was in evidence at the Torrance Educational Advisory Committee luncheon meeting at the Ding How. Monday, when four students from the high school debated on the topic, "Should the Bible be read in the Public Schools?"

The subject which followed discussion on the bond election issue, was introduced by Principal John Steinhagen.

DESMOND WEDBERG, instructor of speech and drama for the secondary students, served as moderator. On the panel were student debaters Roger Wright and Ann Carroll who opposed the teaching of the Bible in the schools while Jean Wade and Jo Ann Benard believed that the Bible should be used in the schools.

Roger Wright in summing up his arguments said: "You can't legislate morality. If the Bible is read without comment, it would be as difficult to understand as a geometric problem for those not familiar with the Holy Book. Church and State should be separated. Home is the place for the Bible, and to take this privilege away from the home would take the responsibility away."

ANN CARROLL, Miss Ann Carroll, also on the negative pointed out: "Everyone is entitled to his own belief. There is enough prejudice without teaching religion."

On the affirmative side, Jo Ann Benard said that "the Bible is the background of western culture." Also that "history is part of education—why not the Bible." She declared that "science and faith need not be in conflict."

Jean Wade, also on the affirmative side, emphasized: "Communism and immorality can be stayed off by reading the Bible."

Dennee Contest Attracts 1000 Hopeful Rivals

Lloyd Dennee's at 1875 W. Carson St., in Torrance, was in the spotlight, Monday evening, as more than 500 people filled the store and mushroomed into the street—patiently waiting to find out who won the "Count the Dot" contest. The contest opened Jan. 31 and ended Sunday, Feb. 3.

Mrs. L. C. Miller, a resident of Torrance since 1919, who lives at 1317 Beech, won an Emerson Television set for her efforts. She is a member of Eastern Star and has a son, who graduated from Torrance High School. He now teaches at Seaside Ranchos.

DOTS COUNTED
"I counted 1475 dots," Mrs. Miller declared jubilantly. "It was a combination of having the Torrance Press at my door bright and early, Thursday morning and the fact that it was raining."

She further pointed out: "I'd pick the paper up and begin to count—then put it down again. Those dots are fascinating."

Among other store members on hand to congratulate Mrs. Miller were head of the firm, (Continued on Page Six)

Late Registrants - Last Day; City Hall Open Till 9 p.m.