



VICTOR E. BENSTEAD
The "B" in 'BID' Ticket



ALBERT ISEN
Lawyer in BID Trio



COUNCILMAN NICK DRALE
New Term Asked on BID Ticket



MERVIN M. SCHWAB
Seeks City Council Post



ED KARLOW
Wants Another Term



JACK WHITE
Asks for Council Job



GEORGE DOWNING
Making Third Council Try



BOB HAGGARD
Runs Again for Council

Council Candidates Line Up

Commission Requests Two New Members

Even though a bare quorum was present, the Recreation Commission managed to take care of a great deal of important business at its regular meeting Monday evening. Upon the motion of Commissioner J. A. Beasley a letter was sent to the City Council requesting what action had been taken upon the resignation of Bud Lee and Tom Babbitt.

COMMISSIONERS RECOMMEND

The Commissioners also recommended to the Council that bids for shuffle board courts, checker boards, and other games be asked for immediately since the Adult Recreation Center is progressing rapidly.

The Commissioners asked the City Engineer to submit a report whether the putting in of another tennis court would make drainage more difficult in El Retiro Park in Hollywood Riviera.

J. A. Beasley moved that the City Council install a hard surface playing area at the Walteria Recreation Center.

It was pointed out that the City of Torrance would soon sell the property upon which the city transportation shops were located. There are rumors that the new shops will be placed near the Madrona School.

Commissioners were in general agreement that the Council should be asked what happened to the \$1000 appropriation for Recreation which has not been allocated to this point.

THREAT OF GAMBLING HALLS NEAR COLLEGE SEEN IN GARDENA MOVE

TUT Sponsors Rancho and Riviera Meet

Torrance Unified Taxpayers Inc. will sponsor a meeting of residents of the Hollywood Riviera and Seaside Ranchos areas on Friday night in Hollywood Riviera Beach Club, starting at 8 o'clock.

Three candidates on the "BID for Better Government" will speak on their platform, and others interested will talk. They are Victor E. Benstead, Albert Isen and Councilman Nick Drale.

Frank Brennan, who led the fight to restore Torrance municipal bus service to Hollywood Riviera, with the aid of Councilman Drale, the Torrance Press and other citizens, will chairmen the meeting.

The session is being arranged by A. J. Patrosky, secretary of Torrance Unified Taxpayers Inc.



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Alondra Park 'Grab' Is Cited

The threat of moving gambling halls nearer to Torrance, El Camino College and Alondra Park loomed this week as it was revealed that the City of Gardena again is attempting to stretch its borders to Crenshaw boulevard opposite the college and park.

Councilman Nick Drale, avowed opponent of gambling, said that if Gardena is able to annex the territory west of its present boundary, Arlington avenue, it will open that territory to gambling halls and will jockey Gardena into a position to "grab" Alondra Park and El Camino College.

Drale urged immediate action by the City Council of Torrance to annex Alondra Park and thus forestall the double threat from Gardena.

He said that this can be done now without an election. Drale's "colleagues" on the Council oppose this.

He proposes, also, that the vast business and residential district north of Alondra Park be

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8 CITIZENS VIE FOR 3 POSITIONS

Eight candidates will be on the ballot of the Torrance Municipal Election on April 8 seeking three City Council posts, and one candidate is running unopposed as City Treasurer.

The closing date for filing was last Thursday at noon, and at that time it was thought that a ninth candidate would be in the field. However, Mrs. Alice Thomas, announced as a candidate, did not file.

The candidates for City Council are:

Victor E. Benstead, who came within seven votes of election two years ago and who is the "B" on the "BID for Better Government" ticket.

Albert Isen, the "I" on the "BID" ticket, a lawyer business man and property owner.

Councilman Nick Drale, the "D" on the "BID" ticket, who is serving out a successful first term on the City Council.

Mervin M. Schwab, popular local leader.

Councilman Ed Karlow, who is serving out the term of George Powell, resigned councilman who heads the Civilian defense pro-

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Board of Education Probe Methods to Cut Expenses

Methods to make every dollar count which was voted in the school bond election, Feb. 26, was under discussion at the regular board meeting, Tuesday evening, at which President of the Board, Judge John Shidler presided.

It was pointed out that unless a method could be found to cut down architect's fees, eight per cent of the \$3,000,000 school bond money or \$240,000 might eventually be spent for this purpose. Bonds for construction cannot be sold until June, it was revealed.

Board members agreed upon a price of \$4,000 per acre for the Nielson property on 168th between Yukon and Crenshaw after Attorney Leonard Smith of Los Angeles pointed out to the Board that the land in this area at a minimum is selling for \$4500 per acre. He was representing Nielson.

MORE CLASSROOMS

Plans call for 14 classrooms on the Nielson property, located in North Torrance. Superintendent of Schools J. H. Hull pointed out that the administration will build a precast school here as well as a ten classroom school at 235th. These schools will be a duplication of the Madrona and

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Isbell Joins Liberty Home Economy Co.

Milt Isbell who for practical purposes was known as Mr. YMCA of Torrance while he was executive secretary of that organization, this week became an active partner in the Liberty Home Economy Company. He will be associated with Jim Lawson and Walt Schaefer.

Isbell who lives with his wife and three children — ranging in age from one year to 12, came to Torrance in September, 1947, at which time he became the "Y" executive secretary.

"My heart will always be close to the YMCA," said Isbell. "If I can extend a helping hand, I'll be only too happy to do so."

In the meantime, Isbell said that he will work with the "Y" in a lay capacity as a volunteer worker.

Isbell informed the Press that Liberty Home Economy will move its offices to 1523 Cravens the early part of next week. This has been the home of Public Loan.

STATE BALKS 174th STREET IMPROVING

Contrary to ill-founded rumors, the City Council has no authority to force subdividers to install curbs, gutters, sidewalks and streets on any portion of a tract facing on a State Highway, City Manager George Stevens told the Torrance Press this week.

Tracts facing on 174th street, a secondary highway, containing 1034 homes and with a total frontage of 13,000 feet on the highway, have been a center of controversy over street improvements since the state assumed jurisdiction and control over 174th street several years ago.

There have been eight subdivisions in the area, and a record for their development in relation to 174th street follows:

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

May 11, 1947, Property Management put in the first tract of 190 homes. At that time, it was a city street, and the Council ordered the subdivider to put

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THIRD YEAR TORRANCE, CALIF., MARCH 6, 1952 54 5c Per Copy NUMBER 47

City Nets Big Sales Tax Gain

(An Editorial)

UP IN LOCAL RETAIL TRADE AIDS COFFERS

Torrance retail trade subject to the City Sales Tax will exceed \$13,200,000 during the fiscal year of 1951-52, with the City of Torrance realizing \$66,000 in sales taxes therefrom, according to estimates from the office of the City Clerk.

This represents a retail trade gain of approximately \$2,000,000 above the total for the fiscal year 1950-51 when taxable trade amounted to \$11,210,000, from which the city collected \$56,065 in sales taxes. Groceries and meats are not included in these totals as they are not subject to the sales tax.

The City of Torrance has been realizing an average of \$5466 per month from the City Sales Tax, during the current fiscal year. Sales taxes collected from July 1, 1951, to Dec. 31, 1951, amounted to \$29,309. Sales taxes collected in the month of January by the city amounted to \$8952, making the total for the first seven months of the fiscal year \$38,261.

The city levies 1/2 of one percent on all sales, exclusive of foods. The state levy of 3 percent is in addition to above figures.

FOR SIX MONTHS

The City of Torrance first started levying the sales tax in the year 1947-48, as an "emergency" measure for "six months" to get the city out of a war-born financial problem. That

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Revenue from the Torrance City Sales Tax, 1/2 of 1 percent of gross retail sales, is almost as much as is needed to finance the recreation program for which the four ruling City Councilmen said they want to levy a 75 cents per month rubbish collection fee, it was revealed this week by advocates of the "BID for better Government Ticket."

The City Sales Tax originally was instituted to get the city out of the "hole" when conditions were not so good here. It was levied first in 1947 for "six months."

Now, the City of Torrance not only is "out of the hole" but has a surplus of about \$200,000 (last year, and being built in greater proportions this year.)

And the City Sales Tax goes on, and on.

This year, the City of Torrance will collect about \$66,000 from the City Sales Tax.

The proposed "rubbish tax" recreation program called for spending about \$90,000 a year.

The "BID" ticket, Vic Benstead, Albert Isen and Councilman Nick Drale suggest a compromise.

They do not want the rubbish tax.

They say we should use the surplus for purposes for which sales taxes are now used.

And they advocate pledging of the sales tax to recreation.

Big Recreation Area Is BID Plan

Development of a vast recreation area on the Walteria sump, flooded area west of Hawthorne boulevard and north of 101 highway, on a joint basis with assistance of the State Division of Water Resources and the County of Los Angeles is being proposed by the "BID for Better Government" ticket in the coming City Council race.

Victor E. Benstead, Albert Isen and Councilman Nick Drale stated this week that one of the finest recreation areas in the southwest can be developed there.

They said that County Flood Control District assistance would be available because of the fact the sump receives flood waters from a vast area surrounding the lake that forms there during heavy rains. The sump receives water from miles around, even from outside of Torrance.

Also, they pointed out, the State would be interested in the "lake" as a natural "seepage" area in its program to replenish the underground water supply as a means of stopping the inroads of salty ocean water into the West Basin's underground streams.

Playgrounds, a lake for boating and perhaps fishing, trout

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Crest to Open Doors at 1413 Cravens Ave.

Crest Furniture at 1413 Cravens Ave. in Torrance opens its doors next week—adding another milestone to the rapidly growing trading center in Torrance.

Finishing touches for the scheduled opening are in process now. Crest Furniture is a member of the fabulous 21-store West Coast Buying Syndicate, it was revealed.

Prizes, entertainment, and gifts galore for ladies and kiddies will be featured in the Grand Opening ceremony.

Chamber Affair To Be Monday

The Chamber of Commerce annual get-together dinner will be held at the Jonathan Club next Monday, according to Dale Isenberg, executive secretary of the Chamber.

Isenberg said that out-going president Henry W. Creeger, will be presented with a silver-banded gavel, by new President Robert I. Plomert, Jr.

Postal Receipts Show Big Jump

Postal receipts totaled \$40,563.10 for January, February of this year, records at the Post Office showed today.

This is an increase of more than \$8,000 for the same period during 1951. Last year, for January-February, \$32,471.67 in receipts were taken in.

It was pointed out that all receipts were a result of stamp sales.

Anthony Bilotti Strong Supporter Of 'BID' Ticket

Anthony Bilotti, landscape expert who resides at 18528 Ashley Avenue, in North Torrance, is one of the many civic leaders who are backing the "BID for Better Government" ticket—Victor E. Benstead, Albert Isen and Councilman Nick Drale—for election to the City Council April 8.

Bilotti was one of the signers of the nominating petition for Councilman Drale. His name inadvertently was left off the list of signers published last week.

Over 3 Million Total Permits

Building permits for February, 1952, were the largest since December, 1950, according to records on file in the Building Department in the City Hall. Total figures for January and February of this year totaled \$3,775,950.

Total permits for \$3,191,922 were granted during February. In December, 1950, more than four million in permits were issued.

During February, 1951, there were 1,488,780 in permits. For the first two months in 1951, \$2,519,760 in permits were recorded. On the basis of the figures, the first two months in 1952 are \$612,162 ahead of 1951.

Oldsters Take Part in Slow Pitch Game

"There's a lot of life left in the old boy yet," according to Elmer "Red" Moon of the Recreation Department. And an opportunity is being provided to prove just that. A slow pitch softball league is being organized now to allow spry old-timers and lethargic young-timers to gather under the lights and sock the old ball around.

It's all in fun says Red, no entry fee, trophies, or awards, just a good time.

Any adult who is not a member of any other softball team may join the league. A team may have not more than four players under the age of thirty-two playing in a game at the same time. This is strictly an old men's league, announced the Recreation Department.

Interested athletes should notify the Department at its office, 1347 El Prado, as soon as possible, so that adequate equipment may be obtained.

Schwartz Helps Concert Series Planning Group

Plans got underway last night for the re-establishment of Community Concerts in Torrance.

With the aid of Mrs. Gay Sandelin, organization director of Community Concerts, Inc., people met in the conference room of the Chamber of Commerce and made plans to select officers and initiate a subscription drive.

General Chairman of the membership drive is Ella Schwartz. She has been busy rounding up prospective workers in the campaign which will now start in earnest.

The concert series of prominent artists is financed entirely by advance subscriptions, according to Mrs. Sandelin. She said

that Community Concerts is a service that brings great musical entertainment into the community on a permanent, pay-as-you-go basis, with the assurance that no group or individual participating will have the responsibility of debts.

The list of available artists was submitted at the meeting. The roster includes such famous names as soprano, Nadine Connor, Vivian Della Chiesa, and Helen Traubel; mezzo-sopranos, Rise Stevens and Gladys Swarthout; tenors, John Carter and James Melton; and pianists, Jean Casadesu, Rudolf Firkušny, and Maluczynski.

NOTICE!

If at any time you do not receive your PRESS Thursday morning, call Torrance 1185 before 11 a.m. Your paper will be sent to you by special messenger.



COMMUNITY CONCERTS were off to a flying start, last night at the Chamber of Commerce board room. Prominent members of the Torrance community met to give a helping hand to this project. Pictured above are left to right,

Chamber Executive Secretary—Dale Isenberg, Mrs. Gay Sandelin—New York representative of Community Concerts, and Mrs. Ed Schwartz, general chairman for the membership drive. —Press Photo.