

### Let's Change the School Elections

That less than 10 percent of the qualified electors of Torrance Unified School District voted Friday in the "election" to pick three members of the Board of Education is a disgraceful situation which could threaten democracy if carried out on a national scale. The fact that the apathy on the part of the voters is even promoted by school officials is even more disgraceful. In Torrance, it calls for action, as follows:

Initiative petitions or action by the City Council to restore school elections to the Municipal Election ballot or to place them on the June State primary ballot in future election years.

The City Council can on its own motion place a proposal to amend the City Charter to provide that school district elections be held concurrently with other elections. The Torrance Press suggests that the June primary election would be the best time.

We want the people to voice themselves on school district matters, especially in the election of a Board of Education. In addition, it will be an economy move.

Fewer voters cast their ballots at the school district election this year than did two years ago when we had 4000 fewer registered voters. Two years ago, the high man on the ballot polled 1628 votes. This year's high man polled only 854 votes.

Two years ago, the total vote cast was 1701. This year, the total vote cast was 1316. Paul Loranger and his Ballot Battalion did a wonderful job and deserve support.

The first thing the Superintendent of Schools J. H. Hull and the new Board of Education did in 1947 was to sponsor an amendment to the City Charter to take the school election "off" the Municipal ballot. They do not want big votes in school elections. That is the unfortunate part. Elections can be better controlled if few vote, and it happened this year.

If we start at once and propose a Charter amendment to put the school elections back on the Municipal ballot or hold election on the State primary election day, perhaps we can give the people a chance to express themselves at the 1954 school elections. Dr. Hull and the Board will oppose this, but that's all right.

Let's get going. The people will back the move.

### NOW WHAT DO YOU SAY?

Torrance Municipal Bus Lines, (sponsored by the City Council, Nick Drale dissenting), inaugurated a false economy move which for the past year or more deprived the people of east Lomita and Harbor City of transportation to Torrance. They did so in cancelling the Harbor City run which brought many shoppers to Torrance from the populous area between Narbonne and Vermont, in the Pacific Coast highway area.

The people there, led by the fighting spirit of Mrs. Frances Hencel, opposed the cancellation of the Torrance service. When they failed to convince such men as Councilmen Harvey Spelman and Willys Blount that the line should be continued, they started out to find other bus service.

Last week, the long campaign paid off. Gardena Municipal Bus Lines was given permission of the Los Angeles Public Utilities Commission to operate a bus line down Western avenue to serve the people of the stranded Harbor City and East Lomita area.

In other words, they stole the business right out from under the noses of the City of Torrance and the merchants of this community.

What is going to happen?

Local service on the Torrance Western avenue line will be duplicated, and business will suffer. The Torrance Los Angeles line, the only "paying" line, also will suffer, as Gardena will pick up passengers who normally travel the Torrance lines and connect them either with the Gardena Los Angeles service or with the yellow buses of Los Angeles Transit lines at Imperial boulevard and Normandie.

Now what do you say, Mr. Spelman, Mr. Blount, Mr. Chamberlain and Mr. Stevens? We have said right along the Torrance Municipal Bus Lines need good management. Do we need better proof than this?

### Torrance Lines Take Revenue Cut After Gardena Bus Grab

Revenue from the Torrance to Los Angeles run of the Torrance Municipal Bus Lines stands to take a cut estimated from mild to severe by various City officials now that the Gardena Municipal Bus Lines are operating along Western Avenue as far south as Pacific Coast Highway.

Regularly scheduled bus service to Harbor City and the Shoestring Strip by the Gardena line followed a decision handed down by the Los Angeles Public Utilities Commission last week. A proposed protest by Marshall Chamberlain, bus supervisor for the City of Torrance, was not heard by the commission.

After the hearing Chamberlain said that Torrance would no doubt lose money. Under the new system, passengers may board a Gardena bus and transfer at Imperial Highway and Normandie Ave., to a Los Angeles Transit Lines Bus.

The poor transportation service to the area south of Torrance has worked an especially great hardship during the current Greyhound strike. No incentive, emergency service had been provided by the Torrance lines for residents of that section.

The schedule of the new Gardena bus service calls for a bus to run north and south on Western Ave., between Gardena Blvd. and Pacific Coast Hwy., and north and south on Normandie Ave., between Imperial Blvd. and Pacific Coast Hwy.



CONCERT WORKERS — Dr. J. H. Hull, (left to right) Mrs. Edward Schwartz, and Mrs. Murray Rudnick pause a moment during their activities in the Community Concert Campaign Drive. The one-week subscription drive got underway with a kick-off dinner Monday evening at the YWCA building. Over sixty workers are engaged in selling the tickets for the concert series to begin in October.

# ASK SCHOOL VOTE DATE CHANGE

## Few Voters Respond in Board Race

In the lightest vote polled since the inception of the Torrance Unified School District, Torrance voters returned three incumbents to the board in last Friday's election.

Only 1316 out of 12,400 registered voters cast ballots. As a result of the scant vote, a demand for amendment to the City Charter to provide that school elections be held the same day as municipal or state primary elections, has been voiced.

El Camino College's request for an extension of the override tax received the approval of the voters by a better than 3 to 1 margin. The 20-cent override tax will finance the college's pay-as-you-go building program. The district, including ten local communities approved the tax 7779 to 3556. Torrance passed it 1014 to 280.

STEELE LEADS — Polling the highest number of votes in the Board of Education race was Carl Steele. A member of the board since its inception, he polled a total of 854 votes.

Two other incumbents who were re-elected were Rollin Smith, D.V.M. polling 828 votes, and Mrs. Grace Wright, who received 785 votes.

Smith was appointed to the board a year ago, following the resignation of A. H. Jackson.

Defeated in his first try for public office was J. A. Beasley of Waverly, whose vote totaled 550. A fifth candidate Mrs. Kathryn Matson polled 437 votes.

WRITE-INS —

Wilford E. Watson, a last minute write-in candidate, carried only 271 votes. Other write-in votes went to Albert Isen, 1; Dr. H. A. Wood, 1; and Mr. Watson, 1; and a Mr. Sciaratta, (presumed to be Ross Sciarotta, Long Beach City College teacher and local resident), 5 votes.

The ballots will be canvassed tomorrow and the board will be recognized after the first of July.

PRECINCT VOTES —

Following are the votes by precincts: Precinct 1, Perry Elementary School: Beasley, 20; Matson, 18; Smith, 28; Steele, 34; Wright, 32; Walton, 8; College tax, 45 yes, 5 no.

Precinct 2, North Torrance Elementary School: Beasley, 54; Matson, 51; Smith, (Continued on Page Two)

## County Asked To Help in Library Shift

In an effort to make tax supported agencies serve the taxpayers to the fullest possible extent, two groups of residents of the Avalon Carson area have requested Raymond V. Darby, county supervisor, to look into the possibility of moving the Keystone branch of the County Library from its present location on Carson St., near Main St., to Avalon Village.

The groups are the Catskill PTA and the newly-formed Avalon Village Improvement Assn. In letters to Darby they requested that the county move the library branch into a building being remodeled in Unit 2 of the Village.

Rolf Smith, manager of the unit, reported that the proposed location would put the branch in a better position to serve residents of the area.

He said the Village has provided an excellent site for the move.

The PTA and Improvement Association said in the letters that the present site of the library is inconvenient for most residents of the area, especially for school children.

## Lions Install Officers at Alondra Club

Alondra Park Country Club will be the scene of this year's Lions Club installation ceremony on June 7th.

Dinner will precede the formal ceremony, in which a prominent district official will serve as installing officer, Milt Isbell will accept the gravel of president from Paul Diamond, outgoing president.

There will be dancing during the latter part of the evening, John Whiteman, program chairman, announced.

Other officers to take their posts in the ceremony are Roy Peterson, first vice-president; C. B. Walls, second vice-president; Fred Boren, secretary; Pete Redisch, treasurer; Mott Farrell, tall twister; Frank Carpenter, lion tamer; and Rollin Smith and Albert Posner, directors.



SERVING TORRANCE, LOMITA, SHOESTRING, HARBOR CITY AND KEYSTONE

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54

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# Residents Fight Sewer Charges

## NON-PAYING HOMES TO BENEFIT, CLAIM

Inquiry was being made this week into allegations that residents of Seaside Heights sewer district are being assessed to provide sewer line facilities or connections for non-residents of the district, thus pushing the cost of the sewer installation for Seaside Heights residents from an estimated \$5.00 to \$8.00 per front foot.

It was reported that the total cost of the Seaside Heights sewer installation was to have cost \$65,000, to be paid entirely by the people of the district to be served.

However, the engineers and contractors have added extras which boost the total expenditure to \$84,000, enabling others to be served by the sewer line without cost to them—the Seaside Heights property owners being required to pay the whole bill.

Originally, there were approximately 170 pieces of property in the Seaside Heights sewer district project.

ADDED TO JOB — The contractors, with the asserted consent of the City of Torrance and the engineers, installed an extra 600 feet of sewer line, engaged in cement and installed 37 homes of a tract not in the sewer district.

In addition, it was alleged, the contractors, with the knowledge and consent of the City of Torrance and the engineers, installed other connections or facilities to serve another 93 homes.

This means, it is said, that 320 homes will be served by the sewer facilities installed and paid for by the owners of 150 homes.

Residents of the sewer district want the City of Torrance to take steps to charge the extra 150 homes with the additional costs of the sewer district, or to assume the additional charge as a municipal responsibility.

Seaside Heights residents want to pay for what they got, no more, it was said.

## Bob Finch Is Lunch Guest In Torrance



BOB FINCH House Candidate

Robert H. (Bob) Finch, Republican candidate for Congress, was in Torrance yesterday meeting Republican and Democratic leaders in a hand-shaking campaign.

He was a guest at luncheon at Ding How cafe, attended by some 25 Republican and Democrats who are backing his campaign.

Boris Woolley, attorney and first vice president of the 68th District Republican Assembly, presided over the luncheon, and with the assistance of Frank S. Selover, secretary of the Finch campaign in Torrance, escorted the popular candidate through the city meeting community leaders.

Finch, a first lieutenant in the U. S. Marine Corps, on terminal leave, is an attorney with offices in Inglewood. He is former secretary to Congressman Poulson, and thus is well acquainted with duties of a Congressman.

Finch was guest speaker at the Kiwanis Club meeting held Monday in the American Legion Hall. He was the guest of Dr. Alden Smith.

## Friday, June 6, Deadline for Art and Hobby Show Exhibits

"June Gardens" is the theme for the annual Flower Show sponsored by the Torrance Terrace Garden Club and the Torrance Recreation Department. A hobby and art exhibit will be included with this show under the supervision of Mrs. Leo McMillen. The show is open to both professional and amateur exhibitors. There are no admission or registration fees. The show will be held in the Civic Auditorium, 1349 El Prado, Fri., Sat. and Sun. June 6-8.

June 1 is the deadline for entering. All exhibits must be in place by noon on June 6. For information regarding the flower show the following may be contacted: Mrs. Carl Hood, 2729-J, Mrs. John Delsigne, 2401-M, Mrs. Maybelle Schmidt, 192. For the hobby and art exhibits, call Mrs. Leo McMillen, 387-W.

Flower arrangements: table, miniatures (not over 2 inches), tall containers, low containers, foliage, patio, holiday, Men's, children's etc., Specimen blooms, potted plants, rare and unusual plants, dish gardens, terrariums, corsages, shadow boxes, Commercial arrangements: florists, nurseries, Floor displays: florists, commercial, clubs and organizations.

In hobbies: cake decorating, ceramics, china painting, collections, copper craft, lamp, fancy work, leather work, models, rugs, textile painting, weaving, wood craft and hobbies by children.

Art: oil, water, pencil, charcoal, photographs, pictures by children.

## B. H. REDDICK PROMOTED

Basil H. Reddick has been promoted to assistant maintenance superintendent in the General Petroleum Corporation's Engineering Construction department. He will continue to make his headquarters at the Torrance plant, where he has been since 1942.



MERIT AWARD—J. G. Caldwell, (right) Judge Advocate of the South Bay Chapter No. 92 of the Disabled American Veterans hands the DAV Award of Achievement to Torrance City Clerk Albert H. Bartlett (left) in recognition of his efforts on behalf of war veterans. The presentation preceded installation of officers at the annual banquet held at the YMCA building Friday, May 15. R. K. Carrier was installed as president succeeding Henry Montoya.

## School District Financial Report Made at Board Meet

At the end of the first ten-and-one-half months of the current fiscal year the Torrance Unified School District reports that a total of 91.3 per cent of the \$1,781,986.02 operating budget has been used. Total budget figure includes undistributed and general reserve funds of \$125,000.

The financial report submitted to the Board at Tuesday's meet, showed substantial balances in eight of ten budget classifications. The capital outlay and transportation classifications showed deficiencies.

Great economy was noted in the fixed charge classification, which includes expenses of insurance, various compensations, and employee retirements fees. A balance of \$14,707.94 remains here, records show.

Other Board business included awarding a bid for the construction of a four-room addition to Seaside School to Beckner Construction Co. for their bid of \$65,500. The contract will be signed after the County seals the recently-voted school bonds on June 10.

Mrs. Joanna Garver, girl's counselor, and Ivan Malm, boy's counselor, at the high school, were granted a change of salary status and placed on a ten calendar month working basis. The additional working time will be spent enrolling, registering, and counseling students, Dr. J. H. Hull, school superintendent, said.

Frank S. Selover, secretary of the Assembly, and chairman of the "Re-Elect Senator Knowland Committee" in Torrance, appealed for volunteers to assist in the wind-up campaign. Mrs. Florence Sommers, chairman of Torrance "Women for Knowland" announced a telephone, transportation.

(Continued on Page Two)

## Lyle Jacobs, Home on Leave

Lyle Jacobs, home on leave after completing Naval Reserve boot training at San Diego, is enjoying a brief visit to his old stamping grounds — behind the counter at Strum's Department Store.

## College Speeds Building Program After Tax Passes

El Camino College Board, given the "go ahead" by local voters in the building tax election Friday, May 16, has announced that the next step in the college building program will be the construction of vocational and commercial units on the local campus.

Voters approved a second five-year tax to continue the college building program, which school officials estimate will approximately complete a college capable of housing a student body of 10,000.

In a statement issued on behalf of the college administration, board of trustees and college employees, Forrest G. Murdoch, El Camino college president, said the tax issue, which passed by more than two-to-one majority, would enable the school to complete its planned program and the college "family" were greatly appreciative of the vote of confidence given the work of the school by the voters of the community.

The college president said the school would work to merit the continued support of the community, as it has worked in the past to provide service and education for the good of the residents of the college district.

A new Life Science building is nearing completion and will be ready for occupancy June 15, according to a recent announcement. Work started on a new library building, planned to house 80,000 volumes, is well under way.

First on the program for the start of the current five-year building plan is an extension of the vocational facilities on the campus. This will be followed by a commercial studies wing which will be financed out of money provided by the tax extension.

## College Head Thanks Voters

The pay-as-you-go building program of El Camino College won the overwhelming support of Torrance and the rest of the junior college district in Friday's election.

Commenting on the outcome of the vote, Dr. Forrest G. Murdoch, president of El Camino said, "We appreciate all the fine things that the supporters of this college have done for us. We sincerely hope that we will continue to merit their confidence."

Torrance gave the tax measure a 2 to 1 endorsement. Nine other communities in the district voted 2 to 1 in favor of the override tax. The final tally was 7779 in favor, and 3556 against the measure.

## Ninety-one New Houses Built Near Seaside

Building permits for 91 houses with attached garages were issued this week to Stoll Investment Co. Construction has already been started on this unit, part of a proposed 450-home tract adjacent to Seaside Heights the Building Dept. said.

Bollenbacher and Kelton, Inc., are the contractors. The dwellings will have an average of 850 square feet of floor space, and cost approximately \$6,750. There are 2-bedroom and 3-bedroom units included in the group, it was noted.

## Dump Opening Date Queried

The recent purchase by the City Council of a new City dump brought to a close a long battle by a strong body of civic minded citizens and the Torrance Press.

It begins to appear however, that the battle has not been completely won. Despite many promises from city officials, the new dump is not in operation, and residents of the Kettler Knolls are still plagued by the menace of the present City dump (Continued on Page Two)