

"Miss Torrance" Contest Held Tonight

POLL SECRETLY HIT

Water Bill Hiked In Blind Ballot

Demands that the City of Torrance consolidate all elections were given new impetus this week as new water rates went into effect and the people realized that they had voted at the time of the recent \$2,000,000 water bond issue to practically double their own water bills.

Few of the voters realized that they were voting to double water bills when they voted the bonds January 8, 1952, it is charged. This, those sponsoring the consolidation of elections in Torrance say, was due to the lack of publicity and failure of the city to properly inform the people about the bond program.

Only 1957 votes were cast in the election.

Historic Proof
Government bodies, including school boards, always want a small vote when they want to carry an election. It is easier to control the vote this way, history shows.

The move to consolidate elections, spear-headed county-wide by Supervisor Raymond Darby, started in Torrance at the time of the last school election. In this race for three of the seats on the school board, fewer voters turned out than did at the election two years ago. This, despite the fact that registered voter numbers had doubled in the two years.

As it is, the lack of publicity and information about what the

'Outlaw' Dump Protested by Homeowners

Citizens of Pacific Hills are this week up in arms about continued dumping in a Torrance City-owned creek in that area.

The creek, which is a natural drainage ditch for Palos Verdes hills, has long been the object of complaints from the residents, and last year the city posted signs citing an ordinance which prohibits such practices.

However, despite the signs, these operations continue. One resident stated that there has been a noticeable increase in dumping in recent months.

Recent small fires in the dump have left stern warning that a tremendous fire hazard exists. As the season gets progressively drier, the hazard is increased tenfold, one Pacific Hills resident claimed. Many homes are within only a few hundred yards of the offensive dump site.

Residents are reportedly planning to lodge a formal protest with the City Council unless the city takes immediate steps to enforce its ordinance, and eliminate an irritating eye-sore and fire hazard.

CENTRAL PARKING TESTED

Cabrillo Avenue Used for Center Street Experiment

Experiments on center street parking on the wide Cabrillo and Torrance boulevards will be conducted at once as a method of relieving the central Torrance automobile parking problem, it was revealed to the Press this week.

The idea of center-street parking is working successfully in many cities with 100-foot or wider thoroughfares, and it has long been urged by the Torrance Press as a possible solution to the downtown parking problem.

Parallel Parking
A section of Cabrillo will be blocked off along the center line to provide parallel parking in the middle of the avenue. Parallel parking also will be provided at the curb along the test area.

If the experiment proves successful, it will be carried out for the entire length of Cabrillo avenue and Torrance boulevard in the central traffic area.

It is believed that most of the 500 additional parking spaces needed now will be provided with this method.

Cross-walks from the center of the street will be provided at intervals.

The move also will tend to slow down fast traffic usually present on the two boulevards.

Off Street Parking
Meanwhile, plans for financing off-street parking facilities are being studied by the City Parking Authority.

Parking meters have been ruled "out" as a method of financing the parking areas, since they would not produce sufficient funds to purchase even a small portion of the needed lots. Each time the meters are mentioned, the idea is met with preparations for referendum petitions to stop them by election if necessary.

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VOLUME IV

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA — THURSDAY, JULY 17, 1952

NUMBER 14

Which of These Lovelies Will Wear the Crown of Miss Torrance of 1952?



GLAMOROUS ARRAY—The 13 beauties shown above are among those seeking the title of "Miss Torrance" in a judging to be conducted this evening at 8 p.m. in Civic Auditorium. Winner will represent the City of Torrance in many civic and social functions during the ensuing year. Shown (left to right) are Patricia Marshall, Paula Francis, Dolores Foster, Shirley Atchley, Maureen Matthews, Karen Dean, Shirley White, Phyllis Peterson, Beverly Ragland, Barbara Del Signe, and Darlene Devine.

Baby Contest At Avalon Park July 22

A "creeper" race in which the youngest entrants will vie for the speed title will be the feature of the Avalon-Sepulveda Park Baby Contest which opens on July 22nd.

Mrs. Dorothy Kemper, park director, said mothers with children 3 years old or younger may register their babies for the contest at the Park recreation building.

Registrants will receive baby food, as will winners in each of the several divisions of competition, Mrs. Kemper said.

First-prize winners will be awarded an 8 x 10-inch photograph. She said contest winners will be chosen for such attributes as the reddest hair, longest lashes and most freckles.

Man Found Dead

Harry Beckett, 69, was found dead in his room at the Park Hotel by the hotel manager last Sunday.

Death was apparently caused by a heart attack, reports the Torrance Police Dept.

Cheesecake on Parade Thirteen Beauties Compete For "Miss Torrance" Title

Poise, pulchritude and personality will be in the limelight tonight as 13 Torrance lovelies strut their stuff before a panel of judges in the race to become "Miss Torrance of 1952."

The annual beauty contest, this year sponsored by the Torrance Area Youth Band, will be conducted this evening at Civic Auditorium at 8 p.m.

Sharing the spotlight at the event, which is free to the public, will be the Youth Band, which will present a "pops" concert.

Coronation Date
A panel of three out-of-town judges will name the lucky miss, who will be crowned at a gala coronation ball at the Palos Verdes Country Club on August 16th.

Two full days at the Last Frontier Hotel in Las Vegas, Nev., is the top prize for "Miss Torrance." James Van Dyke, director of the sponsoring Youth Band, has announced that the management of the Last Frontier has offered accommodations for two at the fashionable Vegas resort for the winner of tonight's judging. She will also receive a \$50 Rose Marie Reid bathing suit.

Sponsors
Twelve of the beautiful lassies are being sponsored by local or-

Jim Dandy to Stage Grand Opening Today

Many thousands of persons are expected to throng the new Jim Dandy Market today and through-out the entire week-end during the grand opening celebration of the store, located on the "Miracle Corner", Crenshaw and Torrance Blvds.

The new super-market will have as its companion stores in adjoining buildings, a pharmacy, dry cleaners and laundrette, and a variety store. Incorporated within the "Miracle Corner" is a famous Sugar 'n Spice Bakery. This outstanding "one-stop" shopping center is a distinctive addition to the ever-growing circle of Torrance businesses.

The ultra-modern market offers the most up-to-the-minute services and features the latest in fixtures and displays.

Clyde Price, supervisor of Jim Dandy Markets, points out that shopping in the new store is made especially comfortable and convenient by such features as soft music piped through the store,

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Local GOP Members to Attend Meet

Local members of the Republican Central Committee of Los Angeles County will attend the organization of the committee to be held Tuesday, July 22, at 10 a.m. in the Alexandria Hotel ballroom, Los Angeles.

Attending from the 68th Assembly district are Frank S. Selover, of Torrance; Mrs. Joan W. Haley, Clifton A. Hix and Barbara R. Bell, of San Pedro; Lloyd A. Menveg, Stephen M. Cope and Dwayne O. Larson, of Wilmington; all were elected to the committee at the June 3 state primary election.

The agenda will include the selection of a county chairman, officers and committees, adoption of the rules of the county committee, and ratification of the district election of their chairmen and officers.

Frank E. Jorgensen is the present chairman.

Work Started To Beautify PE Station

One of Torrance's earliest structures is undergoing a face-lifting this week. Sparkling changes are to be noted in the Pacific Electric Freight Station at El Prado and Cabrillo Aves. Crews have been busy tearing out the trees that have surrounded the building, and the old wooden loading dock has been removed.

Old timers report that the arabic-styled building was originally the real estate office of the first subdividers of Torrance, which possibly makes it the first structure in town.

Kenneth Anderson, who is in charge of the local freight depot, announces that a sprinkler system will be installed and the grounds completely landscaped. The exterior of the building is now being sand blasted in preparation for stucco painting.

A new concrete loading dock will soon be built to replace the old wooden one.

And the interior will get a face-lifting, too, Anderson reports. Fresh paint and new venetian blinds will spark the offices of the depot.

The company is considering plans to refurbish the PE right-of-way between the depot and Western Ave., and Columbia Steel is reportedly planning to take steps to beautify the trestle crossing over Torrance Blvd.

Dictatorship and Price Control (An Editorial)

It is the understanding of this newspaper that tract maps which will provide for thousands of homes are being held up by the Planning Commission while it SEEKS TO FORCE THE WORKING MAN TO BUY HOMES LARGER THAN HE NEEDS and thus price him off the market.

Torrance was founded as an industrial city by Jared Sidney Torrance and his associates under such agreements as required the original manufacturing plants locating here to maintain their plants in the community on a perpetual basis.

So fond of the area were the original industrialists that they built homes for their workers, in order to keep them happy and residing within reasonable distance from the factories.

Among such plants are the Pacific Electric Railway general shops, the Lewellen Iron Works, (now Columbia Steel Co.) and Union Tool Co., (now the National Supply Company.)

Torrance has grown as an industrial, commercial and home center.

It continues to grow. However, a threat to the future growth of the community from an industrial point of view is presented by the arbitrary and dictatorial attitude of the Torrance City Planning Commission in holding up the development of tracts of moderately priced homes needed badly by the working men employed here — and by other working men who are needed in Torrance but who are unavailable because of lack of housing.

It is the understanding of this newspaper that the Planning Commission has before it several tracts which meet all zoning and building codes and laws, but that they are being held up IN THE HOPE THAT THE PLANNING COMMISSION CAN FORCE THE CITY COUNCIL TO ORDAIN LARGER LOTS, COMPULSORY CONSTRUCTION OF GARAGES UNNEEDED BY MANY, AND LARGER HOMES — priced at more than the average working man can pay, thus requiring higher down payments than they can produce.

In most cases, ALL THE LAWS, state and local, have been complied with; yet the Planning Commission withholds approval on these tracts.

The Planning Commission is not doing its duty to the community in taking this dictatorial attitude, and it is standing in the way of future growth — it is keeping factories from obtaining men by denying these men the homes they can buy.

This is a working man's community, and we must provide the working men with homes within their economic reach. We must furnish a labor market, and homes are vital to this end.

We understand that tracts being arbitrarily held up by the Planning Commission provide for several thousand moderately priced homes.

Also, it is our understanding that in holding up these tracts, the Planning Commission also is delaying plans for nearly 500 homes for the higher income classes — homes to sell at from \$15,000 to \$20,000.

Also being held up by failure of the Commission to approve the moderately priced tracts are numerous commercial structures.

All of this would add to the assessed valuation of the City of Torrance, and benefit the business men in increased commercial trade.

Is the Planning Commission going to be allowed to try to force a man who can afford and wants to buy a \$7,000 home at a small down payment to endanger his economic and financial future by making him buy an \$11,000 home at a \$2,200 down payment?

Does the Planning Commission want to engage in "price control" to the detriment of the city?

It is no concern of the Planning Commission what size the house and what the price so long as the tract map and the house plans meet zoning regulations and state and local building codes.

If we expect to make Torrance a large metropolitan center, we must provide homes for the working man. Industrial plants need men. We must be realistic about this. Torrance must build homes so that the factories can get men to operate the plants.

No official body can be allowed to price these men off the market, and deprive the plants of their needed employees.

Torrance is not a Beverly Hills, nor a Bel-Air. Torrance is a fine and happy community of moderate income families.

Let us continue to build homes these moderate income families can afford to buy.

Let the Planning Commission end its role of "price control" and do its duty.



FIRE HAZARD—Illegal dumping in a Torrance City-owned creek in Pacific Hills continues to create both a fire hazard and an eye-sore for residents of that area. Despite signs warning against dumping of rubbish and garbage, many persons continue to haul car and trailer loads of refuse to the creek.

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