

CITY COUNCIL ELECTS DRALE NEW MAYOR

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READERS



MAYOR NICKOLAS O. DRALE

City Sues Builder In Housing Scandal

Torrance Blvd. Rezoning Fight Won By Homeowners

Commercial rezoning of Torrance blvd. was unanimously approved by the city council at its last regular meeting. By doing so, the council reversed the Planning Commission's recommendation which called for rezoning by variances rather than a blanket rezoning of the area.

The area affected by the council's action covers the two and one-half blocks on both sides of Torrance boulevard from Madrid to Crenshaw.

This area was the only area between Sartori and Crenshaw which was not zoned commercial. It was a multiple residential zone.

Only one letter protesting the rezoning was filed with the council. The letter came from Clark and Mary Sidwell.

Don Armstrong, attorney for 12 of the 30 owners of lots involved, addressed the council, speaking in favor of the rezoning.

Armstrong pointed out that 151 notices were sent out and not one objection was received. He also indicated that outside the two and one-half blocks involved, the whole area, from Sartori to Date is zoned commercial. Unless the area in question is rezoned, Armstrong said, the people involved "will be discriminated against severely because their property will be jammed in between commercial areas."

Armstrong argued before the council that the rezoning was in the best interest of the community.

Builder Told To Improve Weston Hills

The city has demanded that builder of the Weston Hills tract install concrete driveway aprons and paving along Crenshaw boulevard, as well as lower driveway slabs for better drainage, according to a letter sent Monday by City Manager George Stevens.

The city attorney has been authorized to take the builder to court by the city council, unless these demands are complied with.

Stevens' letter to the Cottage Grove company, the builders, says that strips along both sides of the driveway must be improved.

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Boy Critical After Fall Into Ravine

Robert Norburt Holst, 8, of 4923 Marion street, is in critical condition at Harbor General Hospital following an estimated 40-foot fall down a rocky ravine in the Welteria hills late Friday afternoon.

The 8-year-old boy was climbing with his brother and another boy when he slipped and fell into the ravine.

Hospital attendants told Torrance police that the boy had a good chance to recover. He suffered serious head and body injuries.

Scene of the fall was on the hill behind the 3900 block on Newton street in Welteria.

Torrance Officers Mickey Fischer and Jim Mitchell, who rushed to the scene of the fall, said that young Holst's brother raced down the hill and had a resident call the ambulance.

South Bay Ambulance company, whose ambulances are stationed in Redondo Beach, called Torrance police to verify the call, according to police. The boy was removed to Harbor General Hospital several minutes later.

EMPLOYERS, CLERKS REACH AGREEMENT

A strike in harbor area retail stores was averted last week when agreement on wage increases was reached between the Harbor Area Employers Council and the AFL Retail Clerks Local 905.

Both groups agreed to a new one-year contract in which some 600 clerks will receive a \$1 weekly raise retroactive to February 3 and another \$1 raise effective August 1.

New wage scales after August 1 will range from \$55 a week for yardage clerks to \$122 a week for pharmacists.

The agreement was reached Thursday through the mediation of State Conciliator Ed Peters.

Other minor matters are to be negotiated at subcommittee meetings this week.

Officials of the union were given the authority to call a strike against harbor area stores if a contract could not be negotiated last week.

The clerks affected by the new agreement are employed in hardware, drug, department, and drygoods stores in San Pedro, Wilmington, Torrance, Harbor City, Lomita, and Gardena.



SIXTH ANNIVERSARY... The Torrance Press is entering its sixth year this week. Starting as a small tabloid publication five years ago, the Press has progressed with the largest circulation of any newspaper between Long Beach and Los Angeles.

COLUMBIA RECALLS 130 MEN

Approximately 130 open hearth, maintenance, service and staff personnel, who have been on furlough during installation of the new equipment, have been recalled to work at the Torrance works of U. S. Steel's Columbia-Geneva steel division, it was announced this week.

Open hearth furnace operations, which have been suspended since late February during installation of a new 88-ton charging machine, were resumed this week at the Torrance works.

The new charging machine, which moves along a set of tracks in front of the furnaces, is used to load the open hearths with pig iron and steel scrap, the basic ingredients in a heat of steel. The apparatus has a charging capacity of 7½ tons.

Approximately eight hours after the new machine dumped its initial load, the first heat of steel in seven weeks was tapped from the open hearth furnaces, each of which is equipped with electrostatic precipitators to eliminate smoke and metallic dusts generated during the steel making process.

Press Offers Service For Busy Shoppers

Need a hard-to-find item? Looking for that "special" gift? Too busy to browse?

The Torrance Press "personal shopping service" is the answer to your problem. When you are stumped, just pick up your phone and dial FAirfax 8-2345 and ask for Marjorie, our personal shopper. No cost, no obligation.

SUIT LISTS 30-COUNT VIOLATIONS

A suit citing the Princeton Construction Co. with 30 counts of building code violations was filed with the South Bay Municipal Court Wednesday by the city of Torrance, according to James Hall, city attorney.

The developers of the Crenshaw Gardens tract in North Torrance are charged with four different building code violations in 30 specific instances.

The suit is the direct outgrowth of complaints brought against the builder by homeowners in the tract. Residents appeared before the city council early in March, causing the council to demand a state investigation.

The city's suit charges the Princeton Construction Company with the following violations:

1. Improper construction of the fireplace; masonry chimney not supported on the foundation as required; depth of footing less than 18 inches below ground.

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Everybody's Happy. Even The Mattress

Never underestimate the value of the odds and ends which clutter up the basement, attic, or garage.

J. A. Wallace of 1703 West 245th street, was ready to do anything to get rid of a box spring and mattress which were cluttering up his garage—he was even on the point of throwing the whole shebang out. Realizing this, Mrs. Wallace sneaked the following small, inexpensive ad into the Torrance Press classified section:

She sold the item immediately and had many more calls for it. What's more, everybody was happy about the outcome—husband, wife, buyer—and even the mattress!

SCHOOLS TO HOLD OPEN HOUSE DURING PUBLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

Torrance schools will celebrate Public Schools Week starting Monday, April 26. This event, which was originated by the State of California 34 years ago, has been adopted by Hawaii, Arizona, and Texas. The purpose of the week is to permit the public to see what is being done by their local school system.

Following is the program of special activities prepared by the schools in the Torrance Unified School District:

Walteria School
Plans to have an open house for parents all day on Thursday, April 29. Notices will be sent home to parents and they will be invited to visit the classrooms of their children to observe actual classroom operation.

Riviera School
Riviera school plans to extend an invitation to all parents to visit in their child's classroom, an instrumental music program

New Council Takes Office

A packed and tension-filled council chamber saw Councilman Nickolas O. Drale elected mayor at a special meeting of the city council Tuesday night.

A series of exciting incidents throughout the course of the council meeting was climaxed by Victor E. Benstead's motion to elect Drale mayor, which motion was instantly seconded by Councilman Albert Isen.

The roll call found Drale voting for himself following the policy established by former Mayor Mervin M. Schwab.

Reelected Councilman Willys G. Blount chose not to cast a vote, and former Mayor Mervin M. Schwab voted "No." elected Councilman Willys G. Blount and former Mayor Mervin M. Schwab chose not to cast their votes.

The new city council elected Drale on the first ballot. "This is an occasion I shall never forget," Mayor Drale said in addressing the packed council chamber after his election. I promise you that we'll give you good government and a tolerant government."

Benstead Attends
Drale's election was made possible by Councilman Victor Benstead's presence. Benstead, who was on the verge of a stroke last week and who has been confined to home for a rest, left his place of confinement long enough to cast his vote for the election of mayor.

Benstead was not present during the first hour of business. A resounding ovation greeted him as he entered and took his place on the council seat.

Daylight saving time starts the last Sunday in April and ends the last Sunday in September.

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THIS IS OUR YEAR

(In order to air our civic needs, the Torrance Press is running a series of weekly editorials written by people of the community. Editorials may be submitted by anyone. All manuscripts become the property of the Torrance Press. We welcome ideas on any subject, controversial or otherwise. Editorials do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the publisher.)

By MRS. VERA WRIGHT, Guest Editor

Two-thirds of 1954 remain and we still have time to set our sights, take aim and hit our target this year. There are goals ahead as big and as great and as wonderful as any goal attained in any age. In a world which still fights wars, where people go hungry and cold, where men and women still die of cancer and heart disease, where people yearn to be free and yet remain slaves, there is work to be done—great, important work.

Perhaps our part in it may be small, perhaps it is only speaking out for what we feel is right. Perhaps it is only doing some small act daily to fight injustice and intolerance. Perhaps it is joining with hundreds of other people in a vast crusade to combat the evils of communism, or poverty, or disease, or fear.

The important thing is: there are parts, large and small, to be played.

There can be no progress and no new happiness unless we plan and make a place in our lives for it, for without plans, without new resolves and aspirations, our lives stand still.

There's much to be done, let's answer the call and do our best with our new problems, ideals and opportunities. Let's not muffle our chances, this is OUR year, let's make it count!



TOO MANY COOKS... It might look like monkey business now but tonight's Jaycee barbecue dinner is said to be just tops. Making like cooks and connoisseurs are from left to right: Mesdames Vern Lovelady, president;

Fred Hansen, secretary; W. C. Weaver, head chef; Dave Figueroa, general chairman for the district dinner to be held at Alan Richard Hall starting at 7:30 p.m.

Gala Jaycee Dinner Set For Tonight

The final gala district dinner meeting of the Junior Chamber of Commerce for this year will be held tonight at 7:30 p.m. at the Alan Richard Hall, 1953 West Carson, it was announced this week.

Featured will be a barbecued dinner which will precede the election of officers and the Jaycee district speak-offs.

The program calls for the election of state vice-president. Running for the office are Roy Dyer of Wilmington and Bill Walker of El Segundo. These, as well as the state presidential candidates and national directors, will make their appearance at tonight's affair.

Marvin Goetsch, winner of the local speak-offs, will compete with the other winners at tonight's district speak-off. The winner will compete at the state speak-off in Palm Springs April 29, 30, and May 1, 2.

Robert Owens will emcee the local speak-off.