

Blount Announces He'll Run for Mayor



COUNCILMAN WILLYS BLOUNT
... Throws Hat in Ring

Councilman Willys Blount, whose term of office will end next year, formally announced his candidacy for Mayor of Torrance last night.

One of the most vigorous members of the seven man council, Blount has been urged by his supporters to seek the top administrative post. In his announcement he stated that he would conduct his campaign with hon-

esty and fairness and would make known his stand on every issue.

In throwing his hat into the ring, Blount, who has served on the Council for the past 12 years, stated:

ECONOMY

"I firmly believe that an element of economy should be instilled into the government of the city of Torrance. I believe that the free spending of hard-earned tax dol-

lars by public officials irritates even the friendliest of taxpayers.

"I will firmly advocate throughout my campaign a 'single standard' for all citizens and I intend to see that this city finally heeds the faint, protesting voice of its own taxpayers."

During his twelve years of city service the candidate for the city's top elective post has served on the Tor-

rance Transportation Commission and has spearheaded the development of the municipal airport as chairman of the Airport Commission.

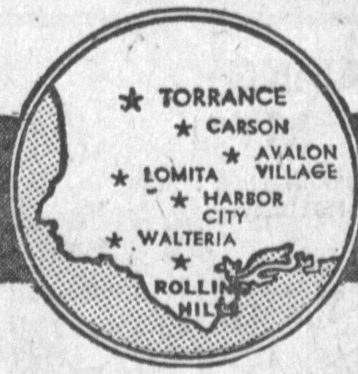
PROTECTION

He has labored long and hard for the city's current policy of restrictive zoning aimed at protecting residential properties.

In private life a sales engineer for the Kirkhill Rubber Co., he has been employ-

ed by the firm for the past 22 years.

Councilman Blount, 44, makes his home with his wife, Margaret, at 1444 El Prado St., Torrance. The couple are the parents of three children, Mary Margaret, 19, who attends the University of Redlands; Anna Beth, 16, a junior at Torrance High School; and John Franklin, 11, who attends Torrance Elementary School.



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FOUR HURT IN CRASH

TOURS TORRANCE . . .

Ancient Hearse Used in Plea for Safe Driving

An ancient horse-drawn hearse, which has been refurbished after more than half a century of disuse, went on display in Torrance yesterday.

An eloquent appeal for traffic safety, the vintage vehicle is reputed to have carried the victim of the first automobile accident in the United States to his final rest.

Victim had stepped down from a street car in New York City, well before the turn of the century, and was bowled over by a horseless carriage traveling at the unheard-of speed of 25 miles per hour.

On display throughout Torrance for the past week, the hearse, which is valued at approximately \$35,000, is used to point out the pressing need for safe driving during the coming holiday season.

TRAFFIC SAFETY

Tour of the city, which is sponsored by local police and traffic safety officials, will continue through the week.

The huge and somber vehicle has attracted large crowds wherever it has been

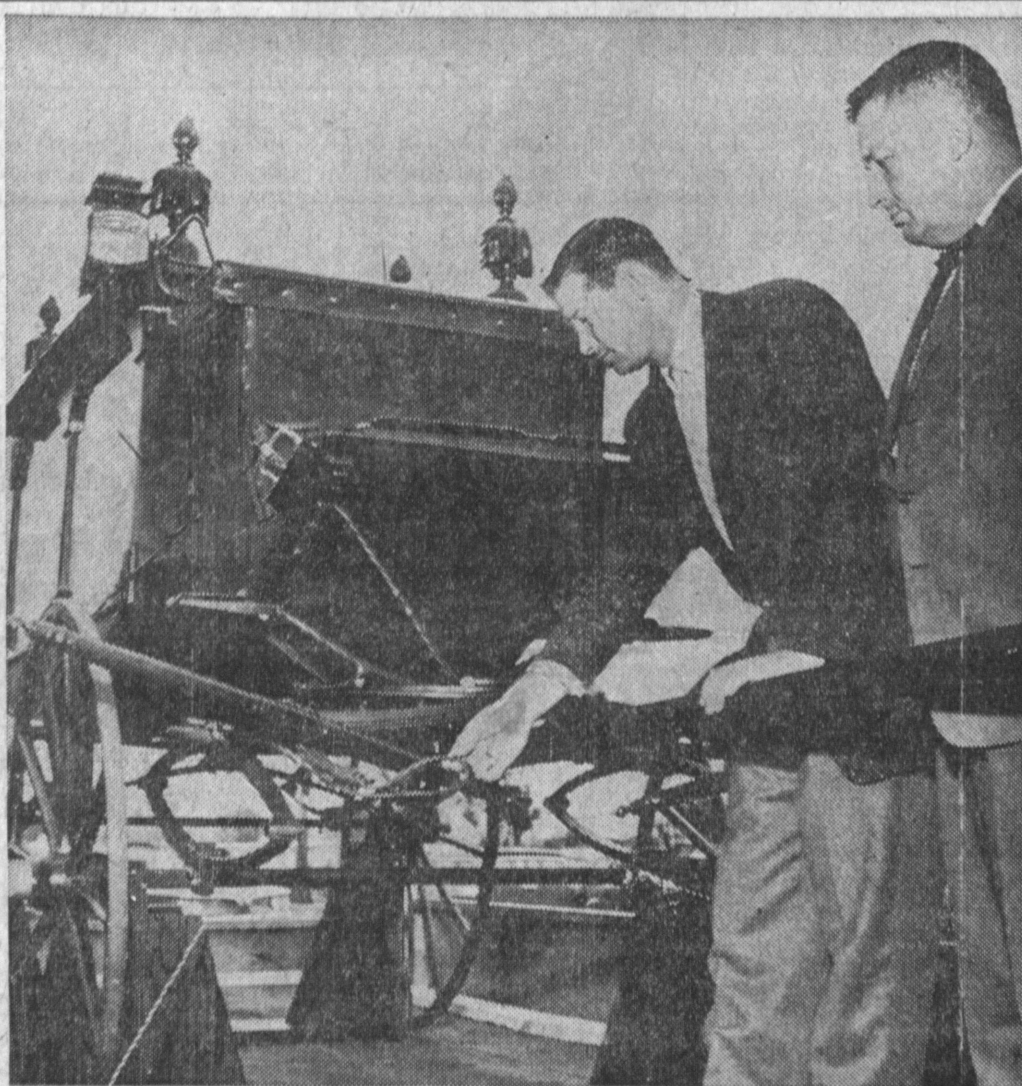
displayed.

Owners of the hearse have stated that it is absolutely irreplaceable. Tassels and and cloth lining, badly worn in the 75 years since the vehicle was first put in service, were replaced recently at a cost of \$3,250.

Fittings inside the hearse are of solid silver while the carriage lights and the poured glass windows arouse a glint of envy in the eyes of collectors.

One puzzler about the vehicle, however, is the two small trap doors in the floor. Owners and viewers alike are puzzled about their purpose although several macabre suggestions have been offered.

Owners said that the hearse was always drawn by black horses if the deceased were a man, white if a woman.



GRIM REMINDER — This ancient hearse, here inspected by Officer Don Hartel, Torrance traffic safety officer, and Theodore E. Donovan, personnel assistant for the city, has been on display throughout the city for

the past few days. Sponsors hope that grim vehicle will be a reminder to motorists to drive carefully over the coming Christmas period. Hearse, valued in excess of \$35,000, was last used, officially, in 1912.

Family Hospitalized In Spectacular Three-Car Collision

A mother and two daughters, returning home last night, were critically injured when their automobile crashed into a second car parked in the middle of the street with its lights off.

Severely injured in the crash were Helen Louise Logue, 33, of 20509 Tuluca St., and daughters Cynthia, 10, and Katherine, 12.

Booked at Torrance police station on a felony drunk driving charge was Alexander Duthie, 31, of San Pedro, a longshoreman.

Investigating officers reported that the suspect had apparently parked his car in the middle of Hawthorne Blvd. near Halison

St. and turned off the lights. Unable to see the car in the darkness, the auto driven by Mrs. Logue crashed into it.

A second car driven by Nancy Louise Baumgartner, 27, of 406 Bindewald St., then hit the two crashed vehicles.

INJURIES

Physicians at Little Company of Mary reported that Mrs. Logue received deep facial lacerations while her daughter, Cynthia, suffered a deep head gash, cuts on the face and badly lacerated mouth and tongue from flying glass. Other daughter, Katherine, received leg injuries. Miss Baumgartner, driver of the third car, was treated for

a back injury. Duthie was unhurt.

Asked if he had been drinking, Duthie told the arresting officers that he had had only two beers. A nearly empty half pint whiskey bottle was found on the front seat of his car.

Driver of a passing gasoline truck told the officers that he had passed the intersection about 15 minutes before and had been forced to swerve to avoid hitting the suspect's car.

At the hospital, father of the family, Charles Logue, numbly watching his wife and daughters being carried in, said, "This is going to be SOME Christmas."

Temporary Restraining Order Delays Action in South Torrance Rezone Case

A court-authorized restraining order, prohibiting further City Council action on a South Torrance zone change request, was served on Deputy Clerk John Bramhall Monday.

Restraining order, issued on the complaint of George W. Bloxom, Palos Verdes Estates, enjoins the city from reopening the case until a court hearing can be held. Hearing has been set for Friday morning, 11 a.m. in Inglewood Superior Court.

Bloxom had earlier secured the zone change and planned to build apartment units on the land parcel, located on Madison Ave., between 227th St. and 230th St.



BUILDING GOING UP—First step in the district's plan to expand the present capacity of Torrance High School is the construction of a new student services and administration building. Shown at the official groundbreaking ceremonies Monday are

the Rev. H. M. Sippel, of the city's recreation commission; Dr. J. H. Hull, superintendent; William Hanson, president of the school board; Mrs. Paul Roberts, president of the school's P-TA; and Carl Ahee, Torrance High principal. Press Photo



DILEMMA — Clash of interests for the man who likes huge Christmas trees and small sports cars typifies the many problems of the Christmas shopper picking up the last minute necessities of the season. Christmas tree lots are now in full operation throughout the city. Most of the lots are sponsored by civic and social organizations and all proceeds from sales of trees will go into funds for welfare and civic improvement projects.

Arrest Three in Court Test of New Legislation

The manager and two clerks in the grocery section of a Torrance discount store were arrested briefly late yesterday afternoon in what is expected to be a test case of new provisions of the State Business and Professional Code.

Booked briefly at Torrance station were Thomas R. Hughes, 49, grocery manager at Consumers Mart of America, and two clerks, Arthur G. Valdez, 19, and Ellison G. Murray, 22. They were released immediately upon posting \$105 bail.

Civil complaints were issued after customers at the store alleged that the three refused to honor coupons carried in local newspapers during a sale.

Coupons, a special sale at-

traction, offered six-packs of soft drinks or a loaf of bread for one cent . . . with the coupon.

Some of the customers, store officials said, showed up with 50 coupons and 50 cents, demanding that each coupon be honored.

New provisions of the code make it illegal to offer merchandise at less than cost and then limit the quantity which a customer may purchase.

New provisions of the code have not yet been subjected to a test through the courts.

Allocate Funds For Lomita Road Improvements

Allocation of funds for a roadway resurfacing project on Avocado St. northerly, southerly of 259th St., Lomita, was announced this week by Supervisor Burton W. Chace.

Work will be scheduled by the county road department pending completion of previously committed projects.

"This project is a part of the road department's road betterment program designed to maintain our roads at maximum operating efficiency," Chace said.



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