

School Board Race: Is Dr. Hull an Issue?

By JERRY REYNOLDS
Press-Herald Staff Writer

The current campaign for three seats on the Torrance Board of Education has attracted 12 active candidates, including two incumbents, despite the seeming apathy of the district's voters.

Issues in the campaign largely have been taxes—the always present issue — and specialized areas of the educational program. Incumbent Bert M. Lynn has, for example, said his re-election will be a mandate to "hold the line on taxes. William J. Hanson, also an incumbent, has pledged his efforts to

"limit expenditures so the district will not need to ask for more taxes."

Among the newcomers, three have emerged as front-runners with the two incumbents. They include H. Arch Williams Jr., a CPA whose main concern is in the area of school finance; Dr. Donald E. Wilson, a professor of education, and Lawrence E. Townsend, a labor representative.

It was Wilson's entrance into the campaign which gave rise to one of the major issues—whether professional educators belong on the board. A professional educator by his own admission,

Wilson has campaigned on a basic program of improving education. His advocacy of federal aid to education has made that proposition an issue, too.

Because of public apathy in school elections, candidates for many years have been few in numbers, often drafted by their fellow citizens for a four-year, volunteer job that can be thankless and seldom is easy.

Yet, a dozen candidates are stumping the city from one end to the other in their quest for votes. Signs have been erected on virtually every major street corner, and newspaper advertisements

are becoming both more frequent and larger. The entrance of a professional educator has sparked many a debate on the question of "administrative domination" of the school board and prompted many candidates to call for the election of a "lay board of lay people."

At the same time, Hanson has carefully and deliberately introduced at least the name of the superintendent of schools into the campaign, reminding voters he was one of three trustees to vote in favor of renewing Dr. J. H. Hull's contract as superintendent.

Observers and citizens alike have begun to wonder if, despite the apparent security of a new contract, forces are gathering for a battle—with the superintendent in the middle.

Certainly Dr. Hull's forceful personality has been a strong factor in the development of the district, and now one begins to wonder if the superintendent, despite the non-political nature of his position, is becoming one of the major issues of the campaign.

The question became even more pertinent last Wednesday evening when Lynn de-

clared Dr. Hull was rehired as superintendent because of a last-minute change when the Board of Education acted on the contract in November, 1963.

Lynn, speaking at a Candidates' Meeting sponsored by the Torrance League of Women Voters, said, "The whole program (to terminate Dr. Hull's contract) was set up. Mr. Hanson switched at the last minute. I don't know what happened, you'll have to ask Mr. Hanson. Something happened. I don't know what."

The statement was made in reply to a question from the

audience. "Is it true you tried to get the superintendent fired earlier this year?" asked the questioner.

"One member is making an issue of this," Lynn said. "It's a personnel matter." He went on to say he was "not ashamed" of his position on the matter.

Hanson made no reply to Lynn's charge in the public meeting. Later, however, he told the Press-Herald, "I don't know what Mr. Lynn means by 'switched.' It's a ridiculous statement. I try to decide these things intellectually, not emotionally."

Hanson denied the charge (Continued on Page A-5)

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CLOSE QUARTERS . . . Pilot Wayne Byron Eads, 30, of 1626 Acacia Ave., and his wife, Sandra, escaped with minor injuries when their light plane skimmed across a Lomita housing development, clipped light branches from nearby Eucalyptus trees, and tumbled to a rough landing in a gully near Western Avenue and Palos Verdes Drive North Sunday afternoon. Eads and his wife were able to climb out of the wreckage. (Press-Herald Photo)

PROGRAMS IN OPERATION

Easter Holidays Prove Very Hectic for YMCA

The Easter holidays are hectic for the Torrance Family YMCA, according to Dr. Wing Y. Mar, board chairman.

Dr. Mar stated that all phases of the booming youth program are operating during the brief vacation period, starting with a giant Easter Egg hunt in Averil Park for Y-Indian Guide families. Kids searched for hundreds of eggs, specially seeking 10 eggs personally decorated by the Easter Bunny.

A contingent of Junior Hi-Y boys and leaders departed for a week-long exploration of Death Valley National Monument, expecting to visit Rhyolite Ghost Town, copper and silver mines, Scotty's Castle, and many other points of interest.

MEANWHILE, two groups of high school boys have left town to surf in Mexico and camp on the beach, while another group spent their holidays rebuilding a motor

for the YMCA's second bus, and painting cabins in one of the YMCA Camps near Big Bear Lake.

A delegation of men will be attending the YMCA's Good Friday Devotional Breakfast at the Biltmore Bowl, while others view slides of the YMCA's European Trip held for college students last summer at the monthly meeting of the Torrance Y's Men's Club tonight.

At the same time, an army of 400 YMCA men and women is visiting homes and businesses to raise the final \$150,000 needed to complete the new YMCA building and underwrite the program costs for the current year.

THE YMCA Building Committee, under the leadership of chairman Marshall Stewart, held a final plan check (Continued on A-2)

Air Force Names New Recruiter

M/Sgt. Mark B. Arrieta has been assigned to Torrance as the local recruiter for the Air Force. He and his family recently arrived from Pease Air Force Base, N. H.

Sergeant Arrieta is married to the former Betty Forbes of London, England. They are parents of two boys, Mark, 18, and Jeffrey, 15, who are attending South High School. The family resides at 2435 W. 227th St.

The new recruiter is a veteran of World War II, having served with the 8th Air Force in England. During the war,



M/SGT. MARK B. ARRIETA
New Recruiter

he participated in 25 daylight missions over Germany. Sergeant Arrieta also has served in the Far East.

Prior to his assignment here, he was assigned to the Strategic Air Command at Pease AFB. He completed recruiting school in San Antonio, Tex.

The local Air Force recruiting station is located at 1616 Cabrillo Ave., and may be reached by telephone at FA 8-1404.

Cut Along Dotted Line

Councilman David K. Lyman warned his colleagues and residents of the city they must speak now if they are to prevent the city from being "dissected" when reapportionment of state and Congressional districts is considered.

Reporting on a meeting held last week in Inglewood, Lyman said Congress is now considering a bill which would require all districts to be within 5 per cent of each other in population. If the law is adopted, the three Assembly districts and two Congressional districts would be involved in "major reshuffling," he said.

Lyman also said representatives of Rolling Hills expressed concern that Peninsula communities might be dominated by Torrance if they were to be placed in the same district as this city.

"A strong stand at this time may insure that the city is not dissected by district lines in the future as it is at the present time," he concluded.

175 Rivieraans Sign Petition Against Birds

Having disposed of dairy cows last week, the city council turned its attention to pigeons last night.

Before the evening was over, councilmen ordered City Attorney Stanley Remelmeier to prepare an amendment to the city's "pigeon ordinance" which will limit the number of pigeons which one property owner may keep to four.

The action followed a protest by residents of the Riviera section involving a decision to grant Richard Russell a permit to keep 40 pigeons at his Riviera home. Residents complained of noise and other inconveniences and presented a petition against the birds which was signed by 175 persons.

Mrs. Otto Willett, who presented the petition, said she "would like to suggest that no pigeons be allowed in Torrance." She added, "I feel most people in Torrance agree it's high time the pigeons were gone."

The present city ordinance, which permits up to 60 pigeons if the owner secures a conditional use permit, was adopted about six months ago. It was a compromise worked out when members of a pigeon racing association protested efforts of the council to ban the birds.

Councilman David K. Ly-

man said he voted for the ordinance, but had "a feeling it was bad. I can't see any area in the city that is compatible with 40 pigeons."

"We looked for an easy way out instead of facing the issue," Mayor Albert Isen said. "The pigs are gone, the cows are gone—pigeons are for the birds, they don't belong in Torrance," Isen said.

According to Ken Miller, who found support from other members of the council, the intent of the present ordinance was to control the pigeons without an outright ban. "If a particular neighborhood didn't want pigeons, I thought we would respect that right," Miller said.

The amendment to the ordinance will be on next week's agenda. Meanwhile, several applications for permits are pending under the present ordinance.

IN OTHER action, the council:

• Approved a variance which will enable the Torrance Rod and Gun Club to relocate and remodel a clubhouse on the northeast corner of Border Avenue and Plaza del Amo.

• Authorized construction of sun shades over shuffleboard courts at Walteria Park. The (Continued on A-2)

City Parks, Playgrounds Remain Open During Week

This year's Easter Bunny will really have to hop if it's to visit 31 parks and playgrounds that are open during the Easter vacation to Torrance youth.

Boys and girls visiting any of the City of Torrance Recreation Department sites can plan on a variety of activities and games as well as special Easter crafts. Specific activities include a visit from "The Happy Wanderer" to Walteria Park and McMaster Park, free and pay crafts on all areas, scheduled cartoons, and of course sometime during the week — The Easter Bunny.

The following school playgrounds are open through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Information on any of the programs offered at your nearest park or playground may be obtained from the leader-in-charge at that area

Good Friday

Union Service Planned

A one hour Good Friday service will be held from 12 to 1 p.m. Friday, at the First Baptist Church of Torrance, according to the Rev. Robert H. Coburn, pastor.

Assisting in the service will be the Rev. Walter Stanton of Central Evangelical United Brethren Church, the Rev. Leland Pisel of El Nido Baptist Church, the Rev. Leslie C. Ashford of the Del Amo Christian Church, the Rev. Charles Phelps of the Community Baptist Church, the Rev. Francis Rath of Seaside Community Church, the Rev. Milton Sippel of First Christian Church of Torrance, and the Rev. Robert Dehn, associate pastor of the First Baptist Church.

Special music will be furnished by the Jubilaires, ladies choral group directed by Mrs. Joan Hardin.

The community is invited to participate in this significant service. A nursery will be provided at the church, 2118 W. Carson St.

HIS TENTH IN POST

Mayor Feted on Anniversary

Mayor Albert Isen was treated to a surprise celebration of his 10th anniversary as mayor during last night's city council meeting.

City Clerk Vernon W. Coil presented the mayor with a small "celebration cake" and Father Hugh Percy, who said he had heard about the celebration "by devious methods," delivered a short testimonial

Coil, whose office is responsible for the weekly agendas, kept most of the audience in suspense until he unveiled the cake. Last night's agenda carried a birthday cake design which prompted one councilman to observe that he "had been wondering about that cake. I was afraid to ask about it," he said.

Father Percy, who noted his own ministry in Torrance began shortly after Isen became mayor, praised the mayor for his "unswerving loyalty and concern for the very best interests of this rapidly growing city."

Father Percy, pastor of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, noted the city had grown

from some 60,000 persons in 1955 to 130,000 today. Isen was first elected to the City Council in 1954. He was named mayor by council election in 1955 and served for three years until a change in the city's Charter made possible. Isen was elected to the office in 1958 and re-elected in 1962.

Carson Man Beaten - - -

Sixty-one-year-old Pedro Lafortea of 21519 Wilmington Ave. told police that five high school students had struck him with a water bottle and then clubbed him with a piece of wood when he refused to buy beer for them Monday night. He received a broken arm, face and head cuts, and several bruises. Five boys from the Carson area were arrested by Firestone Sheriff's deputies Tuesday for the beating.

Fire Torch Hurlled - - -

A fire torch thrown on the lawn of Donald Mather at 805½ Madrid Ave., may have been related to labor dispute at Harvey Aluminum, it was theorized this week. The torch, a blazing bottle, was turned over to Harvey officials, police were told. Mather is a Harvey employe, it was reported.

Council Shuns College - - -

Councilmen of the city of Rolling Hills renewed their opposition to a Peninsula location for the new state college this week by ordering a resolution drawn listing several reasons why a Torrance site would be preferred to that on the Peninsula. Listed will be such items as access roads, transportation costs, land prices, and traffic problems.