

# Three Council Seats at Stake in Balloting

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# Press-Herald

## INSIDE TODAY

Ann Landers ..... C-1 Restaurants ..... E-2  
Editorials ..... C-2 Sports ..... D-1  
Obituaries ..... A-3 Women's News ..... B-1  
Profile ..... C-1 Want Ads ..... D-6

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## Teenage Girls Missing for 10 Days; Set \$500 Reward



**CENTRAL LIBRARY BEGUN** ... Groundbreaking ceremonies Sunday marked the beginning of the city's new central library on the civic center, a \$1.4 million structure which is designed to house 200,000 books. Taking part in the festivities Sunday were (from left) Mayor Albert Isen; Supervisor Kenneth Hahn; Mrs. John G. L. Crain, chairman of the city's Library Commission; and Librarian Russell J. West. Torrance Area Youth Band and the new county court building formed the background.

(Press-Herald Photo)

## SOUTH HIGH AREA

### Boundary Study Group Selected

Seven people will serve on a committee to study a South High School boundary dispute.

The Torrance Board of Education discussed the matter for the second time Monday with parents of youngsters attending Levy School who feel South High is more convenient to attend than Torrance High.

The committee appointed by board president Bert Lynn will include himself, another member of the board, two members of the administrative staff and three parents.

**SELECTING** the panel among parents will be John LeResche, 3634 W. 228th St. He was a spokesman for them at Monday night's meeting.

LeResche said the bulk of undeveloped land in the city includes 115 acres in the Torrance High area zoned residential.

Using a map to illustrate his point, LeResche asked what will happen when this land is used and Torrance High is overcrowded. "Will we have our children shifted back to South High?" he asked.

**THE SCHOOL** administration contends that the goal is to have four equal high schools of 3,000 students. Fig-

### Burglars Get Men's Watches

Men's watches worth more than \$2,700 were taken from Seymour's Jewelers, 2595 Pacific Coast Hwy., early today, according to Torrance police.

Police, responding to a silent alarm, arrived at the scene about 2:10 a.m., but found no suspects. Twenty expensive watches were taken.

## Isen Hits State Group On Local Control Issue

Mayor Albert Isen expressed "bitter disappointment" with the League of California Cities at last night's City Council meeting. The mayor's exasperation stemmed from the fact that the League had apparently blocked a bill in Sacramento calling for home rule in areas such as topless bars, gambling, and ticket scalping.

Councilmen accepted Isen's motion to instruct City Attorney Stanley E. Remelmeier to investigate the matter by writing to the State Legislature for the facts.

The League of California Cities claims to have polled city attorneys throughout the state, receiving unfavorable replies on the bill from most of them.

**REMELMEIER** stated that he supported the home rule bill and that the local organization of city attorneys had proposed the measure. The

County Bar Association also endorsed the bill, Remelmeier said. The measure in question passed the Assembly but was defeated in the State Senate Committee on Governmental Efficiency before it reached the Senate floor. This was the fate of a similar measure introduced in 1960.

Isen stated that Torrance is a dues-paying member of the League of California Cities and demanded to know why the group would defeat a measure that "every city would want."

**THE MAYOR** further suggested that the League draft a version of the bill that would be acceptable to it, weeding out any "illegalities" objectionable to the League. Isen stated there were "powerful lobbies" in Sacramento working against changes in laws regarding morals questions.

Councilman Jay Beasley said the proposed law was probably scuttled due to conflict with other aspects of state law. No clear dividing line between state and local power exists, he said.

**WATER SOLD** for roughly 20 cents per 100 cubic feet during the first three months of 1968, representing a fractional increase over the price of water during the first quarter of last year.

Councilmen learned this last night when the city Finance Department submitted an income and expense statement for the Municipal Water Department.

The number of cubic feet of water pumped (expressed in hundreds) jumped from 2,126,391 the first quarter of 1967 to 2,319,577 during the same period of time this year. Net income jumped from \$35,451 to \$61,663.

## The Press-Herald Recommends



GEORGE VICO



LEO F. X. SALISBURY



DR. DONALD E. WILSON

## Punch Card Ballots To Be Used in City

More than 50,000 Torrance voters will be eligible to cast ballots Tuesday when the city goes to the polls to select three councilmen and pass on two ballot measures in what many have described as a "quiet" election campaign.

For the first time, Torrance voters will try their hand at the county's new automatic ballots which employ a punch-card system instead of the traditional paper ballots and the rubber stamp "X."

The simple voting procedure, which permits ballot counting to be done by high-speed data processing equipment, is expected to offer nearly complete results a short two or three hours after the polls close.

Council seats at stake Tuesday are those held by incumbents David K. Lyman, Edward L. Talbert, and George Vico. Each is seeking re-election.

Challenging them are Blayne Asher, an insurance

investments counselor; Nick Draie, former councilman and mayor who operates his own real estate firm; Roque R. Garcia, special education assistant at North High School; Orin P. (Bud) Johnson, former assistant city manager now employed by a leading Torrance real estate firm.

Also seeking election are Max A. Kelly, North High School teacher; Leo F. X. Salisbury, former Planning Commission member and operator of his own tire company here; William J. Uerkwitz, a telephone company executive; and Dr. Donald E. Wilson, presently a member of the Board of Education and a director of teacher education for the University of Southern California.

**IN EDITORIALS** published earlier and reviewed today on Page C-2, the Press-Herald has recommended the re-election of George Vico and the election of Leo F. X. Salisbury and Dr. Donald E. Wilson.

Two measures also are being referred to the voters for a decision.

Ballot Measure A asks for the repeal of the ordinance adopting the city's uniform housing code. The Press-Herald also has opposed this measure in editorials and has recommended a "No" vote.

Essentially, the initiative measure, sponsored by the Active Citizens of Torrance (ACT), would have little effect on the city's urban renewal program, chief target of the proposal. City officials have been unanimous in pointing

## Girl Drowns In Backyard Swim Pool

A mentally retarded girl who apparently was attempting to recover a stereo set from a backyard swimming pool drowned about 5:45 p.m. Tuesday.

Police said Iris Finlay, 23, of 16425 Illinois Court, was pronounced dead on arrival at Gardena Memorial Hospital at 6:14 p.m.

Officers said the girl's manner intended by the law.

out that a state housing code with nearly identical language would go into effect immediately under state law.

**A SECOND** proposal, Ballot Measure B, calls for an increase in the salaries of city councilmen from \$100 a month to \$300 a month, and for the mayor from \$100 a month to \$400 a month. Editorials published in the Press-Herald have recommended defeat for this measure.

The current proposal is similar to one which was soundly defeated by Torrance voters just two years ago. Another attempt to put a pay hike proposal before the voters was withdrawn amid loud community protests last year. At that time councilmen sought to tack the pay hike matter on a school election ballot along with a library bond proposal which was included and approved.

Much of the campaign oratory has centered around urban renewal, police and fire protection, and city buses.

Complete returns from Tuesday's balloting will be published next Wednesday in home-delivered editions of the Press-Herald.

## Mistake Endangers New Funds

A mistake in calculating the cost of a state education bill (AB 272) has jeopardized about \$600,000 in funds for special education for the Torrance Unified School District.

The board of trustees was furnished correspondence from State Finance Director Casper W. Weinberger which supports a second apportionment in the approximate amount of \$82 million more than provided for the 1968-69 fiscal year.

The 1967-68 school year is not affected.

Superintendent Dr. J. H. Hull said, "We are proceeding on the assumption that this is a political hassle and it will be worked out so the schools will be financed in a manner intended by the law."

## Barefoot Pair Last Seen on Redondo Pier

Two barefoot Torrance teenagers disappeared more than a week ago and haven't contacted their parents since. Last seen frolicking on the Redondo Beach Pier last Sunday, March 24, were Susan Timbers, 13, of 409 Via Anita, and Cindy Janzen, 14, of 230 Calle Miramar.

The eighth grade students at Parkway Elementary School were last seen by a friend, Dale Keen, about 5 p.m. March 24 as they were leaving the pier. "We have to be home before dark," one of the missing girls reportedly said.

**SUSAN'S** parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Timbers, have offered a \$500 reward for information leading to the return of their daughter. They described the girl as a blue-eyed blonde, 5-foot-3½ in height, weighing 110 pounds. Cindy's mother, Mrs. B. Nolan, said her daughter is 5-foot-1 and weighs 120 pounds. The youngster has brown hair and eyes and was wearing orange capri pants and a blue-and-white blouse. Neither girl was wearing shoes and neither gave any prior indication of leaving home.

**ALSO MISSING** is Cindy's pet, a black-and-brown dog described as part Chihuahua however, reportedly saw and part terrier. The animal has a white diamond-shaped marking on its neck and wears a collar bearing license number 6765.

Mrs. Nolan said her daughter Cindy has an outgoing personality and many friends. Although a C student, the teenager did not appear worried about her grades. She has never been in trouble nor disappeared before, her mother said.



CINDY JANZEN



SUSAN TIMBERS

Torrance police have few clues in trying to locate the girls. One schoolmate, however, reportedly saw Susan riding in a green Buick driven by a young man. The car, he said, was pulling away from a drive-in restaurant in Welteria.

Another friend thought she saw the girls last Thursday at Palos Verdes Boulevard and Catalina Avenue.

Anyone with information about the missing teenagers is asked to contact the Torrance Police Department or the girls' parents.

## Escape Charges Upheld ---

Mrs. Betty Lee O'Brien, mother of convicted murderer Jerry Lee O'Brien, has been ordered to answer charges she helped her son to escape from a state prison farm in Superior Court, Judge Donald Armstrong of South Bay Municipal Court upheld the charges, as well as charges of harboring an escaped prisoner, after hearing testimony from state prison officials and a used car salesman who reported seeing Mrs. O'Brien and her son together Aug. 4, 1967. O'Brien shot and killed a Torrance police officer Aug. 10 during a robbery here. Mrs. O'Brien, who was released on bail, was ordered to appear April 15 in Superior Court for arraignment on the two felony counts.

## New Judge Takes Oath ---

Thomas Fredericks, appointed to the South Bay Municipal Court by Governor Ronald Reagan last Friday, was sworn in during brief ceremonies Monday. Judge Fredericks, a Hermosa Beach resident, was named to the vacancy created by the elevation of Judge Raymond Choate to the Superior Court. He took the oath of office from John Hahn, chief deputy county clerk. Judge Fredericks will preside in Division 4 of the South Bay Municipal Court.

## Lomita Marine Killed ---

Marine Cpl. Jerry D. Atkinson, husband of Mrs. Suzanne M. Atkinson of 26350 Eshelman Ave., Lomita, was listed Tuesday by the Department of Defense as killed in action in Vietnam. Pentagon officials did not give any details about the death.