

Three Killed, Four Hurt in Desert Crash

THE WINNERS

WILSON, UERKWITZ, JOHNSON

Torrance

Press-Herald

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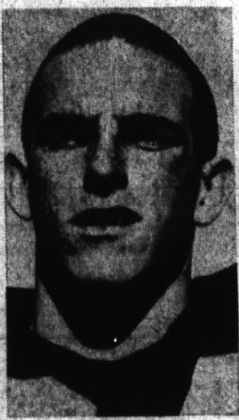
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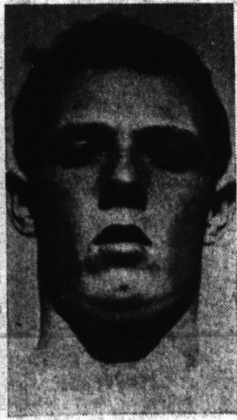
4-1 Vote Defeats Council Pay Hike



DON DUPUIS
Dies in Hospital



TIMOTHY FRASER
Driving Vehicle



MIKE BRANSTETTER
Killed Instantly

Housing Issue Carries

Efforts by Torrance councilmen to win a pay increase for themselves were overwhelmingly rejected yesterday by the city's voters.

At the same time, voters repealed the city's Uniform Housing Code, adopting an initiative ordinance which was placed on the ballot by Active Citizens of Torrance (ACT).

Complete unofficial returns showed the salary measure, Proposition B, was rejected, 13,068 to 2,844. Proposition A, the ACT initiative, was approved by a vote of 9,179 to 6,665.

YESTERDAY'S balloting marked the second time a council salary increase has been rejected by voters. A third attempt to win the hike was called off last year when public pressure forced the council to withdraw a special election issue.

The pay measure would have raised the salary of councilmen from \$100 to \$300 per month and given the mayor \$450 per month.

The ACT initiative was approved by about a 3-to-2 margin and apparently means the state housing code will become effective in the city.

CITY ATTORNEY Stanley Remelmeier had indicated earlier, however, that the city would go to court to overturn any adverse decision on the housing code issue.

Since three incumbent councilmen were turned out of office, however, any effort to overturn the decision of the voters would presumably await a polling of the new City Council.

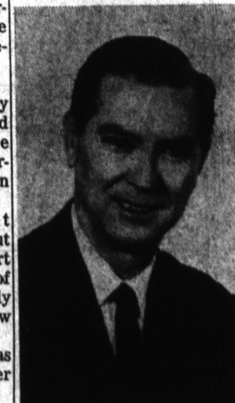
The ACT initiative was placed on the ballot after (See SALARY, Page A-3)



DR. DONALD E. WILSON
Leads Candidates



WILLIAM J. UERKWITZ
Executive Elected



ORIN (BUD) JOHNSON
Former Aide Wins

Mayor's Slate Sweeps Ballot; Incumbents Out

Three candidates endorsed by Mayor Albert Isen in an eleventh hour letter to voters were elected to the City Council yesterday.

The new councilmen are Dr. Donald E. Wilson, vice president of the Torrance Board of Education who led all candidates; William J. Uerkwitz, a telephone company executive; and Orin P. (Bud) Johnson, former assistant city manager.

Dr. Wilson, who waged a quiet campaign, polled 9,342 votes to lead the 11 candidates. Uerkwitz won 8,124 votes, while Johnson polled 5,039 votes.

Blayne L. Asher, an insurance counselor, finished fourth in the race, some 300 votes behind Johnson. Tire dealer Leo F. X. Salisbury was fifth in the balloting with 3,978 votes.

INCUMBENTS George Vico, David K. Lyman, and Edward Talbert finished in the sixth, seventh, and tenth spots.

Votomatic 'Terrific,' Clerk Says

Overlooking a few minor snags, the IBM Votomatic system employed at last night's municipal election was "terrific," according to City Clerk Vernon W. Coil.

The computerized system of tallying election results turned out a verdict in just 2½ hours, saving precinct workers the trouble of fumbling with paper ballots until way past midnight.

Coil added that precinct workers were highly pleased with the new computer system, returning the envelopes of punched ballot cards to City Hall no later than 9:15 p.m. Final results were announced at 10:30 p.m.

COMMENTING on the new system, Coil said IBM had made a major contribution to voting procedure with the Votomatic method. "It took private enterprise," he said, "to come in and improve the government system."

Problems arose when fragments of punched paper stuck to some of the ballot cards, causing the computer to jam. However, IBM engineers analyzed the trouble and had the machine back in working order after a few short delays.

Coil stated that voter turnout dropped below prior elections. Only 30 per cent (16,506) of the city's 54,918 registered voters showed up at the polls. Nearly 40 per cent voted during the last municipal election two years ago, he said.

Complete Returns (Unofficial)

Following are complete, unofficial election returns from the city's 61 consolidated precincts. The totals also include 182 absentee ballots received by City Clerk Vernon W. Coil.

Wilson	9,342
Uerkwitz	8,124
Johnson	5,039
Asher	4,743
Salisbury	3,978
Vico	3,264
Kelly	3,177
Lyman	2,655
Drale	2,517
Talbert	2,459
Garcia	1,784

Yes	No
Proposition A	9,179 6,655
Proposition B	2,844 13,068

Luncheon To Honor Judges

Reservations still are being accepted for a luncheon honoring Judges Thomas W. Fredericks and Raymond Choate Tuesday, April 16, at the Plush Horse Restaurant.

The luncheon is being sponsored by the South Bay Bar Association and the Redondo Beach Chamber of Commerce. Timothy M. O'Connor heads the Bar Association and James B. Wood is president of the Chamber.

Tickets for the event will not be available at the door, it was announced.

Enobring ceremonies for Judge Fredericks will be at 11:30 a.m. in Division 2 of the South Bay Municipal Court. He was appointed to succeed Judge Choate on the Municipal bench following the election of Choate to the Superior Court.

Lomita Soldier Killed - - -

A Lomita soldier was listed Tuesday as killed in action in Vietnam. Dead is Sgt. Alan R. Guymon, 20, son of Mr. and Mrs. Russell L. Guymon of 1718 W. 242nd St. A graduate of Narbonne High School, he was aboard a helicopter when it crashed while on a combat mission, according to Pentagon reports. The sergeant had been in Vietnam for six months.

Earthquake Shakes City - - -

A rolling earthquake shook the Southland at 6:30 p.m. Monday evening, but no damage was reported here despite the 6.0 magnitude reading on the Richter scale of 10. Seismologists at the California Institute of Technology reported the quake was centered somewhere between San Diego and El Centro, probably in Mexico. The 6.0 reading is "potentially damaging" in populated areas, it was noted. The shock was, according to some reports, the strongest to hit the Southland since the July 21, 1952, earthquake which was centered in the Tehachapi Mountains.

Lomita Elects Three - - -

Incumbent Mayor Joe Haslam of Lomita was defeated in his bid for a new four-year term on the City Council. Haslam finished third in a five-man race for two vacant seats on the council. The winners were Charles Belba, who polled 1,120 votes, and Lee Stratford, 900 votes. In a special election for a two-year term on the council, E. E. Meyer was declared the winner. He polled 781 votes.

Easter Trip Ends In Death for Trio

By NATALIE HALL
Press-Herald Staff Writer

Three boys are dead, another lies paralyzed in a Riverside hospital, and another remains unconscious at Bay Harbor Hospital in Lomita following a traffic disaster that cut short Easter vacation plans for scores of Torrance High School students.

Seven area youths were just a few miles short of Big Ben, Calif., a traditional student rendezvous, when the international carry-all in which they were riding ran off the road Saturday evening.

The accident occurred on Aqueduct Road, a few miles west of Vidal Junction, as the

youths sped toward the desert community of Parker, Ariz.

KILLED instantly was 18-year-old Mike Branstetter, who had been riding in the front seat. The son of the John L. Branstetter, 22966 Cabrillo Ave., was a senior at Torrance High, where he played tackle on the varsity football team.

At the wheel of the ill-fated vehicle was Timothy J. Fraser, 19, who died in an ambulance a short time later. The Torrance High graduate was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Hector Fraser, 1008 Kornblum Ave.

Third to die was 18-year-old Don Dupuis, who lost his three-day fight for life Tuesday at 1:15 p.m. The Torrance High graduate died at Riverside General Hospital without regaining consciousness.

CONFLICTING rumors about Dupuis' fate had ping-ponged back and forth Monday and Tuesday. Source of the confusion was the fact

that he had been pronounced dead Monday. However, when doctors prepared to remove his kidneys for transplant they discovered that he was still breathing.

Dupuis continued to hover between life and death for nearly 24 hours before he finally died Tuesday afternoon.

Paralyzed from the chest down is the youngest victim, 15-year-old Everett Erickson of 1327 Acacia St. With a broken neck and back, the Torrance High sophomore lies in traction at Riverside County General Hospital. Doctors are not yet certain whether or not his spinal cord is actually severed. If it is only pinched, traction may be able to relieve pressure and restore the use of his legs.

KENNY GOINS, 18, of 2205 Gramercy Ave., has never regained consciousness, suffering from an apparent brain concussion. Condition of the (See DEATHS, Page A-4)

STAY AT TORRANCE HIGH

200 Indian Youths Due To Arrive Here Tonight

Arriving at Torrance High School at 8 p.m. tonight after a 550-mile, 13-hour trip by bus from an Indian reservation in Arizona will be 200 teenage Papago Indians.

The entourage, together with 25 adult chaperones, will park sleeping bags in the school gymnasium and set up housekeeping in the school cafeteria for a five-day stay. When Torrance High School students return to class after Easter vacation Monday morning, the Indians will move camp to the Torrance YWCA and the First Methodist Church.

HOSTING the visit of the poverty-stricken tribe from

the Oasis School in Sells, Ariz., will be the entire community of Torrance.

Ever since Dr. Carl Ahee, principal of Torrance High, first announced the forthcoming visit of the Indians, donations from residents and organizations have been pouring in.

Donations range from 2,000 homemade tortillas to be baked by the residents of the Pueblo area of Torrance Monday to two \$500 scholarships being offered by the Pepsi Cola Co.

AN ANONYMOUS donor is footing the bill for a day at Disneyland; the Papagos are being treated to 225 chicken

dinners at Knott's Berry Farm; and the city of Los Angeles has asked the youngsters to be their guests for a day at the zoo and a visit to the County Museum.

In addition, \$25 to be used to help the Indians purchase equipment for their reservation youth center was raised by youngsters in the Pueblo Community Club of Torrance; and gifts of food have been collected by the PTAs.

Highlighting the visit of the Papagos, which will be marked by sightseeing tours and visitations to Torrance homes, will be a free exhibit of authentic Indian dancing to be performed for the public (See INDIANS, Page A-3)

Narcotic Overdose Takes Life

A man who claimed to have taken "reds," LSD, and heroin all at once was pronounced dead on arrival at Little Company of Mary Hospital Monday at 10 p.m.

Gary Browning Taylor, 32, returned home to 18825 Felbar Ave. late Sunday night after a month's absence, according to his wife, Mary Elizabeth Taylor. The following morning, Mrs. Taylor told police, she found her husband groaning and foaming at the mouth.

A police search of the premises failed to turn up any drugs or paraphernalia. Cause of death was tentatively listed as overdose of narcotics.

Rites for Three Boys Scheduled

Family and friends of three Torrance boys killed in a high-speed traffic accident last weekend will attend funeral services for the youths this week.

Killed instantly was Michael John Branstetter, 18, son of Mr. and Mrs. John J. Branstetter. Services will be held tomorrow, Thursday, at 2 p.m. at the Stone and Myers Mortuary Chapel, with the Rev. H. Milton Sippel officiating.

He is survived by three sisters, Janette and Jolene Branstetter and Kathy Couture, and a grandmother, Mrs. Helen Startit, all of Torrance. Another grandmother is Mrs. Emma Roseberry of Lakewood.

SECOND crash victim was Timothy J. Fraser, 19, son of Mr. and Mrs. Hector Fraser. Services were scheduled today, Wednesday, at 2 p.m. in Niland's Mortuary, with the Rev. Robert Dehn officiating. Interment will be at Pacific Coast Cemetery.

Survivors, in addition to (See RITES, Page A-4)