

New Move to Put Park Issue on Ballot Fails

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Series II, Volume V, Number 11

3238 Sepulveda Blvd., Torrance, California 90510—Wednesday, August 7, 1968

10c Per Copy By Carrier 50c Per Month By Mail, \$18 per Year 62 PAGES



OFFICIAL VISIT . . . Bill Ritchie (at left) talks with top state and national officials of the U. S. Jaycees during an airport meeting here. Ritchie, a director of the Torrance Jaycees, was one of several local members greeting the party at the airport. Others are Cliff Short, national director

of the California Jaycees; Bob Reifschneider, president of the Jaycees; and Dick Randolph, vice president of the U. S. Jaycees. Randolph, of Fairbanks, Alaska, is one of 10 vice presidents and is responsible for Jaycee work in Hawaii, Alaska, California, Texas, and Wyoming.

Mayor Loses Ballot Issue on Tie Vote

By NATALIE HALL
Press-Herald Staff Writer

Emotions flared over the issue of public parks in Torrance again Tuesday night as city councilmen attacked the problem with renewed vigor.

Mayor Albert Isen again proposed placing the Columbia Park question on the November ballot and councilmen again shot it down by a vote of 3-3.

Those voting against the measure were Councilmen Jay Beasley, Ross Sciarrotta, and Ken Miller. Councilman Donald E. Wilson was unable to attend the meeting due to business commitments.

ISEN'S DEFEATED motion called for a ballot measure that would have read as follows: "That the city of Torrance proceed with its application for a federal grant under the open space program for the acquisition and development of Columbia Park." Voters would have been asked to vote "yes" or "no" on the measure.

Mayor Isen commented that there is a wide variety

of viewpoints on the park and that the people have the right to vote on the question. "I have very mixed emotions on this park proposal myself!" Isen exclaimed.

COUNCILMAN Orin Johnson said he believes the people want to vote on federal funds for the park, stating that he had felt the same way months ago when the question of federal funds for the urban renewal project was considered.

At that time, a group of Torrance citizens circulated petitions aimed at cancelling the use of federal funds for the Meadow Park project and forced a housing code measure onto the ballot.

Councilman Miller, however, expressed opposition to placing the park question on the November ballot. "What's the rush?" Miller asked. "Anything we do now will be premature," he said, pointing out that many important questions concerning land costs, development costs, and police protection, and other aspects of Colum-

bia Park have not yet been answered.

MILLER ADDED that his letters from local residents tallied 25-to-1 in favor of continuing with plans to create the 52-acre park in North Torrance.

Councilman Beasley also spoke in favor of gathering more facts, adding that the city may be eligible for an additional \$1 million through a joint powers agreement with the county.

Councilmen had planned to take action last night on a contract with the state to accept a grant of \$197,000 toward the acquisition of Columbia Park. However, they voted to postpone action until next week when (See PARK, Page A-2)

City Buses Will Sport Red, Gold

Torrance municipal buses will shed their dreary beige-pink coats for snappy red and gold outfits, the City Council decided last night.

Painting the buses is part of "Operation Comeback," a plan to breathe life into the ailing municipal bus line.

Bus interiors will also undergo a dramatic facelift. Light blue walls will be set off by dark blue upholstery. Ceilings will be painted white.

City Manager Edward J. Ferraro said that the painting of each bus will cost more than \$500.

Other bus improvements under consideration are revised routes and schedules, a public relations campaign, providing change for the drivers, and purchasing new equipment.

School Taxes Cut 5 Cents by Board

Local Diver Drowns

A 47-year-old Torrance man on a skin diving expedition with his son has drowned near Santa Cruz in Northern California.

Morris Rothstein, of 4105 W. 178th St., and his son left the Ventura Marina aboard a 45-foot boat. They were part of a group of 20 members of Long Beach Skindiving Club on board the boat.

The group left Ventura about 4:30 a.m. Sunday. Rothstein drowned about 1 p.m. while diving in 40 to 50 feet of water off the Santa Cruz coastline.

WITNESSES said Rothstein was diving without tanks and had separated from the group after he apparently saw a sea bass. When he failed to return, his son, Daniel, 20, and other members of the group began searching for the victim.

Rothstein was found on the bottom. His spear gun—which apparently had been fired—and his knife were nearby. Daniel Rothstein said it appeared his father "had shot a fish, realized the danger he was in and cut the lines."

THE 47-YEAR-OLD man had been skin diving for about 15 years.

He and his family came to Torrance from Tennessee in 1953. Rothstein had owned a sign business at 18123 Prairie Ave. for the past three years.

His son is in the Air Force and is home on a 30-day leave.



SGT. DONALD T. FEIL



SGT. JAMES L. FARRAR

New Sergeants

Feil and Farrar Win Promotions

Officers James L. Farrar and Donald T. Feil of the Torrance Police Department have been promoted to the rank of sergeant.

Sgt. Farrar has served with the local department since 1963, shipping over from the Stanton Police Department. A native of Lordsburg, New Mexico, Sgt. Farrar was graduated from Torrance High School. He also attended El Camino College, Orange Coast College, and UCLA, and received a congressional appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy.

Since joining the Torrance Police Department, Sgt. Farrar has served in the vice and intelligence division and the patrol division.

LEISURE time activities for the new sergeant include hunting, fishing, prospect-

ing, scuba diving, and water skiing. He lives in Torrance with his wife Norma and daughters Deborah, 12, and Karen, 10.

Sgt. Donald Feil has been with the local department since 1961 and has served in patrol, traffic, and detective divisions, and as administrative aide to the chief. He was formerly with North American Aviation and Standard Oil, holding positions there as manager, process accountant, and traffic representative.

SGT. FEIL attained the rank of sergeant in the U.S. Army, in which he served with the 970th Counter Intelligence Corps Detachment in Germany.

Hailing from Burbank, Sgt. Feil is a graduate of Los Angeles High School and has attended many training schools in connection with his police work.

He lives in Torrance with his wife Janet and children Donald, 14; Douglas, 11; and Diane, 9.

Adopt School Budget

By trimming the cash reserve by almost \$1.8 million, the Torrance Unified School District tax rate was reduced five cents to \$4.20 per \$100 of assessed valuation by the Board of Education Monday night.

The balance in the reserve will be about \$3,200,000, according to Dr. Frank Mattox, assistant superintendent of schools for business.

Dr. J. H. Hull, superintendent of schools, warned the board that cutting the taxes this year by using up the reserve might require an increase in taxes next year.

Dr. Mattox recommended that a reserve of at least \$3 million be maintained.

THE COST of operating the school district is approaching \$30,000,000 annually. The more than \$3 million in the reserve account coupled with \$26,451,573 in the 1968-69 budget amounts to \$29,879,475.

In adopting the final budget, the board of education deleted \$200,000 for a kindergarten program delayed in the state legislature.

THE BUDGET represents an increase in expenditures of about 16 per cent over 1967-68. The budget went up 12 per cent last year, prompting trustee Burton Belzer to express concern over rising costs. Belzer said he would like the board to be more prudent in approving future expenditures.

Belzer was appointed to the board in May to succeed Dr. Donald E. Wilson who was elected to the Torrance City Council.

20 Win New Terms

26 Named to Commission Posts

New commission appointees were formally announced Tuesday night by the Torrance City Council, which chose the commissioners last week by a new "non-political" method.

New member of the Airport Commission is Robert Vroman, 3217 Carson St. Reappointed were Armand Berges and John Blaisdell.

The six new members of the Citizens' Advisory Committee are Joseph B. Alario, 20425 Madison St.; Angel R. Flores, 23103 Cerise Ave.; Donald E. Geiler, 121 Via la Soledad; Robert W. Morris, 22943 Fonthill Ave.; Vince Tyrrell, 3728 W. 170th St.; and Austin M. Woodward, 208 Via Mesa Grande.

Reappointed to the CAC were Bill Roberts and Gordon Lynwalter.

FOUR NEW members of the Civil Defense Commission are Eugene M. Barker, 1836 San Ardo St.; Ralph C. Grippo, 23039 Cerise Ave.;

Ursel C. Nolte, 5209 Paseo de Pablo; and Ward A. Spoonmore, 4727 Michelle Drive.

New Library Commissioners are Naomi A. Leavitt, 4313 Paseo de las Tortugas, and Richard T. Hall, 4622 Paseo de las Tortugas. Reappointed were Claire Crain, 3753 W. 171st St., and Hannah Saville, 19325 Sturges Drive.

Three Park and Recreation Commissioners were reappointed. They are Bernard M. Dougan, 1327 Cota Ave.; Naomi McVey, 16708 Falda Ave.; and Ambie Schindler, 217 Via la Circula.

THREE PLANNING Commissioners were also reappointed. They are Gerald L. Alter, George W. Brewster, and Velma Shelbourn.

New member of the Torrance Beautiful Commission is Carrie Y. Latteri, 5621 Clearsite St. Reappointed were Mrs. Gordon Phillips,

Mrs. Frank Sciarrotta, and Kay Michels. Bonnie Lou McElroy, 20545 Victor St., is the new member of the Torrance Safety Council. Reappointed was Frank Paur.

New members of the Water Commission are Harry Matthews, 154 Paseo de las Delicias; Lowell L. O'Brien, 2306 W. 180th St.; and Harold Todd, 22656-B Nadine Circle. Albert M. Dumont was reappointed to the commission.

THE THREE new members of the Youth Welfare Commission are Robert W. Kornegay, 526 Palos Verdes Blvd.; Beatrice A. Smith, 1417 Cota Ave.; and Frank E. Tyrell, 22629 Greenwood Ave.

Reinstated on the commission were Stanley Dunn, Christian M. Galichon, and C. K. Norman.

Ben Haggott was named to the Metropolitan Water District.

The Civil Service Commission's four new appointees and the councilmen who nominated them are Roy E. Hickey, 3117 Opal St. (Uerkwitz); John M. Lamson, 639 Paseo de la Playa (Isen); Walter R. Ruhlow, 2651 W. 130th Place (Sciarrotta); and Jack A. Salling, 22640 S. Juniper Ave. (Wilson).

ALL NEW commission members will be sworn in at ceremonies next Tuesday during the City Council meeting.

Appointees were selected last week on a merit system, in which any interested citizen was invited to apply for a post. Applicants were interviewed and chosen by a majority vote of the council.

Councilman Donald E. Wilson proposed the general application method of selecting commissioners to insure the appointment of the best talent available and to avoid the political implications of councilmanic appointments.

Assessment Changes Due . . .

Assessment changes for property owners in the Torrance area will be published in the Sunday, Aug. 11, editions of the Press-Herald. County Assessor Phillip E. Watson said publication of all changes—both up and down—is part of his policy of full disclosure of all assessment changes. In addition to the changes, Watson said, full assessment information for one-fifth of the county will be published.

Redondo Marine Killed . . .

A Redondo Beach Marine was listed Monday by the Department of Defense as killed in action in Vietnam. He was identified as Lance Cpl. Richard D. Sullivan Jr., son of Richard D. Sullivan of 604 Susana Ave., Redondo Beach. No details were given about the death.

Aquacade Show to Open . . .

First performance of the city's annual aquacade will be staged Friday evening at the city plunge. Based on the tales of Hans Christian Andersen, the aquacade will be preceded by a carnival Friday and Saturday evening. The carnival midway will open at 6 p.m. each day with aquacade performances scheduled for 8:30 p.m. A performance of the aquacade also is scheduled at 8:30 p.m. Sunday. The 13th annual water show will feature a cast of 40 Torrance youngsters.

Progress Noted On Sign Proposal

A 10-year abatement period has been granted Torrance merchants whose business signs don't conform to standards currently being formulated.

City Councilmen arrived at this decision at Monday night's regular adjourned meeting, ironing out perhaps the most controversial aspect of the proposed sign ordinance. And the measure won the blessing of the Merchants' Sign Committee, known for its liberal position on sign regulation.

Leo Salisbury, a leader of the merchants' group, spoke in favor of establishing an

abatement period, underlining that new businesses would be at a disadvantage if forced to compete with older businesses with more flamboyant signs. Councilmen had earlier taken a position against sign abatement, believing that any new sign regulations should apply only to future signs.

THE LENGTH of the abatement period would be subject to appeal, the council ruled.

Councilmen also made decisions concerning wall signs for various types of structures. (See SIGNS, Page A-2)