

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Educ. code 2421, and what the resultant effect upon the elementary school district boundaries would be. "All territory within the City of Torrance would be formed into a new Elementary School District, thereby resulting in the transfer of territories from the Los Angeles City, Palms Verdes City and Perry (north Torrance) school districts to the new Torrance Elementary School Dist. (Educ. code, Sec. 2421—also concurred in by the County Council).

Do "you" actually expect people to believe that Hollywood Riviera and Perry would give up to or even merge their schools with your "unknown" system? Do you believe that those people of Waverly and South Torrance where Narbonne is a tradition would vote for this unknown system?

Now to continue, let's tell the people of Torrance, thru your newspaper, what effect this "charter" would have on the high school district boundaries.

Inasmuch as the City of Torrance is partly within the Los Angeles City High School District and partly within the Redondo Union High School District and as an elementary school district cannot lie within two High School districts (ed. code 8982), the County Superintendent of schools would be required to hold an election in the City of Torrance within 30 days after the formation of the "new" Torrance elementary school district to determine whether said "new" district would be within the Los Angeles City High School District or within the Redondo Union High School District. (See educ. code Sec. 3896 concurred in by County Council)

A subsequent and entirely separate procedure would be required to form the territory into a "new" Torrance High School District. (Educ. code Sec. 3591-3592 et seq.)

So Mr. Editor, it would take at least three elections to form a complete "new" educational system and you yourself have printed that "more elections from time to time might be necessary to clarify the municipal set up under a charter!"

TAXPAYERS and VOTERS—do we need or desire all these

elections for the privilege of starting from scratch with an unknown untried system of schools simply to satisfy the gripers of our community and provide local politicians opportunity to play with school tax funds to the detriment of our fine organized school facilities?

To continue, why don't you also tell the people of Torrance that if they withdraw from the Los Angeles City School System, we would be giving up a secure position in the educational world, a system that is known all over the nation for its forward teaching of Education for Life; a system which is the envy and the goal of educators everywhere. In case of "withdrawal", we would immediately lose our accredited standing in the colleges and universities of America and could not regain that standing until and unless our "new" schools had proved their worth, probably a matter of years. Don't "you" think the voters of this community would think very seriously before they subject our graduates to such conditions?

Now, to go further, every teacher and our principals too (despite "your" whispering campaign that one of them would stay on to act as Superintendent) would remain with the Los Angeles school system, likewise every non-professional employee. What then do you propose to do for teachers? Educators state that there will be a known desperate shortage of teachers for at least ten more years. There are only 400 students graduating into the teaching profession from California colleges this summer and Los Angeles schools, which get the best needs over 800! An untried school system would find it next to impossible to get good teachers for teachers want to go to a system which is known and respected.

Now, "you" have carried on an intensive one sided campaign of propaganda to oust our fine schools; Thru your paper, thru the non-organized, non dues paying, non-recognized so called "Torrance Parents Association", thru furtive meetings held in private homes, thru certain men's clubs and with always

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Torrance from having the legal and democratic right to express themselves on the issue of control of their own schools.

(The City Charter movement is aimed at gaining that right of expression, and we should think, Mrs. Garner, that you would want the people of Torrance to have the right to express themselves on this vital issue and end the controversy for all time—and it never will be ended until the schools of Torrance are safely in the control of the people of Torrance, no matter how many elections are required.)

(Would you deny the small taxpayers, even the veterans, a right to say whether or not Torrance should control its own schools just because industry pays most of the taxes of Torrance? Do you want "industry" to run the government and the schools, or do you want the people to run them? You must remember, Mrs. Garner, that ownership of property is not a prerequisite of the right to vote, and the small taxpayer has just as much right to a voice in government as a larger one. The millionaire and the pauper each can cast but one vote.

In a school district as large as Los Angeles, we are quite certain, Mrs. Garner, that the children of Torrance workers residing outside of Torrance will have equal educational advantages; but we feel that if Torrance had its own schools they probably would make a greater effort to reside in Torrance and take advantage of an independent system.

(We understand the education code, Mrs. Garner, and feel quite certain that the additional benefits obtained from operation by Torrance of its own schools will be sufficient to offset any opposition from

any one side of this vital issue to be presented to you Mr. Editor, is that what you so often refer to as democracy? Why not be open and above board with the whole thing—facts explode your whole scheme when brought to light. Why not open forums conducted by a respected citizen in a public building large enough and open to all. That is my concept of the democratic way to do it!

Why not spend the next eighteen months with the same amount of front page space you have given to the destruction of our school system to the constructive things our schools are doing? There are many of them, things that our students accept as a daily part of the education. That group from Torrance HI which recently appeared on radio station KGER was worthy of a front page item in anybody's newspaper.

Let's all get busy and work with our teachers, our principals and our board of education. I assure you that is what the students and intelligent parents want. It would pay dividends undreamed of in educational accomplishments and community harmony!

It has taken much time and research on my part and the help of a number of local citizens who well know the situation, to get the legal opinions, court decisions, State Constitution excerpts and Education Code references herein used.

As you have given many columns of front page space to the adverse side of this issue will you please in equal consideration at least start this dissemination there. A reprint in the Lomita News, where its Waverly and South Torrance subscribers are affected, would be appreciated.

Thank you,  
Sincerely,  
Mrs. John R. Garner  
803 Annapola ave.  
Torrance, California



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Hollywood Riviera, Waverly, Perry and other districts, and will be sufficient to offset the "tradition" of Narbonne. The "tradition" of Torrance is something that is needed, the community spirit that goes with operation by a community of its own schools.

(The tradition of Torrance will be established. (We predict that most of the people of Torrance would rather be in the Redondo Beach Union High school district, between Redondo Beach and Los Angeles, if a choice had to be made, as we said above, as many elections as are necessary to accomplish the formation of the Torrance Unified school districts, elementary, high and junior college, will be held, for they will be worthwhile.)

(Would that Torrance could bond herself now to the extent of \$1,500,000 for her own schools rather than to be forced to raise that money and see little, if any, of it. We could build a new high school, complete with the industrial and vocational shops which we need, the boys' and girls' gymnasiums we need so badly, and have every other benefit, a new elementary school and still have money left over.

(You speak of the "secure position in the education world" held by Los Angeles. That is exactly what we wish to establish in Torrance, "a secure position in the education world"—where our students can graduate and enter college without the embarrassment and delay of additional schooling; where they can learn the trades of the community which they are likely to follow; where they can be educated for "life" in the community; geared to the life of the community. Why do we live in a small town, Mrs. Garner?

Because we like a small town. The only thing that a large town has over a small one is "power," the type of power which Los Angeles is using in an attempt to keep control of the \$650,000 in tax and a.d.a. money which is raised in and on behalf of Torrance each and every year, of which they spend here only half.

(Our accredited standing in the colleges and universities of America will be established immediately. After all, the first graduates of the new system would have been prepared under the Los Angeles system, would they not, Mrs. Garner? And as others come up the line, year by year, the Torrance Unified school system will have established itself in the field of elementary and secondary education. If our graduates are subjected "to such conditions"—as you put it—it will be entirely the fault of the metropolitan system which you champion. Beverly Hills got all right after that city withdrew from Los Angeles.

(Teachers will be plentiful;

## Miss Jean Clark Is Complimented At Evening Shower

Miss Jean Clark, bride-elect of Mr. Robert S. Sleeth, Jr., was complimented at a beautifully appointed crystal shower arranged Thursday evening when Miss Margaret Shultz, formerly of this city, entertained in her Long Beach home. The wedding will take place at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church on Sunday, June 23.

A pink and white color theme was followed for table decorations which featured a large letter S. Favours were diminutive brides holding scrolls with the inscription, "Bob and Jean, June 23".

After Miss Clark had opened her many beautiful gifts, each guest was given a tea towel on which to embroider her name. The completed articles were presented to the honoree for inclusion in her hope chest.

Those present were the honoree's mother, Mrs. Lucian Clark and Mrs. Robert S. Sleeth, Sr., Mmes. Hugh Shultz, Norma Greene, Doreen Weir, Betty Smith, the Misses Jean Lancaster, Pat Hill, Phyllis McVicar, Katherine Turner, all of this city, and Mrs. Shirley Minech of Redondo Beach.

## FERN AVENUE P. T. A. AT BOARD MEETING

The executive board of Fern Avenue P. T. A. met Wednesday afternoon at the school for a worldly business session. Mrs. John R. Garner, Lomita-San Fernando Council president a guest, discussed the bond election scheduled for June 4.

We will be able to afford to pay the attractive salaries which will bring the best teachers; no doubt some of the best now teaching here would want to stay. And as superintendent, we will pay for the best administrator and educator we can find. Yes, we will be able to afford to pay among the more progressive educators of the Los Angeles system. Who knows? We're not worrying about it.

(Your challenge on the fine people who make up the Torrance Parents Association and other organizations supporting the withdrawal of the schools from Los Angeles is unfortunate, Mrs. Garner. We are sorry that we are forced to print that statement, as your letter is being published in full.

(We will have open forums according to your "concept of the democratic way" of doing it. But we cannot understand why you do not want the people of Torrance to have the democratic right to voice themselves on the school issue. If you, Mrs. Garner, are so interested in "democracy,"

(We believe in local self-government of our schools. We believe in the right of a body politic to have the right to express itself on questions involving democratic control of their own affairs. We believe in taxation "with representation.")

## One-Act Comedy To Be Presented By Methodist Group

The Philathea Sunday School class of the Methodist church will present a one-act farce entitled "A Good Girl in the Kitchen," written by Frederick G. Johnson and Arthur LeRoy Kasser. A program to precede the comedy will begin at 7:30 p.m. The cast of characters includes Neta Hof as Yennie Jensen, Lucille Hill as Mrs. Jennings, Mary Alice Cramer as Julia Jennings, Sophia Duncan as Josie Jennings, Alice Swanson as Samantha Jones, Vita Paxton as Mandy White and Betty Sandstrom as Mrs. Smith.

The play, which involves the trials of the Jennings family in securing a kitchen maid, is directed by Rose King.

The program will include "Winter Song" and "Grandfather's Clock," sung by a male quartette composed of Bud Bartholomew, Fred Hamilton, Roy Dobrick and Oliver Hamilton. Fred Hopkins will give reading selections and Dick Sinclair will present a chalk talk "Let the lower lights be burning," with a solo by Harold Holmes as accompanist.

Refreshments will be served and a free-will offering accepted.

## BETSY ROSS CLUB PLANS CARD PARTY

Betsy Ross Star Club will entertain at a regular monthly card party on Saturday evening, May 25, in Masonic Temple.

Mrs. Edna Babcock will serve as hostess chairman and the customary games will be played. A door prize will be awarded at 8:00 o'clock. Refreshments will be served. Everyone is invited.

## LUTHERAN CIRCLE PLANS MEETING

The Victory Circle of First Lutheran Church will meet at the home of Mrs. Jenkins, 917 Acadia Avenue, on Tuesday, May 28, at 7:30 p.m.

HAVE LUNCHEON GUESTS  
Dr. and Mrs. W. I. Loughton and Mrs. L. Ahrens entertained at luncheon Friday for Mrs. Ervin Frauhoff and Judy, of Highland Park, and Mrs. P. Patterson, of Los Angeles.

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