

(An Editorial)

Next Tuesday, Aug. 20, the electorate of Torrance will have the exclusive right of deciding that long-standing question of who shall control the schools of Torrance, the education of its children, and the spending of the tax funds and state school aid monies of this wealthy city.

It is unfortunate that the people of Torrance cannot decide their own local issues, those involving the future of their children, without the interference of the Los Angeles Board of Education and its agents. The committees and citizens who have fought to end domination by Los Angeles of our Torrance schools should be commended for their efforts, and their names will go down in the history of Torrance.

This question has been brought to a head after a 26-month drive, in the form of a City Charter for Torrance—the only way it can be presented without injecting controversial subjects into the election other than that of "who shall control our schools, Los Angeles or Torrance?"

This City Charter was written with two principal points in mind: 1. To provide for the election of the Torrance Board of Education and assumption of control of our schools by the people of Torrance.

2. To preserve the present municipal government setup as it is now; to keep its present "Sixth Class City" style of government while it becomes a Charter City; to preserve the ordinances, Civil Service rights of employees, to provide for amendment to the City Charter by a majority vote in any way the people see necessary.

When the voter enters the secrecy of the election booth with his ballot, he will find the school question, the City Charter, the first item on his ballot—and he should ask himself: "Am I entitled to something to say about the education of my children and the children of Torrance, or must they continue to be schooled under the 'remote control' of Los Angeles city school politics and policies?" If he wants to have a part in the running of the schools of Torrance, he must mark his ballot "Yes" in favor of the City Charter, for this is the only means by which local control of the schools can be brought about.

There has been a clamoring to break away from the schools of Los Angeles and set up an independent Torrance Unified School District for many years, due to several reasons, the most important being:

Los Angeles has wantonly neglected the schools of Torrance over the years, while taking from Torrance hundreds of thousands of dollars which should have been spent in Torrance keeping our schools in good repair.

Los Angeles has failed miserably to provide sound, basic education for the children of Torrance—in fact Los Angeles herself admits that her school children are far behind the rest of the nation, while high in IQ.

Los Angeles has made a "dumping ground" out of Torrance schools, with resultant ill-effect on the schooling of the Torrance children.

The indictment of Los Angeles, in full, would take too many columns to present at this time. Rather than to pursue this question from that angle, we prefer to give this space to the question: "To what are all children entitled in schooling, out of the tax funds of a community and under the provisions of the Education Code of California?"

1. They are entitled first of all to sound, basic and tested educational practices by which they can "learn" and be fitted for this rapidly shifting world.

2. They are entitled to the finest in school buildings, equipment, books, supplies, in keeping with the ability of the community and state to provide.

3. They are entitled to have the benefits of community spirit and activity which goes with local residence of the teachers; they are entitled to have the teachers available for consultation about school problems at any time.

4. They are entitled to have the control of the schools rest in a Torrance Board of Education within easy reach of the people of Torrance and available at any time for conference and cooperation.

5. They are entitled to the community support which comes with pride of possession of a Torrance School system; support at athletic events and in all school activities.

6. The boys of Torrance High School are entitled to a separate gymnasium and all the athletic equipment they need for a well-rounded competitive sports and physical education program.

7. The young 7th and 8th graders are entitled to separate school facilities from the older senior high school students.

8. All children are entitled to an education which will fit them either for college or for a place in the industrial and commercial life of the community.

9. The children are entitled to a thorough mastering of higher mathematics; they are entitled to learn to spell, read and write.

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Los Angeles In Frantic Effort To Defeat Torrance City Charter Move

In a frantic, last-minute effort to frighten Torrance citizens into thinking that they cannot get along without the Los Angeles school system, the Los Angeles Board of Education and the Affiliated Teachers organizations have opened both barrels in a fight to defeat the City Charter on the ballot next Tuesday, Aug. 20.

Departing from their previously announced "neutral" position on the question of whether or not the people of Torrance should control the schools of Torrance, the administrative staff of the Los Angeles system will invade the high school auditorium tonight in what handbills sent out by the Los Angeles interests declare will be a "citizens open forum."

While they call it an "open forum," the agenda is packed with Los Angeles schools men scheduled to deliver talks on taxes, school problems, educational opportunities and other questions. They have left no room on the program tonight for the Torrance Charter Committee to present its side of the picture.

This last-minute effort was expected, said James L. Lynch, vice chairman of the Charter Committee, because Los Angeles has been fighting the right of the people of Torrance to have even a vote on whether or not they should control their own schools.

"The action of the Los Angeles schools lobby at Sacramento last year, on a bill which would permit a Sixth Class city to have its own school system, proves that Los Angeles did not even want us to have a chance to say 'yes' or 'no' on the school subject.

"We stayed in the fight, however, and won the democratic right to voice our sentiment on the matter by having a City Charter written and presented to the people Tuesday to provide for taking over control of the schools by Torrance.

"Now that we have provided the means for the people to have a chance to vote on the subject, Los Angeles is going all out to defeat us.

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L.A. Anxiety For Torrance Less, Says P. McMahan

Los Angeles city schools are not as anxious to keep Torrance schools in their system as they were last year, according to Paul McMahan, representative of the Los Angeles Board of Education.

Attending a meeting in Hollywood-Beverly, McMahan explained that the provisions of the Strayer bill, which equalize state school support, will make up the financial loss suffered by Los Angeles when Torrance schools are withdrawn from the Los Angeles system.

This admission that Los Angeles has been making money on Torrance schools at the expense of Torrance and the children of this city, was part of a long discussion on school finances.

The principal points being used by the City Charter Committee in arguments in favor of a "Yes" vote on the charter Aug. 20, to pull the schools out of Los Angeles control, include the fact that hundreds of thousands of dollars of Torrance school funds have been spent by Los Angeles elsewhere while the schools of Torrance are neglected.

Torrance can afford the best schools, the people are paying for the best, and they should have the best, Dr. H. A. Wood, chairman of the charter committee, said. "The only way we can get control of our schools is by adopting the City Charter Aug. 20," he said.

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Council Offers Quadt \$20,000 For Water Works

Torrance City Council Tuesday night voted to offer C. H. Quadt \$20,000 for his water system, which has been serving the Wateria area for years.

Quadt was asked to reply to the offer before the special meeting of the council on Aug. 19, and in reply the offer is refused, condemnation proceedings will be instituted.

The system is valued by Quadt at \$45,000, it is said, and a Taylor & Taylor water engineering report given the City Council some months ago appraised the system at approximately \$40,000.

Residents of the Wateria and Southwest Torrance area voted some time ago to establish a water district and sell bonds in the amount of \$150,000 to finance the district.

A letter from the Taylor & Taylor firm, under contract with the city for setting up the new district, urged that the bonds be not sold until a definite price is obtained on the Quadt system.

If the \$20,000 offer is refused and the case goes to court, it may be many months before the cost is fixed by the court, it was pointed out, although immediate possession of the system will be possible under the proceedings.

Jagged Glass And Knife Attack Put Man In Hospital

James W. Hopson, 18093 Prairie ave., was taken to Torrance Memorial hospital Saturday when police found him and John Hayes, 4668 W. 190th st., parked in an auto at 190th st. and Crenshaw Blvd. Hopson's police said was bleeding profusely from numerous cuts about the face and arms.

Hayes, booked on a charge of being drunk in an auto, explained to police that he and Hopson were attacked by four Mexicans who fought them with a jagged bottle neck and a knife. He told police that the men escaped after inflicting a dozen or more cuts upon Hopson.

He indicated to police that he was taking Hopson to the hospital when the car ran out of gas. Police said a vague description was given of the attackers by both Hopson and Hayes who, however, claimed that they could identify the men if apprehended.

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FIRST FATALITY . . . The PT-19 Fairchild trainer which crashed on the Lomita Flight Strip last Thursday killing two local business men, Carmine Anastasia and Carl Pouncy, is the first plane to crash on the local strip with fatal results. Investigation revealed that Anastasia, a veteran pilot, was giving instructions to Pouncy in forced landing procedure. (Torrance Herald photo.)

Two Killed In First Lomita Strip Crash

Lomita Flight Strip suffered its first fatal aviation accident Thursday when a plane carrying two Lomita businessmen on a training flight crashed during simulated forced landing instruction.

Carmine Anastasia, 29, instructor in the craft, was killed instantly, as was his student, Carl J. Pouncy, 32, 26044 City

press ave. The plane, a Fairchild PT-19, was carrying three children, when the plane stalled at approximately 200 feet and crashed in a half turn spin into the ground adjacent to the runway, reports show.

Captain Arthur Anderson, assisting Major C. H. Holmes in Civil Air Patrol activities at the flight strip, said the accident marks the first air casualty on the field since operations began several years ago.

The captain, a veteran civilian and Army pilot, said the plane had narrowly missed a low altitude stall in a previous attempt to simulate a forced landing on the field, which caused him to keep an eye on the Fairchild trainer up until the time it crashed, killing both occupants.

Anastasia operated the A. and A. garage at 24th st. and Narbonne ave. He resided with his wife, Dorothy, and four-year-old daughter, Donna Rae, at 2119 Andree ave.

Pouncy was employed at Hinckley Market 24200 Narbonne ave., and had been a resident here for the past four years.

Alley Setback Removal Law Is Adopted

Providing for removal of alley setbacks at the rear of buildings in the commercial district, the revised land use ordinance of Torrance was adopted for the first reading by the City Council Tuesday night.

Now known as Ordinance No. 371, the new land use law will permit the building of stores to alley lines.

In urging the removal of the alley setbacks, it was pointed out that the Torrance alleys, of 20 feet in width, are sufficiently wide to permit unloading of heavy trucks without disturbing the flow of traffic through alleys, and that the space in the rear of buildings is needed for additional floor space in stores.

INDIGNATION VOICED HERE AS COUNCIL BUYS PARKING METERS IN SURPRISE MOVE

A wave of indignation swept Torrance yesterday as the news spread that three members of the City Council had ordered purchase of 200 (more or less) parking meters, without calling for bids, asking anyone's opinion on the advisability of the move and totally ignoring a recent report by a retail merchants committee opposing installation of parking meters.

Councilman G. V. Powell made the motion to install the meters. Councilman A. L. Jackson seconded the motion.

The multiple coin meters were obtained when Councilman W. H. Tolson voted "aye" on the motion. Mayor J. Hugh Sherfy Jr. and Councilman C. M. Gilbert were absent.

The 200 meters will be purchased from the Dual Parking Meter Co., a division of the Union Metal Co. and better known as the Pacific Union Marbleite Co. for \$88 each.

The merchants committee on parking of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce on June 15, 1946, acted to oppose installation of parking meters in Torrance business district as a "detriment rather than an asset in the promotion of retail sales and a solution to parking needs."

The committee is composed of Bob Haggard, chairman, C. N. Emmet, of El Prado Furniture Co., Oscar H. Ross, manager of Safeway store, and Bernard Lee of Bernard's Family Shoe Store.

Just as we get the retail store labor dispute settled and start attracting trade back to Torrance, this move comes along to drive the trade away again," Blaine Walker, secretary of the chamber, remarked. "The motoring public does not like parking meters, and they will avoid them whenever possible. This will hurt business in Torrance."

The merchants committee had recommended one-hour parking by Sartori avenue, El Prado and Marcella avenue in the downtown area, elimination of many red zones, loading zones and special privilege parking, and urged establishment of off-street parking lots on vacant property in the central business district.

"That there is no real parking problem in Torrance is evidenced by the fact that there is always ample parking space along Cabrillo ave., Torrance ave., and Craven avenue, it was pointed out.

Said Bob Haggard, chairman of the parking committee of the chamber: "I think it is pitiful that Torrance should have to resort to parking meters, either for so-called traffic control or for revenue purposes. Parking meters will run the traffic off Sartori, and all the merchants along the street agree with this theory. Why don't the police check the cars, keep them moving."

Torrance Weather Record

Official U. S. Weather Bureau TEMPERATURE

August	Maxi	Mini
	mum	mum
7	76	61
8	77	60
9	78	65
10	80	64
11	86	64
12	82	63
13	81	62
	Total (Year)	5.39

BOND ISSUE COST TO HOME OWNERS ONLY 80¢ MONTH, SAYS LUND

Roundly rebuking the directors of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce and the "Torrance Citizens Committee" for their opposition to certain of the bond issues to be voted upon next Tuesday, proponents of the bonds led by Russell Lund, chairman, charged that the opposition had made a superficial and

unstudied appeal with no consideration of the long range benefits to accrue to the rank and file of the residents of Torrance.

"The people of Torrance should not be misled by these objections, which in their negative arguments reflect no comprehension of the proposals or are deliberately set forth to becloud the real issues, it was emphasized by those supporting the bond issues, he said.

It should be remembered that big industries and other large corporations and out-of-town property owners pay approximately 90 percent of the taxes

of the average home in Torrance is \$2,000, the total tax cost for all seven of the municipal bond propositions to the average home-owner is only 80 cents per month for the first year, with further reductions each year as the bonds are retired.

Breaking down the various propositions, the monthly tax cost to the average home-owner in Torrance is:

For the Recreation building, including the gymnasium, basketball court, club rooms, game rooms for both boys and girls, as well as the public comfort stations, 15¢ per month.

For the stadium and swimming pool, including the underpass connecting the two parks, 8¢ per month.

PEOPLE OF TORRANCE ASKED TO GIVE CHARTER-SCHOOL ISSUE EMPHATIC 'YES' VOTE

Urging an overwhelming "Yes" vote on the City Charter next Tuesday, the Torrance Charter Committee is appealing to its thousands of unknown friends to "walk the issue", get out the vote and end for all time the long controversy over control of the schools of Torrance.

Election Day Finds Pressing Issues At Stake

Tuesday is election day in Torrance, this time with some of the most important issues ever offered to the voters at stake at the polls. There will be the usual closing of public offices, banks and similar institutions.

Polis will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at 17 polling places of the City of Torrance, Tuesday, Aug. 20, and on this day the people will at long last have their say about the way schools have been running in recent years.

Torrance has been a part of Los Angeles City School system since it was founded, the area being placed in the L. A. district at the request of original subdividers and developers, and though it has grown to be a city of 18 square miles, fourth largest in the county, with a wealth of \$29,000,000, 10th largest in the county—Torrance still remains in the Los Angeles system.

The Los Angeles system is taking hundreds of thousands of dollars of Torrance tax resources and state aid to schools funds marked for Torrance children and spending them elsewhere while neglecting the schools of Torrance. This has been going on for years. It is pointed out.

The election returns will be received at the City Hall in the office of City Clerk A. H. Bartlett, starting shortly after the polls close, and they will be available to the public at the Torrance Herald office.

The telephone service will be maintained for convenience of interested callers. On the ballot is the question of the adoption of a City Charter for Torrance, by which Torrance will establish its own independent school system, and seven bond propositions calling for improvements to the city.

All are explained elsewhere in this edition of the Torrance Herald. Polling places are as follows: Precinct No. 1: 18002 Prairie ave.

Precinct No. 2: 2563 El Dorado Precinct No. 3: 716 Border avenue.

Precinct No. 4: 1728 Andree avenue Precinct No. 5: 1322 Engracia avenue.

Precinct No. 6: 2305 Torrance boulevard Precinct No. 7: 1317 Beech avenue.

Precinct No. 8: 1804 Arington ave. Precinct No. 9: 2417 Andree avenue.

Precinct No. 10: 23720 Narbonne avenue Precinct No. 11: 2463 W. Carson street.

Precinct No. 12: 22504 Ocean avenue Precinct No. 14: 1417 Cota avenue.

Precinct No. 15: 1916 Andree avenue Precinct No. 16: 22404 Hawthorne boulevard.

Precinct No. 17: 1307 Portola avenue.

Public Comfort Stations Offered In Proposition 6

At long last, Torrance is planning the construction of public comfort stations for the downtown retail area. Included in the plans for the new Community Recreation Building to be built in the Civic Center are public toilet facilities which may be entered off Craven avenue.

But first, Mr. and Mrs. Voter must approve Proposition No. 6 at the Municipal election next Tuesday before the much needed comfort stations can be provided.

For the Fire Stations, 8¼¢ per month. For the Police Station, Courts Bldg., etc., 8¢ per month. For the Wateria Community Center and Recreation Building, 2¢ per month. For the Sanitary Trunk Sewers, less than 17¢ per month. For the Streets and Alleys, 23¢ per month. For the Storm Drains, 5¢ per month. For the Water Trunk Line to Hollywood-Beverly, 2 of 1¢ per month.

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For the Stadium and Swimming Pool, including the underpass connecting the two parks, 8¢ per month.

For the Water Trunk Line to Hollywood-Beverly, 2 of 1¢ per month. Lund, in outlining the various propositions, was supported by Chief of Police John Broth; Fire Chief J. E. McMaster and Recreation Superintendent Dale Riley.

Youth Killed Here When Bike Strikes Truck

Nine-year-old Steve Monte, son of Mr. and Mrs. Steve Monte Sr., house 31, 203rd st., died yesterday in the Torrance Memorial hospital following injuries received when he rode his bicycle into a truck at Torrance and Crenshaw blvds., witnesses said.

The truck, driven by James O. Johnson and owned by Birchler Van and Storage, 24310 Narbonne ave., was traveling west on Torrance blvd. and the youth was riding south on Crenshaw blvd. when the accident occurred, reports indicate. The child was rushed to Torrance Memorial hospital, where he died two hours later without regaining consciousness, it was revealed.

TOLSON ACTS AS MAYOR; BUDGET HEARING FRIDAY

Councilman W. H. Tolson was back in the mayor's chair Tuesday night, having been elected presiding officer in the absence of Mayor J. Hugh Sherfy Jr. Councilman C. M. Gilbert also absent Tuesday night, and the remaining members of the council, G. V. Powell and A. L. Jackson, ran the affairs of the city for the meeting.

A public hearing on the city budget is called for tomorrow night, and an adjourned meeting of the council is slated for Monday night.

MONETA WATER CO. WANTS LAND OUT OF NEW DISTRICT

Moneta Water Co. Tuesday night petitioned the City Council for exclusion from the proposed water district in North Torrance of the area east of Crenshaw Blvd. between 174th st. and 190th St.

L. F. Stephenson, secretary, said that the company is ready, willing and able to serve all territory in that area.

The matter was referred to the council as a whole for study. Torrent Alley