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MOVE MADE TO BLOCK SALE OF 15-ACRE TRACT IN CITY BY LOS ANGELES SCHOOLS

Legality of the move of Los Angeles City High School district to sell the 15-acre farm in North Torrance used by the Gardena High school students will be attacked by John A. Shidler, city judge who filed a petition to restrain the Los Angeles schools from disposing of property in Torrance, and by Redondo Union High School district.

It was reported this week that the Los Angeles board is making plans to dispose of the fine acreage on Redondo Beach blvd. just west of Western avenue. It is reported to be worth in the neighborhood of $50,000, being enclosed with a cyclone steel fence and improved with several buildings.

Torrance high school students did not have the privilege of taking agriculture courses on the farm, although it is located within the confines of Torrance.

Judge Shidler has been conferring with members of the Charter Committee, who are candidates for the Board of Education at the March 18 election, relative to his suit to stop the removal of property from Torrance.

With Dr. Howard A. Wood, James L. Lynch and Frank S. Selover, managing editor of the Torrance Herald, Judge Shidler conferred with Dr. C. C. Carpenter, assistant county superintendent of schools, and George Wakefield, deputy county counsel, regarding the lawsuit which was filed following the removal of two bungalows from Torrance Elementary School recently.

They were told that Torrance taxpayers are entitled to all real estate and improvements, together with all equipment needed to teach and educate the children of Torrance. This, it is said, can be construed to mean that Los Angeles can move nothing from the Torrance school buildings, although the Los Angeles interests have indicated their intention of "stripping" the buildings.

Judge Shidler's case is requiring Los Angeles to show cause why they should not be so restrained and to give the court an accounting of all school property in Torrance.

Charter Committee members have said since the inception of the campaign to withdraw the schools of Torrance from Los Angeles control that every piece of property in Torrance and all equipment must be retained for use of the children of Torrance.

"We have paid for the property many times over," Dr. Wood said, "and since we were taxed to provide the equipment, buildings and land for education of Torrance children, it must be retained for the use of our own Torrance children."

Arol Burns, Los Angeles schools lands agent, and Frank X. Goulet, Gardena high school principal, are reported as saying that Los Angeles intends to sell the 15-acre farm by July 1 and move off the buildings. Gardena is in the Los Angeles system.

Other members of the Charter Committee which worked successfully to form the Torrance City School district are Mrs. Grace W. Wright and Carl D. Steele. Mrs. Evelyn Carr, chairman of the Torrance Parents Association, which initiated the school-withdrawal campaign, is a fifth candidate for the Board of Education.

LONG SESSION . . . Assemblyman Vincent Thomas, who spoke here Tuesday, predicts the present session of the California Legislature may last until August.

Record Legislature Session Seen By Assemblyman Thomas; 4,252 Bills

The 57th session of the California Legislature, with 4252 bills already submitted for consideration, probably will last until Aug. 15, Assemblyman Vincent Thomas told the Torrance Lions club on Tuesday.

Thomas minced no words in speaking of the gigantic task facing the legislators, both due to the general session and special session called by Governor Warren to consider highway matters.

"It would take one person six months to read all the bills which have been introduced at this session of the Legislature," the assemblyman declared.

Discussing important bills before the Legislature, Assemblyman Thomas said that the highway program submitted by Governor Warren is the most misunderstood of all programs submitted. The whole question, he said, is: "What is a reasonable tax?" This must be decided and the legislators must decide this year whether or not they will sponsor a long-range program as submitted, or a short one enlarged each year by annual sessions of the Legislature recently authorized

Either way Thomas pointed out, "we need more highways and we are going to have them."

He analyzed the various highway revenue producing proposals provided for in Senate Bill 5, introduced by Senator Collier as follows: Weight tax on trucks, $16,000,000 a year; Diesel fuel tax increase, $3,775,000 a year; automobile registration at $6 a car, $11,175,000 a year; operators' license fee of $1.50, $6,150,000 a year; two-cent increase per gallon gasoline tax, $50,000,000 a year new revenue. In all, he said, this will mean that the average motorist of California will contribute $67,325,000 in new revenue to highway construction each year under the proposed program.

However, Thomas pointed out, the legislators have not been able to reconcile the various claims as to how much money now is on hand for highways. The governor, he said, claims this amounts to only $27,000,000; the major oil companies say it is $140,000,000, and the legislative auditors report this amount is $56,202,000.

"Until I know and other legislators know how much money is on hand," Thomas said, "we cannot determine how much more money is needed and from what sources it must come.'

He criticized the claims of the "cow counties" against the metropolitan areas, but at the same time pointed out that the claims of the urban districts such as Los Angeles against the State of California must be discontinued. "As it is," Thomas said, "65 cents of each $1.00 in state revenue is returned to cities and counties, and if this is continued, the state cannot carry on business."

He said that there is a big building boom in the offing; that the Child Care funds will expire July 1; that there are 250 labor bills in the hopper; that the governor's health insurance bill probably will not come out of committee.

Thomas pointed out that the establishment of a foreign trade zone in Los Angeles, also in San Francisco, is important to world trade in order to compete with New York, Boston and New Orleans, and he urged uniformity among states on legislative controls and less federal encroachment on the states' rights. He blamed the federal control on the states themselves, however, due to the fact that the states have had their "hands out" for federal aid to the point where it has encouraged this encroachment.

Assemblyman Thomas was introduced by Frank S. Selover, club secretary and managing editor of the Torrance Herald, who also had as his guest James L. Lynch, vice chairman of the Torrance Charter Committee and Board of Education candidate.

Thomas will speak before the Torrance Rotary club on Feb. 27 as the guest of City Judge John Shidler, personal friend.

Two Telephone Office Robberies Net Bandit $510

Apparently not satisfied with the loot he obtained in a robbery of the Southern California Telephone Co. business office here last Thursday noon, a lone bandit made a return engagement Monday at 4:30 p. m. to grab $486 in currency.

Torrance police report the gunman entered the office last week, pointed his gun at the lone occupant of the office, Miss Barbara Lock, cashier, and demanded that she give him all the company's money. Miss Lock said the robber took $24 from a desk drawer, ordered her to not give an alarm for at least five minutes, then left the office.

Miss Lock complied with the order and later called the local exchange office which in turn notified the district office in Wilmington. Police said their first report of the holdup came from the Wilmington office which proved to be more than ten minutes after the robbery occurred.

Monday afternoon the gunman again walked into the office, winked at Miss Lock, who recognized him immediately as the previous robber, then ordered her and two other employees present not to move. He informed them that he was desperate and this time simulated a gun in his jacket pocket.

Mrs. Anna B. Bellewood, clerk, and Mrs. Orda Peitzke were in the office when the gunman made his second appearance, police said.

With his blue-gloved left hand, the bandit picked up the money that was being counted upon a desk, Mrs. Bellewood said, then warned them not to give an alarm for five minutes. He threatened them with bodily harm if they did not heed the warning, she told officers.

Meanwhile police questioned several suspects who were later released when their alibis were established.

CITIZENS COMMITTEE ACTS TO SPONSOR CHARTER GROUP FOR BOARD OF EDUCATION

An organized effort to elect the members of the Torrance Charter Committee to the first Torrance City Board of Education was undertaken this week with the formation of a committee of citizens who declared that those who have "carried the ball" in the campaign to withdraw Torrance schools from Los Angeles have demonstrated intense and thorough knowledge of the educational problems of Torrance and should be given opportunity to build the school system the community deserves.

To be known as the Citizens Committee to Elect the Charter Committee to the Torrance City Board of Education, the group is headed by Mrs. Mina Shidler as chairman, who is the only one of the five Charter Committee members who refused to become a candidate for the Board of Education.

Filling the place of Mrs. Shidler, who was secretary of the Charter Committee is Mrs. Evelyn Carr, chairman of the Torrance Parents association, who has worked unceasingly for years on behalf of better schools il Torrance and whose organization sponsored the movement which led to the writing of the City Charter, its adoption and ratification by the Legislature on Jan. 7.

Mrs. Shidler, in accepting the chairmanship of the Citizens Committee working in behalf of the election of Dr. Howard A. Wood, James L. Lynch, Mrs. Grace W. Wright, Carl D. Steele and Mrs. Carr, said that the community owes it to this group to give them the privilege of carrying through the program for greater Torrance schools which they have drafted and sponsored during the past three years.

Other officers and committee members are: Frederick Cook, vice chairman; Mrs. Myra Beeman, secretary; Mrs. Ethel Derouin, treasurer; Fay L. Parks, director; Frank S. Selover, director; Michael L. Fenwick, director; Frances B. Clark, Howard G. Locke, Dr. John W. Beeman, Harvel L. Guttenfelder, Mrs. Emma M. Roberts, Mrs. Margaret M. Palmer, Bill J. Austin, Mrs. Audrey Bacon, Selma M. Norris, Luther Mumford, Henry C. Barrington, Grover C. Whyte, Mrs. Virginia Alverson,

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Merchants Will Launch Member Drive Tuesday

The membership committee of the Retail Merchants division of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce will stage its kickoff breakfast Tuesday at 815 a.m. in Allens.

George Noonan, manager of the J. C. Penney Co. store here, is chairman of the membership committee and he said that he expected some 30 members to be present for the one-day "whirlwind' drive. Assistants on the committee are Sam Levy and Harry Abramson.

The committee will be divided and teams assigned to sections of the business district for the drive which will follow. The initial fee for the merchants division of the chamber is $10, Noonan said.

Benefit Birthday Party At Civic Auditorium Here

Local Townsend club members will be host Feb. 26 to the 17th Congressional District of Townsend clubs at a benefit minstrel show to be held in Torrance Civic auditorium. The event will commemorate birthdays of the club's founder, Dr. Francis Townsend, Abraham Lincoln, and George Washington.

The party will start at 8 p.m. Donations of $1 will be received to defray expenses. Free dancing is to follow the benefit show.

Central Torrance Fire Station, Unrepaired Since Earthquake of 1941, Condemned by City Engineer

The Central Torrance fire station was condemned late yesterday by City Engineer and Public Works Director Glenn M. Jain as unsafe for further occupancy and a hazard to the safety of the people of Torrance.

He has notified the City Council of his decision and is asking that steps be taken to remove from the building fire fighting equipment and living quarters of the members of the fire department as a precaution against possible disaster.

The building is in such a condition, he declared, that should an explosion or earthquake occur, collapse of the structure might follow, rendering theonly fire-fighting equipment in the central district useless and causing possible loss of life of fire department personnel.

He asked that he be removed from further responsibility for the building, since he has given repeated warnings as to its unsafe condition.

In pointing out that he feels it his obligation to the health and safety of the people of Torrance to condemn the building, he reported that his findings have been confirmed by expert consulting engineers.

He said that when he became alarmed at the condition of the fire station, he consulted with Henry M. Layne, licensed engineer who was a consultant on all the major damage at Brawley, California, following the disastrous earthquake in that community, and who now is retained as structural engineer in rehabilitation of the Hollywood Turf club and many other major projects in the Los Angeles metropolitan area.

Layne confirmed Jain's convictions regarding the fire station, and will make a detailed examination within the next few days, at which time he will file a formal report with Jain, for reference to the City Council.

However, Layne stated that a preliminary study of the existing building indicates that the structure is unsound. This is due to the fact that the building was constructed over 20 years ago, previous to the time that special types of anchorage had been designed to tie-in exterior walls to floors to resist shocks from explosions or earthquakes. He further confirmed that the building not only is unsound in design but that it had suffered severe damage in the 1941 quake, as yet unrepaired.

In setting forth his decision regarding the condition of the structure, Jain reported that the building was inspected immediately after the quake of November, 1941. In his statement Jain declared:

"From the cracks and damage immediately after the quake it was apparent that the building could not endure another shock. It has been fortunate that up to this time there has not been the slightest shock in this vicinity. However, we are situated almost directly over a major fault or crack in the earth's crust, which usually is a probable location for quakes at any time due to the unequal loads or pressures which result in the slipping of the two faces of the fault.

"Over the five years since the 1941 quake the attention of the City Council has been repeat-

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ALBERT ISEN

Teacher Neglect Of Children Hit By Albert Isen

Warning of the threat to education of Torrance children this semester by replacing experienced teachers with temporary and war-emergency instructors, Albert Isen, attorney and candidate for the Torrance Board of Education, yesterday asked that steps be taken to assure the people of Torrance that the local schools will not be neglected by Los Angeles City school system in the last few months of control of Torrance public education.

Isen charged that the substitute teachers who are being sent to Torrance to replace those transferred to other positions in the Los Angeles school system are failing to show the proper interest in the students and expressed the fear that Torrance children may suffer from this neglect unless the established courses of study are followed during the balance of the school year.

Isen is a graduate of Torrance elementary and high schools and received his A.B. degree at University of Southern California. He received his L.L.B. degree at the U.S.C. law school. He taught business law for several years at Torrance when the evening school was maintained here. He also taught at Redondo Union evening high, Polytechnic evening high and Metropolitan evening high in Los Angeles. His daughter, Lorna, is attending Torrance high. A resident here since 1913, Isen is first vice president of the Torrance Lions club.

"Torrance must strive for better teachers and improved facilities for our children," Isen said. "We must bar politics from the Torrance Board of Education and get the full value for every dollar spent."

All Major Food Stores To Be Closed Saturday

All of the major food stores in this area will observe Washington's birthday anniversary by closing their doors all day Saturday.

Housewives are urged to do their food shopping today and Friday to take care of their family needs during the weekend.

Charter Changes Discussed By Local Leaders

Former Assemblyman Lorne Middough, of Long Beach, conferred with Torrance civic leaders Thursday on the subject of proposed amendments to the City Charter to provide for the City Manager setup and a combined school-city recreation program.

Middough, whose final act as a member of the California Assembly was to file the 60,000 word report of the Assembly Investigating Committee on Crime Prevention and Correction, of which he was chairman, recently conducted a successful campaign in Long Beach for Charter amendments to redistrict the city and make improvements in the managerial system.

He was one of the organizers of the municipal-school recreation setup in Long Beach and sat for years as a member of the Long Beach Recreation Commission.

Torrance Chamber of Commerce and members of the City Council are planning to submit to the voters proposals to amend the City Charter this spring to provide for the City Manager setup and the municipal-school recreation program, among other things. It is intended that they be submitted in time for ratification at the present session of the Legislature.

Five Torrance Factories In Ford Exhibit

Five Torrance factories are represented on the sponsoring committee of the Ford Motor Company parts procurement program and exhibition which closes tonight in the Ambassador hotel, Los Angeles.

The firms are the National Supply Company, represented by D. S. Faulkner, vice president; Columbia Steel Co., Carl Wittenberg, sales mamager; Doak Aircraft Co., E. R. Doak, president; Harvey Machine Co., L. A. Harvey, executive vice president and Joshua-Hendy Iron Works, John E. McCone, president.

The exhibit, which was arranged as a part of $50,000,000 Ford parts buying program from California manufacturers, will close tonight at 9 p.m. It opened yesterday at 1:30 p.m.

Bernard Lee In Support Pledge After Election

Bernard Lee, Torrance merchant and candidate for the Torrance Board of Education, this week pledged full support to the will of people in the coming election of March 18.

"Torrance is about to take another progressive step advancing the interest of our school children," Lee said.

"The issue is of such importance to our community that individual ambitions should not be permitted to cloud the issue.

"I will give my fullest support to whomever the people of Torrance choose for this important task."

Lee is proprietor of Bernard's Family Shoe Store and resides with his family at 1918 Martina

ACCEPTS STEEL EMPLOYEES' CHECK . . . The Rev. Ben H. Lingenfelter, local campaign head for the March of Dimes, is pictured above, left, receiving a check in the amount of $610.50 from Frank W. Smith, chairman of the Columbia Steel Co. employees' drive to aid polio cases. Smith, a mechanical trouble shooter at the local plant, announced to Lingenfelter that the employees of Columbia Steel "were grateful for the opportunity to contribute to such a worthy cause." (Torrance Herald photo.)

Aviation Body Okays CNG Airport Site

Use by the California National Guard of a portion of Lomita Flight Strip when it becomes Torrance Municipal airport, was approved by the Torrance Aviation Commission Tuesday night.

With the assignment to Torrance, Lomita and the South Bay area of the 578th Engineers Combat Battalion, comprising nearly 1000 men and considerable equipment, the site originally proposed for a National Guard armory in Torrance was found to be inadequate and the Army Engineers assigned to the National Guard in California requested that the extreme southeast portion of the airport be set aside on a temporary basis for the 578 Engineer Combat Battalion headquarters.

The Aviation Commission approved the use, when the property comes under the control of the City of Torrance, on condition that the operation will not interfere with the plan for development of the airport and on the further condition that the National Guard unit be willing to move upon reasonable notice from the City of Torrance.

Torrance is slated as a community where a new National Guard Armory will be constructed and it is expected that the 578th Engineer Combat Battalion will be located at the airport site only until a permanent location can be secured.

Transfer Two Members Of School Faculty

Torrance High lost two more of its faculty members last week when Miss Armine Janeves transferred to Hamilton High and Eardley Madsen to Polytechnic High.

While at Torrance, Miss Janeves taught senior problems and commercial subjects, and was work coordinator. At Hamilton she will not only teach but also will be part time coordinator in the commercial department.

Madsen, a teacher of biology, chemistry and physics, and sponsor of the Camera club and Junior Scholarship society, will teach physics at Polytechnic.

The faculty is increased to forty-seven with the addition of Charles Bloch.

This staff of teachers marks an all-time high for the local school.

Bloch is a graduate of Inglewood High and Santa Barbara college. At Torrance his first teaching assignment will be woodshop, drafting and electric shop.

March Of Dimes In Torrance Nets $2,062.50

The 1947 March of Dimes program in Torrance went over the top for a record total of $2062.51, according to the Rev. Ben Lingenfelter, drive chairman.

Columbia Steel Co. employees as usual contributed the major share of the 1947 fund for fighting infantile paralysis. The employeee drive, handled by Frank W. Smith, netted $610.50.

School children of Torrance gave a total of $473.59 and the Harvey Machine Co. employees $189.94. Collections in theatre lobbies amounted to $61.67, while March of Dimes cards brought in a total of $97.00.

In announcing the result of the drive, the Rev. Mr. Lingenfelter expressed his appreciation to the community for its support of the drive, which he said represented the highest total yet collected.

IMPORTANT!

The U. S. Bureau of Census is completing its special census of Torrance. It is important that the census include all of the people who were living in Torrance City on February 7, the official date of the census. If you were living here on this date and believe that you were not enumerated for the census, fill out the form presented below and mail it to the Census Supervisor.

MY ADDRESS ON FEBRUARY 7 WAS: .....

APT. NO. .....

Name of each person whose usual place of abode was in this household on February 7. (Enter last name first)	Relationship of this person to the head of the household as head, wife, son, roomer, etc.	Sex	Color or Race	Age At Last Birthday

CUT OUT THIS FORM AND MAIL TO:

CENSUS SUPERVISOR,
U. S. CENSUS BUREAU,
CITY HALL,
TORRANCE, CALIF.