

## TORRANCE CITIZENS— THE SCHOOLS

The first Torrance Board of Education members, to be elected next Tuesday, face an arduous task which promises many long hours of work, without any hope for compensation, for Board of Education members serve without pay.

The task commands the attention of those who are most qualified to face the tremendous job ahead.

All local residents know that the problem of organizing a new school district is a difficult one. The people of Torrance realize the pitfalls which have been or will be thrown in the way of our ultimate achievement—establishment of the finest school system in California at the lowest cost to the taxpayers in view of the tremendous assessed valuation of the city.

The Torrance Herald is aware of the qualifications of the many candidates for this all-important public office. Likewise, the Herald views the accomplishment of the Charter Committee in its month-long campaign to withdraw the Torrance schools from Los Angeles domination as one which has earned the undying support of the citizenry.

This group could not have won this long-sought victory had not its members been thoroughly conversant with the many school problems involved. It is because the Charter Committee candidates and Mrs. Evelyn Carr, chairman of the Torrance Parents Association, have demonstrated their knowledge of the problems of operation of our Torrance schools and their ability to cope with the numerous aspects of the situation, that we feel it our duty to ask the people to give primary consideration on the first Torrance Board of Education to Dr. Howard A. Wood, James L. Lynch, Mrs. Evelyn Carr, Mrs. Grace Wright and Carl D. Steele.

True, there are other qualified candidates, but we hope that the people will consider the accomplishments of all of them in deciding this history-making election.

Torrance deserves and can afford the best school system in California.

Let us elect the Board of Education which can provide such a system.

## VOTE 'YES' ON BONDS OR '2'

The central fire station of Torrance has been condemned as unsafe for further occupancy by equipment and personnel.

The order to vacate was issued by the City Building Inspector, under authority of the State Building Code, and was confirmed by qualified engineers and the Board of Fire Underwriters.

Torrance faces a grim decision next Tuesday, March 18, when the voters go to the polls and decide upon the bonds for a new central fire station and rehabilitation of the condemned station into police and courtroom facilities.

The facts which present themselves at this time involve the safety of each and every resident of the community. Competent authority has ruled that the present fire station is unstable, inadequate and unsafe for further use.

Will the voters of Torrance, with the required majority of two-thirds, endorse the \$185,000 bond issue to protect their homes, buildings, industry—in fact their economic stability?

If they choose so to do they will vote "Yes" on both bond proposals next Tuesday.

If they decide against the bonds, this question faces the whole community:

"What are we going to do for fire protection?"

It appears there is no other solution but to say "Yes" on the bond issues; and in the absence of this affirmative decision, the problem will remain:

Where will our fire department be housed?

## GROUND IS BROKEN FOR VAST TORRANCE POTTERY OF AMERICAN-STANDARD

A new industry was born in Torrance Tuesday afternoon as ground was broken for the vast Torrance pottery of the American Radiator and Standard Sanitary Corp. The event was witnessed by scores of civic leaders of this city and other sections of the county who mingled with workers to acclaim the occasion.

Miss Rosemary DeCamp, popular radio and screen star known to Torrance as Mrs. John A. Shidler, turned the first shovel of dirt to mark the start of the \$2,500,000 project. Her picturesque act was followed within a few minutes by giant Tournapulls hauling carryalls moving on each trip more soil than the diminutive actress could shovel in many a year's time.

Thus the giant project was launched.

Thus jobs were made in Torrance for upwards of 700 men in construction of the 500,000 square-foot plant and in operation of the big facility which will feed the hungry building materials markets of the Southwest and the Orient with much-needed heating and plumbing fixtures and equipment.

The world's largest manufacturer of plumbing and heating equipment came to Torrance to build the vast pottery because of needed sources of transportation, both rail and water, supply, necessary land, convenience to markets, pleasant surroundings, schools, churches, the pride of good neighbors and the favorable labor market, according to E. J. Duke, manager, for American-Standard, who keyed noted the event.

Reed H. Parkin, president of Torrance Chamber of Commerce, the organization responsible through cooperation with representatives of the Pacific Electric Co. for location of American-Standard in Torrance, was master of ceremonies at the ground-breaking held on the 48-acre site at 208rd st. and Crenshaw Blvd.

Declaring that the American-Standard name is one of the greatest in American industry, he outlined the steps taken through the efforts of the Torrance chamber, cooperation of the city and the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, in securing the site.

Two thefts were reported Monday to the Torrance police. J. F. Christianson reported the theft of plumbing fixtures from a house under construction at 5107 W. 190th st., and for the second time in recent weeks someone has stolen gardening tools, including several lengths of garden hose and four whirling sprinklers, from Peter Priamos, 1813 Camino Real.

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## L.A. Schools No Longer Hold Title To Property Here, Says Attorney

City Attorney Otto B. Willett informed the City Council Tuesday night that he had an opinion from legal counsel for a title company that in its opinion the title to the Fern avenue park property which the city had undertaken to buy from Los Angeles city schools for \$6,000 had passed to the taxpayers of Torrance as of the date of the adoption of the City Charter.

This was because, Willett declared, the Charter adopted Aug. 20, 1946, and ratified Jan. 7, 1947, contained no language deferring its operative date.

Willett's statement was based on a letter from Lawrence L. Otis, associate counsel for the Title Insurance and Trust Co., and was made after Albert Isen, Torrance attorney and Board of Education candidate, had challenged the right of the City Council to pay \$6,000 for property which already belongs to the taxpayers of the city.

Isen asked the Council whether the members intended to cooperate with the Los Angeles school district or the new Torrance Board of Education to be elected on March 18, and he pledged full cooperation with the city in working out a plan for further development of the park property on a joint city-school basis, if elected. He urged the Council to rescind its appropriation.

Willett told the Council that he was doubtful if the city can acquire clear title, in view of the changed circumstances.

Otis told Willett that the Charter ratified on Jan. 7 became the organic law of Torrance under the Constitution and indicated that the title company should show title now vested in the taxpayers of Torrance.

The council also adopted a resolution asking for F.H.A. approval for federal mortgage insurance of tracts at Crenshaw Blvd. and 190th st. and Arlington ave. and 190th st. These tracts are in Torrance Municipal Water District No. 2 and adjacent to Metropolitan Water District lines so that water is immediately available for home development.

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## RESTRAINING ORDER HALTS LOS ANGELES' REMOVAL OF TORRANCE SCHOOL PROPERTY

Plans of the Los Angeles city schools to remove buildings, equipment and fixtures of the schools of Torrance, or to sell real estate in the district, were halted on Monday when Superior Court Judge Frank G. Swain signed a temporary restraining order in the lawsuit instituted by S. V. O. Pritchard, expert on school law, on behalf of City Judge John A. Shidler, as a Torrance taxpayer.

The order prevents further removal of property pending a hearing on March 19, at which time Los Angeles will be required to show cause why it should not be permanently restrained from taking out of Torrance property which the plaintiff alleges belongs to the taxpayers of Torrance.

Two bungalows had been taken from the Torrance elementary school grounds and other equipment removed, prior to the filing of the suit by Pritchard. Los Angeles had threatened, it was said, to remove other buildings from Torrance elementary school grounds and had sought bids on the moving of the new building at Western school completed only last year.

Pritchard, for 10 years affiliated with the County Counsel's office in charge of school legal matters and now in private practice, filed the lawsuit at the request of the Citizens Committee which had sought to preserve all school property in Torrance for use of the children of the community.

Shidler previously had filed a similar action but obtained only an order to show cause returnable on March 17. He became the plaintiff taxpayer in the

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## Woman Held For Murder As Man Stabbed Here

Jack Clifford Floyd, age 30, 1229 El Prado, was stabbed to death late last night in the apartment of Mrs. Ruth Helen "Sunny" McKenzie, 29, of the same address, according to Police Captain Ernie Ashton.

Floyd died from a wound which pierced his left shoulder and punctured his lung, a doctor reported. Mrs. McKenzie, hysterical when questioned by police at the scene of the murder, admitted early today that she killed Floyd as he was kneeling at her feet, confessing his love for her, but said "I didn't mean to stab him; we were only playing around."

Floyd, whose divorce from his former wife was to become final April 13, has a three-year-old daughter living in Gardena. Floyd and Mrs. McKenzie, both of whom were employed at Los Angeles Chemical Company, 1960 Santa Fe ave., Los Angeles,

(Continued on Page 6-A)



## MURDER SCENE . . .

"Speak to me, Jack, please," Ruth Helen McKenzie was pleading as she knelt over the body of Jack Clifford Floyd when the upper picture was snapped shortly after Floyd's murder late last night. Held by police, Mrs. McKenzie is asserted to have said she did not mean to stab Floyd, claiming that "we were only playing around." Lower photo, the defendant is pictured sitting in the kitchen of her apartment while being questioned by police. (Torrance Herald photos.)

## VOTERS TO GO TO POLLS ON TUESDAY TO ELECT BOARD OF EDUCATION, VOTE BONDS

Voters of Torrance will go to the polls on Tuesday to elect their first Torrance City Board of Education to take control of the elementary schools of the city from Los Angeles on the first Monday of July.

Also on the ballot will be a \$185,000 bond issue to erect a new fire station to replace the recently condemned central fire station, and to renovate the abandoned building into a police station and courthouse.

Seventeen precincts will serve the electors on deciding these all-important issues, in most instances the same as used in all Torrance elections.

Candidates for the Board of Education are:

Ila Mae Ambach  
Kenneth C. Beight  
Evelyn L. Carr  
Albert Isen  
Bernard Lee  
James L. Lynch  
Mary Jane Millard  
Margaret H. O'Toole  
Howard P. Raymond  
Ceil W. Smith  
Carl D. Steele  
George P. Thatcher  
Howard A. Wood, M.D.  
Grace Wright

Five members of the board will be elected, from the 14, they will serve without pay.

Precincts are:  
No. 1 18211 Prairie ave.  
No. 2 1814 Date ave.  
No. 3 716 Border ave.  
No. 4 1723 Andro ave.  
No. 5 1322 Engracia ave.  
No. 6 2305 Torrance Blvd.  
No. 7 1817 Beech ave.  
No. 8 1804 Arlington ave.  
No. 9 2313 Andro ave.  
No. 10 23018 Narbonne ave.  
No. 11 2463 Carson st.  
No. 12 22504 Ocean ave.  
No. 13 908 Cota ave.  
No. 14 1417 Cota ave.  
No. 15 1916 Andro ave.  
No. 16 24404 Hawthorne ave.  
No. 17 1307 Portola ave.

Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., and the usual election day holiday will be observed by most public offices, liquor stores and cocktail bars.

Returns on the election will be gathered in the City Clerk's office and will be available with election night service at the Torrance Herald office.

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## Kiwanis Club Asks Return Of Ambulance

Torrance Kiwanis club Tuesday night asked the City Council to return the ambulance which it donated to the city early in the war for civilian defense activities.

The request followed the offer of Mayfair Creamery to buy the vehicle for conversion into a milk truck.

Edwin B. Brown, Kiwanis president, said that if the ambulance no longer is needed by the city it should be returned to the club for sale by the Kiwanians to the highest bidder. The funds from the sale, Brown declared, would be used to purchase an incubator to be presented to Torrance Memorial hospital in the name of all organizations which contributed to the purchase of the ambulance.

The request was referred to the council as a whole, as was the previous letter of John B. Melville, of Mayfair Creamery, without any indication by the city fathers as to whether or not they still need the ambulance. The vehicle is in use by the Fire department.

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