

The time for decision has come!

Mr. Tidwell and operators of the closed stores, . . . Penney's, Newberry's, Whelan's and Owl-Sontag, . . . you must make up your minds. Either get together or get out of Torrance!

Your fight is an old one. It started in San Pedro and spread here. It is an unsavory ten-year record of clashing personalities, broken promises, intrigue, bad faith, strikes and lockouts. It has practically ruined San Pedro as a trading center and long ago resulted in the loss to that community of the Montgomery Ward store, forever! You shall not do the same to Torrance!

Your stores were paying Tidwell's clerks the highest wages of any of these stores on the entire Pacific Coast, surpassing even San Francisco. Tidwell, you demanded more! The stores offered a 10 per cent advance, . . . and would go no further. Some stores were struck, others closed.

Tidwell, you refused this 10 per cent increase because you had signed a group contract in February, 1947, with competing stores in this area for more money. You negotiated this contract with a group of San Pedro business men, . . . and Torrance merchants were forced to accept it!

In July, Tidwell, you found yourself out on a limb. Thus you became a tool of a small group of selfish, short-sighted San Pedro merchants who have hoped for years to put these major stores out of business. They sign any contract for any wages your union offers. It makes little difference to them, as most of them do not pay it anyway. . . . they run their businesses with their wives, sons, brothers, cousins, and other kin. It's a beautiful game. They give Tidwell what he wants, . . . no trouble . . . and put their competition out of business at the same time.

THANK HEAVEN THERE ARE NO MERCHANTS OF THAT STRIPE IN TORRANCE!

Torrance merchants and Torrance citizens. . . all want these stores to open. There is no question about that, . . . but to make it official.

The Retail Merchants' Division of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, comprising nearly all the retailers in the downtown area, met last week and sent you a message, Mr. Tidwell, which said in effect:—"We withdraw from the San Pedro merchants' group completely. No one there is authorized to negotiate any future labor contracts for us. We also release you from any commitments affecting wages we are paying our clerks should you sign a separate contract with Penney, Newberry, Whelan and Owl-Sontag in Torrance. . . . which we urge you to do at once! In other words, we agree to continue paying our employees their present wage rates for the duration of the present contract REGARDLESS OF WHAT RATES YOU GIVE TO THE CLOSED STORES IN TORRANCE.

There you have it, . . . Mr. and Mrs. Torrance shopper. The bars are down and the way is cleared for Mr. Tidwell and the closed stores in Torrance to get together. . . . AT ONCE, . . . if there is really a sincere desire to do so. Torrance has had enough of name-calling.

As the Torrance Herald sees it, they have two choices:—

1. Get together at once and settle their differences. This can be done with a little more faith, a little more understanding, a little more belief in the other fellow's fundamental desire to do right. This is the American way . . . any other leads to chaos and ruin!

2. The closed stores to take down their signs, scratch their names off the doors and get out of Torrance. . . . admitting their lack of intelligence and willingness to solve a problem that could be solved. Tidwell likewise would be forced to admit the failure of his labor policy and that he has played a sucker's game for a group of San Pedro merchants, depriving his union's members of jobs. If this is the way he is going to run his union, we do not want him or need him in Torrance!

Mr. Tidwell and the operators of the closed stores—the citizens of Torrance demand that you do one thing or the other NOW! Every day's delay . . . the disgraceful spectacle of the closed stores in our town . . . stands as a monument to management's stubbornness and Tidwell's, unreasonableness.

Torrance is sick and tired of your squabbles! E.B.B.

Editor's Note: If you wish to add weight to these opinions, you are urged to write the following:

A. W. Hughes, president, J. C. Penney Co., 215 W. 34th St., New York 18, N.Y.

G. C. McPeck, Pac. Coast Mgr., J. Newberry Co., 215 W. 34th Street, Los Angeles 15, Calif.

Justin Dart, president, Owl-Sontag Drug Co., Beverly at LaCienega, Los Angeles 38, Calif.

W. Baumhager, vice-president, Whelan Drug Co., 215 W. 34th St., New York 3, N.Y.

Haskell Tidwell, Secy., Retail Clerks' Union Local 696, 414 West 7th St., San Pedro, Calif.

MORE VOLUNTEERS ENLIST IN COMMUNITY CHEST

Following the announcement last week of the Torrance Community Chest quota of \$14,825, volunteers here increased their enrollment of needed workers and general preparation for the campaign.

Chairman Sam Levy revealed that the following residents have signed up for service in the Red Feather appeal:

William A. Zoeller of Rotary acting in the capacity of colonel; Paul Diamond of the Lions, serving as co-colonel, and as majors N. E. Farris, Henry Berkowitz, R. McIntire, Bob Delinger, George Miller, Jack Dabbs and Howard Locke Sr.

A meeting was also held last week which was attended by the new volunteers and others, where purposes of the campaign were outlined and last-minute plans laid. B. T. Whitney, vice chairman for special gifts, spoke on

the importance of thorough solicitation in the appeal. "We must remember," he said "that the volunteer who solicits funds on behalf of the Chest is the only representative which the 159 Red Feather agencies have throughout the year. The success of our campaign depends directly upon the efforts of the hundreds of workers who give their time each year for the continuing of these worthy child-rearing, youth character building, veterans and family service organizations."

George L. Johnson, vice chairman for establishments, said that he men working with him have already begun fund-raising efforts in the largest firms and business houses, and that a report of campaign progress for his division is expected in the near future.

Sam Levy pointed out that the residential campaign will get under way soon and that the immediate problem is the enrollment of sufficient volunteers for the house-to-house appeal. He urged anyone who can give a few hours or days to the single annual campaign to get in touch with the Torrance headquarters at 1514 Cravens ave., telephone Torrance 1601 or 1602.

CUSTODIANS GUARD CITY SCHOOLS ON HALLOWEEN NIGHT

The Torrance Board of Education has authorized the assignment of custodians in all of the city schools on Halloween night, Friday, Oct. 31.

The move was made to prevent damage to school property by vandals on that night. The custodians will be on duty until 2 a.m. and have been instructed to call police in case of trouble.

JOHN A. SHIDLER NAMED JUSTICE OF THE PEACE FOR SOUTHWEST TOWNSHIP

City Judge John A. Shidler, popular Torrance resident since 1922, was named Justice of the Peace of the local township to succeed the late Judge Frank R. Carrell by the Board of Supervisors Tuesday.

Judge Shidler, who will preside over judicial affairs of a township which includes Torrance, Redondo Beach, Lomita, Palos Verdes, Hermosa Beach, Manhattan Beach, Gardena and county area was top man in a poll conducted in the township by Chairman Raymond V. Darby among 423 civic leaders and organizations of the community. There were 14 other candidates for the position.

Appointment of Judge Shidler as Justice of the Peace throws the job of City Judge wide open, and the City Council now is considering that appointment. While Judge Shidler was away, it was held by Otto B. Willett, now City Attorney. The appointment under Civil Service, will be made from among Torrance attorneys. Willett said Tuesday night that he is not seeking the city judgeship, but if it is offered to him, he will accept it, thus vacating the office of City Attorney.

The courtroom is located at 166th st. and Western ave., and the position pays a salary of \$7,000 a year. The justice is permitted to carry on private practice. Judge Shidler, out of 162 ballots returned, received a total of 276 points against the next highest candidate's total of 216, according to Collamer A. Bridge, of Redondo Beach. Third was William F. McFadden, of Redondo Beach with 203 points and fourth Frank L. Perry, of Redondo Beach, with 163 points.

Under the procedure adopted by Darby for picking the man favored for the job, among attorneys, civic organizations, newspaper editors, ministers, civic leaders and other professional men, first, second and third selections were allowed, with five points for a "first," three for a "second" and one point for a "third." Judge Shidler, with 82 "firsts," 20 seconds and 10 thirds emerged high man by a substantial majority. Other candidates, not figuring in the "first four" were Otto B. Willett, Torrance city attorney; John E. McCall, former Torrance city attorney; Clifton A. Hix, of Rolling Hills; Merton A. Albee (Continued on Page 4-A)



APPOINTED . . . Judge John A. Shidler is the new Justice of the Peace for the Southwest Township which includes Torrance, Lomita, Redondo Beach, Gardena, Hermosa Beach, Manhattan Beach, Palos Verdes and county territory. His appointment vacates the job of City Judge of Torrance which he has held in recent years.

Crossing Guard For El Nido Children Okayed

After weeks of effort, the children residing in El Nido and attending Perry school in North Torrance will have a crossing guard to protect them from the speeding traffic on Hawthorne Blvd., at 182nd st.

The City Council Tuesday night voted to hire a crossing guard for one hour before school and one hour after school to escort children across the boulevard at the virtually "blind" crossing.

The crossing is entirely in the Torrance School District, as is El Nido, but school funds cannot be used for crossing guards. The State Highway Department refused to require traffic to stop at 182nd st. or to install warning signs. The County of Los Angeles also has refused to recognize the problem, officials said.

The Council was reluctant to install the guard because the children involved reside in county unincorporated territory, and the crossing is partly in the county.

However, the appeal of Torrance City Board of Education for the guard finally brought the action to employ a guard for two hours a day. "It is our duty to protect the intersection," Chief of Police John Stroh told the Council.

\$50 APPROPRIATED BY CITY COUNCIL TO PAINT CHAMBER

Fifty dollars were appropriated by the Torrance City Council at its meeting Tuesday night for painting the Council Chamber in a lighter color to take advantage of the indirect lighting fixtures.

The Council also appropriated \$175 for labor and material, for reconstruction of the police station, and \$80 for 25 tons of asphalt concrete for paving in front of the gasoline pump at the city yard.

COUNCIL DECIDES TO GET 'TOUGH' WITH SANTA FE

Torrance City Council Tuesday night decided to "get tough" with the Santa Fe Railway and demand that they put a "wig-wag" signal at the Crenshaw Blvd. crossing, at Dominguez st., or face an order to stop all trains before crossing Crenshaw Blvd.

Another alternative would be for the Santa Fe to place a flagman at the crossing. Chief of Police John Stroh said that heavy traffic on Crenshaw caused by rapid industrial and residential development in the area is increasing the hazard, and that one serious accident at the crossing recently has caused permanent injuries to one man.

The Santa Fe had replied that it will pay half of the cost of a signal if the City will pay half, when approached some months ago. The signal will cost about \$2,500.

However, the Council stated that it feels the responsibility is entirely one for the railroad, and asked City Attorney Otto B. Willett to inform Santa Fe of the decision of the city to require trains to stop before crossing the boulevard unless a signal is installed or a flagman assigned to the crossing.

A similar problem soon will face the city at the Cabrillo ave. crossing, as with the development of the Kettler-Knolls tract Cabrillo soon will be opened as a thorough street to connect with Eshelman ave., Lomita.

INCREASE IN BUS FARES CONTEMPLATED IN NEW PLAN FOR EQUIPMENT PURCHASE

Recommendation that the City Council immediately secure four new buses, institute new local and interurban lines and provide an adequate Torrance waiting room and ticket office and raise fares were handed to the Council Tuesday night by the seven-man subcommittee of the Citizens Committee studying the need for changes in the city government in the interest of efficiency and economy.

The report shows that four new buses can be financed with a slight raise in fares and by eliminating a possible \$10,000 loss due to attempts to maintain obsolete and worn out equipment and that the general fund possible obligation would be \$5,571.57.

The actual obligation would be nil, however, as the buses would be on a three-year contract. "It is either this plan or go out of the bus business," said Councilman W. H. Tolson, chairman of the subcommittee, who declared that "the city cannot afford continued loss of money trying to use worn out equipment such as the old Whites. There is a great demand for bus line expansion locally and to Long Beach, North Torrance and Inglewood. We can put the bus line on its feet and make money for the city under this plan. If we do not adopt it, we will go further in the hole and will not be able to expand service."

He was joined in his remarks by City Clerk A. H. Bartlett, official fiscal agent for the City who said that it is the only remedy to a bad situation.

The Citizens Committee has voted unanimously against offering the lines for sale and against offering a bond issue to buy buses. Both propositions would be defeated, it was predicted.

On the subcommittee with Tolson are Bob L. Haggard, realtor; Emmett W. Ingram, assistant superintendent of schools; William H. Murphy, bus manager; Dean L. Sears, manager of the Bank of America; William A. Zoeller, certified public accountant who prepared the report and Frank S. Selover, managing editor of the Torrance Herald.

Bartlett told the group that he is getting calls night and day appealing for an adequate transportation system. Also, it was pointed out, the schools need the municipal system to augment their transportation, and out-of-town bus lines, such

VACATION HEARING

The City Council will conduct a hearing on Nov. 12 at 8 p.m. on the matter of vacation of certain portions of Mariopa ave., Beech ave. and certain alleys, according to a notice authorized by the Council to be published in this edition of the Torrance Herald.

VOTE-GETTING DRIVE FOR WATER ELECTION STARTED

Civic interests in the southwestern part of Los Angeles County are mustering their forces to get out a record "yes" vote on the Nov. 25 election by which they hope to form the West Basin Municipal Water District to join Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and secure a supply of needed water from Colorado river sources.

Newspaper, telephone, house-to-house and mail services are to be utilized in the campaign, according to John P. Steele, manager of the organization. Richard Thompson has been named in charge of the Hermosa Beach drive, and Ralph Pritchard heads the Redondo Beach committee.

Other communities in the proposed new district are: Lomita, Manhattan Beach, El Segundo, Palos Verdes, Lennox, Lawndale and Alondra Park. Steele said: "We must stress the importance of this election to residents of the proposed district. Many of us do not yet realize the seriousness of our situation. It is not generally known that well after well in Manhattan Beach is being closed down due to salt water infiltration."

The last election to form the district, on Jan. 14, was lost even though the South Bay cities favored the district by a 4 to 1. It was lost due to the overwhelming "no" vote in Inglewood, Gardena and other inland areas where private water interests prevailed in their claims that there is "plenty of water underground" and discounted government agencies in their reports that there is danger of every well "salting up" in the next few years. These cities have been left out of the newly proposed district.

Torrance already is a member of Metropolitan Water District.

TORRANCE BUILDING TOPS SIX MILLIONS FOR 1947 AS HOME DEVELOPMENT EXPANDS

Torrance building soared past the six million dollar mark as 26 construction permits valued at \$147,315 were issued by Glenn M. Jain, city engineer, during the past two weeks.

Thus, with more than two months left in 1947, the total for the year stands at \$6,086,313 as compared with \$3,996,964 in 1946. A majority of the permits issued have been for residential building.

It is anticipated that building permits for the year 1947 may exceed \$7,000,000, since John E. Kettler, developer of Kettler Knolls at Narbonne ave. and Sepulveda Blvd., has announced that he is starting immediately on developing the second unit of that tract. Some 94 homes there would add nearly \$500,000 to the building permit total. Homer Bale, in Torrance Manor, likewise is expected to take out additional permits for his new home development project at 174th st. and Crenshaw Blvd. this year. Other tracts contributing to the near-record building total for Torrance this year are Seaside Ranchos, where some 200 homes are nearing completion, and the Riviera area projects of California-Nevada Corp. and Riviera Housing Corp.

Building permits for the year have averaged \$600,000 a month, the \$1,500,000 permit for American Radiator and Standard Sanitary Corporation adding considerably to the total.

The highest single permit given during the two-week period was granted to the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Los Angeles for construction of the new Nativity parish school at 2371 Carson st. The value of the building was listed at \$80,000.

Other permits issued include: H. F. Esser, Los Angeles, residence at 1621 Post ave., \$10,700. Forrest B. Yoder, Redondo Beach, residence at 114 Paseo de Gracia, \$7,000.

H. O. Richardson, 1917 Border ave., garage, \$950. C. F. Ramsey, 2282 231st st., garage, \$1,000. H. F. LaMour, 2066 236th st., garage, \$840.

Paul's Chevrolet, 1640 Cabrillo ave., 2 gasoline storage tanks, \$450. H. A. Moraine, 2233 239th st., addition to residence at 2323 Narbonne ave., \$100.

Pacific Smelting Co., 2219 Western ave., two garages, \$3,000. Daniel McFarlane, Hawthorne garage at 24240 Ward ave., \$600.

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Speculation On Legal Positions Here Runs High

Appointment of City Judge John A. Shidler as Justice of the Peace for the Southwest Gardena Township, which includes Torrance, Lomita, Gardena and the South Bay area, has given rise to speculation as to who shall succeed him as City Judge.

Judge Shidler was appointed to succeed to the unexpired term of the late Justice of the Peace Frank R. Carrell, by the Board of Supervisors, on Tuesday. The \$7,000-a-year job is elective and he present term runs to 1950.

Since Shidler's judgeship for the City of Torrance is appointive, he has been urged in some quarters to retain the City Court bench which pays a salary of \$265 a month on a part-time basis. Whether or not this is legally possible on a permanent basis is uncertain.

However, City Attorney Otto B. Willett, who occupied the City Court bench during Judge Shidler's term of military service, has said that he will not refuse the judgeship if offered to him. He gets \$315 as City Attorney, also on a part-time basis. Members of the City Council are said to be urging Willett to stay on the post of City Attorney, in view of his record of accomplishments for the city.

This position, however, is found to be in jeopardy since W. T. Palfreigh claimed that the justification for Otto B. Willett's which only he and Willett had, was not a "former examination" and has insisted upon the Civil Service Board to give a second examination for the position. Willett had the high score, and got the job which was vacated upon the retirement of John E. McCall.

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Weather Report table with columns for Oct. 16-21, Maximum, Minimum, and Precipitation.



ENJOYS FESTIVAL STORY . . . William R. Campbell, 1221 El Prado, water tender, second class on the U.S.S. Toledo, is shown enjoying a rare chance to hear the story of the Obon festival at Gamaogi, Japan, from Dorothy Fuller, Walla Walla, Wash., Red Cross girl staff member, and helping the smaller of two Japanese children, "the Honorable Miss Doll Face," light the lantern which will aid in guiding the spirits of the dead to the Buddhist heaven. (American Red Cross photo).