

NEW CLERKS STRIFE FLARES AS PICKETS APPEAR BEFORE HARBOR AREA RETAIL STORES

Pickets were thrown around two Wilmington stores yesterday by Retail Clerks Union No. 905 after Haskell Tidwell, the 905 secretary who was arrested on criminal libel charges last Thursday, had walked out of a San Pedro Central Labor Council meeting in defiance of its authority to order or to withhold a ruling declaring all stores which had not signed contracts with the union to be placed on the "unfair" list.

Tidwell, who appeared before Justice of the Peace John A. Shidler last Thursday morning, on the criminal libel charges resulting from the complaint of Captain L. E. DeLaney, of the San Pedro Business Men Association, was given until April 7 to enter a plea. He was released on his own recognizance.

Captain DeLaney had complained that Tidwell, who resides at 26348 Fairview avenue, Lomita, and who has been secretary of the Clerks union having jurisdiction in Torrance, Lomita, San Pedro and Wilmington, had libeled him by publication of an infamous letter, filed with the complaint issued on orders of the District Attorney. The charge filed was under Section 248 of the Penal Code.



HASKELL TIDWELL, Retail Clerks Secretary

BULLETIN

Alarmed at the prospect that Torrance retail stores might be closed by unwarranted action of Haskell Tidwell, Clerks union secretary, C. T. Rippey, president of Torrance Chamber of Commerce, last night appealed to Rep. Cecil R. King for his assistance in getting immediate National Labor Relations Board action on unfair labor charges now pending before the Board, brought against the Clerks union by the San Pedro Business Men, Associated.

Owners of stores in the Torrance and harbor area who had not signed new contracts with Tidwell's union were summoned to appear before the San Pedro Central Labor Council on Monday and Tuesday.

Asked to appear at 15-minute intervals, the Torrance merchants went to the meeting in a body on Tuesday.

The Central Labor Council hearing was for the purpose of determining whether or not the Council should place the stores which had not signed with Tidwell's union on the A.F.L. "unfair" list.

When the second day of the hearing started Tuesday, where merchants had testified that in their belief the efforts of Tidwell have been unfair labor practices, Tidwell is said to have left the meeting declaring that he "didn't give a . . . what the Central Labor Council does, we'll settle it on the basis of the line."

At the conclusion of the meeting, O. T. (Bud) Satre, president of the Central Labor Council, told merchants that "it will take several days for the Council to come to any decision and when it does, you will be notified. In the meantime, no drastic action will be taken."

Asked for a statement on the matter of whether or not the Tidwell petition to declare that merchants who had not signed contracts are on the "unfair list" was favored or disfavored by the Central Labor Council, by the Central Labor Council, the Torrance Herald yesterday.

"I have absolutely no statement to make. The entire matter still is in the hands of the Board. No decision has been reached, and none will be reached today."

Meanwhile, pickets of the Retail Clerks were put in front of the J. C. Caldwell Department Store and the Spears Store for Men in Wilmington, because they had not agreed to sign a contract with Tidwell's union No. 905.

The store owners, like those of Torrance, had refused to sign contracts which do not include arbitration and hiring clauses such as those in similar retail clerks' contracts in San Francisco and other metropolitan areas. There is no dispute over wages, hours or working conditions, it was said.

The libel case against Tidwell, which resulted in his voluntary surrender before Judge Shidler last Thursday, after a warrant had been issued for his arrest, is based on asserted defamatory material contained in a letter allegedly published by Tidwell.

The complaint alleges that the offense occurred last March 1 in the Board of Directors room of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce where Tidwell was meeting with Torrance merchants.

Tidwell's attorney in Justice court claimed that the libel suit was an attempt by the San Pedro Business Men Association to destroy the union through the courts where other means had failed.

Easter Sunrise Services Set For March 28

Torrance Community Sunrise Service will be held at Torrance City Park, 6:30 a.m. Easter Sunday, March 28.

It will consist mainly of an outdoor pageant in costume, telling the Easter story, and presented by the H.Y. and Tri-Hi-Y Clubs of Torrance High School, with musical accompaniment by the High School Chorus.

The audience will participate in community singing and a public address system is being installed to insure proper hearing. The whole program will be over by 7:30.

The service is sponsored by the YMCA and YWCA and Torrance Ministerial Association, in cooperation with the churches.

Committees working on the service are as follows: Co-directors, Miss Helen Lockwood and Milton Isbell; music, Mr. George Zavislan; stage, Jack Hoy; publicity, Richard Snelchal; also assisting are Mrs. Bettie Thomas, Lois Hazelwood, and Miss Doris Sharlee.

Spring Rain Welcomed

Nearly half an inch of rain fell in Torrance Wednesday afternoon as nearby biester dry fields soaked up the welcome early spring rain.

Actual figures showed that 0.44 of an inch fell to bring the season's total to 3.84 inches of rain. Last year the figure stood at 9.60 inches for this date.

Temperatures for the earlier part of the week were as follows:

March	Maximum	Minimum
17	52	46
18	52	46
19	54	46
20	54	46
21	70	39
22	62	32
23	62	40
24	58	34

Benner Gets Back Salary

The City Council voted Tuesday night, on recommendation of City Attorney C. Douglas Smith, today some \$400 in back salary to Fire Capt. J. J. Benner who had been suspended last year for a period of several weeks on charges of insubordination brought by Chief J. E. McMaster.

The attorney informed the Council that the court already had held in favor of Benner ruling that the Council had no legal right to delegate punitive powers and that an appeal from the decision would be hopeless to the city.

Delay In Bond Vote Foreseen

Since there are approximately 45 applications by school boards desiring to hold bond elections in the hands of the County Counsel at the present time, Superintendent of Schools J. Henrich Hull stated yesterday that Torrance's bond vote may not go to the polls until June 4.

A shortage of personnel in the county offices was given as the reason for the delay.

STORES CLOSE ON GOOD FRIDAY 12 TO 3 P.M.

Holy Week services of various churches of Torrance and area will be featured by Good Friday rites tomorrow and special Easter services.

Torrance stores, banks and public offices will be closed tomorrow, Good Friday, from 12 noon to 3 p.m., to permit employees and others to attend religious services. The closing of the stores was arranged between the Ministerial Association and Merchants division of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce.

Charles V. Jones, chairman of the Retail Merchants Division, said that all the stores in Torrance had agreed to the closing from 12 noon to 3 p.m. He said that the cocktail bars, liquor stores as well as markets and other mercantile institutions had agreed to the closing to permit employees to attend religious services on Good Friday.

Union Good Friday rites will be conducted in two churches in Torrance.

In St. Andrews Episcopal church, starting at 12 noon, the Rev. Torben R. Olsen, rector, will speak followed by other ministers. They include the Rev. Ronald J. Mennum, pastor of First Christian Church; the Rev. Arthur McLaughlin, visiting Episcopal rector from Illinois; the Rev. H. Wesley Roloff, of Central Evangelical United Brethren church; and the Rev. Clyde Ruckman, of First Methodist church.

In the Methodist church, the services will be opened at noon with a talk by the Rev. Mr. Roloff, followed by sermons by the Rev. C. M. Northrup, pastor of First Baptist church; the Rev. Ruckman; the Rev. W. A. Penner, of the Nazarene church; the Rev. Mr. Mennum; the Rev. Arthur Peterson, of Four-square Gospel church, and the Rev. Paul H. Perry, of Torrance Christian Assembly church.

Worshippers may come and go during the singing of hymns of each service, it was said.

Union Easter sunrise services will be at 6 a.m. in Torrance park.

CITY COUNCIL SEEKS 'BEST' PROPOSAL FOR TAXPAYERS IN OPERATION OF FLYING FIELD

Torrance Municipal Airport will be offered to the operator who submits the "best" deal for the City of Torrance that is the best one for himself, under action of the City Council Tuesday night.

Long a subject of debate as to custody and control, the airport now is firmly in the hands of the City of Torrance, under a deed from the government.

While the City has the right to place an operator on the field as a department head, means have been sought to best promote the gigantic 480-acre airport into a recognized municipal field through joint operation by the municipality and a contractor on a percentage basis, officials said.

Some half dozen propositions have been offered the city in recent months, and one accepted temporarily provides for payment of 75 percent of the gross income to E. Y. Tarkington, the city receiving 25 percent. In recent months, this deal has resulted in an average net monthly income to the city of only \$126 a month, the city paying some expenses out of its 25 percent share.

Several propositions more lucrative to the taxpayers of Torrance have been presented, and the Council acted Tuesday night to ask all those interested in operating the field to present their proposals that the best one might be accepted by the city.

Tarkington, who has asked for the 75-25 percent deal on a permanent basis, with the condition that the city reinvest its 25 percent in the airport, will have a chance to "bid" on the deal, as will K. Sande Senness, who has guaranteed the city a \$500 per month net income, Capt. George Batchelder, who made a substantial offer to the city, and others.

The offer will be sought through the Civil Aeronautics Administration, according to City Administrator George W. Stevens, who has been authorized to prepare plans and specifications for the request known as Lomita Flight Strip and later named Zamperini field in honor of Air Force Capt. Louis Zamperini, prominent local miler of collegiate and Olympic fame who "came back from the dead" after suffering 45 days on an open raft in the South Pacific and three years in a Japanese prison camp, had been a part of the Weston ranch. It was requisitioned by the Army Air Forces as a sub-base of March field, and was surrendered to the W.A.A. at the end of World War II.

The City of Torrance, at the instance of local civic leaders, immediately set machinery in motion to acquire the airport, and it was after nearly two years of effort, marked by two lawsuits brought by Lomita business men seeking the port in behalf of members of the Civil Air Patrol, that the big field finally was turned over to Torrance on a deed from the Federal government last week.

It is expected that the final operation details will be completed with the awarding of a contract for development and operation of the airport by substantial interests within the next few weeks.

SEASIDE RANCHOS HOME OWNERS TO MEET TONIGHT

C. T. Rippey, president of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, will address the Seaside Ranchos Home Owners Association meeting tonight in the City Hall.

According to James Hall, attorney and acting president of the Association, the affair will start at 8 p.m. in the City Council chambers. More than 100 home owners at the new tract in Southwest Torrance are members of the association.

Election Interest Grows As Candidates Views Asked On Gambling, Manager, Salaries

Vincent Thomas Files For New Assembly Term

Vincent Thomas of San Pedro, democratic assemblyman of the 68th district, filed nominating petitions today as a candidate for reelection on both the Democratic and Republican tickets.

Others to enter the race are Joseph Francis Quinn and James M. McDermott, both of Wilmington.

Chester C. Culp, of 895 Nineteenth street, announced he would file as a democrat.

The measure offered by Thomas in the Legislature to permit San Pedro, Wilmington and any other formerly incorporated city to withdraw on its own vote from the union, which it has been annexed has proved popular for Thomas even though he always has been a "landslide" winner.

Suspect In Local Crime Killed In Escape Attempt

With one suspect dead and another in jail, sheriff's officers yesterday continued their investigation into the burglary of the Smith Brothers Fish Shanty at 4024 Pacific Coast highway on March 19.

Charles Day, 40, 1621 East 82nd street, former convict who served time in the penitentiary for 22 burglaries, was shot by sheriff's deputies Tuesday night as he attempted to escape questioning, according to Lieutenant E. Renfro, head of the sheriff's safe burglary detail who had been called into the case by Police Chief John Stroth.

Renfro recognized the "modus operandi" of the Fish Shanty job, that netted \$817, as being that of Day, he told newspapermen. A warrant was captured the suspect coming out of a bar on Manchester boulevard between Alameda boulevard and Central avenue. Day broke away and the officers fired as he fled down a dark alley.

Day then is reported to have telephoned Howard Redford, the other suspect in the case, telling him to get his car. Deputies nabbed Redford as he approached Day's parked auto. He told officers where he was to meet Day and the officers then approached the auto and Hoover, the alleged meeting place, in Day's auto.

When the unsuspecting Day approached the auto to get in, the deputies attempted to arrest him, but again he turned and ran, the report said. He was shot in the head as he attempted to escape. He died early Wednesday morning in the General Hospital without regaining consciousness, Lt. Renfro stated.

When Redford was arrested he had in his possession a note which read: "I'll meet you at Hawthorne and 101," according to official records.

The location is near the Fish Shanty.

Meanwhile the sheriff's crime laboratories were attempting to identify some tools found near the scene of the burglary as being those that were used to open the safe. Identifying marks painted on the tools were similar to those used by Day in earlier crimes. Lt. Renfro claimed.

A cook at the restaurant made a partial identification of Day as a man who earlier had applied for a job, Renfro reported. The restaurant also had on file a written application of the other suspect for a job as bartender.

Day had in his possession at the time he was shot \$392.81, which authorities estimated to be about his "cut" of the Fish Shanty burglary.



SEEKS REELECTION . . . Assemblyman Vincent Thomas will be a candidate to succeed himself at the June elections, it was announced this week, cross-filing as will most of the other candidates. He represents Torrance, Lomita, Harbor City, San Pedro, Wilmington and other nearby areas as member of the Assembly from the 68th Assembly district.

Explosion, Fire Damage Set At \$2000 By Chief

Damage resulting from an explosion and fire in the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Miller, 2059 255th street, last Saturday noon was estimated to be approximately \$2000 by Fire Chief J. E. McMaster.

The fire, which was believed started by a leaking gas line, claimed the life of the family's pet canary but otherwise there were no injuries reported.

Other reports of fires during the last week included: Oil sump and grass fire, near Sepulveda boulevard and Maple avenue, March 22, 11:30 a.m.

Automobile fire, Property of L. M. Hildebrandt, 2217 Gates avenue, Redondo. Car was parked at 20425 Hawthorne boulevard, March 22, 1:00 a.m.

Grass fire at 1628 Amapola avenue, March 20, 1:45 p.m.

Fire equipment standing by at scene of overturned crane that broke high tension wires, 1417 Border avenue, M. M. Transfer Co., owners, March 17, 7:35 a.m.

SEWER CONTRACT IS RECOMMENDED

Contract for installation of sanitary sewers in 168th street, Lawndale, would be awarded to Bebek Brick, 5025 East Slauson avenue, on a low bid of \$175,882.50, if Board of Supervisors adopt a recommendation of the County Surveyor on file today.



STUDENT SPEAKERS . . . Regional finals for the Lions Club California-Nevada district Student Speaker Contest will be held at Pepperdine college April 2. Competing in San Pedro zone contest last week from Torrance was Miss Nancy Whyte, standing, left, Sophie DiMassa, standing, right, San Pedro, was winner of the zone contest. Others competing were Betty Burke, Manhattan; Gordon Donlou, Redondo Beach, and Funi Yoshida, Wilmington, other contestants.

Interest in the coming Torrance municipal election was enhanced this week as candidates for the City Council, busy with their electioneering, were asked to commit themselves on three important propositions on the ballot of April 13.

James Brodie Is Elected As V.F.W. Leader

James Brodie, popular veteran of this city, has been elected as commander of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 3251.

Elected as senior vice commander is W. H. Martin.

Other officers are: Junior vice commander, A. Currier; quartermaster, A. E. Palmer; chaplain, Arthur Moore; surgeon, Rene Dean; judge advocate, Vernon Cole; trustees, George Warburton and Carl Mirabella; county counsel delegates, A. Currier and W. H. Martin.

A joint installation will be held in the Civic auditorium on April 5, with the auxiliary and all past members, the general public invited, according to Commander-elect Brodie. Refreshments will be served.

Realtors Hold Lively Meeting

The regular meeting of Torrance-Lomita Realty Board, conducted Monday evening by President W. E. Bowen, was marked by a lively discussion of the inauguration of a multiple listing service for this area.

Action was deferred until next meeting to enable the committee, headed by Paul F. Vonderahe, to attend a meeting in Long Beach today, when the subject will be amplified by specialists.

With the admission to membership of two brokers, H. P. Newby, of Torrance and Halle P. Crow, of Lomita, the board now numbers 38 members as compared with 16 in 1947.

CALDWELL RUNS FOR CONGRESS IN 17th DISTRICT

James G. Caldwell, secretary of the Torrance Area Veterans Service Center, announced yesterday that he will file for nomination for Representative in Congress on both the Democratic (his own) and Republican parties.

Caldwell has been active in veterans affairs throughout the area for several years.

Not only did the 14 men seeking three offices on the Council receive a formal request from the Torrance Herald for their stand on the City Manager amendment, the withdrawal of Councilmen's pay of \$50 a month, and the outlawing of the licensing of public draw poker halls, but the well-known "man on the street" who really decides the issue in the secrecy of the voting booth was expressing interest.

Several candidates are known to resent the questionnaire sent by registered mail to the 14 men, but a preponderance of favorable replies is anticipated in view of the interest shown by a majority of the candidates in the three questions.

The City Manager plan, which is expanding each year throughout the United States as various cities adopt the program, is proving popular, and little or no opposition to this amendment is anticipated.

The proposition to eliminate the \$50 a month pay to Councilmen is meeting some opposition among candidates, although the incumbents are in favor of the matter.

The move to bar the draw poker licensing in Torrance once and for all may result in a heated last-minute campaign, due to the fact that out-of-town gamblers are said to be watching the situation with interest. Gambling became a distinct issue in the campaign of two years ago when Councilman J. Hugh Sherfy Jr. and A. L. Jackson were swept into office on an "anti-draw poker" platform.

Incumbent Councilmen Bronson C. Buxton and William H. Tolson each voted in favor of placing the draw poker measure on the ballot.

However, Councilman C. M. Gilbert voted no, explaining he does not appreciate the efforts of the Chamber of Commerce to influence the Council.

All three of the propositions were advanced by the Citizens Committee which was sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce.

Other candidates for the Council who have been questioned as to their stand on the matters are:

George W. Downing, 1511 Crenshaw Blvd., Nickolas O.

(Continued on Page 6-A)

New \$175,000 Commercial Area In City

Leases for a large super-market, shoe repair, cleaning and pressing, beauty parlor and barber shop have been negotiated on the business property set aside by Jack Kettler and P. I. Wilsey Jr., developers of Kettler Knolls Inc. Howard Construction will start within 60 days for the modern shopping center, and will afford to the people in that area a one stop shopping location.

Floyds Market, a large grocery concern, has the market. Other shops are in negotiation by local business men of the community. The center will be located at the southeast corner of Narbonne avenue and Sepulveda Boulevard.

The building consists of 6 stores. The market will be 105 ft. x 102 ft. Parking space has been provided for the customers.

Total investment in building equipment will be more than \$175,000.

This is the largest single commercial development to build in Torrance proper for some years. One hundred twenty more homes are scheduled by Kettler Knolls for construction within 60 days.

Floyds Markets has six stores in the Los Angeles metropolitan area.