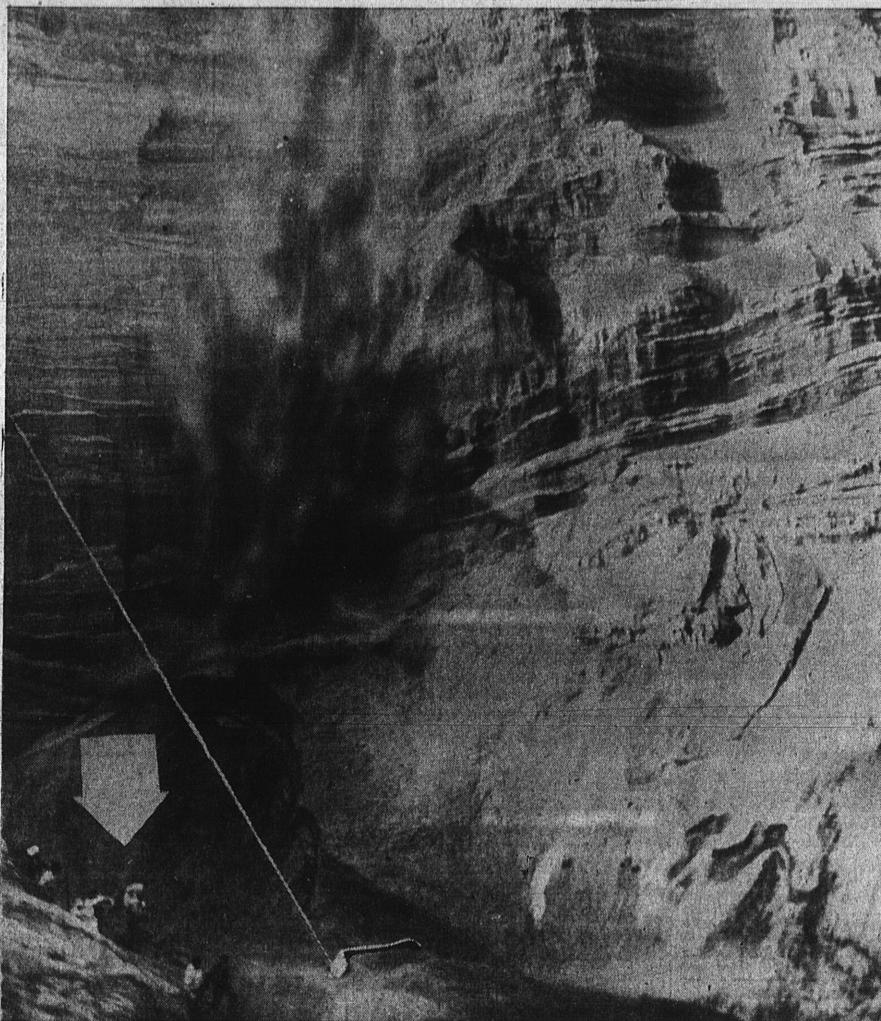


# Fellow Workers Tribute Sand Pit Cave-in Victim



**DRAMATIC PHOTO** . . . Picture taken by Herald photographer at the moment a second sand slide crumbled earthward shows a group of rescue workers (arrow) scurrying for safety as thousands of tons of sand fell over the already entombed body of Lester Newton, superintendent of Chandler's Sand and Gravel Pit where the accident occurred. Other slides hampered the effort to locate Newton's body which was finally found with the aid of a mine detector-like device 22 hours after the first slide. —Herald Photo.

## Pals Who Aided in 22-Hr. Search Attend Last Rites

Carried by the men he had worked with for 13 years, Lester Newton, 53-year-old superintendent, victim of a sand pit cave-in last Friday, was carried to his final resting place Tuesday, only a short distance from where he lost his life.

Among those attending the rites for the former boss of Chandler's Sand and Gravel pit at 26311 Narbonne avenue were two of the workers with Newton at the time of the cave-in.

The two sand pit workers, Carl Dean, 47, of 2414 Pacific Coast highway, and Ed Hughes, 5116 MacAfee road, Seaside Heights, scrambled to safety from beneath an avalanche of 100 tons of sand that claimed Newton's life.

Newton, who lived at 25209 Narbonne avenue, was preparing to place a dynamite charge with the help of Dean and Hughes when the side of the 300-foot sand pit broke loose. The dynamite, M4 sticks, was buried with Newton.

Dean and Hughes, as well as many other fellow workers including Linden Chandler, owner of the sand pit operation, worked from 3 p.m. Friday afternoon until near midnight in an attempt to recover Newton's body.

A heavy fog and constant slides hampered the rescue operation and caused the workers to abandon search until daylight. His body was recovered Saturday afternoon, 22 hours after the accident. A pipeline tracer, similar to the wartime mine-detecting devices, was used to locate a shovel buried with Newton. His body was found lying across the shovel.

Following services at Gamby Mortuary in Lomita, Newton was interred in Green Hills Memorial Park in the Palos Verdes Hills, only a short distance from the scene of the accident.

Officiating at the ceremonies

## Protesting Residents Organize

Mrs. Henry M. West, 4158 Sepulveda boulevard, announced yesterday that residents of West Torrance in the area around Sepulveda and Hawthorne avenue will hold a meeting Monday at 7:30 p.m. at Attebery Recreation Hall to organize a community association.

Major planks in the proposed organization will be attempts to get bus service for the area and paving on streets Mrs. West referred to as "cowpaths."

The meeting will be presided over temporarily by Mrs. West's husband until permanent officers are elected.

were the Rev. B. Johnson Reemtsma, D.D. of the Lomita Presbyterian Church, and Past Master Robert Irwin, San Pedro F. and A. M. Lodge No. 332.

## 400 ATTEND CHAMBER'S TRANSPORTATION FETE

Taxes, the swelling population, and smog were some of the problems discussed by Supervisor Raymond V. Darby, chief speaker at the Third Annual Torrance Chamber of Commerce Banquet, Monday night in the Civic Auditorium.

Darby, introduced by Reed Parkin, master of ceremonies, warned government to get out of private enterprise. Speaking as a taxpayer he claimed that people are being taxed to destruction.

He told the more than 400 persons who attended the "Salute to Transportation" banquet that Los Angeles County could expect an influx of 1,750,000 people within the next ten years. The county's population will reach 6,000,000 by 1960, he averred.

It is a problem of the Board of Supervisors, Darby claimed, to eliminate smog. Just how the problem would be solved remains to be seen, he said. He praised local industries for the manner in which they were cooperating to solve the smog problem and sympathized with them for not wishing to spend thousands of dollars on

## Did You Hear The Blast? Here's Cause

No, it wasn't an earthquake last Friday, in case you are one of the few persons in Torrance who didn't call the police or fire departments to find out what caused all the shaking.

It was the Pacific Smelting Company blasting some large chunks of zinc for smelting after all other methods failed.

No one thought the Japs were back, but speculation by frightened residents covered about every other possibility starting with earthquakes and working up.

And you can relax. The zinc is all busted up now.

That ordinance requiring

## April 11 include a Swimming Pool Bond issue of \$250,000 and a proposal to sell the city's bus lines and equipment to private enterprise.

Other amendments to be voted on are:

That the city manager shall approve all demands for payment of city funds before the payment is made.

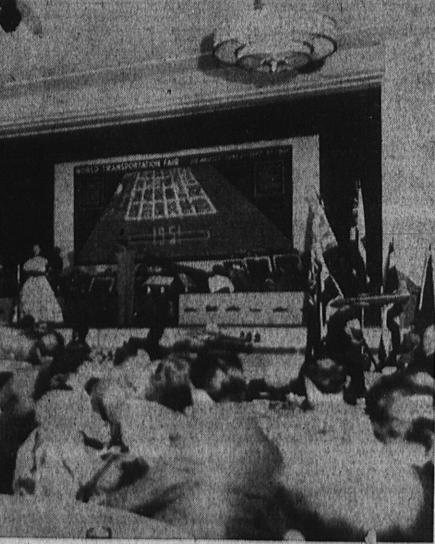
That all permanent city employees be required to live in the city.

That all the City Council meetings shall be held within the city except in cases of great emergency.

That actions by the City Council establishing fines, penalties or granting franchises, creating commissions and similar actions, shall be accomplished by ordinance.

That ordinances requiring

(Continued on Page 2)



**BIG SCALE** . . . 400 civic leaders and community-minded citizens dined before this huge billboard on the stage of the Civic Auditorium during the Torrance Chamber of Commerce's "Salute to Transportation" banquet Monday evening.—Herald photo.

# First Hats in Ring for April Councilmanic Race

EDITED in Torrance — PRINTED in Torrance — OWNED by Torrance Folks — SINCE 1914

## TORRANCE HERALD

36th YEAR — NO. 8

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1950

24 PAGES

# April Ballot Amendments, Proposals Set by Council

## City Voters To Ballot On 14 Items

Fourteen charter amendments and two propositions will go on the April ballot, following official action by the City Council at a special meeting Tuesday afternoon.

Included in the lengthy list of charter amendments as drafted by City Attorney C. Douglass Smith, are a proposed salary of \$100 per month for councilmen, a plan to require all city employees to sign a loyalty oath, and a broadening of the scope of the City Court to allow the court to handle certain civil matters.

The two propositions to be put before the city's voters on

The entire list of Charter amendments and proposals scheduled to appear on the April 11 ballot may be studied by turning to the legal advertising page of this issue of the Torrance Herald.

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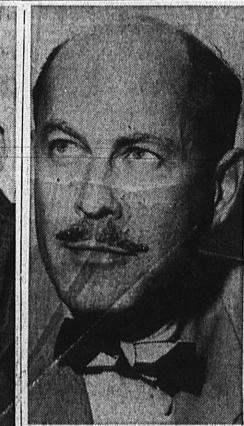
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(Continued on Page 2)



WILLYS G. BLOUNT . . . Seeks Council Post



HARVEY SPELMAN JR. . . Enters Council Race

## Spelman, Blount, to Seek Posts

The 1950 Torrance councilmanic race will officially start this morning with the filing of petitions by two local men who have announced their candidacies for the offices.

Harvey B. Spelman Jr., a Seaside Rancher, paper products salesman, and Willys B. Blount, a North Torrance industrial

sales representative, told the Herald late yesterday that they would file their signed petitions with City Clerk A. H. Bartlett this (Thursday) morning.

Spelman, who lives at 23145 Davis Way and Blount, who lives at 17038 Willis avenue, will seek election to the posts to be vacated by Mayor J. Hugh Sherkey, Jr. and Councilman A. L. Jackson.

Both candidates are service veterans, Blount having served four years in the Navy as a Fireman First Class and Spelman as a corporal in the Marine Corps on duty in the U. S., Hawaii, and Okinawa.

Blount has been employed for the past 11 years by the Kirckill as a salesman and technician to aircraft manufacturers.

Spelman, after discharge from

(Continued on Page 2)

## Plans Told for Huge Walteria Shopping Center

A \$150,000 shopping area is being developed at the southeast corner of Pacific Coast highway and Madison street in Walteria, it was announced this week.

Actual work on the 10-acre site is scheduled to start within the next few months, according to officials of the Pacific Hills corporation.

## Wallet and \$60 Lost

Mrs. Gladys Kurtz, 16601 Arlington avenue, asked police to help her find her wallet containing \$60 which she lost Monday. She doesn't know where it might be, but it does contain identification papers, she said.

Facilities will probably include a large food market, drug store, medical and dental offices, with a church tentatively planned.

Site of the retail business area has a 1300-foot frontage on Pacific Coast highway and 800 feet on Madison street.

The construction would conform with city zoning ordinances. It would also complement a business area to be leased out by the city on the northern side of the highway.

The Pacific Hills trading center would serve residents of the 250 dwellings being built by the corporation.

Foundations have been laid for the third unit of K. Sande Senesch's housing development on the famed Weston ranch property.

## Dollars To Do Double Duty During Event

Featuring drastically marked down merchandise, Torrance merchants are cooperating this weekend in the staging of a two-day double-duty Dollar Day sale.

The sale, a city-wide event, will be held on Friday and Saturday, according to Paul Diamond, president of the Retail Merchants Division of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, sponsors of the event.

For a preview of some of the bargains to be offered by local merchants, it is suggested that readers turn to the inside pages and consult the advertising columns for the way to money-saving deals.

## Suicide Puzzles Police and Wife Of Hollis Towler

Police and relatives were still puzzling yesterday over the apparent suicide Tuesday afternoon of Hollis Willis Towler, 45-year-old janitor of Torrance Elementary School.

Towler's wife, Mary Butt, told police her husband was in good spirits early Tuesday afternoon when she left their home at 1823 Andreo avenue to do some shopping.

At 4 p.m. when she returned, she opened the garage door to find her husband hanging from a wooden crossbar inside, his feet dangling only inches away from a ladder standing beside him. There was no note or other explanation for the deed.

Neither Mrs. Towler, or her husband's brother, Ray Towler, of Long Beach, could think of any reason why her husband should take his life.

A native of Oklahoma, he had lived here 17 years.

Services will be conducted Monday at 2 p.m. at Stone and Myers Mortuary by Rev. Miles Northrup, pastor of the Baptist Church of Torrance. Burial will be in Inglewood Park Cemetery. Music will be provided by Ellen Svesaringen, organist, and Crawford Davis, vocalist.

Other survivors include a daughter, Joan Rae Towler, of Torrance; a son, Lerby Stecker, stationed with the Army in Japan, who is trying to get leave to fly home for the services; and four sisters, Mrs. Pearl Miller of Southgate, Mrs. Dorothy Rinsch of Long Beach, Mrs. Wilma Mosher of Mason, Mich., and Mrs. Holly Olson of El Monte.

# Double Values Offered During Two Days of Dollar Days Bargains