

THS to Graduate 163 Tonight in Outdoor Ceremonies

BLOUNT'S LEAD IN DISPUTED COUNCIL RACE BOOSTED TO 19 AS VOTE RECOUNT NEARS END

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

TORRANCE HERALD

36th YEAR—NO. 23

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, JUNE 8, 1950

24 PAGES

5c
Delivered By Mail
\$2 Yearly

Warren, Roosevelt Split Local Vote

Torrance voters went along with the state Tuesday on the voting for Warren and Roosevelt. Warren got nearly a 15 to 1 margin on the Republican ticket while Roosevelt holds an 800-vote margin over Warren on the Democratic side. A total of 2833 votes were cast here for Warren and 2181 for Roosevelt.

In the Senatorial race here, it was Douglas, Boddy, and Nixon in that order on the Democratic ticket and Nixon, Boddy, and Douglas on the Republican.

Supervisor Raymond V. Darby, running for Lt. Governor, bowed to incumbent Knight on both tickets here. Knight held a 1058 to 649 lead on the Democratic side, and an 870 to 668 lead on the Republican.

Edmund Brown, district attorney of San Francisco, led incumbent Fred Howser and Edward S. Shattuck in the Democratic race for Attorney General. In Republican balloting, Shattuck led while Howser and Brown trailed.

Incumbent William G. Bonelli led his closest rival, Ernest E. Debs, by a substantial margin here as he did in the whole fourth district, in his quest for return to the State Board of Equalization.

In the State Senatorial primaries, Sen. Jack Tenney took a two vote victory here from Assemblyman Glenn Anderson on the Democratic side while former Atty. Gen. Robert W. Kenny trailed a poor third. On the Republican side, Tenney enjoyed a larger margin. Kenny did not crossfile.

Rep. Cecil King was swept back into office by an overwhelming majority on both the Democratic and Republican tickets. The same holds true for State Assemblyman Vincent Thomas.

In the race for Lt. Governor, incumbent Goodwin Knight appeared to have an easy win on both tickets—assuring him of the office. Supervisor Raymond V. Darby is evidently out of the picture.

Also assured of his office is Gene Biscailuz, Los Angeles County Sheriff. Biscailuz had piled up more votes than all of his opponents as the returns continued to pile up yesterday afternoon.

Statewide, Gov. Earl Warren won the Republican nomination for reelection by a landslide in Tuesday's election, but he was trailing Democrat James Roosevelt by 128,566 votes for the Democratic nomination at 4 p.m. yesterday. At that time, 11,139 of the state's 18,022 precincts had been reported.

Pilot Leapfrogs Local Field Enroute To N.Y.

Charles Soderstrom, cross-country flying new car dealer, leaped from his plane, kissed his wife goodbye at the Torrance Municipal Airport—and then took off from Terminal Island airport on a record flight to New York on Tuesday.

The flying auto dealer of San Pedro had previously intended to take off from the local field and had completed all last-minute load tests from the field and signed a release for the City of Torrance and the operators of the airstrip.

Cities that Soderstrom had been plane-nabbed by the San Pedro interests to make the initial takeoff from the port city were not hard to find.

Blasted on the side of his plane in letters large enough to be seen in St. Louis were the words "City of San Pedro."

The airman established a mark for a non-stop flight for small planes when he successfully made it from the local harbor to La Guardia field in 16 hours and 12 minutes last Tuesday.

Soderstrom switched his take-off field at the last minute when, according to the San Pedro News-Pilot, "fellow directors of the Chamber of Commerce (San Pedro) asked Soderstrom to take off from Reeves field so that the flight would be from San Pedro to New York."

The flight gave New York a lot of nice publicity, it was said.

Judge Shidler Returned to Justice Court

Return of Judge John A. Shidler to the bench in the Gardena Justice Court was all but confirmed yesterday as the returns from 152 of 176 precincts in the area gave the victor about a 2-1 lead over Torrance City Judge Otto B. Willett, only other candidate for the office.

The count for the 152 precincts was Shidler 13,518, and Willett 7830.

Returns from the missing 24 precincts "were buried under a mountain of ballot returns of other offices on Tuesday's ballot," according to the office of the County Registrar of Voters.

In Torrance Shidler carried all 31 municipal precincts for a total of 3428 votes against Willett's 1602 votes.

Judge Willett yesterday congratulated Shidler on his victory and publicly expressed his appreciation to his friends for their support.

Meanwhile, Shidler complimented his colleague for conducting such a clean campaign and expressed his happiness over the support given him in his home town.

"I am fully aware of the tremendous effort that was expended to 'get out the vote' and sincerely appreciate all the work that was done in helping re-elect me to the Gar-



START OF RECOUNT . . . City Clerk A. H. Bartlett (left) brings into the court the ballots which were cast in the last council race and which are presently being recounted to determine true outcome of the election. Pictured with Bartlett are Dale Riley (rear), James Moorehead, both Torrance City employees, and a deputy sheriff.—Herald Photo

School Board to Review Hardy Resignation Case

Agreeing to review the resignation of Miss Harriett Hardy, girls' vice principal at Torrance High School, the Board of Education Tuesday night set a closed committee meeting preceding the next regular board session as the time for discussion.

The decision to reopen the case followed the reading of a letter addressed to the board in which Miss Hardy retracted

her resignation tendered several weeks ago.

Acceptance of her resignation by the board, along with a group of other teachers in the district, brought considerable criticism of the board by parents of some high school girls and other citizens.

The criticism fell heaviest on Board President Dr. Howard A. Wood, who refused to discuss in public the qualifications

of the various personnel concerned.

Political observers claimed that in attempting to protect Miss Hardy as well as other teachers on the "resignations accepted list" from becoming the subject of a public discussion, Dr. Wood cost himself the recent school board election.

In holding to the principle of not discussing personalities at a public board meeting, Dr. Wood and Dr. J. Henrich Hull, superintendent of schools, expressed the opinion that it would be an injustice and unfair to the persons concerned to make them a subject of public discussion.

Answers to the Torrance Herald Telephone Contest will be found on page 11 of this issue.

of 1727 Gramercy avenue. Her winnings amounted to \$10.

Since so many of the entries were correct, the eight judges in the contest looked to neatness and attractiveness of reply—an element which would receive consideration, according to the published rules.

Mrs. Swanson had all answers to the phone quiz correct, each on a separate page, each answer decorated in a four-line poem and bound with

(Continued On Page 2)

(Continued On Page 2)

Only 9 Precincts Remain Uncounted

BULLETIN

LOS ANGELES, JUNE 8.—With only nine precincts yet to be recounted, Councilman Willys G. Blount today will go into the third and probable final day of a court-conducted ballot recount with a 19 vote lead.

His lead of seven votes over challenger Victor E. Benstead climbed to 19 this week as recounters waded through ballots from 21 of Torrance's 30 precincts.

The action favored Blount when it was discovered that the figure 98 was written as the vote for Benstead when it apparently was intended to be 89.

"Had this been known before the court action began we wouldn't have sought a recount," commented Nick Cucchi, also a challenger, and Albert Isen, his attorney.

Greatest political interest in Torrance at the moment still continues to be over the outcome of a councilman recount action being heard today in Superior Court in Los Angeles.

Though the outcome of the recount demand brought by Victor E. Benstead, number three man in a race for two seats on the Torrance City Council, is not expected until late this afternoon (Thursday) or possibly Friday morning, several developments in the case bear reporting.

Judge Stanley Mosk who is trying the case refused to accept any recount of ballots in envelopes on which the seals had been broken.

He said that since the seal on the envelopes had been broken it was clearly indicated that someone could have tampered with the ballots. In such cases the judge accepted the original tally of

Poetess Pens Poems; Plucks Phone Prize

Poetry, it has been said, is like crime—it doesn't pay. Not so, however, is the case of Mrs. Clara M. Swanson, 2067 West 220th street.

Mrs. Swanson rhymed her way (more or less) into winning the Torrance Herald Telephone Contest, and \$25.

Judged second place winner (\$15) was the entry of Mrs. Tillie Jacobson, P. O. Box 211, Torrance. In third place among the 355 entries was Miss Jeanne Jessome, a 13-year-old student

of 1727 Gramercy avenue. Her winnings amounted to \$10.

Since so many of the entries were correct, the eight judges in the contest looked to neatness and attractiveness of reply—an element which would receive consideration, according to the published rules.

Mrs. Swanson had all answers to the phone quiz correct, each on a separate page, each answer decorated in a four-line poem and bound with

(Continued On Page 2)

GUARD UNITS TO AID IN WALTERIA DEFENSE

The National Guard is going to defend Walteria. Designated as a project for the 578th Engineer Combat Battalion, the local guardsmen will cut a three-mile 20-foot fire break through the grassy hills adjacent to Walteria and Hollywood Riviera.

The path, say officers of the local battalion, will follow the city boundary line between Torrance and the City of Palos Verdes and will establish fire fighting responsibility between the two cities.

National Guard officers estimate the project will require about three or four week ends to complete with a starting date of June 24 set for the project.

Bulldozer crews of about 15 men will work on the undertaking.

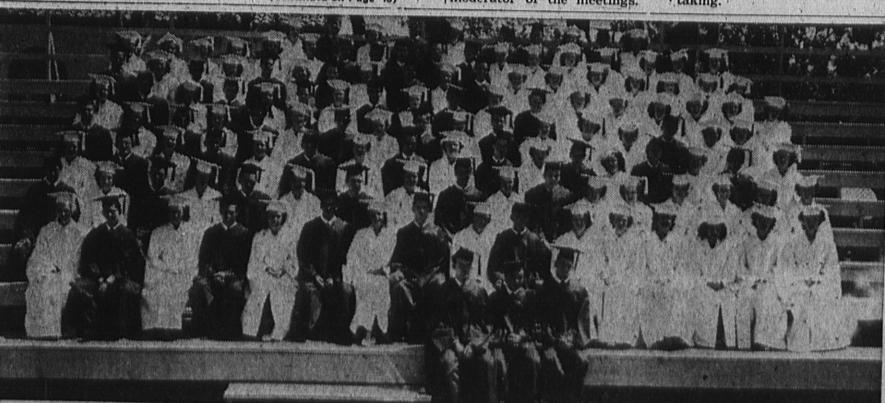
(Continued On Page 2)

Commencement Exercises Set For 8 Tonight

"We Are History." Using that as a theme, 163 men and women will step officially out of roles as high school students tonight in the 34th annual graduation at Torrance High School in ceremonies which begin at 8 p.m. in the school stadium.

A striking departure from the usual program of having a commencement speaker and speeches by the valedictorian and salutatorian, the seniors this year will be ushered "out into the world" with a resume of the highlights of the past half century and a query which each can ask of himself: "Are we going to be spectators or partici-

(Continued On Page 10)



LARGEST . . . The pageantry of graduation exercises to be held on the Torrance High School athletic field tonight at 8 p.m. will include the traditional awarding of diplomas to the graduating seniors. Tonight 163 students, the largest class ever to graduate from the local high school, will march up to receive their academic sheepskins—symbol of the completion of 12 years of learning. Photo by Dixie Lee Studios.



MRS. CLARA M. SWANSON
Poems Her Way To Prize

Lions Club Raps Phone Service; Demands Action

Rapping the telephone company for "inferior service," the Torrance Lions Club yesterday directed a letter to the City Council asking the city fathers to use a legal switch on the local company to improve service to the community.

Submitted by Dr. Don C. Moshos, president of the local service club, the letter was addressed to City Clerk A. H. Bartlett and read as follows: Gentlemen:

Approximately one year ago our Civic Improvement Committee started a series of meetings with officials of the Pacific Telephone Company, who hold the Telephone Franchise with the City of Torrance, to secure a more satisfactory service and modernization of equipment comparable to our surrounding communities. To date exactly nothing has been accomplished, and the subscribers and citizens of Torrance are forced to accept a greatly inferior service and facilities which the Telephone Company shows no inclination of improving. This is a matter that every citizen in Torrance is probably interested in, and we believe the time has come for the City of Torrance and the City Council to take the necessary steps to guarantee the citizens of our community the same service as that of our neighboring cities.

A check into the legal ramifications surrounding the grant of a telephone franchise to the Pacific Telephone Company would be of great interest to our citizens and might possibly be the means of getting results for those of us who foot the telephone bills.

The Board of Directors of the Torrance Lions Club has directed that this letter be submitted to the members of the City Council with the sincere desire of securing better service and equipment from our telephone company for the benefit of the public as a whole.

Respectfully submitted,

TORRANCE LIONS CLUB.

Dan C. Moshos, M. D.,

President.

By Fred Boren, Secretary.