

# SUPERVISORS SET UP MUNICIPAL COURT ON NEW CIVIC CENTER SITE

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## TORRANCE HERALD

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Published Monday and Thursday—Entered as second class matter Jan. 25, 1914, at postoffice, Torrance, California, under act of March 3, 1879.

TORRANCE'S ONLY COMPLETE NEWSPAPER—WITH OFFICE AND PLANT AT 1619 GRAMERCY AVE., TORRANCE

42nd Year—No. 2

10¢ per copy

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, JANUARY 5, 1956

CIRCULATION OFFICE FA 8-4004

12

32 PAGES

# School Board Opposes Joint Vote

## Reasons Listed In Resolution

A resolution opposing a shift in the date of the School Board election in Torrance was passed unanimously by the Torrance School Board Tuesday night.

The Board suggested that "no useful purpose would be served" in changing the date from its present May date to an April date which would coincide with the City Council elections. The City Council had proposed a charter amendment to be voted on at the spring elections, shifting the date from the present third Friday in May.

### Reasons Given

Reasons for the School Board's opposition included the following:

1. Such a proposal was turned down by a large margin at an election in 1948.

2. An election of trustees for El Camino Junior College customarily is held with the local School Board election and the college pays half of the election expenses. The El Camino election would have to be held in May, regardless of what the city did.

### Costs Would Rise

3. In school elections, by using 20 local school buildings as precincts, the expense of renting polling places is saved. In 1947, election costs averaged about \$1000 each time, while the last city election cost \$17,230.

4. If board members were to take office earlier, due to the earlier election, new members would be making the budget for the year which they were prepared.

5. A written notice is mailed to each voter, insuring that all who want to vote may do so.

6. School elections throughout California are held the third Friday in May and in Los Angeles County, 113 districts have elections on this date, while only about eight are combined with city elections.

The proposal will be discussed before the City Council at a formal hearing next Tuesday, Jan. 10, at 8 p.m.

## 7300 to Get Hearing Test

Some 7300 children in the fourth through 10th grades in Torrance schools will receive hearing tests within a few weeks, under an action taken by the School Board Tuesday night.

The board approved an agreement with the Wiseburn School District, under which the Torrance Unified School District will get the use of an audiometer trailer to test the hearing of local school children.

The tests are used both for the benefit of parents who may not be aware of the child's difficulty and for teachers who can better understand scholastic problems of youngsters with hearing trouble.

According to County Health Department figures, about three per cent of youngsters have hearing trouble of varying degrees.

## Auto License Renewals Begin; First New Tags in Five Years

For the first time in five years all of California's six million motorists will get new license plates when they visit the Department of Motor Vehicles for their annual vehicle registration renewals which began Tuesday.

The 1956 plates, to be used for the next five years, feature combinations of three letters with three numerals in black on a bright chrome yellow background. Governor Goodwin J. Knight and Paul Mason, director of motor vehicles, have signed a policy declaration naming the issue of special letter and number combinations to individuals.

For speediest service at the department's permanent and temporary registration offices through the state, Mason advised motorists to present their fees with the 1956 pre-punched registration statements issued by mail from Sacramento on Dec. 27. The department asks each applicant to fill in the blank lines on the right-hand stub of the card with name and address, typed or printed in ink, before applying. The cards must be presented complete, without detaching the stub, whether submitted in person or by mail.

## Redondo Court Building Hit By Burglars

An employee's visit to the South Bay Municipal Court Building in Redondo Sunday yielded the unexpected discovery that the building had been ransacked, with official records strewn over the floors and an undetermined amount of money stolen.

Ernest Stout, a clerk, took some visiting friends to the court house shortly after 9 p.m. Sunday, and when he opened the door to the building a scene of destruction lay before the party.

Officials say the Court building was locked up at 10:30 p.m. Friday, and was to remain closed over the three-day holiday week end.

Police, when called in, said entry was gained by cutting the screen on a window, then lifting the window. The clerk's office was ransacked, with files emptied and papers thrown throughout the room.

Chambers of Judges John Shidler and Otto Willett also were ransacked and the conference and court rooms also were turned topsy turvy, police said.

A small safe was opened and some money was taken by the intruders.

## Wilson Dies As Result of Crash Injury

A 51-year-old machinist, Emile Wilson, of 2054 Lomita Park Pl., Lomita, Tuesday died in Harbor General Hospital, as the result of injuries received in an auto accident here last Nov. 22.

Wilson suffered severe injuries when he was hit by a car as he was crossing Carson St. between Halldale and Denker Aves. His son, Richard, 5, who was with him also suffered severe injuries, but is recovering. Services were held yesterday at Gamby's Funeral Chapel, with the Rev. Fred Martin officiating. He will be buried in Carthage, Mo., his former home.

A Lomita resident for the past three years, he was born in Mulberry, Ark. He was employed as a machinist at the Harvey Machine Co.

Survivors include his wife, Mildred; sons, Richard, of Lomita; Hugh, of Oklahoma; Willie, Herman, and George, of Missouri; a daughter, Wanda Maynard, of Texas; parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Wilson, of Oklahoma; brothers, James, of Maricopa; John, of Missouri; sisters, Irene T. Stearns, of San Diego; and Ruby Butler, of Oklahoma; and six grandchildren.

At the present time, several mothers assist the crossing guard, with more helping on foggy mornings.

McCoy's letter stated that plans are being made for the signals, and indicated that it would be put up as soon as possible. The state will negotiate with the city for paying half the cost of the signal, McCoy said. The City Council had offered to do this last fall.



BRING COURT HERE... Prime movers in establishment of a Municipal Court in Torrance are shown here after the Supervisors voted for the court. Left to right are Councilman Willy G. Blount, Supervisor Burton W. Chace, Attorney Boris S. Woolley, and Councilman Nick Drake. Approval of the court followed a vigorous campaign conducted by the HERALD.

## Moms Glad Over Signal Victory

The long battle of mothers of Meadow Park School children for a traffic signal at 230th and Hawthorne apparently was won this week, as the state indicated that it would put up a signal "as soon as possible."

A letter from State Highway Engineer G. T. McCoy to Principal Herbert Farris indicated that as a result of a study of traffic at the intersection, the state would put up a signal to protect approximately 150 children who must cross the busy four-lane highway.

At the start of the school year, an irate group of mothers blocked traffic across Hawthorne Blvd. as their children crossed on their way to school. They also appeared at School Board and City Council meetings and petitioned local and state officials. Since the crossing is on a state highway, traffic controls must be established by the state. Previous requests had been rejected.

"We are very, very happy," declared Mrs. William Foser, president of the Meadow Park PTA. "Many mothers have put in many hours at the crossings."

At the present time, several mothers assist the crossing guard, with more helping on foggy mornings. McCoy's letter stated that plans are being made for the signals, and indicated that it would be put up as soon as possible. The state will negotiate with the city for paying half the cost of the signal, McCoy said. The City Council had offered to do this last fall.

The "work experience program" will be started at North High School next semester, the educators decided. Under the program students could work for about 15 hours a week in various local jobs—retail selling, advertising, elementary school assistance, and various professional work.

The program must be approved by the State Department of Education, before credit can be given. Similar courses are given in other school districts, however.

The North High program was set up by North High Principal Dale M. Harter and will be tried for the first time this semester.

Richard had served as principal of Fern-Greenwood since 1954, and was formerly an elementary supervisor with the County Superintendent's office in Mono County. He will work on special legislation and building projects for the Torrance Unified School District, having taken training in this type of work at USC and UCLA.

## SEARCH FOR DOG THAT BIT STUDENT INTENSIFIED

Search for a young brownish-red cocker spaniel was intensified in the north Torrance area this week as a 7-year-old elementary school student began taking the painful Pasteur treatment as an anti-rabies measure after she was bitten on Dec. 14.

Seven-year-old Launa Williams, whose parents live at 2305 W. 166th St., was bitten at North Torrance Elementary School where she is a second grader. The cocker, described as about 8 months old and colored brownish red, was taken to a home nearby but left the following day. He was last seen at 4202 W. 176th St. on Dec. 16, according to the child's mother.

If the dog can be found and proves healthy, the Pasteur treatments, which are painful and dangerous, can be stopped. Persons knowing of such a dog should contact the South Bay Humane Society or the Torrance Health Center.

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## Budget for New Building Asked

By REID BUNDY

Unanimous action by the County Board of Supervisors Tuesday assured the establishment of a branch of the South Bay Municipal Court in Torrance "as soon as adequate court facilities can be provided by the County."

Acting on the recommendation of Supervisor Burton W. Chace, the board adopted a resolution which would amend the county ordinance to permit holding of sessions of the court in Torrance. The resolution also asked for funds in the 1956-57 County budget to build a court-house on the city's new civic center site.

Immediately set off speculation on the assignment of judges when the time comes to open the local facilities. At the present time, two Torrance residents are serving on the bench at the South Bay Court: Judge John A. Shidler and Judge Otto B. Willett.

Appointing Due

Most observers have indicated that the appointment of a third judge probably would come from the beach cities area. The appointment, when the time comes, will be made by the Governor, and is usually done on the recommendation of the local and state bar associations.

If the appointment comes from the beach, one of the two Torrance judges would likely be transferred to the Torrance branch.

No immediate action is expected on providing court facilities here. The Supervisors must first adopt the ordinance amendment which was ordered up Tuesday, then funds to construct a court building on the civic center site must be provided in the new budget which goes into operation next July 1.

Polley Discussed

Presentation of the resolution to establish a branch court here touched off a lively discussion on the board's policy on such matters. The board has been firmly opposed to branch courts. Objecting were Paul Sheedy, California Taxpayers Assn. representative.

Terminating the proposal to establish a court in Torrance a mistake, Sheedy warned that each new Municipal Court building would cost about \$150,000 and would cost an additional \$50,000 a year to operate.

Costs Protested

"If this mistake is allowed to go through, at least half a dozen towns will want branch courts," Sheedy said. He indicated that such deviations from board policy could cost more than \$1 million for new buildings and half that much more each year in additional operating expenses.

Supervisor Herbert C. Legg commented that Lakewood had campaigned for its own Municipal Court for most of the two years of its incorporation as a city while Supervisor John Anderson Ford spoke up for West Covina, Bell, and other Southland cities.

Board Unanimous

A motion by Ford to table Chace's resolution failed on a roll call vote. A roll call vote on the resolution submitted by Chace carried unanimously. He was supported throughout the discussion by Supervisor Kenneth Hahn, who reminded the board that his area included all of Torrance north of 190th St. and included about one third of the city's population.

Chace's resolution pointed out that the South Bay Judicial District population had increased from 157,000 in 1953 to 232,000 in 1955. He also pointed out that Torrance population had grown 300 per cent in five years and that the city would have an estimated population of 35,000 by the end of this year.

Case Load Grows

Case loads at the Redondo court had grown from 27,000 cases to an anticipated 38,000 cases during the three-year life of the court, Chace said.

Other factors in his recommendation for a Torrance court included the statement that the Redondo court did not lend itself to proper expansion, and that the City of Torrance had offered the building site in the new civic center at a rental to the County of \$1 a year.

Action of the Supervisors in establishing the local court im-

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## Dr. Hull Named To Head Heart Fund Drive Here

Organization of the 1956 Heart Fund Campaign in Torrance was begun today with the appointment of Dr. J. H. Hull, as community chairman.

The appointment was announced by Rola R. Hays, Jr., of San Marino, chairman of the drive to be conducted Feb. 1 to 29 by the Los Angeles County Heart Assn.

Hays said each community will have its own volunteer organization this year and the Community Chairman will appoint leaders to organize volunteer groups for Advance Gifts, Heart Sunday, Business, Professional, Public Employees, Clubs and Churches, and Women's Divisions.

In accepting the appointment, Dr. Hull said, "Funds subscribed by Torrance in this campaign will be used to fight disease of the heart and blood vessels locally and nationally."

## Burglars Take Tires

Burglars who broke into George's Richfield Station, 2101 Pacific Coast Hwy., Lomita, took four tires valued at \$85, George J. Shilao, told sheriff's deputies Tuesday. Entrance was gained by breaking a padlock on the door.

## DAV Not Making Memorial Drive

A man who is visiting local homes and businessmen collecting money for a veterans' memorial does not represent the local chapter of Disabled American Veterans as he claims, Tim Romero, DAV commander, said yesterday. DAV officials said they had reports of a man collecting funds supposedly to be used for a memorial sign atop American Legion Hall. The man does not represent the local DAV, Romero said, nor do Legion officials know of any plan for such a sign.