

# City to Set Election Date for Victor Annexation

# HIGHWAY SLAUGHTER CONTINUES; SEVENTH 1956 VICTIM RECORDED

The Only Paper Blanketing All Sections of Torrance plus Lomita, Harbor City and Adjacent City and County Areas

## Torrance Herald

Phone  
FA 8-4000

Published Monday and Thursday—  
Entered as second class mailer Jan. 20, 1914, at postoffice, Torrance, California, under Act of March 3, 1879.

OFFICE AND PLANT AT 1619 GRAMERCY AVE., TORRANCE

42nd Year—No. 20 ★ 12

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, MARCH 8, 1956

CIRCULATION OFFICE FA 8-4004

10¢ per copy 36 PAGES



**SPEECH WINNER**... Joan Vachalek, right, receives trophy from Lions Club President Mott Farrell after she was judged winner in public speaking contest for local high school students. Lions sponsored annual competition. The winner is a Torrance High School student, Allan Andrews and Arlene Lear, of North High, and Sally Mason, of THIS, were second place finishers.

### Victor Election Date to Be Set

Petitions submitted to the city protesting the proposal to annex the huge Victor Tract to Torrance were insufficient to halt the proceedings, City Attorney James M. Hall told the Council this week. An election date will be set next Tuesday. The petitions, signed by 21 property owners, represented land valuation of about \$68,000 and the total value of the area exceeds \$500,000, Hall said in ruling the petition out.

### Democrats Hold To Registration Leadership Here

Democrat registration in Torrance still holds a sizable lead over the Republicans, according to figures released here yesterday by City Clerk A. H. Bartlett.

In a new revised registration figure, compiled by County Registrar Ben S. Hite, the total registered voters in Torrance was pegged at 21,774. A preliminary count, published by the HERALD Monday, put the count at 21,887.

The breakdown of voter registrations in the latest tally shows the following:

Democrats	12,807
Republicans	8,112
Prohibition	7
Decline to State	638
Miscellaneous	210
<b>Total</b>	<b>21,774</b>

City Clerk Bartlett said it was possible that some of the registrations included in the first tally reported here Monday included some duplications or some which had been disqualified for one reason or another. The figure still holds record levels, the previous high municipal election registration being 17,072 in 1954.

### Man Sought In Hold Up Of Dairy

Police are seeking an armed robber in the Torrance area who held up a clerk at Verburg's Dairy, at 2093 W. 174th St., of about \$260 Monday night. Marie Terry, the clerk, said the man, who appeared to be wearing a false mustache, came into the store and threatened her with a pistol. He ordered her to put the money into a paper sack, she told officers. The man grabbed the sack and fled across a field adjacent to the store, the victim told officers. She called police, who joined milkers working in the nearby field in search for the suspect. The handit eluded police, however.

### Woman Robbed At Marineland

A waitress at Marineland was victim of a strong armed robbery at about 9:45 p.m. Sunday, as she was getting into a car in a parking lot near the oceanarium, she told sheriff's deputies. Virginia L. Groffte, 29, of San Pedro, told authorities that a man came up to her and pushed her, then grabbed her purse and left. She said two other men were in a car waiting nearby. The victim told authorities that her purse contained about \$33 cash. Sheriff's deputies are tracing several leads furnished them by the victim and witnesses in hopes of apprehending the suspects.

### In Council Race

# SCHWAB FOR DRALE, SMITH, GARRABRANT

### His Decision Ends Rumors On Choice

Councilman Mervin M. Schwab yesterday put a stop to the persistent rumors concerning his endorsements for the City Council candidates when he named the three men he has agreed to support for election.

Schwab, who is not a candidate for re-election when his term expires next month, told the HERALD yesterday that he would support the re-election of Councilman Nick Drale, and the election of Beverly B. Smith and Walter A. Garrabrant.

The three candidates, Schwab said, represent the largest cross section of experience and ability, and that he felt he could give his unqualified endorsement to their election at the April 10 municipal election. "I have made a serious attempt to determine the qualifications of these candidates for this important city job, and I have concluded that the best interests of the city would be served with the election of Drale, Smith, and Garrabrant," Schwab said.

His announcement came after some of the other candidates had been pointed out as having his support. "I have never, until now, pledged my support to any of the candidates," Schwab stated.

Schwab, who is production control superintendent at American Standard, was elected to the City Council four years ago. He served two years as mayor.



MERVIN M. SCHWAB  
Endorses Candidates

### Engineer Says Glenburn Drain Nearly Finished

Contractors installing the storm drain in Glenburn Ave., north Torrance, has assured the city that he will get the paving done in about a week and will be off the job within two weeks, City Engineer Ronald Bishop reported yesterday.

The statement of the contractor came after repeated protests of the residents along Glenburn that the street had been torn up for an excessive length of time.

Bishop said compaction tests in the huge ditch opened to take the storm drain had been approved and that paving was to be started immediately.

### MARY ASKS FOR WHEEL CHAIR, HITS JACKPOT

Mary Webb, 145 Calle de Andalucia, Riviera columnist for the HERALD for more than five years, was named "Queen for a Day" yesterday and wound up with a houseful of new appliances, furniture, and other prizes.

Mrs. Webb, whose husband, Jack, has been confined to a Santa Monica hospital with polio for several months, won the prizes after she appeared on the popular program to request a wheelchair for Jack.

Among the prizes awarded Mrs. Webb yesterday's "Queen" were the wheelchair she requested, a special mattress for Jack's bed, clothing, four dozen roses, cooking utensils, a watch, vacuum cleaner, encyclopedia, two easy chairs, an automatic washer, automatic dishwasher, a mail order house gift certificate, new living room furniture, a carpet, wheelchair ramps for the couple's home, a play gym for the children, and a complete intercommunication system for the house.

Mary was still in Hollywood acting the part of the "Queen" when the HERALD went to press last evening and could not be reached for comment.

### Douglas Makes Offer to Union

A proposed new contract calling for wage increases and other benefits totaling \$27 1/2 million the first year has been submitted by Douglas Aircraft Co. to unions representing approximately 60,000 workers in Southern California and Oklahoma.

The proposal calls for benefit plan and wage increases ranging from 7 to 15 cents an hour for factory workers and from 7 to 17 cents an hour for technical and office workers. Details of the company's offer were made public shortly after the proposal was turned over to officials of the UAW and IAM unions for evaluation.

Committees of the UAW-CIO representing Long Beach, Tulsa and Tucson plants, and IAM committees representing the Santa Monica, El Segundo and Torrance plants, received the offer at separate meetings.

The present UAW-CIO contract expires March 15. The IAM agreement extends to April 1.

Other terms in the proposed contract call for increasing of bonus payments for second shift employees from 8 to 12 cents an hour, a three-week vacation after 12 years, and company pay for time spent on jury duty.

### Democrat Club Formed in North Torrance Area

Formation of a North Torrance Democratic Club was announced here this week and a public meeting of the new group has been scheduled for 8 p.m., March 12 at Higgins Truck Co., 2217 W. 174th St.

Bertrand E. Doyan, 2627 W. 164th St., has been selected chairman of the group and has stated that the club was formed "to organize the citizens of north Torrance who are interested in the welfare, improvement, and development of the great potentials in north Torrance."

Doyan said there would be a concerted effort toward the development of a voters program designed to educate the people on the value of presenting themselves at the polls on election days. "When feasible and necessary, the organization will endorse the nomination for office, men whom they feel are capable of executing good, progressive, and practical government," Doyan stated.

### Local Man Killed When Hit By Car

Torrance traffic claimed its seventh victim of the year Sunday night when James Greer Snell, 52, of 20315 Denker Ave., was killed when hit by a car while walking across Western Ave. near the entrance to Harvey Machine Co. Snell was going to work with a friend, Hilton Hooper, of the same Denker Ave. address. The two were crossing the dimly-lit street at about 11:20 p.m., when a car driven by Eugene F. Schroerluke, 27, of Los Angeles, struck the victim. Hooper was walking alongside Snell, but was not struck by the vehicle.

Schroerluke was not held by police. The victim was pronounced dead on arrival at Harbor General Hospital. Snell's death raised the year's count in the city to seven, as compared to one at this time in 1955. There were six traffic deaths in Torrance in 1955.

Funeral services will be held tomorrow for the victim at Stone and Myers chapel at 2 p.m. The victim, a veteran of service with the Marine Corps, will be given full military honors at final rites. Rev. Clarence Scott, of the Lomita Southern Baptist Church, will officiate.

Burial at Green Hills Cemetery will follow services. A native of Idaho, Snell worked as a fork lift operator at the machine company. He was raised in Kansas and had resided in Torrance for the past six years.

He leaves his widow, Jessie; step-sons, Sgt. Elmer A. Banks, of the Army; and Harold Lee Banks, Jr., of Wilmington; and a step-daughter, Mrs. Mary Dambrell, of Gardena. Hurt While Changing Tire Ignacio Cardona, 28, of Santa Monica, suffered major injuries shortly before midnight Sunday in a two-car crash on Pacific Coast Hwy., near Nancy Lee Lane.

Police say Cardona, who is in critical condition at Harbor General Hospital, was changing a tire in front of his car when the car was hit in the rear by a vehicle driven by Patricia J. Folds, 35, of 112 Paseo de Gracia.

The crash knocked Cardona's car forward and it in turn struck him. He suffered lacerations, a fractured hip and fractured left thigh, hospital officials said.

The Folds woman received minor hurts in the wreck. She was not held by authorities.

### City Joins Search for DMV Office

The City Council this week joined the search for a site to relocate the local office of the Department of Motor Vehicles at the request of Assemblyman Vincent Thomas.

The office, now located at 1317 Cravens Ave., is looking for larger quarters, preferably west of the downtown area, on a long-term lease basis. Several sites have been checked, but no firm offers to build a suitable building on the lease basis has been received, Thomas told City Manager Stevens by telephone from Sacramento.

Thomas also told the City Manager that Gov. Knight had agreed to make a decision in the next two weeks on Thomas' request for appointment of a Municipal Court judge for Torrance, establishment of Superior Court sessions here, and the school financing program advanced by Superintendent J. H. Hooper of the Torrance Unified School District.

Thomas hopes to have the three matters considered during the present session of the Legislature in Sacramento.

### Absentee Voter Ballots Ready On March 21st

Registered voters who will be out of the city on April 10 may make application in writing for absentee ballots to the City Clerk's office, Clerk A. H. Bartlett reminded yesterday. First day for making application will be March 21, last day is April 6.

Each person applying for an absentee ballot must sign for his own, Bartlett reminded. A man can not pick up a ballot for himself and his wife, he explained.

The ballots must be returned to the City Clerk's office by election day and are tallied by the City Council when the votes are canvassed.

### Drale Proposes Veteran Plaque In Civic Center

Placing of a bronze plaque in the new City Hall in commemoration of the Torrance men and women who have served in the armed forces was recommended to the Council here Tuesday night by Councilman Nick Drale.

Drale reminded the Councilmen that attempts to honor the veterans of World War II with the board in front of the Civic Auditorium and the list on the City Hall corridor had been unsatisfactory inasmuch as they were not complete.

He suggested, instead, a "bronze plaque to be placed in a position of honor in our new Civic Center, to indicate the gratitude, respect, and honor of the people of Torrance for its veterans of World War II and of all wars."

Drale also suggested that all of the artists of Torrance suggest designs for the plaque and that the work of one of the artists be the basic pattern for the insignia.

Councilman Willys Blount endorsed the proposal and the Council approved it unanimously.

### Boy's Ingenuity Proves Downfall In Explosion

A boy's ingenuity proved to be his downfall here Sunday.

Ernest Noel, 16, of 4515 Coliseum St., was taken to Harbor General Hospital for treatment suffered when a home-made bullet exploded.

He told officers this story: Taking a portion of hollow radio antenna from a car, he placed it in a vice. He then filled the tube with an explosive powder, rammed a dart made of a straight pin, cotton and glue into the tube, then touched a torch to it. Boom!

Police reported the youngster received wounds in the left hand and left leg from the explosion.



**ELKS CIRCUS STARS**... The "Rolling Robinsons," family featured recently on the Art Baker show, "You Asked for It," will be here tomorrow at the National Guard Armory as the Elks Club presents the Hills Bros. Circus. Performances will start at 4:30 and 8 p.m.