

Drale, Garra brant, Smith Win Support for Council

RECORDS OFFER HIGHEST DEGREE OF LEADERSHIP

An Editorial

The HERALD feels an obligation to its readers to help them decide upon the best candidate to elect to the Torrance City Council at the election next Tuesday, April 10.

After scanning their records in political and civic life, this newspaper selects three of 15 candidates for endorsement. This does not mean that other candidates are unworthy of endorsement or would not make good Councilmen. We simply feel that, in view of the critical period in the history of this growing community, the men we have decided to support offer assurance that the important business of this city will remain in competent hands.

The HERALD recommends:

Nickolas O. Drale, former mayor and Councilman seeking re-election. Drale has demonstrated a capacity to grow in public service and his experience is vitally needed at this time.

Walter A. Garrabrant, seeking public office for the first time. Quiet, unassuming and reliable, Garrabrant offers the character and quality that will be missed through Councilman Mervin M. Schwab's decision to retire.

Beverly B. Smith, long time resident of Torrance and former chairman of the Planning Commission. Smith has had long and varied experience in public life. His ability and experience are needed now.

We believe these three men can be relied upon to give Torrance safe and sane government. In this feeling, THE HERALD is not alone as Drale, Garrabrant, and Smith already have been given the support of hundreds of the most responsible men and women in the community who have only the welfare of Torrance at heart. The support given them is the kind of organization that has no selfish motives in view, something that cannot be said unreservedly for some other candidates.

THE HERALD believes a vote for Drale, Garrabrant, and Smith will be a vote for good government in Torrance. Vote next Tuesday!

Teachers' Pay Hit By Resident

Aside from regularly scheduled business, teachers' salaries were discussed at length when Jess W. Channon, of 1625 Date Ave., confronted the board of education at its regular meeting Tuesday night to plead for an increase in the minimum pay. Channon, a welder, contended that since the very essence of our entire economical and social program starts with proper schooling, teachers' salaries should be much higher than they are. A starting instructor in the Torrance Unified School District gets \$4100.

Charlton A. Mewborn, president of the board, pointed out that Torrance pays one of the top starting salaries in the state and was in accord with Channon that they should be paid more. The means of doing such was the problem.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. J. H. Hull disclosed that it is hoped teacher pay will be up to a minimum of \$5500 in about eight to 10 years. He told the board, Channon, and the handful of teachers and PTA members on hand that such a proposal is now being studied by both the state and the district.

Surprised, But Pleased

Board members expressed their surprise, but pleasure, in being confronted by Channon. One member said it was the first time in his four years of affiliation with the district that any citizen has ever spoke out for higher teacher salaries at a meeting.

The Work Experience Program, by which high school students can get on-the-job training in various types of selling, was approved unanimously by the board. It will go into effect soon, and will supplement classes in selling and merchandising at Torrance and North High Schools.

Audit Contract Awarded

Auditing contracts to audit district funds for the school year 1955-56 were awarded to Cotton & Francisco, which submitted a bid of \$1500.

In business concerning the current school building program in Torrance, the board accomplished the following:

Purchased 10 acres of land in the Kauffman-Wilson subdivision on Carson St. for a new school for \$104,308.97. The cost includes grading of the land.

Called for bids on the Edison Elementary School, with tentative awarding of the contract set for May 1.

Okayed calling for bids for site development of the new South High School.

Set Monday, April 9, 11:45 a.m., as the date and time for opening bids and awarding contract for new Meadow Park Elementary School.

Discussed three gymnasium plans for South High School.

Gunmen Rob Service Station

Two armed robbers pulled into the Gentle Bros. service station at 18200 Prairie Ave., Tuesday night at about 7:30 p.m. and got away with an estimated \$50 in cash, detectives have reported.

Sam Gentle, attendant, told authorities that the two drove in and asked for a dollar's worth of gas. After he had filled the order, he said, he asked the driver if he would like the oil checked. The gunman pulled out a .38 caliber Colt and said "Check this."

The victim then said the two asked for all the money. While he was getting the cash out of an island cash box, one of the robbers said, "give me your change, too."

Gentle reported the duo left in an easterly direction on 182nd St., following the holdup.

Sav-On Joins Blue-Ribbon Herald Family

The HERALD welcomes to its fast growing family of blue-ribbon advertisers Sav-On Drugs, whose first ad appears today on Page 17.

The self-service drug store, located at the corner of Crenshaw and Compton Blvds., is under the management of Lester Green.

Moose Elect Desmond

Daniel Desmond was elected governor of the Torrance Moose Lodge here Monday evening to succeed Stanley Heiman, governor, during the past year.

William W. Olson will serve as junior governor, Dave Harbison as prelate, Fred G. Lydy as treasurer, and Marvin P. MacArthur as trustee.

EMPLOYMENT OFFICE OPENS NEW QUARTERS AFTER FIRE

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

Torrance Herald

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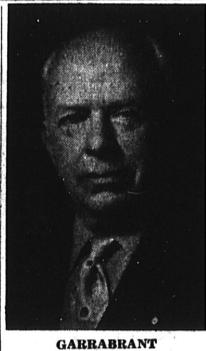
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36 PAGES



DRALE



GARRABRANT



SMITH

Early Morning Blaze Hits Torrance Office Building

Flames which swept through the State Employment office at Cravens and Gramercy early yesterday threatened thousands of employment records for a while and required about two hours to bring under control. But the records suffered only water damage and the office was scheduled to reopen this morning in temporary quarters at 1603 Cravens.

Members of the Torrance Fire Department under the command of Battalion Chief Gene Walker arrived at the office shortly after 5 a.m. yesterday in response to a call from Police Lieutenant Merwyn Porter, who spotted the burning building from the intersection of Gramercy and Cabrillo.

Fire in Roof

The fire, which apparently started near a forced-air heating unit at the rear of the building, had spread into the attic and forced firemen to open huge holes in the roof and ceiling of the building to reach the flames.

Damage to the balance of the building was confined to water damage.

John Doolittle, maintenance man at the building, had been eating breakfast in a nearby restaurant, and put in a call to employment officials when notified of the fire.

Owner Watches

On hand also to witness the battle against the blaze was Postmaster Clara Conner, owner of the building.

Before firemen had left the scene, hurried efforts were being made by state officials to acquire temporary quarters to house the employment operation during the period needed to rehabilitate the building.

Before noon, arrangements had been completed to use the former Prudential building at Cravens and Marcellina, recently purchased by Southwest Savings and Loan Assn. for a new office.

In the meantime, a temporary office was opened on the sidewalk in front of the building where Betty Dee and Suzanne Olivera explained the situation to the hundreds of persons appearing at the office for interviews, checks, and job referrals.

New Address Today

Fred Boren, employment service supervisor, said the office would operate on its regular Thursday schedule today.

Persons having appointments for certain hours today should keep them at the designated hour, he said. Persons whose appointments were for yesterday should be at the office today at the time scheduled, he added.

The office serves an area comprising Torrance, Lomita, Gardena, the beach cities, and neighboring County areas, according to Manager Winona Ellis. Efforts were being made yesterday afternoon to contact personnel in those areas who are served by the office.

Damage to the building was put at less than \$10,000 although much of the roof and ceiling were destroyed.



OPERATION MOP UP . . . Members of the Torrance Fire Department mop up after a \$10,000 fire at the State Employment office at 1628 Cravens early yesterday. The fire apparently started in a heater and had spread into the attic by the time firemen were called shortly after 5 a.m. The office is reopening this morning at 1603 Cravens.



TEMPORARY HEADQUARTERS . . . Manager Winona Ellis, left, confers with Betty Dee and Suzanne Olivera who had set up a desk on the sidewalk to handle inquiries about employment yesterday after their office had been condemned for fire damage.

Big Guns Aimed as Final Days of Campaigns Near

The 1956 edition of the city elections shapes up as a battle between two strong tickets plus a field of nine as the campaign enters its final days before next Tuesday's election. One candidate on the ballot, G. S. Evans, has withdrawn from the race and thrown his support behind one of the two tickets seeking election to the three seats at stake in the balloting.

Also before the city's 21,774 voters Tuesday will be nine proposed charter amendments which are explained in today's HERALD on Page 20. Only

Sample Ballot

A complete ballot which will be presented to voters at the polls Tuesday is reproduced today on Page 19 and has been marked by the HERALD with the recommendations of this newspaper. The election is a vital one—he sure to vote.

serious contest on the amendment proposals is No. 9 which would combine city and school elections. This has been opposed by the board of education, school officials, and other

leading citizens of the community.

Candidates appearing on the ballot which will be marked in the city's 110 polling places Tuesday include:

Victor E. Benstead Jr., incumbent.
Nickolas O. Drale, incumbent.
Frank Burk, furniture salesman.
George W. Downing, dispatch clerk.
G. S. Evans, retired (withdrawn).

Thomas R. Faren, student.
Frank Frohnhoefer, self-employed.
Walter A. Garrabrant, general contractor.
Robert B. Jahn, builder.
William E. King Jr., salesman.

Thelma Ledwidge, inventory specialist.
Gordon A. Lewis, welder.
Walter G. Ryan, machinist.
Beverly B. Smith, superintendent, services and supply.
James E. Thompson, surveyor's assistant.

Jack E. White, engineer.

Seeking election on a ticket sponsored by the Committee for Good Government are Drale, Garrabrant, and Smith. This trio has received the endorsement of many of the city's top civic leaders and businessmen and have been waging a vigorous campaign for election of all three.

The Isen Ticket

Opposing them as a ticket under the sponsorship of Mayor Albert Isen and the Home Owners' Association for Better Government, formed recently with Candidate Evans as president, are Benstead, Jahn, and King. Promising strong races under the "independent" label are White, Lewis, and Thompson.

Among the individual candidates, Jahn has won plaudits for his aggressive, area-wide campaigning. Although Jahn has the Isen faction backing him, on his own he has pushed doorbells and generally worked for election from the day he announced his candidacy.

Most of the others represent an unknown quantity, but could provide some "sleepers."

Biggest puzzle to the veteran political observers of the area are the thousands of new voters who will be casting their first ballots in a Torrance municipal election. The vast new areas developed in homes during the past two years, bringing to the city thousands of new residents, may hold the key to Tuesday's voting.

Big guns were being leveled at the voters this week in an all-out effort to woo the support for the various candidates at the polls Tuesday.

In a statement prepared by the public relations agency employed by the Benstead-Jahn-King ticket, Mayor Isen confirmed previously published stories that he was backing their candidacy for the three Council seats. He said he was supporting the ticket "in order to eliminate name-calling, bickering, back-biting, and personality arguments on the Council."

Opponents of the mayor have suggested different motives for his support—one, that he is seeking to maintain his position as mayor. The mayor may have other motives, too, some observers have indicated. A judgeship is coming up in the area and, as mayor, he might be in better position to maneuver appointment to the bench.

Waging a vigorous campaign in an effort to establish himself on the Council as the balance of power in the event that the tickets are split is White, a candidate twice before.

A dodger mailed to Torrance

Election Data For Tuesday

Here are some of the salient facts about next Tuesday's biennial municipal elections:

1. Polls open in 110 precincts from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. (See Page 30 for complete list of polling places.)
2. To be elected are three Councilmen to fill seats now held by Mervin M. Schwab, Victor E. Benstead Jr., and Nickolas O. Drale. Schwab is not a candidate for re-election.
3. To be voted on are nine charter amendment proposals. (See Page 20 for complete description.)
4. Bars and liquor stores in the city must remain closed between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. on election day.
5. Any qualified voter who is registered on or prior to Feb. 16, 1956, is eligible to vote.
6. The HERALD will maintain telephone service on election night and will provide latest election returns as they are received at the City Hall. For up-to-the-minute returns during the night, call FA 8-4000.

residents earlier this week by White supporters diagrammed a possible 2-2 split on the Council with White being the swingman. He is considered strong support in north Torrance, where he has been active for several years in civic enterprises.

Another strong candidate from the field is Thompson, former Torrance police officer, who has generated considerable support for his election. Although originally backed by the forces now backing the Benstead-Jahn-King ticket, he has been waging an independent campaign. He is well acquainted throughout much of the city. Lewis' return during the night, call FA 8-4000.

Conservatives Lead

Still conceded by many to be leading the field is the Drale-Garrabrant-Smith ticket, representing the solid, conservative elements of the city. These men, who represent many years of experience in private and public life, have received the endorsement of former Mayor Mervin Schwab, who is retiring from the Council this year. Drale has served eight years on the Council and Smith has served on the city's Planning Commission for seven years, six of those years as chairman. Garrabrant, a building contractor, has been described by supporters as a quiet, level-headed man who would make an ideal replacement for Schwab. These three candidates are being sponsored by the Committee for Good Government which is headed by former Councilman Ed Karrow, and whose supporters include many of the city's leading residents.

All the answers will be in late next Tuesday as the clerks and judges begin tallying the ballots cast during the day.

Polls will open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. in 110 locations throughout the city. (See Page 30 for complete list.)

Gas Station Burglarized In Lomita

A Lomita gas station, at 2477 Lomita Blvd., was burglarized Monday night with the suspects getting away with \$110 in spare plugs, it was reported to the Lennox sheriff's station.

The burglars entered the premises by smashing the front door window, deputies said. Nothing else was taken in the raid.

Franklin M. Owen, 43, of 2455 Pacific Coast Hwy., told deputies that someone entered his home recently and took a revolver, a jacket, and a suit coat. Authorities said Owen estimated value of the loss at \$61.

According to the report, the burglars entered the residence through an unlocked door.

In Speech Contest

Joan Vachalek, of Torrance High School, winner of the recent Lions' Club speech contest for local secondary students, will represent Torrance today in the regional speaking contest at El Camino College.