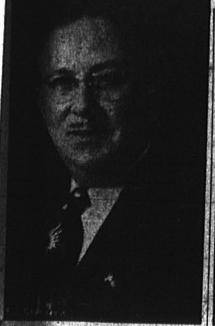


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TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, MAY 17, 1956



Joseph Arnold

A recent appointee to the Board of Education, Joseph Arnold, came to California and Torrance in 1948. He was appointed to fulfill the vacancy left by the resignation last fall of Dr. Rollin Smith. In a statement to The HERALD about his qualifications, Arnold said Monday that he has his qualifications for a seat on the board speak for themselves, since he was appointed to his present incumbent post by people he feels are closest to education in Torrance—the board itself. He is a purchasing agent for the Chicago Bridge and Iron Works here. He has had 25 years' experience in construction work, a factor he feels will aid the district in its future building plans. Arnold is a native of Winfield, Kan., where he was educated in local schools. He owned his own garage and worked in Oklahoma and Texas oil fields before joining Chicago Bridge and Iron, in Chicago. A former director for the Torrance YMCA, he also is a Rotarian, having recently completed a long record of perfect attendance with the Torrance club. He also has been a director of the Torrance Industrial Management Club. Arnold is married and has a daughter. He lives at 1651 Post Ave.



Darwin Parrish

Darwin Parrish, who was appointed to the Board of Education in December, 1954, to fill the vacancy left by the death of Carl D. Steele, is running for his first elected term. Owner of Parrish Stationers, Parrish lives at 405 Via Linda Vista. He was one of nine persons under consideration by the board for the 1954 appointment. His appointment was unanimous at that time. Parrish has been in the stationery store business here for some time. He owns and operates his own store. He was formerly chairman of Torrance's Recreation and Parks Commission. He is a member of the Chamber of Commerce and the Kiwanis Club. There was some confusion after Parrish's appointment in 1954, as to whether he was to be up for re-election in that year, or serve out the term of the late board member, Steele, which was to continue until 1956. Los Angeles County Council Harold Kennedy ruled in February, 1954, that Parrish was to serve out Steele's term. Parrish is one of three incumbents seeking re-election in tomorrow's balloting for board posts.



Grace Wright

Mrs. Grace Wright, incumbent, said this week she believes the present members of the Board of Education are working together harmoniously, a factor, she added, that is highly important to Torrance parents during the next two years. Because of the tremendous building program planned by school officials and the fact the board, with the approval of Torrance voters, will ask the state for building funds this fall, she continues, this harmony takes on added importance. Mrs. Wright is seeking her fourth term on the Board of Education. She is the lone hold-over from the first Torrance Board of Education, which was formed in 1948 after local schools broke away from the Los Angeles city school system. A resident of the city since 1912, she was one of the leaders in the campaign by Torrance to form a separate school district. This was accomplished in 1947. She has been an active member of the Torrance Educational Advisory Committee and various PTA groups in addition to her service on the board. A graduate of UCLA, Mrs. Wright taught elementary school after finishing her college course. She also has taught in private schools and at night school. She is a member of the Order of Eastern Star and has been actively engaged in work with Girl Scout groups. Mrs. Wright lives at 1632 El Prado St. She is the mother of two daughters, Marcia and Judy, both of whom were graduated from Torrance High School.



Cecil Alter

A native of Indiana, Cecil E. Alter has been a resident of Torrance for three years, during which time he has worked as a real estate salesman. He is vice president of Alter Realty and is the manager of two of the firm's branch offices, one at 21670 S. Western Ave., the other at his home, 2220 Arlington Ave. Alter said a growing interest in the educational problems prompted his move in filing for tomorrow's Board of Education election. His two children, Barbara 14, and Patsy, 12, students at the Torrance Elementary School, add to his interest in local schools, he said in a statement to The HERALD. Alter is a newcomer to this business of running for public office. He formerly was a construction man and in the real estate business in Rensselaer, Ind. He was schooled in that city, too. He added in his statement to The HERALD that his interests lie primarily in the field of education, but he also is an avid sports fan. Alter is a member of the Torrance Masonic Lodge, 447, and also the Torrance-Lomita Board of Realtors.



W. C. Boswell

William E. Boswell, of 2842 Onrado, favors more stress on the art of communication in our public schools, he told The HERALD this week. Boswell is chief of the publications section of North American Aviation and has had opportunities through the years to note deficiencies in writing, spelling, and reading among high school graduates. Boswell has been a resident of Torrance for the past 10 years and has been with North American for 18 years. He was a founding member of Accent Theatre and has been a member of the Torrance YMCA and the PTA. He has been on the advisory committee for the Los Angeles Trade-Technical School for technical writing classes and was recently named to such a committee at El Camino where plans have been developed to introduce technical writing courses at the college. "I favor six-to-four division of classes," he said, indicating that consideration should still be given to establishing a junior high school system here. On other phases of school administration, he favors an expansion of mechanical arts training and he said from the evidence available to him, it appears that the district has no choice but to enter the State Aid program. His wife, Mary, is moderator of the Torrance Educational Advisory Committee, and a member of the city's Recreation Commission.



Don Brunet

A machine shop instructor in the Los Angeles School District for the past seven years, Don Brunet, 35, a resident of 101 Via Monte D'Oro, is seeking election to the Board of Education because he would like to see the schools enter a closer relationship with the industries of the Torrance area in the matter of vocational training. Brunet was a foreman at the former Joshua Hendry plant here, now occupied by National Electric Products Co., and is now teaching machine shop in San Pedro schools where he has been located for seven years. The Hollywood Riviera resident is closely tied to schools, having one child in UCLA, two in Torrance High School, and two more in Newton Elementary School. He has been a resident of Torrance for about one year now, but lived here previously. He has lived in the area for 35 years. "I would favor giving teachers a decent living salary within the financial abilities of the district," Brunet said. He voices a disfavor of the "point system" raises whereby teachers are given raises based on credits accumulated at a university. "This often keeps a teacher from giving his best to a district during the time he is going to school to get credits which will enable him to receive more money," Brunet said. Brunet favors entering the State Aid program as being the only alternative available in financing the tremendous building program in Torrance.



N. Carpenter

A former teacher, Nancy Carpenter has lived in Torrance at 1014 Kornblum Ave. for the past five years. Prior to moving here, she and her family lived in San Pedro. "I have the time to spend on it," was Mrs. Carpenter's summation of why she decided to run for the Board of Education. She continued her statement to The HERALD by saying serving on the board would constitute the only civic duty which coincides with something in which she is interested. She was born in Arkansas and lived in Kansas and Colorado before coming to California in 1945. During the second world war she was a radio operator for an airline company, and also worked in a defense plant. Mrs. Carpenter also is a Gray Lady and spends some time working in the Fort MacArthur Army Hospital. Her husband, Phillip, is a technical writer. He supplies background commentary for motion pictures at Northrop Aircraft. The couple has two children, both of whom attend Madrona School. Her family has given her encouragement and backing in her quest for a seat on the Board of Education, she said in her interview.



Donald Cortum

"The board of education should exercise more control over the educational policies of the schools," Donald G. Cortum, D.O., told The HERALD yesterday. Dr. Cortum is seeking election to the board of education tomorrow, one of the 15 candidates who will be on the school ballot. The board needs to do more than just worry about buildings, Dr. Cortum said. The needs for basic education should be emphasized, the Hollywood Riviera physician said. Dr. Cortum, whose offices are in Redondo Beach, lives with his family at 333 Calle de Andalucia, and will have one of his three children in school this fall. He has been a resident of California since 1937 and attended Compton High School and Junior College. He took his bachelor's degree at SC, and got his medical training at the College of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons in Los Angeles. He served a year at Los Angeles County General Hospital and interned at Magnolia Hospital in Long Beach. He served in the Army for three years. On the question of State Aid, Dr. Cortum said it was apparent that the district had exhausted all other available sources for keeping up with the tremendous building program required here. He believes the district should enter the program to bring school housing up to date.



Clyde Haslet

Clyde Haslet, 4915 Milne Dr., has lived in Torrance for five years. A native of Pennsylvania, he is an accountant with the Hughes Aircraft Co. Haslet says the most critical problem facing local schools is the continued growth of the pupil population. He said in a statement Tuesday that he feels he can be of help to the Board of Education in solving the crowded schools problem. A graduate of the University of Pittsburgh, Haslet also did graduate study at Western Reserve University in Cleveland, O. He served three years in the Army during World War II. Haslet worked for the National Tube Co. in Pittsburgh before the second world war, then was employed by Dresser Industries in Cleveland after his service tour. He was transferred to Torrance in 1951 by the Dresser Co. and remained with the local firm until it closed in 1953. He is a member of the National Association of Cost Accountants. He also formerly was affiliated with the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce and the National Association of Credit Managers. Haslet is a trustee of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church of Redondo. He and his wife, Mary Ann, are the parents of two boys, Thomas, 7, and David, 4.



John K. Kesson

John K. Kesson came out in favor of "any means" for getting Torrance school children off their current heavy double session schedule in a statement to The HERALD this week. He added that the present Board of Education set-up does not include a member from the north Torrance area and he believes such representation is desirable if the city's schools are to be served with the best interests. Kesson, a resident of Torrance since 1955, is president of the North Torrance Civic Improvement Assn. He has lived in the north Torrance area for about 15 years. An oil producer, he is owner of the Kesson-Snyder Oil Co. He has been in the oil business all his life. Kesson was born in Denver, Colo., but moved to Southern California at an early age. He was schooled in Los Angeles, attending Polytechnic High School there. He also attended business school in Los Angeles. Kesson also is a member of the new North Torrance Lions Club, and is director of Red Cross activities in that area. He is the father of two children. His daughter, Gloria Noble, is vice principal at the Barstow Elementary School, in Barstow, while a son, Kenneth, is a teacher in Carpinteria. He and his wife, Raona, live at 2015 W. 152nd St.



T. Ledwidge

A past president of the Seaside Heights Woman's Club, Thelma C. Ledwidge is employed by a Hermosa Beach automobile agency where she has worked for two years as an inventory controller. Mrs. Ledwidge was born in Los Angeles, but has lived in Torrance for the past five years. Her hobbies include directing for the Hampton Players, a little theater group. She also has been engaged in many of the Hampton Players' presentations as an actress. She has had considerable experience in working with Boy Scout, Girl Scout, and Brownie groups. She was co-captain of a Girl Scout Mariner Ship in South Gate at one time. In addition to carrying on a career at work and in the theater, Mrs. Ledwidge finds time to carry on a housewife's duties. She and her husband, Robert J. Ledwidge, have two children, Levene, 15, a junior at Torrance High School, and Gary, 15, a freshman at North High School. She was an unsuccessful candidate for a seat on the Torrance City Council in the April election here. The Ledwidge family resides at 5124 Macatee Rd.



Warren Low

Dr. Warren Harvard Low, an optometrist with offices in Lomita, says he believes strongly in the three R's and a basic education coupled with a thorough grounding in scientific and technological training to prepare our students for the ever increasing demands of the current day. Dr. Low is a graduate of Stanford University where he received his bachelor of science and masters degrees. He received his doctor's degree in optometry at the College of Optometry at the University of Southern California. He is a member of the Torrance American Legion, secretary of the Torrance Toastmasters, and member of Elks Club, Masonic Lodge, on board of directors of Stanford Alumni Assn. and is active in the Lions Club. He is a lieutenant in the U. S. Naval Reserve. He served in both World War II and in the Korean War. He has been awarded the China Service Medal, World War II Victory Medal, Philippine Liberation Medal, European Theater Medal, Asiatic-Pacific American Area, and Korean Ribbons. "I would like to see a gradual transition from the two half-day sessions to a more comprehensive full day of education for our future citizens of tomorrow," Dr. Low says. Dr. Low specializes in contact lenses and visual training for children to strengthen their eyes in his practice.



Clair Olsen

Clair Olsen, of 1208 Cordary, is among the 15 candidates for the Board of Education election tomorrow because a number of friends have asked him to run because of his views, he told The HERALD yesterday. An employee of Columbia Steel for 22 years, and a weighmaster there for the past two years, Olsen has been active in civic affairs in the city during his residence here. For the past four years he has been a member of the city's Recreation Commission, and is a member of the Masonic Lodge, 447, and its Aeacia Club. "Torrance is rated tops in education," he said, "but even the best can be improved." Olsen expressed favor for the fundamentals of education with emphasis on the three R's. It is definitely something to fight for, he said. The Olsens have one son now in the Navy and 12-year-old twins, Donald and Deanna, who are seventh graders at Madrona Elementary School. Olsen is a graduate of Long Beach Poly, and attended SC for two years and LaSalle University in Chicago for two years, studying traffic management in both schools. State aid to assist Torrance in bridging the gap between population growth and school building construction would be good if it can be determined that it will not threaten the self-reliance of the school district. Olsen said. Like many other issues, the pros and cons should be investigated, he said.



Howard Percy

"I don't think the board of education is doing the job it should be doing on its relationships between the parent and the schools," Howard Percy, one of the 15 candidates for the board of education election here tomorrow, said. Percy listed an improvement of that relationship, an improved driver training program, and increased salary schedule for coaches as his major platform plans. "I am also concerned that the board seems to be in the background and not assuming the leadership it should," Percy said. He added that he thought the schools had good administrators, but that the board should assert itself more on policy matters. Percy attended public schools in Portland and spent two years at the University of Oregon where he majored in journalism and advertising publicity. During World War II he was assigned to a B-24 crew as radio-gunner and flew 53 missions over Germany. He was employed as a test engineer for Consolidated Steel before entering the real estate profession. Percy is past president of the Juror Chamber of Commerce and the Torrance-Lomita Board of Realtors. He was state vice president of the California Jaycees, coached Little League baseball, and is a senior ward at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church at St.



Eleanor Thill

"We are missing the boat, educationally, on many things that don't cost money," Eleanor Thill, Walteria optometrist, said yesterday. Dr. Thill, a candidate for election to the Board of Education tomorrow, said in a statement that she would like to see more use of their talents, can be generated by proper guidance. Dr. Thill received her professional training at the Los Angeles College of Optometry and is associated with her husband in optometry in their new Walteria office. Her husband is continuing his studies toward a medical education. The Thills have two children in Walteria Elementary School. "This is the first time I have felt free to do something like this," Dr. Thill says. "When you belong to a community, you should be willing to share the responsibilities it involves," she asserted. One thing Dr. Thill favors is the encouragement of more competition among students. She would like to see more scholarships offered, and more competitions, "even if it means merely giving the winners a medal or certificate." The candidate has lived in Torrance for about six years and lived in Lomita for a year prior to that. On the matter of State Aid for the city's building program, Dr. Thill said she had been convinced that it seemed to be the only possible solution to the problems presented.

TEAC Advised On State Aid At Meeting

A detailed explanation of the application for a state loan to aid in school construction here was given members of the Torrance Educational Advisory Committee Monday at their regular monthly meeting at the YWCA. Sam Waldrip, assistant school superintendent for business, told the committee members of the plan, which hopes to bring about \$8 million to the district building funds. The administration of the district recently submitted the loan proposal to the Board of Education and the board quickly passed a resolution calling for preparation of the application for aid. A special election will be held this fall to see if the proposal will get the approval stamp of local residents. In other business, the group voted to amend its by-laws, by separating the office of secretary-treasurer. Mrs. Kenneth McVey will continue as secretary, while Mrs. William Crocker was appointed the new treasurer. Primary students of the Walteria School staged a demonstration of rhythm instruments as the educational presentation. Next meeting of the group is set for June 11. REPUBLICANS GROUP ELECTS OFFICERS Newly elected officers of Republican Unity named at their April meeting, include Tom Conroy, president; William Buchanan, first vice president; Chester A. Brown, second vice president; Dana B. Morrison, treasurer, and Mrs. J. R. Hill, secretary. A resolution was passed at this meeting endorsing Enoch H. Gibbons, candidate for the 26th Congressional District. Speaking before the group at its monthly May meeting, held Wednesday evening, were Charles Franklin, Republican candidate for Congress; Tom Brewer, candidate in the 58th Assembly District, and Richard Tretaway, candidate for the 67th Assembly District.