

# Race for Mayor at Even Odds, Many Observers Say

The odds are even, experienced political observers of the area were saying yesterday as the race for mayor and three seats on the city council entered the final phase of the campaign. The city will go to the polls Tuesday.

Highlighting the 1958 campaign has been the race for the city's top elective post—that of mayor. This is the first time that the voters have had a chance to select their own mayor at the polls.

Although early campaign predictions had Albert Isen winning the race, these same

observers are not so sure now—in fact, many of them are ready to give Nick Drake the edge in the hottest election contest in Torrance for many years.

Even Isen, who was predicting that he would win "in a landslide" a few weeks ago, is

guarding such statements a little closer now, according to those who have attended his recent meetings.

One thing is certain—the man who wins the office won't get there because his opponent didn't work hard to beat him. All bets are off in the council race except for Incumbent Willys Blount. He is conceded a victory at the polls Tuesday when he comes up for his third term as a city councilman.

Beyond that the odds are even—stephen among half a dozen candidates. Included in

this grouping are George Bradford, J. A. Beasley, Virgil Hancock, Thirvin Fleetwood, and George Vico. Others in the race may be surprise stretch-runners, and talk of several groups "single-shotting" (voting for only one instead of

three) a candidate has been reported.

In all events, the final answer will be in by late Tuesday or early Wednesday. The 152 polling places in the city will be opened at 7 a. m. for the earlybirds, and all will remain open until 7 p. m. Count-

ing of ballots will begin at the close of the polls at 7 p. m. and the results will be sent to the city clerk's office at the city hall as soon as available.

Complete returns will be published in The HERALD next Thursday.

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## Torrance Herald

OFFICE AND PLANT AT 1619 GRAMERCY AVE., TORRANCE

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, APRIL 3, 1958

For Torrance Political  
Scene Coverage  
See Editorial Page  
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### A Penny for your Thoughts

As the Russians halted nuclear tests and San Francisco had "radioactive rain," the HERALD's inquiring photographer asked:

"What do you believe the United States' position on testing nuclear weapons should be in the light of recent developments?"

Robert L. Rasmussen, 1328 Amapola Ave., medical technician:

"I'm a firm believer that they should be stopped. I do not believe in a nuclear tests. As a lab technician, I know that the fallout is harmful—particularly to future generations. Leading physicists say stop, but the military goes right on."

Mrs. Elmer Lancaster, 175 W. Jay St., housewife:

"I don't really approve of the tests, but they seem to be the only way they can find out about the bombs. They've got to make the tests."

Milford Lein, 17004 Ardath Ave., newspaperman:

"They should keep on testing. I don't trust the Russians myself. I doubt if there is very much danger from testing of nuclear weapons."

Mrs. E. Rose, 1415 W. 22nd St., housewife:

"I don't believe the tests are harmful. If it was dangerous, surely they would tell us. The tests are necessary, for we can't trust the Russians."

Sydney Barron, Los Angeles, salesman:

"I think they should be a military secret. The information should not be given to the public. They should definitely continue. It's hard to believe what the Russians say, because they only give out what will serve their purposes and confuse everybody."

Bertha Johnson, 1326½ W. Carson St., restaurant manager:

"I think the tests are fine. We should continue them. There must not be too much danger from the tests or we wouldn't be continuing them."



A HONEY OF A BUNNY... Sharon Smith, Miss Chamber of Commerce, plays Easter bunny, hiding eggs and other goodies for children in preparation for an egg hunt which will be held Saturday in El Prado Park at 11 a. m. There will be many prizes for the small egg hunters. (Herald)

### Busy Rabbit To Hide Eggs In Park Here

The Torrance Recreation Department is in good with a certain bushy-tailed creature who makes his presence known by hiding eggs and other prizes in out-of-the-way places. The following information is straight from the bunny's mouth.

At 11 a. m. Saturday children of this area will be turned loose in El Prado Park to seek well-concealed prizes. The children will be divided into three groups: 6 and under, 7 through 9, and 10- and 11-year-olds. Two large prize baskets will be awarded in each division, plus other prizes, and chocolate Easter eggs.

Dave Jones, the bunny's helper, will be in charge of the event which is co-sponsored by the Torrance Adult Club, chartered group of the Recreation Department and the Torrance Retail Merchants' Division of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce.

### Thirty Callers Try to Lease One Small House

Almost 30 inquiries—and a good tenant found! That was the first-day experience of Mrs. O. R. Balcom, of 26001 Eshelman, after placing a "For Rent" ad in The HERALD classified section last week.

"The phone started ringing early Thursday and continued to ring all day," Mrs. Balcom said. "I must have had 30 inquiries. I found a good tenant in the third person who called."

Mrs. Balcom's ad read: "\$55—SMALL house. Large yard, fruit trees, berries. Trash and water paid. DA 0-000."

Her story is only one of the many resulting from replacing a Want Ad in The HERALD.

If you have something to sell, rent or trade, why don't you place a Want Ad in The HERALD right now? Just phone FA 8-4000.

### Blount Leads Protest On 'Sex' Movie

The city council this week joined in a protest voiced by Councilman Willys G. Blount over the showing of a "sex-hygiene drama" at a local drive-in theater. The council formally backed the protest by giving unanimous approval to a resolution introduced by Blount deploring the "exhibition and advertising of entertainment which is of questionable decency."

The resolution urged managers of local theaters and other entertainment media of the area to present only material of "unquestioned decency as measured by the standards of this community."

### Burglars Hit Airways Firm

Burglars hit Vegas Airways office, at 2751 Pacific Coast Hwy., Tuesday, according to Torrance police, and escaped with two typewriters and \$2.50 in coffee money.

Officers also reported the building had been ransacked and rugs lifted and pictures moved in an attempt to find the safe.

### Mayor Candidates Make Final Bids

#### Nick Drake

Councilman Nick Drake entered the final days of his campaign to regain the mayor's seat in Torrance yesterday with a statement directed to "the hundreds of unselfish men and women of Torrance who have contributed their time and their efforts in behalf of my candidacy."

Thanking them for the assistance in his campaign, Drake said he had conducted the best kind of campaign "that we know how. We are confident of victory."

"We have set forth our aims, beliefs and the principles that mark our political way of life," Drake said.

"As long as the citizens of this great land take the time and interest from their busy

# Kidnapping Reports Put Down as 'Hoax'

## Unfunny Joke, Police Claim

A possible kidnapping and armed robbery reported at the noon hour on a busy Torrance street, currently is being termed an unfunny "April Fool's Day" joke.

Torrance police said there was little evidence to support the two charges as no missing person's report has been filed on the kidnap victim and witnesses statements differed in great detail.

Eye witnesses to the escape Tuesday at El Prado and Sartori Ave., gave varying descriptions of the two men involved and their getaway car.

According to bystanders, two men forced a girl, about 18 years old, into their car after firing a couple of shots from a small gun.

The car, described as a new/old, Chevrolet/Ford, sped away and eluded road blocks set up by officers who were hampered by the lack of accurate information.

All available cars of the local police department were rushed into the downtown area when the report of the kidnapping was phoned to police headquarters by a secretary in a downtown office. Police checked out a number of cars matching the descriptions of the ones allegedly involved, but could find no evidence of foul play.

### Torrance Election Data

Date: April 8, 1958.  
Polls Open: 7 a. m. to 7 p. m.

Who can vote: All residents of the city of Torrance who were registered on or before Feb. 13, 1958.

Offices at stake:  
MAYOR (Elect one)  
COUNCIL (Elect Three)  
CITY CLERK (Elect one)  
CITY TREASURER (Elect one)

Other proposals: A \$3 million park bond issue to improve park sites and acquire new park sites.

Vote, April 8, 7 a. m. to 7 p. m.

### Sudden Death Of Mother of Four Probed

Local detectives today are investigating the death of a Wilmington mother of four children who died Monday as the result of a cardiac condition and an abortion.

County coroner's office yesterday informed Torrance police that the death of Mrs. Priscilla Young, 37, was caused by a combination of the two conditions.

Mrs. Young, a divorcee, died at the home of a friend, Mrs. Mary Strong, 56, of 2216 W. 236th Pl.

Mrs. Strong, a retired practical nurse, told investigating officers that Mrs. Young phoned her Sunday evening and wanted to spend the night at her home.

The two women retired late

### Southwood Seeks Lights

Petitions seeking street lighting for the 2700 homes in the Southwood area are now being circulated by members of the Southwood Homeowners' Assn.

Passing of the petitions followed a survey made of some of 500 homeowners. Sixty per cent of the homeowners must sign. Under the proposal, an assessment would be added to the property taxes over a three-year period. Under this plan, the ornamental steel poles would cost \$1.05 per month.

Fifty persons now are circulating the petitions, which must be completed by April 15 to qualify in the first 1958 lighting district. Chairman John Brady was hopeful that they could be completed by the next homeowners' meeting at Anza School on April 9.

The association's police protection committee found that about one-quarter of the homes had been bothered with prowlers, petty thefts, peeping toms, and other crimes. According to information received from other areas, petty crimes were reduced up to 90 per cent by the installation of street lights.

### Rivets Reports

Cool and cloudy weather, with more showers, is in prospect for today, according to Rivets, HERALD weather dog. An additional 1.27 inches fell this week, bringing the season total up to 19.77 inches.

High and low temperatures this week included Sunday (65-45); Monday (69-50); Tuesday (63-50), and Wednesday (64-45).



CHECK COURT SITE... Judge Donald Armstrong, newest judge of the South Bay Court District, tests ground with shovel on the new Torrance site for the municipal court building while Judge John A. Shidler (left), Chief Clerk Ernest Stout, and Judge Otto B. Willett (right) look on. Construction will take about one year. (Herald Photo)

### Citizens' Group Studying Schools, to Make Report

A Science Education Council to obtain information on how Torrance schools are doing has been formed by a group of local residents.

A group which has grown to about 30 has been holding Tuesday night meetings to discuss possible improvements in the schools, according to Membership Chairman Richard Dodge, 304 Via el Chico.

Robert Youngkin, 4906 Via el Sereno, is chairman of the

group, with David Thayer, 4914 Via el Sereno, acting as secretary.

Improvement Sought  
"We are interested in getting students ahead faster," Dodge said. "We think improvement is needed in certain areas. We need people with scientific training. We don't feel that enough improvements have been made along this line."

"Our studies seem to indicate that the system in Torrance tends to make everybody average. Every opportunity is extended the people who aren't doing so well, but there are few incentives for excelling in scholastic work."

His group does not want to make trouble, but to help the schools improve, Dodge said. Nobody would be served by a fight, he declared.

Survey Made  
The group is making a survey of education both here and in other districts, both in Southern California and throughout the country. It plans to make a report of its findings.

"We hope some of these will be accepted," Dodge said. "We

feel pretty strongly about them. We don't want to make an issue out of it, but if it came to that, we would like to plan to ask the candidates for the school board how they feel on the issues."

There findings to date have been that the Torrance schools are "better than some and not so good as others," he reported. As far as the administration of tax money has been concerned, the group believes that the present school board and Dr. J. H. Hull, superintendent of schools, have done an excellent job.

As Good As Best  
"We want our schools to be as good as the best," Dodge said.

The group now consists mainly of engineers, scientists, and other technical persons, although members from other professions are being sought, Dodge reported.

At its Tuesday night meeting, the School Board received copies of information which was given to the citizens group in answer to 62 questions posed by its members. Most of the questions were concerned with teaching of science, college preparatory work, and training for top students.

Superintendent Hull said that the present elementary school program for top students was based on the philosophy that each child should be taken at his development level and pushed to learn as much as he can.

Development Sought  
The high school program involves attempts to develop the

(Continued on Page 2)



HEADS FLOAT DRIVE... George A. Bradford, who headed the successful campaign to put a float in the 1958 Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena, has been named by Chamber of Commerce President O. R. Trueblood to head up the committee again for 1959.

Other members include John Ebbinghouse, band, and Mrs. Victor E. Benstead, decorations.

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