

PTA President James Miller Airs Views on School Board Candidacy

James R. Miller is running for one of the three vacancies on the Torrance Board of Education to be decided at the election of April 18th. He has resided in Torrance for the past seven years. As the father of six, he has had as many as five children, and never less than four, in the schools of Torrance — the elementary years at Seaside, the secondary years at South High.



JAMES R. MILLER
Discusses Platform

He presently is a director of the Kiwanis Club of Paramount, served as secretary of the Torrance American Little League last year, was membership chairman for Cub Scouts (having been Cubmaster in Santa Monica several years earlier), has been a member of the Torrance Educational Advisory Council for two years, and is currently serving his second year as president of the Seaside PTA, in which he has been active for several years. He has aided many fund-raising campaigns. The Millers are members of St. Francis Episcopal Church.

Miller was born in Pennsylvania and was educated in public and private school of New York and Pennsylvania. He did his undergraduate work at the John Hopkins University and his graduate work at Harvard. He came to the Los Angeles area in 1938 and has been in the industrial relations field ever since, first with Warner Brothers, then with Douglas Aircraft (in Torrance), and then with Columbia Pictures. He is presently employee relations manager for Anaconda American Brass Co.'s Los Angeles Division in Paramount.

DURING WORLD War II he was assigned to the Air Force First Motion Picture Unit, which made training films for that branch. He was honorably discharged as a Master Sergeant in 1945.

Upon his return to his civilian job, he took a refresher course at Cal Tech in personnel management. At the present time he is an industry member of the advisory committee of Compton College's School of Industrial Mechanical Engineering.

"UNLIKE MOST of the other candidates, I have been practicing a real interest in education for the past several years. I have always felt that as a parent I have an obligation to my offspring to see that they get the best possible education. As a personnel man who recruits talent with advanced degrees and hires workers with limited skills, the need for further education and training has been most apparent to me. The need for technicians is great. While the untrained continue unemployed, industry in Southern California has literally thousands of vacancies for people with certain skills. "We should do as much as we can to see that the young people of Torrance who do not go on to a four-year college have an opportunity in high school and junior college to equip themselves for these jobs. If elected to the Board of Education, I believe I could help to encourage the development for a formidable curriculum to prepare a major portion of our young people for de-

sirable positions. One of the facets of my job ranges from selecting courses that will develop managerial talent to those that will improve the skills of other workers," he said.

MILLER BELIEVES that the District has the potential to be one of the nation's best. He believes that his own children have been well instructed; those with the greater desire to learn have received better grades than those in whom the motivation was lacking. Having been associated with large companies, he is able to appreciate that only good planning can account for the fact that the school system has been expanded to provide for the explosion in population in Torrance with a minimum of double sessions. He also recognizes the fact that no school system is perfect; and he is convinced that the following platform would help to get the proper results and that the results are of the utmost importance inasmuch as they will affect our young people's entire lives:

1. Analyze and evaluate the recommendations made by the local citizens committee.
2. Institute a continuing cost reduction program as all multi-million-dollar corporations have been doing for years.
3. Evaluate objectively all innovations in the field of education and install only the best so that the system does not stagnate.

4. **PROMOTE** in the child a love for our country and an appreciation of the fact that ours is a land of opportunity for all.

5. Put more emphasis on the basic skills in the study of the English language through the Sixth Grade and to composition from that grade on. (Communications become more important daily.)

6. Explore the possibility of introducing the study of Latin grammar in the Seventh Grade and the elements of the Romance Languages in the Eighth Grade as has been done for many years in our eastern states.

7. Develop standards for grading pupils in the secondary schools so that all teachers of the same subject are using the same system; eliminate the "hard" and "easy" markers. (Studies could be made of the device used for so many years (Continued on Page 29)

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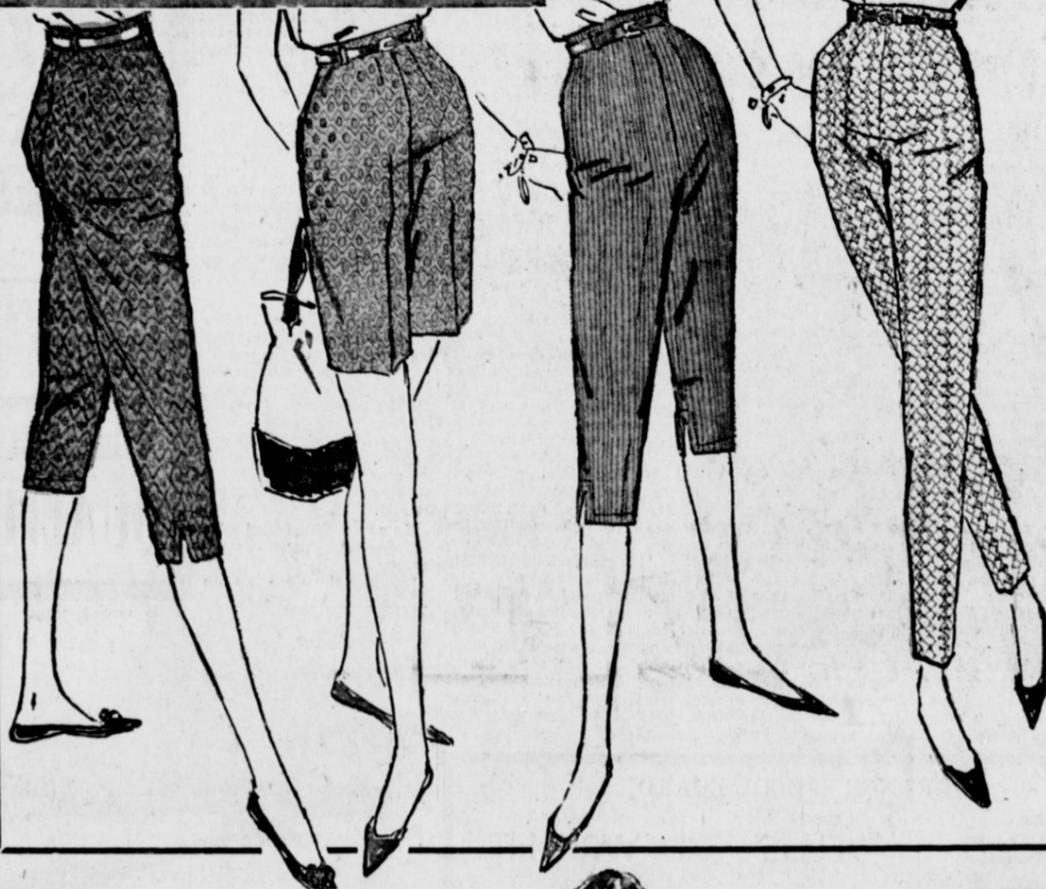
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