

16 Candidates Seeking Election to City Council

Thumbnail sketches and statements of principle are herewith published to give HERALD readers a quick glance at the 16 candidates seeking election to the Torrance city council next April 12.

Included in the slate of nominees are incumbents Victor Benstead, Nick Drale, and Bob Jahn, and a field of 13 challengers.

Victor E. Benstead

Seeking election to his third term as a councilman is Victor E. Benstead Jr., a resident of Torrance since 1921 and of this area for most of his life. "If elected I am willing to serve my city for an additional four years, and in so doing to represent all of our people — the home-owner, industry, and the businessman — with equal impartiality," he said. "As a city councilman since 1952, my first thought has been to represent the home-owners of the city in their many problems," he added. DURING HIS eight years on the city council, Benstead has served as chairman of the police and fire commission, and is a member of the council's parks and recreation committee. "For six years, I have served as chairman of the police and



VICTOR E. BENSTEAD JR.

fire commission on the council, and have become very aware of the extreme need for more police and fire protection," he said.

THE NEED FOR additional fire stations, particularly in the west section of the city, was cited by Benstead.

He and his wife live at 1821 Beech Ave., their home for many years. They have two daughters, both born here, and two grandchildren, also born here.

Nickolas O. Drale

Nickolas O. "Nick" Drale, member of the Torrance city council since 1948 and mayor for one year, is seeking election to his fourth term this year.

Drale, the dean of city councilmen, said he is aware of the many problems of the city and realizes the importance of sound, economical planning for the city's future.

"My 12 years on the Torrance city council is my platform," Drale told the HERALD.

"IN THE MANY problems which arise daily, our planning must combine business and industry with residential growth in the proper proportions for the city's best hope of a prosperous future," he said.

"I have always maintained that a councilman's first responsibility is to the public — the taxpayers — and I've always insisted on public participation on matters pertaining to the city's growth and development," he said.

DRALE WAS employed at the Columbia-Geneva Division of U.S. Steel here and its pre-



NICKOLAS O. DRALE

decessor, the Columbia Steel Co., for 20 years before opening his own real estate offices five years ago.

Drale and his wife, Frances, live in North Torrance where his son, Stephen, is a student at North High, and a daughter, Pat, at Carr Elementary School. Another son, Michael, is employed at Ryan Aeronautical Co. here.

Drale, a member of a pioneer Torrance family, has lived here since he was a young man.

Robert B. Jahn

"Having served four years on the city council, I feel I have gained a great deal of experience in the entire program of city government and can give the citizens the most and best service," Councilman Robert B. Jahn said in asking for support of his re-election to a second term.



ROBERT B. JAHN

A resident of 240 Via La Circula in the Hollywood Riviera section of Torrance, the councilman has been a leader in that community for many years and was an officer in the Hollywood Riviera Homeowners Assn.

JAHN IS A native of Illinois and has been in Los Angeles since 1942. He served in World War II as an Air Force engineer gunner on B-17 bombers in England and in the European Theater.

After the war, Jahn returned to his studies and took engineering courses at Pepperdine College and SC night school, later joining the Los Angeles County's building and safety department as an inspector, and studying law at night.

HE MOVED to Torrance in 1951 and the following year organized his own general contracting business.

He has served as post commander, district commander, and on several national commissions of the American Legion, is a member of the Redondo Beach Lodge of BPOE, and of the Torrance Lions Club.

During his term as a councilman, he has served on the airport committee, transportation, sanitation, traffic, and police and fire committees.

Paul Albright Jr.

Paul R. Albright Jr., 23313 Pennsylvania Ave. employed by an oil company for the past 14 years as a roustabout, well puller, and pumper, is seeking election to the city council to "speed up various needs of a city of more than one hundred thousand which I now feel the present administration is failing to do."

A resident of Torrance for nine years, Albright has been active in various civic affairs of the community, including



PAUL ALBRIGHT JR.

Boy Scouts, civil defense, Torrance Masonic Lodge, Lomita Eastern Star, and the Wilmington Royal Arch Masons. While attending St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, he was a Sunday School teacher and member of the choir.

"THERE IS A lack of con-

cern of city employees — the bringing in of outsiders for city positions that belong to employees who reside in the city where their taxes are paid," he said.

Seniority rights of the city bus drivers should be restored, he also stated.

John J. Barton

Walteria Attorney John J. Barton, active in Democratic party activities in California, is seeking election to the Torrance city council on a platform calling for local study of the narcotics problem and creation of a police commission of elected members to handle problems between police and city officials.

A graduate of Creighton University, Barton is a member of the Nebraska and California Bars, and has been active in many Torrance civic affairs during his residency here.

TO DEAL with the narcotics problems, a local citizens' committee should gather data, hear experts, and then disseminate the information for citizen action, he said.

He charged that a study was made by the county several months ago of youth and narcotics in the South Bay, but



JOHN J. BARTON

that it has never been made public.

"This report would be of extreme importance to the citizens of this city," he said.

CITING recommendations of the California State Senate Interim Committee and reports of the Board of Corrections for California, Barton said the entire problems should be studied at the community level. Committees should be set up to gather together and distribute for public information the various reports that have been made, he said.

Barton has been active with the Intercity Highway Committee as a Torrance representative, helped organize the Pacific Unitarian Church, has been active in Toastmasters, Walteria Businessmen's Club, Newton School PTA, South Torrance Democratic Club, and other groups.

Garth Belknap

An explosive population trend is the number one problem facing the people of Torrance today, according to Garth Belknap, high school teacher and candidate for the Torrance city council.

"The people of Torrance have



GARTH BELKNAP

been contending with this problem for the past 15 years, and the results have not been encouraging," he states.

FOR TORRANCE, the next 15 years will be the critical period, he feels. Fifteen years from now, Torrance can be a beautiful, well-planned, efficient city — a city with spacious parks, wide streets, fine libraries, well-equipped playgrounds, and a magnificent civic center, Belknap believes.

"Or, 15 years from now, Torrance can be a crude, congested community; a city that

may go down in history as one that went from farm area to slum in one generation," he states.

BELKNAP teaches U. S. History and Government at Torrance High School, and holds a master of science degree from the University of Southern California.

He resides at 17822 Bailey Drive with his wife, Joan, and four children. He is a past president of the Torrance High School Teachers' Club, and a lay reader in the St. Andrew's Episcopal Church.

Jeff W. Bell

Jeff W. Bell, a resident of Torrance for 21 years, asks for better parks and recreation programs in his campaign for election to the Torrance city council.

"The program for recreation in the city has not kept pace and must be brought up to date," he said. The city's favorable tax rate must be maintained, however, he added.

Bell is employed in the Long Beach Naval Shipyard under federal civil service. He has been a member of Local 285 of the Boilermakers Union for 20 years, and is a member of Rolling Hills Masonic Lodge, has been secretary and vice president of the North Torrance Little League, and was organizer and president for the past two years of the North Torrance Babe Ruth League.

He also is a member of the North Torrance Civic Improve-



JEFF W. BELL

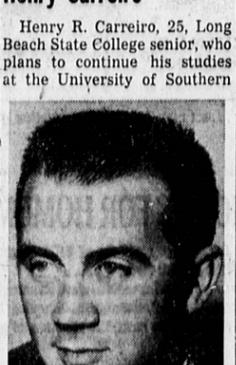
ment Assn., First Baptist Church of Torrance, and assisted in the organization of the Torrance Youth Baseball Council.

He and his wife, Jane, live at 3719 W. 187th St. One son, Richard, is stationed at Fort Monroe, Va., with the Army; Jeffrey is a sophomore at North High School, and Dennis is a second grade student at the Edison Elementary School.

Bell attended school in Monette, Ark., and served with the Navy during World War II.

Henry Carreiro

Henry R. Carreiro, 25, Long Beach State College senior, who plans to continue his studies at the University of Southern



HENRY CARREIRO

California School of Law, is seeking election to the Torrance city council.

"I will lead all efforts towards establishment of councilmanic districts in Torrance, to seek to establish local control over tax assessments, and lend the support and prestige of office to the Citizens Committee for Better Schools sponsored originally by the Torrance Young Democrats," he said.

"MY YOUTH is my ally. I have no vested interest other than honest service to the city and continued support of citizens in future elections for higher office," he continued. "I will expose corruption or unethical favor where I find it without fear of reprisals from any vested interests who obviously profit and enjoy the

current status quo in Torrance," he said.

He was graduated from El Camino College in 1957, and will complete his work at Long Beach State College next August.

James Cicchini

Making his first bid for public office is James "Chic" Cicchini, 20925 Madrona Ave.



JAMES CICHINI

who is advocating the adoption of a "modified ward" districts for selection of council candidates.

"The city also is big enough to have its own local tax assessment facilities," he said. "People today are interested in how much they are paying in taxes, and they should be able to determine how their assessment compares to that of business and industry."

The need for improved street lighting throughout the city also is being stressed by Cicchini.

"The city should go ahead on its own and put street lights wherever it is dark," he said. The police have been doing "a wonderful job when you consider the dark streets of the city," he added.

Enlargement of the police department to care for a city of 100,000 is needed, he says. "We're thinking in terms of a city of 20,000 to 40,000," he said.

Cicchini, 37, has been a Torrance resident for nine years. He was leadman at National Supply Co. in the production control department until recently when he joined the E.W. Dawson Corp. as a real estate salesman. He is sergeant at arms of the Torrance Civitan Club, and a member of the Torrance Elks.

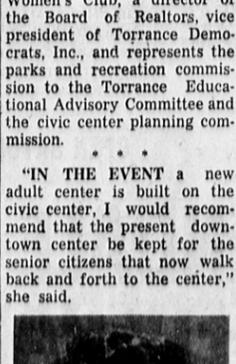
Rose Craig

"The office of city councilman has become increasingly important with the growth and development of our city," says Mrs. Rose Craig, the only woman seeking a seat on the city council at the polls on April 12.

Mrs. Craig, a realtor and businesswoman, has stated that she seeks election on a platform of honesty, efficiency, and economy in government.

SHE IS A member of the city's parks and recreation commission, president of the Women's Division of the Torrance-Lomita Board of Realtors, auditor of the Torrance Business and Professional Women's Club, a director of the Board of Realtors, vice president of Torrance Democrats, Inc., and represents the parks and recreation commission to the Torrance Educational Advisory Committee and the civic center planning commission.

"IN THE EVENT a new adult center is built on the civic center, I would recommend that the present downtown center be kept for the senior citizens that now walk back and forth to the center," she said.



ROSE CRAIG

ELIMINATION of dairies in residential neighborhoods has been stated as one of his main campaign issues.

FLEETWOOD was born in Oklahoma and attended public schools there and in Missouri, graduating from high school in 1941. He served in the Southwest Pacific aboard an LST during World War II, and took part in the occupation of Japan. He came to California in 1948 and was employed by the utility company.

He has served as a member of the city's planning commission since 1954. The same year he was elected president of Torrance Democrats, Inc., and served until June, 1956, when he was elected to the Democratic County Central Committee.

David Figueredo

A four-point platform which includes construction of sewers in the Victor tract, improved recreation facilities, improved fire and police protection, and improvement of the city's rubbish collection service has been announced by David V. Figueredo, long-time Torrance resident and candidate for the city council.

"Increased sewer development is vitally important, and the Victor tract area needs sewers badly," he said.

Figueredo calls for more recreation facilities, "taking into consideration the city's financial ability to make the improvements."

Improvement in fire and police service, he believes, would be accomplished by adding the necessary manpower to the departments to provide adequate staffs for around-the-clock coverage.

All improvements must be made in municipal services while keeping the tax rate down, and without reducing other city services.

"I takes planning, but it can be done," he stated.

Figueredo has lived in Torrance for 33 years and was graduated with the Torrance



DAVID V. FIGUEREDO

High Class of '40. He and his wife, Jennie, and three children live at 1730 Date Ave.

He is past president of the Torrance Optimistic Club and a former member of the Torrance Jaycees, member of the BPOE, and has just completed a four-year term on the city's planning commission. He operates a service station at Torrance Blvd. and Crenshaw.

Thirvin Fleetwood

Thirty-seven-year-old Thirvin D. Fleetwood, vice president of the 68th Democratic Assembly District and the County



THIRVIN D. FLEETWOOD

Democratic Central Committee, is making his second bid for election to the Torrance city council.

Fleetwood, who resides at 3637 W. 182nd St. with his wife, Norma, and three children, has lived here since 1953 when he moved to Torrance from Harbor City. He is a field meterman for the Southern California Gas Co., and active in Local 132, Utility Workers Union of America.

"I HAVE, as a family man, always been interested in the education and welfare of our youth, the future citizens of tomorrow. In this connection, it is felt we should all support any program for better education," he said.

"I HAVE, as a family man, always been interested in the education and welfare of our youth, the future citizens of tomorrow. In this connection, it is felt we should all support any program for better education," he said.

"I HAVE, as a family man, always been interested in the education and welfare of our youth, the future citizens of tomorrow. In this connection, it is felt we should all support any program for better education," he said.

"I HAVE, as a family man, always been interested in the education and welfare of our youth, the future citizens of tomorrow. In this connection, it is felt we should all support any program for better education," he said.

"I HAVE, as a family man, always been interested in the education and welfare of our youth, the future citizens of tomorrow. In this connection, it is felt we should all support any program for better education," he said.



ROGER 'PAT' HOGUE

Roger Hogue

Continuous improvement of the city's drainage system, improved street lighting, traffic control, and working conditions for city employees, including po-

lice and firemen, are advocated by Roger "Pat" Hogue, who is making his second bid for election to the Torrance city council.

A resident of the Los Angeles area for 23 years and of Torrance for the past five, Hogue lives at 4360 Toucan St. with his wife, Jane, and four children. He is a sheetmetal foreman for a Los Angeles sheetmetal contractor.

DURING HIS residency here Hogue has served as president of the Southwest Park Civic Assn., chairman of the city's water commission, and is currently beginning his second term as Torrance Youth Baseball Commissioner. He has been active in baseball organizations for boys for the past seven years, coaching, managing, and as the commissioner, and has also worked with Pop Warner Football Assn., Beach Cities Colt League, and the Youth Baseball Council.

Improvement of the city's transportation system and encouragement of its use, development of a program for a teenage center, purchase of more park property, and enlargement of the city's recreation department are advocated by Hogue.

Working toward securing councilmanic districts for true citizen representation, and maintaining a firm and uncompromising attitude against unwise and wasteful spending, including legislative blunders, are major planks in the platform of Walter J. Keberlein, of 2818 W. 168th St., a candidate for election to the city council.

"My experience in operating a number of successful small businesses, where the wise and resourceful spending of limited funds is a necessity, is more important than any so-called experience as a public servant," Keberlein said. He is president of a local escrow firm.

"A CITY the size of Torrance should have councilmanic districts in order that the average citizen, who I feel incidentally is far more intelligent than public servants generally recognize, will, when the need arises, be able to consult with his representative," he said.

Under the present system it is possible to pass the buck too much, he added.

"I HAVE, as a family man, always been interested in the education and welfare of our youth, the future citizens of tomorrow. In this connection, it is felt we should all support any program for better education," he said.

"I HAVE, as a family man, always been interested in the education and welfare of our youth, the future citizens of tomorrow. In this connection, it is felt we should all support any program for better education," he said.

"I HAVE, as a family man, always been interested in the education and welfare of our youth, the future citizens of tomorrow. In this connection, it is felt we should all support any program for better education," he said.

"I HAVE, as a family man, always been interested in the education and welfare of our youth, the future citizens of tomorrow. In this connection, it is felt we should all support any program for better education," he said.

"I HAVE, as a family man, always been interested in the education and welfare of our youth, the future citizens of tomorrow. In this connection, it is felt we should all support any program for better education," he said.

"I HAVE, as a family man, always been interested in the education and welfare of our youth, the future citizens of tomorrow. In this connection, it is felt we should all support any program for better education," he said.

"I HAVE, as a family man, always been interested in the education and welfare of our youth, the future citizens of tomorrow. In this connection, it is felt we should all support any program for better education," he said.

"I HAVE, as a family man, always been interested in the education and welfare of our youth, the future citizens of tomorrow. In this connection, it is felt we should all support any program for better education," he said.

"I HAVE, as a family man, always been interested in the education and welfare of our youth, the future citizens of tomorrow. In this connection, it is felt we should all support any program for better education," he said.

"I HAVE, as a family man, always been interested in the education and welfare of our youth, the future citizens of tomorrow. In this connection, it is felt we should all support any program for better education," he said.

"I HAVE, as a family man, always been interested in the education and welfare of our youth, the future citizens of tomorrow. In this connection, it is felt we should all support any program for better education," he said.

WALTER KEBERLEIN

George Kurtz

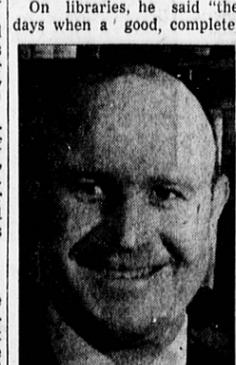
A Torrance attorney and former high school English instructor, George Kurtz, is seeking election to the Torrance city council in the April 12 municipal election.

The 36-year-old Kurtz, who resides at 23004 Evelyn Ave., has been practicing law here since 1957, and prior to that practiced in Los Angeles.

Kurtz has asked for development of a master plan for the city of Torrance and establishment of a city library system as the two main points of his campaign.

"IF WE ARE to achieve our goal of a balanced city economy in a modern and attractive community, we must provide the patterns for orderly growth," he has said. Torrance needs a master plan—an overall blueprint for development, he claims.

On libraries, he said "the days when a 'good, complete,



GEORGE KURTZ

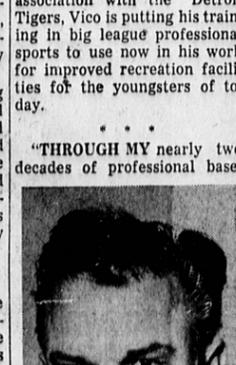
and accessible library system was considered a luxury are dead and buried."

He and his wife, Eileen, have three sons, Robert, and twins Clifford and Kenneth. He is a veteran of World War II where he served in the Pacific Theater. His affiliations include the South Bay Bar Assn., California State Bar Assn., and the Torrance Chamber of Commerce.

George Vico, who has watched Torrance grow from a small town to the county's fifth largest city, is known to a large number of Torrance residents for his many years as a major league and Triple-A baseball player who swung a mean bat.

Called "Tiger" by some of his associates because of his association with the Detroit Tigers, Vico is putting his training in big league professional sports to use now in his work for improved recreation facilities for the youngsters of today.

"THROUGH MY nearly two decades of professional base-



GEORGE VICO

ball experience and my current work, I have had the good fortune to associate with people at all levels of business, social, and civic life," he says. "Through the years I have discussed with them the great value and tremendous need for adequate recreational facilities."

Vico is assistant lease manager for the Dominguez Estate Co., which retains large parcels of land throughout the Torrance-Long Beach area that was once part of the original Rancho San Pedro granted to a Spanish soldier by his king. He has resided in Torrance since 1946, living in the Riviera area.

VICO IS chairman of the sports and youth committee of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, and was formerly a member of the city's parks and recreation commission.