

Peebles May Quit Post Tuesday

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POLICE JAIL MURDER SUSPECT

A Penny for your Thoughts

The YMCA is about to kick off its campaign for building funds, so the Pennies photographer asked five young men who are active in the Y, "What are the benefits you derive from the YMCA?"

Doug Dodge, 1525 W. 22nd St.

"I think the Y is a very good organization. It helps to keep kids out of trouble by giving them a place to go and have fun. The people that help us in the organization of our clubs help us to grow up to be better citizens."

Jordan Ktchofski, 1625 W. 224th St.

"The main thing is that the Y is a place for young people to learn. Most of all, you find many friends and meet people from different parts of Torrance. You learn something from the special clubs, too. I think the people of Torrance ought to help us to get a better Y, too."

Dwight Silveri, 20900 La-Salle

"I think the Y is a place you can go to stay out of trouble. You come down here, work in a club and have a lot of fun. People help a lot—someone gave us a car for our club to work on. You meet a lot of nice people here."

Tracy Robinette, 24104 Stanhurst, Lomita

"I feel that the Y does a lot of good things by giving us a place to go and have fun. It helps us to stay off the streets and it keeps a lot of young people from becoming delinquents. There are a lot of good activities and trips."

Steve Jefferson, 531 Camino de Encanto

"The Y sets a young guy on the road to maturity. It provides a format for grasping the good things of life. I've been in the Y three years and helped to do a lot of things and it has given me something I'll never forget."

Council May Get Peebles' Resignation

Hints that City Manager Wade E. Peebles might quit his post rather than fight the City Council's move to dismiss him were given strong backing by many at week's end, but the man on the hot seat indicated he probably won't make a final decision until he meets with his attorney again Monday.

Jahn Asks \$500,000 From City

A claim for damages totaling \$500,000 filed by former councilman Robert Jahn will be presented to the City Council at its 5:30 p.m. meeting Tuesday. The claim, filed with City Clerk Vernon Coil Thursday afternoon, seeks damages "for malicious prosecution, false arrest, libel and slander."

JAHN, WHO LIVES at 20812 Avis Ave., charged that the "acts and said conspiracy" culminated in his arrest on June 14 on "wholly false charges of violation of Vehicle Code Section 23102" (drunken driving). Jahn charged that between last March 1 and last Wednesday that the acts and conspiracy against him involved "statements, orally and in writing, attributing acts of dishonesty, immorality and intemperance . . . at various times and places in the city of Torrance and elsewhere."

THE FORMER councilman was a central figure in a re-

The city manager, who told THE HERALD this week that he had not been well in recent weeks but did not want to take time away from the present controversy because of illness, would be retained by the city as a consultant until June 30, at which time he completes 20 years of public service. He had hinted earlier that he might retire at that time anyway, hints dropped before the present controversy exploded.

TUESDAY night's meeting is scheduled to deal with the status of the city manager when a resolution ordering his dismissal is presented by City Attorney Stanley Remelmeier. The council ordered the resolution last week with only Mayor Albert Iesen and Councilman Victor E. Benstead dissenting.

The dismissal came after councilmen had received a report from Jack Goertzen, deputy attorney general and leading official in an investigation into alleged irregularities in the city.

School Trustees Meet Tomorrow

Trustees of the Torrance Unified School District will hold a regular meeting tomorrow evening at the board offices, 2335 Plaza Del Amo. The trustees will convene at 7:30 in the board room.

Industry Grows, Diversifies in City During '63

Industry in Torrance continued to expand during 1963 and definitely started a diversification trend, according to a survey completed by the Torrance Chamber of Commerce this week.

Announcing the conclusions after a review of business licenses issued by the city during the year, Arthur M. Reeves, chairman of the Chamber's Industrial Development Committee said the diversification has helped significantly in taking up the slack resulting from readjustments in the aircraft-space industry.

"A broadened base of products and employment opportunities resulting from diversification will serve to strengthen Torrance industrially in the future," Reeves said.

The report showed that 33 new industrial firms were established in the city during 1963 and that more than a dozen other manufacturing and processing firms added employees or expanded facilities. Some did both.

The 33 new industries added approximately 1,000 employees to local payrolls, Reeves said. New plants, land, and equipment represent a total investment of more than \$4 million.

Those plants expanding or adding employees added approximately 300 jobs to their payrolls and made plant equipment investments of \$1.5 million.



MEET SUPERVISOR . . . Students of the Leadership Roundtable at Stephen M. White Junior High School chat with Supervisor Kenneth Hahn during a recent visit to the supervisor's office. The students chatted with Hahn about his duties after touring his office and meeting other county officials.

The Tax Override

Perspective: Facts Leave Little Choice

(Note: This is the fifth and final article in a series on Tuesday's tax override election called by the Torrance Unified School District. The series has attempted to examine the tax issue in an effort to provide voters with all the facts which surround the election.)

By JERRY REYNOLDS
Herald Staff Writer

"A slow sort of country," said the Queen. "Now, here you see, it takes all the running you can do, to keep in the same place. If you want to get somewhere else, you must run at least twice as fast as that!"

The words are those of Lewis Carroll in "Through the Looking Glass," written in 19th century England, but they are a perfect description of the situation which prevails today in the Torrance school district.

In four previous articles, we have attempted an "in depth" analysis of the reasons behind, the arguments for, and the arguments against the tax override. Today, it is our purpose to summarize those articles and put the problem into its proper perspective.

AT STAKE in next Tuesday's election is a 90-cent override tax which will raise the legal tax limit from the present \$2.90 per \$100 assessed valuation to \$3.30 per \$100 valuation. It is a 90-cent measure because an override approved in 1960 will expire in June, and represents only a 40-cent increase over the present rate.

The term of the proposed increase is five years. The HERALD, editorially, has twice recommended a yes vote on the measure.

Failure of the override tax will mean the schools must be operated on a tax rate of \$2.40 per \$100, a rate that was totally inadequate three years ago when there were 5,000 less students in the city's schools.

The money is needed to continue the existing program and

allow for an increase of from 1,300 to 1,500 students in the next year. During the term of the override, enrollment may increase upward to 40,000 students. The money, actually about \$2 million, is needed for teachers' salaries, maintenance and operation of schools, instructional materials, and related expenses. It will not be used for construction of any kind.

IF APPROVED, the tax hike will represent an increase of \$20 to \$25 per year for the average homeowner, an increase which is equal to four or five cents a day. If it is not approved, cutbacks will be needed in order to reduce the costs of education in Torrance, and such cutbacks are likely to decrease the quality of the Torrance schools in all areas, resulting in less effective programs. Such a decrease in the quality of the schools is not an idle threat; it is a simple fact.

It is not easy to compare the costs of education with the costs of producing airplane parts or automobiles. Education is a service which can be provided only by human beings, not a mechanical process which pumps information into a young brain in order to produce a full-grown and intelligent machine.

Nevertheless, some comparisons are necessary. For the past three months THE HERALD has carefully analyzed several stacks of statistics from districts throughout Los Angeles County. Torrance consistently ranks well below the county-wide average in almost every category of expenses. That ranking has been achieved through efforts in many areas. A few of those areas include self-supporting food services, a ratio of 39 professionals for each 1,000 pupils, and careful and diligent cuts in administrative costs.

OPPONENTS OF the over-

ride have argued the increase is unnecessary. Whether it is, in fact, unnecessary depends on the individual taxpayer's evaluation of a good school system. Others argue the increase may be needed, but add that the local taxpayer cannot stand any more. That taxes are a heavy burden in these days will have to be admitted, but one must not lose sight of the future needs of a generation that has no voice in a matter that concerns it so directly.

Still others argue such a long term for a tax hike will put the board of education out of touch with the people. As we have said before, there is no guarantee that such fears may not become realities, but if they should, certainly the voter must share some of the responsibility.

Finally, there are many opponents who will argue passage of the present override will not help in the fight to get the state to pay more of the costs of education. Again, such a possibility exists. But on the other hand, a taxpayer's revolt might have its repercussions in Sacramento in an opposite direction.

FEW PEOPLE in any school district will argue about the need for more state money, yet the local boards of education are caught in the middle of an unique and somewhat confusing structure of power. The local board is, at the same time, an arm of a policy-making state board, which is itself controlled by the Legislature, and a sounding board for local voters, taxpayers, and parents.

(Continued on Page 2)

Faces Court Tomorrow on Murder Rap

Joe Reed Mason, sought by Torrance police since Christmas Day for the murder of a Torrance businessman, will be arraigned on charges of murder tomorrow morning in South Bay Municipal Court.

Mason, who is 34, was arrested Friday in Los Angeles and returned to Torrance to answer questions in the death of Ernest E. Jones of 2433 W. 165th St. He is being held without bail.

Police said he was arrested in downtown Los Angeles Friday after an officer recognized him from a picture issued by Torrance police. He gave his address as 304 E. 5th St., Los Angeles.

DETECTIVE Don Cook quoted Mason as saying, "He lent me money, so I strangled him." So far, police have been able to get nothing more from the suspect.

Jones was found dead on Christmas Day at his home. A muffler and radiator repair shop which Jones owned was burned. Police said Mason had admitted setting fire to the shop.

At the time of his arrest, Mason was carrying \$3.83 in cash, a safety razor in a plastic container, a spool of blue thread, and a needle, according to police reports. Mason was arrested on a charge of suspicion of murder on a warrant issued by Judge William B. Keene.

Students to See Smoking Film Monday

Freshmen and sophomores at Torrance High School will see the film, "Is Smoking Worth It?" tomorrow morning. The film will be presented by Dr. Richard Lescoe, representing the American Cancer Society. Following the film, Dr. Lescoe will answer questions.

The film is being sponsored by the Medical Careers Club at Torrance High. Mrs. Virginia Lavanas, school nurse, is the club's advisor.

Walteria Civic Group Hosts Two City Councilmen

Councilmen Nicholas Dralle and George Vico will address the Walteria Civic Organization Tuesday evening. Both Vico and Dralle are up for reelection this year.

The meeting will be held in the Walteria Park Recreation Building at 8 p.m.

Vico and Dralle will field questions from the audience after short addresses.

School Vote Due Tuesday

More than 40,000 voters will be eligible to vote in Tuesday's special election for the Torrance Unified School District. At stake will be a 90-cent override tax for a term of five years.

Polls will be open from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m., with polling places located in most of the city's 38 schools. Several residences also will be used as polling places. Voters should take their polling address cards, mailed three weeks ago by the County Registrar of Voters, with them. While precincts generally follow school attendance boundaries, some areas do vary.

THE OVERRIDE election, fourth in the history of the Torrance school district, was called by the Board of Education to increase the maximum legal tax rate from its present \$2.90 to \$3.30 per \$100 assessed valuation. The measure appears on the ballot at a 90-cent hike because a 50 cent tax expires at the end of June.

At least one citizen's group has been formed in recent days. The group, headed by Mrs. Martha Briggs and Mrs. Alvin Drehman, claims it neither supports nor opposes the override. "We're passing out handbills this weekend just so people will know what is happening," said Mrs. Drehman.

Mrs. Drehman says her chief objection to the override is the time involved. She says it is "unfair to ask the voter to commit himself for five years."

THE MEASURE involves about \$2 million for each of the five years. Its failure would mean the district tax would drop to \$2.40 per \$100 valuation at the end of June. The HERALD recommended a yes vote in editorials appearing in the Jan. 9 and Jan. 30 editions.

Rides to the polls will be available by calling FA 8-8080. Many PTA groups will offer child care for parents who are going to the polls.

Passage of the override needs only a simple majority of the votes actually cast.

Jackson Heads White Faculty

Walter Jackson has been elected chairman of the faculty club at Stephen M. White Junior High School. Jackson was installed at a luncheon meeting of the club Friday.

Other officers include: Marion Anderson, vice chairman; Maurine Quirk, secretary; and Alden Bohlig, treasurer.

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