

REMOVAL FROM PLANS BODY ASKED

Recount On As New Contest Smashed Blocking Tactics Bring Inquiry

Board Starts Check as Isen Wins Again

With Lawyer Albert Isen, representing V. E. Benstead, scoring several legal victories over counsel for Willys Blount, the recount of the ballots cast in the April 11 City Council election was underway in Superior court yesterday.

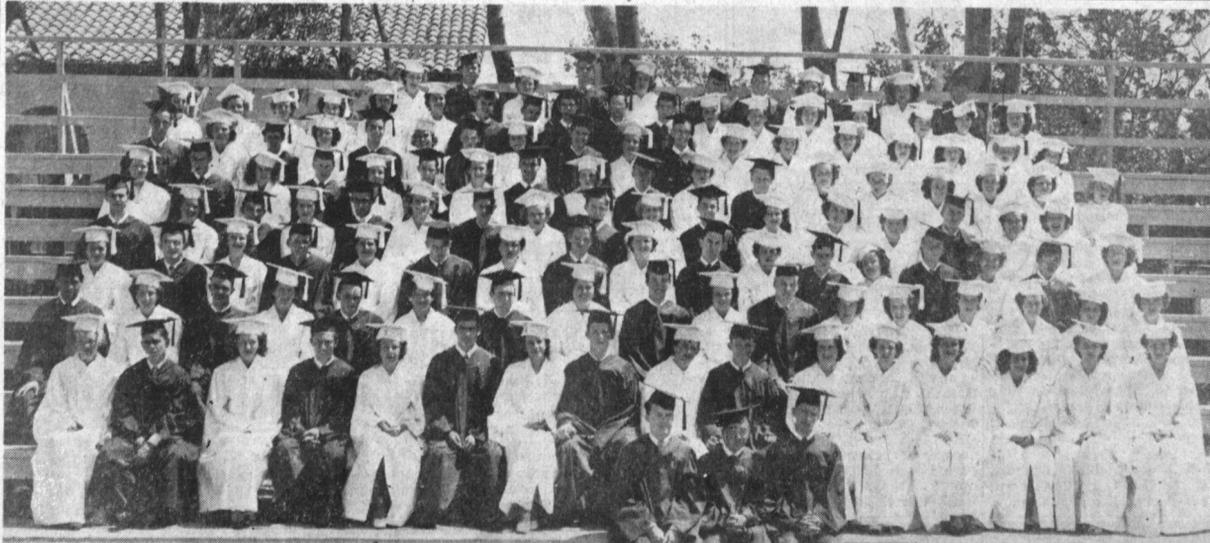
As the Press closed its forms for this edition, Blount had gained two votes, increasing his majority to nine, in the recount.

A majority of the larger precincts remained to be counted, and it was a question as to whether or not the special election board selected from the trial jury panel would complete the job yesterday.

After City Attorney C. D. Smith had been over-ruled in his contentions aimed at blocking the recount, Attorney S. V. O. Pritchard, retained as substitute counsel by Blount, continued the attempt to prevent the recount, but Superior Judge Stanley Mosk ruled in Isen's favor on all points and the retabulation started Monday at 2 p.m.

Tuesday being a legal holiday, there was no court session, and the recount resumed yesterday morning.

City Clerk A. H. Bartlett was required to take the voluminous election ballots and records to (Continued on Page Seven)



PICTURED ABOVE are the graduating seniors, (names to be found elsewhere on this page) who will receive their diplomas June 8 at 8:15 p.m. at the High School. —Photo by Dixie Lee Studio.

Blocking Tactics Bring Inquiry

Demands that H. E. Bolas resign or be removed from the City Planning Commission on the ground that he is using his office for other than the best interests of the city are being pressed upon members of the City Council, it was learned this week.

Bolas, since he has been on the Planning Commission, has a record of blocking big tract developments before the body and causing unnecessary delay in their approval.

An investigation in motion, revealed that in several instances those handling the tracts or development projects which had been blocked had been approached by persons with the proposal that the matters could be ironed out if financing of the tract developments were to be handled through a certain firm.

In one instance, it was reported, the tract owner was warned in advance of what would happen and he was asked to watch for the maneuver.

True to form, the tract was blocked and last week the developer reported to his informant that he had been approached by persons reported to have said that the matter before the Commission could be adjusted if financing of the development could be handled by the firm he represents.

That the investigation may go further, was suggested more than once during the past week.

Bolas is said to be partly responsible for the attempt to remove A. D. Gianni from the Planning Commission. Bolas, who was nominated by Mayor Haggard to the Commission, has made the threat that he intends to "control" the Commission.

"It's rotten," was the statement made this week by Planning Commissioner Gianni, "when asked what he thought of recent happenings on the Planning Commission.

Two weeks ago Gianni was reportedly asked by Mayor Bob L. Haggard to resign as chairman of the Commission, but Gianni refused on the advice of friends and other Commission members.

"I will resign as chairman of the Commission," said Gianni "as soon as the other Commission members appoint a member who will not be interested in using the position to benefit himself personally.

"We have done too much work during the past year to have this valuable city function fall into hands which are interested financially."

When asked his opinion on certain tracts plans of which were held up presumably for small changes while developers have been approached regarding financing, Gianni said: "I know that the majority of the subdividers have been approached."

HOME TRACT FOR DUMP AREA SEEN

Two methods of settlement of the question of the expansion of the dump at Western Avenue and Plaza del Amo without taking more property off the tax rolls and without incurring the wrath of owners or hundreds of new homes in the area have been suggested by interested parties.

Step No. 1 was the proposal that the city condemn the two and one-half acre hole-in-the-ground created by brick manufacturing operations, fill it with dirt and other non-combustible materials which are free from rats and pests, allow it to settle and utilize it for a part of the recreation area proposed there. This suggestion was reported in the Press two weeks ago.

Step No. 2 is that owners of the land cooperate by renting the hole-in-the-ground to the city until it is filled, and that the entire tract be utilized for home construction.

It is known that home building firms are interested in the land east of Border avenue from Lincoln street to Plaza del Amo. BAN DUMPS

Developers would cooperate (Continued on Page Seven)

Best Buy Is Newspaper Advertising

The low cost of newspaper advertising represents one of the best buys in America today in terms of 1939 costs.

H. C. Bartlett, publicity director of Macy's San Francisco, gave this advice to delegates attending the final session of the National Retail Dry Goods Association midyear conference at the Biltmore.

While practically all other costs in connection with department store advertising were rising at least 185%, the cost of reaching 1000 customers through the newspapers is slightly less than 4% higher than it was in 1938.

Fall Teachers Are Employed

The employment of the following personnel for the 1950-51 school year was approved by the School Board this week. They are:

George W. Ackerman, General Shop teacher; Carolyn Aude, elementary teacher; Rowena M. Baker, elementary teacher.

Danny Desmond, secondary teacher; Genevieve E. Midyett, elementary teacher; Dorothy A. Scott, elementary teacher.

Martin I. Wang, secondary teacher; Eleanor A. Pitt, elementary teacher; Joanna B. Durham, secondary teacher.



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10,000 CIRCULATION

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Legal Counsel

Again the Press finds it necessary to editorialize upon the subject of the recount of the ballots cast in the April 11 municipal election in progress in Superior court as this edition goes to press.

No matter what the outcome of the recount, this is a history-making procedure for Torrance and one which should stand as an example for future City Council members.

In the first place, the Press fails to see how the three members of the City Council, claiming the integrity and sincerity of purpose they do, could make any move to prevent the determination of the will of the voters in that election.

Mr. Haggard, Mr. Blount and Mr. Spelman were notified, duly and regularly, that there was sufficient evidence of errors to constitute grounds for a recount of the votes received by Blount and Victor E. Benstead.

Instead of taking jurisdiction in the City Council and handling the recount, they "filed" the letter, intending never to determine the contest.

The able lawyer, Albert Isen, retained by Benstead and former Councilman N. H. Cucci, then went to the Superior Court, as provided in the statutes of California. Wishing to protect their majority, the trio of Councilmen instituted a defense in Blount's behalf through City Attorney C. D. Smith.

Smith was soundly beaten in Superior court on all his points, and the recount was ordered.

The trio did not stop there. THEY DID NOT WANT THE WILL OF THE ELECTORS TO BE KNOWN. They hired the well known and talented S.V.O. Pritchard to block the recount.

Pritchard told Isen, "I am going to do all I can to stop the recount." And he did all he could do. But Pritchard took a licking at Isen's able hands.

The recount started at 2 p.m. Monday, after hours of argument in Court.

Three lessons have been learned regardless of the outcome:

1.—Until the Torrance City Charter is amended to provide otherwise, contests of city elections are in the jurisdiction of the Superior Court, and they should not be resisted since it is the will of the people which is being sought.

2.—Great ability, talent and legal knowledge has been demonstrated by Lawyer Albert Isen, and if the position of City Attorney should become vacated, Isen should have the interim appointment pending civil service examination.

3.—The electors who voted for Mr. Haggard, Mr. Spelman and Mr. Blount, and the rest of the people should remember that here is a trio which does not necessarily care to determine what the electors intend or think. Torrance will remember.

Shidler Leads J. of P. Race

With one-third of the 6,898 state-wide precincts reporting at press time, the following tabulations are reported from the County Registrar's office:

Warren (R) 212,895—(D) 74,104; Roosevelt (R) 13,672 (D) 127,696; Knight (R) 68,969 (D) 51,910, giving him a majority on both tickets, with George Miller Jr. running a close second. Attorney General's office: Shattuck (R) 33,568 (D) 16,087; Houser (R) 14,750 (D) 23,395; Brown (R) 7696 (D) 37,122; U.

S. Senate, Douglas leads by large margin on the Democratic ticket, and Nixon by nearly same margin on the Republican ticket. For state senate, Tenney carried with overwhelming majority on both tickets; Sheriff's office: Biscailuz is leading Doran by almost double.

LOCAL On the local picture, John A. Shidler ahead unofficially with 4800 against Otto Willett with 2200. In other offices, Torrance returns reflected the state trend.

Soderstrom Makes Hop From Isle

Charles Soderstrom, Jr., arrived at La Guardia Field, New York at 12:05 p.m. Eastern Standard time, Tuesday, after a 16 hour and 10 minute non-stop hop from Terminal Island.

Soderstrom reported that the plane had used 175 gals. of gasoline and the average speed was 160 miles per hour, although the speed occasionally reached 175 miles per hour.

Soderstrom said that the speed as recorded by the barograph on the plane will be computed by the National Aeronautics Association.

"As far as I know," reported Soderstrom, upon arrival, "this is the first transcontinental flight ever attempted by a single-engine plane of this type."

Soderstrom was greeted by his mother, Mrs. Clair E. Soderstrom, as he climbed out of his plane.

Soderstrom took off from (Continued on Page Seven)

School Tract Site Conflict

LOMITA—Los Angeles Board of Education officials tentatively has selected a site for the new Narbonne High School in Lomita, but the site conflicts with existing plans for a large homes subdivision development, according to Harry Brittain, developer.

The new high school will serve the area south of Carson in the Shoestring Strip, Lomita and Harbor City. The present high school, Narbonne High, slated to become a Junior High School.

Brittain said the 35-acre site is north of Lomita Blvd. near Western Ave., where it has been planned to construct a large residential tract.

The developer said he is making a formal request to the board of education to choose another site, but is helpless in the matter if the board insists on purchasing the portion of a large tract where he is already building 74 homes.

It has been reported that the board was considering two other sites—one at Western Ave. and Palomares Dr. where directed landing barges are stored by the U. S. Navy, and a location adjacent to Brittain's tract on the northerly end.



Bob Johnson, age 9, 3545 Newton St., Torrance and Karen Lee Harrison, age 5, of El Segundo, are the proud owners of two new Hopalong Cassidy suits which were given away last week by Mr. Sid Rales, owner of the Children's Wardrobe of Torrance. Presentations were made at the Vermont Drive In Theatre.

Largest Class In History to Graduate

This year Torrance High School will graduate its largest class in history when 167 seniors step forward to receive their diplomas. Exercises will be held at the High School Athletic Field June 8 at 8:15 p.m.

Program will include invocation by Reverend Paul C. Wenske, of the first Lutheran Church; presentation of the class by High School principals John K. Steinbaugh; acceptance of candidates by Dr. J. H. Hull, and presentation of diplomas by Dr. Howard A. Wood, chairman of the Torrance School Board.

CLASS AWARDS Awards and honors will be given to the following students: Class Co-Valedictorians, Vivian Hazzard, Jeanne Jenkins. Life Members, California Scholarship Federation, Dolores Fees, Marilyn Finch, Wallace Fullmer, Vivian Hazzard, Jeanne Jenkins, Howard Mimura, Ann Mondor, Marcella Spring, Mary Jo Tillotson. Bausch-Lomb Award, James Collins. Danforth Leadership Awards, David Mario, Audrey Wright. D.A.R. Citizenship Award, Jeanne Jenkins. Lions Club Schol., Vivian (Continued on Page Seven)

Bus Losses Mount With Rate Increase

Torrance Municipal Bus Lines are losing more money under the increased fare schedules, with some lines eliminated, than they were before the rates were hiked and some lines abandoned.

This is a report on file with the City Council for consideration of future policy on the lines. Those who have studied the report state that the city should not look for a profit in the bus lines, but that with good management they can be made to pay their way, without eliminating any runs.

Since the people have voted to keep the bus lines, their decision is an ultimatum to the City Council to "build" the bus lines and service, and not to junk any part of them, readers tell the Press.

With new subdivisions springing up in every section of the city, it was said, it behooves the Council to serve these subdivisions and bring the retail trade to Torrance which might otherwise flow to other communities.

RETAIL TRADE Bus lines from Redondo Beach, Hawthorne, Inglewood, and Gardena are "pecking" at the new big tracts in the outlying sections of Torrance, while the Redondo Beach financial "advisors" to the Council seek to scrap some of the outlying local lines. It was reported out. The out-of-town bus lines want the Council to do that too, so they can carry the Torrance trade to other shopping areas.

According to the report, "the net loss for all lines under the old rate (fares) was 2.4 cents per mile, and under the increased rate (fares) 2.7 cents per mile."

It continues: "It will be noticed that there was a decrease of profit in the Los Angeles line under the new increased rates. This was primarily due to the increased cost per mile. Certain runs were eliminated—therefore, the cost per mile increased on the remaining runs, thus reflecting an increased cost per mile."

(Editor's Note: Paging Sam Levy. The people need you. They want the bus lines, the retail merchants need the business they will bring, and the lines need sound management.)

Under the old rate, the Los Angeles line was earning revenue of 36.3 cents per mile, and under the increased fares, it was

only one-tenth of a cent more, or 36.4 cents per mile. However, the cost per mile jumped from 28.2 cents per mile to 30.5 cents per mile, and thus the profit of 8.1 cents per mile was cut to 6.1 cents per mile.

Obviously, increasing the fares and reducing service did not do the trick, say those studying the report.

On the Long Beach and Hawthorne line, the old rate gave revenue of 18.5 per mile for the period under test, while under the increased fares, the revenue per mile jumped to 21.7 cents. However, costs went up from 28.2 cents to 30.3 cents, but the loss was cut from 9.7 per mile to 8.6 per mile.

Local lines reflected an increase of 4.4 cents revenue per mile but costs jumped 2.1 cents per mile. The loss was cut from 20.0 per mile to 17.7 per mile under new fare schedules.

The period under test was from Feb. 5, 1950 to Feb. 28, 1950, and from April 4, 1950, to April 17, 1950.

The bus lines had total revenue of \$176,948.80 for the period (Continued on Page Seven)

City Alleys Show Lack Of Repair

Alleys in the down town section of Torrance, which the city spent thousands of dollars resurfacing a few years ago, are rapidly deteriorating due to lack of proper cleaning and care, it was pointed out this week by Councilman George Powell.

The alley paving, former Councilman James Hitchcock's final project before retiring from the Council, was hailed by residents throughout the central section of the city.

Now, due to failure of either the city or the residents to keep the alleys clean, grass is growing through the pavement, runoff from rainfall is undermining the surfacing and patch-work after installation of utilities is deficient to the point where great holes are appearing in some alleys. Most of the alleys are dirty.

Powell suggested that City Manager George Stevens determine the responsibility for the condition of the alleys and take steps to clean them up and to keep them clean, as a protection to the taxpayers' investment in the resurfacing.

TEAC to Hold Monthly Meet

Regular monthly meeting of the Torrance Educational Advisory Committee will be held Thursday, June 8, in the High School Cafeteria at 2220 Carson street. The luncheon meeting will begin at 12:05 p.m.

Program for the afternoon will be a discussion of the Summer Recreation program, led by Moderator, Grace Wright.

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