

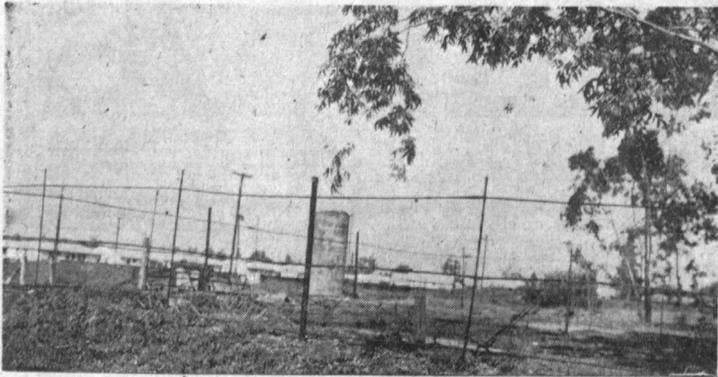
COUNCIL IGNORES CHURCHES PLEA TO STOP GAMBLING IN TORRANCE!



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Serving Greater Torrance Area

SECOND YEAR TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, AUGUST 17, 1950 No. 17 3c



NO DANGER NOW—Here is the previously unguarded oil sump near Cabrillo avenue and Sepulveda Boulevard which was reported by the Press a few weeks ago as a menace to lives of children and animals in the area. Following printing of the picture and story about the mire trap, steps were taken by the City of Torrance to bring about fencing of the area. The picture above shows the protective fence completed last week by owners of the sump. (Press Photo.)

Largest Circulating Newspaper or Combination Newspapers in the Torrance Trading Area.
11,190 CIRCULATION

Innocent Hurt By Election Quiz, Says D.A.

"If errors and irregularities or tampering with the ballots were found in the last City Council election, the guilty parties would very likely be held harmless due to laxness of election laws, while innocent election workers would have their names dragged into an ugly scandal which would accomplish nothing."

This fact was brought out in a conference with District Attorney Simpson regarding the request for a grand jury investigation of errors found in the election by which Councilman Willys Blount nosed out Vic Benstead in the race for council.

The grand jury investigation had been asked by citizens of Torrance, but in view of the explanation of the district attorney, it is not being pressed, it was said.

No Action Taken On Pinball Law

"No action."

This terse sentence gives the attitude of the City Council majority toward gambling in Torrance as involved in marble game operation.

After a hot hearing Tuesday night, the Council still would not state its stand on final action of Ordinance 518 which would ban pinball or marble games from the City.

Councilman Nick Drale and Councilman George Powell said they will press for passage next Tuesday night, however.

In rapid fire order, ministers of Torrance Council of Churches, representatives of Parent-Teacher groups and citizens demanded of the Council that they ban the games forever, as has been done in nearly every other California city and county because they are used for gambling purposes and by children.

PLAYED FOR PAY-OFF

Allen S. Moore, a teacher and representative of the Torrance Council of Churches, declared that the marble games are admittedly played only for the pay-off the players get across the counter. He declared that they are backed by a ten billion dollar a year syndicate and that all the operators are interested in is the profit, not the morals of the community.

"No law can stop a pay-off," he said, "so why place the police department in such a position conducive to bribery by letting the cause of the pay-off remain. Every decent resident of Torrance wants the machines taken out of town now."

Rev. Arthur Bello, of the Episcopal church, said that he felt the Council would do its duty and adopt the ordinance. His viewpoint was supported by Rev. Clarence Miller, of the Methodist church.

CHILDREN PLAY

Mrs. M. V. Millar, representing Torrance Elementary P.T.A., spoke and said that Long Beach, Los Angeles and Los Angeles County had banned the games. She declared that they contribute to the delinquency of children.

Roy Winters, representing the First Christian Church, said that the 200 citizens he represents want the games abolished.

Wm. McFadden, representing the marble game interests, could only scoff at critics of the games, and presented weak arguments in their favor.

But the group wanting to keep the devices in Torrance looked happy and confident as they left the Council hearing.

Valuation Cut Effects City Budget

Assessed valuation figures corrected by the County Assessor's office have caused the City of Torrance to lose an estimated \$14,500 in revenue for the present fiscal year, it developed at a budget hearing of the City Council Tuesday night.

The assessed valuation figure is \$1,600,000 less than the estimate of \$52,176,000, it was said.

R. I. Plomert, Jr., tax collector for General Petroleum Corp. hit the inclusion in the budget of \$20,000 for handling the Bus Department deficit, and he also rapped the unitemized expenditures in the Recreation Department.

The budget comes up for final adoption next Tuesday night.

It calls for \$867,895 to be spent by the city this year against \$762,321 budgeted for last year. The total tax rate is estimated at \$1.12, the same as last year.

AN OPEN LETTER To the Torrance City Council

GENTLEMEN OF THE CITY COUNCIL:

"It is never legal to license crime."

Marble games in the City of Torrance have been used for gambling, openly and publicly, with pay-offs made at the rate of five cents for each free game. That is gambling and it is a crime. Many witnesses have seen pay-offs of as high as several dollars.

Children have been allowed to spend their lunch money on them and to gamble on them.

The City Council of the City of Torrance cannot legally and morally license these marble games.

The people of Torrance cannot pass at an election any measure to license these games, because it is their use as gambling devices which makes them illegal.

If there were no pay-offs, crowds of men, women and children would not spend their nickels in them. They are not played for fun or amusement, and the one-ball machine NEVER has been found to be a SKILL GAME. It has been found to be a GAMBLING device many times. These are the games which are causing the greatest trouble in Torrance.

If the City of Los Angeles has declared marble games illegal—and that great city has found them illegal through Section 43.05.1 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code; if the County of Los Angeles finds them illegal—and it has in County Ordinance No. 4852; if the City of Long Beach finds them illegal—and it has in Section 235.02 of the City Penal Code; if nearly every other California city and county has found these games illegal because used for gambling purposes, it is our belief that the City Council of the City of Torrance has no choice, if it wants to rid Torrance of gambling, but to adopt for its final reading Ordinance No. 518, abolishing pinball games in Torrance.

Disposition of property or money upon a contingency determined by chance to a person who has paid a valuable consideration for the chance of winning is lottery, and that is what the marble games of Torrance are being used for at this time. When you remove this chance-lure, the games would be very unpopular and would be a burden to liquor stores, bars and restaurants where they are found. That is why they are popular because of the chance of winning money—and that is gambling, unlawful in itself. To stop this gambling you must remove the games, like every other California city.

We are told by the District Attorney of Los Angeles County, by the City Prosecutor of Los Angeles and the same officer in Long Beach that "one-ball" marble games never have been found to be "skill games." If they are not played for skill, then they must be played for "chance"—chance determines the number of free games, and when the operator pays off over the counter for the free games, it becomes gambling, right under our own noses in Torrance.

When children are allowed to play them, it contributes to their delinquency.

You cannot license gambling.

To stop gambling you must remove the instrument by which it is performed.

The City Council of the City of Torrance has a duty to perform to the people, to do the will of the people and to guard the welfare of the people.

The people of Torrance do not want gambling.

Gambling is against the law, and marble games are used openly for gambling in Torrance.

Your duty is plain.

The interests who seek to keep these games in operation in Torrance have offered to "compromise" our position. We understand there have been offers of "pay off."

There is no compromise with crime.

There is but one position to take, and that is to rid Torrance of the cause of this effort in which the churches, the schools and the press join hands with their constituents for a better, cleaner and more lawful community.

The members of the City Council already have pledged themselves to abandonment of marble games and punch board in Torrance. The Chief of Police is behind our efforts, and behind the Council in this stand. The Chief of Police cannot do anything without authority.

Gentlemen of the City Council, do your duty. This fight will not stop until the marble and punch boards are removed from Torrance, each and every one of them.

Employees of City Called Into Service

Torrance Police and Fire Departments were hit hard as three firemen and one police officer were called in for military duty.

Firemen called to service in this military crisis are William L. Johnston, Carl J. Nalboriski, and Deporte J. Skidmore. Officer Robert Wright leaves a vacancy in the Police Department to serve his country.

Johnston will leave for duty August 22, while his fellow fireman, Nalboriski has already been called to report August 11. Skidmore will report September 1 with the 40th Division of the National Guard at Camp Cooke. Skidmore is attached to the Medical unit of the 578th Combat Engineer Battalion.

Officer Wright, who served a few years with the army as infantryman in World War II, and who was also stationed in Germany for some time, will report for duty tomorrow morning.

Sewer Plans Approved

According to Supervisor Raymond V. Darby, the Board of Supervisors at its August 8 meeting, approved plans and specifications for the construction of sanitary sewers in 220th Street and other rights of way in the vicinity of Torrance, under County Improvement No. 1359.

Two Bandits Bob Store in

Two men walked into a liquor store at 17310 Crenshaw, one of them saying, "We've just killed two men and we'd just as soon kill you as look at you." With this warning they proceeded to beat and rob Fred Schimel of 1543 W. 209th Street, a clerk in the store.

Schimel said the pair, one of them brandishing a nickel-plated revolver, forced him to surrender more than \$200 from the register and then straggled him in the face.

John Hedberg, Sr. Succumbs

Torrance mourns the death of John Alfred Hedberg Sr., 39, who succumbed to a two-year illness last Thursday evening at Torrance Memorial hospital.

Funeral services for "Jack," the husband of Mrs. Bertha Hedberg, assistant secretary of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, were held Monday, August 14, 9:00 a.m. in the Church of the Nativity, Torrance, followed by burial in Holy Cross Cemetery, Los Angeles.

Rosary was recited Sunday, Aug. 13, 8 p.m. at a local mortuary.

Hedberg, a native of Dassel, Minnesota, was part owner of Madris Market, located in Torrance.

He leaves his widow, Mrs. Bertha F. Hedberg; a son, John Alfred, Jr.; a daughter, Jean Marie;

Street Closed

The Board of Supervisors at its meeting of August 8 approved a motion by Supervisor Raymond V. Darby that the request of Edward Green and Robert Vlach, contractors to close 223rd street and Dominguez avenue for sanitary construction work.

Does 'No Smoking' Mean No Smoking?

"Smoking is prohibited by both passengers and drivers on Torrance buses," affirmed City Manager George Stevens this week to a Press reporter.

It is up to the department head to enforce this ruling and reprimand any driver disregarding it, said Stevens.

Yet one woman passenger said that she was bothered by other passengers smoking and that she asked the driver if smoking were not forbidden on buses.

She said that the driver said, rather insolently, to the smokers, "This woman don't like you to smoke on the bus," and laughed. This was followed by laughter of other passengers, much to the woman's embarrassment, she declared.

She asked the bus driver if the "No Smoking" sign on the bus did not mean what it said. The woman declared the driver replied, "That sign doesn't mean anything."

CLASSIFIED RESULTS

Perry L. Cannett, prominent Torrance Realtor stated, "I consistently get results from Press Classified Ads typical of these."

SOLD NEXT DAY after publication the following listings:
July 20th—
\$460 Large lot 40x180 near Western Ave. Terms. and July 27th—
\$1000 Dn.—Nice 3 bdrm. home with garage. Located in Torrance. Payments Only \$50.00. Appointment only.

Mr. Cannett is just one of our many satisfied customers. So if you have something to sell, rent, trade or swap, Phone the

PRESS CLASSIFIED DEPT.
Torrance 1185
"Your Want Ad Newspaper"

4,725 Students to Enroll September 11

An enrollment of 4,725 students in comparison with last year's 4083 is expected when both the elementary and high schools of Torrance open their doors this coming September 11, according to Emmett W. Ingram, Asst. Supt. of Torrance Unified School District.

Expected to enroll are 3,800 elementary students. Last year's total was 3258. To replace a graduating class from the Torrance high school last June of 160 will be a freshman class of 260.

School Board To Apply for State Aid

It was recommended at last night's Board of Education meeting that the Board authorize Superintendent J. H. Hall to proceed with development of an application for State funds for the Torrance Elementary School Building Program. Development of information pertaining to calling a bond election for the use of 100 percent of the bonding capacity of the Elementary District, and support of the application for State funds beyond that amount upon the best estimate developed for future school housing needs of Torrance were also recommended by the Board.

Order Adopted By Board for Leave With Pay

At the August 8 meeting of the Board of Supervisors, according to Supervisor Raymond V. Darby, an order was adopted granting military leave and 30 days pay to county employees inducted into the Federal military, air, or naval services.

Take Your Undies Off the Line!!

Mrs. Helen Weeks of 17507 Cerise Avenue didn't.

When she got up the next morning to bring her laundry off the line at 8:30, to her dismay, there was none.

Mrs. Weeks discovered that seven personal articles which she would appreciate returned had been taken off the line during the night.

Section 34.06 P.L.&E. U. S. Postage Paid Torrance, Calif. Permit 17

Residence Law of City Is Observed

All but two employees of the City of Torrance have qualified under the ordinance requiring them to become residents of Torrance, and these two are taking steps to become residents.

Street Superintendent Ralph Perkins and Arthur Cameron, of the bus department, are the employees, and they have prior rights under the ordinance since they had worked for the City long before it was adopted. It was explained.

Both Perkins and Cameron are taking steps to buy homes in Torrance, according to City Manager George Stevens.

He told the Press that the ordinance requires employees to establish homes in the city within six months after taking employment with the city.

Nick Drale, Pres. of City Democrats

Officers elected at the Sunday, August 12 meeting of the Torrance Democrats. Incorporated were: president, Nick Drale; vice-president, Alex Downing, and treasurer, Jess Dean.

A delightful breakfast was prepared and served by the Ladies Auxiliary of the Veterans of Foreign Wars at this Sunday morning meeting.

Sunday, September 10, is the date set for the next regular meeting. All good Democrats are expected to be present, as a very heavy program is planned for the coming election year.



NICK DRALE, newly elected president of the Torrance Democrats. —Photo by Photo Arts Studio

City Workers' Union Raps Council Stand

Failure of the City Council to consider the plea of the United Public Workers of America, Local 360, C. I. O., for a general adjustment of city employees' salaries and for additional holidays was rapped this week by Sherman Miller, president of the union.

"At the last meeting between the negotiating committee and the City Council, immediately preceding the regular council meeting of August 8, 1950, we presented facts and figures that would justify the increase in salary and also the additional holidays requested," Miller said.

"For an example, Torrance had an assessed valuation of \$44,309,410 for the year 1949, from which the city derived its revenue by means of taxation. The City of Compton which had an assessed valuation of only \$35,851,790 pays its lower bracket employees at a higher rate than does Torrance.

"Compton is chosen for comparison because of its geographical proximity and its nearness in assessed valuation.

COMPARISONS

"The following are some of the lower bracket classifications and how they compare:
"FOR LABOR—Torrance \$184 to \$221 per month; Compton, \$200 to \$220."
(Continued on Page 10)