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# COUNCIL ACTS TO BUY 30 ACRES OF LAND FOR NEW CIVIC CENTER

## Land Near Torrance Gardens

The City Council Tuesday night authorized City Manager George Stevens to go ahead with plans for acquiring a site for a new proposed Civic Center.

Stevens submitted a recommendation to the City Council that a 30-acre site bounded by Torrance Blvd., Maple Ave. and Madrona Ave. be purchased by the city. The council unanimously approved the recommendation.

The property would extend northward to the city-owned property on which the municipal dump is now located.

The need for a new, larger civic center, to contain all the city departments including maintenance yards, has become extremely imminent owing primarily to the rapid residential growth of the city and the expansion of city services.

Stevens indicated that negotiations with the owners of the land, Santa Fe Railway, would begin immediately.

Tentative plans have also been made to include a large central city park on the development. Councilman Victor Benstead has gone on record as favoring the construction of a public swimming pool on the park site.

## Jack Dabbs Elected Rotary Club President

Jack Dabbs, prominent local theater man and insurance agent, was named to succeed Attorney Don Armstrong as president of the Torrance Rotary Club following the election of eight directors of the club last Thursday.

The directors for the coming year will be William Zoeller, John Shidler, John Ebbinghouse, A. E. Thompson, George Post, Carl Warner, Cecil England and Dabbs. Dabbs was appointed by this board to serve as president. Warner was named vice president. The posts of secretary and treasurer will be filled soon, Dabbs said.

The new officers will take office on July 1, following a demotion party for the out-going cabinet.

## Board to Probe Charges Against Union Secretary

Clerks union members and employers alike were watching with interest the controversy between executives of Retail Clerks Union Local 905, which now is in the hands of the international offices of the Union. It became apparent this week that a change in the administration of the affairs of the Union is certain no matter which faction emerges victorious.

The controversy, developed at the clerks meeting last week, is the result of the filing of 12 charges against Haskell Tidwell, clerks union secretary and treasurer for many years, by Wally Elliott, the union's president, and John Anderson and Daniel Anderson, two of the trustees of 905. All three, like Tidwell, are business agents.

A trial board of five members was named to hear the charges and return its findings to the union.

This board is reported to consist of Allen Risk, of McCown Drug Co., Ben Scott, of Sav-Mor Markets, Walt Scheppman, of Better Food Markets, Norman Kelly and George Hebert, both of Market Town.

The board will not meet, according to Herschel Womack, international officer placed in charge of the affairs of Local 905, until an audit is completed. Then, the board will meet and it is hoped that it may return its findings on April 17, when the union members again are scheduled to meet.

Tidwell is reported to be confident that he can prove himself innocent of the charges, and it is generally accepted that in this event, Elliott and the two Anderson brothers will retire from their jobs with the union. If not, then Tidwell's own fate is said to be up to the union members.

Meanwhile, the Harbor Area Employers' Council is urging its members to take a "hands off" attitude in the controversy. Frank S. Selover, executive secretary, advised the members that "all our contracts with Retail Clerks Local 905 are with the UNION, and not with its officers. Members are urged to remain neutral and to assume a hands off attitude toward the current controversy within the union. Much has been said in the press. Our purpose is to establish better relations. This end will best be served by a disinterested position in this matter."

## Cancer Films

Two color sound films dealing with cancer will be presented free to the public at the Torrance Theater on Thursday, April 16 at 8 p.m., it was announced today by Howard J. Percy, publicity director of the local cancer fund drive.

## Little League Ball Teams Ready to Play

Now is the time of the year when most all of us turn our attention to that great American pass-time, baseball.

And that's what's happening out near the airport this week, where bulldozers are busy leveling and grading a diamond for Torrance's newly-formed Little League Baseball teams.

The program, only recently the dream of a group of sports-minded fathers, is rapidly approaching realization, according to Douglas Moir, president of the Little League association.

Volunteer workers using two heavy graders donated by the Coy Construction Co. of Lomita and the City of Torrance are preparing the diamond and the organization of fathers and sons are lining up the teams and procuring uniforms for the boys.

Play is expected to begin just as soon as the playing field is ready and will be well underway (Continued on Page 2)

## Local Men Named Top Elk Officers

Two Torrance men, Otto B. Willett and William Everett, were last week elected to the top slate of officers of the Redondo Beach Elks Club.

Willett, who is a South Bay Municipal Court judge, was named loyal knight. Everett will serve as lecturing knight.

William D. Brunner of Redondo Beach was elected the 34th exalted ruler of the club at the meeting which was attended by 400 members. Also elected were Foster Day, leading knight; A. T. Larsen, secretary; Glade White, treasurer; and Elmer Rohr, tiler.



BUDDING VIRTUOSO—Glenn W. Briney, of 2537 Sierra st., is the proud photographer of the above photo, which won him an opportunity to compete against five other local amateur photographers in the First Annual Torrance Press Photography Contest. Briney is the last of six finalists selected by three judges. Winners of the contest will be named next week.

## Six Photo Finalists Ready for Judging

Winners of the three valuable prizes being offered in the First Annual Torrance Press Amateur Photography Contest will be announced next week following the close of the contest today.

Glenn W. Briney, of 2537 Sierra st., was named the last of six finalists who are competing for top prize of \$50. Two other prizes, a complete home developing outfit and an Eastman Dualflex camera and six rolls of film, will also be awarded.

Six finalists were selected by a panel of three judges during the six weekly contests. Included in these are Briney, Mrs. Warren Naslund, 21317 Lynton st., Paul Comon, 1533 W. 228th st., C. H. Stowell, 1533 W. 239th st., Frank Kristufek, 2104 Marina ave., and Ron Forestal, 22632 Gaycrest.

Selection of the three top winners will be made this week, it was disclosed by the judges, Miss Pat Roden of the Torrance Press, Harry Petro, manager of McCown Drug Store, and James Giacalone, manager of A-1 Photo Supplies.

The judges expressed their thanks to the many local residents who submitted entries in the contest, and added the hope that they and many others would save their

best photographic efforts for next year's contest.

## Inexpensive Ad Worked Like Magic

"My little ad worked like magic! I got really amazing results," said Mrs. Della Tolson, of 2008 Gramercy Avenue, who advertised an apartment for rent in last week's issue of the Torrance Press.

"Wonderful results" is the comment of hundreds of satisfied Torrance Press classified advertisers. Your neighbors rent rooms, sell furniture, trade cars, find work through Press classifieds. Press ads will work for you too.

This is the small, inexpensive ad that rented Mrs. Tolson's apartment.

LARGE 1-room Apt. \$8 per week. 2008 Gramercy. Call Torrance 24-R.

To place your ad just call Torrance 1185.

## Businessmen Plan Benefit Salvage Drive

"To Build a Heap of Junk into a Heap of Fun for Kids This Summer" will be the slogan of a salvage drive to be sponsored by the WALTERIA Businessmen's Club, it was announced following the regular club meeting Thursday.

Nate Gordon, president, has appointed John J. Graham, of the Great Lakes Carbon Corporation, to serve as chairman.

Graham has requested all residents of the WALTERIA area to donate any scrap metal that they may have to the club.

The group feels that this junk can be converted into recreation funds for WALTERIA youth, according to A. L. Muir, press chairman.

Plans were also announced for a dinner dance to be held May 16. Jack Bauman is chairman of this committee.

L. E. Green, district manager of Southern California Gas Co., showed a film, "The Challenge of Growth," depicting the growth of the Los Angeles area over the past ten years. Green followed this up with a talk on the activities of the utilities firm in this area.

## Mayor Attempts To Force Vote

An effort by a majority faction on the City Council to railroad a bill calling for a recreation fee on all new home developments here was stopped cold Tuesday night by a ruling from the city attorney.

Ignoring an active motion before the body to delay action on legislation calling for a \$100 per gross acre park and recreation fee on new subdivisions, Mayor Mervin M. Schwab called for another motion to ramrod passage of the law. He was backed by two other councilmen, and was stopped only when City Attorney James Hall pointed out that a four-fifths majority of the vote was necessary to enact the ruling.

"Discriminatory" City Councilmen Nick Drale and Victor Benstead had protested the ruling as "discriminatory," and asked their colleagues to delay the bill for further study. Drale's motion for delay was seconded by Benstead and followed by discussion by the council.

Following the brief debate, the Mayor asked for a motion to pass the law. This was quickly supplied by another councilman.

The city attorney then reminded them of the four-fifths majority ruling.

Duplicate Facilities After the close of the stormy council session, Councilman Benstead told your reporter that he opposed the ruling because he felt that the money gained by it would be used to duplicate existing play facilities and to finance additional and expensive park sites.

He declared that he would favor the bill if the council would agree to earmark all funds thus collected for a centrally-located swimming pool to serve all Torrance residents.

He pointed out that if plans to move Civic Center to the western section of town materialize, there would be an excellent site for the swimming pool, which, he added,

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## 'Inadequacy' Of Recreation Program Hit

### Citizen's Group Seeks Action

Striking another blow at what he terms the "inadequacies of the existing recreation program," Arthur Sues, chairman of the Citizen's Committee for Better Recreation this week declared that unless the city and the schools act now to improve the recreation system here juvenile delinquency will continue its rapid upward climb.

### Joint Program

The Citizen's Committee is backing a drive to institute here a joint city-school recreation program which would provide more leisure-hour activities for children after school, on week ends, and during the various school holidays throughout the year.

The only economically feasible way to organize and administer such a program is thru the cooperation of both the city and the schools, a committee spokesman said this week.

Under the existing set up play facilities are being duplicated and available funds are not being used to the best advantage. A city-financed program that would utilize the technical skills of school administrators is the only solution, the spokesman stated.

### Support Gained

A number of prominent citizens have expressed favor of the idea of a joint city-school program. Robert I. Plomert Jr., president of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce and General Petroleum tax expert, last week stated that co-operation between the city and the schools was essential to any type of well-rounded, well-run recreation program.

Realtor Howard Percy and Attorney Albert Isen have accepted top posts in the Citizen's Committee for Better Recreation, Chairman Sues reported.

## Inter-Service Club Meet Set Monday

Kenyon J. Scudder, noted penal authority and author of "Prisoners Are People," will be guest speaker at the inter-service dinner next Monday night at the American Legion Hall, according to Mill Isbell, president of the sponsoring Lions Club.

Scudder, superintendent of the California Institute for Men at Chino, has been acclaimed by Reader's Digest for his unique approach to rehabilitation of prisoners, Isbell reported.

The dinner will begin at 7 p.m.



EAGER LEAGUERS—Members of the Torrance Little League team can hardly wait to get play started at the Little League baseball diamond, which is in preparation now. The boys, sporting their league uniforms, were out in force last Saturday to offer their help in grading and leveling the diamond. Here, however, they hold up operations to get in a few fast throws. Paul Moir is about to hurl a quickie to his team mates. They are, left to right, Ronnie Evans, Charles Thorne, Richard Nix, Jim Hawkins, Dennis Hanon, Garry Schmidt, David Hawkins, David Warren and Tommy Coleman. In the rear, Bane Hale of the City Construction Co., James Hix, league official, and Jack Stephens, Torrance city employee.



PRIZE WINNER—Mrs. Douglas McClay affixes ribbon to the "Bird of Paradise" flower arrangement that won third place in the International Flower Show last week. The arrangement was the second entered by the Torrance Terrace Garden Club to win a prize. Shown admiring the arrangement are other club members. Standing is Mrs. M. C. Shanahan. Seated are Mrs. W. B. Hickcox, left, and Mrs. Victor Benstead.