

HOT ISSUES SPARK COUNCIL ELECTION



The Largest Circulating Newspaper between Los Angeles and Long Beach

TORRANCE PRESS

10¢

VOL. VII

1 ■ 2 ■

THURSDAY, APRIL 5, 1956 — TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA

NO. 51

Wives Complain of Lost Wages, Police Raid Gambling Husbands

COPS MINGLE AMONG WORKERS IN DISGUISE

Ten workers were arrested during a gambling raid at Union Carbide and Carbon corporation, Del Amo and Hawthorne following a tip from wives who complained that their husbands were losing their pay checks before they ever got them home.



Dr. Larson Will Head Rotarians

Dr. Ray Larson, local chiropractor, was elected president of the Torrance Rotary club, succeeding A. E. (Tommy) Thompson. Larson will take office July 1.

Going into office with Larson will be Dr. Joe Bay, local otonemrist, who was elected president.

Members of the board of directors include: Eldon Bowen, Glen Koger, Robert Leech, Mark Moss, Jack Schmidt, George Post, A. E. (Tommy) Thompson.

Larson, who has lived in the South Bay area since 1923, presently lives at 2760 Eldorado, together with his wife, Eula.

He has been active in civic affairs, serving on Community Chest, YMCA, YWCA, and Red Cross committees.

He is a member of the South Bay Elks, Torrance Masons, Eastern Star, Chamber of Commerce, National and California Chiropractors' associations, and a veteran of World War II.

The gambling operations had been under observation for about a month. Officers of the sheriff's vice squad used disguises to mingle with the men before finally cracking down on them and making the arrests.

Receiving a week's continuance before entering their plea following their arrest on charges of gambling were:

Randall D. Abbott Jr. of Lynwood; John C. Bramble, 46, of Los Angeles; Bert R. Dillard, 29, of Los Angeles; Chris E. Elkins, 36, of 25445 Fiejoa ave., Lomita; Virgil Gorham, 45, of Inglewood; Orville L. Jarrett, 35, of Norwalk; Watson H. Jones, 62, of Long Beach; Thomas L. Marrs, 54, of Los Angeles; Clayton F. O'Leary, 39, of Huntington Park, and Clifford P. Royce, 39, of Downey.

Some were charged with participating in an illegal poker game and some accused of participating in a dice game.

Bail was set at \$100 for all suspects except Bramble, who was detained on \$250 bail on the charge that he was the operator of the dice game.

Officials stated that a number of other suspects are being sought.

(Turn to Page 7)

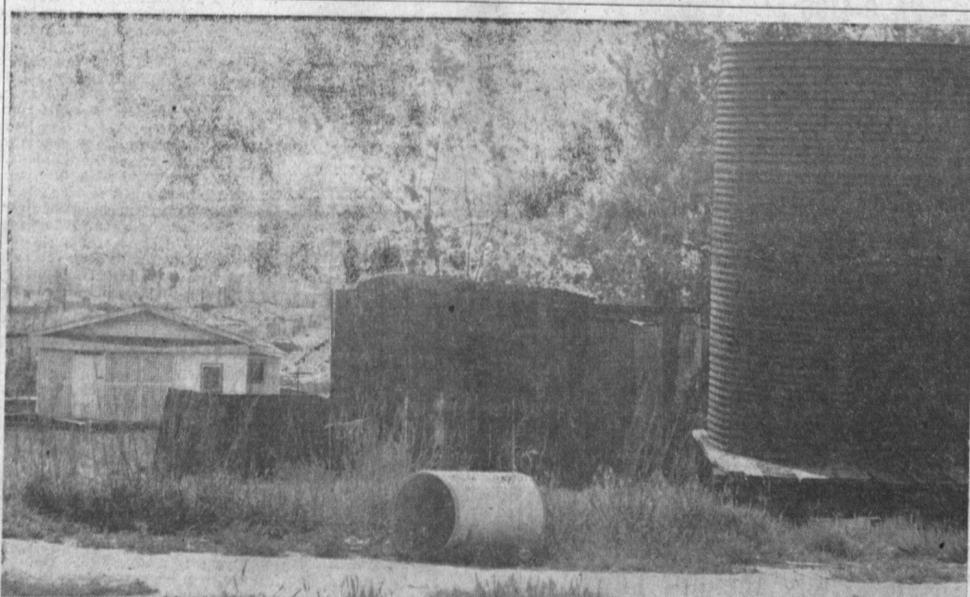
For Speedy Results - Call FA. 8-2345

"I had 25 calls and sold the item on the second call."

So stated Mrs. H. F. Strohm, 2408 Cabrillo, after placing the following ad in the Torrance Press classified section:

LARGE chest of drawers, small folding top, desk, \$15 for both. FA. 8-2098

For quick results, place an ad in the Torrance Press classified section whether you wish to rent, sell, trade, hire, or find. Call FA. 8-2345 and ask for "classified." A friendly salesgirl will help you word your ad just right.



BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

Sights like this around Torrance leave residents and visitors with mixed feelings. On the one hand are the brand new tracts rising cheerfully out of the ground, pointing to Torrance's rapid growth and progress. On the other hand are dilapidated shacks and rusty tanks cluttering the landscape. The above scene is at Carson and Flower streets.—Press Photo.

Israel Consul General To Speak Here Wed.

Dr. Avraham Biran, Consul General for Israel to the Western States will speak in Torrance on Wednesday, April 11, to celebrate Israel Independence Day and the launching of the local United Jewish Welfare Fund drive.

The noted diplomat will discuss the position of Israel in the present world crisis at the gathering of some 100 Torrance Volunteer Fund drive leaders at the Palms restaurant, 1925 Carson st., at 8:30 p.m.

Dr. Biran who was educated in England, put aside his career as a prominent archeologist and writer to work for the cause of Israel. He has been Consul General to the United States for the past three years.

In his capacity of diplomatic envoy to this country, he has devoted his life to promoting understanding between his country and the United States.

Among the many leading

(Turn to Page 7)



DR. BIRAN

THIEF STEALS SPARK PLUGS

A thief with a sparkle in his eye for spark plugs broke into Virgil's Associated gas station, 2477 Lomita Blvd. between Sunday and Monday, stole \$110 worth of spark plugs, Virgil D. Hancock reported to Lennox sheriff's station.

EDITORIAL

your vote will determine the progress of Torrance for the next three years

Next Tuesday, most of us will go to the polls and elect three men to represent us as councilmen for the next four years.

The publishers of the Torrance Press—after careful consideration, recommend the following candidates:

Victor E. Benstead Jr.
Robert B. Jahn
William E. King Jr.

as the three men most qualified to handle the tremendous responsibilities faced by a councilman in a fast growing city such as ours.

Torrance is entering an era of fabulous growth, both commercial and industrial, and now more than ever before we need men who can plan ahead, and help build Torrance into the finest community in Southern California.

Victor E. Benstead Jr.
(Steel Worker)

Robert B. Jahn
(Contractor)

William E. (Bill) King Jr.
(Newspaperman)

We believe we are endorsing three men who are independent enough to do their own thinking, yet who can work together for the common good of Torrance.

M. L. OWENS
W. R. ZAPPAS
Co-Publishers

21,857 Voters Registered Here

This week winds up our hot and heavy City election as 15 weary candidates campaign through the last few days before Tuesday, April 10 (election day).

There will be 16 candidates on the ballot, but only 15 of them remain in the running. Bill Evans having withdrawn from the race because of a conflict between his candidacy and retirement benefits.

(For statement from candidates and pictures turn to Page 4).

Amendments To Appear On Ballot Tuesday

In addition to choosing three councilmen, Torrance voters will be asked to decide the fate of nine charter amendments which will appear on the municipal ballot Tuesday, April 10.

Eight of the nine have been generally agreed to be non-controversial with a "yes" vote recommended for all of them. The ninth amendment—dealing with the consolidation of City Council and School Board elections—has been the subject of much debate.

The general gist of the nine amendments is as follows:

Amendment No. 1 provides that City Council members shall receive \$100 monthly as salary. They receive no pay at present.

Amendment No. 2 provides that assistant city attorneys or deputy city attorneys shall be members of the classified service of the city.

Amendment No. 3 provides that city expenditures of more than \$2000 must be let by bid. Present charter provides that expenditures in excess of \$1000 shall be let by bid.

Amendment No. 4 provides for certain technical changes on actions against the city.

Amendment No. 5 has to do with the consolidation of City Council and School Board elections.

A total of 21,857 residents have registered and will be eligible to vote.

While a number of single aspirants appear to be making some strong localized showings, the greatest emphasis has been placed on two sets of three candidates who represent competing camps.

On the one hand are Councilman Nick Drale, Beverly Smith, and Walter Garabrant who are generally identified with the Blount faction (Councilman Willys Blount who appears to be seeking the mayorship).

On the other hand are Councilman Victor Benstead, Bob Jahn, and Bill King who have received the endorsement of Mayor Albert Isen.

The Drale-Smith-Garabrant group has received the backing

(Turn to Page 7)

ELECTION RESULTS

For the convenience of our readers, the Torrance Press office will be open election night and will keep a running count on the election returns. Call the Press office for election results (FA. 8-2345).

Mayor Isen Endorses Benstead, Jahn, King

Abolition of "secret" or "star chamber" meetings of the City Council is considered by Mayor Albert Isen to be his greatest accomplishment since becoming a member of the Torrance City Council two years ago.

The veteran attorney made the observation during an interview this week in which he also (1) forecast a record city budget for 1956-57 without increasing taxes; (2) predicted a population of 100,000 for Torrance by 1965; (3) lashed out for free speech among city employees and home owners at City Council meetings; and (4) took a long look at local politics, revealing for the first time publicly that he is supporting Victor Benstead, Bob Jahn, and Bill King for election to the City Council next Tuesday.

Here's what he had to say:

Q—What is the most important thing that has happened since your election to the City Council two years ago?

A—"Doing away with closed or 'star chamber' meetings of the Council. This was accomplished by insisting that we comply with the state law requiring all councilmanic deliberations be held in open chambers before the public."

Q—Do city employees still have to discuss their problems in whispers and away from City Hall?

A—"Absolutely not! City employees, home owners, and the working people of Torrance can now exercise their constitutional right to be heard."

(Turn to Page 7)



TEMPORARILY UNEMPLOYED

A fire burned out the attic and destroyed the records of the California State Employment office, 1628 Cravens, early Wednesday morning. Torrance firemen worked 2 1/2 hours on the blaze. The fire appears to have started in the heating unit area. The office has been moved to temporary quarters across the street (1603 Cravens). Officials stated that individuals who were due at the employment office yesterday or today, Thursday, should report today. The office opens at 8 a.m.—Press Photo.

Ted Cummings—From Checker To Food Giant

Southern California's colossal supermarkets which have revolutionized the retail food field, owe much to a man who, 25 years ago, entered the grocery business as a checker.

(See Special Section Page 13)

From this humble—but important—position to become the builder of the world's largest supermarket is the record of the meteoric career of Theodore Cummings, who is now launching the 55,000 square foot Food Giant market in Inglewood. The rapid pace set in the retail food field by Cummings can be measured by the fact that the enormous new enterprise is his 23rd "grand opening."

Cummings' early observations in retailing were the basis for his marketing theories, which now place him among the world's foremost merchants. Cummings believed then, and he has since proved his philosophy, that speed in food handling and convenient facilities would result in high volume—therefore low prices.

Many years ago, Cummings established a new and rapid system of "checking," and

(Turn to Page 7)