

COUNCIL CINCHES 50 ACRES FOR NEW RECREATION PARK

Other Parks Also Studied

Action was finally initiated by the City Council to condemn 50 acres adjoining the new civic center for a centrally located community recreation park Tuesday night.

The matter which the council managed to pigeon-hole prior to the election was brought out in the open again by Councilman Victor Benstead who moved that the city start condemnation proceedings.

His motion was seconded by Councilman Bob Jahn and concurred in by Mayor Albert Isen. Councilmen Willys Blount and Nick Drale voted against the matter.

Drale qualified his "no" vote by saying that he was in favor of community parks.

Community Parks
Mayor Isen, following Benstead's motion, made another motion asking that the Park and Recreation Commission study the needs for additional parks and park facilities throughout the city.

Drale seconded Isen's motion which was unanimously adopted by the council.

Action on condemnation proceedings against the 50 acres was taken in order to freeze the price of the land and prevent development of it for purposes other than park purposes. The cost of this action is nominal, amounting to about \$125.

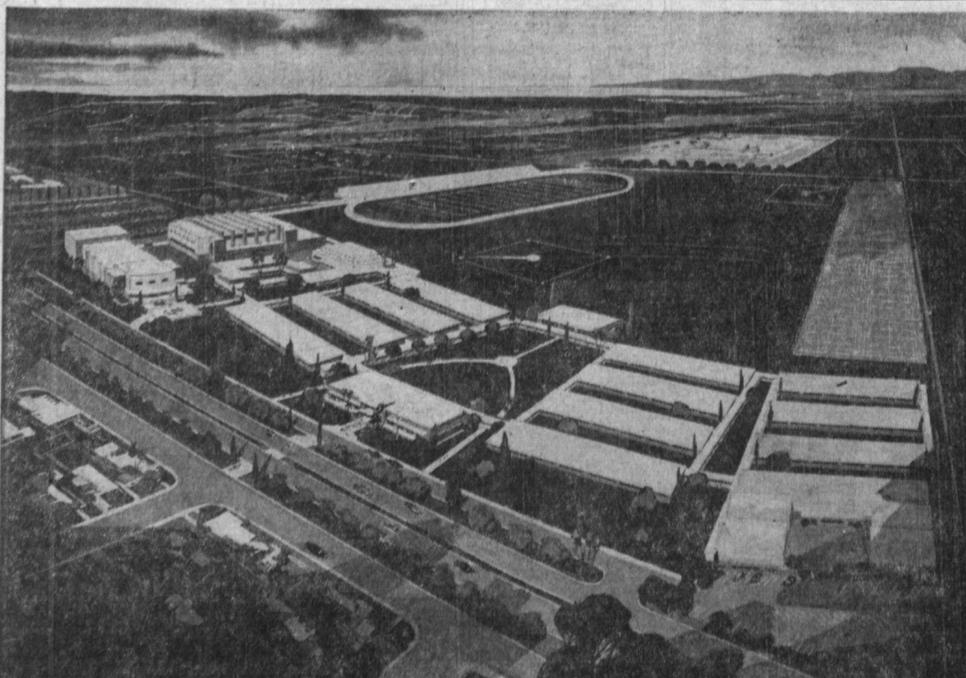
Voters to Decide
Acquisition of the park as well as development and acquisition of community parks will be up to the voters ultimately. This will be in the form of a bond issue the extent of which will have to be studied by the Recreation Commission.

Originally, the council talked in terms of a 90 acre park but that has been reduced to 50 acres. The original park was to include: an auditorium (including drama and music center); recreation center (including gym, meeting rooms, teen lounge, arts and crafts rooms, science study rooms); museum (art center, studios for painting, sculpturing, crafts); paved court areas (tennis, other court games); athletic field; fair grounds; picnic area and outdoor theater; natural area; play lots; children's wonderland and zoo; day and week-end camping grounds for organized youth groups; and junior museum (arts and science center).

The commission will now have to study which of these facilities will be included on the 50 acre site.

The Story of Harbor General's 180 TB Patients

There are 180 TB patients at present at Harbor General hospital. They range anywhere from 16 years to 80 years, spending an average of 1 1/2 years in the hospital. Some have been there for years. In a sense, they are the neglected members of our community. Their life and needs are discussed in an article on page 10.



IT'S A GREAT SIGHT

Grading was started this week on the site of the new South high school to be located on the north side of Pacific Coast highway east of Calle Mayor. Auditorium and gym are on the far left; shops and industrial arts on the right; between are classrooms, administration building, music building and library; athletic field is in back.



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COUNCIL BRIEFS

RIVIERA HOTEL: Approval for a change of zone was granted the Don Ja Ran construction co. for the development of a hotel at 601-649 Paseo de la Playa Hollywood Riviera.

COMMERCIAL ZONE: Request of the Del Amo Estate co. for the commercial rezoning of property bounded by Sepulveda on the south, Hawthorne on the west, the proposed extension of Carson on the north, and the railroad right-of-way and parcel of land owned by another corporation on the east was referred to the Planning Commission. The firm also negotiating for the purchase of 9.9 acres adjoining this property (southeast corner).

PAY: Request by members of the Civil Service Board to be paid \$10 a meeting a month (not to exceed \$20) was turned down by a 3-2 vote (Jahn, Isen, Benstead against the request; Drale, Blount in favor). The Planning Commission, it was pointed out, gets paid.

TRAFFIC: The city attorney was asked to draft a special ordinance providing for one-side-of-the-street parking in Hollywood Riviera as requested by the residents.

LICENSE FEES: An amendment to the license ordinance was approved permitting prorating of license fees, by unexpired quarters.

LIGHT MANUFACTURING: City Attorney James Hall has been requested to give an opinion in writing whether the present council could go counter to the previous council's action calling for the rezoning of property on the southeast corner of Carson and Crenshaw for light manufacturing purposes. The city attorney has also been asked to rule if there would be any personal liability involved for any of the councilmen.



FOREIGN OFFICIALS VISIT HERE

Torrance city officials played host to foreign officials who visited this city which has been selected as an example of good municipal government. Seated (l-r) Parviz Safinya, UN staff from Iran; George Stevens, Torrance city manager; Ghasem Rezaei, faculty of Institute of Administrative Affairs, Teheran, Iran; (standing, l-r) Albert Isen, mayor of Torrance; Dr. Frank Sherwood, professor of public administration, USC; and Ali Niemi, former mayor of Abadaw, Iran, and faculty member of the Institute of Administrative Affairs.—Press Photo.

Council Stalls Decision 1 Week on Drale's Tracts

Decision on three final tract maps on which Councilman Nick Drale is making a commission as a realtor was held up another week until a written ruling regarding the legality of the matter is received from the League of California Cities.

Action on the tract maps was withheld last week pending a ruling whether a

councilman can have a financial interest in tract maps coming before the council, even if he abstains from voting. The city attorney was to rule, too, whether councilmen are within their rights to turn down a final tract map after having approved the preliminary map.

City Attorney James Hall ruled that Drale's action (disqualifying himself from vot-

ing on the basis that he had a personal interest in the tract maps) was "proper under the circumstances."

Ruling Explained

Quoting section 1090 of the State government code which prohibits public officials from being interested in contracts or sales in their official capacity as public officials, Hall ruled

that this applies only to situations where the city spends or receives public funds. This does not apply to tract maps, he ruled.

Regarding disapproval of a final tract map after approval of the tentative map, Hall ruled that it would be up to the subdivider to show that the final tract map is essentially the same as the tentative one. He could then force approval through court action.

However, as far as the individual councilman's liability is concerned, he cannot be sued for "his acts done with care in the honest performance of his governmental duties." He can be held liable only if neglect of his duty is "coupled with willful negligence, malice, or corruption."

Hall informed the council that the counsel for the League of California Cities has given verbal approval of these rulings. The council is now awaiting them in writing before acting.

Mayor Isen reaffirmed his stand that he would continue to

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EDITORIAL

We Endorse 5 Out of 15 School Board Candidates, Vote for 3

We will be faced with one of our most important responsibilities when we go to the polls Friday, May 18 to elect three members to the Board of Education.

After having made a thorough study of their background, the Torrance Press is giving its endorsement to five of the 15 candidates running for office, recommending a "yes" vote for any three of these five individuals.

Our recommendations are as follows (alphabetically):

Cecil W. Alter (realtor).

Clair W. Olsen (weighmaster).

Darwin D. Parrish (merchant).

Incumbent

Howard J. Percy (realtor).

Mrs. Grace Wright (housewife).

Incumbent

It is vital that the most qualified individuals are elected to the School Board since they will serve for the next four years during which Torrance will be faced with tremendous school problems and school growth.

The board members already have the heavy responsibility of spending more than \$5 million of the taxpayers' money annually, a figure which is vastly higher than what is spent by the City Council.

Of the three incumbents seeking re-election, Darwin Parrish and Mrs. Grace Wright have shown an earnest concern and understanding for school problems. Their experience will continue to be a great asset to the School Board.

While we do not question J. G. Arnold's personal qualifications, we are withholding our endorsement of him because of his appointment (less than seven months ago), rather than election to the School Board. We believe that board members should be elected rather than appointed whenever possible.

On the basis of previous participation in civic affairs, we feel that Alter, Olsen or Percy will bring a much-needed alert and independent spirit to the School Board.

We, therefore, recommend a vote for three of these five candidates.

It is refreshing to see and we are fortunate to have 15 fine and capable candidates offer their services in this election.

A detailed biographical background of all 15 candidates will be published next Thursday, the day before the election.

Work Starts This Summer On Reynolds Aluminum Here

Plans for a new Aluminum foil plant in Torrance have been completed by Reynolds Metals company. The announcement was made today by J. Louis Reynolds, executive vice-president of the company.

Employees Of City Seek New Benefits

Sherman Miller, of Local 1135, Government and Civic Employees Organizing committee; and J. R. Hollomon, of the Co-ordinating Council of City Employees; appeared before the City Council Tuesday to present employe benefit proposals.

Among the proposed benefits are: 12.5 per cent raise with a minimum of \$50, three-week paid vacations after five years' service, and all city employes to receive 11 paid holidays per year.

Another proposed benefit is for all city employes to receive one day's sick leave for every month worked. After the 60

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Annexation

VICTOR ELECTION TUESDAY

Voters within the Victor precinct will decide this coming Tuesday, May 15, whether the district is to annex to Torrance or not.

Involved are 604 acres bordered by Torrance Blvd., Hawthorne Ave., Del Amo, and the Redondo Beach city boundary. Of the 720 residents in the area, 200 are registered voters. There will be one polling place at 4531 Emerald St.

It's as Simple as Do-Re-Mi

As far as Vic Chatten of 1657 W. 215th St. is concerned, the Torrance Press is music to his ears.

Chatten's feelings stem from his recent successful attempt to sell a Hammond organ.

He placed the following ad in the Torrance Press classified section:

HAMMOND ELECTRIC ORGAN
Spend Like new.
Evenings, FA 8-1122

"I received 20 calls within 24 hours and sold my organ as a result of running an ad in the Torrance Press. I'm very pleased with the results," he exclaimed.

For fast results the sure and inexpensive way, call FA-82345 and place your classified ad today. Just ask for "Classified."

Stevenson Here Friday

Adlai Stevenson will arrive in the Torrance area at approximately 10:30 a.m. tomorrow morning, May 11. It was announced by Stevenson For President headquarters in Los Angeles.

GRADING STARTS ON SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL

Site grading started this week on the new South high school to be located on Pacific Coast highway just east of Calle Mayor. Construction of the school is scheduled for completion by September 1957.

The school will provide facilities for a potential 3000 student enrollment, although the plant will house 1000 students at first.

Designed by Architect Roy Donley, AIA, the new high school follows a formal plan with classroom buildings surrounding a central mall.

Special Provisions

A number of provisions have been made for the sake of maxi-

num efficiency as well as future educational needs.

The industrial arts unit will be located near the highway for convenient truck delivery of materials.

The gym, auditorium, music building, and multi-purpose

building will be located at the west end of the campus. They will surround a service yard enclosure which will be completely inaccessible to students, enabling truck deliveries to the four buildings without crossing

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