

Council Candidates Tell Views on City Park Bonds

Almost all candidates for City Council lined up solidly behind the \$3,000,000 bond issue for parks and recreation, but most of them want some concrete plans on where and how the money should be spent.

A show-down on a park development and improvement program if the bond issue is passed in the April 8 municipal election, will face the City Council Tuesday at a 5 p.m. meeting.

At that time, Harry B. Van Bellehem, director of the Recreation Department, will submit his idea on what should be done with the money in regard to specific locations and sizes.

Of the nine candidates polled, only one, Albert Hinz, opposed bonds as the proper way to finance recreation development.

"I think parks are wonderful. But I don't think we should enter bonded indebtedness with the new shopping center and industry coming in. The only way I'd go for the bond issue is

if the money is repaid from increased tax money coming in from new business and industry.

"I definitely don't believe in buying a pig in a poke. I don't know when the land went that subdividers were supposed to set aside for parks."

Other views were held by other candidates.

THOMAS ABRAMS—"I'm for it 100 per cent, with the provision that they be smaller parks rather than one large one. More will be accomplished by more play areas. It's one means to get the kids off streets. The parks should be built to segregate age groups."

J. A. BEASLEY—"I'm disturbed by a couple members of the Council, Drale and Blount, kicking this around to confuse the issue by wanting to know exactly where the parks should be. The new Council will be the one which will have to make

the decision on the locations. The recourse people have, is to elect councilmen they can trust. Some locations may not be available any more in three months."

GEORGE BRADFORD—"I'm in favor of playgrounds, and I'm in favor of people knowing the truth. We should have all the facts. We should know where the parks are to be located and the size. I favor larger parks where more people are, and smaller parks where fewer people live."

THIRVIN D. FLEETWOOD—"I'm for the bond issue, but there should be more stipulation where and how and by whom the money is spent. The park sites should be selected and tied up by deposits. The bond issue passed everywhere except downtown where we have the only good park."

VIRGIL HANCOCK—"I'm for recreation, but I'm not for spending all the money in one place. If distributed out, and

every area gets a fair share, I'm for it. I'm going to look into it a little more before I decide definitely."

CLIFFORD PETERSON—"I definitely believe we should have parks. The only issue is where the \$3,000,000 goes. We should depend on expert information from the Recreation Department. I favor smaller parks, but we should permit qualified men to determine where they should be located."

MURL REEVES—"I was for the \$3,000,000 original bond issue because we get more people all the time, and the cost should be less as more new businesses and homes are built. I think small children get more enjoyment out of neighborhood parks. I'm not opposed to large parks, but the smaller ones should come first."

GEORGE VICO—"We should have a few more parks in town. I'm in favor of parks and the only way to have them is to float a bond issue."

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MAYOR SEEKS JOBLESS HELP



ST. PATRICK'S DAY—Students at Bishop Montgomery High School will celebrate St. Patrick's Day by teaching an Irish jig to a donkey (Julia Long and Terry McLaughlin). At left is Peggy McMonigle and Donna Marionezi play saxophone and Bob Early, guitar. —Press photo

Babe Ruth Park Use Protested

City Attorney Stanley Remelmeier will be asked about the legality of a lease with the Babe Ruth League after a group of residents protested use of Guenser Park by the youthful ballplayers.

Objections to the building of a diamond in the land donated to the city by Henry Guenser, was voiced at a meeting of the Park and Recreation Commission Wednesday.

Presents Letter
Scott Brown, of 2122 W. 177th st., presented a letter, he said was signed by Guenser, in which the donor said he gave the land for public use and not for the benefit of a private group.

Brown said that the baseball field being laid out for the League is right in the middle of the 3 1/2 acre park site, and will prevent other groups from using the park.

He also charged that surrounding streets are very narrow and will create a parking and traffic problem.

Park Plans
In reply to a question by George McKenna, of 2226 W. 177th st., the Commission said that Babe Ruth League will have to vacate the site, if the \$3,000,000 recreation bond issue passes, and the land is developed as a park.

Commission members also pointed out that they thought it better that the land be cleaned up and used rather than remain as it was.

The former dump site is located at 178th st. and Gramercy place.

The Commission said that it will be up to the city attorney to rule if any deed restrictions invalidate the lease granted to the League by the City Council.

Flood Damages Filed Against City by Club

Damages of \$36,807 will be asked Tuesday by the Hollywood Riviera Club from the city for alleged negligence in not providing proper drainage in six rain storms.

Action was instituted by Norton B. Wisdom, owner of the club at 201 Paseo de la Playa.

The suit brought by the law firm of Cowan and Peterson, charged the city refused to do anything about the conditions even after being advised of the hazards by the club management.

Right Suspects, But Wrong Town

Torrance detectives felt that they had wasted their time when they picked up three prisoners and booked them on burglary charges Thursday.

Capt. Ernest Ashton said the Los Angeles police caught the trio who reportedly stole more than \$200 of jukebox records from a delivery truck in Torrance.

The prisoners were picked up in Los Angeles, but on the way back to Torrance, it was discovered that the theft actually occurred in Gardena.

Torrance police promptly turned them over to their Gardena colleagues.



ROCKET RIDER—Gaye Wilson, former Miss Torrance, dons space outfit and sits astride Nike missile to hold J. D. Thomas, left, chairman of the airport committee of the Chamber of Commerce, and Thomas Abrams, chairman of the Torrance Airport Commission, make plans for Torrance Airport Day May 3.

Airport Day Plans Aired at Meeting

Preliminary planning for "Torrance Airport Day" scheduled for May 3 was initiated by Citizens Committee of fifty people at a luncheon held Thursday, March 13 at the Battery D, 865 AAA Msl. Bn., Member of the 47th AAA Brigade, Nike Site.

Adding beauty to the session was 19 year old Gaye Wilson, who has been titled "Miss Torrance Airport". Gaye, a statuette blond beauty and "Miss Torrance" of 1956, was attired in an abbreviated Uncle Sam costume.

J. D. Thomas, Managing Superintendent of Douglas Aircraft's Torrance Plant, and Aviation Chairman of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, was named General Chairman of the program designed to publicize the tremendous potential of the municipally owned airport.

Guests at the planning session included officials of the City of Torrance, Chamber of Commerce, Civil Air Patrol, Civil Aeronautics Authority, Airport Commission, and representatives of the Army, Navy, Air Force, National Guard, Aircraft companies and all industrial and commercial firms located on airport property.

Possible events discussed were "open house" at Nike Base and all industrial firms in the area, displays from all branches of the service and aircraft firms, sight-seeing flights, guided tours, Civil Air Patrol and National Guard demonstrations and fire works.

Library Approval Being Sought

Plans for the Hollywood Riviera library to be constructed in El Retiro Park, will be presented to the Library Commission Monday evening.

Architect Marion J. Varner said he has completed working drawings and the city can call for bids as soon as it approves the specifications. He estimated cost of the modernistic structure at \$30,000.

Isen Offers Help to Curtail Slump

A double-pronged anti-recession program to boost employment and business in Torrance, will be offered Tuesday by Mayor Albert Isen.

The resolution to be proposed by the mayor will ask Torrance industrial firms and businesses to establish a policy of giving employment preference to Torrance residents, and will ask federal aid for public works that can benefit the city.

Gives Speeches
Isen announced his intention to boost the city economy through his resolution in speeches Thursday before the Torrance Junior Chamber of Commerce and the State County and Municipal Employees Local No. 1135.

"Next Tuesday I will introduce a resolution by the City Council asking the cooperation of the Chamber of Commerce and Torrance industry and business to establish a policy of hiring Torrance residents whenever applicants for open positions present equal qualifications," Isen said.

Gives Details
"At the time I present the resolution for adoption, I will explain in further detail why I believe it is a necessary part of this city's anti-recession program," the mayor continued.

While the mayor did not discuss any particular public works program, one of them could be the acceleration of freeway construction through federal funds. Torrance will be served by two freeways, the Harbor and San Diego routes. While funds have been allocated to construct the Harbor Freeway to 190th st., construction of the San Diego Freeway through Torrance is still some time away.

Jack Phillips introduced Isen at the Jaycee meeting, while John Dunmeyer presented him to the employees union.

Absentee Ballots Are Now Available
Applications for absentee ballots may be made starting Wednesday, City Clerk A. H. Bartlett announced today.

Closing deadline for obtaining the absentee ballots for the April 8 municipal election is on April 3.

Yard Bids Due
Bids will soon be called for construction of buildings for a new city yard at the Torrance dump site, City Manager George Stevens announced.

He estimates cost of buildings at between \$65,000 and \$85,000 and \$70,000.

500 Caissons to Support Mary Hospital as Construction Reported on Schedule

Construction of the Little Company of Mary Hospital is progressing as scheduled according to George A. Leverniz, construction superintendent.

"We have completed pouring concrete for columns supporting the entire building except in the sub-basement area. To date we have poured 1200 cubic yards of concrete," he reported.

The 146-bed hospital, located on Torrance blvd. west of Hawthorne blvd., will rest on nearly 500 caisson extending 35 feet into the sandy soil.

Masonry walls of the service building and boiler room are being laid up now. This building is located at the northeast corner of the property and will be connected with the hospital by a covered passage way.

The five-story hospital will be built in the form of a cross with the main entrance facing the corner of Torrance blvd. and Earl streets.

Sisters of the Little Company

Jobless Decline Noted

The peak in unemployment was reached during the last week of February, with a slight decline noticed last week.

That was the observation of Mrs. Winona Ellis, manager of the Torrance office of the State Department of Employment.

She said she bases her statement on the smaller increase in applications for insurance benefits during the past two weeks.

Re-hiring
"The crowd in the office is not going down suddenly but quite a few plants are rehiring some laid-off employees," she said.

Claims for the week ending March 6, numbered 488, an increase of 102 over the week ending Feb. 27, when 476 claims were paid, she said.

While she acknowledges that the figures show an increase in the number of jobless, she explains that the rate of increase is slowing down.

Slows Down
Five weeks ago, the increase over the preceding week was 158; the next week the rise was 191, followed three weeks ago with a hike of 189. Two weeks ago the increase slumped down to 92, and last week to 102.

The number of unemployment claims during the week ending Feb. 27 of 476, compared with 931 benefits applications during the corresponding week in 1957.

Mrs. Ellis sticks by her earlier prediction that the job situation will show improvement by mid-March.

"Things usually get better at that time, particularly in the construction industry which has had to contend with rainy weather," she said.

Six Hurt in Car Collisions

An elderly Long Beach man was hospitalized with a concussion after he was flung from his auto in a two-car collision at Hawthorne and Lomita blvds. Friday afternoon.

Taken to Harbor General Hospital was John Charles Curran, 68, of 705 E. Sixth st., driver of a car which was making a left turn.

Minor injuries were received by Mrs. Patricia Louise Hurfman, 32, of 359 Paseo de Gracia, driver of the other car, and her two children, Gary, 10, and Robert, 12, police said.

Two persons received medical treatment as result of another collision at Hawthorne blvd. and 182nd st.

They were Mrs. Cornell Landes, 36, of Ann Arbor, Mich., and her daughter, Connie, 10. Both were passengers in the car operated by Walter Henry Landes, 31, officers said.

The other car was driven by Edythe Marie Crank, 32, of 4574 W. 182nd st., Lawndale.

Bids Due on Harbor Freeway

Bids on the construction of the Harbor Freeway from 134th to 190th sts. will be called this summer, Assemblyman Vincent Thomas announced today.

He reported that the State Highway Commission, which has allocated \$8,700,000 for the project, will order construction in two phases, the first for \$6,000,000.

Thomas said the second, \$2,700,000 phase, will be advertised for bid in the 1959-60 fiscal year.

Indications are that construction on the first phase will get under way shortly after the bids are received.

The Assemblyman said that he has been advised that the entire Harbor Freeway to Lomita blvd. will be completed within five years providing the gas tax remains the same.

Completion of the Harbor Freeway between 96th and 134th sts., is expected to be achieved this summer.

Local Men Named on Welfare Board

Two new members from Torrance were officially elected to the Harbor Area Board of Directors of the Welfare Federation of Los Angeles area at the Harbor area Community Chest banquet held at the Hacienda Hotel Wednesday.

New members from Torrance are Glenn Koger, vice-president and general manager of Rome Cable Co., and Mrs. Bernice Woodwin, recording secretary of Torrance. Koger was also elected first vice-chairman of the Area Board. J. A. Robinson was re-elected as chairman and Ed Patterson will serve as second vice-chairman.

Ernest J. Loebecke, president of the Welfare Federation of the Los Angeles area, presided at the installation.

Student 'Drop-outs' Only Minor Problem in Torrance High Schools

Students leaving high school before graduation is no major problem in the Torrance Unified School District, although it is of major concern to educators in the harbor area.

Dr. Warren Hamilton, director of special services in Torrance, said that less than 3 per cent of the high school students drop out prematurely.

This is in contrast to three out of 10 youngsters leaving school in nearby areas, as reported to the Harbor Area Welfare Planning Council.

"Undoubtedly the difference is because of more economic stability and employment opportunities," explained Dr. Hamilton.

Another factor which gives greater stability to the 3718 Torrance high school students, is that the district has a program for students of low academic ability.

"Lack of interest in school" was given as the major reason for school drop-outs. Next is economic necessity and third, maladjustment, Dr. Hamilton said.

He said that Torrance schools are included in the survey made by the Harbor Council, but that contrary to some other schools, the drop-outs are only a minor factor here.

Of the students that leave school, the greatest majority do

Council to Meet Twice a Week, Mayor Predicts

City Council meetings will be held twice a week after April, Mayor Albert Isen predicted Tuesday.

He made the remark as the Council ploughed through a lengthy agenda which included seven public hearings.

Isen said he thought that the new Council will almost have to have two meetings a week in order to take care of the city's growing business.

Y Needs \$3700 to Operate

Torrance YMCA officials announced that \$20,273 has been raised thus far toward the 1958 current support for the local youth agency.

Joe Wilcox, Executive Secretary, stated that \$3,727 must be raised in the next ten days in order to continue present YMCA services to more than 5,500 Torrance youngsters.

Wilcox urged all interested citizens and firms to make their pledges as soon as possible, so that the present staff can remain, and no interruptions will occur.

In an all out effort to wind up the YMCA Drive, the "Y" will have young YMCA members call for pledges all day Monday, a school holiday. If any person or company wishes to help the YMCA reach its 1958 goal in the next week, they may call FAirfax 8-1272 for a prompt visit by a YMCA youth.

Wilcox lauded the 250 volunteers who have raised 83% of the local YMCA goal in spite of difficult times.

Military Duties Told

Military obligations of youths will be explained to parents by representatives of the armed forces at the North High School PTA meeting Tuesday at 8 p.m. in the cafeteria.

Thief Scared Off

A burglar was frightened away when questioned by a housewife, who saw trying to sneak into the house. Police said the report of attempted burglary was made by Marilyn Benner, of 2301 W. 177th st.