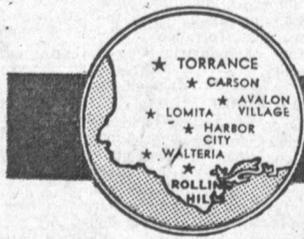


Schools to Seek State Building Funds

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AN EDITORIAL . . .

Voter Must Decide Issue for Himself

Thirty-two polling places will be open next Tuesday from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m., as the Torrance Unified School District asks additional financial support for the next three years.

The Torrance Press has made every effort to present both sides of the issue to the voters and to the taxpayers but the issue itself sometimes becomes cloudy with claims and counterclaims.

Taxpayers will be asked to decide whether or not to give the district an extra 50 cents over and above the present maximum of \$2.40 per \$100 assessed valuation.

MEDIAN BRACKET

School official and proponents of the measure have stumped the district pointing out that Torrance is now in a median bracket of the tax base compared with other communities of a comparative size.

Yet this, in itself, is not a reason for granting a tax override, and it must be noted that, with a 50-cent increase, Torrance district will be in the top 15 percent of the same group.

Opponents to the tax override claim a "No" vote is, a vote of no confidence in the present administration.

There is little doubt that money is needed by the district if it is to expand its concept of education over the years. But the timing of this request could not be worse. The average homeowner and taxpayer has just been presented with his tax bills for city, county and school expenditures and is being gently nudged by the approaching April 15 deadline for state and federal income taxes.

HEAVY INDUSTRY

Yet this community is heavily industrialized, an advantage that the majority of the cities quoted do not have. Property taxes paid by these industries SHOULD make the tax burden to the Torrance homeowner somewhat lighter.

We admit that we do not know the answer. We feel that the issue has not been sufficiently clarified to give an opinion.

We know that there are two sides to any question. We know that proponents of the tax override are firmly convinced of the need for additional funds. But, on the other side of the ledger, there is the ever-patient taxpayer who keeps getting larger and larger tax bills with very little voice in the matter.

And there lies the crux of the entire issue. . . . Apparently there is a need for the additional money. The question is, can the homeowners afford the additional expense at this time?

Torrance Bank Manager to Head Entire Harbor Area Cancer Drive

James J. Weigel, manager of the Torrance branch of Security-First National Bank, will head the 1961 Cancer Crusade for District Eight, it was announced Wednesday by George W. Turner, Los Angeles County Crusade chairman.

District Eight includes the following communities: Lomita, Torrance, Waveria, El Segundo, Hermosa Beach, Manhattan Beach, Redondo Beach, Hawthorne, Inglewood, Lawndale, Lennox, Playa del Rey, Westchester, (L.A. 45), Palos Verdes Estates, Portuguese Bend, Rolling Hills, Gardena, Harbor City and Hollywood Riviera. Weigel has been with Security-First National Bank since 1938 and before his current appointment as Torrance branch manager in September, 1961, had been assistant vice president for branch and office administration in the Los Angeles headquarters. "Jim Weigel brings to this crusade position a record of community service," stated George Turner. "He is currently a member of Torrance Rotary and the Torrance Traffic and Safety Committee. He has worked with the American Cancer Society in the past and has also been an advance gifts chairman for the Community Chest and a district chairman for the Boy Scouts. Weigel is a past commander of the Alondra Park Amvets."

The education and fund-

raising crusade of the ACS will get under way Monday, April 3.

As leader of the ACS campaign here, Weigel appealed for a record turn-out of volunteers to handle jobs in their community during April, Cancer Control Month.

Homeowners Ass'n Names Officers

Members of the Southwest Park Homeowners Association Monday evening named officers for the coming year. Elected were: Jim Long, president; John Ernst, vice president; Wynn Saville, treasurer; Sybil Smith, secretary, and board members Ginger Knox, Louis Bisou, Jack Ekberg and Pat Hogue. Eva Bisou was appointed publicity and youth activities chairman.



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Hooded Market Bandit Escapes with \$5,000



SUBMIT REPORT—A five-man committee, named by the Board of Education last month to survey local school expenditures and costs and to submit a report, Tuesday night turned results of their survey over to the Board. Committee members Arne Tonnesson, Robert Triplitt, James W. Cassidy, Leonard En-

ninger and Nelson Rucker reported that they had studied costs, expenditures and the local tax structure and had compiled an extensive report. Board of Education accepted the report and stated they would subject it to serious study.

RESOLUTION PASSED . . .

Torrance Schools Will Seek \$Million Loan from State Construction Funds

A resolution seeking an additional \$1,120,000 in building funds from the state loan fund was passed by the Torrance Board of Education Tuesday night. Money would be used to build classroom additions at Calle Mayor and Towers Elementary Schools and to buy the site and construct 17 classrooms and other facilities for the Ocean Ave. School, 236th and Ocean Ave., which will serve a huge new tract.

These funds would be in addition to \$849,000 in state loan funds which were allotted by the state last week for construction of other new classrooms at other schools. The recently-acquired Navy site will

also fall under the building budget.

In 1956, Torrance voters authorized the district to seek state loan funds to help it with its building program. Some 30 new plants have been built in Torrance since 1947.

Laborer Buried By Cave-In; Freed by Firemen

A San Gabriel laborer this week is recovering in Little Company of Mary Hospital after a terrifying ordeal Monday.

Raymond Moore, 60, a laborer with a street construction firm, was buried to the waist when an excavation at 428 Paseo de las Estrellas caved in on top of him.

Struck by falling cement blocks and timbers during the cave-in, Mora was pinned in the rubble for more than 20 minutes before firemen and police, hastily summoned to the scene, could free him.

YOUNGSTER RECOVERING

A 7-year-old Torrance youngster is reported in fair condition this week at Compton Community Hospital after being struck by a car last weekend. Samuel Mikami, 3766 W. 174th St., ran from between two cars and was struck by the auto driven by Lydia M. Altensels, 38, of 16334 Arlington, officers reported.

PAVE THE WAY—Members of the Torrance Junior Chamber of Commerce will sponsor the February 15 visit of Dr. William Lawlor, controversial chairman of the Citizen's Advisory Committee for Education, state organization which has proposed drastic cutbacks in California educational procedures and expenditures. Shown laying plans for the address, scheduled for the Torrance High auditorium, are Jaycees Jerry Dunn and Gordon Phillips.

Market Manager Held At Gunpoint by Thief

A masked gunman Tuesday morning held up the manager of the Sunfair Market, 22905 South Vermont, and made his escape with an estimated \$5,000. Market manager, Clarence W. Loe, 42, of El Segundo, told deputies that the gunman was lying in wait for him when he

opened the store at 7 a.m. He was wearing a stocking over his head as a disguise.

Investigating officers reported that the bandit apparently cut a hole in the roof of the market, descended into the store and waited until Loe arrived.

The manager reported that the bandit held him and a bread delivery man at the point of an automatic pistol while he took the money in a canvas bag and then fled out of the door.

Officers described the suspect as between 25 and 30 years of age, 5'8" tall

and weighing approximately 130 pounds.

Loe told the officers that the gunman was sitting on a flight of steps in the rear of the market when he arrived.

After he was directed to the front of the store where the safe was located, the bread delivery man, Mike Stabros, 37, of San Pedro, arrived. The two were then held at the point of a gun while the bandit looted the safe of \$5, \$10 and \$20 bills. The gunman refused to take checks and warned the two not to call police for 20 minutes after he left.

Lomita Group Plans Study of Annexation Laws

A special committee appointed by the Lomita Property Owners and Registered Voters' Association this week undertook an investigation of proposed annexation legislation as a safeguard against annexation of their community.

Mrs. Dessie Myers, president of the organization, reported that the group would oppose any attempts by the city of Torrance to force an annexation election.

FEAR MOVE

Residents of the community, she said, are afraid that Torrance, which will become eligible this month for a second try at annexing the Lomita area, may move in that direction.

A year ago, she said, an effort by Torrance to annex a part of Lomita as uninhabited territory was rejected and the city would become eligible for a second try on February 26, anniversary of the first attempt.

Commenting upon changes proposed in annexation procedures, Mrs. Myers said, "We are afraid that we are going to lose our franchise, because under proposed legislation a city could annex county territory without persons owning it being allowed to vote."

"We think we should at least say to whom we will pay our taxes."

Trading Stamp Burglar Booked; Preliminary Set

An ex-convict, released from an Arkansas prison only one month ago, was arraigned Wednesday morning in South Bay Municipal Court on burglary charges.

Police who captured Earl Leroy Skelton, 28, 2273 Del Amo, alleged that the suspect apparently had just burglarized a service station at 3040 W. 182nd St. of four books of popular brand trading stamps. Value of the stamps was undetermined but each of the huge books holds several thousand stamps.

Preliminary hearing was set for Friday morning at South Bay Municipal Court and bail was set at \$2500.

OPPOSE LEASE

County Board of Supervisors this week deferred plans to rent additional space for the Inglewood superior court facility. Board suggested that if space were needed it should be obtained on a month-by-month basis and opposed a long term lease for needed facilities.



REPUBLICANS MEET—James S. Murphy, president of the South Bay Young Republicans, and Harry S. Adams, vice president, this week reported that the club will stage a "get acquainted" party next Saturday evening at 5525 Michelle Drive. Members of the group, friends and anyone interested is invited to attend.

Chamber, Business Officials Stage B-I-E-Day Planning Meet

Representatives of Torrance's business and industrial organizations, along with members of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce education committee, attended a planning session for Business-Industry-Education Day last week in the City Council chambers.

B-I-E Day will be held on March 17, as has been the practice in the past, with a briefing session at 9 a.m. to be headed by Dr. Stuart Mar-

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