

# It's Now Official: \$9 Million Bond Vote Set

## Torrance Press-Herald

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### Councilmen Slice Up 'Fringe' Pie

Torrance Councilmen voted themselves some fringe benefits last night and made the action retroactive to Jan. 1, 1964.

Councilmen declared themselves eligible to participate in the city's employe health insurance programs on the same basis as regular city employes, which means the city will contribute a portion of the health insurance premiums.

The action followed an opinion by Richard L. Knickerbocker, senior deputy city attorney, that such payments can be made by the city since a provision of the state constitution has been suspended.

The constitutional provision prohibits such payments if they begin during the term of office of the voting members of the council, since such payments are considered additional compensation.

Attorney General Thomas Lynch has ruled that the constitutional provision is not in operation because of the Viet Nam War, Knickerbocker said. Therefore, he added, councilmen — and City Clerk Vernon W. Coll and City Treasurer Thomas Rupert — are eligible for the health insurance program.

The Jan. 1, 1964, date was selected since it is the date set in city ordinance as the beginning of the Viet Nam War for the purpose of determining veteran's preference in civil service matters.

"It would not be as certain that the constitutional compensation limitation would be suspended prior to that date," Knickerbocker said.

# Parents Seek Council Aid In Double Session Battle

## In November \$9 Million Bond Issue On Ballot

A \$9 million school bond issue will be resubmitted to Torrance voters at the Nov. 8 general election.

The Board of Education set the \$9 million figure Monday, then adopted a resolution ordering the Nov. 8 election.

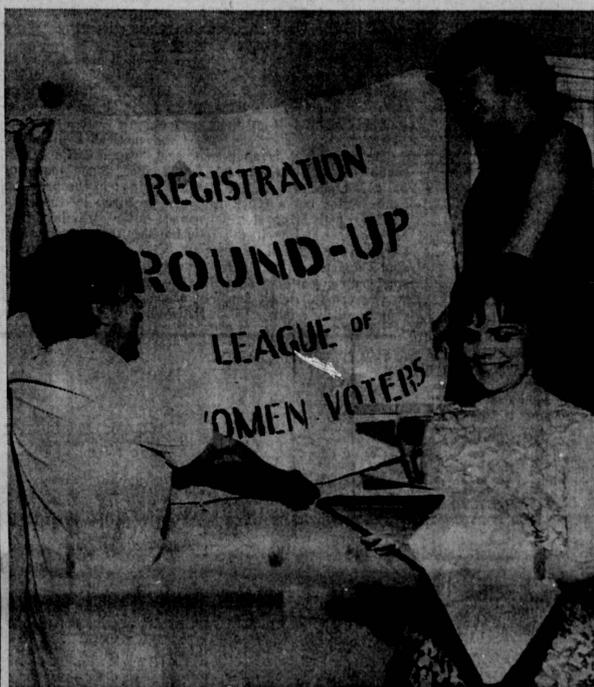
Voters have twice rejected school bond issues this year. A \$12.5 million proposal was voted down in February and a \$9 million bond issue failed at the June 7 primary election.

IN BOTH instances, the bond issues carried a majority of the votes, but failed to get the two-thirds majority required for approval.

The new bond issue will be on the ballot with a state constitutional amendment which, if adopted, would reduce the majority required for approval of bonds at a general election.

COUNTY COUNSEL Harold W. Kennedy has ruled the new amendment, if it wins voter approval, will apply to bond issues on the Nov. 8 ballot. Under provisions of the amendment, a 60 percent favorable vote is sufficient to carry a bond issue which appears on a general election ballot.

Trustees voted 4-0 to resubmit the \$9 million bond issue. William J. Hanson, president of the board, was absent from the meeting.



REGISTRATION DRIVE . . . Mrs. B. E. Belzer (front), chairman of the Torrance League of Women Voters current registration drive, checks voter registration materials while Mrs. Frank Branes, vice president, and Mrs. Leonard Farrell put up a banner which will identify the League's booth at the Rancho Days Carnival. The League will register voters at the carnival, which begins tonight at the Del Amo Center. Voters must register before Sept. 15 in order to vote in the November general election. Registrars will be on duty at the carnival between 5 and 9 p.m. through Saturday. (Press-Herald Photo)

### Councilmen Cool To Aid Requests

Efforts to drag the Torrance City Council into dispute between the Board of Education and parents who oppose double sessions in the city's schools failed last night. Arnold Katz, 22803 Fern Ave., appeared before the council to seek the city's support in his quest to force the school district to lease portable classrooms to end the planned double sessions.

He told councilmen the school board has the money to spend for classrooms and added, "Double sessions, in my view, are entirely unnecessary."

IN AN APPEARANCE before the Board of Education Monday, Katz indicated he and other parents, acting as individuals, were considering legal action to force the board to lease the trailer classrooms.

He reiterated that position last night. Katz, recalling council action last week which granted tentative approval to a proposed 135-home development in the Hickory School area, asked councilmen to make that zoning "subject to the availability of classroom space in the Torrance Unified School District."

HE THEN told councilmen he had prepared a letter which could be sent to the board of Education "if the council agrees with us." Councilmen quickly told Katz they intend to mind their own business.

"If we start bringing all Board of Education problems up here, they are going to resent it," David K. Lyman said, "and if they take all city problems down there, we will resent it."

With that, councilmen dropped the matter.

Katz' appearance before the council followed a debate which lasted some 45 minutes Monday during a meeting of the Board of Education. Nearly 100 parents jammed the board offices to demand that action to eliminate the planned double sessions at Hickory School.

Double sessions are scheduled at Hickory School — at and several other schools — for second- and third-grade students this fall. They are expected to last until two new schools are ready sometime next year.

When the board rejected the pleas of parents, Katz told trustees he had been authorized by several of the parents "to indicate to the board that we are prepared to take further drastic action . . ."

KATZ TOLD the Press-Herald some of the parents, as individuals were "considering trying to get a direct court order" to force the board to spend an estimated \$64,000 to lease 11 portable classrooms. The 11 classrooms would eliminate double sessions at all Torrance schools next fall, according to Frank Mattox, assistant superintendent of schools for business.

Katz, speaking for most of the parents who attended the board meeting, told trustees, "We are here to ask you to spend \$23,000 to lease four trailers to eliminate double sessions at Hickory School."

Citing the district's \$4 million reserve, he told trustees that reserve is "76 per cent in excess of that recommended by the school administration."

THE PARENTS were quickly told the purchase or lease of trailers to eliminate double sessions would have to be done for all schools in the district. Such action would cost \$64,000 for a one-year (Continued on A-2)

### SUMMER THEATRE

## Straw Hat Out, Shakespeare In

Straw hat summer theatre may be a far cry from Shakespeare at the Old Globe. But to 18 third graders at Adams Elementary School, straw hat is old hat and Shakespeare is in!

The youngsters are students in a special class for bright pupils conducted during summer school by Mrs. Mary Higuchi.

As part of a program especially geared to their academic talents the youngsters studied Shakespeare during the six-week summer session.

STUDENTS read a children's version of the play "Midsummer Night's Dream" prior to listening to recordings of the original script. Once they knew the plot, the dialogue delighted them.

To round out their readings, they did library research on Shakespeare the man in their after-school

hours and followed up the research with written reports. During the art portion of their summer class the youngsters constructed a replica of the Old Globe theatre out of cardboard.

THE STUDY concluded with a student presentation of the play. Dialogue was adapted by members of the class.

In other activities this summer, the class solved geometric problems with the straight edge and compass; figured out meanings of words such as "anthropology" from their Latin and Greek stems and roots, and analyzed movements of various symphonies by Beethoven and Mozart.



OLD GLOBE . . . Sharon Beigh, a third grade student enrolled in a special summer class for bright pupils at Adams School, adds the finishing touches to a model of the Old Globe Theatre. The class built the model as part of a study of William Shakespeare and his plays.

### This Fall Turkish Visitors Due Here

Torrance's Sister City Committee is making tentative plans to entertain a group of Turkish government officials including the current mayor of Konya, Torrance's first sister city, later this year.

Discussion of the proposed visit this fall was the principal topic for a meeting of the committee held at the Chamber of Commerce offices last week, according to Arthur L. Reeves, chairman.

The city has been informed by the State Department that the Turkish group is considering a visit to the United States in October and may visit Torrance as part of the California tour.

Konya became the city's first sister city in 1958 and its mayor, Sitka Bilgin, visited here several years ago.

## Trustees Retain 4-Cent Cut in Budget Proposal

Final action on a \$20.1 million school budget was completed Monday by the Torrance Board of Education. The budget provides for a 4-cent reduction in the property tax rate.

Trustees voted 4-0 to adopt the budget, which provides for expenditures of \$20,133,144. William J. Hanson, president of the board, was absent from the meeting.

While voting for the budget, Mrs. Kenneth E. Watts said she wanted the record to show she objects to a 2-cent special tax imposed to finance a new Child Care Center.

DESPITE the new tax, the total tax will drop by an estimated 4 cents when the county Board of Supervisors sets the rates later this month. Preliminary calculations show a total school tax rate of \$4.3862 per \$100 assessed valuation, compared to a rate of \$4.4263 in the 1965-66 school year.

Frank Mattox, assistant superintendent of schools for business, said the budget contains reserves of \$3,535,120. A total of \$511,976 will be spent out of the current reserve fund to balance the 1966-67 budget, Mattox said.

The general purpose tax rate was reduced by 3.15 cents. It is the only rate over which the board has complete control. Reduction in several

other areas — including retirement, bond redemption, and state school building loan tax rates — coupled with the 2-cent new tax for the Child Care Center will result in a net reduction of slightly more than 4 cents.

MATTOX estimated nearly \$8.9 million will be raised in local property taxes. The remainder of the district's estimated \$19.6 million income will come from state and federal sources.

Nearly two-thirds of the total budget — \$14.6 million — will be spent for salaries and materials for instruction purposes. Most of that amount is for salaries of teachers and principals.

## Bridge Mark Hunt for New City Seal Ends Quietly

Traffic between San Pedro and Terminal Island over the Vincent Thomas Bridge increased 26.4 per cent last June over traffic recorded a year ago.

State officials reported an average of 11,234 vehicles a day crossed the span in June compared to 9,876 for the same month last year.

The month also set a new record with 374,638 vehicle crossings which sent the toll collection to \$2.4 million since the opening in November, 1963.

Winners of a contest to design a new city seal and flag will be announced shortly, but chances are the new seal will not be used.

Three \$50 savings bonds will be awarded winners of the contest.

But councilmen have decided, in the words of one city father, "to keep what we've got and forget the whole thing."

City Clerk Vernon W. Coll, in a letter to the council last

night, said the committee of judges felt the designs submitted were either too amateur or too involved. Coll had recommended that a professional artist be hired to design a new city seal — using the ideas of the three winning designs in the contest.

Councilmen, who first called for the contest, voted to award the prizes and tabled the recommendation

to continue the search for a new city seal.

### Courthouse Tools Taken

Tools valued at more than \$1,200 were taken from the new Southwest District Court building under construction at 825 Maple Ave. over the weekend according to reports filed Monday morning with Torrance Police. Most of the missing tools belonged to workmen for the company installing elevators in the new building. The thieves cut through a chain link fence and took the tools between Friday evening and early Monday, Charles Love told police.

### Iron Worker Injured

Charles Coker, 61-year-old structural iron worker received leg injuries when scaffolding gave way Monday at Torrance Municipal Airport and let him fall 12 feet to the ground. Coker, who lives at 23308 S. Figueroa, Wilmington, was installing tracks for sliding doors at a hangar under construction at the airport when the scaffolding collapsed. Cause of the collapse was not immediately apparent.

### Lomita Marine Dies

Marine Pfc. Michael F. Cook, son of Paul W. Cook, 24818 Eshelman Ave., was listed among Southern California men reported killed in Viet Nam in a Defense Department announcement this week. Death of the Lomita serviceman was not the result of hostile action, according to information reported here. Marine Pfc. Jim Bacus, 20, of Lawndale, who was injured July 25 in a plane crash at Da Nang, died Saturday, it was reported. He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. George Bacus, 3608 W. Compton Blvd.