

Strong Mayor Form of Government Sought

Press-Herald

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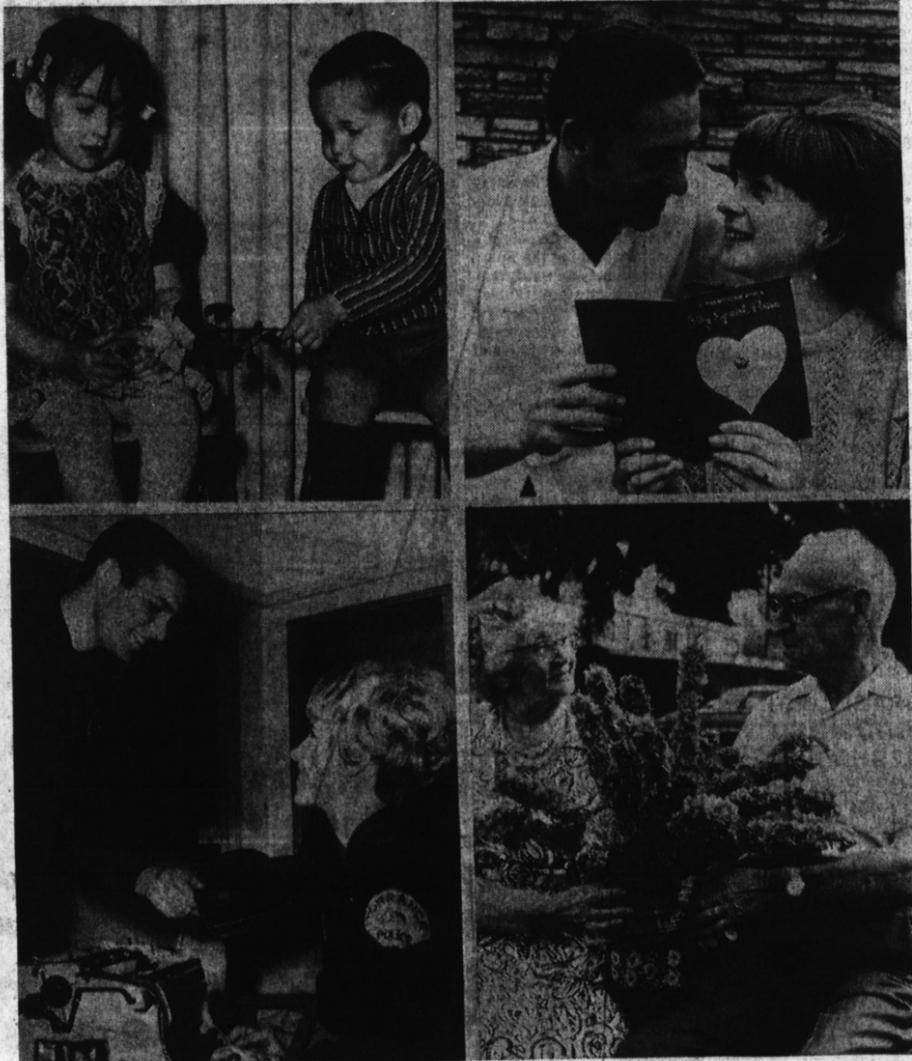
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It's That Old Feeling



Age is no barrier on that February day set aside for saying "You're Special!" Symbolizing the Valentine feeling sweeping the city today are (top left) Laurie Lewis, 2½, accepting a rose from Cory Merritt, also 2½; (top right) Kenny Taylor, 17-year-old Torrance High student, giving a card to Leslie Foley, 16,

of Bishop Montgomery High School; (bottom left) Torrance Police Officer Pete Herley offering a box of Valentine candy to Policewoman Mary Lou Howe; and (bottom right) Mr. and Mrs. Sam Vaughan, who exchange flowers on their 49th Valentine's Day together. (Press-Herald Photos by Hal Fisher)

Pueblo Area Wins Battle for a Park

Firm Approves Lease for New Two-Acre Site

By NATALIE HALL
Press-Herald Staff Writer
Pueblo area residents will soon have the playground they have waited so many months and years for. City Councilmen last night ap-

proved a plan to lease two acres of land adjacent to Del Amo Boulevard, appropriating \$16,555 to implement the plan.

The two acres will be leased from American-Standard at the rate of \$1 per year for an indefinite term.

The council also accepted a recommendation of the Park and Recreation Commission to provide access to the playground through two lots currently owned by Southwest Savings and Loan Association. City Manager Edward J. Ferraro was authorized to go ahead with negotiations to purchase the access lots, which front on Del Amo Boulevard.

THE \$16,555 needed to implement the project will be used to purchase the access lots, prepare the land for use as a playground, and provide a fence, a backstop, and water. The access lots alone will cost an estimated \$10,000.

Hope for the Pueblo playground looked dim last July, when American-Standard's plant manager complained that the company's property in the Del Amo area had been repeatedly vandalized. He said that the project was not possible at that time as far as he was concerned, and that it would take at least two or three years to negotiate.

THE PLAYGROUND project has been a top priority item with the Recreation Department because there is no sports field in the Del Amo vicinity. Softball and football teams comprised of Pueblo residents are now required to practice on the small asphalt parking lot west of St. Joseph's Mission.

The proposed sports field

Librarians Must Take City Exams

Library personnel who have been with the county system in Torrance for many years will be required to take qualifying exams if they wish to join the new Torrance city library system. The Torrance library department will take over from the county system beginning March 11.

City Councilmen voted unanimously at last night's meeting to require the examination. In so doing, they bucked the recommendations of City Attorney Stanley Remelmeyer, City Librarian Russell West, and the Civil Service Commission.

West said that he had interviewed each county library employee extensively, finding each one competent to assume duties with the city system. Requiring an exam, he said, would throw the library schedule behind by at least two months.

OFFICER Phil Joseph, representing the Torrance Police Officers' Association, said he objected to the way the transfer was being handled. He said the county library employees could have been given exams earlier, but it would have posed an expense to the city.

Joseph said he also objects

Council Districts Asked By North Torrance Group

A North Torrance group has called for the establishment of a strong mayor form of government and the establishment of councilmanic districts in the city.

The group, the North Torrance Property and Homeowners' Association, also is asking that the city attorney be elected and that curbs be written into the city charter on travel and expense account spending by city officials.

In a letter signed by William F. Hunter, president of

the group, the North Torrance association asked the city's Charter Review Committee to give "serious consideration" to establishing the office of mayor on a full-time basis and giving the mayor veto power.

"THIS OFFICE, as the executive branch of the city government, would absorb and be responsible to the electorate for the conduct of city affairs," the letter said. "We further endorse placement of the city managerial functions under the direction and responsibility of the mayor's office," it continued.

The letter was addressed to Larry Bowman, chairman of the Charter Review Committee. Copies were released to newsmen yesterday.

The North Torrance group also said it would oppose any change in the current practice of electing the city clerk and the city treasurer. Appointment of the two officials, the letter stated, would subject the offices to political pressures.

ELECTION OF the city attorney also was recommended by the group. "We feel the best interests of the community can be served when the conduct of this office is answerable to the community," the letter declared. The city attorney currently is appointed by the City Council.

manic districts is necessary, the group said, because of the tremendous growth which the city has undergone in the past few years. Such a system, the letter claimed, would insure that specific areas of the city are properly represented on the City Council.

The North Torrance association also asked that strong curbs be placed on councilmanic "excursions" and that the mayor and city manager each be restricted to one trip each year "within the confines of the United States."

"THE NORTH Torrance Property and Homeowners' Association can see no justification for councilmanic excursions unless specifically associated with committee or sub-committee responsibilities," the letter said. Such trips should be permitted only by express approval of the City Council and reimbursed on the basis of actual expenses as verified by receipts.

On the issue of council salaries, the group recommended that salaries be established "at a level less than that which would place the salaries under General Law categories." Under state law, councilmen in general law cities the size of Torrance may earn up to \$300 per month.

IN OTHER POINTS, the association recommended:

- Retention of the civil service protection for department heads.
- Removing the responsibilities for hiring and firing city employees from the city manager. (See COUNCIL, Page A-2)

RETURNS CERTIFIED

New Carson Officials To Take Over Tuesday

The new city of Carson will officially take its place as Los Angeles County's 77th city next Tuesday evening when its newly elected officers are sworn in before an impressive audience of state, county, and local civic notables.

S. S. Mize, clerk of the Board of Supervisors who yesterday officially certified the returns of the Feb. 6 election creating the new city, will administer the oath of office to five councilmen, the city clerk, and city treasurer.

The ceremony is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. in Carson High School auditorium.

Yamamoto, Gilbert Smith, and H. Rick Clark; City Clerk Marilyn Cortina, and City Treasurer Dorothy Carter.

Other special guests invited include Supervisors Kenneth Hahn, Burton Chace, Frank Bonelli, Warren Dorn and their wives and Supervisor Ernest Debs.

Invitations have also been sent to a host of other state, county, and local dignitaries. At yesterday's Board of Supervisors meeting the election returns were certified and made official.

the procedure is to name the candidate polling the highest vote, in this case Marbut — and name, at least temporarily, a city attorney and enact such "emergency ordinances as needed to maintain law and order."

OFFICIAL RESULTS of the Feb. 6 balloting: Marbut, 4,120; Junk, 4,033; Yamamoto, 3,922; Smith, 3,222 and Clark, 2,622. For clerk Mrs. Cortina received 2,039 votes and for treasurer Mrs. Carter received 4,027 votes.

Addressing the board, all pledged to make Carson a "model city." "We have a great potential for growth—industrial, residential and commercial," said Marbut. "Now we are going to work to make this a great community."



FIRST LESSON . . . Learning to read begins with nursery rhymes for kindergarten students at Adams Elementary School. Bulletin boards featuring nursery rhyme characters are used to motivate youngsters to make nursery rhyme scrapbooks. By cultivating listening skills, vocabulary skills, and left to right eye movement, students are building the skills they will need to read. Pictured are Shari Getz and George Andrade.

Carson Area Man Shot; Son Jailed

A 38-year-old Carson man was killed and his 18-year-old son jailed Monday evening following an apparent family argument.

Dead is Richard Helton, of 503 W. 232nd St. He was killed by a shotgun blast about 5:30 p.m.

Sheriff's deputies arrested Ricky Lee Helton, 18, on suspicion of murder.

Officers said the elder Helton was shot following an argument about an impending divorce between the youth's parents. Helton's

wife, Marion, was in the home at the time, police reported.

Young Helton was taken to the Firestone Sheriff's Station.

Unknown burglars broke into the Joslin Lumber Co., 1790 Carson St., sometime Saturday night or early Sunday, taking \$1,950 worth of power tools and business machines.

Charter Hearing Tonight . . .

A public hearing on the city's charter will be conducted this evening by the Charter Review Committee. The group, chaired by Attorney Larry Bowman, is conducting a study of the charter in preparation for recommendations on needed revisions. Tonight's hearing will be held in the council chambers at the City Hall, 3031 Torrance Blvd., at 7:30 p.m.

Fire Damages Apartment . . .

An apartment at the South Bay Club, an apartment complex for single persons at 20818 Anza Ave., was gutted by fire about 3:30 a.m. Tuesday. Four units from the Torrance Fire Department controlled the blaze in about 15 minutes. Battalion Chief Ray Flagg said the fire broke out in Apartment 114. James MacKilligan, 25, occupant of the unit, escaped uninjured and no other injuries were reported. An estimate of damage was not made available. Officials are investigating to determine the cause of the fire.

Registrars on Duty . . .

Deputy registrars of voters will be on duty at the Torrance City Hall, 3031 Torrance Blvd., tomorrow until 9 p.m., it was announced today by the office of City Clerk Vernon W. Coil. Tomorrow is the final day for voters to register in order to be eligible to vote in the April 9 municipal election. Tomorrow also is the final day for candidates to file nomination papers for the City Council.

Location Of Dinner Changed

A Lincoln Day dinner scheduled for this evening has been moved from the Ft. MacArthur Officers' Club to the Ports o' Call Restaurant in San Pedro, according to Dr. Meryl Boyce, chairman of the 48th Assembly District Republican Central Committee.

Senator John Tower of Texas, a member of the Senate Defense Production Committee, will address guests at the fund-raising dinner. Some 400 persons have made reservations.