

Elect City Attorney, Charter Group Told

Torrance

Press-Herald

Published semi-weekly Wednesday and Sunday by King Williams Press, Inc. Entered as second class matter January 30, 1914, at Post Office, Torrance, California, Under act of March 3, 1879.

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TO CALL US

Circulation Office . . . DA 5-1515
Advertising . . . DA 5-6060
Women's News . . . DA 5-6380
News Department . . . DA 5-6060

Series II, Volume IV, Number 67



3238 Sepulveda Blvd., Torrance, California—Sunday, February 18, 1968

By Carrier 50c Per Month
By Mail, \$18 per Year

10c Per Copy

14 PAGES

Small Boy Pulled from Post Hole 'Death Trap'

Firemen Work For Two Hours

By DOUG HUFF
Press-Herald Staff Writer
An untended hole, nine inches wide and nine feet deep—the size of an ordinary post hole—almost meant death last Thursday for 4-year-old Carlos Garnica in

Normont Terrace, Harbor City.

Carlos, of 25237 Doble Ave., was following his mother across the lawn in the public housing project when he fell feet first into the hole, supposedly protected by two heavy bags filled with bricks.

When Mrs. Virginia Garnica looked for her son, he was gone. She and a neighbor soon heard little Carlos' faint screams of terror and authorities were notified.

City Ballot To List 11 Candidates

Eleven candidates—including the three incumbents—have filed nomination papers for the City Council.

Three councilmen will be elected in balloting April 9. Incumbents David K. Lyman, 1922 W. 237th St.; Edward L. Talbert, 3123 Crickwood Drive; and George Vico, 219 Paseo de las Delicias, have all filed papers to seek re-election.

The eight challengers include a former mayor, a member of the Torrance school board, and a former assistant city manager.

Papers were filed by: Blayne Asher, an insurance-investment counselor, of 4608 W. Pacific Coast Hwy. Nickolas Drale, now engaged in real estate management, of 3431 W. 171st St. Drale is a former member of the City Council and served a term as mayor.

Rocque R. Garcia, an educator, of 21003 Amie Ave., Apt. 14.

Orin P. (Bud) Johnson, a real estate salesman and former assistant city manager, of 23810 Stanhurst Ave.

Max A. Kelly, a history teacher, of 18407 Haas Ave. Leo F. X. Salisbury, owner of a tire company, of 25904 Matfield Drive.

William J. Uerkwitz, a telephone company executive, of 23136 S. Anza Ave.

Dr. Donald E. Wilson, vice president of the Torrance Board of Education, of 17022 Kornblum Ave.

In addition to the election of three councilmen, voters will be asked to approve salary increases for the city council and the mayor and decide whether the city's Uniform Housing Code should be repealed.

FIRE AND policemen arrived on the scene and from 2:15 p. m. until a little after 4 p. m. they dug frantically to free him.

Efforts using a garden hose for Carlos to cling to failed. Schaeffer's Ambulance attendants stood by as rescuers fed Carlos oxygen through a plastic hose and they and his father, Octavario, quietly reassured him.

"You just hold onto that line, Carlos. Easy now, we'll have you out in a little while. Be calm, Carlos," they repeated over and over.

A backhoe was called in and a 10-foot deep ditch was dug about two feet south of Carlos' prison by sweating firemen as a crowd of 350 persons looked on.

AFTER THE pit was deep enough—firemen used a knotted rope to check—they had to spell each other in a lateral tunnel with picks and shovels to reach the tot, whose frequent screams of terror could be faintly heard over the noise.

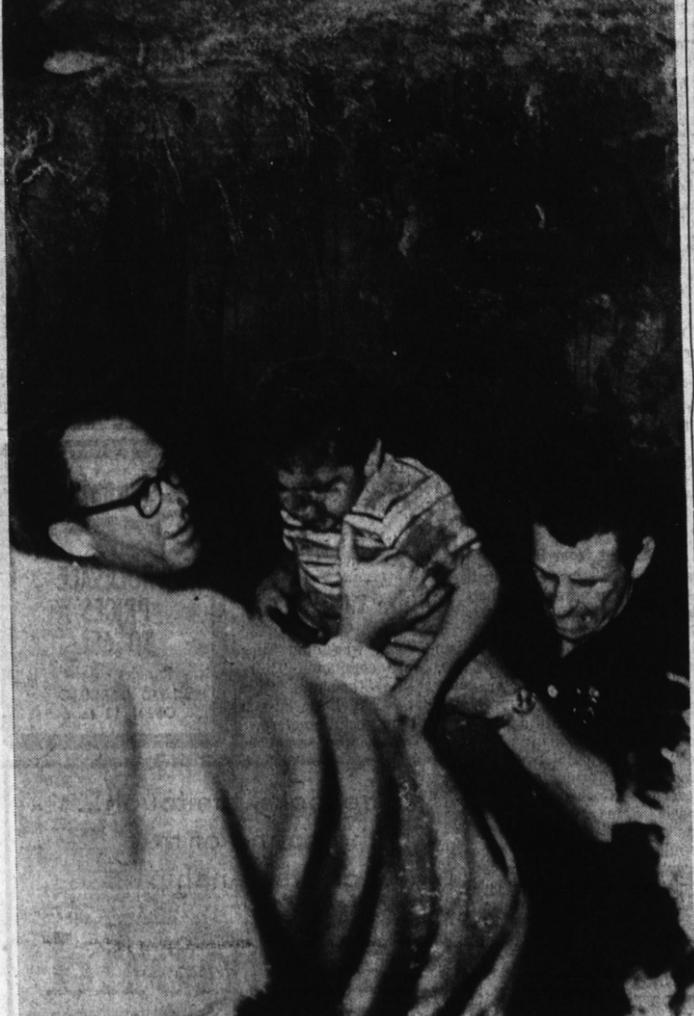
Finally the muddy and dirty men reached Carlos' trouser legs and within 10 more minutes he was pulled feet first out of his prison and whisked away with his parents to Harbor General Hospital as the crowd pressed in, cheering and applauding the rescue.

Harbor General Hospital reported Carlos was cleaned up, calmed down, and given a medical examination before being released that night.

POLICE SAID that the hole was one of many drilled throughout the housing project by James Kukucka, an



AT RECEPTION . . . Supervisor Burton Chace (second from left) and his wife, Polly, chat with C. Nelson Rucker (right) and Torrance Mayor Albert Isen during a reception held in the supervisor's honor Wednesday evening. Rucker served as chairman of the Valentine Day event. Chace will be seeking re-election to the Board of Supervisors this year. (Press-Herald Photo)



EPIC ENDING . . . Fireman hoists little Carlos Garnica, 4, of 25237 Doble Ave., Harbor City, out of ditch adjacent to a nine-foot-deep by nine-inch wide hole the tot had fallen into nearly 105 minutes earlier. Carlos was uninjured but badly frightened. (Press-Herald Photo by Doug Huff)

Stronger Voice for Commissions Asked

Election of the city attorney, establishment of councilmanic districts, and a stronger voice for members of the city's advisory commission are among changes in the city charter advanced Wednesday evening during a public hearing.

The first of a series of public meetings called by the Charter Review Committee drew only a small number of citizens.

Speakers included representatives of the Torrance Police Officers' Association, the League of Women Voters, and the North Torrance Property and Homeowners Association.

Charles Oates, legislative representative for the Police Officers' Association, told members of the committee his group feels it is mandatory to elect the city attorney. Oates also asked that the charter prohibit the city clerk and city treasurer from becoming involved in what he called administrative duties.

SUCH AN arrangement makes both officials dependent on the city manager for a portion of their salaries, Oates said, and opens the offices to political pressures.

Election of the city attorney will remove similar political influences from that office, too, Oates declared. He noted that the city prosecutor works under the city attorney and said that the dependency of the city attorney on the council leaves the office "wide open to corruption."

Oates quickly said he was not implying that any such corruption exists, but that the possibility was there as long as the city attorney was dependent for his job on a majority of the city council.

In a prepared statement, Oates said the TPOA would support:

- A salary increase for the mayor and councilmen.
- Election of councilmen by a majority of votes cast, requiring run-off elections when candidates fail to win a majority.
- Provisions to improve communications between the council and the public.
- Provisions for a staff-independent of the city manager's office—for the mayor and councilmen.
- A provision to establish formal employee-employer representation.

Speaking on behalf of the League of Women Voters, Mrs. James Van Oppen expressed support for the present council-manager form of

government and urged that specific salary amounts not be written into the charter.

MRS. VAN OPPEN said the council salaries should be set by ordinance with a provision that councilmen could not increase their own salaries during a term of office.

She also called for requirements of annual reports from the city council to the public and for reports from the city's advisory commissions.

William F. Hunter, president of the North Torrance Property and Homeowners Association, reiterated that group's stand for a strong mayor form of government and also called for election of a city attorney.

(See CHARTER, Page A-2)

Veteran Congressman to Retire



CECIL KING To Retire

Congressman Cecil R. King, 70, who has represented the 17th Congressional District since 1942, has announced he will retire at the end of the current session of Congress.

King, a Democrat, said Thursday he will not seek a new term. His decision apparently caught Democratic party leaders by surprise.

The veteran Congressman, elected to his seat at a special election Aug. 25, 1942, is the dean of the California Congressional Delegation and the ranking Democrat on the powerful House Ways and Means Committee.

King is best known as the coauthor of the Medicare law. He said Thursday he had considered retiring in 1966, but that he was persuaded to seek another term by friends.

Now, he explained, he wants to spend some time "outdoors—calling and hunting."

"I've a fortune invested in sporting equipment which I've hardly had a chance to use," King said.

The Congressman has not been in the best of health in recent years and his activities on Capitol Hill have been curtailed. Even so, King and his wife left Friday for New Delhi where he is to serve as an advisor to a United Nations Conference for Trade and Development.

Since 1960, King has been in line to succeed Wilbur Mills (D-Arkansas) as chairman of the Ways and Means Committee. Hale Boggs (D-Louisiana), will move into that spot with King's retirement.

He will be succeeded as chairman of the California delegation by Chet Hollifield (D-Montebello).

King served 10 years in the state assembly before being elected to Congress. Speculation began immediately about a possible successor to King. The district is heavily Democratic in registration—91,119 to 45,689 Republicans—and the Republicans are expected to mount an intensive campaign to elect a successor.

Torrance Councilman Ross A. Sciarrotta Sr. already has announced he will seek the Republican nomination. Assemblyman L. E. (Larry) Townsend (D-Torrance), Senator Ralph C. Dills (D-Gardena), and former lieutenant governor Glenn M. Anderson (See KING, Page A-2)

TO END VIETNAM WAR Negotiate from Position of Strength, Tower Says

By NATALIE HALL
Press-Herald Staff Writer

Senator John G. Tower (R-Tex) is not actively campaigning for the vice presidency. At least that's what he told newsmen at International Airport Wednesday noon when he jetted into Los Angeles—an hour behind schedule.

The avowed conservative was in town to address Wednesday's Lincoln Dinner at the Port o' Call Restaurant, San Pedro. The event was sponsored by 46th Assembly Republicans.

Frequently mentioned as a vice presidential nominee, Senator Tower described his prospective Republican running mates as "fine men, eminently qualified." However, he declined to state which of the presidential hopefuls would be his top choice.

SEATED behind a bouquet of microphones in the airport press room, Tower joshed with newsmen about the "sunny Southern California" weather which failed to show, then launched into a discussion of Vietnam and the Pueblo incident.

The soft-spoken senator said he believes we're ahead militarily in Vietnam, but called for a negotiated settlement of the war from a "position of strength."

He added that the latest Viet Cong offensive had resulted in a "knock-out blow" against the enemy. The Cong lost many "hard core guerrillas," badly-needed by the opposition forces to guide and direct the rank-and-file North Vietnamese troops. The North Vietnamese, Tower related, are at a disadvantage in

South Vietnam because the climate and terrain are unfamiliar.

Tower underlined that Republicans should "engage in preventive strategy" to avoid Vietnam-type situations.

REGARDING the Pueblo crisis, Tower said that the

problem had not been handled well by the administration because the ship and crew were still in enemy hands.

The Texas senator also said that the Pueblo incident raises questions about protection of American vessels

(See TOWER, Page A-2).

Station Wagons Collide - - -

Two station wagons were demolished late Friday night when they collided on Western Avenue near Torrance Boulevard. Headed south in her station wagon was Lilia A. Dacanay of 1116 W. 220th St. Headed north in his station wagon was George A. Parkins III of 5965 W. 86th Place, Los Angeles. Rushed to Harbor General Hospital for treatment of injuries were Mrs. Dacanay and a passenger in the other vehicle, Kathleen Parkins.

Murder Sentence Passed - - -

A 58-year-old Torrance man, convicted of murdering his wife on the testimony of his stepson, has been sentenced to life in prison by Superior Court Judge John G. Barnes. Albert R. Scott, who was convicted of the 1965 slaying although no body was ever found, was denied a new trial by Judge Barnes before sentence was passed Thursday. Frank R. Gill, Scott's 17-year-old stepson, first went to police May 13, 1965, when he returned from a movie to be told by Scott that he had just shot his wife.

Freeway Route Discussed - - -

Looking ahead ten years, interested community groups met Thursday with Division of Highways engineers to discuss the proposed Route 47 Freeway. At issue is an eight-mile stretch between the north end of Terminal Island and the Artesia Freeway. When completed, it will extend from the Santa Monica Freeway southerly across Terminal Island to the Vincent Thomas Bridge and a connection with the Harbor Freeway in San Pedro. Study areas to be considered lie between the Harbor and Long Beach Freeways, with north-south alternates proposed between Avalon Boulevard and Santa Fe Avenue. A general public hearing on the proposed routes will be held in about two months.