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reading programs and summer school classes.

He also has called for greater involvement by PTA units, the Educational Council of Torrance, and homeowner groups in the city.

Kirby

Kirby, an anti-narcotics educator, is seeking a seat on the board for the second time. He finished third in the race two years ago when only two seats were open.

He is the editor of Challenger, the publication of a lobby to stiffen penalties in California for peddling drugs to minors, and the executive secretary of the American Institute of Narcotics Education.

Kirby also is commander of the South Bay Chapter No. 380 of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, a member of the Torrance-Gardena-South Bay Veterans Employment Committee, and a member of the Educational Council of Torrance.

KIRBY AND his wife have a daughter, Anne, a junior at Torrance High School, and a son, Mark, who is now in the U.S. Navy. The family lives at 2403 W. Carson St.

He has called for increased leadership training in the city's schools, increased vocational training, and for action to "keep the school tax burden of the property owner down."

Kirby also has pledged to:

- Oppose sex education without permission of parents.
• Stand firm against bussing of students in or out of the Torrance district.
• Propose an immediate crack-down on the campus drug problem by the use of preventive classroom programs, suspension of students caught with drugs in their possession, or under the influence of drugs, and readmittance of the student only by review of the board.

Hovey

Hovey, an applications engineer, has lived in Torrance for the past 11 years and is now in his first campaign here for public office.

He and his wife Judy have four children: Suzanne, a teacher trainee; Sally, now Mrs. Frank Marsh, a registered nurse; Libby, now at the University of Redlands; and David, a kindergarten student at Parkway School.

He was educated in New York public schools, at Middlebury College, St. Lawrence University, and is a veteran of the U.S. Air Force.

ACTIVE in St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Hovey also is active in alumni associations, the Torrance Family YMCA, and PTA units at South High, Perry School, and Parkway School.

Hovey said the current leveling trend in the school population will change the course of the district in some ways, but added that the basic objective remains to offer "the maximum educational opportunity to each individual child in the district, consistent with what we can afford."

Chief aims, Hovey said, are:

- Improved counseling programs in the high schools.
• An extension of the departmentalization program in the elementary schools.
• More publicity for the district's drug education program.

Mrs. Jones

A teacher in the Redondo Beach City Schools, Mrs. Marjorie Jones also is making her first bid for public office here. Mrs. Jones, of 4813 Laurette St., is 40 years of age and has served for two years on the school board of Resurrection Lutheran Church.

Other activities include the Multiple Sclerosis Drive, Cub Scouts, and the PTA. She also was foster mother to an exchange student from Mexico.

Mrs. Jones holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Toledo and has done

graduate work at UCLA and California State College at Long Beach.

Among her chief concerns, Mrs. Jones said, are single-session kindergarten programs, improvement of the current seventh and eighth grade programs, and expansion of the district's counseling programs.

"Yes, I am a teacher," she said. "I feel this is an asset because I have much to offer as a member of your Board of Education. I have three points of view: teacher, parent, and taxpayer."

Rev. Nagel

The Rev. Dr. John L. Nagel, 4515 Greenmeadows Ave., is 27 and the youngest of the eight candidates. A resident of Torrance for three years, he is associate minister at Riviera United Methodist Church.

The Rev. Dr. Nagel and his wife Barbara, are parents of a 3-year-old son.

Born in Glendale, he was educated in Los Angeles public schools and holds degrees from California Western University of the Claremont School of Theology. He is active in the Torrance YMCA, the Long Beach District Youth Ministry Team, and the Greater Peninsula Council of Churches.

The Rev. Dr. Nagel has called for special emphasis on the teaching of reading, improvement of counseling programs in both elementary and high school programs, and improvement of seventh and eighth grade departmentalization programs.

"Although a cheap education is seldom a good one," he said, "it is not necessary to spend a lot to have good schools. We need to make reasonable decisions about where money should be spent. We must make sure the dollars we spend return the best to the kids."

Stevens

Stevens, of 3503 W. 228th St., is an industrial engineer employed by the Aerospace Corp. in El Segundo. He is a graduate of Marshall University in Huntington, W. Va., and has lived here for eight years.

A veteran of the Air Force, he served in the intelligence branch and is presently in the Air Force Reserve.

Stevens also is the founder and president of Humanitarian Services, Inc., a non-profit organization staffed by volunteers who collect food, clothing, toys, furniture, and other goods for Indian reservations. Volunteers also work to encourage high school dropouts to remain in school.

He also is a member of the Torrance Jaycees.

If elected to the board, Stevens said, he intends to concentrate his energies in reducing costs so property taxes may be reduced.

Stevens also said he is opposed to bussing of students in or out of the district and also has called for "better lines of communication" between the school board and the community.

Girl, Boy Of Year Selected

Contestants from five local high schools have been selected for competition in the annual "Boy and Girl of the Year" scholarship awards program sponsored by the Exchange Club of South Bay.

Local winners were Cathy Furklot and Peter C. Zuleger, Redondo Union High; Patricia Ann Stinchcomb and Michael A. Sequeira, Bishop Montgomery High; Christine S. Rose and Donald G. Norton, Palos Verdes High; Susan K. Vosburg and Stephen W. Hinch, Aviation High; and Valerie Maxwell and John B. Marques, Mira Costa High.

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County Assessor Philip E. Watson today announced he has proposed a constitutional amendment to grant relief from tax on property damaged by calamity, even though the property is not located in a disaster area, to cope with the problem of individual misfortunes.

The bill will be introduced in the Legislature by Assemblyman Joe Gonsalves; and, if approved by the Assembly and Senate, will go on the ballot for a vote of the people at the next statewide election, Watson said, explaining: "Heretofore, tax relief has

only been afforded persons who suffered property damage in a major flood or fire where huge areas were destroyed or partially ruined and the governor designated the scene a disaster area.

"This new proposal would give relief to the individual homeowner who loses his property or has it damaged extensively by fire, flood, or other misfortune or calamity.

"If the amendment is passed by the people, the Legislature shall have the power to authorize local taxing agencies to provide for the assessment or reassessment of taxable property destroyed or suffering damage in excess of \$5,000."

Assessor Watson pointed out that at present, if a person were to lose his property on March 2, the day after the lien date for assessing, he would be required by law to pay taxes

for the entire year just as if his house were still standing. Under Watson's new plan, the assessor would prorate property taxes on the damaged property according to the date of the individual's disaster and the amount of the damage.

Gas Company Now Serving Two Million Customers

Southern California Gas Co. has passed the two million milestone in the number of customers served.

Figures released by the utility show that 6,000 meters were added to its line during January bringing the total number of customers served as of Feb. 1, to 2,004,045.

During 1968, the company showed a net gain of 28,011 customers. This compared with a customer growth of 27,367 during 1967 and reflected an improved rate of new housing construction in Southern California.

As a subsidiary of Pacific Lighting Corp., Southern California Gas Co. is affiliated with Southern Counties Gas Co. Together, the two gas distribution firms serve more than 3 million customers, making the Pacific Lighting System the world's largest in terms of total meters.

AT CONFERENCE

Mrs. Fay Olney, English teacher at Torrance High School, attended an SRA reading conference held in Norwalk last weekend.



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