

CLERKS' CRISIS REACHED

TIDWELL ELECTION HELD ILLEGAL AS THREE COURT CASES PENDING IN DISPUTE

Members of the Retail Clerks Union, No. 905, joined employers and other business men this week in seeking an end to the strife which has threatened to tie up completely the commercial trade in the harbor area.

As the Torrance Herald went to press at a late hour last night, the Central Labor Council of San Pedro and Wilmington, which has jurisdiction over Torrance A.F.L. unions, was considering a plea of Haskell Tidwell, secretary of the retail clerks union, that all Torrance, San Pedro and Wilmington stores which have not signed contracts with the union be placed under "boycott" of the Central Labor Council. Such action is said to be in violation of the Taft-Hartley law.

While the decision of the Central Labor Council executive committee, deliberating last night on a call from Cecil G. Johnson, secretary, may or may not result in a boycott of stores of merchants who have not signed with Tidwell's union, it was emphasized by attorneys of the employers that the Central Labor Council has no connection with the Courts or interpretation of the law, and any merchant who may be picketed or put on the "boycott list," would still have the right to seek an injunction to remove the pickets just as has been previously done in every instance so far in this dispute. It was said by Capt. L. E. DeLaney, secretary of San Pedro Business Men, Associated, representing the merchants.

Merchants have refused to sign contracts with the union because Tidwell demands the closed shop clause, in violation of the Taft-Hartley law, and because a dispute over arbitration provisions which have been acceptable elsewhere. Wages and hours are not involved. Meanwhile, Tidwell is facing the following court actions:

1. A petition for injunction to prevent picketing several Wilmington stores, which might be construed to cover other stores, because the picketing in this case is in violation of the law. The injunction was granted by Superior Judge Clarence M. Hanson on petition of J. M. Stuart Neary, attorney for Caldwell's Department Store, Wilmington Hardware Co., all in Wilmington. An order to show cause why the injunction should not be made permanent is to be answered on April 5.

2. A criminal libel suit brought on complaint of

Captain DeLaney, to which Tidwell must answer on April 7 before Justice of the Peace John A. Shidler. It is based on an infamous letter allegedly published by Tidwell against DeLaney.

3. A writ of mandamus issued, on petition of seven members of the Retail Clerks Union, requiring Tidwell and other union officers to call a new election of officers of the union or to appear before Superior Judge Percy Hight on April 12 to show cause why they have not done so.

Meanwhile, two attacks with stench bombs have been made on one store in San Pedro involved in the dispute with Tidwell, and scuffles have occurred.

Attacked Monday night for the second time in a week was the candy store of Bill Grace, in San Pedro. A stench bomb was dropped in the store at closing time by one of two unknown men who escaped before identification could be established. Grace is a member of the San Pedro Business Men, Associated, negotiating committee, and recently was physically attacked when he was called from the San Pedro Y.M.C.A. where he was coaching a basketball team on an alleged false telephone call which informed him that his wife was ill. Grace posted \$1,000 reward for the arrest and conviction of those responsible for throwing the stench bombs in his establishment.

Captain DeLaney has reported two attempts to physically attack him in recent weeks, one in March 3, near his home when his car was forced to the curb by unknown persons, and the second time at 10:30 p.m. Friday night when he was approached by two suspicious characters as he was walking his pet dog for a walk around the block near his home at 15th street and Dodson avenue in San Pedro. DeLaney has received seven telephone calls, he has reported, warning "he lay off" "Tidwell" and "leave town" or his

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April 8 Last Day To Ask For Absentee Ballot

Voters of Torrance who anticipate being absent from the city on April 13, or who are ill, must apply for absentee voter ballots not later than Thursday, April 8, they were reminded yesterday.

Application for absentee ballots may be made in person or in writing to City Clerk A. H. Bartlett, it was said.

Under new provisions of the law, the absentee ballots must be returned and the election boards along with other ballots.

Formerly, absentee ballots were accepted later if post-marked not later than election day, and they were counted by the City Council at the time the returns from elections were canvassed.

Bartlett said that as in the past, those who are ill and unable to get to the polls will be given the opportunity to vote by a personal call by the clerk or authorized deputy to the home of the incapacitated person.

Portable 'Stop And Go' Signal For Crossing

An automatic portable traffic signal will be placed in operation at the intersection of Carson street and Boyer avenue in the near future, Chief of Police John Strohn announced this week.

The City Council last week voted to accept a movable "Stop and Go" signal from the National Supply Company who donated the device. The signal will be used to relieve automotive and pedestrian traffic congestion during the peak hours. The National was relieved of all responsibility and liability for the operation and maintenance of the device that regulates the flow of traffic by the use of a 72-hour clock-like mechanism.

Exact date the signal would be put into operation was pending delivery of the device.

Man Gassed By Acetylene

An autopsy was ordered by the county coroner Wednesday to determine the exact cause that resulted in the death of Paul C. Filer, 47, a machinist who was believed by the Torrance police to have died as the result of asphyxiation by acetylene gas in the newly opened plant of the American Radiator and Standard Sanitary Corporation.

Filer, who lived with his son Warren C. Filer of 1036 South Walnut, Inglewood, was discovered lying on the floor near where he was working by employees of the company when they arrived for work at 7:45 yesterday morning, police said.

THE WEEK'S WEATHER

The elusive million dollar rain scattered only enough pennies from heaven on Torrance last Monday to be recorded by the Torrance Weather Man as a "trace."

The season's total stands at 3.84 inches as compared to 9.88 inches for the season's total for this date of last year.

According to the Weather Man's figures (whose hobby is Horticulture) temperature on Easter was just right for keeping mildy's sausage nice and crisp for the Easter Parade. The maximum for the day was 68 while the minimum dropped to 46 degrees.

The temperature recordings for this week were:

March	Maximum	Minimum
25	72	49
26	72	49
27	76	50
28	68	46
29	66	47
30	67	52

CITY SOUND AS DECISION ON PERMANENT CITY MANAGER PLAN HOLDS INTEREST HERE

The City of Torrance is operating well within the budget established for the year, in addition to providing normal municipal services and repaying the loan from the Water districts, it was announced this week as voters were preparing to go to the polls on April 13 to decide whether or not the City Manager plan should be adopted here on a permanent basis.

Red Cross Drive Reaches 81% Of Year's Quota

Mrs. A. L. Hudson, Torrance Red Cross fund chairman, announces that her volunteer workers have collected to date 81 percent of the 1948 campaign quota.

This is an especially splendid showing when, as she points out, Torrance was organized in three weeks as compared to two months required for most cities in the surrounding area.

The commerce and industry division, representing large business is lagging, however, at 45 percent of the quota, due to payroll deductions and other factors, she states.

Total collections: \$2,918.81, of which \$1,218.61 is credited to the geographic division, showing 81 percent of quota; \$1,700.20 collected by the workers in the commerce and industry division, or 45 percent of campaign quota.

Lad, 9, Object Of Rolling Hills Search, Found

A nine-year-old Channel Heights lad was found Tuesday night about a mile and a half from his home after more than 150 persons had joined the search through Rolling Hills in his 28-hour unexplained absence.

The lad, Gene Brinsmead, was found by two of the searching party as he was hitch-hiking a ride home. He said he had spent the night "near Wilmington."

His parents, Mr. and Mrs. T. A. Brinsmead, were unable to discover why the boy had leaped from a balcony at 4:30 p.m. Monday and vanished into Rolling Hills.

Police, deputy sheriffs, Boy Scouts, sailors, and Y.M.C.A. members had joined the hunt before the lad was found.

C. B. Mitchell Recovering

Convalescing at his home, 1323 Madrid avenue, following his return from St. Mary's hospital, Long Beach, where he was treated for a cerebral hemorrhage, Charles B. Mitchell, Torrance business man, is resting comfortably.

His improved condition is due to a large degree by the arrival of his son, Paul Mitchell, fireman first class, USN, who flew here Sunday from his duty aboard the USS Coral Sea, stationed in Cuba.

60-CYCLE CURRENT NOW FEEDING TWO FACTORIES

Sixty-cycle current started flowing through the motors of General Petroleum's refinery and through the newly installed electrical equipment at American Radiator and Standard Sanitary Corporation early Wednesday morning, according to C. C. Bartlett of the Southern California Edison Company.

American Standard began actual production Monday morning using 50-cycle current until the change over to the more widely used 60-cycle current was made available to the two companies on Wednesday. Torrance's newest large industrial plant was designed to use 60-cycle and since the General Petroleum is fed through the same lines as American Standard the change-over was accomplished simultaneously, Bartlett said.

Bartlett stated that other plants were not affected by the change-over at this time but that extensive work is now under way at Columbia and

here on a permanent basis. In the few months that City Administrator George W. Stevens has been on the job as executive head of Torrance municipal affairs, the City has been able to place itself on a firm financial foundation, it was pointed out.

While there is a substantial surplus in the general fund, the Water department loan has been reduced one-half and will be paid off in full in the near future, Stevens predicts.

City employees have been given new pay adjustments, and an extensive street resurfacing program is getting under way as a result of county aid made possible through the administrator's office. Streets involved are in each section of the city.

The manager proposition is holding first interest in the campaign, because Torrance citizens are demanding full efficiency in the operation of the \$500,000-a-year business, it was pointed out.

Most persons who favor the manager plan are favoring the elimination of the \$50-a-month pay to councilmen on the grounds that the responsibility of running the city should be in the hands of a paid executive, the council members acting as a legislative body as in the democratic system of checks and balances upon which the government of the United States of America is founded.

The City Manager form of government has the approval of nearly every candidate for election and almost every organization in Torrance.

In addition to the City Manager plan and the elimination of the pay of city councilmen, three other propositions are on the ballot. They are:

The measure to prevent the licensing of draw poker in Torrance; one to provide for removal of members of the police and fire departments for cause, and one to change the election of members of the Board of Education from dates of the regular municipal elections to dates of regular school elections in California.

Candidates for the City Council in the election are 14 in number, three offices being vacant. They are:

BRONSON C. BUXTON
CHARLES M. GILBERT
WILLIAM H. TOLSON
GEORGE W. DOWNING
NICKOLAS O. DRALE
JONATHAN L. DUNMYER
JAMES A. EVANS
BOB L. HAGGARD
WILLIAM E. KING JR.
FRANKLIN M. KREKOW
TODD VICTOR LONG
GEORGE C. POWELL
RALPH M. WATSON
JAMES A. WAYT

Candidates for the Board of Education are:

CARL D. STEELE
GEORGE THATCHER
GRACE WRIGHT
STANLEY WILLARD BRIGGS
ALBERT ISEN

Three offices are vacant.



WHO'S SHORT OF WATER . . . That's what several residents of the community asked last week as they viewed two flood conditions which brought immediate action by city officials. One was at the end of 171st street in Torrance Manor (top photo) where a dam across the street obstructed the natural waterway thus causing City Council action. Another bad situation (lower photo) was the condition caused by water draining from the Navy property west of Arlington avenue which hampered traffic at that area, as shown. A permanent solution to the problem was being sought by City Administrator George W. Stevens. (Torrance Herald photos.)

COUNTY, LOS ANGELES WILL PROVIDE \$450,000 FUND FOR WESTERN AVENUE OPENING

Los Angeles—City Council has asked that nearly half a million dollars be allocated for improvement of Western Avenue from Torrance boulevard to the Pacific Coast Highway, Torrance to Harbor City.

The Council directed that the County Board of Supervisors be requested to include in their budget of 1948-49 major highway construction projects \$245,000 for the improvement. At the same time the Council instructed the city engineer to include \$205,000 for Western avenue in the City program of major street construction projects for the next fiscal year.

While one-half of Western avenue is in the City of Torrance and one-half in Los Angeles shoestring strip, the City of Torrance is confining its participation to financing its share of right-of-way acquisition. The City Council of Torrance has expressed the view that the project is of major importance to the County as a whole, and therefore should not be required to pave the street from city funds.

Western will be a four-lane 100-foot roadway from 182nd street to Pacific Coast Highway when the whole project is completed next year.

CANDIDATES TO ATTEND RIVIERA GROUP'S MEETING

Hollywood Riviera Home Owners Association will meet Monday night in the Riviera Beach club, starting at 8 p.m., at which time the several candidates for the City Council and Board of Education will appear.

SCARRED HILLSIDES OF CITY MAY BE IMPROVED

A plan for elimination of unsightly scarred hillsides of Torrance, along Palos Verdes hills, has been submitted to city officials by K. Sande Senness, who recently purchased the Weston ranch for development of some 1800 homes. The idea being studied by the City Council also may solve temporarily the problem of dumping of non-combustible materials in Torrance.

Senness is said to have asked the City Council and Planning Commission for permission to take materials from the hillsides surrounding abandoned gravel pits on the Weston property for use in development of the big tract in South Torrance. In exchange, it was said, Senness will permit the City of Torrance to deposit non-combustible rubbish in the gravel pits. Senness likewise would use the pits as a depository for non-combustibles from his development. No burning would be

Helicopter Mail For Torrance Reported Heavy

Since the establishment of the helicopter mail service Feb. 10, the Torrance Post office has handled 7999 pieces of incoming air mail via helicopter and dispatched 3023 pieces according to Postmaster C. Earl Conner.

The helicopter arrives at the temporary heliport near Western Ave. and Torrance Blvd., at 8:18 a.m. Closing time for dispatch of "Copter mail at the Post Office is 7:30 a.m., except Sundays and holidays.

Since inauguration of helicopter service, only four trips have been cancelled. All mail received too late for dispatch via helicopter is sent via the quickest possible means, the postmaster said.

Atkinson And Paul Promoted By G.P. Corp.

Promotion in the industrial relations department of General Petroleum Corporation of T. A. Atkinson and E. R. Paul to the positions of manager and assistant to the manager respectively has been announced by A. J. Donnelly, the concern's director of industrial relations.

Atkinson, lately assistant manager of industrial relations, began his career with G. P. by working summers from 1926 to 1931. He joined the company as a well puller and has occupied various positions in the production department. He was graduated from Compton High School and University of California at Berkeley where he received his B. S. degree. Atkinson serves on several American Petroleum Institute Committees. He makes his home at 1009 South Fifth Street in Alhambra; has four children, three boys and a girl.

Paul, whose office will be in Torrance, has for nearly twenty years been assistant manager of the personnel department, first worked for the company as an assistant chemist in 1924 and advanced through the ranks holding various field positions. He is a graduate of Stanford University where he received an A. B. in Geology. Paul served for three years as chairman of the personnel managers committee of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce. He resides at 387 North Van Ness Avenue in Los Angeles.

AMERICAN-STANDARD STARTS PRODUCTION IN \$3,000,000 TORRANCE POTTERY THIS WEEK

Production in the new \$3,000,000 plant of American Radiator and Standard Sanitary Corp. on Crenshaw boulevard and 208rd street, started Monday. It was announced yesterday by H. W. Creeger, manager of the huge plant.

"We are most happy to announce that we started to produce pottery on Monday," Creeger told the Torrance Herald.

He said that the clay making plant started last week, and that it will be at least six weeks before finished products now being cast are turned out in finished products.

"We have to get a backlog before we can start the kilns," Manager Creeger said, declaring that once the kilns are lighted and operating they must be fed a continuous stream of pottery. He predicted that it will be the middle of April before the kilns are placed in operation.

Creeger declared that there is a certain amount of training of help to be accomplished and that this will be done as the pottery production starts and is carried on through its various stages until the finished article is ready for the market.

Some 100 molds were being used this week, making bowls. Employment this week approached 75, and will reach 150 men and women within 30 days, according to Manager Creeger. Ultimately, the gigantic plant will give employment to some 700 persons.

The company is occupying its new offices and is pleased with their completeness, according to Creeger who said

that he still is looking for a good, three-bedroom house in Torrance.

A big telephone switchboard has been installed, and while it has only four trunklines and a dozen stations, it ultimately will have 35 stations within the plant which spreads over many acres of land.

Contractors are putting on the finishing touches, according to Creeger. The general contract has been completed, but among the sub-contractors still unfinished are painting, electrical work, heating, kilns and others.

Portions of all the various types of raw materials needed for production in the big American Standard plant are in the giant silos completed recently. Some 1000 tons of raw materials are on hand, according to Creeger. Each of the 20 silos has a capacity of 250 tons, making the raw material capacity of this unit of American Standard 5000 tons.

Creeger said that he is pleased with the labor prospects for the plant, and that hiring is continuing each week as the plant expands into full operation expected by June 1.