

Newly Elected School Board Members



ALBERT L. JACKSON



JUDGE JOHN A. SHIDLER



WILLIAM E. TOLSON

Whirlwind Write-In Drive Elects Tolson

Jackson, Shidler Win by Heavy Popular Vote

Control of Torrance schools will be in different hands starting July 1, as a result of a whirlwind write-in campaign which resulted in the election of William H. Tolson to the Board of Education.

The same "whirlwind" swept out of office Dr. Howard A. Wood, president of the Board since first organized, and Mrs. Evelyn Carr.

Judge John A. Shidler was re-elected, and Alfred L. Jackson was voted into office.

VOTES CAST

Tolson's total vote of 518 would have been increased by an estimated 75 votes, to nearly 600, had one election board counted ballots for the write-in candidate which gave the name "Tolson" alone, without initials, according to watchers at the polling places. The ballots with the name "Tolson" alone were legal, according to a County Counsel's opinion, since it was known which Tolson here was a candidate.

Had Tolson filed regularly as a candidate with his name printed on the ballot, hundreds of additional voters would have marked their ballots in his favor, it is indicated, and he would have polled strength comparable, if not greater than that

(Continued on Page Four)

Campaign Platform Announced

Judge John A. Shidler, incumbent Justice of the Peace, Gardena Township, today announced the beginning of his campaign for election on June 6.

"My platform," said Judge Shidler, "is a promise to provide the same impartial judicial service in the future as I have in the past."

Pointing out that he has dealt with more than 29,000 criminal and more than 5000 civil matters in the past three years, Judge Shidler stated that no tickets had been fixed or other special privileges shown in his courts during his nine years of judicial service.

While all veteran groups, church, business, industry, CIO, AFL, Teamsters and other labor and party organizations have endorsed him or indicated their favor, Judge Shidler will not publicize these endorsements.

"I am not connected with any other candidate in any way," Judge Shidler continued. "I have consistently refused offers of candidates for Assembly, Congress, Senate and Governor to participate in their campaigns"

(Continued on Page Four)

Bond Issue To Include Storm Drain

LOMITA—A storm drain to serve Lomita and to help drain southwest Torrance is proposed in the \$49,000,000 bond issue planned for flood control work in the county.

The Lomita job would be in Lomita boulevard from the Torrance city line (approximately the extension of Crenshaw boulevard) to President avenue in Harbor City, to cost \$1,019,000. It would be designed to take away flood waters from the Hawthorne avenue section of Torrance.

A total of \$2,663,000 is earmarked for the harbor area in the bond issue, other jobs proposed being in West San Pedro, 12th street to the Ocean, and at Bixby Slough, from West Basin to Anaheim street.

Editorial

The Press wishes to take this opportunity to thank its many friends for the fine response to the spontaneous "write-in" campaign by which William H. Tolson, realtor and former Mayor of Torrance, was elected to the Board of Education.

The successful campaign was conceived, programmed, prosecuted and accomplished in the short space of 55 hours.

William H. Tolson was sitting in his office with his mind on selling houses when he was approached at about noon Wednesday, May 17. He had no more idea of what was going to happen than any other person in Torrance except for the close few responsible for the "write-in" drive.

He was asked if he would serve if elected. He accepted, and the campaign was on.

The community knows the rest of the story.

The Press is proud to have contributed this bit of service to a community which, by its response, has indicated its displeasure with school policies of the past three years.

The action is a sweeping indictment of Superintendent of Schools J. H. Hull.

The people in effect, said:

1. "We do not want a rubber-stamp Board of Education."

2. "We do not like to be run over, roughshod and told to mind our own business by school authorities. We, the people, run the schools."

3. "We do not like to be denied the right to address our Board of Education in public meeting assembled."

4. "We don't believe in showing our 'appreciation' to a man already earning \$10,800 a year by raising his salary again to \$11,000."

5. "We are a democratic community, and we want the schools run in a democratic manner, open and above board — the 'Open Door' slogan fulfilled."

Let's change the attitude, let's bring the schools back to the people even if it means buying the contract of the superintendent.

THE RECOUNT

Now that the Superior court has ruled and thrown out all objections, red-herrings, and other obstacles cast in front of the City Council election recount, let the majority of the City Council realize that this is a democracy and that the people's voice should be protected.

Willis Blount, if he wishes to represent the people, should be just as anxious to have the recount as is Victor E. Benstead.

The people rule; the ballot box is the gauge. There is some doubt as to the result of the April 11 election, and the Superior court takes judicial notice of this.

Who can be against the recount when it is the true expression of the voters which is being sought?

Benstead and his able counsel, Albert Isen, should be commended for this lawful and worthy procedure, no matter what the recount reveals.

HAGGARD MOVE TO OUST GIANNI HIT

Attempts of Mayor Bob Haggard to force Chairman Albert D. Gianni to resign from the City Planning Commission, or to bring about his removal, were blocked Tuesday night at the Council meeting.

Haggard, for no apparent reason, had asked Gianni to resign, it is said. Gianni is reported to have written a resignation but was prevailed upon by other members of the Commission and friends not to submit it, and it was not on file when Councilman George Powell requested that if any was on file that it be read.

Powell said that the Council is interfering with too many commissions.

Councilman Nick Draie said that it was amazing to him that so many people could speak for other people, referring to Haggard's motion to "accept" the resignation of Gianni.

City Attorney C. D. Smith said that the removal could be effected by naming a man to take Gianni's position on the board, but R. S. Whitcomb, a member of the commission, spoke from the audience saying that they would get no recommendation as to a new member from the Commission until such time as a formal resignation from Gianni is submitted.

Officials claimed Haggard is trying to get control of the Planning Commission by new appointments.

James Hall was named to the Commission Tuesday night, but he was not a Haggard nominee.

Frederick Cook and Gordon Motherall were named to the Civil Service Commission.

Reorganization of the Recreation Commission, as proposed by the Council and the schools, was passed over.

Bids To Be Let for High School Work

Bids and specifications are being prepared for the rehabilitation of the Torrance High School, as approved last week by the Torrance Unified School Board.

Work to be done includes: Painting of the exterior of the permanent buildings at the High School site; painting of interior halls and classrooms where needed; heating system in High School shops; blower system in wood shop; sprinkling system on girls' and boys' athletic fields, and installation of door checks and hardware where needed.

Annual Meet

The annual meeting of the Los Angeles Chapter of American Red Cross is to be held on Wednesday, June 7th, 1950 at 3:00 p.m., Auditorium, 1200 South Vermont, Los Angeles, at which time members of the Board of Directors will be appointed.

The full program will be announced shortly in all newspapers.



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SECOND YEAR

No. 6

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, MAY 25, 1950

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RECOUNT SET JUNE 5 MAY CONDEMN DUMP

Land Offered City Withdrawn

The City of Torrance may consider condemnation of two and one-half acres of land formerly occupied by a brick company for dump purposes at Plaza del Amo near Border avenue, it was said yesterday.

The 10 acres of land offered to the City of Torrance for

Two New High Schools Slated Here

Los Angeles will build two new high schools adjacent to Torrance to serve the Shoestring strip, Keystone, Lomita and Harbor City, it was revealed this week.

For students living north of Carson street, a new Gardena high school will be built at 182nd street and Normandie avenue, it is said. The old Gardena high will be converted into a junior high school.

For students living south of Carson street, and in Lomita and Harbor City, a new high school is proposed just west of Western avenue and north of Lomita boulevard. Narbonne high will be converted into a junior high.

A 47-acre site is being sought for the Gardena high school and a 40-acre site for the new Lomita high school. Seller of the Gardena site, bringing \$117,315, is Mrs. Goldie Peterson.

The new high school in Lomita will cost \$4,000,000 and will serve 1500 students.

Plans Made To Widen Normandie

SHOESTRING — Plans for another thorough road from Los Angeles to the harbor came a step nearer to being realized as the board of supervisors opened seven bids for widening and improving Normandie ave. between 101st st. and Imperial hwy.

Supervisor Raymond V. Darby said the low bid of \$154,238 was submitted by the P. & H. Construction Co. of Long Beach. Warren Southwest, Inc. of Torrance submitted the high bid of \$204,306.35.

Supervisors referred the bids to the road department for checking and recommendation to the board.

Otto Willett Lists Local Sponsorship

Judge Otto B. Willett, candidate for the office of Justice of Peace of Gardena Township, announced today the opening of campaign headquarters at 1321 Craven Avenue, Torrance, California, and also released a partial list of his many sponsors.

"The office of Justice of the Peace being a non-partisan one, I welcome the support of all voters of the township," Judge Willett stated. "If elected, I will attempt to accord all persons appearing in Court, regardless of race, color, creed or station in life, a full, fair and impartial hearing," he said.

Among his sponsor in the Township, which includes Gardena, Torrance, Lomita, Redondo, Palos Verdes, Manhattan, Her-

(Continued on Page Two)

RECOUNT HOLDS UP GAME BAN

Marble games continue to flourish in Torrance, and school children continue to play them, as the City Council, perhaps wisely in this case, delays action on the ordinance to abandon the pinball games from this city.

Declared "gambling devices" by courts and city governing bodies throughout California, the marble games (particularly the one-balls which operators themselves admit are as "skillful" as regular slot machines) have been attacked by parent-teacher interests who do not like to have the lunch money of the school children spent or gambled away in the devices.

City Attorney C. Douglass Smith has drawn an ordinance to abandon the games, as reported

(Continued on Page Four)

Punch Boards Reappear

Punchboards have reappeared in Torrance.

Perhaps they actually never were taken out, although when parent-teacher members raised a cry about them and marble games a few months ago, they were hard to find.

But there is ever increasing evidence of the presence under the counters of various places where they always have been found.

They are strictly against the law, and their operation frequently can be traced to out-of-town racketeers such as was the case in Sonoma county where four men are awaiting trial for operating an illegal ring with "marked boards," which were supposed to be immune from seizure by officers.

In Torrance, the "right guys" can always find a punch board, we hear, even though Police Chief John Stroh says he will not tolerate them.



GEORGE AND FLO PARTRIDGE are familiar faces at the Beverly Ann Malt Shop. The parade of bicycle novelties captivated much attention and applause at last Saturday's parade which attracted a record crowd. Bicycles and costumes furnished through the courtesy of the Torrance Cycle and Key Shop.—Photo by Photo Arts Studio.

10,000 CIRCULATION

Largest Circulation Newspaper or Combination Newspapers in the Torrance Trading Area.

Court Rules Out Smith Demurrer

Recount of the votes of Victor E. Benstead and Willis Blount will be held in Superior court on Monday, June 5, as a result of the victory of Albert Isen, lawyer in court Friday.

Superior Judge Arnold Praeger upheld Isen in all of his points and authorities in arguments on the demurrer of C. Douglass Smith, city attorney, representing Blount.

"Both points are without merit," said Judge Praeger of Smith's demurrer, which raised the question of jurisdiction of the Superior court and claimed another action pending for the recount.

"The motion for change of place of trial is denied.

"The demurrer is overruled.

"An answer is on file."

Smith had challenged the jurisdiction of the court in view of a City Charter provision which he said vested exclusive judgment of election contests with the City Council.

Isen countered that the Charter sets up no procedure for determining election contests, and that therefore the general law prevails. He cited numerous cases which supported his contention. Isen's arguments were upheld in each instance.

The letter written by Isen in Benstead's behalf did not constitute pendency of another action, according to the court. The Council "filed" the letter.

Benstead was defeated by Blount by seven votes, and errors are alleged in the election contest which now definitely will be settled in Superior Court.

At the Council meeting Tuesday night, City Attorney C. D. Smith brought out the fact that since the judge called Torrance a sixth class city, it was a threat to the City Charter and to the schools. However, it was pointed out later, that the judge also recognized Torrance as a chartered city, and that no opinion of the court on such a matter could

any way effect the validity of the charter nor of the school district's affairs, some called it a stenographic error.

The full decision of the court follows: "Torrance is a city of the sixth class. The Charter of the City of Torrance provides in Article IX, Section 8:

"The City Council shall judge of the qualifications of its members and all election returns, and determine contested elections of all city officers."

"Counsel for the defendant, who is the City Attorney for Torrance, stated to the Court that no ordinance had been enacted by the City Council relating to the procedure to be followed by the City Council in determining contested city elections.

This, however, seems to be immaterial.

"Division II, Part 2, of the Elections Code provides for the time and manner in which municipal elections shall be held and conducted.

"Section 9700 provides: 'Whenever the term 'municipal election' is used in this chapter, it refers to elections in cities of the fifth and sixth class and where applicable in charter cities.'

"Section 9704 requires 'A gen-

(Continued on Page Two)

Farm Site Sale Made

Sale of the Gardena Farm Site was consummated at the price of \$50,050.00 according to reports from the Torrance Unified School District this week.

Price included commission \$2,000; Assurance of Title, \$147; Notary Fees, \$1; Drawing of Deed, \$1.50; and Escrow Fee, \$40.

Dicalite To Cease Operation

This week it was announced that within the next six months, the Great Lakes Carbon Corp. would cease the mining of diatomaceous earth in the general vicinity of a 3rd potential dump site in the Palos Verdes Hills. The mining operation has left an area comprising about 50 acres, and a Los Angeles refuse contractor is seeking a permit to utilize the depressions for cut and cover dumping of non-combustible wastes.

Council Raps Initiative Petitions

People of Torrance were asked by the City Council Tuesday night to refuse to sign an initiative petition being circulated to place before the voters in November a constitutional amendment to exempt three billion dollars worth of personal property from the assessment rolls.

Voters are being misinformed by petition circulators, it was said.

If adopted, it would reduce the tax base of Los Angeles county 22.3 percent, and thus raise taxes in that amount, it was said. It would be a threat to the solvency of cities, counties, school districts which must rely on the property tax base to continue existing services required of local governments.

Councilman Harvey Spelman publicly asked that the resolution be given publicity in both local newspapers.

Plan Made for Record Flight

An attempt to break the "round-the-world flight record of the late Bill Odom will be made by a Torrance man, the Press learned exclusively this week.

Plans for the flight are being made by James F. Fore, who resides in the new apartments along the Parkway at Hollywood Riviera.

Fore told the Press that he already has purchased a DeHavilland Mosquito and that it is being readied for the flight. He said he has several backers in the attempt, which will be made in four or five months.

Fore said he is a former member of General Chenault's Flying Tiger group in China, and served overseas in the last war as a fighter pilot.

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