

Grand Jury Drops High-Rise 'Bribery' Quiz

Torrance Press-Herald

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THE EMPTY CHAIR... Members of the Torrance League of Women Voters ponder the question, "Who will fill the empty chairs?" during a breather from planning sessions for Wednesday's Candidates' Meeting. Mrs. Irwin Boxer, voter service chairman; Mrs. Burt Belzer, co-chairman of the meeting, and Mrs. Lloyd Soney, moderator for the meeting, are making final plans for the meeting, which will feature candidates for the Torrance Board of Education and the El Camino College Board of Trustees. The forum will begin at 8 p.m. at the Torrance Recreation Center. (Press-Herald Photo)

Peebles Found Guilty; To Ask for New Trial

Panel Refuses Indictment in Zoning Dispute

Following a two-day hearing into charges of an alleged bribe in a high-rise zoning matter in Torrance, the county grand jury has voted not to bring in an indictment.

The jury's action in effect cleared developer R. D. Keillor, president of Sovereign Development Co., of any criminal wrongdoing.

The grand jury hearing was ordered by the Board of Supervisors after Councilman George Vico had introduced a letter from Keillor which Vico implied was an attempt to influence his vote on the high-rise zoning case. Vico introduced the letter during a hearing on a proposed land trade between the county and Sovereign Development Co.

The high-rise zoning was denied by the Torrance council following a lengthy public hearing.

Keillor denied he had offered any bribe and said the letter was written in reply to a proposal by Vico. The developer said Vico had "asked specifically if he could be connected with the restaurant which we proposed for the roof of the project."

Supervisors ordered the investigation when Vico introduced the letter, then postponed action on the land swap, which involves county beach and bluff property in Redondo Beach and portions of the Sovereign Development Co. site in Torrance.

The district attorney's office turned the matter over to the grand jury for investigation. A spokesman said about a dozen witnesses appeared before the jury Wednesday and Thursday.



MAILING LETTER... Deborah Claypool, a fifth-grade student at Madison School, drops a letter which her classmates helped to write in the mailbox. The letter is destined for the captain of the S. S. Limon, now in the Caribbean Sea. The class has been corresponding with the captain as part of a geography lesson.

Convict Ex-City Manager

Former City Manager Wade E. Peebles was convicted of two counts of perjury after four hours of deliberation by a Los Angeles Superior Court jury Friday.

Judge Mark Brandler set April 29 for sentencing. A defense motion for a new trial will be argued the same day.

Peebles, 45-year-old father of five, faces a sentence of 1 to 14 years on each count.

The seven-man, five-woman jury returned its verdict at 1:30 p.m. Friday after hearing testimony for more than a week. Peebles was convicted on indictments handed down by the county grand jury last November.

The one-time city official was accused of lying to investigators from the Attorney General's office during a probe of suspected irregularities in the Torrance Police Department. He was found guilty of lying about his part in the surveillance and arrest of a former Torrance councilman on a drunk-driving charge and about a \$2,700 payment on a swimming pool made by a developer.

Peebles resigned his post Feb. 4, 1964, after city councilmen voted to dismiss him.

Board Candidates in Two Public Meetings

Candidates for the Torrance Board of Education will speak at two major meetings this week.

All 13 candidates have accepted invitations to speak before the Riviera Homeowners Association tomorrow evening. The meeting, which begins at 8 o'clock, will be held at the Parkway School.

Wednesday, school board candidates will participate in a meeting sponsored by the Torrance League of Women Voters. The meeting will be held in the Torrance Recreation Center, beginning at 8 p.m.

Mrs. Irwin Boxer, voter service chairman for the League of Women Voters, has announced that questionnaires, which include statements by all candidates, will be distributed at Wednesday's meeting.

On Education

State Board President to Speak Here

Thomas W. Braden, president of the California State Board of Education will be guest speaker at a joint luncheon meeting of the Redondo Beach Chamber of Commerce and the Redondo Beach Coordinating Council April 14, at the Plush Horse Restaurant.

Braden, 47, has been a member of the State Board of Education since January, 1959 and its president since June, 1961. He heads the Board Committee which recently "spelled out" licensing reforms for California teachers. He is also a member of committees concentrating on school finance and economy, basic economic education, Bill of Rights instructions and legislation.

Reservations for the meeting are available at the chamber office, FR 5-0554.

Anza Avenue Improvement Contract Due

A low bid of \$137,894.45 has been submitted by B and P Trucking Co. for the improvement of Anza Avenue between Torrance and Del Amo boulevards.

City Manager Edward J. Ferraro will recommend that the City Council award a contract for the work to the firm. The bid was slightly more than 4 per cent under the engineer's estimate for the project.

The project will include widening the present two-lane street to four lanes, installation of curbs, gutters, and sidewalks, and related improvements. Completion of the project will make Anza Avenue a completely improved highway from 190th Street south to 235th Street.

Councilmen will meet at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday in the council chambers at city hall.

Boys' Imagination Causes Watery Hunt

A brief conversation between a couple of 7-year-old Lawndale students prompted a search of the Dominguez Creek Thursday afternoon.

Four sheriff's deputies, three lifeguards, some harbor patrolmen, several motorcycle officers, and a helicopter searched the creek.

The two 7-year-olds were on their way home from school when they got a look at the rising waters in the Dominguez Channel at 147th Street. When one of the youngsters reached home, he told his mother about a little boy who fell in the creek and was carried clear to Chi...

THE STORY worried his mother, so she called the Lennox sheriff's station, and the search was on when the youngster repeated his story.

Somebody, however, thought about asking the second little boy about the story. He also told an interesting tale, but it wasn't the same as the first one, so the search was called off.

Deputies are sure the incident wasn't an April Fool's joke. They are equally sure it wasn't an intended hoax. So, they chalked it up to a young, hardworking imagination.

Quintuplets Delivered In Mailroom

Quintuplets have arrived in the Torrance Unified School District.

Unlike most new arrivals, they weren't led by their mother to a principal's office to enroll. Instead they put in their first appearance at district headquarters.

Born beneath a mail truck seat to a neighborhood cat, the quintet of kittens were named Zip Code, Parcel Post, Special Delivery, Air Mail and Fragile by mail room employees.

Rumor to the contrary, the district staff learned that cats do not have nine lives. "Fragile" lived up to her name; as did two of her brothers.

The two surviving kittens are beginning life anew in the home of a soft-hearted mailman who hopes to put the zip back into "Zip Code" and "Special Delivery."

Hearing In Bar Shooting Set April 9

Frederick Arsenault, 28, has been ordered to return to South Bay Municipal Court, Torrance, April 9 for a preliminary hearing on charges growing out of a shooting spree in a Torrance bar.

Arsenault is being held in lieu of \$55,000 bail set at his arraignment by Judge Otto R. Willett Wednesday.

An unemployed shipyard worker, Arsenault is accused of shooting four persons in a downtown Torrance bar last Sunday. He has been charged with four counts of assault with a deadly weapon and four counts of assault with intent to commit murder.

Two of the four victims, Frederick Amadrill, 28, of Bellflower, and Terry D. Ash, 21, of South Gate, have been taken off the critical list.

And the Rains Came---

Rains which began Wednesday morning had dumped a total of 2.72 inches of water on the city's airport by 8 a.m. Saturday. Airport officials reported that nearly an inch of rain had fallen between 3:30 p.m. Friday and 8 a.m. Saturday. Several city areas were flooded, but most roads were open. Some areas east of Torrance were flooded. Worst spots in Torrance were along Pacific Coast Highway between Hawthorne Avenue and South High School and on Anza Avenue north of Torrance Boulevard.

Trustees Meet Early---

Members of the Board of Education will convene tomorrow evening for their regular session. The session will get under way at 7 o'clock, half an hour earlier than usual, because of a candidates' meeting which is scheduled at 8 p.m. Candidates for the board will speak before the Riviera Homeowners Association at Parkway School.

Fire Department Trio Cited for Bravery Medal

Fire Engineer Allen E. Richardson, 2405 W. 180th Street, will receive the Los Angeles Fire Department's Medal of Bravery Thursday, April 8.

Richardson and two other Los Angeles City Fire Department members will be honored during ceremonies to be held by Mayor Samuel Yorty, fire commissioners, city and fire department officials.

Battalion Chief Lowell Hanson of Los Angeles and Captain William A. Collins of Arcadia will receive the medal during the ceremony.

The unusually brave actions of these firemen deserve much praise as we can see from the photographs. Fire Commissioner Fred Kline remarked, competing on the awards. "Such displays of courage, under circumstances requiring fast action and quick decision, are in any field of service."

Engineer Richardson courageously crawled across a collapsing, burning roof on Nov. 19, 1964, to save the life of a Department Captain who was trapped through the burning with his legs dangling from the burning attic below. Collins and Johnson, who

Candidates Night

Crain Flays League Action

Candidates for the El Camino Board of Trustees will not appear at Wednesday's meeting sponsored by the Torrance League of Women Voters because of a policy which requires a majority of candidates to speak at such meetings.

The cancellation was revealed Friday, when John G. L. Crain charged an extension of the League's policy would give an incumbent "control of the situation" when only two candidates are in a race.

Crain is opposing incumbent Jack N. Dabbs for the Torrance seat on the college board. Dabbs did not accept the invitation to speak Wednesday because he will be in Boston attending a national convention.

"This action merely emphasized the underlying reason for my being on the ballot," Crain said in a letter to Mrs. Louis Lanzer, president of the Torrance League of Women Voters, "the incumbent's apparent disregard of the obligation to make periodic reports to Torrance voters, especially at election time when he receives special invitations to talk."

Crain said he had cancelled plans to attend a national meeting of the American Industrial Development Council to speak at the Wednesday meeting. He also said he had asked the El Camino board to send another trustee to Boston.

This is about as far as I can go in the way of trying to bring the incumbent to a

meeting of the Torrance voters," Crain said.

"There would be little point in inviting candidates for offices wherein not more than two are running," Crain said. "The incumbent could control the situation by refusing to attend all meetings."

Crain asked the League to "re-examine your policies which would require a majority of candidates to appear before a meeting under your sponsorship." He also said the policy should permit all candidates who are invited to speak at such meetings to appear.

"I am confident that you will agree that it is more to the community's interest to hear a small report from one candidate about El Camino than nothing at all," Crain said.