

# LOS ALTOS NEWS

The One Newspaper in the World Most Interested in Los Altos

## and PENINSULA GUIDE

Entered as second class matter at the U.S. Post Office, Los Altos, Calif.

VOL. 19—No. 36

LOS ALTOS, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 1958

SINGLE COPY 10c (16 PAGES)

### THE WEATHER

|                     | H     | L  | Rain |
|---------------------|-------|----|------|
| Wednesday, March 12 | 57    | 39 | .04  |
| Thursday, March 13  | 54    | 41 | .17  |
| Friday, March 14    | 57    | 39 | .27  |
| Saturday, March 15  | 54    | 39 | 1.14 |
| Sunday, March 16    | 59    | 45 | 1.07 |
| Monday, March 17    | 61    | 36 | —    |
| Tuesday, March 18   | 65    | 37 | —    |
| March av. maximum   | 63.2  |    |      |
| March av. minimum   | 39.3  |    |      |
| Season's rain       | 20.89 |    |      |
| Year ago            | 9.64  |    |      |
| Normal              | 12.65 |    |      |

—Courtesy Edward Rexworthy

# Council Votes To Go Ahead With City Hall

## Bonds, New Tax to Los Altos School Voters

A Los Altos School District Bond Proposal of \$1.8 million and a five-year tax increase of 50 cents will be on the May 20 school elections ballot.

The elementary district board of trustees unanimously adopted the two financial proposals

recommended by Supt. Ardis Egan.

Egan, in a prepared statement, said bond funds are essential or it can be "predicted conservatively . . . 2,000 children will be on double session . . . by the beginning of the 1961-62 school year."

In regard to the tax increase, which would make the basic maintenance rate \$2.25 for at least three years, he said:

"The present maintenance tax rate . . . is \$1.75. This rate if continued will permit only a curtailed educational program even if nothing at all is budgeted for site development and equipment. . . . Certain salary areas exist where increases are mandatory if the district is to remain competitive."

The present 85-cent override tax expires in three years, thus permitting a tax review at that time, Egan said.

The action of the board was taken over a strong stand against it by William J. Greene, chairman of the Los Altos Taxpayers League.

Greene read a prepared statement which he said was the report of a study by a special committee of the league, which included Richard Gieseker and Wesley Popnoe in addition to himself.

The taxpayers league position was that action on a bond issue should be delayed at  
(Continued on page 2)



"LET'S GO THAT-A-WAY," says Mrs. Ernie Shaw in her 1906 Franklin touring car, while Les Andrews (left) owner of a 1909 Hupmobile, Ernie Shaw and Bill Harrison, with his Oldsmobile 1912, all of Los Altos, plot a course in preparing for the fourth annual old vintage car blossomtime tour March 22-23 in Santa Clara Valley. This event is one of several sponsored by the Greater San Jose Chamber of Commerce in connection with their Blossomtime Tour activities.

## One Civic Center Building To House Staff and Police

Construction of a combination Los Altos city hall and police station for fall 1959 occupancy was indicated following council acceptance of a citizens public improvements committee recommendation at an emotionally charged meeting Tuesday night.

The vote was 3 to 1, Councilman John J. Beck dissenting.

Yes votes were cast by Councilmen Robert Prior and George Estill and Mayor Irving L. At-

kinson. Councilman A. Watson Conner was absent.

The action followed two hours of discussion during which areas of disagreement were established by statements by members of the council and of the citizens committee and by William J. Greene, chairman of the Los Altos Taxpayers League.

Councilman Beck, in addition to calling for delay in council action in his own remarks, read a letter from Councilman Conner also urging that "no definite action regarding Civic Center buildings be taken until the council is reconstituted"; that is until after the forthcoming April 8 election. Conner explained he could not break a long-standing engagement to be present at the council meeting Tuesday night.

The debate was significant in relation to the forthcoming election in that Frank Williamson, a member of the civic improvement committee and a candidate for council whose petition had been circulated by Greene, specifically denied a charge of "influence" which had been aired by Greene in daily newspapers last week.

"I feel Mr. Greene's charges . . . were completely unfounded," Williamson said.

Also revealed by the discussion was an intra-council conflict between two council committees—public works and finance.

Councilman Beck, in arguing

## City Candidates To Be Heard at March 28 Forum

Four candidates for Los Altos city council seats at the April 8 municipal election all have accepted invitations to appear on a public forum program March 28 at 8 p.m. in Covington School.

Mrs. Stanton Zoglin, chairman of arrangements for the sponsoring Los Altos unit, Palo Alto League of Women Voters, says Mrs. Walter Gamage, league president, will be moderator.

The organization is non-partisan and does not endorse candidates but sponsors office-seekers' forums as a public service. Those slated to give five-minute speeches next Thursday night and later

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The league has submitted identical questionnaires on municipal issues to the candidates and will distribute mimeographed copies at the March 27 meeting.

## North Los Altos Meeting to Hear Council Candidates

City council candidates will be heard Monday night at a meeting called for Santa Rita School kindergarten by the North Los Altos Citizens Committee. Time of the meeting is 8 p.m.

The committee has asked that questions be given to the meeting chairman in writing.

The North Los Altos area is north of Edith and west of San Antonio. Residents outside this area are also invited to attend.

### TRAILER CODE CHANGE

A revision of the Los Altos trailer control ordinance permitting requests for variances from trailer owners was adopted on first reading by city council Tuesday night.

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Also revealed by the discussion was an intra-council conflict between two council committees—public works and finance.

Councilman Beck, in arguing for a delay, noted the civic center building plan had never been referred to the council's public works committee but had been, instead, a recommendation of the finance committee.

Beck, Conner and Prior are on the public works committee. Estill, Prior and Atkinson on the finance committee. Prior described the public works committee as one which did not function.

Two general areas of disagreement were established:

1. Objection to a combination building housing both city administrative office and the police station.

2. Objection to using plans prepared by the architectural firm of Ernest Kump.

The citizens committee recommended a building with 4,000 square feet for city administration office and 3,000 square feet for a police station.

Its report, read at the start of the debate, held this general arrangement should be "adequate for five to six years"; that the building could be constructed on a revision of previous Kump Civic Center plans at a cost of about \$15 a square foot; that it was within the financial ability of the city to put the plan into effect.

The civic improvements subcommittee action was reported as unanimous. The report was over the signature of Victor Cereghino, subcommittee chairman.

Also read was a letter from Cereghino denying he had said, as reported in daily newspapers, that the committee had acted under "duress."

Specifically the council adopted a motion by Estill which recommended acceptance of the subcommittee report and therefore authorized architect Ernest J. Kump to prepare a revision of working drawings and prepare specifications for bids for a single civic center building at a fee not to exceed \$3,000.

Robert Tobin, an architect, was the principal spokesman for the citizens committee. He said the committee had held the police station was the most pressing need but that it might be possible to erect a single building because of plans for a north county court house and jail.

He observed the proposed modular construction would permit future expansion "without any great disturbance of the original building."

(Continued on page 2)

## Mrs. Allyn Dies at Edith Ave. Home

Memorial services for Mrs. Christle Lillian Allyn of Los Altos will be held at 2 p. m. Monday in the Noble Chapel of Cypress Lawn Memorial Park, Colma. N. Gray and Co., San Francisco, is in charge of arrangements.

Mrs. Allyn, the widow of Ira L. Allyn, died Tuesday morning in her home, 115 W. Edith Ave., following an extended illness. Relatives prefer contributions to the San Francisco Heart Fund.

Born in Alameda 63 years ago, Mrs. Allyn lived in San Francisco from 1920 to 1952 when the couple moved to Los Altos. Both were prominent in local civic affairs. Mr. Allyn who died May 22 last year in Palo Alto Hospital was president of Western Loose Leaf Co. and Western Microfilm Co., both of San Francisco.

Mrs. Allyn was the mother of Clyde, Joseph and Robert Allyn and sister of Otto and George Leydecker.

## School Bonds . . .

(Continued from page 1)  
least a year until "assessed valuation covers the proposed bonds."

Greene also suggested a study of school construction costs, taking the position per-classroom costs of smaller schools was out of line.

In answer to the argument classroom costs were double or more for newer schools, Lawrence Gentry, district architect, noted first that site costs (which have increased) exaggerated the room cost in the statistics used by Greene.

"I prefer to use actual construction costs," Gentry said. He then said that on this basis the cost of Hillview with 20 rooms was \$23,000 per room and Santa Rita with nine rooms, \$23,500; Portola with 20 rooms, \$21,269, and Oak, nine rooms, \$21,527.

He also said square-foot costs have consistently run below state aid estimates, citing several examples, including Almond a cost of \$13.60 per foot against a state estimate of \$14.20, and the most recent contract let, for Emmerson upper grades, \$12.10 against a state estimate of \$14.50.

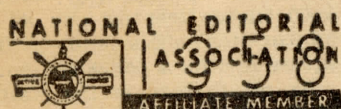
The administration broke down the projected distribution of the proposed 50-cent tax increase as follows: Salaries, 16 cents; site development, 15 cents; general reserve, 14 cents; equipment, 5 cents.

The school officials' construction projection calls for \$380,500 for new classrooms at Almond next year; the Eastbook school costing \$301,000 in 1959-60; and a Portola upper grade school with a construction cost of \$413,000 in 1960-61.

## The Los Altos News

AND PENINSULA GUIDE

Member



Published every Thursday by Newspaper Investors, Inc., a corporation, in the News Building, 401 First Street, Los Altos, California.

Member California Newspaper Publishers' Association, National Editorial Association.

Subscription: By mail \$4.00 per year; by carrier 25c per month. Advertising rates on request.

ED LAUBENGAYER

Editor-Publisher

PRESTON E. THISTLE

Advertising Manager

## CITY HALL . . .

(Continued from page 1)

The committee was highly commended by Mayor Atkinson, who strongly rejected any suggestion men of the calibre of its members "could be coerced, influenced or intimidated."

Financing of the \$140,000 project (\$120,000 for the structure, \$10,000 for site development; \$5,000 for utilities; and \$5,000 for architect's fees and inspection) would be largely from available funds, according to Estill, chairman of the council finance committee.

Funds available were stated as \$93,000 in the capital improvements budget; \$22,000 from sales tax excess; and \$25,000 which would be covered by sales tax collections in the first quarter of the 1958-59 fiscal year.

The most heated exchange at the meeting came after the council had voted, upon the reading of a letter from Chris Laughlin, realtor, address to Estill. The writer charged "Mr. Greene and Mr. Conner have teamed up to sell Los Altos a bill of goods, with the aim, if they are successful, of making Mr. Conner our next mayor . . . while his campaign manager, Mr. Greene, will rise to new heights of power as the man behind the throne."

Greene strongly protested reading of the letter. He said ground rules laid down by Mayor Atkinson at the start of the discussion (limiting statements to the actual building proposal) had been violated.

He was answered by both Estill and Prior, the latter saying that one who "had used an anonymous letter for . . . personal objectives should be the last to criticize the reading of a real letter." The reference was to a letter read at the time Ardis Egan, superintendent of schools, had been accused by Green of violating city ordinances by operating a can reclamation business in his back yard.

## Death Notices

CHRISTLE LILLIAN ALLYN, beloved wife of the late Ira L. Allyn; mother of Clyde, Joseph, and Robert Allyn; sister of Otto and George Leydecker.

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. Monday, March 24, at the Noble Chapel of Cypress Lawn Memorial Park, Colma, California.

Contributions to the San Francisco heart fund preferred.

## Too Late to Classify...

### OPENING

Saturday, March 22

Hendersons

Baldwin

Piano and Organ Studio

1049 N. San Antonio Road  
Los Altos

Phone WH 8-1510

A branch of Hendersons  
37 West San Fernando Street  
San Jose

Exclusive Baldwin Piano and  
Organ Representatives for  
Santa Clara County

### RANCH COUPLE

Couple between 20 and 35. No children or not more than 1 preschool-age child. Small cattle ranch near Los Altos. Permanent. No cooking. Car necessary. Calif. references required \$250. Modern electric furnished house utilities included. Write Box Y, LOS ALTOS NEWS, PO Box 1155, Los Altos Include telephone number.

### SALES CLERK WANTED

Male or female. Part-time, steady. Cal after 6 p.m. YO 8-0405.

### LHASA APSO

Registered puppies. \$150 each.  
Franklin 8-7990  
Campbell

FOUND: LADY'S GLASSES. In vicinity of Masonic Temple and High School Mountain View. Owner may have same by identifying and paying for this ad. YO 8-1090.