

Carson St. Well Flows 2500 Bbls.

THIS WEEK

Torrance and the Lease-hounds; Beware of Liars!

By W. HAROLD KINGSLEY

LEASEHOUNDS, with their eyes on the fat percentages bound to come their way in case town lot drilling is allowed in Torrance, are active in Torrance, attempting, with wild talk of 10,000-barrel wells, to win Torrance residents over to the ranks of those who want the derrick to come in.

Most of these leaseholders live in Los Angeles or Long Beach. Cornered, they admit that they don't care anything about the future of Torrance, because they don't live here anyway, and never expect to.

Most residents of this city, whether they favor drilling or believe in restricting it, are sincere in their convictions. Each man is figuring out the advantage to himself. The only difference of opinion arises when those advantages are figured differently.

BUT in counting these advantages, residents of Torrance should take with more than one grain of salt the opinions of Long Beach leaseholders and fly-by-night oil companies who, having fattened their purses by turning deals at Signal Hill and Santa Fe Springs, now seek fresh fields in which to reap a harvest.

By the sale, re-sale, leasing and re-leasing of town lots in Torrance for the purpose of oil drilling, these individuals would profit much. It is their meat, a town-lot oil field. They prosper on it and grow fat. So, in order to make their fat profits possible, they apply to Torrance facts and figures from Signal Hill and Santa Fe Springs.

IN the first place they do considerable talking about placing seven wells on a city block. But they fail to mention that close drilling, such as this, soon kills all the wells in the overdeveloped area.

They fail to mention that close drilling has sent many wells of great initial production to the pump on Signal Hill.

They talk flush production, paying no attention to production a year or two years from the day a well comes in.

They neglect to mention that the more wells drilled to an acre the lower the production and shorter the life of each.

Why? Because they don't care about production, for it is not from production but from leasing, selling re-selling and re-leasing that these leaseholders make their profits.

And in order to insure these profits they seek to delude the people of Torrance.

ANY leaseholder talking about city lot drilling and production in Torrance proceeds with the premise that oil from the local field sells for a dollar a barrel—which is all very well, except for the fact that the figure these gentlemen use is about 30 cents a barrel too high. The Herald points out these facts in the belief that the people of Torrance wish to decide this matter of oil drilling for themselves, without the assistance of lying leaseholders.

TORRANCE can settle the question herself without any assistance from the prevaricating parasites who don't give a hoot whether the property owners of this city profit from production or not, as long as the hogs of the oil industry have a chance to get their feet in a trough in Torrance.

The Herald has the utmost respect for every citizen who sincerely takes a stand on the matter because he believes he is right. We are broad enough to respect the opinions of American citizens, just as long as those opinions are honestly held and sincerely maintained.

But we have no use whatever with the hypocrites who lie to win a point, who profess to be guarding the interests of others when, in all truth, the only interest they have is their own compelling greed.

TORRANCE has a great problem to solve. That problem means life or death to the community as a city. It must be met on that basis. The Herald is convinced that city lot drilling in Torrance will not only be inadvisable but unprofitable to individual property owners. Production from city lot wells, even in the spectacular fields, is short-lived at best.

There is nothing at all to indicate that wells inside the Torrance restricted area will produce more than those now producing just outside. Even with a possible increase the return to individual property owners, under conditions of city lot drilling, would be too small to warrant a death blow to the city; would even be too small to warrant the sacrifice of land for home purposes.

DON'T take our word for it. Take the largest production in the field, figure the average life of an oil well, and figure the return over a period of several years. Then figure the return from the same property rented for dwelling-house purposes if oil is kept out.

But figure it out for yourself sanely, calmly and with complete disregard for the bombastic predictions of Long Beach and Los Angeles leaseholders.

Torrance Herald

NINTH YEAR

TORRANCE, CALIF., SEPTEMBER 21, 1923

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STRICT ANTI-OIL LAW IS PASSED; PROPOSE \$275,000.00 BOND ISSUE

Debate Drilling Question

PRESENT CASE ON DRILLING FOR BOTH SIDES

M. L. May and S. K. Noland Are Captains Of Two Teams

TAKE YOUR PICK Some Say Drilling Will Pay, Some Say It Will Not

At a well conducted and generally peaceable meeting, marred only by one or two unwarranted indulgences in bitter personalities, two teams debated the question of oil drilling in the Torrance restricted district Wednesday night in Catholic hall under the auspices of the Freeholders' league.

Headed by M. L. May, as captain of the anti-oil debaters, and S. K. Noland, leader of the pro-oil contingent, the two teams argued their cases vehemently, after which the debate was thrown open for general discussion.

Here is Personnel S. K. Noland was assisted by G. M. Knapp and Mr. Blanchard. On Mr. May's team were Alfred Gouderer; Joseph J. Jensen, chief geologist of the Amalgamated Oil company, and W. E. Dunlap, petroleum engineer of the General Petroleum corporation.

The meeting was opened by C. W. Parsons, assistant engineer of the state corporation department who declared that "town lot drilling is never profitable for the company or property owner."

Cites Other Fields He asserted that the yield of oil per acre at Signal Hill and Santa Fe Springs, the biggest fields in the state, will not be more than 75,000 barrels, and added that the yield per well per acre is reduced as the number of wells increases. He warned the people of Torrance against small leases and urged them to join together for large community leases.

Knapp Speaks G. M. Knapp, oil man from Long Beach, asserted that if Torrance becomes proven territory one well to every three or four lots would pay a handsome profit to lot owners.

He cited a case on Signal Hill where the owners of two city lots have received \$100,000 in royalties.

"If 1000-barrel wells are possible here you ought to drill," he said. He declared that it is unjust to allow the large companies to drill for oil outside the restricted district and not allow the owners of property inside the city to benefit from oil under their land.

Attacks Trustees Mr. Blanchard attacked the city trustees for allowing a permit for a billiard hall and the erection of temporary houses outside the restricted district in the city.

M. L. May asserted that if wells are permitted on the outskirts of the present restricted district the wells will gradually creep in until the entire city is destroyed.

He cited the great increase in property values in the restricted district where drilling is not allowed, and called attention to the fact that in his opinion, as much money will be made by property

U. S. Royalties Vista Highlands No. 1 Flows 28 Gravity Oil; Depth 3700 Feet

Stimulating interest in the Carson street section of the Torrance oil field, the U. S. Royalties Vista Highlands No. 1, on Carson street, was put on production at 3 o'clock Wednesday morning, and was flowing 28 gravity oil Wednesday at a rate of 2500 barrels a day.

The high gravity of the oil, the gas pressure of 320 pounds on the casing and the excellent flow of the well aroused a spirit of renewed optimism in leaseholders in the district.

The U. S. Royalties well was cemented at around 3250 feet and was drilled down to around 3700 feet. In point of first day flush production it sets a new record for the entire field. In point of gravity it matches the Chanslor Canfield's Torrance No. 6 on 216th street.

Two 1500-barrel tanks were insufficient to hold the flow of the well, and a crew worked eight hours overtime Wednesday building a pipe to the Standard Oil pipe line. Thursday morning gas pressure had mounted to 350 pounds, and a test showed the oil 28.4 Baume. The well was brought in without trouble by the crew. Turned to the sump hole at 3 a. m., it had cleaned itself out by 8:30—one of the cleanest jobs ever completed in the local field.

Lots of Trouble After all the weeks of water trouble on several wells in the Carson street area, the bringing in of Vista Highlands No. 1 Wednesday cheered oil men whose interest in the district had started to wane.

With this well in and several others on the verge of production, interest in the district is coming back with a rush. The Chanslor Canfield Midway Oil company expects to put Torrance No. 7, south of Carson street, on production the latter part of the week. This well is down to 3700 feet, but work has been delayed for several days by a leak in the casing.

Torrance No. 10, the well nearest to Torrance on the south side of Carson street, will be on production shortly. Monday an O. K. was given on the water shutoff by state mining officials.

Ready to Cement Farther north, opposite the Redondo tool shop, Del Amo No. 7 of the C. C. M. O. is nearing the production stage. In tract 4070 the Superior Oil

Torrance No. 8 on Old Redondo Road Will Become a Producer This Week

Down 3723 feet—or 50 feet lower than the level from which the Midway Northern gusher on the old Redondo road was brought in—the Santa Fe's Torrance No. 8, across the street from the pioneer of the district, was being circulated with mud Wednesday night preparatory to production. The company is looking for a splendid well here, believing that it will be the largest producer so far brought in on the company's extensive holdings in the field. This well was cemented off about 50 feet shallower than the Midway Northern producer, and has at least 50 feet of exposed oil sand more than its neighbor across the highway. Six and a quarter-inch oil string has been set.

Watch Fortuna Well Interest continues unabated in the Lomita development, with all eyes watching the Fortuna Oil company's Phenix No. 1 on Acacia street. This well was bailed for a casing test Tuesday. No leaks were located. Wednesday the crew was setting drill pipe preparatory to drilling through for a water shutoff test. It is expected that the test will be made Friday.

Methodists Bring Eugene Knox Here Eugene Knox, the famous dramatic entertainer, will appear in Torrance on October 4 under the auspices of the Methodist church. The proceeds will be used to pay for robes and to furnish the clubroom for the juniors.

PLEASE NOTE CORRECTION Owing to the rush of proof-reading in our office this week a mistake or oversight was made in reading copy of the Van Andie's Specialty Shop advertisement which appears in this issue. The names of the popular new owners are Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Van Andie, and should be spelled with the "ie" instead of "re," as in the advertisement.

\$300 Daily Fine On Derricks Gives Ordinance Teeth

Trustees Declare Drilling In The Restricted District Public Nuisance In New Measure Made Into Law

PEOPLE WILL VOTE ON BONDING

Proposed Issues Would Buy Water Plant, Pave Western Avenue and Provide Lights In The City

Stepping out boldly to save Torrance from civic death certain to follow the incursion of oil derricks into the restricted district, Torrance trustees Tuesday night adopted a powerful ordinance to prohibit drilling, and then started in motion machinery to provide the city with three great public improvements—purchase of the water system, the paving of Western avenue, and installation of adequate city lighting—all at a cost of \$275,000.

Believing that extensive public improvements are inadvisable unless the city is permanently protected against the encroachment of derricks, the trustees had delayed the proposed bond issues until the anti-drilling ordinance was passed.

Vote This Fall As a result of the trustees' action this week, voters late this fall or early in the winter will vote on three separate bonding proposals. An ordinance calling for a special election will be introduced at the next meeting of the board.

The proposed bond issues will be as follows: \$140,000 for the purchase of the water system, \$130,000 in payment for the system and \$10,000 for extensions and working capital; \$75,000 for street lights; \$60,000 for paving Western avenue, owners of abutting property to pay the balance.

The anti-oil ordinance declares drilling within the restricted district a public nuisance and imposes a penalty of \$300 a day on any one or any company erecting a derrick or drilling for oil in the district bounded by Plaza del Amo, Madrid, Border and Dominguez.

The Water System As soon as this ordinance was passed the trustees took the first step necessary to place the bonding proposals before the electors. A resolution declaring the work a public necessity was passed.

City Engineer Jessup reported to the trustees that the Torrance Water, Light and Power company had unofficially informed him that they would sell the water system to the city for \$130,000. The engineer reported that the system is

NATIONAL BANK ERECTS BIG CHIME CLOCK IN TORRANCE

Filling a long-felt need for a dependable public clock in the downtown section of Torrance, the First National bank has erected a large illuminated clock in front of its banking house.

The big clock on the corner is operated by electricity from a master clock located in the main corridor of the bank. Every minute the hands of the big clock are sent ahead one minute by electricity governed by the master clock within the building. This insures correct time on the large clock at all times.

Chimes, Too Aside from the usefulness of the new clock and the convenience it

Plan For Crowd When Fredericks Visits Torrance Plans for an exceptionally large meeting of the Open Forum on October 1 are being made by Secretary Harry Gadeky of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce. Congressman Fredericks is scheduled to speak on that night.

MASONIC PICNIC Members and friends of Torrance Lodge No. 447, F. and A. M., and Torrance Chapter No. 330, O. E. S., enjoyed a very good outing Sunday, Sept. 16, at the Three Star ranch, Santa Monica canyon. Games were played by all. A very large crowd was in attendance. A basket lunch was served, with lemonade and coffee. Many prizes were awarded. The most exciting game was the ladies' tug-of-war.

Keystone Boosters' Dance, Sat., 22nd

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