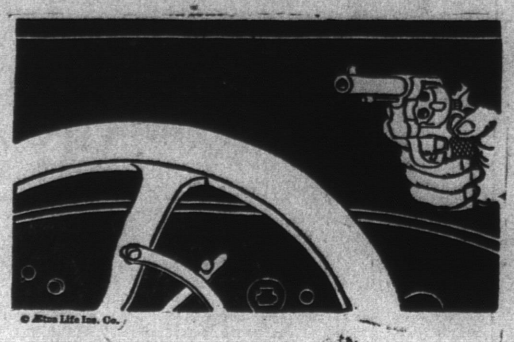
Trustees Defer Action On 140,000 Dollar Water B



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WILL NEGOTIATE FURTHER WITH COMPANY; ENGINEER MAKES DETAILED REPORT

After presenting a comprehensive report on the status of the Torrance Water, Light and Power company to the board of Trustees, Tuesday night City Engineer Jessup reported that the company is willing to dispose of the property to the city for $140,000 and declared that he thought the price was reasonable.

Mr. Jessup pointed out that the system cost the company originally $171,500 and that to duplicate it new today would cost the city $250,000, owing to increased cost of labor and materials.

Trustees confronted with a proposition, which, if accepted would obligate the city of Torrance to serve water to consumers outside the limits of the municipality, decided that it would be advisable to confer further with officials of the company. It was thought that a proposition might be made so that the city could buy only that portion of the system within the city limits. The water company is now serving customers along Harbor boulevard and in Keystone.

Another objection to the proposition was the fact that the city in operating the system would be obliged to purchase its water from the Dominguez Water company. The Trustees expressed some doubt as to the advisibility of rushing the matter until many of these questions had been settled.

The report of the city engineer on the history and status of both the Dominguez Water company and the Torrance Water, Light and Power company was most comprehensive. In preparing his report the engineer was given access to all of the company's books and records.

In outlining the history of the two companies it was made clear that in purchasing the system, the city would take over as trustee, 3522 shares of stock in the Dominguez Water company, which the Torrance Water, Light and Power company now holds. These shares were transferred to the Torrance Water company, from the Dominguez Land corporation, the latter company having secured them when it purchased 3522 acres of land including the present city of Torrance. If the city took over these shares it would be obliged to serve water to any consumer owning any one or more of these 3522 acres, some of which are outside of the city.

Mr Jessup reported that the present system, with the new booster pump installed and a few increases in the size of mains would be sufficient to care for a city much larger than Torrance is at present, without much expansion of lateral mains.

Mr. Jessup figured the present value of the company's physical assets at $120,000. This was arrived at by subtracting depreciation from original cost.

An important point stressed by the engineer is the fact that the company acted wisely in overbuilding its system in order ta prepare for the future and as a resupt of this costly precaution, had lost money through all its years of operation He declared that every new utility must go through such lean years at the start, but pointed out that the company now is showing a profit for the first time in its history. The engineer then emphasised the fact that there is a decided value to the fact that the company is now a going concern.

Says the engineer's report, "The city in taking over the operation of the system on a non-competitive basis, is assured that the business can be conducted at a profit and may even expect to reduce the water rate in the future."

The engineer reported that the city might take over the system and drill its own wells in the vicinity of Torrance, where most all the land is water-bearing.

The engineer's report shows that there are now 909 consumers of water in the city of Torrance. It is estimated that there will be 1,000 by Dec. 31, 1923. There were 289 in 1918.

Losses of the company as set forth in the engineer's report are as follows: 1914—$6397.96; 1915—$6591.22; 1916—$4787.33; 1917—$3961.83; 1918—$1913.97; 1919—$5067.59; 1920—$7109.41; 1921—$12,924.77; 1922—$2115.83; 1923 (last four months estimated) $96.97.

A note is appended as follows: "The estimate for the last four months of 1923 has been made very conservative and actually shows a loss per month irrespective of interest charges."

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TORRANCE CALIF.

PLAN TO PAVE SEVERAL STS.

Continued from Page One

refuse may be burned only between sunrise and 10 a.m. and 4 p. m. and sundown. The chief was instructed to enforce the ordinance strictly after issuing the warning.

FREEHOLDERS GET DRILLING REPORT

Continued from Page One

The report was signed by R. Knowles, George Steadman, Ella M. Flood, Mrs. Al Price and S. K. Noland.

The next meeting of the league will be held next Wednesday night and the next regular meeting a week after that.

JULIAN CREW BUSY RIGGING ROYALTY WELL

(Continued from Page One)

reached by the Midway Northern.

The C. C. M. O. expects a big producer here.

Fortuna's well on Acacia street was cemented off this week at 3510 feet. A core taken at that level was most promising—so good in fact that the company started erecting storage tanks immediately after the test.

Locate 7 More

Seven new locations were made in the south Torrance and North Lomita areas during the week.

The Federal Drilling company has staked out a location on Lot 52, Fir and Pennsylvania, Lomita.

The White Star rig is up on Lot 71, Tract 639 Pepper and Pennsylvania, Lomita.

Universal Consolidated has located its second well on Lot 82, Tract 639 on Pepper street, Lomita, and its third on lot 98, also on Pepper St.

The Superior Oil company (W. M. Keck) has spotted locations for two more wells near the corner of Arlington and the old Redondo road, almost on the Torrance-Lomita line, on Lots 3 and 4, Tract 639.

The Petroleum Corporation's rig is going up on Lot 33, Tract 639 near Narbonne.

45 Rigs Up

There are now 45 rigs south of Plaza del Amo in Torrance, not counting the wells east of Arlington and Narbonne.

Four more wells were spudden in during the week—Universal Consolidated's Luck No. 1 on Pepper street, Hub's second well on Lot No. 10, Tract 639, offsetting Midway Northern's No. 2 and Petroleum Securities' (Doheny) Nos. 3 and 4.

Challenging all comers the Midway Northern has set up an enviable record in drilling its second well on the Sepulveda lease along the old Redondo road. Sixteen days of drilling has brought this well to the 3300 foot level. The company hopes to set casing and cement off in three weeks from the date of spudding in.

Acre at $30,000

Not counting Torrance No. 8 and with the exception of Phenis No. 1, no well but the Midway Northern's second is down further than 2500 feet. Federal's well at Narbonne the Elgin follows the Midway Northern. The Petroleum Securities' wells are being drilled more slowly. George F. Getty's No. 3 had a flying start ahead of all competitors in the race for the sand but was held almost two weeks by a fishing job.

The acre on which Getty's third well is being drilled was sold during the week for $30,000 cash. It was owned by a San Pedro woman and was taken up by San Pedro interests.

ADDING SEELY MATTRESSES

Charles Elman, proprietor of the Elman Furniture store, in Torrance, announced Wednesday that he has placed a large order for the celebrated Seely Mattress and his store will hereafter be the headquarters for this famous all cotton mattress for Torrance and surrounding territory.

Mr. Elman is certain that nothing is too good for his trade and he is sure that the Seely Mattress is well worth the price asked for it.

FOOD SALE

The Ladies Guild of the Central Evangelical Church will hold a cooked food sale in the Church Basement, Saturday, Sept. 15.

Odd Fellows to Entertain

Triple City Lodge, No. 333, will entertain with a feed and smoker at their next regular meeting, Tuesday evening Sept. 18, to which Odd Fellows are invited.

AT BAILEY'S FOUNTAIN AND LUNCHEONETTE

The habit of eating at Bailey's Foun tain and Luncheonette, at the Beacon Drug Store, in Torrance has grown so fast that larger seating capacity has been arranged, more help added and the fact that you get foods cooked, like mother used to make, makes this establishment a favorite place to dine.

Mr. Bailey cooks all of his roast and sandwich meats on a special made pressure cooker, himself at his home, and they are served at the store hot from steam tables. You can order roasts of meat, chili, tamales, vegetables and get delicious hot gravy poured over your mashed potatoes at popular prices.

Mr. Bailey also wishes it known that special arrangements have been made with the Hughes Ice Cream Co., of Los Angles, whereby they will furnish him with plain and fancy creams for parties and weddings on a 36 hour notice. The Hughes ice cream is known far and wide by its slogan "Rich and Wholesome." He has also arranged a special delivery to furnish punch in any quantities to lodges, parties and weddings.

He wishes the public to know that he caters to the persons who look for real service and to those who have to be shown to call at his establishment to be shown. Another addition for the comfort of the patrons will be that large fancy menu cards will be placed in plain view of everyone so that a glance will show what is being served and the price.—Adv.

I. O. O. F. DANCE

Don't forget the I.O.O.F. Benefit dance in American Legion Hall, Saturday evening. Good music and a good floor. It'll cost the gentlemen "six bits" and the ladies "two bits". Not so much when you figure the fun you'll have.

M. E. CHURCH IS DEDICATED LARGE AMOUNT IS COLLECTED

Last Sunday was one red letter day for the Methodist people of Torrance. The splendid new edifice was dedicated with imposing ceremonies. Dr. Inwood the district superintendent preached in the morning. Several adults and children were baptised, and 15 new members were received into the church.

At 3 o'clock Rev. I. F. Roach of First Church, Long Beach, delivered a very able sermon, and in 25 minutes the people responded with $3500 to finish up the building, and clear up the bills. Many of the business men of Torrance contributed liberally. There ares doubtless others not at the meeting who will be glad to help in this noble enterprise. Sunday night Rev. A. J. Hughes gave a very inspiring sermon, and Mr. Brillhart led in a lively song service. The day closed amid great rejoicing.

Continue Revivals

Revival meetings continue all this week and next. Mr. Brillhart, evangelist is leading the music with voice and trombone. A splendid and faithful choir, and a young people's chorus are in evidence. This church is doing a fine work among the young folks. Mr. Brillhart is an experienced leader, and a specialist with boys and girls.

Next Sunday will be a great day. More members are to be received. Dr. Morris will speak in the morning "The Tragedy Of The Ages," At night the subject will be "The Measure of a Man." This will be business men's night, and every business man in town, and all others are earnestly invited.

PHENIS WELL SPURS LOMITA LAND LEASING

George M. Carle closed a splendid lease this week with John Kirkpatrick of Los Angeles, for his four acres at Pine, Pennsylvania and Acacia streets. He received $2500 an acre and $300 a month rental for the four acres. He will get a fifth of the oil. The lease carries a 90-day drilling clause.

Carl Ritz this week leased his five acres at Pine and Pennsylvania to Willis Brothers. The bonus was $2500 an acre, with $50 per month rental per acre. The royalty is one fifth. Mr. Ritz sold an acre on the southwest corner of Pennsylvania and Pine to 20 San Pedro men for $20,000 cash.

Leasing of land went forward during the past week with a burst of speed that rivals the lease boom which followed immediately after the Midway Northern gusher went down on the list as a producer of oil.

Excellent showing in the Fortuna Oil company's Phenis No. 1 spurred several companies to push leases through to completion.

The Bush Drilling company, having entered the field with a gusto leased up the Martina property on Lot 29, Tract 639 on Cedar street near Pennsylvania, paying $2,000 bonus and 25 per cent royalty. The lease carries a 60-day drilling clause.

Another company has closed a lease on the Phoebe Sykes acre between Chestnut and Beacon streets east of Narbonne. The terms were not made public.

An Arkansas company leased two acres on West Acacia street during the week. The property comprises Lots 4 and 5 tract 588. A rig will be erected at once, Mr. Cunningham, representative of the company asserted this week.

Torrance Firm Active

Gilbert, Hansen and Paige of Torrance went far to the south of production this week and leased the H. R. Tulp and Mrs. Lilian acres, duction this week and leased the It is understood that a bonus of $1,500 an acre was paid, with $25 and $50 a month rental. The drilling clause calls for active operations in a year. The lessees will receive a sixth of the oil.

During the week C. C. Julian's representatives were active in the southeastern part of the town, offering bonuses of $500 an acre. They signed no leases, property owners preferring to wait developments.

It is authentically reported that H. R. Tulp and Mrs. Lillian Arnold closed a five-acre community lease on land between Chestnut and Cherry streets on Elgin street and that the Worthington property on East Chestnut was leased to the Sentinel Oil company.

EASTERN STAR

The Torrance Chapter, Eastern Star put on the work at the Harbor Chapter in San Pedro, Tuesday evening when several candidates were initiated.

INSIDE 24-HOUR ELECTRIC SERVICE

William Craig, Torrance manager for the Brea Electric Company announces that his company's new Torrance store in the Vonderahe Building, corner of Cabrillo and Carson, is now open for business and is ready to give a twenty-four hour emergency service to the oil fields. Also that no wiring job is too small or too large for the Torrance store to handle.

The store will also have on sale the Thor Electric Washer and Ironers, Premier Vacuum Cleaners, Edison Mazda Lamps and Hot Point appliances for the home.

Four service men will work out of the Torrance store and will make this city their home just as soon as homes can be found for themselves and families.

The Brea Electric Co., have stores in Torrance and Brea, Calif., and warehouses in Long Beach and Santa Fe Springs.

Mr. and Mrs. Cyrus Baker of Carlsbad are guests of Mr. and Mrs. Mathers of Oak street.

ORDINANCE PRESAGES VOTE BY PEOPLE

(Continued from Page One)

will speed a settlement, then I'm for the ordinance. People are already buying land inside the restricted district for speculative purposes. They say they're going to drill, law or no law.

"I've been in Torrance since its inception as a town of homes, We have some great industries here and the city was intended for a city of industries and of homes. The men who work here want to live here and we want them to. I do not believe that it will pay anyone to drill for oil on his property. The property owners will make more money if they keep the derricks out. An oil well's initail production is its largest. Wells never get better. they get worse.

"Let's save our litle town for homes."

Gilbert on Record

Trustee Gilbert declared that the passage of the ordinance will put the issue up to the people.

"If they don't want it, they'll vote it down," he said, "and if they do want it they will support it with their votes. In either case the majority will rule, which is right.

Trustee Stone echoed the opinion of Trustees Fitzhugh, Proctor and Gilbert. He argued against drilling from the economical standpoint declaring that property owners would gain more advantage by keeping oil out and letting the city grow than they would by allowing the drill to enter the restricted district.

The ordinance was not drafted Tuesday night, but was introduced by title as Ordinance No. 70. It will be drafted and read at the meeting next Tuesday night. It must be read once and passed through three successive readings before it comes effective.

SWAB SHOWS WATER LEAK IN WILDCAT

(Continued From Page One)

planned to go down about 3650 feet.

Torrance No. 7 of the C. C. M. O., located just off Carson street near George F. Getty's new rig is expected to be the best well in its area. Last week it blew off several times with considerable gas pressure. It is now being drilled at around 3600 feet.

Torrance No. 10, opposite Superior's Shedd No. 1 on Carson street is standing cemented at 3514 feet and Standerd's Torrance Community No. 4 is drilling in oil strata at 3350 feet.

MASONIC-EASTERN STAR PICNIC

Torrance Lodge No. 447 F. & A.M. and Torrance Chapter No. 380 O. E. S. will have their annual picnic at Santa Monica Canyon Sunday Sept. 16th. Meet at Masonic Temple. Will leave promptly at 8 o'clock. All Masons and Stars anr invited with their families. Bring your basket lunch. Will serve lemonade and coffee. Games for the young and old. A good time is assured to all that go. Don't miss a good time.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Edwards and daughters were recent guests of Long Beach friends.

32 GRAVITY SH BY UNION T

(Continued from First P

er sands may dip so far that for them may not be adri and near Torrance.

Union's Francis No. 1 i two miles from Torrance.

What Will They D

Whether Union intends t Francis No. 2 into produ whether it will be mudded brought in from a higher problematical. In view of t lease-holdings by large o east of Torrance, it is prob the deep sands will not be readily in that district.

However the showings Union, Standard and Shell d have proven much of in and may lead independent down deeper in other area

KEYSTONE DANC

Keystone Boosters will h other dance in Keystone hall on Saturday night S Those in attendance at t Boosters dance had such a g they urged the organization on another right quick.

Torrance To Tax Producing

Unlike other municipaliti ance has never placed a high oil wells inside the city But the trustees Tuesday n cided that a producing w business and passed a re which will require a regul iness license for each produc in the city. The owner must pay $6 per quarter f producer. In other cities, pointed out, the tax is e higher.

Mrs. McVey Back From Funeral Brother-in

Mrs. J. C. McVey has just ed from a trip north to at funeral of her brother-in-law, Mentzer. Mrs. McVey was ac ied on her return by her sis Mentzer, and niece Miss Mentzer, who will remain indefinitely. Mrs. Mentzer i the care of physicians.

BACK HOME AGAIN

Mrs. Rosa Templeton of street and her daughter Mrs. Miller of South Narbonne returned from a ten weeks Eastern Colorado and Iowa Miller's daughter Margery, companied them was greatly fitted in health by the trip.

L. A. GUEST HERE

Mrs. Matilda Hedges, Angeles was a guest Tuesday at a family dinner given in the birth anniversary of Mrs. Jones of Arlington Avenue.

Light Up Early

The days are getting George Proctor, city tru noticed it. So the street lig be turned on half an hour The trustees have ordered it.

Dr. Beers of the Universal of Chiropractic of Pittsbu who has been taking care Hinshaw's practice in Long for the past two months, in of Dr. Maude Lathrop.

Mr. and Mrs. Berna Martin the week end in San Diego and lonal City.