

# What Do You Want? A Big City Or A Small Oil Field?

**T**ORRANCE trustees are exercising unusual judgment in determining to hear from the public before passing an ordinance which would prohibit the erection of oil derricks in the restricted district of the city of Torrance.

They are likewise logical in their decision to give more consideration to the opinions of owners of improved property than to those who have purchased vacant land for speculative purposes.

The question of drilling for oil IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THAT HAS EVER CONFRONTED THIS CITY—since the days when its founder, dreaming a splendid dream of a great and beautiful city, set his surveyors to work.

Upon the decision rests the future of Torrance. The dream of the city's founder will be shattered or realized according to the breadth of vision of the people of the city today.

For Torrance will never be BOTH AN OIL FIELD and a thriving city. The choice between the two must be plain. In considering the subject, every person must realize that he is weighing in his mind a matter that means either the CONTINUANCE OF THIS CITY as a city of homes, business district and community aspirations, or its transformation into an OIL FIELD.

**T**HE HERALD has given long hours of serious consideration to this important subject. We have weighed the arguments pro and con and considered the personal reasons behind those arguments. AND WE HERE DECLARE WITHOUT FEAR OF SUCCESSFUL CONTRADICTION THAT THE ENCROACHMENT OF OIL DERRICKS INTO THE RESTRICTED AREA WILL SOUND THE DEATH KNELL OF ALL THOSE INSTITUTIONS AND INTERESTS THAT GO TO MAKE A CITY.

When the derricks come in the city will go out. Make no mistake about that.

**W**E are not going into an exhaustive discussion of the consequences of oil drilling in the restricted district just now. There is plenty of time for that. But we do feel—and we feel it as fervently as we ever felt anything—that it is our DUTY as a newspaper to caution everyone in Torrance to think this thing out for himself, without regard for the highly colored arguments of LEASE-HOUNDS, whose interest in Torrance is wholly one of PERSONAL GAIN.

There are enough employes in Torrance industries today to make this city A CENTER OF 25,000 POPULATION. Property owners should sharpen their pencils on that.

**W**ILL small-producing oil wells, drilled two to a city block on community leases, bring to the lot owners as much as they will realize if they keep the oil out and allow the city to thrive under the tremendous impetus it will receive as soon as the derricks are permanently checked?

Figure it out. Figure it out SANELY, without PREJUDICE, without MALICE.

Count in the LOSS owners of improved property will sustain through the death of their property for residence purposes.

Count the average life of an oil field. Figure the flow of the wells on the basis of the field's best well at flush production, if you like, but figure it over a PERIOD OF YEARS.

Don't fool yourself. Don't be fooled by figures gleaned at Signal Hill and applied ERRONEOUSLY to Torrance by persons whose eyes GLEAM with GREED at the thought of the thousands they will make in turning leases if the derricks enter the restricted district.

The Herald is willing to discount sentiment to a certain extent in this matter—although the thought of the destruction of this beautiful city is depressing to anyone whose memory carries him back to the great dream of Mr. Torrance and to anyone who sees in the death of a city the crushing of a noble man's high hopes and fine aspirations.

But we are willing to set aside sentiment and count the arguments on a cold basis of DOLLARS and CENTS.

**I**N considering the action of the directors of the Chamber of Commerce in requesting the board of trustees to pass an ordinance prohibiting the erection of derricks in the restricted area, the people of Torrance must remember that the directors passed that resolution only after it had been forced upon their attention time and time again that the uncertainty of the future of Torrance as a city of homes is daily keeping HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS out of the city. Home builders by the scores are waiting only DEFINITE decision before investing THOUSANDS in the BUILDING UP of Torrance.

Every time a home is built, every time a section is improved, property values throughout the entire city RISE IN VALUE.

Torrance needs HOMES if it is to continue as a dwelling place of families. Hundreds of men and women will move here and live here as soon as homes are provided.

It was to encourage HOME-BUILDING that the directors took their action. They appreciated the arguments against prohibition of the derricks. They weighed arguments CAREFULLY. And they stepped out BOLDLY for what they deemed to be RIGHT.

The Herald wishes to support the trustees in their decision to consider the opinions of owners of IMPROVED property ahead of the opinions of SPECULATORS.

**H**OME BUILDERS have contributed to the PROGRESS of the city. Speculators have contributed NOTHING. It is the city and its FUTURE in which we are primarily interested, and not the BANK BALANCES of land SPECULATORS. Not that we deprecate legitimate speculation in land and the buying and selling of unimproved property, either. But the owners of vacant lots will profit AS MUCH if oil is KEPT OUT as they will if it COMES IN. And that statement is not a WILD CONJECTURE.

If the trustees are convinced that the majority of citizens with improved property investments in the city wish oil drilling prohibited, then by all means should the trustees PASS THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE. Surely they have the interest of the city at heart. Surely they have the MORAL STAMINA to act as they deem for the BEST INTERESTS of the city, REGARDLESS OF CONSEQUENCES.

If they do pass such an ordinance, the citizens even then will have the power of initiative. We believe that an election on the question is eventually INEVITABLE. If the passage of an ordinance will HURRY the election, then by all means let us have the ordinance.

**D**ELAY in the settlement of the question is a DRAG to the PROGRESS of Torrance.

If Torrance is going to REMAIN a city, let's know it NOW, and take the advantages that will follow the impetus of BUILDING.

IF Torrance is going to be SMOTHERED TO DEATH by derricks, let's know it NOW. Then, all of us can prepare to MOVE OUT and let the lease-hounds PICK THE CARCASS of a city sacrificed on the altar of MISGUIDED MONEY-MADNESS.

## TORRANCE Newslets

Mrs. Valentine, mother of Mrs. Benzel, was a guest last week at Catalina.

Mr. and Mrs. M. R. Page have moved into the home on Arlington street, purchased last week from Mr. and Mrs. Reed. Mr. Page is associated with the firm of Gilbert & Hansen.

Mr. and Mrs. M. J. Thompson of Coffeyville, Kan., are visiting Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Thompson. The newcomers are enthusiastic over Torrance and vicinity, and will make their home here.

Mrs. Thelma Reineman and H. N. Warren were recent guests of Miss Dorothy Reineman, who is spending the summer at Hermosa Beach.

Mrs. M. L. Acree is spending two weeks at Sierra Madre, accompanied by her daughter, Mrs. W. R. Downer, of Glendale.

Mrs. P. A. Morse of Wichita, Kan., is a guest at the home of her son, Paul Morse. Mrs. Morse will spend the winter here.

Mr. and Mrs. Mason Fitzhugh, Dulaney Fitzhugh and Miss Whitacre of Los Angeles were entertained recently at the J. M. Fitzhugh home on Arlington avenue.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Davis of Long Beach were week-end guests of Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Perry of Kern court.

Mrs. Olea Davis has sold the P. E. lunch room to Mrs. Mattie Churchill, who assumed charge of the business last week.

Orders taken by Mrs. Effie Hayden, Lomita Millinery, Teagarden block, for hemstitching, pleating, and button covering.—Adv. 10

Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Fitzhugh were recent guests at the home of Mr. Fitzhugh's father, Dr. Thornton Fitzhugh.

Mrs. Laura Ligois of Stockton is spending some time with Mrs. Emil Dinult of Portola avenue.

### Ollie Stevens and Mother in Reunion

We had hard work to get A. D. ("Ollie") Stearns of the local fire and police department to "stay put" while we extracted quite some items of interest from him. You see, it's like this: "Ollie" hadn't seen his mother, Mrs. L. Stevens, and brother William for 12 years. They reached here one morning last week, and the desk sergeant has been "up in the air" ever since.

After the visitors had rested a bit from their journey here from the Stevens home in Newcastle, Pa., everybody started talking at once. Twelve years is a long time, and there's a great amount of talking to be done, and they have to get acquainted all over again.

We hope, for "Ollie's" sake, no one gets pinched, and that no alarm of fire is turned in for the next few days, at least.

### May Extend Carson To Orange County

Extension of Carson street from Torrance to the Orange county line is on the program of the regional planning commission, Harry Gadeky, secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, reported Tuesday. With this thoroughfare extended and eventually paved, Torrance would be served by a through east and west main highway.

### MAY OIL ROAD

Trustee Gilbert reports oil companies now utilizing the old Long Beach-Redondo road will co-operate with the city of Torrance in putting the highway in passable shape and eliminating dust. The board of directors of the Chamber of Commerce recently requested the city trustees to take action, but Mr. Gilbert had already been on the job. It is possible that the road will be oiled, the companies furnishing the crude and the city the labor.

### ENTERTAIN BRIDAL PARTY

Mr. and Mrs. Sam Levy gave a dinner, Monday, Aug. 6 at the home of Mr. and Mrs. James Wolfe in honor of the newly-wed Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Moran.

The rooms and table were beautifully decorated in pink and white. A delicious turkey was greatly enjoyed, and the wedding cake was charmingly served by the bride. Music and dancing followed the dinner, at which covers were laid for Mr. and Mrs. Thomas J. Moran, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Levy, Mr. and Mrs. James Wolfe, Miss Ethel Oliver, Miss Bertha Hansen, James W. Jones, Otto Hildebrandt, and Floyd Parker.

### CARD OF THANKS

We desire to express our sincere appreciation of the loving sympathy and the flowers received during our recent bereavement. We are specially grateful to Esther and Luck Feise for their many helpful words and deeds.

Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Kirkland and Family; Mr. and Mrs. F. L. Gould and Family; Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Ovelman; Mr. and Mrs. F. C. Ovelman; Charles and John Ovelman.

# C. C. Julian

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## SHOE REPAIRING

### FOR WALKING

you need good stout shoes as well as stylish looking ones. If you walk a good deal the soles wear through and of course heels run down, and of course this makes your shoes look rather shabby. This fault is easily remedied by bringing them to us for quick repair.

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