

Propose Bond Issue for City Hall

Torrance Herald

TENTH YEAR

TORRANCE, CALIF., FRIDAY, FEB. 22, 1924

NO. 12

Call For Western Ave. Paving Bids

Trustees Rule Out Protest As Crowd Shouts Approval

Briney Intercepts Possibility of Legal Action by Recommending Reading of Protest Filed Too Late

ONLY EIGHT SIGN OBJECTION PETITION

Announcement That County Is Ready to Start Work When City Begins Is Greeted With Prolonged Applause

Overruling a protest signed by eight owners of property, and amid enthusiastic and prolonged applause, the board of trustees Tuesday night took one more step toward the paving of Western avenue to the northern city limits. They passed a resolution that the work go ahead and instructed the city clerk to advertise for bids, which will be opened on Monday night, March 10.

The filing of the protest and its reception by the trustees were not undramatic.

Half an hour before the meeting of the board was scheduled to open, the room was crowded with citizens, drawn to the city hall by their interest in the Western avenue paving project.

According to the advertised and posted notices, any protests against the work had to be in the hands of the city clerk by or before 8 o'clock.

About one minute after 8, according to watches of the trustees, a written protest was handed to Trustee George Proctor. Mayor Gilbert asked if any protests had been received. City Clerk A. H. Bartlett replied in the negative. Trustee Proctor then passed the protest to the city clerk.

Mayor Gilbert and Trustees Proctor and Fitzhugh consulted their watches and declared that the protest had not been presented before 8 o'clock. City Attorney P. G. Briney read the statute, which set forth that protests filed after the advertised hour should not be considered legal protests.

Accept Protest

Lee R. Taylor, one of the signers of the protest, declared that the protest was handed to Mr. Proctor before 8 o'clock. The city attorney asked him if the signers of the protest would contend that it was filed before 8 o'clock.

When Mr. Taylor replied in the affirmative Mr. Briney called the attention of the board to the fact that, in view of Mr. Taylor's statement, it might be possible for the protestants to hold up the proposed paving in the courts if the board ruled out the protest as having been filed too late.

Members of the board concurred in the opinion that they did not wish to take advantage of a technicality, and Trustee Fitzhugh moved that "after a canvass of watches the board consider the protest as having been received prior to 8 o'clock." The motion was carried.

TORRANCE MAN, VICTIM OF GAS, DIES IN CHAIR

Leaky Stove Causes the Death of Richard H. Pemberthy

Escaping gas from a lighted stove asphyxiated Richard H. Pemberthy, aged 75, Thursday night, as he sat in a tightly closed room at the home of his nephew, John H. Pemberthy, at 2120 Andrew avenue.

When members of the family found the aged man dead in his chair the stove was still lighted and burning, but the odor of natural gas filled the house. Examination of the stove proved it to be out of adjustment.

Dr. A. B. Stevenson was called, but efforts at resuscitation failed. Mr. Pemberthy, a veteran of the Civil war, will be buried at Sawtelle. The body was taken to the Stone-Myers undertaking parlors.

Charles Ray and C. M. McKenzie visited the schools Wednesday afternoon and inspected the new auditorium. The gentlemen are members of a committee appointed by the Business Men's association to put on a big minstrel show in the near future.

COUNTY READY

The county of Los Angeles will start paving Western avenue from the northern limits of Torrance as soon as the city of Torrance begins work on the highway. The board of supervisors has appropriated the necessary money out of the general fund and the road commissioner has completed plans for the pavement.

"We will begin work when Torrance does," a representative of the road commissioner's department informed The Herald Wednesday afternoon.

W. T. Klusman voiced opposition to the proposed work and asked the board if it was too late to file another protest. Mayor Gilbert replied that verbal protests could not be accepted under the law and that the hour for receiving further written protests had passed.

Eight Sign Protest
The protest was signed by the following: George R. Steadman, Erna M. Taylor, Lee R. Taylor, Lee R. Taylor, Frank Spoon, W. H. Dalgrish, B. M. Coffman, Mrs. B. M. Coffman, Charles Elman.

The protestants based their objections to the proposed pavement on two contentions.

To quote from the protest itself: "Said protestants believe and therefore allege that there is no basis in fact or in truth for the declaration of the said board of trustees that 'said

(Continued on Last Page)

P. M. TO DRILL DEEP WELL IN LOMITA FIELD

To Put Detricks No. 2, Narbonne and Elgin, Down 5000 Feet

With more scattered acreage in the field than any other company, the Petroleum Midway company has sought and secured a permit to drill its Detricks-No. 2 to 5000 feet, according to an authentic report current in the field Thursday. The Detricks well is already being drilled. It is north of Elgin street just west of Narbonne avenue, offsetting the Federal Drilling company's Gerner No. 2. The Detricks lease comprises 10 acres.

That the "P. M." would seek a deep well permit has long been considered a certainty, on account of the large number of small leases held in the Lomita district by the big independent company.

An unverified rumor in the field is to the effect that the Federal Drilling company is seeking a permit to drill a deep test well on the Broom lease, near the corner of East Elgin street and Narbonne avenue.

Observations

Build a Real City Hall—German Children Are Starving—The Example Set By George Washington

By W. HAROLD KINGSLEY

TWO years ago in Germany children, wan-faced little boys and girls, begged for food in front of the boulevard restaurants. It was pitiful, making an American almost ashamed to eat a good meal. At that time American tourists usually ordered more than they wanted and gave the excess to these thin, pitiful little hungry souls.

Since then conditions in Germany have become worse, instead of better. Thousands of children face starvation. The great heart of America, always generous toward the needy and the suffering, is being appealed to, that thousands of hungry little tots be fed.

America will answer that request. For America never has failed in such a crisis. That the United States recently fought a war with Germany makes no difference to Americans. Little children are hungry. America needs to be told no more.

When children starve we are not the sort to take notice of the color of their skins or to question their nationality before giving them of our money and food.

Thank God for that. Sunday Torrance churches will take collections to help feed these hungry German children. Next week the churches will seek funds from individuals and organizations.

Torrance should give generously. It is a privilege to be able to prove to ourselves and to the world that we, as Americans, forget national animosities, race, color and creed when there is a mission of mercy to be performed.

It is unnecessary to say any more. Children are starving. We can help them. And of course we will.

THERE is only one objection to the proposal to bond the city for \$75,000 for the purpose of building a new city hall. The amount is not enough. This was the sentiment expressed by many citizens after the trustees' meeting Tuesday night.

There is no question regarding the need of a new and larger city hall. But when it is built it should be constructed with much thought to the future. The city hall should anticipate the future growth of the city. It should be architecturally artistic—an example to other builders.

If it is worth while to build a city hall at all, it is worth while to build an excellent one. The trustees are considering the suggestion that the amount be increased to \$100,000. The difference of \$25,000 would not constitute a burden and it would enable the city to build a splendid instead of just a fair building.

If the city voted to bond for \$100,000 it would not be necessary to issue all the bonds if an adequate building could be built for less.

GEORGE WASHINGTON, whose birthday the nation celebrates today, was born of patrician stock. He was a wealthy man. Members of families equally wealthy viewed the American revolution with disgust. They were Tories. But Washington, though potentially of the Tory class, had vision which was not narrowed by his wealth or hampered by the prominence of his family.

With a true appreciation of the future of the American continent he turned from the line of least resistance, followed by so many of his wealthy class, and gave his time, genius and energy to a great cause. He is rightly honored. His name is justly revered.

High courage, splendid leadership, broad vision. These are the attributes which we admire when we revere the name of America's first President.

A historian has said that the war of the revolution was fought by the "riff-raff of the colonies."

If poverty and lack of worldly goods are conditions of human existence which permits of placing the poor in the category of "riff-raff," then this historian is right—at least so far as the majority of those brave men who served with Washington are concerned.

Most of the embattled colonists were not rich. But they were not "riff-raff."

The war of the revolution was fought by the great mass, not by the very rich—as is the case with all wars and all revolutions. For the very rich are in the minority—always.

Most of the extremely wealthy fled for the shores of England during the first days of the revolution.

That Washington stayed with the "riff-raff," the stout, honest, brave farmers, instead of fleeing to London as many of the Tories did, characterizes him as a man of courage, who placed the welfare of the many, the "riff-raff," ahead of personal gain.

When will statesmen learn the lesson that selflessness is eternal—that greed is temporary—that Time sends down to posterity only the names of the generous?

All glory to Washington's self-abnegation! And all glory to the wonderful courage of the splendid "riff-raff" of the colonies!

THE clothes worn by Abraham Lincoln when he was assassinated have just sold for \$6500 at public auction in Philadelphia. Thus do even the material objects owned by a great man take on a monetary value. Human beings, in their reverence for true greatness, carry that reverence far. The clothes worn by Lincoln are valuable, not because Lincoln was President of the United States, but because he was such a great president, such a true champion of justice and honest brother of his fellow men. Because of the high example of Christian leadership which he set for posterity, even the clothes he wore become valuable.

Progress Club to Name Choices for Office on Monday

A special meeting of the Torrance Progress club will be held at the Methodist church at 7:30 Monday night for the purpose of voting on candidates for city trustee. Twelve names will be presented to the club and four will be selected by ballot as the club's choice for the important city positions.

Incidentally, and apropos of nothing in particular, there are five red-headed teachers in the Torrance schools.

Buy 700 Feet of Fire Hose, \$1 Foot

The board of trustees Tuesday night voted to buy 700 feet of fire hose; 400 feet of Pioneer and 300 feet of American hose. The bids of these companies were low at \$1 a foot. The board acted upon the recommendation of Chief Ben Hannebrink and R. R. Smith, who investigated fire hose in Los Angeles, Santa Ana, Hermosa Beach, Redondo Beach, and Long Beach.

Mr. and Mrs. Earl Stanley have returned from a delightful two weeks' motor trip to Riverside, San Jacinto mountains, Imperial Valley, San Diego, and Mexico. Mr. Stanley is a member of the local police force.

Citizens To Vote On \$75,000 Issue At April Election

EAST SIDE NOW REGARDED AS BEST AREA IN FIELD

E. Lomita Wells Look Good to Oil Operators

Two wells boomed the east Lomita oil district Wednesday. U. S. Royalties completed its No. 13 at 3770 feet for a production of 1200 barrels. No. 13 is located on East Palm street near Eshelman. At the same time the pep displayed by the Southern California Drilling company's No. 4 on East Elgin street blew in under the bailer and flowed at a rapid rate for an hour, before being mudded up. Various estimates were made on the four's flow. Observers agreed, however, that the flow was as great or greater than any ever seen in the entire field.

Both these wells are close to Bush and Voorhis Fee No. 1, and their production may halt the Bush and Voorhis plans to make Fee No. 1 a deep test well.

Two wells in this district were cemented this week, the Jamieson Oil company's on East Palm street at 3505 feet, and the Van Allen syndicate's No. 5 at Eshelman and Palm at 3540 feet.

Near Production

Developments still further east have reached a most interesting stage. The Shell company is drilling March No. 2 ahead, having received an O. K. on the recent job. March No. 3 was cemented Wednesday at 3650 feet. The March lease is north of the old Redondo road and just east of Standard's Interstate lease. Shell located another well on this property this week, March No. 5, in the southeastern corner of the lease.

Still further east, and south of the highway, E. J. Miley has staked out three more locations on his 40-acre lease. Torrance No. 1 on this property is standing cemented at 3612 feet.

On its Joughlin leases the Superior Oil company has staked out three more locations, one of which is Torrance No. 20, an offset to the Southland Petroleum corporation's Oakley No. 1, the easterly outpost of the field.

Sentinel's Joughlin No. 1 is the best oil well in the field. Although it has been producing for two months, this well on Wednesday made 1185 barrels of 19.5 gravity oil. The gas pressure on Joughlin No. 1 is holding up remarkably well. Wednesday it registered 450 pounds on the tubing and 740 on the casing. Production is through a 31-64th-inch bean.

Area Looks Good

This excellent well, together with the records made by Standard's Dominguez No. 1 and Superior's Torrance No. 4, has convinced many operators that the center of the field lies in this vicinity.

Besides Joughlin No. 1, Sentinel has four other locations on the Joughlin lease. No. 2 is standing cemented at 3629 feet, while No. 3 is drilling at 2300 feet. Nos. 4 and 5 have not yet been spudded in.

On the Interstate lease Standard has just made two new locations, offsetting Shell wells to the east. Before the end of the week Standard will have landed water strings on both Interstate Nos. 1 and 2. Interstate No. 1 has been drilled to 3564 and the crew is running 10-inch casing now. No. 2 has been drilled deeper—to 3550 feet.

Casing will be cemented shortly on Superior's No. 15 on the Joughlin lease. Wednesday the well had been drilled to 3521 feet.

Union Decides to Abandon Weston 1

The Union Oil company has definitely decided to abandon Weston No. 1, which has been drilled to 5731 feet on the Weston ranch west of Lomita.

Would Erect Municipal Building On Cravens Street

ACTION APPLAUDED

Large Audience Greeted Trustees' Proposal With Enthusiasm

Electors of Torrance will vote on April 14 on a proposition to bond the city for \$75,000 for the purpose of erecting a city hall. The city trustees Tuesday night voted to submit the proposition.

The municipal building would be erected on Cravens street in front of the fire hall on the three lots owned by the city.

The action of the trustees was greeted with prolonged applause by the audience that crowded the room to overflowing.

ANNUAL BALL OF BUSINESS MEN FEB. 29

Elaborate Function Will Take Place At Legion Hall

What promises to be one of the most elaborate social functions of the year will take place at Legion hall Friday night, Feb. 29, when the first annual ball of the Torrance Business Men's association is held.

The affair, for which a special committee is making unusually attractive plans, will be for members of the association and their employes.

Plans for the Business Men's minstrel show to be held later are progressing satisfactorily, it is announced. Proceeds from this show will be used entirely for charitable purposes or for providing money for civic organizations such as the Boy Scouts.

FIERCE FIGHT WITH KNIVES AT MEX CAMP

Tom Thomas Wounded All Over His Body; Seek Assailant

Police are searching for an assailant who, in a fierce knife battle in the Mexican pueblo north of Torrance, severely wounded one Tom Thomas.

Officers Stanley and Bathrick answered a call to the pueblo Thursday night. They found Thomas bleeding from a number of knife wounds in his arms, legs, chest and head. Mexicans in the vicinity professed ignorance as to the manner in which Thomas received the wounds.

Officers, however, have information that a bitter struggle took place between Thomas and another, whose whereabouts is now being sought. Thomas was treated at the emergency hospital on Narbonne avenue and taken to the county hospital.

Gum King's Wife Visits Torrance; Inspects Factory

Mrs. William Wrigley and a party of friends visited the Columbia Steel Works last week and were interested spectators of the coring of the stern-frames for the new Wrigley Catalina boat. A tour of Torrance brought many favorable comments from the visitors.