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Torrance



Buy In
Torrance

THIRTEENTH YEAR—No. 4

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TORRANCE GETS TEN MILLION PLANT

Officials Are Speeding Harbor District Highway Network Plans

WILL HIRE 3500 MEN

General Petroleum to Build
"Non-Smelling" Refinery
on Acreage

TO MOVE VERNON PLANT

General Manager Assures C.
of C. Nuisances Will
Be Eliminated

The construction of a ten million dollar refinery to employ 3500 men was assured yesterday when negotiations were completed by the General Petroleum Corporation for the purchase of 900 acres in the most northerly part of Torrance from the Dominguez Estates at a price said to approximate \$2,500,000.

Lionel T. Barneson said that plans for construction of the huge plant would be formulated within six months.

That the General Petroleum Corporation intends to move its huge Vernon refinery to Torrance providing negotiations now under way for the purchase of 900 acres from the Dominguez Estates are completed was the statement made to a committee from the Torrance Chamber of Commerce last Friday morning by Richard Sperry, general manager of the big oil organization.

Mr. Sperry declared that the company has made extensive researches into the matter of eliminating odors from refineries and added, "By the time we would have a refinery operating in Torrance we are certain that no unpleasant odors would emanate from the plant."

Would Build Slowly.

"We are as interested as anyone probably more than anyone, in the elimination of refinery odors," said Mr. Sperry. "One company has succeeded completely in capturing the escaping gases and we know that we can do the same thing."

The land on which the company will build lies west of the extension of Arlington avenue and east of Hawthorne road and extends from the north Torrance limits south to 19th street.

Mr. Sperry told the Chamber of Commerce committee that it is the desire of the corporation to convince the people of Torrance that construction of a modern refinery in Torrance would do no damage and cause no unpleasantness to Torrance residents.

"We do not wish to move against public opinion," he said, "and feel certain that we can satisfy everyone that a modern refinery can be constructed so as to eliminate all unpleasant odors."

Refinery Inspected.

The Torrance committee was composed of Carl L. Hyde, secretary of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, J. W. Post, George W. Neill and W. Harold Kingsley.

The committee visited the Vernon refinery of the company and spent two hours inspecting the plant. Their visit was prompted by the statement in the Los Angeles Examiner of last Thursday that General Petroleum officials:

BILL THE BARBER SAYS

When a man goes courting these days it is to get a divorce.

Observations

China For the Chinese—The Awakened Giant of the East—Christ and Confucius—Commerce and Racial Hate—Can We Teach China Anything?

By W. HAROLD KINGSLEY

WE of the Pacific Coast should have more than a passing interest in the developments in China. For the future destiny of the human race will be decided on the Pacific ocean.

China with her tremendous population has developed a high sense of nationalism during the past ten years. Before that time the great country, then a monarchy, was the Occident's opium.

The insistence of the Orient has developed into action. The supine willingness to allow the white man to come in through the "open door" and walk out enriched has altered until today China says she will develop her resources herself, in her own way and with no foreign white helpers needed.

That is the sum and substance of the entire Chinese situation today, according to the best advices at hand.

Nor can we whites, whose various nationalisms were so acute that they allowed us to spring at one another's throats on the blood-soaked fields of Europe, fail to understand what a conscious Chinese patriotism means and will mean.

China is not awakening. She has awakened.

THE United States has great commercial interests in China. Property of our citizens is threatened by the turmoil now sweeping north from Canton. Americans' lives are endangered, which is, of course, unpleasant.

But I wonder how we would like it if American domestic troubles threatened the security, say of a large European oil company operating here, and that European country sent troops in to teach us how to run our own affairs.

We believe in the protection of American interests, but we do not believe in short-sighted interference that might temporarily guard our interests to the detriment of our long-standing friendship with the Chinese people. A little inconvenience suffered now might prolong peace between our country and China for a long, long time.

If by hasty selfishness and commercialism hurls us prematurely into the Chinese trouble, if the long arm of our military forces is used as a flail to guard the dollars of a few interests, we may, as Americans live to regret the hatreds thus engendered.

ONCE knew a Chinese lad in the University of Michigan. He was sent over here by his government to acquire a Western education. It was typical of the high type of Oriental that flocked in large numbers to our American universities. Back in his native land he, with others, has applied western ideas of nationalism to the affairs of his own country. Is it any wonder that China, led today by thousands of the western trained young men has decided that foreign interference with Chinese property will no longer be tolerated?

This lad and his friends at Michigan were fine chaps. But they were primarily Chinese, loving their country, cherishing its traditions and planning for its future. Their dignity was a characteristic that no white man could approach. They were gentlemen. But to their white friends—and they had many—they often expressed the hope that the day would come when China would take her rightful place among the nations of the world with her rights respected and her properties held inviolate from the international exploiters.

H. G. WELLS points out that whereas thousands of Chinese have been educated in Europe and America practically no whites have been educated in China. The result is that while China had leaders who understand the politics of the western world and the workings of the white man's mind, few white leaders if any have even a rudimentary knowledge of Oriental psychology. So in the great conflict of the races, of which the present skirmish seems to be an opening chapter, the Chinese have the advantage.

PERSONS who have lived for years among the Chinese people declare that Christian missionaries in China have done more harm than good. It is reported by most lay residents of China that thousands of Chinese have ostensibly accepted Christianity in order to secure the advantage of clothing and other goods available free of charge at the missions by yellow Christians. It is likewise reported that the majority of these professing Christians secretly continued to worship at the shrines of their ancestors and also secretly held in contempt the missionaries that preached the doctrines of Jesus, yet lived in more or less luxury with many Chinese servants and plenty of food in a land where the line between living and starving is closely drawn.

Whether this picture is a true one I do not know. Probably it is somewhat exaggerated. Yet we find in the present Chinese crisis a number of attacks on Christian missions, which must have been prompted by something besides love and respect.

AFTER all the teachings of Confucius are not to be forsaken lightly by the Chinese for the doubtful advantages of Christianity. I wonder how we would receive a concerted move on the part of the Chinese to convert our population from Christianity to Confucianism. And in the final analysis who are we to say that we have something better to offer than the Chinese already possess?

Travelers from China report that these interesting yellow men are the most honest people in all the world.

"When a Chinaman gives his word he will keep it to death" is a statement on which all white travelers in China agree. One certainly cannot say just that of Americans or other Christians.

ON Chinese New Years all Chinese pay their debts. For it is considered the height of dishonor to owe anyone after that period. Thousands of interesting stories in connection with this annual debt paying are told by those who write and lecture about China. For most Chinese prefer death to dishonor. But neither is the white man. And who is there to say which race is nearer perfection. Certainly we excel in science and its application to living. But

ANNEXATION SUIT LAUNCHED

FIVE MAIN ARTERIES MAPPED

Torrance and Lomita to Be Served by Important Improvements

CHECKUP SHOWS STATUS

Normandie and Figueroa Are Slated For Early Paving to the Sea

Five major highways to serve the harbor district and of first importance to Torrance, Lomita and adjacent territory are destined for early improvement by the city and county of Los Angeles, according to latest checking of county and city proceedings.

The roads slated for development are Normandie Avenue, Figueroa Street, South Broadway, Sepulveda road, and the great Hollywood Palos Verdes parkway.

The status of the several proceedings necessary for the improvement of Normandie Avenue from the city to the sea is as follows: 7. NORMANDIE AVENUE: Los Feliz Boulevard to Manchester Avenue route plan of city manager of Los Angeles approved, width from 70 to 100 feet; tentative assessment district map approved, 95th Street to 182nd Street, width 100 feet, petitions filed with supervisors and proceedings soon to be instituted. Plans being prepared for paving of existing roadway between 182nd Street and Riverside-Redondo Boulevard.

SEFULVEDA ROAD: Ventura Boulevard to Sawtelle; width 60 to 100 feet; deeds presented to city December 20, 1926; proceedings under way. WILSHIRE BOULEVARD: Jefferson Street, width 100 feet, petitions filed for improvement and survey under way. Jefferson Street to Palos Verdes, width 100 feet, surveys under way by county; Camino Real through Torrance and north of Lomita to Long Beach, proceedings to start soon.

SOUTH BROADWAY: 11th Street to Nigger Slough, width 100 feet, survey completed and proceedings started by county. Paved strip to be completed in spring.

HOLLYWOOD PALOS VERDES PARKWAY: Preliminary landscaping plans approved, survey completed and engineering force preparing detail maps and specifications to be completed in about four months.

Recall Election For Beach City Set on March 2

Political turmoil in Redondo Beach will culminate on Wednesday, March 2, in an election aimed at the recall of Trustees Heath and Woodland. The election ordinance was introduced by Trustee Heath. Its introduction marked the conclusion of almost two years of legal maneuvering in which the District Court of Appeals passed on points of law involved.

New Man Added to First National Staff

James W. Post, president of the First National Bank today announced the addition of William H. Seeley to the staff of the local financial institution. Mr. Seeley formerly was associated with the California Bank in Los Angeles in the credit department. Mr. and Mrs. Seeley are moving to Torrance.

7 Below in Indiana Town Speeds Home

City Trustee Tom Foley and Mrs. Foley returned Tuesday afternoon from Grand Rapids, Mich. They left Torrance on January 2 for Grand Rapids where Mr. Foley's mother was buried. Tom says the coldest weather they struck on the trip was in Richmond, Ind., where the thermometer registered 7 degrees below zero. They took the train for Southern California after looking at the thermometer.

"If you aren't satisfied with Torrance go back east at this time of the year," said Tom as he shed his overcoat and stepped into the Southern California sunshine.

Groenke Resigns as Head of Post; Will Leave U. S.

C. C. M. O. Man Going to South America; to Elect Successor

Nate Groenke resigned Tuesday night as commander of the Bert S. Crossland Post, American Legion, No. 7, for Columbia, South America, where he will be associated with the Standard Oil Company. Mr. Groenke's family will remain in Torrance.

The Legion will stage a stag shindig on February 4 at the Legion club house to bid Mr. Groenke farewell.

M. J. Fix, vice-commander of the post has insisted that a successor to the commander be elected. The election will be held at the clubhouse on Tuesday night, February 8.

Dan O'Leary Does His Stuff at Ball Game Here Sunday

Dan O'Leary, world's champion walker entertained the fans at the Merchants ball game at C. C. M. O. park Sunday by walking around the base four times in three minutes. The crowd gave the veteran hiker a big hand.

The Merchants lost their game with the Los Angeles Kant Score Piston outfit by a count of 8 to 7. Next Sunday the local team will have up with the Welch Cleaners of Los Angeles.

Starting on February 1 games will be played on Sunday at the High School grounds. Tickets good for all games during the month will be sold at \$1 each. The Torrance team is playing a good brand of baseball and deserves the support of all the fans in the city.

Leech Delegate to Kiwanis Club District Confab

James W. Leech, district trustee and past president of the Kiwanis Club of Torrance attended the district trustees' meeting of Kiwanis at Modesto Saturday and Sunday as the Torrance delegate. More than 200 delegates from California and Nevada were present. Wendell C. Tymons was installed Saturday night as district governor.

Cheap Air Mail Rate Effective Here on Feb. 1st

Starting February 1 air mail letters weighing up to one-half ounce may be dispatched to any part of the United States for 10 cents, according to an announcement from the local postoffice. Most letters weigh less than half an ounce, so the new rates will be advantageous to all persons who wish to speed messages to eastern points.

MAKE CITY BUYING MECCA

Torrance Merchants Launch Series of Big Bargain Events

AIM AT RETAIL HUB

120 Stores Unite in "Buy Better in Torrance" Campaign

Making one huge department store of the business district of Torrance and sending the message of big bargains at Torrance retail stores, merchants of this city Friday and Saturday will stage the first of a long series of economy buying events that bid fair to make Torrance the shopping center of the whole harbor district.

In carrying the message of the bargain days to the harbor area Torrance merchants have adopted the slogan, "Buy Better in Torrance." The lists of special offerings in local stores establish that they intend to make the slogan mean all that it implies.

A special feature of the promotion of Torrance is the shopping center of the district is a co-operatively published four-page merchandise publication that is being distributed far and wide throughout the territory.

Another feature of the fare-reducing plan. Buyers who come to Torrance by bus will receive coupons from the bus drivers. The coupons will be honored at any Torrance store and round-trip fares refunded to buyers.

The campaign is being staged to improve the people of the district as well as residents of Torrance with the advantageous retail buying facilities in this city.

The Torrance shopping district includes 120 stores, classified as follows: Department stores, 3; groceries, 11; meat markets, 7; exclusive shoe stores, 3; women's wear stores, 2; dry goods and variety stores, 2; men's clothing, 4; druggists, 3; hardware stores, 3; barber and beauty shops, 6; furniture stores, 2; electrical goods stores, 2; auto accessories, tires and batteries, etc., 8; restaurants, 8; garages, 6; real estate and insurance, 10; cleaning and pressing, 4; shoe repair shops, 2; radio and music stores, 4; service stations, 9; cigar stores, 5; art goods and needle work stores, 2; florist, wall paper and paint, plumbing supplies, theatre, photographer and stationery store, merchant tailor, one each.

By co-operating in a fortnightly bargain event Torrance merchants believe that they can present a flood of bargains which no individual store in the harbor could attempt single-handed.

Big Placards to Tell World About Torrance Factories

The name of Torrance industries and the City of Torrance is now on its way around the world. Large placards bearing the names of local factories and "Torrance, the Modern Industrial City" have been procured by local firms through co-operation with the Chamber of Commerce and will be placed on all outgoing shipments from Torrance plants.

Companies co-operating are The Columbia Steel Corporation, the National Supply Company of California, the International Derrick and Equipment Company of California and the Torrance Brick Company. The signs will be placed on cars carrying Torrance products, on trucks and on shipments destined for export.

Here Is Dope On This Area 500,000 B. C.

Half a million years ago this district was covered with a dense jungle growth of palms and other tropical vegetation.

This, of course, was before the big upheaval that sent the coastal mountain ranges towering to the sky and changed the climate of this portion of the Pacific slopes into a virtual desert.

How come? Well, here's how come. They drilled water well at the Columbia Steel Corporation and the bits of petrified and preserved wood that were brought to the surface were inspected by W. L. Booth in the light of science.

One fragment of petrified tree is apparently from a palm. It was brought up from a depth of almost 600 feet. Mr. Booth has studied the situation and believes the tree itself grew about 500,000 years ago.

Another fragment is preserved wood, which was taken out of water from a depth of more than 600 feet. The water has preserved the wood perfectly for hundreds of thousands of years.

The water obtained from the company's well is unusually soft and adapted to industrial use.

Bids Are Asked on Big Sewage Disposal Plant

Service For Torrance Assured By Middle of the Summer

That connections to the Torrance sewage system will be available in the early summer was given a further assurance when the board of directors of the County Sanitation District at a recent meeting, called for bids for the erection of a temporary treatment plant at a point south of Compton. At the same meeting the Board received bids for the equipment of the plant. Every effort is being made to rush it to completion to provide sewerage connections to all areas which are now having trouble with cesspits. It will serve the area until the completion of the ocean outlet.

De Bra and Kratz Claim Record in Run to Phoenix

Gene De Bra and Bob Kratz, technician at the De Bra radio piece, claim the world's record for a motor trip from Torrance to Phoenix, Ariz., and return. They left Torrance at 3:30 p. m., Monday and rolled into Phoenix at 5 a. m. Tuesday. In five hours they had conducted all their business in the Arizona city and started home. They left Phoenix at 10 a. m. Tuesday and reached Torrance at midnight. It is about 550 miles from Torrance to Phoenix. The boys were catching up on their sleep at a late hour Wednesday morning.

Relief Society Has Quarters in Church

The Torrance Relief Association has moved to the basement of the Central Evangelical Church, and the reporter found the group of ladies, as usual, with fingers flying at their work of making "something" out of the "nothings" contributed from time to time.

There are lots of bags ready for you to hang up in the back of the closet, convenient for dropping in the articles of wearing apparel that you can no longer use, or are tired of.

Call 119-J and yours will be delivered.

Let us help you plan your next building. Consolidated Lumber Co.—Adv.

SEA FRONT CASE IN COURT

Huntington - Redondo Co. Starts Action to Annul Election

TRUSTEES DEFENDANTS

Associate Counsel Retained to Present Case For Torrance

The anticipated legal action arising out of the annexation proceedings under which people of the Meadow Park and beach frontage tracts voted last Tuesday to consolidate with Torrance took form Saturday when the Huntington-Redondo Company, through its attorneys Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher started suit against the city trustees of Torrance by filing in Superior Court a petition asking for a writ of review.

On Thursday Judge Walton Wood issued to the defendants an order to show cause why a writ of review should not be granted and enjoining the city trustees of Torrance from taking any further steps in the annexation proceedings pending settlement of the case.

The five trustees of Torrance are named as respondents in the petition filed by the land company.

Retain Associates.

Shortly after service of the papers on the city trustees the firm of Hewitt, Ford & Crump was retained by the City of Torrance as associate attorneys with Perry G. Brincy, city counsel.

Wednesday morning the court granted a continuance of the hearing on the order to show cause until Monday morning, February 7.

The action instituted by the Huntington-Redondo Company is not directed at the election itself but is based on the contention that the Board of Trustees exceeded their authority under the statute in calling the election. The petitioners contend that the land they own—comprising almost 1500 acres—is uninhabited and therefore not subject to annexation over the protests of the non-resident owners of the property.

The city contends that the property of the company is inhabited and was inhabited before and during the annexation proceedings.

Contentions Rejected.

The company's petition for a writ of review recites that the land owned by the company is divided by highways, which recitation is taken by city counsel to indicate that the company regards the properties on opposite sides of highways as separate tracts. The city, on the other hand regards the land as all one piece of property, despite the highways and holds that the inhabitants on one portion of the company's land make the whole property come into the class of inhabited territory.

The issue in the suit is the legal right of the Torrance trustees to conduct the proceedings. If a writ of review is granted the court will decide this question of jurisdiction of the trustees and decide whether or not to annul the election.

The city has until February 7 to put forth its arguments to the writ of review is denied.

Attorney Wrote Law.

Former Superior Judge Leslie R. Hewitt, senior member of the firm of the city's associate counsel, is the author of the statute under which the Torrance annexation proceedings were filed. He wrote the law in 1913 when he was city attorney for the city of Los Angeles. He represented the city of Los Angeles during the legal contention over the famous shoe-string strip annexation.

The Huntington-Redondo company's properties are the most westerly lands included in the annexation proceedings. The property (Continued on next to last page)