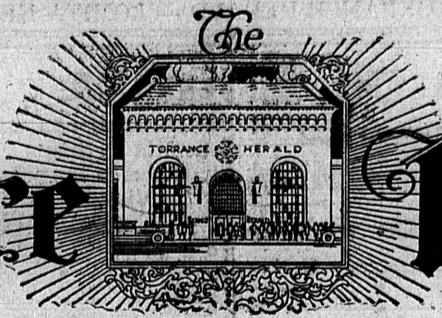


A Newspaper
for All the People
All the Time

Torrance

and LOMITA NEWS



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W. RUFUS PAGE ELECTED TO CHAMBER PRESIDENCY HERE

Succeeds Harry H. Dolley, Who Becomes Vice-President; Other Appointments Are Made; Outstanding Work for Years Noted by Directors Monday

In recognition of his outstanding services to the city and to the Chamber of Commerce, the directorate of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce unanimously elected W. Rufus Page president of the organization Monday afternoon. Mr. Page, who has been vice-president of the chamber for the past three years, succeeds Harry H. Dolley. Mr. Dolley was elected first vice-president.

Chamber Leader



W. Rufus Page

Other officers chosen Monday were Sam Levy, second vice president; Carl Hyde, executive secretary; and James W. Leech, treasurer.

DeKalb Spurlin was appointed to fill the vacancy on the board of directors of the chamber caused by the resignation of Bert F. Lanz.

Achievements Noted
Other appointments made at this week's meeting of the directors were Mr. Page and Mr. Dolley to again represent the Torrance chamber as delegates to the Harbor District Chambers of Commerce, with Alfred Gouderer and G. L. Morris as alternates; B. C. Buxton re-elected national counselor to the United States Chamber of Commerce with Mr. Page as alternate, representing the local group; Mr. Page and Mr. Hyde as members of the Industrial committee of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce and the Industrial committee of the State Chamber.

Outstanding Accomplishments of the Torrance chamber during Mr. Dolley's term as president, according to a consensus of the directors, are: (1) Annexation of the McDonald tract; (2) Civic concert and Italian fête honoring Miss Wanda Strachan which was held June 26, and (3) Purchase of the playground property next to the Legion clubhouse.

Throughout his years of service in the chamber Mr. Page has proved that his citizenship and progressiveness is of the highest calibre. Today his whole-hearted interest in the civic welfare is being proved in a very concrete manner as he has given a great deal of his time to the circulation of the citizens' petitions for better water and cheaper rates.

Is Industrial Planner
The new leader of the chamber came to Torrance in 1923 and engaged at once in the realty firm of Gilbert, Hansen and Page. This organization dissolved, each member establishing his own office, shortly after entering the building Mr. Page now occupies at 1325 Post avenue.

Mr. Page's activity in chamber work dates from the first year of his residence here as he was elected to the directorate almost at once.

However, the subject that has received his greatest attention is that of bringing industries to Torrance. In this field he has been of inestimable value to the entire city. His work in behalf of industries already here and of bringing more plants to the city merits the praise of everyone, according to his co-workers on the Industrial committee.

As yet Mr. Page has not completed his work.

CAMPAIGN TO RAISE FUNDS PROGRESSING

Salvation Army Drive Brings \$1012; Quota Set at \$2000

Total contributions to date in the Salvation Army Maintenance drive in the Torrance, Gardena and Moneta district amount to \$1012.75, according to reports made to Mrs. M. Loretta McBeth, civilian representative of the Army, who is conducting the campaign here with the assistance of a number of local residents.

The first reports were made yesterday noon at a luncheon at the Chamber of Commerce. Quota for this district is set at \$2000. It was announced that the drive will be continued here until this amount is reached.

Contributions Listed
Union Tool employees contributed the largest share among industrial firms here, having donated \$332.80. Other donations from employees of industrial plants in Torrance, as reported by Mrs. McBeth were:

National Supply employees, \$26; U. S. Refining employees, \$8; C. M. O. employees, \$140.50; Salm Manufacturing Company and employees, \$6.30; Pacific Electric em-

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Local Firemen To Help State Fire Law Drive

Will Look for Careless Motorists on Roads Here Saturday

An intensive drive will be inaugurated Saturday, August 2, by the combined forces of the State Highway Patrol, all fire chiefs and their respective departments toward the enforcement of the state law which prohibits the throwing of lighted cigarettes or other burning materials from automobiles on the highways and roads of the state.

The Torrance fire and police departments will participate in the drive locally as the members will be on the roads leading into the city in full uniform to lend emphasis to the drive.

All citizens are requested on the day of the drive to ascertain the plate numbers of cars in which persons violating this law are observed and report the same to the state, county or city traffic officers or to members of the Torrance fire department, who in turn will give this information to the nearest traffic enforcement officers. It is believed by a concentration of effort the danger of fire will be brought to the attention of the people in a forceful manner.

Wilbur's Talk Of Local Interest Water Vital

"We cannot have water unless we pay the price—which is peace, economic unity and co-operation." That was the message of the Interior Secretary Wilbur told a large gathering Tuesday noon at the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce.

And he might have been speaking of the situation here in Torrance rather than his topic on the Boulder Dam. Secretary Wilbur said a number of other pertinent things which could have a local interest here. For instance, he said:

Stresses United Front
"The greatest difficulty of an arid or semi-arid country such as this is water. We must have water. Here in this semi-arid country in order to get water we must have peace, for the forces of war can quickly destroy the water supply."

"Further, we must present a united front in our efforts to secure a water supply."

Must Be Visionary
"And then he touched upon the necessity of educating the voters and particularly the newcomer to the Southwest to be water-minded, to gain an appreciation of the tremendous necessity of water to the future of this part of the country."

"In a sense, all of us out here involved in this problem of adequate water supply must become visionaries," he said.

Health Officer States Disease Under Control

No Need For Hysterics, Dr. J. L. Pomeroy Declares

"Business as usual with proper precautionary hygienic measures carefully observed!"

That is the advice of Dr. J. L. Pomeroy, county health officer, as regards infantile paralysis or any other epidemic.

"There is no need for the public to become hysterical because a certain disease happens to appear in epidemic form in one district or another," states Dr. Pomeroy. "In public health we are prepared for just such emergencies. That is why we have public health departments, just as we have fire departments. Epidemics of flu, of measles, of various diseases, just like fires, continually break out all over the country here and there."

"Preparedness the year round, and night and day, is the watch word of public health," the health officer continued. "The situation as concerns infantile paralysis at the present time is not alarming. It is well under control. Through the health centers which are strategically situated in various out-lying localities, the county

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WATER

Indignant Citizens Plan To Storm City Hall Tuesday Night To Demand Action for Public Water System

An Editorial
By GROVER C. WHYTE

It's time for a show-down on the water situation! Back files of the Torrance Herald reveal the astonishing fact that this important public utility has been aggravating the water consumers of Torrance for over eight years. Surely nothing can be gained by further delay.

As this is written Wednesday morning, exactly 627 Torrance residents have signed the petition to the City Council requesting that body to postpone action on the 50-year franchise to the Torrance Water, Light and Power Company until after the people have an opportunity to vote upon the plan for a publicly owned and operated water system for Torrance. The petition also urges the City Council to immediately start action for submitting the proposition of a municipal water system to voters within sixty days.

In the face of such a large petition, it is hard to conceive of any city representative opposing the request. Why should the City Council give any encouragement to the Torrance Water, Light and Power Company at this time. This company, owned by Eastern capitalists, had its opportunity last fall to make good, and failed. Those of you who crowded into the Council Chamber last November will remember the statement of A. J. Roberti, general manager of the Torrance Water, Light and Power Company, and a group of other water companies in the northern part of the state. Roberti promised the City Council that the matter would be taken care of satisfactorily "within 60 days." That was last November, nearly 270 days, and still the water is unsatisfactory and the rates are just as high.

Why should we wait any longer? For more vague promises to be unfulfilled? To continue paying \$2.25 for 1000 cubic feet of water when other near-by cities pay only 50c to 90c? To pay an additional \$2.00 to \$4.00 a month for bottled drinking water because we cannot stand to drink the water this private company sells us at such high rates? To tolerate low water pressure because of weak rotting pipes?

No! Public opinion demands that Torrance shall be placed on an equal basis with other wide-awake communities. We want pure clean water through clean new pipes. No dirty uncovered reservoir, whose water is so filthy that you cannot see the bottom. Last October, Harry Dolley, Carl Hyde and the writer visited this reservoir and at high noon on a bright sunny day, we were unable to see a light colored fire bucket three feet under the surface of the water. You can see fifty to a hundred feet below the surface of the ocean under similar circumstances.

If there is any of the Torrance Water, Light and Power Company's equipment suitable for use, such as, fire hydrants, meters, etc., and this equipment can be purchased at satisfactory prices, it might be wise for the City to purchase it. But the time to bargain for this equipment is AFTER the people decide to put in a municipal system, not BEFORE. That's just good business strategy, and if you don't believe it, ask any Hebrew or Scotchman.

Right here, I want to express my hearty thanks for the splendid support given the Torrance Herald by the loyal Torrance citizens who volunteered their services in circulating petitions. It certainly was fine of all of you, and I know you have the gratitude of the long suffering water consumers as well.

Now, this is important! Next Tuesday, August 5, at 7:45 p.m. in the Council Chamber, these petitions will be read. The question of granting the water company its 50-year franchise will also come up at this meeting. Come up and voice your protest personally. Let's pack the Council Chamber and insist that ACTION BE TAKEN AT ONCE FOR REMEDYING THIS ANNOYING AND COSTLY SITUATION! It's time to call for a show-down, and next Tuesday night is the time to BE PRESENT!

Torrance Receiving Share of National Publicity

California and Torrance are receiving national publicity this week through the distribution of the fourth annual edition of the California Markets Survey and Newspaper Directory of the California Newspaper Publishers Association, of which The Torrance Herald is a member.

Official 1929 census figures, vital manufacturing and retail statistics relating to Torrance and its trading area are contained in the 138 pages of complete information regarding California.

An index in the front of the book lists every newspaper in California and gives available pertinent information concerning each. Following the index are arranged complete data on the more than 300 cities and towns represented by the membership of the California Newspaper Publishers Association.

"California, the Growing Market" is the theme of the book this year with the following preface: "California has been proven the

New La Fresa Substation To Get Condenser

Largest Type Ever Built To Be Installed in Local Plant

The Southern California Edison Company, Ltd., has ordered the installation of a 65,000 horsepower, hydrogen-cooled synchronous condenser, the largest of its type ever built, in the La Fresa substation in Torrance, according to the announcement here of George C. Ward, executive vice-president of the company. The installation will be made at a cost of \$500,000 and the equipment, designed to facilitate the transmission and distribution of electric energy through a large section of the company's territory in Southern California, will be in service April 1, 1931. The machine is being built by the General Electric Company.

Mr. Ward also announced that the second 100,000 horsepower of service capacity was added at the La Fresa station this week and that installation of equipment for an additional 100,000 horsepower was under way at the Laguna Bell substation, between Vernon and Compton. The service capacity of the La Fresa stations now is 200,000 horsepower and that of the Laguna Bell station is 100,000 horsepower. Both are major switching stations.

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Tax-Free City in Kansas Owes All To Civic Utilities

Former Resident States Torrance Should Have Own Water System

Municipal ownership of utilities has a strong supporter in L. R. Barton, of 211 El Prado avenue, who benefited from such ownership before he came to Torrance, and who is a former resident of what is perhaps the most unique city in the United States.

Barton is from Chanute, Kansas—a city where all municipal expenses and even a cemetery is paid by city owned utilities.

"I want to see Torrance take over its own water system because I know the advantage to both the tax and the water bill payers," he said today.

Built by Utilities
Back in Chanute, Kansas, where Mr. Barton was connected with the municipal utilities, a profit of \$15,000 over and above all operating costs, replacements, extensions and repairs was collected last year, he said. The city has been running its own water system for the past 30 years. Other utilities owned are gas and electricity.

"Compare these figures for water rates," Mr. Barton tired. "Chanute, 50-cent minimum and 25 cents for each 1200 gallons thereafter; Torrance, \$2.25 per 1000 cubic feet! That's talking in terms people can understand, I believe, and shows what properly operated municipal ownership can produce."

Mr. Barton's former home town also owns a free cemetery, he said, and has many of the advantages of

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Man Killed As Borrowed Auto Overtakes Here

Thought To Have Been Speeding; Body To Pomona

Believed to have been traveling at a high rate of speed, a man identified as Fred Venema, 25, of Los Angeles, was almost instantly killed Monday night when the borrowed car he was driving overturned after striking the storm drain on Redondo boulevard at Maple street.

Venema, who is reported to be a native of Holland, was pinned underneath the machine. He was identified by George Huiskens, Los Angeles, who was called to this city by police when his name was found on the registration certificate in the wrecked car.

Huiskens said he lent Venema's machine to go to a dairy near here where Venema thought he had a chance of work. The deceased is thought to have a brother-in-law in Hollywood and a brother in Pomona. The body was removed to Stron and Myers and later was taken to Pomona for interment. There was no coroner's inquest.

COUNCIL EXPECTED TO ACT ON WATER FRANCHISE AUGUST 5

Petitions Demanding Postponement Until Citizens Have Chance To Vote on Publicly Owned System Will Be Presented at Tuesday Night's Session

Decisive action by the city council on the proposed 50-year franchise to the Torrance Water, Light and Power Company is expected at the next meeting of the council which will be held at 7:45 p.m., Tuesday, August 5.

Presentation of a number of petitions carrying hundreds of signatures of local residents asking that the council postpone action on the franchise until after the question of a publicly owned water system may be voted upon will be made at that meeting.

These petitions, which have received enthusiastic support throughout the city, are expected to point the way to the council and start proceedings for a special election to be held within sixty days to determine, once and for all, if the city is to have a publicly owned water system.

Ten citizens of Torrance, are circulating the petitions to be presented to the council at the meeting. They invite any resident of the city to either call at their place of business or at their homes to sign this important document. Those who have petitions are: C. B. Bell, 1544 Marcella; P. E. Shonks, W. Rufus Page, 1325 Post; Guy Mowry, 2112 Carson; Grover C. Whyte, 1325 El Prado; Chamber of Commerce, 1327 Capello; Joe Stone, 1617 Cota, Union Tool Plant; Charles Vonderhake, 1911 Carson; F. Burmaster, 1624 Elm; Michael Strasser, 1336 El Prado; Herald office; Earl Conner, 1625 Capello; and W. A. Teagarden, 1261 Capello.

WESTMINSTER CITIZENS TO GET WATER SYSTEM

Voting 10 to 1 in favor of the establishment of a publicly owned and adequate water system, citizens of Westminster, a progressive community east of Long Beach in Orange county, declared their faith in a community-owned enterprise.

The vote was 79 for the proposition and only seven against. According to the election board Long Beach was almost 100 per cent of those present in the election. The new system will be patterned after the one at Garden Grove. It will be under the county district system and will take over all water mains in small lots and establish two large pumping plants with pressure tanks. New mains will be drilled and new mains laid, thus guaranteeing for Westminster pure, sweet and economical water.

CLUBWOMAN OF MONETA IN HOSPITAL

Condition Said Same As When She Entered Secretly

Reported to be suffering from a severe attack of apoplexy, Mrs. Lucille Stephenson, 40, well known clubwoman of Moneta, is confined in the Sidney Torrance Memorial hospital in a serious condition.

Attendants at the hospital said today that her condition was "unchanged" from the time she was admitted Friday. She had been reported missing for more than a day by her husband, Lawrence Stephenson, general manager for the Moneta Water Company, and former president of the Commercial National Bank of Moneta.

All-Night Search
Circumstances under which Mrs. Stephenson was removed to the institution were still being kept secret today as all information concerning her case was refused by hospital attendants. She was located at the local institution by deputy sheriffs, who reported she was suffering from a paralytic stroke with which she was stricken after leaving her home in an automobile.

Mrs. Stephenson had been seen last Friday morning when she

OIL INDUSTRY SCANS HORIZON

Interested in U. S. Steel's Plan To Acquire Important Oil Well Supply Company; Affects Local Operators

That the proposed acquisition of the Oil Well Supply Company by the United States Steel Corporation, which operates the Columbia Steel Company here as a subsidiary, is regarded as a move which will vitally affect the petroleum industry on the Pacific Coast is the consensus of opinion of business leaders in this Southland.

Such an acquisition or merger would give the huge steel corporation control of the largest manufacturer of supplies for drilling oil and gas wells in the country, it was further pointed out.

Such an acquisition is expected to benefit Torrance in a very material way. It is pointed out, as it is likely that a tubing plant for the manufacture of steel tubing would be added to the Columbia Steel plant here. Those interested in the situation state that a tubing plant is vitally necessary on the Pacific Coast as there is no such a plant operating here yet.

Logical Location
Inasmuch as the Oil Well Supply Company deals in vast amounts of tubing the local steel plant would be the logical place for its manufacture. Such an industry was reported to be under consideration by the United States Steel Corporation on the acquisition of the Columbia plant.

Part of Big Program
These two deals are part of an expansion program for which the sum of \$200,000,000 is carried in the United States Steel Corporation's budget, it is reported.

"Why I Signed Water Petition"

Reasons Present Citizens Own Choice of Publicly-Owned Utility; Will Be Presented To Council August 5

Civic-minded citizens of Torrance who are circulating the petitions to be presented to the city council August 5, asking that body to postpone action on the proposed franchise to the Torrance Water, Light and Power Company until after the question of a publicly owned water system may be voted upon, have met with great success. It is reported today.

The petitions, which state further that the signers request the council to immediately prepare plans for a publicly owned and operated water system and submit the matter to the voters of Torrance at a special election to be held within 60 days from the date of presentation, are available for all residents at the Chamber of Commerce or the Herald office on El Prado.

Good Reasons "Why"
Consensus of the reasons given by the numerous signers to date reveal that the people of this city are determined to express their views in a concrete form by ending the long standing controversy with the inadequate and expensive water facilities now in existence.

Here are some of the more outstanding reasons given by signers of the petitions why they affixed their names to the documents:

"BECAUSE I believe in the right of vote in order to express my citizenship."
"BECAUSE I am tired of the water company's domination of my taste and pocketbook."
"BECAUSE I know the city can

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