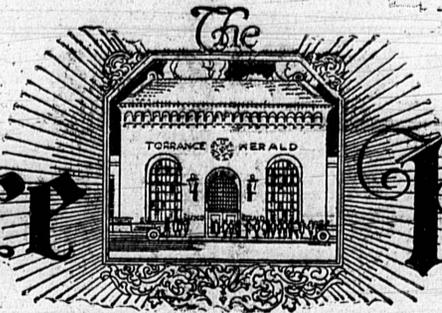


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Torrance Herald
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Torrance

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Two
Sections
10 Pages
This Issue

SIXTEENTH YEAR—NO. 41

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9, 1930

5c PER COPY

CITY NAMED IN FEDERAL TEST CASE

CITY APPLIES TO ENTER IN WATER DIST.

Council To Vote on Question of Putting Matter on Nov. Ballot Soon

If the eleven cities now in the Metropolitan Water District extend an invitation to the city of Torrance to enter in the District, the people of this city may vote on November 4 on the question of joining in the District which plans to bring water from the Colorado River by the Metropolitan aqueduct.

The council passed a resolution Tuesday night applying for membership in the Metropolitan Water District and this is expected to be acted upon by the cities now in the organization tomorrow night.

In answer to the city's formal demand for information concerning the District, the directors of the associated cities replied, in a letter read at council meeting, that the District has no bonded indebtedness and owes an undetermined amount to the Los Angeles Bureau of Water and Power for services rendered in making preliminary surveys for the aqueduct.

The letter stated further that the 11 cities in the District have a total assessed valuation of \$2,192,741,610. No indication was given in the communication that Torrance would be welcomed, but it is certain that the entry of this municipality in the District would be favorably received.

An answer to the city's application for entry is expected here by the next meeting of the council. At that time the council will vote on including the Metropolitan Water District on the November ballot.

Salvation Army Leader To Compton

Mrs. Captain F. T. Kester, who has been in charge of the Salvation Army work in Torrance for the past two months is moving today to Compton where she will start a corps. Mrs. Kester has made many friends here who will be sorry to hear of her departure. The Torrance district will be made into an "outpost" of the Redondo corps, she said.

Her husband, Cadet Captain Kester is studying at the Salvation Army school in Oakland. Mrs. Kester reports that the Harvest Festival held here last week netted \$25 from the sale of donated foodstuffs and vegetables.

WATER CONSERVATION AIRED

Great 50-Year Plan Outlined by County Engineer Would Use Subterranean Areas As Storage Basin for Flood Waters; Would Benefit Torrance

Instead of continually taking water away from the underground strata beneath Los Angeles county, a new procedure will be adopted by the Board of Supervisors if the comprehensive plan, drafted by E. C. Eaton, chief of the flood-control district, and his corps of engineers, is put into effect.

This plan, looking ahead for 50 years, provides for the sinking of shafts which will direct flood waters down into deep strata and thus replenish the underground supply. There are a number of other points in Eaton's plan to eliminate water shortage which are being given consideration by the Supervisors at the present time.

Conservation of so-called waste water by storing it underground in natural subterranean reservoirs for future use has long been thought of, but Eaton and the Board of Supervisors have at last brought the proposition to where it may be reported that the maps and reports, prepared after three years' survey and investigation, "will be acted upon by the Board in the near future."

Torrance would gain Torrance and its environs will gain considerably in the replenishment phase of the great program, as one of the largest underground storage areas lies to the northeast of the city, while the sinking of shafts, according to Eaton's plan, will be done between here and Hawthorne. The subterranean reservoirs lie beneath what is now known as Nigger Slough, according to City Engineer Frank Leonard, who has studied the plan and pronounced it of great importance to both Torrance and the entire county.

At the present time we are drawing 265 second feet of water from our natural supply in the county. It is estimated that we will be taking about 1500 second feet in 1956—or just the amount we will be getting from the Colorado River through the Metropolitan aqueduct. Naturally we

? WHAT, WHY, WHEN? of the Metropolitan Water District

The Metropolitan Water District is a group of cities in Southern California that have joined hands to secure a domestic water supply from the Colorado River. It is a public organization or municipal corporation just as the city of Torrance, or the state of California are public organizations. At present there are eleven cities in the district.

Its objective is a metropolitan aqueduct, a great water supply line to bring a continuous stream of good water from a point on the Colorado River to be selected about December 1.

Construction of the Boulder Dam by the United States government will enable the Metropolitan Water District to build and operate the aqueduct from the Colorado River, but the two great projects are separate and should not be confused as being one joint enterprise.

Boulder Dam will be erected at Boulder Canyon on the Colorado River and is to be built and operated by the federal government. The Metropolitan aqueduct will be a gigantic man-made waterway reaching from the Colorado River to the cities in the Metropolitan Water District. It will be built, paid for and operated by the cities of the district.

Southern California cities will need the Metropolitan aqueduct

AUXILIARY TO INSTALL NEW HEADS SOON

Matilda Saeger Is Elected President; Stunt Party Planned

Matilda Saeger was elected president of the local American Legion Auxiliary at the meeting Tuesday night. Other officers chosen were Eloda Barkdill, first vice president; Myrtle Shumaker, second vice president; Nora Peterson, treasurer; Joseph Sloan, secretary; Mrs. Whittington, chairman; Helen Leslie, sergeant-at-arms; Annie Greiner, historian; and Dorothy Harder, Mary Harder, Caroline Collins and Alma Smith, executive board.

The new officers will be installed Tuesday evening, October 21. Mrs. Saeger is a member of the Delinger group every member to be present as a stunt party will follow the installation ceremonies.

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BIRD PARK IN ROYAL PALMS IS PROPOSED

Audubon Society Would Put Sanctuary Within Large Area

A wild bird refuge is likely to be created at Royal Palms when the county acquires control of that 400-acre tract for a county recreational center, according to information received here of the action by the Supervisors on the proposal by the Audubon Society.

The society, whose object is the conservation of wild life and particularly birds, would like to create in the proposed park a bird sanctuary similar to refuges created in various parts of the country. The Supervisors decided to receive suggestions from the society for making such a refuge.

At a recent meeting of the board, the county adopted a resolution of intention to lease the acreage at Royal Palms for park purposes for a period of 50 years.

SIXTEEN BABIES ATTEND

Sixteen babies, accompanied by their mothers, visited the Mothers Educational Center last Friday morning. Alvin, Paul, Margaret, Brown and John, these are the children who attended for the first time.

Each city in the District is represented on the Metropolitan Water District Board of Directors. (Continued on Page 6-A)

WATER FIGHT

Cold Blooded Business To Replace Considerate Methods of City Council in Water Battle

An Editorial

By GROVER C. WHYTE

By its unfriendly act in filing a lawsuit to restrain the City of Torrance from pushing forward its plans for a municipally owned water system, the Torrance Water, Light and Power Company has added just one more fogot to the fire of righteous indignation that is burning in the hearts of Torrance people against the company that is serving this city with distasteful water at high rates.

The abrupt legal action taken by the water company came like a "slap in the face" to city officials who just a few days before had met with water-company executives and had assured them that the City Council was willing and anxious to do everything to help the water company which it possibly could without penalty to the people of Torrance. At the invitation of water company officials, the entire City Council spent all morning talking over the situation in a most friendly manner and city officials indicated very clearly that they wished to buy as much as possible of the present water system which upon examination is found to be in good condition and would be adaptable to the new water system planned by the city. In fact, before the meeting broke up, it was mutually agreed between City Engineer Leonard and water company officials that maps of the two systems would be gone over carefully by both parties in an effort to determine if a greater portion of the present system were adaptable to the proposed new system than was believed possible at the present time.

Then, without warning, came the county constable to city officials with notices of filing the lawsuit in the United States District Court. No effort was made by water company executives to effect a friendly settlement. In fact, the friendly, even generous, attitude of city officials was brushed aside apparently without consideration.

So now the way is clear. Soft words have failed. Generosity has been rebuffed. Let us now get down to cold blooded business.

The water company has hired high powered attorneys. Well, the City of Torrance will also engage able counsellors—the best in the Southland. There is little to fear concerning the ultimate decision. The court may decide there is no cause for action and dismiss the case next Tuesday morning, or it may be necessary to fight the suit. But when the city eventually wins its case, the validity of the bonds will have been proven beyond all possible doubt and the bonds will have a more ready market and probably will be sold at a more advantageous price to the city.

The only regrettable feature of the lawsuit is that there will be a delay in the construction of the new system and we will have to keep on buying bottled drinking water and paying high rates for tap water just a little longer. But I am confident that before the case is settled, that the good people of Torrance will have their inning and when that day comes, the long suffering water consumers will balance the score with the water company.

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"Deep" Financial Matters Aired

A "bum check" amounting to \$350, an unclaimed city warrant for \$250 and several other minor financial matters are to be cleared from the city's books in order to present a true account of the assets and liabilities of the municipality.

Councilman Ed Nelson recommended these moves after reviewing the situation at the meeting Tuesday night. The bad check was issued in 1923 and City Clerk Bartlett has been unable to locate the writer. The unclaimed warrant was made out last year to one C. L. Adkins, who is unknown at the present time.

Mrs. Fitzhugh Loses Father This Week

Information was received here yesterday of the death of Mrs. J. M. Fitzhugh's father, Dr. Quentin Rowley, in Los Angeles. Mrs. Fitzhugh recently lost her husband, former mayor of this city, as a result of a fatal automobile accident near Big Pine. The funeral services for Dr. Rowley will be held Saturday in Los Angeles.

Mrs. Fitzhugh is a past president of the Torrance Women's Club.

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PAGE SPEAKS AT GARDENA HALL TONIGHT

Is On Program of Harbor District Chambers Regular Session

W. Rufus Page, president of the Chamber of Commerce, will give an address on "The Industrial Outlook for the Harbor District" at the meeting of the Harbor District Chambers of Commerce tonight at Gardena Legion hall following a dinner to be served at 6:30 o'clock.

The principal speaker at the regular monthly session will be Dr. Walter Dexter, dean of Whittier College, who will comment on some phase of community building in its relation to the organization of a municipality. Los Angeles councilman A. E. Henning, president of the organized chambers, will preside at the meeting.

This will be the first time that the newly incorporated city of Gardena is host to the Harbor Chambers and arrangements are being made for other program features.

Local Hospital Is Affected By Proposed Law

Chamber Directors Endorse Two Amendments to Constitution

Endorsement of two constitutional amendments which will come before the voters in November was given by the directors of the Chamber of Commerce Monday night. One of the proposed amendments, No. 6, has a local interest inasmuch as it concerns the Jared Sidney Torrance Memorial hospital.

This amendment proposes to extend the same perpetual tax exemption as projected in No. 9 for the Huntington Library and Art Gallery at San Marino, a public institution, to non-profit public hospitals, such as the local establishment.

Exempt for All Time At the present time, according to Carl Hyde, executive secretary of the chamber, the hospital here may become tax exempt providing the directors of the institution file a claim for such a benefit each year during the two-week period established by the Board of Equalization for hearings on such matters.

Under the new amendment, no future filing of petitions for tax exemption will be necessary and thus the Jared Sidney Torrance Memorial hospital will not run the risk of having to pay taxes through some mishap that would prevent the filing of the petitions at the right time.

Smith Resigns; Steinhilber Is Made Director

Chamber Board Holds Busy Meeting Monday Afternoon

Following a long standing custom, E. H. Smith resigned from the directorate of the Chamber of Commerce Monday night. Smith, who was appointed councilman last week, stated that he was leaving the board of directors because it has been the unwritten rule that a councilman should not serve as a director of the Chamber simultaneously.

The board appointed Frank Steinhilber to fill Smith's unexpired term which will end June 30, 1931. Steinhilber was a director of the Chamber last year.

Carl Hyde, executive secretary, and Mayor John Dennis were appointed delegates to represent the Torrance organization at the meeting of the Metropolitan Water District next month at Lynwood. At the invitation of the California State Chamber of Commerce, the city of Torrance was entered in the "Better Citizenship Vote Cou-

(Continued on Page 6-A)

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WATER COMPANY STOCKOWNER ASKS PERMANENT INJUNCTION AGAINST PUBLIC WATER PLANT

All City Officials Made Defendants in Case To Test Constitutionality of Improvement Act Under Which Bond Election Was Held Here

COUNCIL MEETS TODAY TO RETAIN ATTORNEYS

Ex-Mayor of Seattle, Property Owner Here, Appears As Plaintiff Bringing Action; Temporary Restraining Order Stops All Work on Water Project

An adjourned meeting of the city council is being held late this afternoon to name a prominent firm of attorneys who are to defend the city and its officials in the United States Court case to determine the validity of the Improvement Act under which the \$400,000 water bond issue was voted here on September 25. It is expected that a well-known and highly reputable firm of counsellors will be retained.

Fourteen city officials, the entire official family of Torrance were served with a voluminous subpoena in the form of a bill of complaint designed to restrain all present work on creating a publicly-owned and operated water plant and sale of the \$400,000 bond issue by a process server late Tuesday afternoon.

Because the plaintiff in the action against the city officials and the City of Torrance is George W. Dilling, ex-mayor of Seattle, a stockholder in the Torrance Water, Light and Power Company, and a resident of the state of Washington, and because the case in equity charges that the Municipal Improvement Act, under which the bond election of September 25 was held and the publicly-owned water system is to be created, is unconstitutional, the case is to be heard in the District Court of the United States, a Federal judicial body.

Is A Test Case

The trial is expected to be the test of the constitutionality of the Act, which is as yet untested in the courts, according to local attorneys.

The wording of the complaint occupies 30 pages of legal manuscript. The officials served were Mayor John Dennis, Councilmen R. B. Smith, G. A. R. Steiner, E. C. Nelson and Carleton B. Bell, City Clerk Bartlett, Deputy City Clerk L. C. Stevens, City Engineer Frank R. Leonard, Attorney Harry G. Hines, City Treasurer Harry H. Dolley, Police Chief G. M. Calder, Street Superintendent William A. Gascoigne and Fire Chief Ben F. Hannebrink.

Included in the order to appear before Judge Coagrove, of the United States Court, on Tuesday, October 11, at 10 o'clock for a hearing on the restraining order, is the statement that Dilling, the plaintiff, in whose name the action by the Water Company is ostensibly brought, is a property owner in Torrance.

Claims Great Injury

Three exhibits are included in the notice served the city officials, one being a map of the present Water Company's mains and hydrants; the second asserted to be a photostatic copy of various Los Angeles County Health department tests of the water served two-city by the company, included by Dilling's attorneys; and the third being a copy of the ordinance under which the city proceeded with the election last month.

Pending the hearing on the matter all work on the plans and specifications for the city's water system and proceedings for the sale of the \$400,000 bonds is definitely stopped by the court's order.

Dilling asserts that "great and irreparable injury will be occasioned to the plaintiff by the enforcing or attempting to enforce" the ordinance ordering the construction of the municipal installation.

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INDUSTRY IN HARBOR AREA IS SURVEYED

404 Plants in District Use 18,286 Employees, Report Says

There are 404 industries, occupying 5902 acres of land and employing 18,286 people in the Harbor area, according to a survey of the district made public this week by William J. Fox, chief engineer of the Los Angeles County Regional Planning Commission. The survey includes the cities of Torrance, San Pedro, Long Beach, Wilmington, Compton, Redondo, Manhattan, Hermosa and the Palms Verdes Estates.

The separate report for Torrance alone is expected to be received by the Chamber of Commerce here next week. The Board of Supervisors are expected to endorse on the survey next Tuesday.

Area Used Is Listed According to Fox's survey, the population of the area is given as 250,000 persons. The annual payroll of the industries surveyed is given as \$40,000,000. The report further shows that of the 18,286 industrial workers, 29 per cent are skilled and 30 per cent unskilled. Fifty per cent of the industries in the district occupy one acre or less of land; 25 per cent one to two acres; 15 per cent two to 50 acres and the balance from 50 to 100 acres. One of the industries, a refinery, occupies 1200 acres of land. The object of the survey is to create a scientific study of the basis on which to guide future development in the area.

BILL THE BARBER SAYS
THE RADIOS AND TALKIES ARE SUCH GREAT EDUCATORS THAT THE PEOPLE DOWN SOUTH ARE LEARNING SOUTHERN SONGS

64 Shopping Days 'Til Christmas