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Hot Argument Follows Klusman Proposal to Cut Officials' Pay

When Mayor Klusman proposed further salary reductions for the heads of all city departments, he precipitated a heated argument at the first meeting this week of the city council.

As soon as the mayor finished reading his proposed schedule of salaries, Councilman Steiner rose in defense, pointing out that it was a costly matter to change personnel and that the present department heads were familiar with their work and had reduced the cost of their departments \$6000 in the last two years. It is false economy, stated Steiner, to hire too cheap men.

Salary Cuts Proposed By Klusman

Officer	Present Salary	Proposed Salary
City Engineer	\$265 month	\$200 month
Supt. of Streets	\$188 month	\$175 month
Chief of Police	\$188 month	\$175 month
City Attorney	\$166 month	\$150 month
City Recorder	\$100 month	\$75 month

The city engineer's present salary of \$265 includes a \$25 allowance for automobile expense. Mayor Klusman made it plain that the city attorney was to get \$150 a month and NO EXTRAS.

Klusman
Mayor Klusman replied: "I don't believe in cutting the little fellow, who digs ditches, etc. I don't know any reason why the top-notch men can't get along on less pay." To which Steiner replied: "Of the 265 unemployed there is not one competent to do the work of city officials. In this room there is not one man who could do the work of the city engineer."

Cameron Shouts
"I can shout," Rev. M. F. Cameron, "we put men into office to get. We want a clean slate and we must have it!"

Conner Talks
Councilman Conner stated that the matter couldn't be solved by argument but by action. "If five councilmen are willing to stake their all without compensation, surely those who have been living in ease and comfort should be willing to help out. However, such things should come up in executive meetings," said Conner.

Leonard Called
City Engineer Leonard was called upon for a statement by Mayor Klusman. Said Leonard, "Of the \$265 a month that I am receiving at the present time, I furnish my own car, gasoline, etc., as well as the loan of engineering instruments. Perhaps \$200 is all I get. However, I am willing to do my part. I would feel that if my service is only worth \$200 that it should not be for an indefinite period. You know it is awful easy to get patent paying, etc. I feel that at present there is no money wanted. If \$200 is all I am worth, it should only be for a few months."

Steiner
Steiner pointed out that the total savings afforded by the proposed salary reductions would only amount to \$107 a month, and that the city employees were contributing more than this amount toward the relief of the unemployed. "If you cut their pay, how are they going to contribute?" asked Councilman Steiner, and added that the \$107 monthly saving would only give each man on the present unemployed list but three days work a year.

Offers \$40 Relief
Leonard stated that he would be willing to contribute \$40 a month for six months toward relief work in Torrance, if his salary was not reduced.

Ludlow for Cuts
Councilman Ludlow then entered the argument, saying, "I have seen some real cuts come through at the National Supply. Executives have taken real slices. I know you all ought to receive more money, and as soon as the present conditions are over, we will be the first to see that city officials get just compensation."

Budget Explained
Steiner explained that the budget to be adopted in July would set the wage scale and that it must stay at that figure for a year, as no money would be available for increases after the budget is set.

The argument ended when City Clerk Bartlett pointed out that salary changes must be made by ordinance and before any reductions could be made, it would be necessary to repeal existing ordinances and adopt new ones. The matter was referred to the ordinance committee to prepare the necessary ordinances to be introduced at the next executive meeting.

The honor of presiding as mayor was first offered Councilman G. A. R. Steiner, who declined in favor of Councilman Klusman. Steiner stated that he believed he could do more for his constituents if

KLUSMAN ASKS DIRECTORS TO STAY ON JOB

Chamber of Commerce Votes to Await Council Action; Klusman Favors Chamber; Promises \$1 Water Rate

When W. T. Klusman, newly elected councilman, learned that Chamber of Commerce directors were discussing the advisability of resigning in a body, he hurriedly called a meeting at the chamber offices last Thursday afternoon to urge them to remain on the job until the new council could organize and he could present his plan for the future operating of the chamber. Excerpts from Councilman Klusman's remarks follow: "Whatever our troubles may be, whatever our business may be, so long as the flag waves, we are all of one mind."

"Torrance is really in a crisis, but I think the people will not be so radical as to dissolve the Chamber of Commerce. I have taken it upon myself to call this meeting. It is no reflection upon other councilmen."

"The Chamber of Commerce fund is not killed. In my pre-election propaganda I left the promotion fund alone. At the nomination meeting, I left it to the people, whether to repeal or amend the promotion fund."

"This calamity hollering is all foolishness. The ten-cent promotion fund stands. I don't see why the Chamber of Commerce should throw down the pitchfork until the Chamber can't go on as before. We are not going to tear anything down. We are going to build up. As Sam Levy said, we are a rich city if we only realize it."

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Narbonne Man Is First In District Oratory Contest

Lenel Elder of Torrance Places Fifth In Meet Held At Banning High

John Mulken of Narbonne high school was awarded first place in the school finals of the oratorical contest held at Banning high school Friday night. His subject was "Washington, the First Administrator of the Constitution." Second runner went to Robert Dinn of Banning who spoke on "The Judiciary and the Constitution." Frederick Burrell of Bell tied for third and was awarded the honor.

Lenel Elder, Torrance representative, finished just below the pair who tied for third place, so that on the decision breaking tie he attained fifth.

During the intervals while the judges were making their decision the Madrigal Singers of Torrance high school, and representatives of other schools, entertained with musical numbers.

Narbonne faculty and students are elated over the showing of Mulken, as this is the first time that their school has been represented in the district finals, which will be held this year in Glendale. The winner of the district finals goes to the semi-finals at the Shrine auditorium in Los Angeles. Survivors of the state finals will meet at Salt Lake City, the winner of this contest to go to Washington. The final prize, which will be awarded on the verdict of the judges at the national capital, is a trip around the world.

First Money Spent For New Flagpole

The first money spent by the new city council was the purchase of a new municipal flagpole, to replace the present one in front of the Torrance Theatre. Mayor Klusman stated that he had examined the old pole and found it badly corroded and in a dangerous condition.

The new steel pole was purchased from the International-Stage Corporation, Torrance, and the Torrance Electric Company is to install the wiring required for police signaling. The total cost of removing the old pole and installing the new one is \$261.90.

NEW COUNCIL



No. 1—Scott R. Ludlow. No. 2—Mayor W. T. Klusman. No. 3—C. Earl Conner. No. 4—Joseph M. Wright. All of these men were elected to office at the municipal election held April 11. No. 5—G. A. R. Steiner, remaining hold-over member of the council.

Mayor Klusman's Message

Citizens of Torrance:
In that your City Council has elected me chairman of the board, or your mayor, I feel a great honor has been bestowed upon me. I accept this position, fully realizing the responsibility that I am undertaking, and will lend my best efforts in making the administration a successful one for every citizen.

Realizing that during the economic disturbance and unemployment situation, we will have to economize at every angle, all the councilmen on the board have expressed themselves to that effect, and with that assurance, the best results can certainly be obtained.

Yours very truly,
W. T. KLUSMAN,
Mayor of Torrance.

Hyatt Awarded Damages In Suit

Fatal Automobile Crash Last April Basis of Complaint Against Oil Company

Harry C. Hyatt, employe of the Columbia Steel Corporation here, was awarded damages amounting to \$15,540 in a suit recently heard in the Superior court, wherein Hyatt took action against the Puente Oil Company as a result of the death of his wife, Dorothy Hyatt, and his son, Jackie Verne, in an automobile accident.

The Hyatts were driving home from Los Angeles early on the morning of April 9, 1931, when their car collided with an oil truck and trailer belonging to the Puente Company at the intersection of Western avenue and 190th street. It was alleged that the driver of the truck, who was going east on 190th street, had failed to make the boulevard stop at this intersection. Mrs. Hyatt and her son being killed in the resulting crash, and Mr. Hyatt injured.

WOMAN'S AUXILIARY WILL MEET WEDNESDAY

An all-day sewing meeting of the Women's Auxiliary of the Jared Sidney Torrance Memorial hospital will be held Wednesday, April 27, at the Nurses' Home, 1414 Cota avenue, beginning at 9 o'clock.

Olympic Games Hostesses Meet

Women of District Who Will Aid in Entertaining Summer Visitors Hold Session

Mrs. Arthur Wright, chairman of the executive board of hostesses of the 10th Olympic Games, was the principal speaker at a meeting held at the Torrance Chamber of Commerce Tuesday which was attended by representatives of civic organizations in Torrance and surrounding towns. Mrs. Wright emphasized the important work that can be done by women of Southern California in advertising the Olympiad to their friends in the east. Thousands of letters and pamphlets containing attractive features of the state are being sent out with personal notes to old time friends in other parts of the world.

Miss Vivian Simpson, secretary of the hostess board, gave details about the pamphlets, suggesting that each community prepare material stressing interesting features that will be attractive to outsiders.

Hugh A. Johnston, secretary of Gardena Chamber of Commerce, and Charles P. Boyer, field secretary of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, W. T. Klusman and Carl Hyde were also in attendance. Representatives who attended the meeting included Mrs. Boyd Comstock, Palms Verdes Estates; Mrs. T. E. Ashton, Gardena; Mrs. Harry D. Tompkins, Inglewood, and Mesdames Caroline Collins, H. A. Lewis, W. J. Neelands, L. G. Barkdull, Mary Vonderahe, Baker Smith, O. W. Hudson, D. A. Murphy, J. R. Jensen, A. W. Greiner, all of Torrance.

COMPLIMENTS EXCHANGED AS NEW COUNCILMEN TAKE SEATS

Retiring Members of City Governing Body Pledge Co-operation to Their Successors as New Representatives Are Sworn In Monday Evening

The inaugural meeting of the new city council was witnessed by a crowded chamber Monday evening. All the accoutrements of a big city affair were provided, including a microphone through which the ceremony was carried by a public address system to citizens gathered outside the city hall.

The meeting was a genuine love feast. Retiring councilmen gave their good wishes to the councilmen-elect, and the new members thanked the outgoing councilmen for their spirit of co-operation. There was no evidence of the hotly contested election, and apparently "all was forgotten for the good of Torrance."

Mayor Dennis called the meeting to order. The old councilman canvassed the election and passed the necessary resolution declaring the results. Then began the ceremony of swearing in the new councilmen.

First to be sworn into office was Wm. T. Klusman, and as he picked up the pen to sign his name, he said, "This is the most valuable pen in Torrance, and I want to keep it." He was later presented with the pen as a souvenir. The oath of office was then taken by Scott Ludlow, Earl Conner and Joseph M. Wright; and the old council adjourned for the last time.

After adjournment, Ex-mayor Dennis turned to the group of newly elected councilmen and said: "I want to congratulate the new members of the council and to assure them of the co-operation of the retiring members. We are all still in Torrance and I hope and feel sure that this council will make good. Six years is perhaps too long to serve. One is just getting set in his ways. New blood is perhaps better in any governing body, whether it be city, county, or state. I also wish to thank the

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Open House at Local Schools On Wednesday

Parents Invited to Attend Classes and Inspect Exhibits at Schools

Participation by the Elementary and Fern avenue schools in Public School Week will be in the nature of an open house on Wednesday, April 27. Parents are invited to visit the classes any time during the day, where regular work will be carried on and exhibits of school work shown.

In addition to regular school work the elementary teachers will have in the various rooms exhibits of the materials, programs and reports of 28 special divisions serving the elementary schools of the Los Angeles system. Special teachers will also be on hand teaching corrective physical education, nutrition and speech corrections groups. It has been arranged for the school doctor and nurse to be present to carry on the regular health program of the school. An orchestra rehearsal will be held between 3:20 and 3:00 o'clock.

The special departments with the teacher in charge follows:

Administrative Research, Mrs. Sweet; Agriculture, Mr. Francis; Americanization, Mrs. Callahan; Art, Mrs. Young; Attendance and Employment of Minors, Mrs. Petersen; California History, Mrs. Berry; Course of Study, Mrs. Haydon and Miss Murphy; Handicapped Children, Mrs. Haydon and Mrs. Schwennke; Health and Corrective Physical Education, Mrs. Boehme; Home Economics, Miss Whitney; Industrial Arts, Mrs. Russell; Kindergarten and Primary Grades, Mrs. Bond and Mrs. Holland; Library, Mrs. Hankin; Manual Education, Mrs. Powell; Music, Mrs. Alvord; Nature Study, Henderson; Orchestra, Mrs. Husted; Penmanship, Miss Thomas; Physical Education and Athletics, Miss Carothers; Primary Manual Arts, Mrs. Nelson and Mrs. Strasser; Psychology and Educational Research, Mrs. Deleassegust; Safety, Miss Lloyd; School Savings, Miss Holt; Student Body Finance, Mrs. Haydon; Visual Education, Miss Burham; P. T. A. (district and local), Miss Boudinot.

DAUGHTER ARRIVES AT HAMBACK HOME

Mr. and Mrs. Glen Hammack, 1514 Gramery, are the parents of a daughter born Monday, April 18, at the Jared Sidney Torrance Memorial hospital. Mother and baby are getting along nicely, and Daddy Glen, who is manager of the Torrance Safeway Store, is looking proud and happy.

ASK BOARD TO PROCEED WITH NEW BUILDING

School Authorities Requested to Take Immediate Action On Fern Avenue School

At a meeting of the directors of the Chamber of Commerce held Monday afternoon, a letter was directed to the board of education of the Los Angeles city school system, requesting that the board proceed with the plans to build the proposed Fern avenue school immediately.

The letter, which was written at the suggestion of Dr. J. S. Lancaster, chairman of the education committee of the Chamber of Commerce, set out the fact that the proposed city charter which came to a vote at the municipal election on Monday, April 11, had been definitely defeated, thus removing the possibility for the present of the withdrawal of Torrance from the Los Angeles system.

In view of the fact that the board had expressed itself some time ago as being ready to proceed with the work, it was the opinion of the committee that such a request should be made of the board at once. When the board took action some months ago to suspend action on the project, the site had been acquired and plans had been drawn for this improvement which return for this community's support of the \$12,000,000 bond issue voted a year ago. No further obstacle appears to stand in the way of the immediate construction of the building which is one of the pressing needs of this community.

Olympic Coach and Swimming Stars at Hollywood Riviera

An exhibition aquatic program, featuring swimming stars of national note, was held at the Hollywood Riviera club Sunday afternoon under the direction of Fred Cady, head Olympics swimming coach. Included in the group were Georgia Coleman, U. S. champion; Dorothy Peyton, Buster Crabbe, Michel Riley, "Dutch" Riley and the members of the L. A. C. relay team consisting of Marjorie Lowe, Jenny Cramer, Olive Latch, Josephine McKim and Betty Jo Bliger.

Grant Leenhouts, swimming instructor of the Palms Verdes club, also brought a group of juvenile swimmers who gave an exhibition.

ATTEND FUNERAL

Mr. and Mrs. Lou Greenman, Miss Margaret Shell, Mrs. Ralph Brown of Long Beach and Miss Bonnie Taylor, attended the funeral of Charles Eikenberry, brother of Mrs. Wallace McIrdie, held at Redondo Beach Wednesday morning.

KLUSMAN IS NAMED MAYOR AT FIRST MEETING OF COUNCIL

Appointment Climaxes Veteran Politician's Long Struggle For Desired Position; New City Attorney Only Change in Personnel at This Session

W. T. "Bill" Klusman is the new mayor of Torrance. The appointment of the veteran politician as the head of the city government Tuesday evening climaxed a 12-year struggle for the coveted position. When Klusman rose to acknowledge the appointment by his fellow councilmen, he stated that he was so overcome that he could not talk and begged to be excused. Before the meeting adjourned, however, Mayor Klusman rose before the microphone and delivered a short address. He prefaced his remarks with the statement, "This is radio station W-T-H. W. T. Klusman, chairman, mayor and broadcaster." The new mayor stated that economy in the watchword of the new administration, and that he was going to pull the city business on a cash basis. He predicted an early settlement of the water question, the immediate construction of the Fern avenue school and a \$50,000 appropriation from the county for the health center.

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