

Have We Learned Our Lesson?

Torrance Offers Rich Plum to Los Angeles Ambitious Politicians

Did you know that a bill was introduced in the state senate during the recent session which if enacted would have permitted Los Angeles to annex Torrance and other fifth and sixth class municipalities without the majority vote of the people of these smaller cities? While the bill was not passed, the fact that such unfair and wholly undemocratic tactics were attempted is evidence of the extreme and questionable methods which big city politicians would employ to annex Torrance and other municipalities which have large assessed valuations and small bonded indebtedness.

This city with its twenty million dollar assessed valuation and its outstanding municipal bonds of only twenty thousand dollars (or a one-tenth of one percent bonded debt) offers a fertile field upon which to unload a share of the huge bonded debt of Los Angeles. If we would retain our favorable position, we should be awake to the efforts now being made to engulf us in the city and county consolidation scheme of Los Angeles politicians.

Torrance taxpayers have already been taught a costly lesson of what it means to be included under Los Angeles bond issues by reason of this city being a part of the Los Angeles city school district. After paying for over 24 years toward the retirement of bonds floated to erect our local schools, one would naturally expect that these 40-year bonds would be over half paid. But on the contrary, we find that our present share of the Los Angeles city school district bonded indebtedness is NOW more than the entire original cost of our local schools. In other words, after paying for 24 years, or three-fifths of the term of the bonds, we find that we now owe more than we did before we started paying.

Astonishing as this condition is, it is insignificant to the burden which Torrance taxpayers would be obliged to bear if this city should be annexed or "consolidated" with Los Angeles, and thus be obliged to shoulder its proportionate share of the staggering municipal bonded indebtedness of the "world's biggest city."—In area.

How are we to protect ourselves against such threatening dangers? Adopt a city charter, such as Inglewood, with adequate protective provisions against annexations and consolidations.

Furthermore, as long as Torrance remains a city of the sixth class, it is subject to the laws enacted by the state legislature governing such municipalities. The advantages of getting out from under the influence of the political hotbed at Sacramento should be obvious to everyone. Certainly, we are better able to handle our own municipal affairs than are the politicians, and lobbyists,—at the state capitol. The adoption of a charter would also remove our municipal government from the influence of the state legislature.

Incidentally, local taxpayers will be saved \$4,400 per year by withdrawing from the county library district, as proposed by the city council this week. This is just another evidence of the money which we can save by getting out from under other people's burdens.

Only Newspaper Published In Torrance

Torrance Herald

Consolidated Edition of Torrance Herald & Lomita News

Two Sections 10 Pages This Issue

TWENTY-FIRST YEAR—No. 30

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, JULY 25, 1935

PER COPY 5c

FUNDS ARRIVE FOR WATER SYSTEM

COUNCIL ACTS TO ESTABLISH NEW CITY LIBRARY DISTRICT

Formal Action On Withdrawal From County District Is Scheduled For August Meeting; Tax Saving Involved

Passage of a resolution authorizing the publication of a notice of proposed withdrawal from the county library system in preparation for setting up a city library district was adopted at a meeting of the city council Tuesday night. Formal action on the withdrawal will be taken at the next regular meeting of the council, Wednesday evening, August 14, when the public may attend and express their opinions for or against the plan.

Since within a short time the cost of maintaining the library district under contract with the county is \$7,600. The county library tax rate last year was six cents, and will probably be set at the same rate this year. In view of the increased assessed valuation for Torrance this year, approximately \$20,000,000, this would bring a total of about \$12,000 to the county treasury for library purposes, of which a little more than half would be returned in maintaining the county branch here.

By setting up a municipal library district in Torrance, and entering into a contract with the county to furnish the library service, the city will save approximately \$4,400 on the deal. The tax rate for library purposes in Torrance necessary to raise \$7,600, can be set at about 3.8 cents, a savings of 2.2 cents per \$100 valuation.

Miss Vogelsson's report of financial requirements for library maintenance under a contract includes all expenses for salaries, rent, overhead, books and services.

Establishment of a set-up under these conditions will have no deterring effect upon the final withdrawal from county connections at such time in the future as the city wishes to maintain its own service, nor will it interfere with the successful promotion of the project to build a city library building.

The new building, should bonds for the purpose be voted, will not be available for at least a year anyway, and in the meantime by taking advantage of the proposed action a great saving in taxes will be possible.

Wider Latitude In Expenditure Of Gasoline Tax

City's Share Double This Year May Be Spent For Street Upkeep

Torrance will receive approximately \$18,000 from the state gasoline tax during the 1935-37 biennium, as the result of the bill signed by Governor Frank F. Merriam late last week which doubles the share to be paid to municipalities, according to the county assessor's office.

Last year Torrance received \$9,019.70 on the basis of a quarter-cent allocation, while the new bill doubles the amount the city is to receive.

Under the new legislation, the city is given wider latitude in the expenditure of the funds. They may now be used for street lighting and for general upkeep of the streets, whereas previously the money was to be expended only for improvement on state highways within the cities.

The cities' share is taken from the two-cent share of the three-cent tax that formerly went to the state, the state's share now being cut to one and one-half cents. The county will continue to receive the other one cent as formerly, and some of this will go to the 44 cities of the county, as well as to the unincorporated area.

Legion Post Honors Hal Stanger With Its First Life Membership

William H. Stanger, city councilman, and active member of the Bert S. Crossland Post, American Legion, was presented with the first life membership to be granted by this organization. Stanger received the award which was represented by an engraved gold plate certificate, and a fine gold ring, at a meeting of the Post held Tuesday evening at American Legion hall.

Past Commander Charles Martin Smith made the presentation, in recognition of the valiant work Mr. Stanger has done in behalf of the Post. Due to his efforts the debt and in a very favorable attitudinal for increased civic prestige. All the more credit is due the honoree since he has never held an office in the Post, except that of a member for one term of the executive board, but has given liberally of his time and thought in the interest of the Post for a number of years in the ordinary capacity of a member.

The presentation was made as the climax to the installation program when James H. Burchett was installed as commander. Larry Price, national committeeman and past commander of Downey Post, acted as installing officer, assisted by the Redondo Beach drill team. Other officers who were seated were: Floyd B. Boyle, first vice commander; B. E. Peterson, second vice commander; H. C. Bender, sergeant at arms; T. C. Turner, chaplain; R. J. Deinger, finance officer; Charles F. Myers, historian; Charles M. Smith, Thomas C. Babbitt and L. H. Deinger, executive committee.

Charles M. Smith was presented with a past commander's pin and in turn presented his adjutant, George Thompson, with a handsome gift. Thompson was reappointed to serve as adjutant this year.

C. C. McConogal, state chairman of child welfare and a candidate



W. H. STANGER

New Deal All Around For Cow And Tired Milkman

"Oh-h-h-h, it's nice to get up in the morning," sings Sir Harry Lauder. But the Mayfair milkman comes right back at him with the next line of the song, "But it's nicer to stay in bed."

All the milkmen are singing in close harmony these days, all because a new deal has gone into effect in the milk business, states Earl Brunner of the Mayfair Creamery, Ltd.

It used to be that the poor tired cow was yanked up out of her warm straw bed shortly after midnight to be patted so the poor tired milkman could get out any where from 2 o'clock on of an a. m., to greet the rosy dawn, the wailing rooster and the man who after a night with the boys was coming home with the milk.

Many a milkman was better acquainted with the roasting blade who had spent a stormy night out than he was with his own wife, and as for children, no wonder the poor little things hid behind their mother and asked, "Ma, who is that?"

Talk about golf widows and orphans. They had nothing on the families of the milkman, who had to write notes to his folks to be on speaking terms with them at any time, even in winter when all golfers are supposed to hibernate and give their families a chance to catch up on the news about the head of the house.

But now all is changed. The milkman will no longer stumble up on your porch at the unheard-of hour of 4 a. m. He gets a chance to go to bed at night like other folks, and get up in the morning refreshed and ready to deliver your milk, cream, butter or eggs at a reasonable hour during the day.

The poor tired cow can get her eight hours rest, and the milkman can lay him down in peace for normal sleep, just as you and I would if we had sense enough to go to bed before midnight.

Not only will the milkman be fresher, (I don't mean less polite) but the milk and other dairy products will be fresher, and the housewife can select what she wants when she wants it, and will not have to plan 24 hours in advance for extra supplies.

Oh, it's nice to get up in the morning, but it's so much nicer to stay in bed.

Gambling Raid Nets 12 In Moneta

Arrestment of 12 defendants arrested in a raid on a gambling establishment at 15627 S. South Western avenue, Moneta, who appeared before Judge Frank Carrell in the Inglewood township justice court at 1 o'clock yesterday afternoon, was set over until a later date. Attorney Samuel Rummell, defense lawyer, was unable to be present and a postponement was granted.

The 12 men, among whom were several Chinese, were arrested in a surprise raid by Captain Contreras and his men who surrounded the premises. Four guards armed with sawed off shotguns threw down their guns and fled when the officers appeared. More than 500 visitors were present in the large gambling hall, entrance to which was through a modest and unsuspecting appearing dwelling. Harry Fong and Four Jim were taken into custody as proprietors.

The raid was made at the instance of LACRA authorities who had conducted an investigation into reports that recipients of relief checks were spending money there.

Several of those who were questioned by the officers regarding their presence admitted being on relief rolls but said they were in the gambling hall as spectators only.

More than \$15,000 in silver was found on the gambling tables where lottery, black jack and dice games were said to be in progress.

Liberal Offer For Increased Lighting Made

City Accepts Plan of Edison Company to Cut Excess Bill 50 Percent

Opportunity to increase the lighting service in Torrance at a reduced cost during the next two years is afforded in an offer from the Southern California Edison Company, which was accepted, conditionally, by the city council Tuesday night.

The offer states that when the total lighting bill for the year shall exceed the total of the base year, which in this case will be the fiscal year of 1934-1935, that a discount of 50 percent shall be applied to the excess amount. The city will be under no obligation to increase its lighting service but will have the privilege of the 50 percent reduction on the excess if it does so.

For a number of years the city of Torrance has been operating on a reduced lighting schedule, in order to cut down expenses. Under the terms of the revised gasoline tax act, according to advice from the county assessor, a portion of the gas tax money allocated to cities may be used for lighting purposes, which would provide the City of Torrance with the means of increasing its light service at practically no cost to the taxpayers, should the council decide to defray the expenses from the reduction in the excess bill offers a further inducement to the city to add to its service, which would mean turning on all the lights of the ornamental system instead of using only half of the globes as at the present time.

Many complaints have been made to the council recently in regard to dark streets, principally due to the fact that the tops of the standards are hidden in the foliage of trees. Perhaps the increased candle power from the use of all the globes on the standards would at least in part relieve this situation.

The council, although the offer contained the same provision, voted to accept the offer on condition that the city would be under no obligation to use the added service. The agreement will run from August 1, 1935, to July 31, 1937.

House Built in 1660 Stands S.A.L.E.M., Mass. (U.P.)—John Pickering built a house in 1660. It is still in the same family today.

\$125,000 PROVIDED BY PWA; WORK TO BEGIN IMMEDIATELY

Drilling of Wells and Construction of High Pressure Tank First Units to Be Undertaken; Bids Let

Actual work of drilling wells and construction of the elevated pressure tank, first units in the improvement of the municipal water system will begin within 15 days, it was definitely determined today, following receipt of a communication by Mayor Scott R. Ludlow from the Public Works Administration stating that \$125,000 in federal money was now in Los Angeles, available to start the work.

City Takes Over Collection of Garbage Here

Purchase of New Truck Is Authorized At Council Meeting Tuesday

Following a meeting with Luther Andrews, who has had a contract for garbage collection in the city for several years, which was held last week, the city decided not to renew its contract with Mr. Andrews and will take over this service August 1.

In view of this decision, on Tuesday night, the council authorized the expenditure of \$1,400 for a Ford truck, fully equipped with body and hoist, which will be purchased from the local Ford dealers, Schultz & Pockham.

Mr. Andrews and one helper will be employed to make the collections on a regular salary as city employes, but the city will be responsible for the service to residents.

Collections are made each Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday mornings.

As a part of the deal, the city agreed to purchase from Andrews a truck which he acquired a few months ago, and has already arranged for the resale of the machine at the same figure at which it will acquire it.

The decision to take over the service was made since members of the council believe that it can be handled at a saving to the taxpayers. Andrews had been receiving a fixed amount per year for the work, out of which he paid all expenses and maintained his equipment. His application for an increase in the amount was rejected.

Daylight Delivery of Milk

Effective August 23, milk will be delivered in Lomita and other unincorporated areas of Los Angeles county between the hours of 6 a. m. and 7 p. m.

The above measure is provided by county ordinance, passed by the board of supervisors—four to one. The county measure is almost identical with Los Angeles' new measure.

Herbert C. Legg, chairman of the board of supervisors, cast the only dissenting vote to the measure. He explained that many dairymen in his district—the first supervisorial district—opposed the measure.

The county ordinance has been pending before the supervisors awaiting a decision of the superior court on Los Angeles' new law the validity of which has been attacked in an injunction suit to restrain enforcement of the grounds that the law was discriminatory.

BATTERY CASE

Edgar Thomas, arrested July 18 at 813 Portola avenue, on suspicion of assault and battery, was released on \$250 bail, when arraigned in the city police court. Thomas pleaded not guilty. Date for his trial has not been set. Willie Myer is the complaining witness.

Building Bonds May Be Sold to Private Buyers

It may be more advantageous for the City of Torrance to sell the bonds, if voted, for the construction of a new library, city hall and additions at a private sale than to dispose of them to the Public Works Administration, city officials learned yesterday from James L. Beebe of the law firm of O'Melveny, Tuller & Myer, special counsel employed by the city in connection with bond transactions.

The market on Torrance bonds yesterday was 1 1/2 percent, and if the city's portion, representing 55 percent of the cost of these new buildings, can be sold at 4 1/2 percent interest, it would probably be more advantageous to sell the bonds at private sale rather than to sell them to the federal government at 4 percent. City Engineer Leonard stated today.

By disposing of the bonds to private investors, work could be started much sooner and the city would not run the risk of having to pay higher prices for materials and labor if it waited for the inevitable delays which accompany federal financing. However, regardless of whether the bonds are sold at private sale or to the government, the PWA will pay for 45 percent of the cost of the buildings, it was stated.

It was also learned from Mr. Beebe that the bond election for the three building projects can be called as soon as September 3, and the bonds, if voted, can be sold as early as October 19, so that work could be well under way this year.