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NORTH TORRANCE GROUP IN RENEWAL OF DEMAND FOR QUICK ACTION ON WATER

North Torrance residents "want water not court procedure," the City Council was told Tuesday night by Charles Luken, of 18404 Hawthorne blvd., who declared he and those demanding immediate action to form a district were told to "stay away from last Tuesday's meeting" during which one faction prevailed upon the council to delay proceedings for at least 90 days.

"I don't suppose that they want water," Luken said, referring to a delegation which appeared at the meeting of Nov. 20 to insist that General Petroleum Corp. be included within the water district.

"I can't see why they insist on including General Petroleum in the district," Mrs. Luken said. "Why can't we go ahead with the district and get our water now."

Luken declared that had he known that there was a faction planning to be present for the meeting of Nov. 20 to delay formation of the district, he and his supporters would have been on hand to insist that the district south boundary be fixed at 190th st. and that proceedings go forward at once.

Also present was Fred Calloway, 18402 Hawthorne blvd., who insisted that "we're getting tired of carrying water and we want to get started on the new district." He declared that the council should not delay formation of the district, except from meeting to meeting, if necessary.

He reiterated his demand that the district boundary be fixed at 190th st. as recommended by Taylor and Taylor, water engineers.

Action Promised

Following the meeting, Mayor W. H. Tolson said that the council is not bound by its motion to delay fixing boundaries of the district for 90 days, and that if sufficient demand was shown by North Torrance residents to "go ahead" as recommended by Taylor and Taylor, the council will proceed.

Councilman N. H. Cucci appeared to be the only member of the body holding out to include General Petroleum Corp. land in the new district.

General Petroleum has its own $300,000 water system, and company officials declared in a letter to the council that they are not opposed to formation of the district but that they would resort to the courts if an effort was made to force them into the district.

Proponents of General Petroleum's inclusion in the district have pointed out that Ellinwood ranch properties were included in Water District No. 1 against their protest.

City officials declared that this is no comparison, as Ellinwood land has no water system adequate for the residential development destined for its future, and that, on the other hand, General Petroleum has a water system and its lands never will be considered residential property.

James M. Montgomery, consulting engineer for Metropolitan Water District, was present for the meeting at Calloway's request, and answered often voiced opinions that MWD water is not suitable for agriculture use. He said that MWD water is of unexcelled quality and that its effect on many crops is no different from the effect of local water. He said good results are received from use of MWD water on celery and citrus. He said that the only ill effect from use of MWD water has come from its use with tuberous begonias and similar plants.

Local Man May Be Tried Under New State Law

Oliver M. Baker, 23, 1211 El Prado, was arraigned before City Judge John Shidler Nov. 26, on a felony charge of child beating signed by his wife, Mrs. Betty Baker, who further alleged that her husband had inflicted assault and battery upon her during the beating of the child, age 3.

Baker, it was learned, was arraigned on the one charge only, but is facing the alleged wife beating charge, also a felony under the new California State law. Preliminary hearing was set for tomorrow at 2:00 p.m. Baker is being held in lieu of a $2000 bail.

According to police, Baker beat his small son, Richard with his fists bruising him severely about the head and face.

Election Of Chamber Heads In Progress

From a slate of 14 candidates, members of Torrance Chamber of Commerce are picking six directors in a ballot-by-mail election which ends at noon tomorrow.

Nominees for the six posts are Hillman R. Lee, manager of J. C. Penney Co., Reed H. Parkin, secretary-treasurer of the Doak Aircraft Co. and president of the chamber; Grover C. Whyte, publisher of the Torrance Herald; Charles V. Jones, co-owner of Torrance Lumber Co. and Torrance Hardware Co.; C. B. Bagnall, contractor; R. I. Plomert, Jr., manager of the tax department of General Petroleum Corp.; I. Washer, owner of the Gay Shop; Herbert C. Allen, restaurant owner, and the Rev. Paul M. Wheeler, rector of St. Andrew's church, all incumbent directors, and W. H. Stanger, manager of Torrance Water department; F. W. Daniels, local real estate broker; Sam Levy, owner of Levy's department store; Robert Deininger, cashier of Torrance National bank, and C. B. Mitchell, local Standard Oil dealer.

Three directors will be appointed to make a panel of nine, it was said.

The election committee consists of Doc C. Moshos, MD, chairman, C. B. Mitchell and Stanley King.

Plant Expansion Work Allowed In Rubber Strike

United States Conciliation Commissioner, Harry Malcom Tuesday effected an agreement under which striking A.F.L. employees at Goodyear Synthetic Rubber Corp.'s Torrance plant will permit A.F.L. construction workers to continue a project they were carrying on when the strike stopped both the plant and the construction job Oct. 28.

The commissioner said that completion of the construction job is necessary to at least a point where winter rains will not jeopardize government property at the place.

The workers, who are demanding an increase in pay of about 17 per cent, and a closed shop, are members of several unions with membership in the A.F.L. Union of Operating Engineers.

One hundred and eighty are on strike, shutting down the plant, and throwing about 300 out of work.

USC Party To Honor Zamperini, Other War Heroes

Homecoming week at the University of Southern California has a double incentive for 18 Trojan alumni who as former prisoners of war are to be honored at a banquet Friday in the Town and Gown Foyer of the campus. Capt. Louis Zamperini, of Torrance, is one of them.

Sharing honors will be members of the class of '95 celebrating their golden anniversary, with the football team of 20 years ago and fathers of the current players also being honored. A rally in Bovard Auditorium will follow the banquet.

The other honored guests who spent many months in prisons of Japan and Germany are Lieut. Maxwell Andler, Lieut. George Bettinger, Ensign Leland Chase, Lieut. Paul Ehrlich, Lieut. Richard Eshleman, Lieut. Clifford Evans, Ralph Gaston, Nelson Graham, Lieut. Warren Gray, Lieut. Dale Hilton, Lieut. Col. Mark N. Houghton, Pfc. Theodore Kruger, Jack de Lava, Pfc. Robert Lander, Jr., Lieut. Loyd Mokler and Lieut. Warren A. Wilson.

Special Sugar Coupon Void After Friday

The O. P. A. has issued a reminder that special coupons now good for five pounds of home canning sugar will not be valid after Nov. 30.

These coupons were issued on application to local ration boards. The time of issuance varied in different parts of the country, depending on local supplies.

Expiration of the home canning coupons has no effect on the currently valid regular sugar stamp, No. 38 in Ration Book 4. That stamp is good for five pounds of sugar through Dec. 31.

INSPECT FACILITIES AT NAVY MATERIAL CENTER . . . Civic leaders and city officials held an informal inspection of the big new U. S. Navy Material Redistribution Center in Torrance Tuesday and greeted the new officer in charge of the center, Comdr. George H. Happ. Shown in the group on the inspection tour are, left to right, front row, Lt. (j.g.) Harry Moore; Frank S. Selover, city editor, the Torrance Herald; Lt. (j.g.) J. T. McKinley; Chief of Police John Stroh, who also represented the Kiwanis club; Lt. (j.g.) Harold Wood; Lt. D. A. Plumb; Councilman J. E. Hitchcock; Fire Chief J. E. McMaster, Lt. Comdr. Frederick E. Drake, Jr., retiring officer in charge; Tom Adams, president of the Rotary club; Reed H. Parkin, president of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce; James W. Post, president of Torrance National Bank; City Clerk A. H. Bartlett; Comdr. Happ; Postmaster C. Earl Conner; Harry B. Lewis, president of the Lions club and Lt. (j.g.) James G. Evans. In the back row, City Engineer G. M. Jain; Grover C. Whyte, publisher, the Torrance Herald; Lt. E. S. Hildner; Lt. Edwin H. Hansen, executive officer at the center; Lt. (j.g.) H. R. Speece, and Lt. (j.g.) A. R. Todd. (Official U. S. Navy photo).

Torrance Service Clubs Will Enter Victory Bond Competition This Week

Robert T. McCallum, Victory Loan chairman for the Torrance area, launched his campaign with a meeting of representatives of the three Torrance service clubs yesterday.

Rotary, Kiwanis and Lions will each conduct campaigns among their members and their associates. This competition is designed to spur the efforts of the individuals and not in any way to credit any of the organizations for results obtained, said McCallum.

Calling for city-wide effort to put the Victory Loan over the top, McCallum said:

"Torrance cannot default on this, its most important debt.

"Surrounding communities are meeting their quotas, most of them over-subscribing. Are we to be accused of lack of gratitude? The armed services did their part. We will do our part."

"I am sure that the defeated enemies would welcome an opportunity to partake of a Victory Loan for their nations."

Addressing the officers of the service clubs, McCallum added, "Our boys fought and died for our victory. We helped to pay for this most expensive war in history. Our work, self-denial, savings, all helped to win that war and pave the road to victory. Now, in the Victory Loan, what will we lend to pay for the peace?

"What we did was little compared to what our men did for us. We all worked hard during the war and we all helped cheerfully to pay for it. Now what about the peace? Will we work as hard and pay as cheerfully for that? If we want to keep the peace—we must continue to work together, to pool our efforts, to be partners in this greatest nation on earth.

"We must keep reminding ourselves that if peace was worth fighting for and paying for, keeping the peace is accordingly more important to each one of us."

"Victory Bonds must pay for hospital and reconditioning care for our wounded; mustering-out pay for service men and women, GI loans to help veterans establish themselves and their families in civilian life, postwar education programs for boys who left school to bear arms for us, a journey home for battle-weary men. Will we default on any one of these?

"Money cannot buy the thousands of items on our 'gratitude list'—we can only try to pay part of our debt to our heroes—your son and mine. Are we going to default?"

"The war is over—but that's not the whole story. **Let's Finish The Job!"**

United States Steel Corporation subsidiary companies have subscribed $505,000 to the Los Angeles County Eighth War Loan Drive, it was announced today.

The allocation is on behalf of American Steel and Wire Company, Columbia Steel Company, Gerrard Steel Strapping Company, Oil Well Supply Company and the United States Steel Products Company.

The amount of the subscription is made on an equitable basis depending on the size, location and number of operations of the U. S. Steel Corporation subsidiaries in various districts throughout the United States.

TAXI CAB REGULATORY LAW DELAYED BY PROTEST OF CUCCI AGAINST PROVISIONS

Adoption of a taxi cab regulatory ordinance for Torrance was delayed until Dec. 11 by the City Council Tuesday night on protest of Councilman N. H. Cucci against provisions in the ordinance which other members of the council said were necessary to keep racketeering elements out of the business here.

Drawn by City Attorney John McCall with the aid of Chief of Police John Stroh, the ordinance is one which the council had been seeking for many months, due to the demand for taxi cab licenses in Torrance.

Cucci protested against the section which sets the fees to be charged by taxi operators.

Councilman G. V. Powell declared that this was necessary in that if the ordinance does not have some restriction, the operators can do as they please, charge what they please and take advantage of unsuspecting persons.

Cucci also protested against the provision that the rider who paid his fare was entitled to exclusive use of the taxi cab.

Mayor W. H. Tolson then explained that taxi cab drivers in some cities have been known to work with "hoodlums" who preyed on riders in cabs with unlawful intent.

Cucci retorted that "certain sections of the ordinance are absolutely ridiculous."

"I would not like the council to tell me what I can charge for my wares or services if I were in business," Cucci said to which Powell replied, "if you do not have a regulation by the city, there is no use having an ordinance."

Slight Error In Quoting G.P. Valuation

It's a far cry from $56,000 to $8,875,170.

So explained R. I. Plomert Jr., tax counselor of the General Petroleum Corp., in presenting copies of the General Petroleum assessment for taxes in Torrance to the City Council to answer an allegation of Councilman N. H. Cucci made publicly Nov. 20 that the GP improvements and personal property were assessed at only $56,000.

Plomert's figures showed the personal property and improvements of General Petroleum at the big refinery here are assessed at $8,875,170. The land on which the refinery is located adds $380,650 to the figure, making a total assessment on which GP pays taxes of $9,255,820.

This figure does not include the GP service stations, pipe lines, telephone lines and other property upon which it pays taxes in the city.

NEW COMMANDER AT NAVY CENTER ARRIVES AS CITY LEADERS INSPECT PLANT

Torrance's unofficial inspection and "salute" to the U. S. Navy Material Redistribution Center Monday took on a double significance, serving both as a get-together of officers of the base with city officials and civic leaders of the community and also as an introduction of Comdr. George H. Happ, SC, USNR, who relieves Lt. Comdr. Frederick E. Drake, Jr., SC, USNR, as officer in charge of the center about Dec. 1.

—Torrance Herald photo

COMDR. GEORGE H. HAPP
New Officer In Charge At Center

Commander Happ arrived at the base Monday morning from his former assignment as officer in charge of the Material Redistribution Center in Lonsdale, R. I. A resident of Washington, D. C., he has been in the Navy for four and one-half years in World War II, but served as a chief petty officer in World War I.

Commander Drake is returning to his home in Boston after serving five years in the Navy, both at sea and ashore.

The local officials and civic leaders were guests of the Navy officers at the base on an inspection tour of the gigantic material redistribution center, and later hosts at a luncheon at Daniels French restaurant, on 101 highway west of Hawthorne blvd.

Riding in Navy jeeps and station wagons, the guests toured the whole 91-acre plant, with its acres and acres of storage area and trackage and its four 120,000 square foot warehouses.

Two of the warehouses have been completed and are giving shelter to much material being shipped here by the Navy in carloads and trainload lots. A third is nearing completion, and steelwork of the fourth, a heavy-duty building complete with bridge cranes and railroad tracks, is being erected.

The administration building, automotive maintenance structure, cafeteria, guard houses, and other auxiliary structures already have been finished.

Fire and police departments are maintained as well as a civilian staff of more than 150 workers.

Work on the $2,000,000 plant, which sooner or later will represent an investment of nearly $5,000,000 is nearly complete. P. J. Walker Co. is the contractor.

It was said that the life of the center will range from 15 to 20 years.

On the tour were Councilman J. E. Hitchcock; City Clerk A. H. Bartlett, Postmaster C. Earl Conner; President Reed Parkin, of the Chamber of Commerce; Chief of Police John H. Stroh, who also represented the Kiwanis club as first vice president; Tom Adams, president of Rotary club; Harry B. Lewis, president of Lions club; Fire Chief J. E. McMaster; Grover C. Whyte, publisher and Frank S. Selover, city editor, of the Torrance Herald; James W. Post, president, Torrance National Bank; City Engineer G. M. Jain and the following Navy officers: Commander Happ, Commander Drake, Lieut. Edwin G. Hansen, executive officer; Lt. E. S. Hildner; Lt. D. A. Plumb, and Lieuts. (jg.) H. R. Speece, Harry Moore, J. T. McKinley, James G. Evans, H. A. Wood and A. R. Todd, all representing the Navy material redistribution center staff.

FROM NEBRASKA BASE

Lt. Fred A. Lincoln, AAF, arrived Sunday for a 15 days' leave from Grand Island, Neb., where he had been pilot at a B-29 base.

City May Send Delegate To Aviation Parley

Gen. Henry H. (Hap) Arnold, commanding general of the Army Air Force, will talk on "A Unified Air Defense" before civic and aviation authorities attending the Western Aviation Conference in Sacramento, Dec. 12, A. S. Dudley, chairman of the program committee, announced in Sacramento.

The 1945 Western Aviation Conference, heralded as of the utmost importance to the future of military and civil aviation in the 11 Western states, will be held in the state capital Dec. 11 and 12. The conference is sponsored by the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, along with civic and aeronautic organizations in principal cities of the West.

It is expected that the City of Torrance will send Mayor W. H. Tolson and Councilman C. M. Gilbert to the conference due to this city's importance in aviation in Los Angeles county. Torrance army airport is classed as one of 12 major or secondary airports in the county.

Mode O'Day To Open Frock Shop In Torrance

Another popular addition to Torrance's rapidly growing shopping district is the Mode O'Day frock shop which will open soon at 1119 Sartori ave.

The firm secured a lease on the quarters, formerly occupied by the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, through B. C. Buxton local realtor, and its opening event is scheduled for the very near future.

The Mode O'Day shop is one of many operated in Southern California by the firm.

DEMAND FOR SINGLE PHONE SERVICE IN TORRANCE IS PRESENTED TO COUNCIL

A new demand to have all telephone service in Torrance brought under the control of one company has been undertaken by residents of west and southwestern Torrance, it was revealed at the City Council meeting Tuesday night.

C. L. Kerns, 3714 Spencer ave., declared that he had been in touch with the Southern California Telephone Co. regarding service for his section of Torrance and that they are willing to cooperate. He said that he also had talked to the Associated Telephone Company, Ltd., which company serves West Torrance and Walteria out of its Redondo Beach exchange, and that they promised to assist in working out rates and service but refused to consider turning its lines over to the Southern California company.

"We want to take this up with the Railroad Commission and battle it out," Kerns said. "The service is plain rotten."

He was joined by George P. Thatcher and James Lockridge, of Walteria, in appealing for councilmanic assistance in securing a hearing before the railroad commission.

Kerns declared that petitions have been circulated throughout the district asking for direct telephone service through the Torrance exchange.

Both Kerns and Thatcher said that the effort to secure assistance of the railroad commission should be made through the City Council. Lockridge pointed out that this method had been tried several years ago but that conditions may have changed sufficiently now to make a new effort worth while.

Walteria and West Torrance must secure police and emergency ambulance service through the Redondo Beach exchange at high toll rates, it was pointed out.

Torrance police and fire departments have ordered a two-way radio installed between Walteria and Torrance to speed the relay of emergency calls.

Columbia Union Votes 10 To 1 For Strike

Columbia Steel Co. workers, members of local union No. 1414, United Steelworkers of America, voted ten to one in favor of a strike to enforce their demands for a $2.00 a day wage increase to insure them the same "take home" pay which they received during the war.

The vote, taken on Columbia property, unlike that of Bethlehem Steel Company's election which resulted in a 300 to 40 vote in favor of striking, was a part of a nationwide CIO-USA election conducted by the National Labor Relations Board.

Results were: For striking, production workers, 854 yes and 81 no; office workers, 64 yes and 11 no.

While the local union has the right to strike immediately, in view of the vote, according to Walter Smith, financial secretary, the result will be made a part of the national poll and the decision as to whether or not the strike will be called and when it will be called rests with a wage policy committee comprising 139 members from various unions operating through the United Steelworkers of America.

A total of 766 plants voted yesterday.

Of the 1507 workers at Columbia eligible to vote, 400 are on military leave, leaving a total of 1167 available to cast their ballots yesterday.

Union representatives were told by NLRB that the vote was for the purpose of registering the feeling of the industry's employees regarding a possible strike, but does not necessarily mean a strike will follow.

Smith said:

"The steelworkers feel that it is necessary to maintain the wage structure of the nation to avoid economic disorder in America, as the facts show the huge profits of the steel industry during the war and the special favor shown industry by the government as to the future tax laws will eventually bring chaos if the standards of workers are not maintained."

Early Morning Fog Brings Many Accidents

The Torrance area had a taste of the real morning fog yesterday and several accidents were reported to the police station.

At one intersection, Torrance blvd. and Victor st., 26 cars were said to have piled up in the early morning "fog - blackout," some of whose drivers received minor injuries. Roger LaJeunie, 100 S. Prospect, Redondo Beach, an employee of National Supply Co. sustained lacerations of the right eye lid and was treated at the Torrance Memorial hospital.

Another victim of the mishap, Howard Napier, 423 N. Broadway, Redondo Beach, was also treated for a like injury at the Torrance hospital.

Police Chief John Stroh stated that those driving in this area will have to reconcile themselves to the heavy fogs and govern their speed accordingly. He warned all motorists to drive slowly and keep their lights burning.

Schools Close For Christmas On December 19

Torrance and Lomita schools like others of the Los Angeles city system will discontinue classes beginning Wednesday, Dec. 19 and pupils will report back Jan. 2, it was announced last night by the Board of Education.

The board reaffirmed its recent decision that Dec. 17 and 18 will not be school holidays, as has been rumored.

Victory Chest Collections Show Gain

Victory Chest collections in Torrance have doubled in the last three weeks, according to the report of Chairman George Johnson, who this week congratulated both volunteers and residents for the hard work and cooperation which brought about the increase, and at the same time, called for additional effort from all concerned to boost the totals to the point at which they should be.

Tuesday reports showed collections totalling $13,430 or 33 percent of the $41,000 being asked of Torrance in the Los Angeles area appeal for $8,042,373, for the support of 140 agencies serving our men still in uniform, returned veterans through the services of the Torrance Service Center, Allied war victims, and our own at home through the 95 Community Chest health, welfare and youth guidance agencies.

Volunteers are being asked to speed their solicitations as much as possible, and apply pressure to bring totals higher.

Totals in the house-to-house canvass have now climbed to 132 percent, but special gifts collections are under fifty percent, and group plan totals barely over twenty-five percent.

Miss Virginia Hall, secretary at the Torrance Service Center at 1339 Post ave., is accepting contributions of all amounts from residents of Torrance who may not have made their gifts as yet, or who may wish to make an additional gift.

K. E. BRADLEY

K. E. Bradley returned here today after a short leave to San Francisco where he attended a meeting of United States Employment Service managers throughout the state. Bradley, manager of the local USES, reported that the meeting was for the purpose of familiarizing them with new regulations.

Ask the Professor

(By H. F. Noake)

Dear Professor: My boy friend is in the Navy. He promised to marry me after the war. Do you think he will keep his promise?

Answer: Possibly, if he doesn't get washed up by a Wave.