

# TORRANCE HERALD

October 3, 1948      Torrance, California      SECTION B

## West Basin Water Suit In Court As Motion To Appoint State Is Heard

Superior Judge W. Turney Fox Monday heard a motion to appoint the State Division of Water Resources to give the low down on the water supply that now serves ten cities and the unincorporated areas in the prosperous Continente Valley and South Bay. The motion was made by Kenneth K. Wright, attorney for the California Water Service Company, the City of Torrance and the Palos Verdes Water Company in their suit against the city of Compton and some 900 other defendants with wells in the West Basin.

The suit is the result of an alleged overdraft upon the West Basin, which lowered the water level below sea level and brought on salt water intrusion. A preliminary report by J. F. Poland, chief engineer of the U. S. Geological Survey based on a two years' study of conditions in the West Basin, confirms this assertion. If a water shortage is established the ultimate step in the current legal

procedure will be to determine the water right of each user and allocate the supply among all users.

In March, 1946, Supervisor Raymond V. Darby appointed the Southwest Water Fact-Finding Committee to make an independent study of water conditions in the West Basin. In its recent report the committee found a growing water shortage which it termed critical and recommended the formation of a municipal water district for an area whose population is a quarter of a million with property appraised at \$130,000,000.

Among the defendants in the present suit are the cities of Redondo Beach, Hermosa Beach, Manhattan Beach, El Segundo, Inglewood, Hawthorne, Gardena, also Southern California Water Company, Union Oil, Southern California Edison, Bank of America, the Texas Company, Richfield Oil, Dominguez Water Corporation, Superior Oil, Inglewood Park Cemetery, Aluminum Company of America, Standard Oil and 500 others.



**HARRIETT SMITH**  
Home Service Representative  
**Harriett Smith**  
Gas Company  
Representative

Harriett Smith, home economist of the Southern California Gas Company, has been appointed Home Service representative

of the gas company's Southern Division, including Torrance, with headquarters in Compton. It is announced by Paul Walters, division manager. Mrs. Smith took over her new post on Oct. 1.

A graduate of Cornell College, Mt. Vernon, Ia., Mrs. Smith taught home economics in public schools of Iowa before coming to California. She joined the home service staff of the gas company in May, 1946, serving in the Los Angeles office until her assignment to the Southern Division.

She hopes to establish residence in Compton with her husband, Gene Smith, who was recently released from the Navy, as soon as they can find living accommodations.

## Torrance Miss Chosen College Social Chairman

Myrna Lou Fossum of Torrance, was chosen social chairman of the new freshman class at Whittier college.

Miss Fossum is a graduate of Torrance high school.

Other officers elected by the Quaker freshmen are: Kenneth Stoltz, Alhambra, president; Billie Beane, Whittier, vice president; Bob Fitzgerald, Long Beach, secretary, and Paul Yoder, Huntington Park, treasurer.

Plans now are under way for the annual Whittier college sophomore-freshman brawl, scheduled to be held this Friday afternoon and evening.

## DEEPENING JOBS ANNOUNCED FOR 4 OIL WELLS HERE

Of 20 notices to deepen or redrill oil wells filed last week with the oil and gas division of the State Natural Resources department, four were in the Torrance area.

Standard Oil filed notices on its Marble Fee Nos. 10, 16 and 26, all on section 15, while on section 23 W. E. Pearson and W. C. Hamilton entered application on their Webster Community job.

It is not so much being exempt from faults, as the having overcome them, that is an advantage to us.

—Alexander Pope

## Davis Praises Local Press For Community Work

Praising the home-town press as a champion for the welfare of the community it serves, E. A. Davis, president of the California Newspaper Publishers Association, today called upon publishers to take inventory of what their newspapers have done in the day of public service during World War II and following V-J Day as a fitting observance of National Newspaper Week, Oct. 1-8.

"The newspaper is a public servant," Davis stated. "As such, it has served as a voice of freedom and a guardian of liberty. Newspapers realized their responsibility during the war, accepting each challenge which the government placed upon them. They collected scrap metal, waste paper and fats. Newspaper carrier boys of the nation sold two billion war stamps. Contributed lineage to the Seventh War Loan campaign reached the total of 62 million lines."

Davis pointed out that the hometown newspaper is the only vital history of a community and the people therein. He called attention to the fact that the hometown press recorded "everything from births to deaths—with the whole history of a man's life in print."

"A newspaper is a living chronicle of man's achievement—his birth, his school days with scholarships and athletic victories, his marriage, his achievement in the business world and, finally, his death."

The finest traditions of the American press are being upheld every day or every week by the editor whose first thought is the welfare of his community, Davis said.

"To serve as the voice of freedom and the guardian of liberty, however, the press must remain unshackled and free of hampering restraints," he warned.

He pointed out that various elements of this country would, given the opportunity, restrict the power of the press and control it for their own ends.

"The responsibility for this is no more that of the publisher than of the reader and private citizen," he concluded.

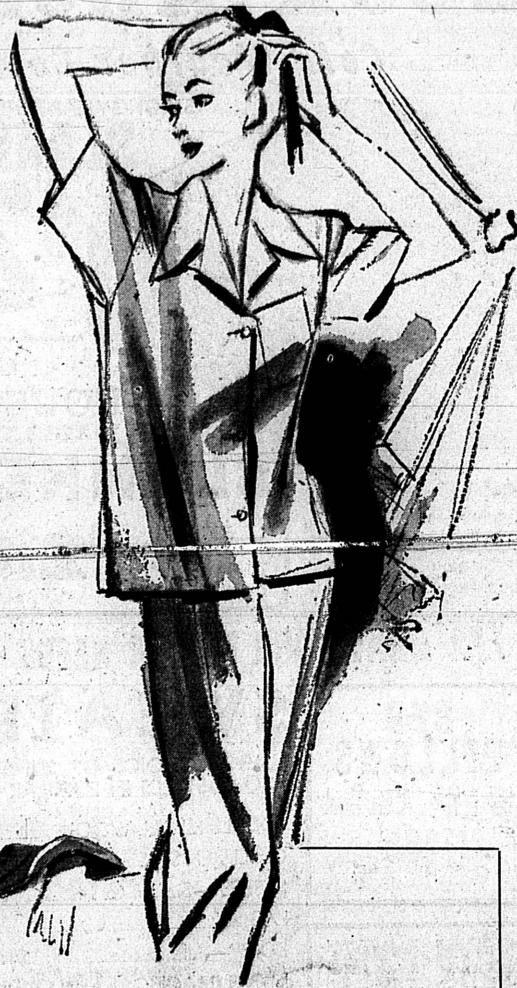
Your circumstances may be uncongential, but they shall not long remain so if you but perceive an ideal and strive to reach it. You cannot travel without and stand still without.

—James Lane Allen

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