



NEW HOSE TOWER . . . Watching Engineer Neil Whitney nail together the framework of the new hose tower atop the Torrance Fire department headquarters is Eng. Walter West (lower right), while inside the tower are Fireman William Johnson and Fire Chief John McMaster. Besides being used as a hose tower, the new structure will also house the department's siren, which will be used to call the off-shift in case of fire. It will blow two blasts. Firemen work 24 hours on and 24 hours off. (Torrance Herald photo.)

Harbor City Sewage Blamed For Pollution

An Assembly Interim Committee at the State Building in Los Angeles Friday heard C. M. Wakeman, test engineer with the Los Angeles City Harbor department, name as one particular source of water pollution the untreated sewage at Harbor City. Wakeman explained that this sewage is dumped into the Dominguez Channel.

Another source, he stated, was sewage from U. S. Navy vessels, which contribute pollution at the harbor. The Long Beach outfall sewer, which empties into the harbor opposite the Edison plant, adds its share to water contamination, Wakeman testified.

The harbor treatment plant was mentioned by the witness as a third source in the San Pedro area.

"It costs the Los Angeles Department of Power and Light from \$80,000 to \$100,000 annually for machinery replacement and repair because of water pollution," the engineer stated.

Assemblyman R. F. Dickey of Alameda, chairman of the committee, announced that the group will seek first hand information of water pollution in a tour of spots named by witnesses as sources of water contamination.

Dickey also assured industrial plants and manufacturers blamed by witnesses for most of the trouble, they would be given an opportunity to review the testimony taken and present their answers at a future hearing.

ENGINEER REPORTS ON WATER POLLUTION HERE

Arthur Pickett, county engineer, reported today that saline brine wastes from Signal Hill oil drilling operations for the last 15 years have been polluting underground waters used in the Long Beach area.

The engineer made his report to the State Interim Committee on Water Waste and Pollution during the fourth day of a scheduled five-day hearing in the State building in Los Angeles. Pickett told the committee his findings were supported by studies of the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey.

"Water permeated by the oil field brine seeps into the subterranean Silverado zone from which Long Beach gets much of its water for domestic and other uses," he stated.

The county engineer also testified that paper mills in Vernon have been discharging wastes into Compton creek which carries the contaminated materials into the Los Angeles river and finally to the harbor, resulting in a quarantine of the area by State health authorities.

Another witness, Louis Alexander, chief engineer of the Southern California Water Company, testified that underground infiltration of salt water from the sea is endangering fresh water sources of beach cities and of Inglewood, Hawthorne, Gardena, Torrance and Lomita.

He warned that these cities, which obtain their water from an area known as the West Basin, may have to look elsewhere for their supply, as complete contamination of this section is not far off.

During "National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week" (October 23-29, 1947) more than 30 handicapped persons were placed in jobs by the Torrance CSES office. "This was twice the number placed in the whole month previous," stated Mrs. Ellis, manager of the local CSES office. "However, the job is not yet done," continued Mrs. Ellis, "there are still some 60 handicapped persons in the Torrance, Gardena and South Bay areas seeking suitable employment through this office." She attributed success in the program to the whole-hearted cooperation of employer and labor groups, veteran and civic organizations, clubs and other groups participating.

The majority of the jobs presently listed with the CSES are for semi-skilled and unskilled men. However, there are a number of openings listed for women typists, billing clerks, comptometer operators with chain discount experience, and for housekeepers, day workers, maids and other domestic work.

Navy warships assigned to Eleventh Naval District ports for visits by the public during celebration of Navy Day, have been announced by Frank A. Hecht, Jr., national president of the Navy League of the United States, annual sponsor of Navy Day activities throughout the nation.

Although Navy Day is Monday, October 27, ships will arrive at their assigned station October 25 and will be open to visitors for three days, Saturday, Sunday and Monday.

Ships to welcome Navy Day visitors, aboard at San Pedro, will include four destroyers, the USS Fred T. Berry, USS Norris, USS McCaffery, USS Harwood, and the LST 1110.

At Long Beach, the destroyers, USS Loberg and USS Buck, and the LST 1122 will have open house on Navy Day.

Tentative plans to open a branch of the Superior Court in Inglewood by November 1 have been agreed upon by county and city officials, according to Mayor E. S. Dixon, after a conference with Supervisor Raymond V. Darby, attorneys and representatives of the Chamber of Commerce.

Suitable quarters for the court has been one of the major difficulties, Dixon said, but arrangements have been made whereby sessions could be held in the Justice of the Peace courtrooms at the local County building or three afternoons of each week.

Cities included in the new judicial areas are Inglewood, El Segundo, Hermosa Beach, Manhattan Beach, Redondo Beach, Hawthorne, Compton, Gardena and parts of Los Angeles and Torrance. A wide area of unincorporated territory also is included.

30 Handicapped Persons Put To Work In Area

Among the Torrance industries who earned the right to fly the coveted pennant are the Folger Manufacturing Co., Doak Aircraft Co., Inc., Bohn Aluminum and Brass Co., and The National Supply Co.

Throughout the nation nearly 5,000 top-ranking war plants earned the Army-Navy "E" award, granted only to facilities particularly outstanding in production for the War and Navy departments.

The "E" award was first instituted by the United States Navy in 1906. Originally awarded for excellence in gunnery, it was later extended to include outstanding performance in engineering and communications.

TORRANCE STUDENTS

If you haven't yet been able to enter college this fall, this message is for you.

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Boarding and day students accepted. For appointment telephone Frontier 7494 before Saturday, October 25.

(Contributed by Stuart A. Ripley)

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