

Water Supply Under Study By Council

THREE FIRMS BID TO SURVEY CITY'S AGING WATER SYSTEM

Harkening to the warning note sounded last week by Bill Stanger, head of the city's water supply, the City Council late yesterday afternoon met with the first of three hydro-engineering firms to discuss proposals for a survey of Torrance's "rusting away" water system.

Another meeting was scheduled today with still another meeting slated for Friday afternoon.

Due for a discussion also is the consolidation of the three principal water districts in Torrance.

The action of the council, membership of which is the same as the water board, follows a foreboding report to the Chamber of Commerce by Stanger last week.

He revealed that the principal cause for the City of Torrance losing the \$25,000,000 Lever Bros. Soap plant to Montebello was this city's inability to supply the firm with water.

He also warned that the reserve supply available in North Torrance would last approximately 30 seconds should a break in the mains in that area interrupt the supply.

The three engineering firms are bidding for the job of surveying the city's water needs for the next 40 years. Cost of such installation is estimated by Stanger to be close to \$2,000,000.

He proposed the expense of modernizing the aging water mains, lines, tanks, pumps, and other facilities be borne by floating a revenue bond issue. By this method, Stanger said, the taxpayer would not have to bear the brunt of financing the renovation of the system.

DeMolay Install Officers Here Saturday Night

The public has been invited to attend the installation of officers ceremony of the Torrance chapter, Order of DeMolay, to be held Saturday, 8 p.m. at Torrance Masonic Temple, 1321 1/2 Sartori avenue.

Councilors to be installed are: Frank Paour, Jr., master; Robert Voien, senior; Robert Denty, junior.

To be honored at the installation of appointive officers will be David Dougherty, chaplain; Donald Bingham, senior deacon; William Dominguez, junior deacon; Robert Bowers, senior steward; LeRoy Swigart, junior steward; Frank Norris, marshal; Duane Mittan, almoner; Robert Chambers, standard bearer.

Leslie Peterson, orator; Frank G. Schmidt, first preceptor; Frank Thompson, second preceptor; James Cadwell, third preceptor; Ronald Selover, fourth preceptor; Fred Abramson, fifth preceptor; Bernard Berkowitz, sixth preceptor; C. V. Coulson, seventh preceptor; Wallace Sanford, sentinel and Larry Fisher, scribe. In charge of the installations will be Homer Rathbun, installing officer; Gail Whitacre, senior councilor; Floyd Rathbun, junior councilor; Leonard B. Bock, chaplain; Gerald McIvaine, marshal; William Morgan, senior deacon.

Refinery Workers Honored for Long Service

Among the employees of General Petroleum who were recently awarded lapel pins in recognition of their long-time service with the company is E. W. Smith of the Torrance Refinery who has completed 30 years with G. P.

Receiving pins for five years service were: Lee A. Burkett, F. E. Furlow, H. M. Gilmore, Leo A. Kramer, Robert Lawrence, Julius Meier, R. O. Rasmusson, Edward H. Ratliff, H. J. Rumsey, J. D. Stuck, J. D. White, and S. M. Wilber.

Burglars Take \$18 from Office

Office at the city dump, 2543 West 236th street, was burglarized and \$18 was taken, an employee told Torrance police Monday.

Entry was made sometime during Sunday night through an 18-inch rear window, police believed.

Hot Rodder Stalled



COOLING INFLUENCE . . . Twenty-one year old John W. Clark is booked before starting five-day sentence for engaging in a hotrod race in Torrance two weeks ago. Officer is Alexander S. Thompson. The youth was one of five cited when Torrance police flushed about 200 hot rod addicts racing in the Hawthorne avenue-Sepulveda boulevard district two weeks ago.—Herald Photo.

Hotrodder Nets Five Days in County Jail

Hotrodgers were handed a gilt-edge invitation last Thursday to stay out of Torrance.

The invitation was extended by City Judge Otto B. Willett. He gave one of the alleged participants in a midnight racing spree of September 12 five days in the county jail.

Sentenced was John W. Clark, 21, 1415 Fries avenue, Wilmington.

Clark pleaded guilty to participating in a wild race down Sepulveda boulevard west of Hawthorne boulevard during which oncoming motorists were forced off the road—blinded by the high beams of hotrodgers rushing at them four abreast.

"You're lucky," the judge claimed, "that you don't come under the new law which goes into effect on October 1. After the first of next month you will be subject to a \$250 fine or ninety days in jail if you are caught doing this again."

One of the six, a juvenile, Lester Craig French, 17, 2338 West 254th street, Lomita, was bound over to Juvenile Court.

The other four, caught in a hound and have chase two weeks ago by Torrance Police, pleaded not guilty. Trial for the foursome is scheduled for this afternoon in the city court at 1 p. m.

Scheduled to appear are: Richard "Dooley" Reinberger, 20, 2304 Pacific Coast Highway, Lomita.

Harry Carl Johnson, 21, 1415 West O'Farrell, Wilmington.

Joseph J. Cunningham, 19, 1540 Equado Court, San Pedro.

Robert Donald Smith, 19, 5307 Fourth avenue, Los Angeles.

One of the four slated to appear, Richard Reinberger, is recovering from injuries sustained in a crash the night the sextette were nabbed. His fender caught on a hotrod next to him. He flipped over three times and was found pinned under the car by rescuers.

Judge Shidler Reassigned to L. A. Court

Judge John A. Shidler, currently sitting on the Municipal Court bench in Los Angeles, has been reassigned to the court for an additional three months it was learned yesterday.

Shidler, whose permanent assignment is as magistrate of the Gardena Justice Court serving this area, was one of eight judges assigned by Chief Justice Phil S. Gibson of the State Supreme Court.

City Judge Clifford Higgins of Manhattan Beach was assigned as Justice of the Peace of the Gardena Court.



PRECARIOUS POSITION . . . Luck held with the driver and passenger riding in smashed auto at left which is poised over pit like a pot over a gas burn. Arrow points to pit from which natural gas shoots skyward after careening auto snapped pipe

EDITED in Torrance — PRINTED in Torrance — OWNED by Torrance Folks — SINCE 1914

TORRANCE HERALD

35th YEAR—No. 39 TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA — THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 29, 1949 Twenty Pages



Auto Crash Injures Pair

Fire Averted As Car Snaps Gas Pipeline

Three persons narrowly missed the possibility of death by fire Tuesday night when the cars in which they were riding collided at the intersection of 235th street and Eshelman avenue.

One careening auto smashed into an oil derrick anchor post and sheared the cap off a natural gas line which saturated the area with inflammable gas. Luckily for the occupants of the car, the gas did not ignite.

Injured in the impact were Susan E. Jarrard, 38, 25004 Eshelman avenue, driver of one of the cars, and a passenger Pauline Orr of the same address.

The pair was taken to the Harbor General Hospital by Sullivan's Ambulance.

William Carl Mikkelsen, 21, of San Pedro, driver of the other car was not injured.

According to reports, Mikkelsen said he was driving west on 235th street; he noticed a car bearing down on him after entering the Eshelman avenue intersection and hoped it would "stop in time." It didn't.

Susan Jarrard, driver of the auto traveling north on Eshelman avenue, told police she could not avoid hitting Mikkelsen's car. It was the Jarrard car which, after the collision, rammed the natural gas line.

Observers expressed their surprise that sparks created by the careening car failed to ignite the gas jetting from the broken pipe line.

Enrollment Mark Approaches 3200
Enrollment at El Camino College has already exceeded the anticipated 3,000 mark and may reach 3,200 by the close of registration tomorrow, according to H. J. Sheffield, director of student personnel. The registration figure stood at 3,106 Friday night.

Despite the record enrollment, many day and evening classes are still open, according to Dr. Lyle Tussing, director of instruction.



BOB L. HAGGARD
New Kiwanis President

Haggard Named Kiwanis Club '50 President

Bob L. Haggard, local realtor and a member of the City Council, was elected president of the Torrance Kiwanis Club Monday night.

He was unopposed for the office.

His running mate, J. Parke Montague, was unanimously elected vice-president for 1950.

Paul Loranger took the nod for second vice-president from Chuck Ragsdale and Vern Gill, contestants for the office.

Named to the Board of Directors were: Gill, Ragsdale, C. T. Rippy, H. J. Sheffield, Bob Deininger, Jerry Eastham, and Keith Jones.

The new officers will be installed at a dinner meeting in January.

Haggard will succeed Dr. Howard A. Wood.



J. PARKE MONTAGUE
First Vice-President

Two Injured In Greyhound Auto Crash

Two women received minor injuries Thursday night when an automobile and a large passenger-carrying Greyhound bus collided at the corner of 218th street and Arlington avenue.

Taken to Harbor General Hospital for treatment were Maureen Ceelia Flynn, 31, driver of the car, and Ethel Funkelbinder, 70, a bus passenger. The former is a laboratory technician at Torrance Memorial Hospital; Mrs. Funkelbinder is a Redondo Beach resident.

According to police reports, Maureen Flynn admitted driving her car without lights into the intersection, traveling west on 218th street. The bus driver, Charles McDevitt, 30, of Long Beach, said he was driving north on Arlington when the car drove into the path of his bus.

Both drivers declared that they were traveling at speeds between 10 and 15 miles per hour prior to the collision. The car was carried 53 feet by the impact, it was reported.



line. Sparks from the crash failed to ignite escaping gas. The accident occurred at 235th street and Eshelman avenue late Tuesday night. —Herald Photo.

City Tense Over U.S. Steel Offer

SOLUTION TO STEEL PROBLEM SUGGESTED

Neutral observers suggest a way out of the opposing views on who is to pay for the insurance and pension benefits in the steel dispute, according to the magazine "Steel" in its issue of September 26, which reports:

"U. S. Steel is willing to pay up to four cents an hour for an insurance plan, provided it is a contributory program. Chief objection by the union to contributory plans is that the take-home pay of the workers would be reduced.

"Why," ask neutral observers, "doesn't the corporation offer a two-cent hourly wage increase, which the worker would then contribute toward the insurance plan? The company then would contribute two cents an hour. The workers would have an insurance plan amounting to four cents an hour. Their take-home pay would not be reduced. The industry would be paying only what they have offered to pay and would be holding to the principal of contributory welfare plans."

Big Steel Offers 10¢ Deal

Next 40 hours will be anxious one for the 1500 employees of Columbia Steel's plant in Torrance, as well as many other residents and business interests in this community.

Deadline for the threatened strike in the steel industry is set for one minute after midnight Friday. Unless some means for avoiding the walk-out can be found prior to Friday noon, it will be necessary to begin banking the furnaces and making other arrangements for an orderly shutdown, according to local steel workers and company officials.

While union leaders and company management get in their final clinches and punches, government conciliators are striving feverishly to avoid a work stoppage in the giant steel industry. Despite the apparent widely separated views of management and labor, there is prevalent on both sides of the controversy a confidence that there will not be a strike.

The major problem is: Shall insurance and pension plans be financed entirely by the companies or shall the employees be asked to contribute?

The latest offer made by John A. Stephens, U.S. Steel vice-president in charge of industrial relations, was flatly turned down by Philip Murray, CIO president and steel workers union head, it was learned as this issue goes to press.

U.S. Steel's latest offer on social insurance follows:

1. Term life insurance before retirement in the amount of normal annual earnings.
2. Life insurance of \$1000 after retirement.
3. Accident and sickness insurance of \$26 a week for 26 weeks.
4. Hospital expense for employees and dependents for thirty-two days at \$7 a day for employees, \$3 a day for dependents and ten times the daily benefit for other charges.
5. Surgical expense for employees and dependents, \$160 maximum schedule.

The union had asked life insurance in the amount of one year's pay; paid up insurance of \$1250 at retirement; weekly accident and sickness insurance of \$31.50 per week for twenty-six weeks; a national Blue-Cross contract for hospitalization of employees and dependents providing semi-private service up to 70 days; reimbursement for surgical operations with a \$200 maximum.

U. S. Steel estimated that the cost of its insurance program would be \$8 per month gross and \$5.70 per month net pre-reported.

(Continued on Page 2)

Seven Policemen To Be Assigned to Local Force

Occasioned by the adoption of the 40-hour week for Torrance policemen to go into effect next month, seven new policemen will be added to the local force.

Actually four men will be added immediately, Chief of Police John Stroth said yesterday—one man replacing Officer Don Clark who joined the Los Angeles Police Department September 18. The other three will be added to the force on November 1, the Chief said.

Those joining the TPD include: James E. Thompson, Donald Lee Miller, Gustav R. Rethwisch, Harvey Turentine, William A. Mitchell, and Robert Lewis.

Hiring of the additional men, all of whom are from the rolls of the Civil Service eligibility lists, was approved by the City Council Tuesday night following a recommendation by City Manager George Stevens and Chief Stroth.

The men will attend a two-week FBI police school in Los Angeles before donning the uniform of the local police force, Stroth said.

\$50 Reward Offered for 'Phone Snatcher'

A \$50 reward will go to the person able to "catch in the act" those responsible for the alleged theft of telephones from outside booths in this area.

The offer was made Monday morning by the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph company. They said that several phone stealing incidents have been reported.

Nine Signals to Punctuate New Western Ave. Extension Strip

What might have been the answer to a motorist's prayer of uninterrupted travel from the harbor area to the mountains on soon-to-be-completed Western avenue, was punctured by inevitable reality this week.

Nine traffic signals—the kind that turn red just as you get there—will control traffic speeds on Western avenue when the current cut-through and widening job on the artery is completed.

According to R. T. Dorsey, Los Angeles city traffic engineer, city crews are preparing for installation of signals at the Western avenue intersections of 253rd street, Lomita boulevard, Sepulveda boulevard, 220th street, Carson street, 213th street, Torrance boulevard, 184th street and 182nd street.

Installation will also be made to facilitate the erection of traffic signals at 186th street,



\$93,613 Low Bid for Western Ave. Widening Project

Paving and widening of the roadway in Western avenue from 182nd street to Torrance boulevard will cost \$93,613 under low bid submitted to the Board of Public Works today by A. A. Bainter.

This was the lowest of ten bids received. Cost estimate of the project was \$88,970. Funds are available for the work.

Plans call for widening of the roadway from its present width of 24 feet to 50 feet. The bids went to the bureau of engineering for checking before the contract is awarded.

Flimsies Filched From Clothesline

Sometime during the night, someone made off with four pair of his wife's silk panties which were hanging on the clothesline, B. E. Shearer of 922 Sartori avenue, told police last week.

The occurrence marked the fourth of fifth time his wife's underties have been stolen, the man declared.