

Should City Give Away \$90,000 Water Account?

4000 LOCAL DOUGLAS WORKERS TO BALLOT ON STRIKE SUNDAY

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Surrender of \$90,000 Yearly Water Account Deadlocks Council

Should the City of Torrance, which is in the water business, turn over a \$90,000-a-year account to a privately-owned water company?

That is the big question, one of the biggest questions in the past two years, which will be decided by the City Council at its next meeting on Nov. 10.

Based on the outcome of a vote last Tuesday night there is every indication that the deal will be turned over to the Dominguez Water Company. A vote on the controversial issue at Tuesday's meeting of the Council deadlocked at 2-2. Councilmen Victor E. Benstead, on vacation, did not vote. However, it can be anticipated that Benstead, whose action, based on his previous expressions and a tendency to "go along" with Councilman Nick Draie, will vote for the \$90,000-a-year grant to the Dominguez Water Co.

Hot Issue
The issue at Tuesday's meeting was a hot one with charges of threats against the council being claimed by Councilman Willys G. Blount and being denied by Don Wilson, executive vice-president of the Milton Kaufman Construction Co.

The Kaufman Co. intends to build 2400 new homes in the vicinity of Hawthorne Blvd. and 190th St. on land which they will buy from the Dominguez Land Co. Wilson claims that a condition of that sale is that the water company must get the franchise to service the new homes. The franchise, as proposed by the water company, would cover a ten-year period after which the Dominguez Water Co. would deed its mains, laterals, and other facilities to the city.

Not Certain
Councilman Harvey B. Spelman Jr., who voted to retain the \$90,000 account for the city, stated: "I am not at all certain that the deal (the sale of land to the Kaufman company) wouldn't go through even if the Dominguez Water Company were not allowed to service the area."

Draie stated that if the city were to attempt to service the future 2400 homes, it would "endanger" the North Torrance area. Blount then demanded to know what was meant by "endanger," and called upon Angus McVicar.

One-Day Drive for Chest Slated Monday

Torrance doorbells are due for a major onslaught next Monday morning as more than 500 volunteer Community Chest workers hit the streets in a one-day drive to raise the city's \$15,496 Red Feather goal.

The city's \$15,496 goal is part of the \$82,694 goal assigned to the Harbor area for this campaign, according to City Chairman A. B. Thompson. This goal must be raised to insure the success of the Community Chest in reaching its 1953 goal of \$8,764,000, Thompson said.

At a pre-kickoff meeting held at the Torrance YWCA this week, the seven division chairmen of the city's residential campaign heard an address by their division chairman, Mrs. Murray Rudnick, and received final instructions.

In her address, Mrs. Rudnick stressed the fact that this Community Chest campaign was a community venture.

Community Effort
"This campaign is not aimed at any individual or group," she said. "We do this on a community basis. If we fail to reach our goal, we have not only failed ourselves, but we have failed in our duty to the community. There are 164 health and welfare services in the Community Chest which are open to everyone. No one is refused."

This year's campaign theme is "Give Every Child a Chance—Give More This Year." "If we take this thought with us when we go out and ring doorbells and talk to the people of Torrance next Monday, we will not fail," Mrs. Rudnick told her aides. "Let's make this year's Community Chest campaign a successful one just as we have done in the past," the residential chairman added.

Already in the field during the past few weeks have been volunteers for the Advance Gifts division of the drive.

Chief of Police Issue Tossed Back to Board

Early Morning Crash Injures Two Motorists

Two men were seriously injured when their autos collided at 182nd St. and Hawthorne Ave. early Tuesday morning. Torrance police reported.

In Harbor General Hospital with internal injuries and numerous contusions is George Martini, 54, of 4813 W. 135th St. Hospitalized with a fractured pelvis, broken ribs and contusions was Adolph Lenz, 60, of Redondo Beach.

Hospital attendants listed the condition of Martini as fair yesterday, and Lenz was listed as critical.

In another North Torrance accident Tuesday evening, Motorcyclist Perry Culppepper, 16, of Lawndale, was rushed to Harbor General Hospital where he was treated for leg injuries and released. Culppepper's motorcycle and car driven by 14-year-old Vincent Villava, of 18489 Roslin Ave., collided at 186th St. and Ashley Ave. Villava was cited by investigating officers to appear with his parents before juvenile officers Saturday.

Supervisor Seeks Office Space Here

A branch office for County Supervisor Burton W. Chace will be established here as soon as a desk and telephone can be made available somewhere, a spokesman for the supervisor said yesterday.

City Manager George Stevens has been contacted for help in locating a spot for one of Chace's deputies to meet Torrance residents each Friday morning, according to Field Deputy Dick Newton.

Torrance Men See Swimwear Styles for '54

Members of Torrance's service clubs, nearly 200 of them, gathered in the Allen-Richard Hall here Monday night to have a look at the 1954 swimsuit line of one of the nation's top designers, Rose Marie Reid.

Hosted by the Torrance Rotary Club, the five clubs met for dinner and the unusual fashion show.

Butler of the 1954 line created by Miss Reid were modeled by shapely Betty Dowden, while the designer told the story of her move to California from Canada and her entry into a highly competitive business here.

The 200 men at the meeting were told by Miss Reid that the 1954 suits would be a continuation of the hour-glass styling which swept the country this year—and the suits modeled for them ranged in price from \$8 to \$75, she said.

Assisting Rotary President Jack Dabbs at the meeting was Councilman Willys G. Blount, who served as master of ceremonies. Other club presidents assisting in organizing the meeting were Chris Sorenson, Optimists; Chuck Ragsdale, Kiwanis; Roy Peterson, Lions; and F. S. Selover, Civitan.

Commission Acts Under Obsolete City Ordinance

Detective Captain Ernie Ashton and Captain Willard H. "Pop" Haslam now appear as the two best candidates to be the next Chief of Police of Torrance following a bit of legislative action by the City Council Tuesday night.

The council refused to abide by a recommendation of the Civil Service Commission which suggested the council appoint the successor to Chief John Stroh according to terms of Ordinance 468. Councilman Willys G. Blount pointed out that that particular law had passed out of date nearly two years ago.

"I suggest we send this matter back to the commission with the instructions that they come up with a recommendation according to the terms of the present law which is Ordinance 588."

The terms of Ord. 588 state that the police chief shall be appointed by the city manager, not the city council, and that the chief shall be chosen from among those men holding the next two highest ranks. The old ordinance limited the selection to the next highest rank which would practically assure the appointment of Capt. Haslam, who is the assistant chief. If Ord. 588 is followed, the ranks of eligible men would open to include Capt. Ashton, who heads the Detective Bureau of the local Police Department.

The present chief, John Stroh, about to complete 30 years of service with the city, has indicated that he will retire to a chicken ranch in Yucaipa sometime after the first of the year.

Under the terms of the City Charter the city manager is also the personnel officer of the city and as such has the authority to appoint department heads including police chief.

WEATHER

High pressure areas in the northeast, over Nevada, that have caused the recent warm spell here, are breaking and today will be cooler, the weather bureau says, with a high of near 78.



ASST. CHIEF HASLAM



DETECTIVE ASHTON

... Will One Be the New Chief of Police? (Photo Arts Photo)

Here's a Job If You Can Count (Noses!)

The City of Torrance is looking for 65 people who know how to count—especially noses!

On Nov. 5, under the supervision of Vernon L. Miller, special census supervisor, the city will undertake its third census in three years. Needed by Miller are 65 enumerators, nose counters that is, who are over the age of 21 years, able to work eight hours per day for three weeks, and who are familiar with the city of Torrance. Those selected, all of whom must be citizens of the United States, will be interviewed by Miller at his headquarters in the Civil Defense Building, 1754 Torrance Blvd. on Tuesday Nov. 3. Application blanks are now available in Room 2 of the City Hall.

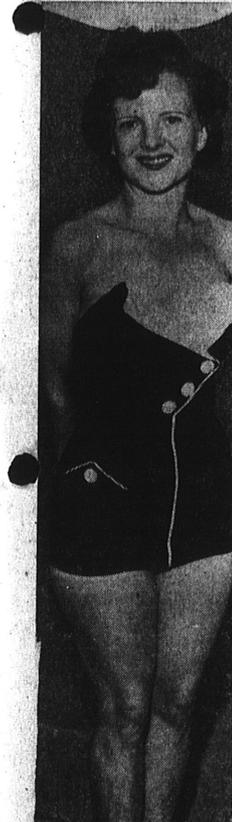
Going Away? Census Takers Need This Info

Will you be out of town from Nov. 5 to 26? The city administration asks your cooperation in making available to the special census takers certain information about your household. If you are to be out of town the city would like you to place the following information in an envelope and leave it with a neighbor or place it where it can be found by one of the special census takers.

List the following: Name of householder, all residents including patients, nurses, "live in" servants, roomers, and the relationship of these persons to the householder. Needed also are the ages, sex, and race of all members of the household.

City Manager George Stevens said the enumerators will call at every home, farm, trailer, hotel, and apartment building in the city during the three weeks it is estimated will be required to complete the census. Stevens estimates the special census referred to as "Operation (Continued on Page 3)

AT FASHION SHOW... Presidents of Torrance's five service clubs chat with Swimsuit Designer Rose Marie Reid and Betty Dowden who is modeling one of Miss Reid's 1954 creations. Left to right are Roy Peterson, Lions Club president; Miss Dowden; Chuck Ragsdale, Kiwanis Club; Chris Sorenson, Optimist Club; Miss Reid; F. S. Selover, Civitan Club; and Jack Dabbs, president of the host Rotary Club.



MRS. EVELYN KNOWLES

Harvey Employee Is Finalist in Grandma Contest

If she told you she is a grandmother, you wouldn't believe her—but she is, and one of California's most glamorous. She's Mrs. Evelyn Knowles, 33, formerly of 2303 Border Ave., a machine operator at Harvey Machine Co., who was named one of five finalists in the annual "Glamour Grandma" contest held at the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel on Oct. 19.

Mrs. Knowles, who now lives in Redondo Beach, will appear on the "You're Never Too Old" television show Saturday on Channel 2 at 10 p.m. to compete for the title and the grand prize, an all-expense paid week at the Flamingo Hotel in Las Vegas, plus a trophy and other awards.

State to Build Guard Armory Early in 1954

Construction of a National Guard Armory adjacent to the Torrance City Park will be started in the early part of 1954, according to Capt. Horton C. Smith, of the 578th Combat Engineers.

In a letter addressed to the Torrance City Council, Capt. Smith said that the state had appropriated up the priority list to grant Torrance an earlier starting date on its armory because of the interest shown in the project by the City Council.

The National Guard officer stated that plans for the armory were now on the drawing board and that the bid for the structure probably would be accepted sometime in February with construction due to start soon thereafter.

When completed, the armory would provide a home for the 578th Combat Engineers, "The Iron Horse's Own," as well as serve as a community building when in use by the National Guard. The city decided the ground to the state military unit on the condition that the building could be used by the community when not used for drilling and instructional purposes by the guard. At present the 578th, which was called into combat during the Korean conflict, is quartered in Manhattan Beach.