

RECALL THREAT VOICED AS CITY REFUSES TO CLOSE DUMP AREAS

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'BELLYACHER' RAP GETS IRE OF CITIZENS

Councilman Willys Blount drew the ire of hundreds of citizens last week as he termed "bellyachers." In published reports credited to him, the people who want the City Dump and private dump adjoining closed down for health reasons.

Blount was quoted in another local paper as saying:

"I believe if it weren't for the fact that certain individuals having recently purchased homes near the dump, there wouldn't be all the fuss about the dump being overrun with rats.

"Certainly these 'bellyachers' must have noticed that two-and-half acre hole in the ground when they bought homes near it a year or so ago."

And here is what the residents had to say:

Mrs. Frances Morris, 2403 Border avenue: "We certainly don't like having the dump across the street. I wouldn't want to own this land because of the dump being so close. People who do own their homes here sure object to the dump, and many of them have lived here for a number of years. Last summer, we had an awful lot of flies in the house, more than we have had in previous years. Last summer was also the first time we were bothered with mice. They even got in the house. It was the first time in four years that we've had them."

Mrs. Howard L. Perkins, 2407 Border Avenue: "We've lived here six years. The dump was across the street when we moved here, but we didn't know at the time that it was a dump. Mr. Haggard (the mayor) sold us the house, and as I remember he didn't mention anything about it being a dump. I told him at the time that I didn't like the looks of the lot across the street but he assured me that it would all be changed and made into a recreation area. I would like to be classed as a 'bellyacher' if it would help to clean up that filthy and rat-infested dump. It's an awful thing."

Howard L. Perkins, 2407 Border avenue: "Councilman Nick Draie is right. Why, I've gone out there with a .22 and have killed hundreds of rats during the time I've lived here. The place is alive with them. Before we bought the place, we looked at another house on Crenshaw, but it didn't have a garage, which I wanted. At the time, I asked Haggard, 'What's that vacant lot across the street?' He told me that it would be made into a park. It's a disgrace that any city should have a dump of this type so close to a residential section. We're all paying taxes here and we're supposed to have the decency of living in a clean city. They seem to use all the money to fix other sections of town, but we, who pay taxes down here can't seem to get anything done.

"Besides that dump, we can't get the city to put a decent street in front of our house. A lot of traffic goes through this half street in front of our house, and on an especially dark or foggy night, it just isn't safe to park a car here. I love the vacant area in front of the house, but not the dirt and filth that goes with it. These rats are not ordinary rats. I've seen them and a lot of them are the kind that come in from the harbor and I bet they're plenty loaded with bubonic. As far as being 'bellyachers,' which

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Council Ignores Appeal of Crowd

Irate citizens marched out of the City Council chambers Tuesday night with the word "recall" on their lips as the Torrance City Council ignored their pleas to level and close down the City Dump at Western avenue and Plaza del Amo and condemn the private dump adjacent to the city land.

Filling the Council chambers, a crowd of Kettler Knolls residents and Border avenue "bellyachers" voiced their objections to the City dump and the private area, stating that despite alleged "clean bills of health" from county officials, rats, flies, mice, and other vermin, plus the stench and filth make the area a menace to the health of the children and adults of the area.

Councilman Nick Draie again took his lone stand, making a motion to close down the City Dump, condemn the private dump and to lease a distant abandoned Standard Oil Company dirt reservoir for cut and cover work.

His motion was lost for want of a second, as the other four members of the council stood adamant, refusing to acknowledge the oral communications of the crowd in the council chambers.

City Manager George Stevens promised that the dump could be closed in a year, but Draie said "let's start it now."

"I have gone down there myself and shot rats," Draie said, urging the need for immediate action.

That the action may come by the circulation of petitions for recall of Mayor Bob Haggard, Councilman W. Blount, the latter who in printed notices in another local newspaper last week called the people objecting to the dump "bellyachers." Councilman H. Spelman and Councilman Ed Karlow was the suggestion of

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Dump Filth OK, Right-Of-Way To Be Cleaned

Councilman Ed Karlow won the support of the City Council Tuesday night to require the Santa Fe railway to "clean up" an area on its right-of-way near Sepulveda boulevard.

But Karlow and three of his colleagues could not support Councilman Nick Draie in his effort to "clean up" the mess at the City Dump and private dump adjoining.

"If Mr. Karlow thinks the Santa Fe right-of-way is an eye-sore to the City of Torrance, what does he think about the Western avenue approach, at the City Dump?" Draie drew thunderous applause from the audience.

\$900,000 West Basin Aid Bill Set

A bill to appropriate \$900,000 for flood control work to prevent salt water seepage into West Basin ground water reservoir will be sponsored at the current session of the state legislature by Assemblyman Vincent Thomas.

The money is to provide water injection wells, water spreading grounds and pipe lines needed to introduce fresh water into water bearing formations along the coast from El Segundo south to Redondo Beach and from Wilmington to Signal Hill, Thomas said.

"Thirteen ground water basins in California are open to ocean water seepage and a number of these basins are already partially contaminated," Thomas pointed out. "Although no positive way of preventing contamination has as yet been proved feasible, the West Basin area offers the most likely areas where experimentation can be carried on."

Such natural reservoirs are the safest and most economical means for storage of water to meet peak demands and emergencies and for bomb proof protection in event of enemy action, West Basin officials commented.

Draie Parking Plan Is Shunned

Councilman Nick Draie's effort to have a citizens committee work on the automobile parking situation in Torrance lost for want of a second Tuesday night at the City Council meeting.

Oil Derrick Improvements Recommended

William J. Hobbs, safety engineer of the Division of Industrial Safety of the State of California reports that in his inspection of 48 oil derricks in the Torrance oil field, he has discovered 165 improvement requirements that need be met.

Also included in his inspection, but over which he has no jurisdiction were nine wells, standing, but not in operation. Of his total survey as of his first six days inspection, he mentioned that two derricks were in need of major amount of repair.

In the case of derricks operated only by the owner with no employees or derricks not in operation at the present, Hobbs has only the power to recommend to local authorities requirements that need be met. It is up to the city in those cases to enforce the recommendations, he said. The state department, which he reported

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'BELLYACHERS'—These are homes on Border avenue which face the City Dump area where live the residents no doubt referred to by Councilman W. Blount in published reports last week as "bellyachers." The residents did do a little of it, at the City Council meeting Tuesday night, but their appeals fell on deaf ears. A recall move is threatened. —Press Photo.

Building For YMCA Being Negotiated

The Torrance YMCA will soon have its own building.

Now being negotiated for by the YMCA is the purchase of the VFW hall, located on Washington Ave., near Arlington St., announced Dr. Rollin Smith, YMCA building chairman.

The building will be used as a community youth center for YMCA clubs, for meetings of Hi-Y and Gra-Y clubs as well as for adult recreational facilities, announced Milt Isbell, executive secretary of the YMCA.

With the \$6400 cost of the building to the YMCA not yet raised, Isbell said that there will be, in the near future, an appeal to the people of Torrance to help pay for this building to be for their own use. He also said, that the community is indebted to the VFW for making this building available to the YMCA.

Building committee of the YMCA who have negotiated for the building include Dr. Rollin Smith, chairman, Sam Levy, B. T. Whitney, Jr., William H. Tolson, W. E. Bowen and John Steinbaugh, chairman of the YMCA board. Heading negotiations for the VFW are James Caldwell and Jess Dean.

Darby Would Keep Court from Torrance

Location of the new municipal court to serve the Torrance area was slipping further away from the City of Torrance this week, despite the efforts of Councilman Nick Draie, as Supervisor Ray Darby came forward with his ideas on the subject.

However, the Torrance City Council joined the move sponsored by Councilman Nick Draie to go on record as favoring a municipal court located within the confines of the City of Torrance. A motion to this effect by Draie carried unanimously Tuesday night.

Darby suggested to the Torrance City Council that his plan to establish a court in Inglewood, one in Redondo Beach and a third "at some other site that we

Late Bulletin

According to latest reports, the Board of Supervisors Tuesday afternoon voted that the entire South Bay area, including Redondo Beach, Hermosa Beach, Manhattan Beach, Torrance, Gardena, El Segundo, and Palos Verdes Estates be allowed one court, with the site probably to be located at Redondo Beach, where the county has already planned a court building.

"might mutually agree upon" be supported.

Fortunately, the Torrance Council did not seem to agree on Darby's vague plan, especially the fact that no consideration was given to the heavy case load of the Torrance court. Last year, one-fourth of all cases in the eight South Bay courts came from Torrance.

Darby said he did not like the idea of one South Bay (west) court and one "east" court to serve Torrance and Gardena.



CAPT. ROY WINTERS (Press Photo)

Capt. Winters Retires From Fire Dept.

Retirement of Fire Captain Roy Winters from the Torrance Fire Department, after 26 years of service to the city, was approved Tuesday night by the City Council.

Captain Winters is retiring for disability reasons, never having fully recovered from an injury to his right knee suffered while fighting a fire at the General Petroleum refinery here in 1949.

His retirement paved the way for the appointment of Capt. J. J. Benner, acting fire chief, to permanent status of chief. This appointment was barred by the demand that an examination be held for the job of chief in which other qualified firemen could participate.

Captain Winters' retirement is effective May 1, 1951. He has the longest service record on the Torrance Department.

Born in Pittsburgh, Pa., on November 23, 1891, Capt. Winters came to Torrance in 1917. Joining the volunteer fire department in 1925, he was made lieutenant in the department in 1930. On April 17, 1933, Winters was made captain of the volunteers.

In 1934 when the Civil Service regulations concerning the fire department went into effect, Winters became the first fire department engineer under the Civil Service regulations. On May 21, 1940, Winters was made captain of the regular fire department.

17-Year-Old Who Shot Self In Head Dies

Seventeen-year-old Arthur Tower 4158 W. 162nd street, who was found unconscious along a Santa Fe Railway right of way near 182nd street Saturday morning with a rifle slug he had fired in his head, died Sunday at the Harbor General Hospital.

Private cremation of the Leuzinger High School student will be held at 3 p.m. tomorrow afternoon at the Hardin and Flanagan Mortuary in Inglewood.

A passerby discovered the lad with a bullet wound between his eyes. A .22-caliber rifle was propped between his legs. A last will and testament which directed disposition of various effects was found in a pocket of his jacket, according to sheriff's deputies.

Daughter Born To Torrance Press Editor

The new addition to the Torrance Press family arrived at 9:14 a.m. Tuesday, March 13, at the Torrance Memorial Hospital when Janet Louise, 7 lbs., 9 oz., was born to Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Owens.

Better known here as Marie Louise, Mrs. Owens is one of the owners of the Torrance Press.

Mr. and Mrs. Owens reside at 2043 Reynosa drive, Torrance.

Marie Louise is the daughter of retired Naval Captain and Mrs. John D. Alvis of Palos Verdes Estates. Capt. Alvis is now the City Clerk at Palos Verdes.

The new arrival's father, Bob Owens, is the local representative of the Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Owens of Lomita.

Mrs. Owens and William R. Zappas founded the Torrance Press, originally the Peninsula Press, April 14, 1949.

H. Greeger, New C of C President

Succeeding W. T. Tillotson as new president of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce last week was Henry W. Greeger, manager of the American Radiator and Standard Sanitary Corporation.

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TEN-YEAR-OLD—Mary Elizabeth Selover, left, and Mickey Van Deventer, right, practice for tomorrow night's free public concert, "An Evening of Keyboard Music the Whole World Loves," sponsored by the Torrance Adult Education Department. Director Abe Milstein looks on as the two girls practice. The concert will begin at 8:15 p.m. in the Torrance High School Auditorium. (Press Photo)

Local Pianists Perform At Concert Tomorrow

Five local pianists will appear in the Torrance High School Auditorium stage tomorrow night where "An Evening of Keyboard Music the Whole World Loves" will be presented. The title was selected by the Torrance Concert Orchestra for tomorrow's free public concert, according to Abe Milstein, director. The concert will begin at 8:15 p.m.

The five promising young pianists to be heard at the concert grand on this program are Nancy Ann Whyte, Pat Clere, Mickey Van Deventer, Katherine Curtiss, and Mary Elizabeth Selover. With their ages ranging from 10 years of age to 21 years of age, these soloists were carefully selected to represent various stages of musical accomplishment.

The youngest of the group Mary Elizabeth Selover, is 10 years of age and a student of Torrance High School. Her instructor

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LOOK OUT—Everybody, McMahan's is getting ready to celebrate its 17th year of business in Torrance. The three popular salesmen making preparations for this outstanding event are (l. to r.) Francis Miller, George Haskell, and Paul Henton. Chuck Markland, manager, announced that gifts for the ladies and kiddies will be given away to all those that visit McMahan's birthday event. In addition, free coffee will be served and a demonstrator from the Philco Corp. will bake cookies from dough that has been frozen in a deepfreeze. —Press Photo.

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