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Walteria Flood Control Need Cited Columbia Steel Gives Up Plant

ENGINEER'S PLAN HELD IMPORTANT

The need for carrying out of former City Engineer Jacob Joseph's suggestion for a flood control program in the West Torrance and Walteria district was evidenced during the recent storms.

The engineer who has returned to Torrance to make his home, had suggested a plan for control of the flood waters which gather in the Walteria sump west of Hawthorne boulevard between Sepulveda boulevard and 101 highway. The waters this year, gathering from an area miles around the "lake," extended across Hawthorne boulevard and stranded homes and other buildings.

Joseph submitted a plan to the City Council prior to his forced resignation to drain the water from the lake through a tunnel to the ocean.

Previous engineers had studied the problem which arises during heavy rains and had ruled out any attempt to build a storm drain to connect with drainage channels in the Lomita area because the terrain makes the excavation prohibitive.

Land in the area which floods cannot be used for residential purposes until the drainage is solved, it was pointed out.

Torrance Will Gain \$49,000

Better than 45% of Torrance has been covered in enumeration, according to Kenneth G. Spiker, the special federal census Supervisor, from the Los Angeles Office. Spiker expects to complete the census by Feb. 6, he revealed.

"Indications are that Torrance will fall short by 2,000 of the 20,000 anticipated by city officials," Spiker said.

City Manager George Stevens pointed out that even if the census shows that 28,000 are now living in Torrance as compared with more than 22,000 during the 1950 decennial, the city will realize a substantial gain in tax money from the state.

\$7 PER PERSON
Approximately seven dollars for each additional individual will accrue to Torrance, Stevens reported. The seven dollars is based on the city and county gas tax and the State in lieu tax. On the basis of Stevens' estimate (Continued on Page Six)

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IN NEW HOME—Mayor Bob L. Haggard congratulates Telephone Manager A. B. Smith on opening of new quarter-million dollar Torrance business office at 1307 Craven avenue. Looking on (from left) are Bill Zappas, Torrance Press, Grover Whyte, Torrance Herald, and Floyd Snyder, district telephone manager.

City Budget 60 Percent Financed

That the mounting surplus of city funds for the current fiscal year is further evidence that the City Council should have taken the advice of Councilman Nick Drale and cut the City of Torrance tax rate between 10 cents to 20 cents per \$100 assessed valuation was voiced this week by taxpayers' groups.

As reported exclusively in the Torrance Press last week, the city treasury has received \$529,903 for the first six months of 1951-52, compared with \$307,571 for the same period of last year.

The city ended the last fiscal year with a fund balance of \$244,529, and this balance bids fair to be nearly \$350,000 at the end of this year, according to those studying the city's finances.

Councilman Drale had moved to cut the tax rate 10 cents per \$100, but his motion failed for want of a second, the other four councilmen being mute to Drale's plea for a "break" for taxpayers.

The city budget for the year is \$872,000, and thus it was about 60 per cent financed in the first half of the year, it was pointed out.

Employers to Discuss Union Issues Tonight

The demands of the Retail Clerks Union, Local 905, that stores of the Harbor Area agree to open at 9 a.m. for an 8-hour day or pay penalty pay of time and one-half after 6 p.m. is one of the principal issues holding up settlement of the Mercantile Agreement, and merchants party to the agreement are being called to a meeting Thursday (this evening) to discuss the contract.

Frank S. Selover, executive secretary of the Harbor Area Employers' Council, bargaining group for the employers, said the mass meeting of merchants will be held in the office of the Council, 1308 Sartori Ave., Suite 14, at 7:30 p.m. today.

The Mercantile Agreement expires today, but the new one will take effect on February 3. It was said.

New Phone Co. Quarters Open At 1307 Cravens

Opening of the new Torrance telephone business office in Pacific Telephone's recently-completed quarter-million dollar building was marked last week with an informal ceremony attended by Mayor Bob L. Haggard, Bill Zappas of the Torrance Press, Grover Whyte of the Torrance Herald, Floyd Snyder, district telephone manager and A. B. Smith, exchange manager.

The new quarters at 1307 Cravens avenue offer greater conveniences and comfort to customers for the transaction of telephone business in addition to providing increased space for telephone personnel and records, Smith said.

EDITORIAL SECRET MEETINGS HIT!

Editor and Publisher, a publication issued for the newspaper trade, in its current issue, commented on the suppression of news through secret meetings. Since this situation parallels the secret agenda meetings held by the City Council, every other Wednesday evening, we are reprinting the item:

"... Last week the Chicago Board of Education's meetings were opened to the public for the first time because of the determination of three reporters. The board assembled for its usual closed door procedure. The three reporters asked if it was to be a public meeting, and, getting a negative reply, said they would not leave until the board had voted to eject them or voted to open the meeting. They were asked to leave while the board voted on that question, but the reporters, recalling they had left a previous meeting for that purpose and never were readmitted, stood their ground. The Board then voted unanimously to open the meeting to the public..."

Through this newspaper, some progress has been made in Torrance. The Board of Education took the lead and eliminated secret meetings.

VOTERS RIGHT

Voters will have an opportunity to put an end to the City Council secret sessions by eliminating members who favor closed conferences.

Here is how City Councilmen stand on this issue. Nick Drale has publicly spoken out against the secret session but has had absolutely no support from other Council members.

Mayor Bob Haggard told a Press reporter that "every private business needs closed meetings. We on the Council are in the same boat. You can't permit the public to disturb your train of thought."

Harvey Spelman is a proponent of the secret meeting. As self-appointed chairman of the City Council Water Committee, he closed Chamber of Commerce bond election meetings to the Press.

SECRET SESSION

Willis Blount didn't show up for a public meeting at the City Council during the Truman Browne controversy, but attended a secret session held just a few minutes thereafter in Mayor Bob Haggard's inner-chamber.

Ed Karlow is in favor of the secret meetings, he informed the Press.

That is the roll call of City Council members. Three Councilmen are up for election. They are Drale, Haggard, and Karlow.

Since Drale favors the open democratic meeting, he deserves the support of the entire community. Residents of Torrance should think twice before they vote on positions held by the other incumbents. Secret meetings tend to foster dictatorial methods. They have no place in a democracy.



HALF DAYS SESSIONS at Fern Ave. Elementary School prove to be quite a problem on rainy days. In the far left hand corner, one third-grader—all decked out with umbrella, school books, and toys leads the procession out of a half-day session classroom. Children lined up in rear row are waiting for the classroom being vacated by the morning class. They, too have their paraphernalia in the line. Instructor in the rear is trying to

keep them as orderly as possible. Besides Fern Ave., there are three other schools who have to contend with half-day sessions. They are Walteria, Torrance and Seaside. Board of Education statistics show that nearly 600 students in Torrance attend half-day sessions. Local educators hope that the \$3,000,000 School Bond Election to be voted upon Feb. 26 will furnish an answer to the problem. —Press Photo.

Rainy Day Session Points Up Need for Additional School Bonds Which Face Torrance Voters Tuesday, February 26

No one at Fern Ave. Elementary School questions the need for the \$3,000,000 school bond election which will be voted upon Feb. 26. Rainy days, with 276 students on half day sessions at Fern Ave., present quite a problem, principal of the school, Charles Creceilius, admitted today.

"Of course, we manage to get all the students out of the rain by lining them up in the hall as soon as they arrive," Creceilius said. "However, that doesn't solve the problem of getting rid of the half day session." **GOOD EXAMPLE**
Last Friday, a day that started off to be rainy and then changed its mind, was a good example of what Creceilius was talking about. One group of students, around the noon hour, were lined up in the hall. They were waiting for another group to leave the classrooms. Of the 277 students at Fern Ave. involved, 34 are in the first grade, instructed by Miss Lena Redfern. (Continued on Page Six)

Columbia Steel Gives Up Plant

As anticipated by the Torrance Press exclusively on December 20, 1951, Douglas Aircraft Company, Inc., has an option to lease the aluminum plant located at 190th and Normandie.

This was confirmed today by Alden G. Roach, President of the Columbia-Geneva Steel Division, U. S. Steel revealed that the ALCOA plant, purchased from the government after the recent war, consists of more than 200 acres of land and various buildings.

Originally it had been planned to build a steel mill at the ALCOA location. Roach said that U. S. Steel plans for which the Los Angeles tract was acquired have been altered.

In making the property available to Douglas Aircraft for expansion of its defense production, Roach stated that U. S. Steel would now devote its attention to plans for modernization and improvement of the Torrance plant.

Rumors continued to flow today that once the work stoppage is settled—an addition to the Columbia Steel mill—will be constructed adjacent to present plant.

Brrr--But It Really Wasn't Cold Yesterday

Residents of Torrance and surrounding areas woke up yesterday—believing it was the coldest day within the past year. However, a check with Fire Department records showed that the temperature wasn't even freezing. The low was 40 degrees.

A member of the Torrance Fire Department explained that temperature alone isn't responsible for cold. "There was a lot of moisture in the air," he said. "A high humidity will make it seem a lot colder than it actually is."

Colder or not, early morning risers among Torrance residents were wearing coats, gloves, and one person was seen wearing earmuffs.

Revolutionary Changes Take Place in Chamber

Revolutionary changes were set in motion at the Chamber of Commerce meeting held Monday at the executive offices, 1345 El Prado—the second meeting since Robert I. Plomert, Jr., became President of the organization. Prior to the meeting, he made it clear that all official conferences would be open to the newspapers.

Secondly, his recommendations to reclassify all dues was passed unanimously.

MINIMUM FEE

He recommended a minimum membership fee of from \$25 to \$40 for merchants—depending on the size of the business. Industrial concerns, it was understood, would pay higher fee depending on their size. Individual memberships will be \$12. Newspaper membership were sliced from \$100 to \$50. Professional men's dues will be \$25.

After kicking the matter around, the Chamber approved the paying of dues on a quarterly basis—if a member so desired.

Plomert pointed out that if no new members were brought into the Chamber, the new dues schedule would bring in around \$8000.

Gerald Eastham, new First-Vice-President of the organization, pointed out that the new schedule was necessary. "We find 32 delinquent members," he (Continued on Page Six)

\$1600 Netted by March of Dimes

Preparation for the March of Dimes Mothers March, scheduled between seven and nine, this evening, were being made today by the local P-TAs throughout this area as Postmaster Clara Conner, chairman of the entire campaign, revealed that she had received \$1600 by today.

This covers a partial contribution of city school children totalling \$387.65. "There's still more to come from the schools," said Mrs. Conner. "Industry hasn't reported either, but we expect to hear soon."

She pointed out that the main concentration is on the Mother's March. "If you want to contribute, turn on your porchlight, and local mothers will be there to collect your donation," said Mrs. Conner.

Date	Min.	Temp.	Max.	Temp.
Jan. 25	50	.....	62
Jan. 26	47	.....	61
Jan. 27	43	.....	76
Jan. 28	43	.....	78
Jan. 29	49	.....	70

See-Saw War Combat Award Made in Japan

PFC Jimmie T. Sims, son of Mr. and Mrs. Bartlett Sims, 21250 S. Main st., Torrance, recently arrived in Japan from Korea with the 1st Cavalry Division.

The division, now assigned to security duty on Hokkaido, Japan's northernmost island, was the second U. S. division to enter the Korean fighting, making an unopposed amphibious landing at Pohang-dong in July 1950.

The unit participated in the see-saw battles across the Nakdong river and following the Inchon invasion in September, 1950, linked up with the 7th Infantry Division to climax a spectacular northern drive.

Sims has been awarded the Combat Infantryman Badge and the Korean Service Ribbon with one campaign star since he arrived in Korea Oct. 7, 1951.

Rain Disappears But Not Lakes

Rain showed its face for the last time on Friday when .91 inches fell from the sky, bringing the season total since July 1, 1951 to 12.33 inches. Locally, there are still numerous lakes and areas where canoeing is safer than driving a car.

Weather for the week appeared to fluctuate. Here are the temperatures beginning with last Friday:

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Picketing Cut Down At Prudential Office

Prudential workers at the Torrance office are still striking, but indications appeared this week that the work stoppage had slowed down considerably.

Both union officials and management agreed that only 111 of the 638 employees in Southern California were still out on strike.

It was pointed out that in the entire 11 Western States—only 232 of 1182 workers are still maintaining the strike.

Union leaders claimed that the strike would continue and the lack of pickets was not an indication that Prudential employees were losing interest.

OTHER JOBS
"A lot of the workers had to take other jobs," said a union official, "and it takes a lot of time to maintain a picket line." As the Union sees it, "management has refused arbitration, fact-finding by an impartial panel, and the aid of the State Insurance Commissioner."

Harry Harper, district manager of the South Bay office in Torrance for Prudential, pointed out that all of the Union (Continued on Page Six)

Muriel Smith Visiting Her Mother Here

Mrs. Maurice G. Smith, the former Muriel Alverson, arrived in Torrance Tuesday to spend two weeks with her mother, Mrs. Frank S. Selover, 2521 Border Ave., before flying to Honolulu to join her husband, a lieutenant in the Naval Air Corps stationed in the islands.

Lieutenant and Mrs. Smith have been living in Seattle since Lt. Smith's return from duty in Japan and Korea, six months ago. He was transferred to Barbers Point Naval Air Station and arrived there Monday. He is attached to VP 772, a patrol bomber squadron.

They maintain their home in Lakeview.

NEW FIELD CHAIRMAN

Roy Peterson has been appointed as Field Chairman for 1952 YMCA fund raising campaign which gets underway Feb. 13, according to Don Armstrong, general campaign chairman.

New Licenses Fall Due Feb. 4

Auto licenses become delinquent after next Monday, Feb. 4, the State Department of Motor Vehicles, revealed today.

Torrance residents may buy their plates in Compton at 303 E. Palmer, between Compton and Rosecrans on Alameda. They may also be obtained in Long Beach on East Broadway.

Leave Your Porch Light on Tonight For "March of Dimes"