

COUNCIL, SCHOOLS SPLIT ON ANNEXATION ISSUE

By RALPH R. GOMPERTZ

Behind the scene rumblings indicated this week that the Rolling Hills annexation issue is developing into a show-down as to who is running the city—the City Council or Dr. J. H. Hull, superintendent of schools.

Members of the City Council have been extremely cautious about uttering any official opinion as to their leanings in the 6500 acres annexation issue.

Pressure Tactics

They seemed more and more miffed this week, however, at the continuous pressure being brought to bear in opposition to annexation through school channels. Principals have aroused P-TA groups to oppose annexation by bringing concerted pressure to bear upon the City Council.

These activities were directly influenced by Dr. Hull's wishes, councilmen felt, resenting the fact that Dr. Hull appeared to be manipulating

individuals and the Board of Education to fall in line with his own thinking.

Hull Plays Politics

Councilmen asked the question whether Hull is trying to run the city and dominate the scene. Largely as a result of Hull's recent actions, some of the councilmen, who leaned originally to the "no" side of the annexation issue, appeared much more favorably disposed toward annexation this week.

In the meantime, the annexation issue has been turned over to the Planning Commission for two public hearings. This will be followed by a final public hearing before the City Council at which time the Council will vote "yes" or "no" on annexation.

The Planning Commission hearings will be held February 9 and 16 at 7 p.m. in the Council Chamber of the City Hall, corner El Prado and Cravens.



HONORED . . . Alvin J. McCown (r), president of the Harbor Area Employers' Council, here receives a plaque of appreciation from Charles Ver Jones, who made the presentation on behalf of the Council at a luncheon last week. The award was presented to McCown "for his inspiration, leadership, and generosity" in founding the Council and "for his contribution to good labor-management relations."

EDITORIAL

It's Time to Pay Our Councilmen

We believe that the time has come to consider the question of salaries for members of the City Council.

Other cities comparable in size to Torrance pay their councilmen, but the members of the Torrance City Council at present serve this community with no other compensation than the prestige associated with their position and the satisfaction gained from public service.

Members of the City Council spend a great deal of what spare time they have looking after the interests of every resident in this community. The councilmen and the mayor often lose time on their jobs and pay to look after the city's needs.

The five men on the City Council are devoted public servants. We believe that they should be paid \$100 a month which is in keeping with what other growing cities are paying.

In addition to a salary, councilmen should be paid their expenses as is done by other cities and as is presently the case in Torrance.

The proposed \$100 salary is moderate enough to keep the council post from being the object of dollars and cents.

Qualified public-spirited individuals, who would like to serve their community but cannot do so under the present set-up, could afford to hold a public office.

We suggest that the City Council place this question on the ballot during the next municipal election or that a civic-minded organization undertake the project of circulating petitions for placing this proposal on the ballot.

Civil Service Board, Council Fight Over Final Authority

The fight for final authority in Civil Service matters sparked up again this week when the Civil Service Board submitted its own version of a "streamlined" Civil Service ordinance to the City Council.

This eleventh-hour move caused the City Council to strike the final hearing of its own Civil Service ordinance off the agenda "for further study."

There's one basic difference which is in dispute between the two ordinances . . . one places final authority in cases of review in the hands of the City Council and city manager; the other states that the Civil Service Board's decision is final, according to Gordon Mothersell, chairman of the Board.

Board's version of a Civil Service ordinance states that policy should be determined by the city manager and the City Council.

Certain civil service employees have feared that the new ordinance would open promotional exams to outsiders rather than permitting promotion.

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Long-Standing Fight

This issue was brought into sharp focus recently when the City Council overruled the Civil Service Board's recommendation in regard to James Dresser and Cecil Smith, Torrance building inspectors involved in the North Torrance housing scandal.

The Civil Service Board recommended temporary suspension but the City Council overruled the Board's decision and fired the two men.

Ever since then relations between the two bodies have traveled a thorny road culminating with the recent firing of the Civil Service Board as a Board of Appeals.

The Board's present ordinance would restore the function beyond contradiction.

Promotions

As regards promotions, the

Mom, Abuse Case, Given Probation

Hope that a probation officer could help a young Lomita mother (charged with child abuse) straighten out any possible family problems led Judge Otto B. Willett to place her on probation last week.

A child abuse charge was reduced from a felony to a simple misdemeanor in the case of Mrs. Elizabeth B. Remington, 23-year-old Lomita mother, according to court officials.

Mrs. Remington was charged with throwing her 6-week-old baby against a chair, fracturing his leg.

Proposed Guided Missile Site on Local Airport To Protect Torrance

Torrance residents will soon have a guided missile site to protect them against enemy attack in case of war.

The City Council Tuesday night approved a Defense Department request to install a Nike site (guided missile) on the Torrance Municipal Airport.

The Nike is the Army weapon that is capable of searching out an enemy target and destroying it.

Location of the site has not been determined but Corps of Engineer officers will survey the airport now to decide on a location.

Triangle Cleared

This surprise move comes as a result of the city's request to the Defense Department for a clear title to the 35-acre airport triangle intended for a shopping center.

This request was granted last week under one condition . . . that the city permit construction of a Nike site on the airport. About 45 acres of land are involved.

The Council really didn't have much choice in the matter, since the government's request was made simply as a matter of courtesy. Since the government owns the airport property, it can reclaim the land at any time during a state of emergency.

Study Location

An attempt will be made to find a location which will create the least interference with the normal functions of the airport and the proposed development, City Manager George Stevens explained.

The 35-acre site intended for development as a shopping center is located on Pacific Coast Highway east of Crenshaw boulevard. It is presently under

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Mrs. Myers Heads Lomita Civic Group

Mrs. Dessie Myers was elected president of the Lomita Property Owners and Registered Voters assn. The post was formerly occupied by George Sands.

Other new officers include: Sands and William Dietrick, vice-presidents; Don Myers, secretary, and John Alberg, treasurer.

Serving on the Board of Directors will be Pete Thorensen, Alberg, Mrs. Winston Carter, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Anderson, Sands, Myers, Dietrick, George Beasley, Mrs. Lena Wells, Capt. Henry Hansen, and Tony Kubica.

Fog Keeps Drivers Guessing

Fog played havoc with Torrance traffic Tuesday night and Wednesday morning.

Frank Kelly of 2826 Pacific Coast Highway started a chain-reaction when he bumped into a parked car on Hawthorne avenue near Lomita boulevard. The parked car was one of four parked in a row on the side of the road. The impact from Kelly's car caused the other cars to collide in turn.

Hills Annexation Too Costly, Hull Insists

Torrance will still pick up the tab any way you look at it, was the opinion of Dr. J. H. Hull, superintendent of schools, after studying the facts and figures presented by developers of the Rolling Hills area proposed for annexation.

"We'd still be paying their bills," Hull said in regard to the 6513 acres of unimproved land proposed for annexation.

"I have no reason to believe that the figures they presented are not accurate, but I can't see that it changes the ratio of financial responsibility."

Torrance taxpayers would virtually be paying for new schools in the area the first few years, Hull said. By the maximum estimated valuation of \$65 million after 10 years, Torrance's valuation would probably be about \$166 million, he stated.

Torrance's part of the cost would still be disproportionate then to what the annexed-area would pay, Hull said.

Spokesmen for Great Lakes Carbon corp., the Capitol co., and Rancho Palos Verdes corp., who own the 10 square miles proposed for annexation, maintained that the area would pay for itself and even come out ahead in the long run, though the first few years would be a bit rough.

One reason why there appears to be such a huge discrepancy between the School Board's figures and those presented by the developers is that the School Board figured on more homes and therefore a larger population than the developers intend to permit.

So stated by Ivar O. Hanson, vice-president and treasurer of the Rancho Palos Verdes corp., and general manager of Palos Verdes Properties, a combination name for the landowners.

The school's figures, Hanson said, appeared based on the residential development of 6800 acres while actually only 4000 acres are involved. Dr. Hull also appeared to figure on three homes to an acre, Hanson said, while the homes drop down to two per acre in many instances.

"We are selling the land under an involved contract and will deal only with responsible firms to protect the city and the schools," Hanson said.

Prehistoric Remains Unearthed at Harvey's

An interesting paleontological discovery was unearthed recently at an 85 foot depth by workmen excavating at the Torrance plant of Harvey Aluminum.

According to Dr. Theodore Downs, curator of Vertebrate Paleontology at the Los Angeles County Museum, the specimen is believed to be from a Columbian elephant or mammoth of the Pleistocene period, 20,000 to 40,000 years old.

The mammoth, which reached a height of nearly fourteen feet, inhabited the temperate parts of the northern world during the Ice Age.

The excavation, a part of Harvey's current expansion program, eventually will reach a depth of 116 feet and be utilized in the solution heat treatment process as a quenching tank for heavy press aluminum extrusions.

LATE NEWS

TAXES: A representative from the Internal Revenue department will be at the Chamber of Commerce February 21-25, inclusive, to help individuals with their tax problems. The Chamber is located corner Cravens on El Prado.

MORE TAXES: A representative from the State of California will be at the Chamber of Commerce, March 30, to help individuals with their income tax problems. The Chamber is located corner Cravens on El Prado.

NOKED ON NOGGIN: Lester Inman, 44, of 2431 Cabrillo, was taken to Harbor General Hospital with brain concussion and lacerations of the face when he was hit on the head and face by an unknown object and unknown assailant Sunday at a local cafe.

SHOPPING CENTER: Plans for the development of a \$9 million shopping center on Hawthorne avenue near 174th street, will be released the beginning of February. Included in the development is a \$1,500,000 bowling palace with 54 lanes, reportedly the largest in Southern California.

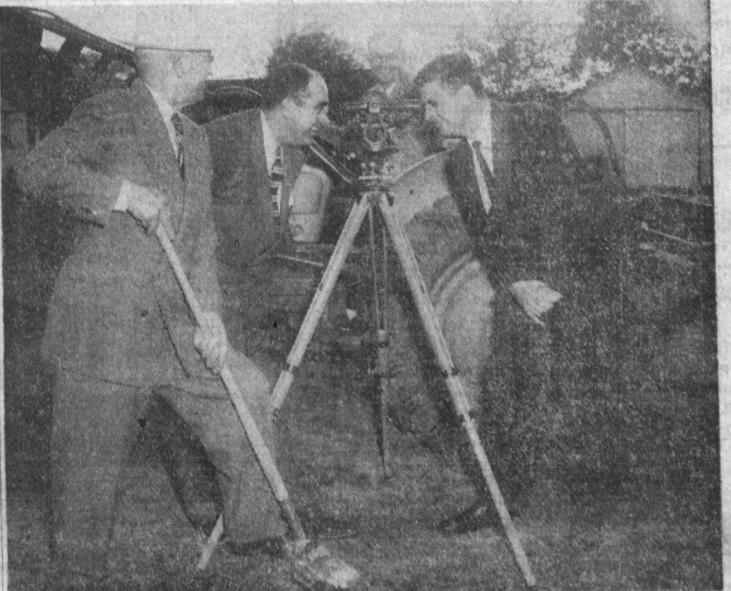
SEEDS FOR DEMOCRACY: (Continued on Page 17)

Giant To Appear At Owl-Rexall

Locks Martin, tallest man in the west, will give away balloons to the kids all day Thursday, Friday, and Saturday at the new Owl Rexall drug store in WALTERIA (corner Hawthorne avenue and Pacific Coast Highway, near Clark's market).

Martin is 7'7" tall and wears a size 18 shoe. He is deputy sheriff of Tarrant County, Texas and will wear a complete Texas outfit.

The tall cowboy is goodwill ambassador for Arden Farms.



GROUND BREAKING . . . Halverson mortuary broke ground this week at the corner of Cravens and Engracia, despite the fact that a local resident is trying to get the Supreme Court of California to nix the venture. Caught "tampering" with groundbreaking equipment

in an off-guard pose were (l-r) H. R. Halverson, Sr., Mayor Nick Drale who's peering at A. T. Leavell, and H. R. Halverson, Jr. (aboard tractor). Leavell and Halverson Jr. are co-partners.

Torrance BPO Elks To Be Instituted February 19

The Torrance Lodge of the BPO Elks, which has been in the process of organization since last July, will be duly instituted by officers of the Grand Lodge of the Order on Saturday, February 19, 1955.

Institution of the lodge officers, initiation of new members by officers of Redondo Beach Lodge 1378, and installation of officers of the new lodge by Past Grand Exalted Ruler L.A. Lewis and his staff of Grand

Narbonne Graduation Tomorrow

Forty-eight seniors will receive their diplomas tomorrow night at commencement ceremonies to be held at Narbonne High school.

Stanley Johnson, director of the Palos Verdes Players and Narbonne faculty member, will be the principal speaker at the 8 p.m. program.

Graduation exercises for approximately 120 members of the Narbonne junior high A9 class were held yesterday afternoon in the school auditorium.

TV Dealer Leaves For Caribbean

James Nicola, owner of TV Studio, 2223 Torrance blvd., and his wife, Helen, will leave next month for a 17-day Caribbean cruise.

Nicola was awarded the expense-paid tour for emerging as top salesman of GE television sets among 25,000 dealers in the entire nation for the period of August to December last year.

The Nicolas will leave New York February 24 and return March 13. They will spend their trip aboard the luxury liner Ocean Monarch and will visit the Bahamas, Havana, Panama, and other picturesque spots along the South American coast.

Start Work On New Mortuary

No sooner was construction begun this week on the new Halverson mortuary, corner of Engracia and Cravens, than a Torrance resident, who has fought the mortuary all along, announced through his attorney that he would seek an injunction to hold up construction.

Earl P. Miller of 1304 Arlington has been trying to put a stop to the new mortuary ever since the issue came before the City Council. The Council voted 4-1 in favor of granting a variance to the mortuary.

Miller took his case to the Los Angeles Superior Court where he was defeated and has now appealed that ruling to the Supreme Court of California.

In the meantime, Henry R. Halverson, Jr., announced that he would go ahead with construction until he was stopped. Completion date for the \$130-

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CARIBBEAN CRUISE . . . Mr. and Mrs. James Nicola will leave for a 17-day Caribbean cruise next month. Nicola, who owns TV Studio, won the cruise for selling the most GE TV sets among 25,000 dealers throughout the nation during a five-months' period last year.

Picture and Facts Carry Double Punch



Seeing is believing. Mr. and Mrs. Donald V. Norem of 1810 W. 243rd st., Lomita, saw the above home in the new Pictorial Home Finder section of the Torrance Press last week. They contacted Mrs. Eleanor J. Meyers, salesman for Torrance Real Estate, 1309 Post ave., and made arrangements to see the home Saturday. Inspection of the home confirmed their favorable reaction to the picture and the information provided in the ad. The Norems placed an immediate deposit on the home and went into escrow Monday. You can't beat the combination of picture and facts in our pictorial home finder section. Call FA. 8-2345 for details on how to sell your home at very little cost.