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Torrance - - Where Cleanliness is Cheap

Special Trash Service Saves Taxpayer's Money

By RALPH R. GOMPERTZ

Rubbish by any other name is a messy subject—except in Torrance, where rubbish means pay dirt!

Torrance's rubbish collection system is a two-fold blessing for local residents.

First, Torrance is one of the few cities that does not charge extra for its rubbish collection, the money coming out of the city's general fund.

Second, Torrance's dump is a veritable gold mine — or sand mine, to be exact, saving the taxpayer $100,000 a year!

The dump, located on Madrona ave. north of Torrance blvd., was purchased four years ago upon the recommendation of City Manager George Stevens.

As the city started excavating the site for dumping purposes it was discovered that the area consists of very valuable sand which could be sold to contractors who needed fill-dirt badly.

After the first year of operation, the dump had already paid for itself.

This year, for instance, the city sold $36,000 worth of dirt and the previous fiscal year it sold $48,000, according to Ralph Perkins, superintendent of the street department.

While that doesn't begin to pay for the cost of operating a rubbish collection service which comes to around $250,000 a year, it does take some of the financial sting out of it, directly and indirectly.

In addition to the actual cash the city gets for selling the sand, the city saves $50,000 in fees by having its own dump and another $50,000 in man-hours, wear-and-tear, and handling by not having to transport the rubbish out of town.

224,640 Cubic Yards a Year

The herculean task of picking up 224,640 cubic yards of trash a year by making the rounds of Torrance's 22,000 homes once a week, falls to the 22 men who staff the six packer (compaction) trucks and two flat bed trucks.

Trash collection includes combustibles, lawn trimmings, and grass clippings as opposed to garbage and tin cans which are picked up separately and taken elsewhere.

Under the present set-up the rubbish crew can just about handle the city's collection service. However, two new packer trucks have been ordered so that collectors can keep their rigid schedule and not fall behind or have to work overtime when one of the older trucks breaks down.

Because residents are moving into the city at a rate of 1000 a month, the city yard phones are kept humming with inquiries regarding trash pick ups and dumping regulations.

Always on hand to process the 250 calls a week is Bob Beck, who, in addition to this time-consuming duty, acts as time keeper and clerk.

Beck, who at times must feel like a phonograph record, listens to the complaints and inquiries patiently, enlightens the newcomers and channels complaints to the proper sources for prompt action.

End of the Trail

The end of the rubbish collectors' trail and the end of all trash is, of course, the city dump.

"We hope to make the dump last eight years," Perkins stated, which would give the dump four more years to go since its start.

After this it may be turned into a city yard or a city nursery for raising trees to be planted throughout the city.

Not only do the city's dump trucks visit the dump regularly, but about 1350 residents make weekly pilgrimages to the rubbish center to do their dumping free of charge.

Visiting hours are heaviest over the weekend, with as many as 696 individuals showing up on Sunday, although the dump is open seven days a week.

One of the constant hazards at the dump is spontaneous combustion, especially since the rubbish is tamped down to a depth of 70 feet.

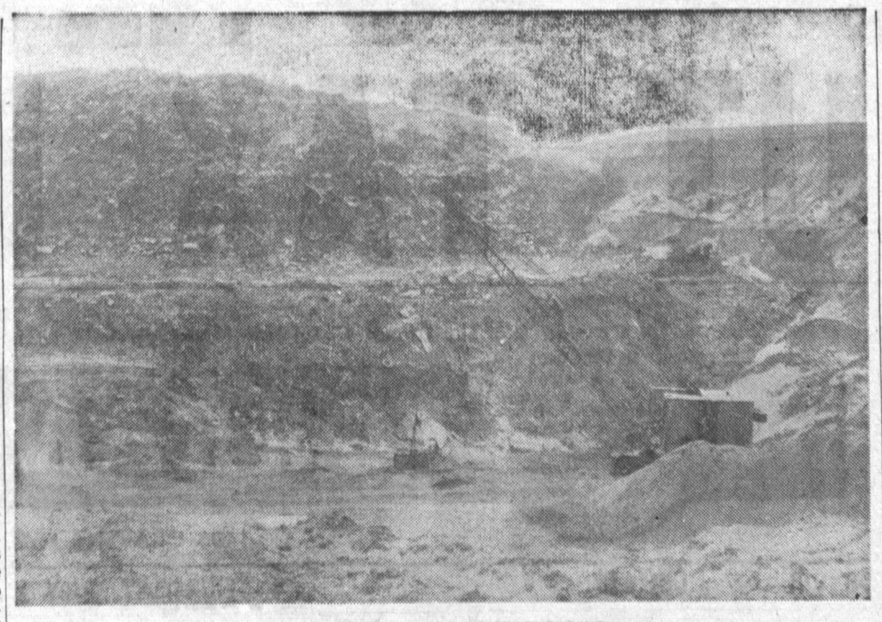
There is only one problem which Perkins is concerned about that requires the help and cooperation of Torrance residents. This involves the way the rubbish is prepared for pick up.

"The greatest hazards our men face are strained backs and torn hands. That's why we ask the residents to keep the load down to 70 lbs. per container and not to include items which aren't strictly rubbish."

While commercial firms pay a nominal sum for this service, local residents do enjoy a free pick-up service paid for out of the city's general fund and costing about 33 cents per home per month.

Torrance is one of the very rare cities that doesn't charge directly for rubbish collection. It is also one of the very rare communities that offers a free dump.

So, next time the collectors wrestle with your trash can—smile! It could cost more.



THE DUMP AND THE DOLLAR

Torrance's dump is a gold mine in disguise. The sand is sold for profit, saving the taxpayer's money. A local dump eliminates the cost of out-of-town dumping and dump fees.—Press Photo.

Conciliator To Renew Talks On Contract

Arbitration of the deadlocked contract negotiations involving retail clerks and owners of 28 harbor area drug stores entered a new phase yesterday, when representative of both sides met for th first time with a state labor conciliator.

John Condon of the California Labor Conciliation Service conducted a hearing between Harbor Area Employers' Council officials and leaders of the Retail Clerk's Union Local 905 in an effort to unsnarl the deadlock.

The groups have failed to reach a new contract to replace a pact that expired on June 1. The former contract has been extended indefinitely by mutual agreement.

The employers' council reported that there is little theat of strike and hope exists for a settlement in the near future.

The exact cause of the deadlock has not been revealed.

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By LES KING

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Local Man Honored For Long Service

Special honors for long-time service in County government were paid Tuesday to two local residents by County Supervisor Burton W. Chase.

In ceremonies before the Board of Supervisors, special pins denoting 25-years service were presented to Fred Gebhart, 4144 Palos Verdes Drive North, Rolling Hills, and to Claude J. Wiseman, 348 Avenida Atezada, Torrance.

Gebhart heads the Mapping Division of the County's Regional Planning Commission, while Wiseman, a deputy sheriff, serves as bailiff at Inglewood Superior Court.

Selover Named To Republican Committee Post

Frank S. Selover, Torrance, was elected vice-chairman of the Republican Central Committee for Los Angeles County for the 68th assembly district at a meeting held Tuesday night at the Alexandria Hotel.

Clifton Hix, a San Pedro attorney, was named chairman of the committee.

Wiliam Tolson, Mrs. Mary Ann Hazlet and Elmer Roese, all of Torrance, will serve on the committee with Selover and Hix.

Charles Soderstrom Jr., of San Pedro was elected chairman of Central Committee's 17th congressional district, it was reported.

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Service Held For Torrance Cattleman

Christian Science funeral services for William H. Franklin, age 69, Torrance Cattle Rancher, were held Wednesday, July 11, at 3 p.m. in Pierce Brothers Little Church Around the Corner.

Conducted by Bess Silver, the service was followed by interment in the Inglewood Park cemetery.

A native of Huddleston, Virginia, he came to California five years ago and lived at 3462 Redondo Beach Blvd.

He died Sunday, July 8 in the Broadview Sanitarium, and is survived by his wife, Helen C. Franklin; one son, John D. Franklin, and one daughter, Belle Leach of Los Angeles.

Also surviving are three sisters and five brothers in Virginia, 10 grandchildren and three grandchildren.

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