

Lomita Forces Poised for Fight As Boundary Hearing Arrives

By RALPH R. GOMPERTZ
 One of the final steps leading to a powerful showdown over cityhood for Lomita will be taken today when the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors holds a boundary hearing.

The board has 60 days after the hearing to either reject the incorporation petition or call for an election.

Last minute check with the various forces involved seems to indicate that today's hearing will be routine, with the real showdown coming when an elec-

tion is called, probably in November.

The Lomita fight has seen-sawed back and forth a little over a year between the proponents and opponents of cityhood, with a short-lived Torrance annexation attempt thrown in as a rather unappealing side-show.

A State law governing future annexation and incorporation procedures was passed as a result of the Lomita hassle by the State legislature.

The present battle will have

to be fought to the finish, however, without benefit of that law, since the law apparently cannot be made retroactive, observers believe.

Started Year Ago
 The Lomita free-for-all started July 18, 1956 when incorporationists filed their first notice of intention to circulate petitions calling for an election on the issue.

They made five successive filings until they had enough signatures which were acceptable to the Board of Supervisors.

causing the board to hold the present boundary hearing.

One such previous petition fell through when anti-city forces successfully challenged the validity of the signatures on grounds that the names did not appear as owners on the assessment roll and that individuals were induced to sign without seeing the actual petitions.

While anti-city forces are again charging that 58 signatures on the present petition be for the Board of Supervisors are invalid, the board has indicated that the burden of proof lies with the challengers.

Because of complex legal technicalities the anti-city forces will not take further action on this matter, L. E. Ross, spokesman for the Lomita Civic League, said, but will concentrate their efforts on the election, if and when it is held.

Three Groups
 In favor of incorporation is the United Lomita group, headed by Linden Chandler. Notable in the group's effort to prove the desirability of incorporation was a report prepared by Guy Halferty and Associates, a firm specializing in incorporation studies.

The report gave Lomitans an optimistic go-ahead sign.

Opponents of incorporation include the Lomita Property Owners and Registered Voters, headed by Dessie Myers, and claiming a membership of 200.

Also opposed is the Lomita Civic League, headed by Ross, with a reported membership of 280.

An ephemeral annexation attempt which never gained momentum was made by George Baisley who tried to circulate petitions requesting Torrance to annex Lomita.

Anti-city forces had one other choice besides fighting incorporationists — exclusion. They

could have petitioned the Board of Supervisors to exclude certain portions of Lomita from incorporation.

Better to Fight
 However, it was decided that it would be better to fight in corporation at the polls in number, rather than thin out their own ranks. It was felt, too, that it would not be good to chop up Lomita into small isolated patches of county territory which would happen through exclusion.

Major issues at stake in the whole hot controversy center around three matters: 1) cost, 2) personal gain, 3) self-government versus county government.

Each side has produced figures attempting to show that 1) incorporation can be managed and that 2) incorporation cannot be managed financially.

Incorporationists have accused anti-incorporationists of being reactionary, while they in turn have questioned the "ulterior motives" of cityhood proponents.

Those wanting Lomita to incorporate claim that self-government is cheaper and better while anti-incorporationists claim the county can do a more efficient and professional job of governing Lomita.

While incorporationists claim that Lomita will be gobbled up by Torrance and lose its identity if it does not incorporate, anti-incorporationists disclaim annexation threats, claiming that the real threat is the higher cost of self-government in the event of incorporation.

"Annexation never ever has been a threat," Mayor Albert Ison of Torrance commented Tuesday. "Lomita would be lucky if Torrance wanted it. There's the possibility that Lomita would be a tax liability. Were Torrance to want Lomita, with Torrance's industrial tax

structure and future shopping center, it would be highly desirable for Lomita to annex. However, Torrance isn't making any attempt to annex Lomita."

State Legislature
 In the meantime, a bill passed by the State legislature and signed by Governor Goodwin might will become effective September 10.

It calls for a two-year grace period following the defeat of an incorporation move, either at election time or while circulating petitions calling for an election.

It also calls for an 80-day rather than 50-day period during which no other action may be taken after notice of intention to circulate petitions calling for an election has been filed.

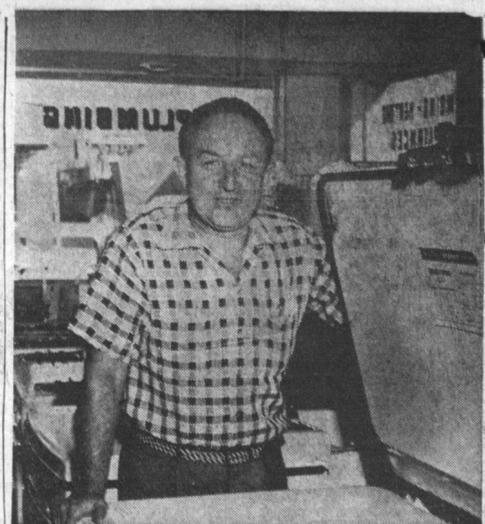
Turn Off To Remain

Despite protests by the Carson Civic Betterment assn., exit ramps for the proposed Harbor Freeway will remain at 220th st., and Figueroa instead of Carson st.

Originally, the exit ramps were slated for Carson st. and when the change to 220th st. was made, the organization asked the State Highway division to reconsider the matter.

The 220th st. ramp, it was felt, would endanger children attending the junior high school located at that corner.

Jack E. Eckhardt, assistant district engineer, explained to Rome Gateley, president of the civic group, that 223rd st., or Carson st. are destined for future widening and improvement, making it impractical to consider them for the exit ramps.



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J. Parks Montague, sponsor of the Torrance Bidding Contest, has lived in Torrance for the past 30 years. He is a graduate of Torrance High school and the University of Southern California. He has been connected with the Torrance Plumbing Co. for 12 years and is now manager.

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Duffers Defeated by Hotshots, 20 to 5

The Esabs pulled a slight upset Tuesday night by defeating the K-Kids 7 to 6.

These two teams are now tied for first place. It seemed the K-Kids were on their way to their seventh straight win, leading 6 to 3 in the third inning, when their pitcher, Marge Hartman, having hit the ball for at least a 3-bagger, collided with the first baseman as she rounded first.

She was injured and forced to leave the game at this point. The K-Kids were unable to score again, and during the next two innings the Esabs managed to push across the winning run. The winning pitcher was Carla Babb, who gave up only 4 hits and hit a long triple to aid her own cause.

The second game between the Hotshots and Duffers went to the Hotshots, 20 to 5. Betty Rogers, pitcher for the Hotshots hit two home runs to help her team win this game. The Hotshots collected 11 hits altogether and scored many unearned runs.

An extra game was played on Wednesday night in Manhattan while giving up only four hits.



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