

Consolidated
Edition
Torrance Herald
and Lomita News

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LEONARD SAYS CITY SHOULD ENTER WATER DISTRICT NOW

City Engineer Prepares Figures Showing Advantages, Savings From Joining Great Aqueduct Project

ROUTE REPORT IS GIVEN OUT TODAY

Saving of Nearly \$100,000 Can Be Made by Joining Cities in Metropolitan Water District at Present Time, Leonard States; Figures Are Given

"Why wait?" That's what City Engineer Frank Leonard wants to know in regard to the much-discussed addition of the city of Torrance to the Metropolitan Water District. On the eve of the presentation of the conclusions and recommendations of the Metropolitan Water District board of review as to the most feasible

economic and safest route for bringing water from the Colorado river to cities of southern California, the city engineer has prepared a table of figures which, he claims, points out the folly of waiting some eight or 10 years before joining the district.

All the city officials and directors of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce have been invited to attend the presentation of "Plan deus Mercurian" report on the route of the great aqueduct which is proposed to carry Colorado river water to cities in the district.

Leonard's figures claim that the city, if it waits 10 years to join the district as has been proposed by some citizens, will have to pay approximately \$738,450 to enter the association of cities. He bases his conclusions on the accumulated costs and interest of both the proportionate cost the city would have to pay for the expenditure for the Metropolitan aqueduct and the preliminary engineering and survey work.

In contrast to that large figure, the city engineer has estimated that if the city joins the district within the next year, it would only have to pay approximately \$445,050 spread over 10 years' time. This means, he says, an actual saving of nearly \$100,000.

Leonard has used the figures of \$28,000,000 for the assessed valuation of Torrance for both his estimates. He states that if the city joined the Metropolitan Water District now or in the near future, the average cost to the taxpayers throughout the 10-year period would be 20 cents per \$100 valuation.

"Need Water to Grow" "I claim that this is very cheap when we consider what we are getting," he said. "That is, insurance for our city that we will not be deprived of any increase in valuation, population and what is most important, facilities to provide employment for a growing and prosperous population."

"We will need water from the Colorado river in 10 or 15 years time. That I know. There is no other source from which we can get it. We need to show prospective industries that we have an ample supply for all time to come. Without that assurance we cannot grow."

If Torrance joins the district now, it will have to pay approximately 1-100 of the total cost of the aqueduct, he said. This is arrived at through the following figures:

20-Cent Average Tax
The proposed total bond issue for the project is \$250,000,000, an approximate figure. It is planned by the board of directors of the district, that these bonds will be sold at about 1 1/2 per cent interest, beginning in 1932. Torrance's valuation is about \$28,000,000, the engineer states. The total valuation of all cities in the district at the present time is \$2,800,000,000. There are, at the present time, 11 cities in the association.

Beginning in 1932, the total interest on the bonds will be \$1,000,000. Torrance's share of this interest will be \$200,000. This means that if Torrance joins the district now, it will have to pay approximately 1-100 of the total cost of the aqueduct, he said. This is arrived at through the following figures:

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Smith and Steiner Plan Fishing Trip On Feb. 1, 1935

On February 1, 1935, Councilmen R. R. Smith and G. A. R. Steiner are going fishing.

That will be their method of celebrating the last payment of the \$400,000 water bond issue.

The councilmen are going on the fishing trip Thursday night at the adjourned meeting of the council after City Attorney P. G. Briney announced that on the first of February, 34 years from now, the last unit of \$16,000 would be paid off.

WELL CREW POOLS LABOR AT KEYSTONE

Stone No. 1 Well is Scene of Activity as Men Take Chances

LABOR FOR INTEREST

Expect to Spud in Jan. 10; Six Acres Reported Under Lease

Planning their hopes on their experiences in drilling the Archer No. 1 well, five members of the former Archer well crew are reported to be contributing their labor and time in return for an interest in a new hole located 1000 feet west of the southeast corner of Harbor boulevard and Wilmington street, Keystone.

The new well is to be drilled by the Wilmington Consolidated Oil Company, Ltd., a newly formed California corporation of which M. R. Peck, well known oil operator, is president.

Peck, who has been drilling in the Archer well, is secretary-treasurer of the new company and will be in charge of drilling operations at the new rig. The well is scheduled to be spudded in January 10, according to Peck.

Five acres are reported to have been leased from Dr. Alvin Stone of San Pedro.

The Archer well has had a hectic career, and many oil men have contended that a successful producer could have been brought in.

POSTOFFICE IN USUAL YULE PERIOD

This is the most unusual Christmas season the Torrance postoffice has ever had in its history, according to both Postmaster Alfred Gouder and Assistant Postmaster W. J. Howell.

While the volume of mail continues to increase just as it does every Yuletide, the fact that it has come in so smoothly and with but few "snafu periods" puts the Christmas mail of 1930 in a unique position.

The "Rich West" is sending more Christmas gifts to the "depressed East" this year than ever before, it is reported, as the outgoing mail is expected to exceed the incoming delivery by about 100 bags.

"We are busy all 10 hours that we are open but so far there has been but one time when we had any long line of people waiting to mail their gifts, and after we opened an additional window, that disappeared in the space of a few minutes and we were back to normal again," Howell stated.

This doesn't mean that there is less Christmas package sending this year—but that most of the people have followed the request of the Postoffice department and have done their Christmas mailing early and often, the postmaster pointed out. The local office has been shipping on an average of 50 bags of mail a day for the past eight days. The total Yuletide mail from the Torrance postoffice will amount to about 700 bags, it is reported.

Incoming mail will amount to approximately 600 bags, indicating that the West is sending more Christmas mail to the East this year.

Postmaster Gouder called attention to the fact that the postoffice will not be open Christmas day and the only mail to be delivered will be special delivery packages and letters. There will be but one dispatch of outgoing mail on the 25th, and that will be at 7:15 a. m. All employees will be given a holiday with the exception of a few carriers who will clear the office of special deliveries and then stop work.

COUNCILMAN R. R. SMITH SAYS REGISTRATION OF UNEMPLOYED WOULD SOLVE GREAT PROBLEM

Believes Actual Figures on Situation Here Would Assist City in Obtaining Allocation From County

"Unemployment is bad right now—but it's going to be worse if we don't do something for our people."

"What we need is work—not charity; the men want to work and earn enough to live on."

"We must register our unemployed; get actual figures on how many are out of work; what they could be earning; what they could do—and then we can go to the county and get an allocation for their employment."

"No city has yet obtained such actual figures—we can do it here in Torrance and get action."

That is what Councilman R. R. Smith told members of the council and press Thursday night after the meeting had adjourned. He was speaking in behalf of the County Board of Supervisors' plan to register the unemployed.

"I believe that if we have our Chamber of Commerce, our newspaper, our city officials, churches and civic organizations lend their support to this registration plan and tell the people what we hope to gain by it, that our unemployed will be only too glad to register," Smith said.

He suggested that the city of Torrance, if such a plan is to be carried out, should take in the people living in the Shoestring strip of Los Angeles City.

"Those people are neither in Los Angeles, the county or Torrance, but they look to Torrance for assistance. Many have had work here in the past, but business here, have done business here—and we can help them the same as our people. I would like to see the registration plan, if it is adopted here, include the Shoestring strip as an auxiliary."

"Lomita Can Do Same" "If we can go to the county and say: 'Here are the actual figures

on our unemployment situation. We have 307, or 581, or whatever number it is, out of work. The average period of unemployment per man, or per woman, is this many days. They could have been earning, on an average, so many dollars per month—what can you do to help us help them?' we can get action at once."

In regard to the situation in Lomita, Smith said that such figures would help George Towne, road commissioner for the southern district, to get work for Lomita men. A registration bureau could be set up and operated by the Chamber of Commerce of that community with the same result, he declared.

Smith was holding in his hand a letter from Supervisor Frank L. Shaw, chairman of the committee on employment in the county. Shaw's communication asked if the city of Torrance would be interested in opening a registration bureau for the unemployed and enclosed in his letter, were sample cards wherein the data obtained from each jobless person was to be written.

"We want to know," Shaw's letter stated, "whether or not we could be helpful in setting up your organization to deal with the unemployment problem in your city."

"What I know about the unemployment situation in Torrance I know first hand," Councilman Smith continued. "During the past few days I have visited at the homes of 50 or more families where the husband or father has been out of work for quite some time."

"I have learned that most of our jobless have been living either on borrowed funds, with relatives,

or in the homes of relatives. (Continued on Page 5-A)

Next Herald to Be Published Jan. 2

The next edition of the Torrance Herald and Lomita News will be published Friday, January 2, 1931. All carrier boys will report for their papers immediately after school at 3 o'clock and the Herald should be in the hands of the readers by 5 p. m.

Both the office and the mechanical department of the Herald at 1336 El Prado will be closed at 12 o'clock noon tomorrow, Wednesday, and will remain closed until Friday morning at 8:30 o'clock in order that employees may participate in the Christmas holiday. The entire staff of the Herald and News joins in wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year!

EL PRADO EXTENSION IS ASKED

Diagonal to Connect With North, South Arteries May Be Surveyed

MAKES ENTRY TO CITY

Would Be Double-Barreled to Delancey Junction, According to Plan

An order for the approval of the remaining surveys covering the proposed El Prado diagonal extension from Western avenue to Main street or Harbor boulevard was presented to the County Board of Supervisors late yesterday by the County Planning Commission, according to word received here by Carl Hyde, executive secretary of the Chamber of Commerce.

At the present time all north and south arteries have access to the central part of Torrance only by means of the old East road or Carson street. The El Prado diagonal will provide a road that will intersect with every north and south thoroughfare of importance in the Harbor district. It will tap connections with South Broadway, Main street, Figueroa, Vermont, Western and Normandie.

To Circulate Petitions
It is planned, according to the order submitted to the Supervisors, to make El Prado a double-barreled thoroughfare to Delancey Junction, which is the present terminus of El Prado at Normandie avenue.

New applications for petitions for the diagonal have been secured this week from the County Road department and interested property owners, have signified their willingness to circulate these petitions, Hyde reported.

Such an extension of El Prado will provide a fine entrance to the city, the secretary stated, and will undoubtedly be well traveled by motorists going to the beaches, or to the Palos Verdes Estates.

Other men in the neighborhood joined the chase armed with pistols, rifles and shotguns. Despite the heavy firing, the men escaped. Grace said that he did not believe they were the same men who burglarized his store of between \$300 and \$400 worth of foodstuffs Wednesday night.

"In view of my two experiences within the same number of days and those of others who have had their stores on Carson street have been entered by persons intent on robbery, I think we ought to have better protection from the Los Angeles police," Grace said this week.

Says Police Were Tardy
"I called the Los Angeles police, we are in the Shoestring strip, or 'no man's land,' at 7:45 o'clock Thursday night. The officers did not appear until 9:30 o'clock," he declared.

At the time of the second robbery attempt, Grace was talking with a customer near the front of the store when he heard a noise

behind the partition which divides the market. He immediately arranged with the customer to wait outside and watch the side of the building where the rear entrance was located. Then the owner walked back to the partition. He surprised two men who were just entering. They turned and fled. Grace then ran for his revolver and took out after them.

"I might have got one of both if my ammunition hadn't given out," Grace declared. "I fired a whole round and my neighbors were then in on the chase. But they got away in the darkness."

Both the sheriff's office and the Los Angeles police are reported working on the case. It is understood that two men were held for questioning by the police but that they convinced the authorities they were not in on either job.

ATTEMPT TO ROB QUALITY MARKET; WINDOW BROKEN
An attempt was made to burglarize the Quality Market at 2711 Redondo boulevard some time on Thursday night or early Friday morning as police were called to inspect a rear window that had been smashed open. It is thought that the persons intent on entering the store were frightened away before they accomplished a complete entrance. Nothing was taken, according to police.

CITY PREPARES FOR LEGAL BATTLE TO VINDICATE BONDS

Ordinance to Issue Public Water System Securities Introduced; Counsel for City Ready to File Petition

DETAILS OF BONDS ARE DISCUSSED

Validity of Whole Proceedings is to Be Threshed Out in Appellate Court Beginning Early Next Month; Decision Not Expected Until February

With the introduction of Ordinance No. 212, ordering the issuance of \$400,000 worth of bonds for the construction of a publicly-owned water system, the city council at an adjourned meeting Thursday night paved the way for entry in the Appellate Court to obtain an expression on the legality

of the entire bond proceedings. Prior to the formal introduction of the ordinance, which the council plans to adopt at another adjourned meeting December 30, the bond situation was thoroughly reviewed in all details. City Attorney P. G. Briney read the ordinance which covered the matter to be printed on the bonds.

The attorney, in answer to questions by the councilmen, declared that the only compact between the council for the city and the attorneys for the Torrance Water, Light and Power Company, opposing the issuance of the bonds, is a "gentlemen's agreement" of the method of procedure in filing a petition of mandamus in the Appellate Court by the city to "compel" the city treasurer, Harry H. Dolley, to issue the bonds.

Will Be Legal Battle
"From then on it's a roll to be a fight," the attorney said. "Mr. Dolley has only agreed to refuse signing the bonds in the interest of the city so that we can get a court decision on the legality of the bonds in the shortest possible length of time. But after we have filed our petition with the court, we do not know what the water company's counsel are going to do and, likewise, they don't know what we are going to do. It is a court decision on the legality of the bonds that is favorable to the city. It will be a fight, all right."

Briney said that he did not look for a decision until after February 1, and that it might not be handed down for a month after that. He is instituting the case in the Appellate Court through Dolley's assistance, the city will save approximately three years time in litigation. This longer period would cover the case if it was started in the Superior Court and then continued in the Appellate Court through the appeal.

Details of Bond Ordinance
Because of the absence of Mayor John Dennis, Councilman Ed Nelson was voted president of the meeting Thursday night. After conferring on the wording of the ordinance, Los Angeles, California.

Full university college credit will be granted for these courses and information may be secured on the 18th floor of the Transportation building, 7th and Los Angeles streets, Los Angeles.

Oil Subjects to Be Covered at U. S. C.

Oil land valuation practice, elementary petroleum production practice, advanced petroleum geology, and casing head gas, will be discussed in four evening classes to be given in the winter quarter of University College, University of Southern California, which opens January 1.

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Fusillade of Bullets Greet Men Attempting to Rob Grace Market

Store Ransacked Wednesday Morning is Again Object of Burglars Following Evening; Neighbors Join in Shooting—No One Hurt or Captured

A "Wild West" sequel to the ransacking of the Grace Market at 1639 Carson street early Wednesday morning occurred the following evening. Thursday, when S. P. Grace, proprietor of the market, surprised two men who were entering the store from the rear door about 7:30 p. m.

Grace immediately went for his revolver and then took out after the fleeing men, firing as he ran. Other men in the neighborhood joined the chase armed with pistols, rifles and shotguns. Despite the heavy firing, the men escaped. Grace said that he did not believe they were the same men who burglarized his store of between \$300 and \$400 worth of foodstuffs Wednesday night.

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Promise of Bethlehem

By BEULAH LEWIS, 1915 Gramercy Avenue
Poet Laureate of Torrance

God's chosen people were humble,
For to these He sent His Son,
To be cradled in a manger,
His great task for us begun.

Fulfilling His earthly mission,
Breast in the arms of time,
For, prophesy predicting the outcome,
He met it with courage sublime.

Helping the poor, healing the sick,
Bringing blind eyes out of night;
Patiently teaching His lessons,
Gently showing us His might.

His suffering makes our burdens small,
Yet these with us He will share,
For does He not say, "Come unto Me",
In answer to our prayers?

Well-Filled Boxes To Be Distributed Here Today

If you think you've been rushed, what with last-minute shopping, the preparations for the Christmas dinner and all—you ought to visit the Torrance Relief Society headquarters at 1803 Cabrillo avenue this morning or this afternoon!

But if you go there—be prepared to work! Today will be the busiest day of all the year for the good-will association and will be the climax of an exhaustive month's effort in order that all unfortunate families in Torrance, which have been visited, may share in this joyous Christmas time.

Beginning early this morning a large corps of workers will start packing the gift boxes, all substantial necessities and toys for all children. Between 50 and 60 of these boxes, laden with a multitude of good things, will be distributed by volunteer motorists this afternoon and evening.

Personal Gifts to Children
The Torrance Relief Society has had the helpful cooperation of a number of local churches and the Union Tool Company this Christmas with the result that every family, whose circumstances are such that they would not otherwise enjoy a Merry Christmas, will share in the generosity of Torrance residents, merchants and firms.

Every box will be checked as it is packed and made "just like new" by the Christian Brotherhood insisted on making their donation even more personal by bright wrapping and a card bearing the name of the child to whom the gift was sent.

Hundreds of toys were repaired, re-painted and made "just like new" by the Christian Brotherhood and the Relief Society today acknowledged their kind cooperation.

Every box will be checked as it is packed and made "just like new" by the Christian Brotherhood insisted on making their donation even more personal by bright wrapping and a card bearing the name of the child to whom the gift was sent.

BILL THE BARBER SAYS
Combining business with pleasure is easy enough but it is something else to combine vacation with pleasure