



Consolidated
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Torrance Herald
and Lomita News

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and LOMITA NEWS

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This Issue

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VOTE ON WATER ISSUE SATURDAY!

CITY GETS \$15,000 WORK ALLOCATION FROM COUNTY

Many Men in Dire Need of Employment to Be Put on Two-Day Week Basis Beginning Monday

Between 110 and 120 Torrance men who are badly in need of employment will be put to work Monday on a two-day week schedule as result of the efforts of R. R. Smith and Carl Hyde, of the Chamber of Commerce, in securing an allocation of \$15,000 from the Board of Supervisors Monday.

Only those men who are in dire need of work in order to support families will be given the opportunity to work for the city eight hours a day, two days a week at 50 cents an hour. The two-day shift was agreed upon by the directors of the Chamber Monday afternoon as the best basis in order to spread the amount of work over the greatest number of unemployed. The \$15,000 fund is expected to give the men work for the next four months.

To Hand-Pick Men

Smith, who is chairman of the Public Affairs committee of the Chamber, and Hyde, spent all day last Monday with the various county officers and their labors in behalf of the allocation speeded the Supervisors' action in making the formal grant about three weeks. The money was made available to the city yesterday.

Carroll Ashley, who has been in charge of the Chamber's registration of the unemployed here, is checking over his registration cards in order to pick out the men who are in most need of work. Thorough investigation will be made of each case in order to place the jobs with the men who are entitled to first consideration. Ashley is working with the Torrance Relief Society in this investigation.

Work on Sepulveda

According to William Gascolne, street superintendent, the men will be put to work removing trees along the proposed improvement of Sepulveda boulevard in order to speed up the work on that street.

A full report of the plans for the unemployed was given the City Council Tuesday evening by Councilman Smith. The council, Chamber and Relief Society are working together in order to get the greatest amount of good with the fund.

Oil Well Supply May Locate Here

Efforts to confirm reports that the Oil Well Supply Company, a subsidiary of the United States Steel Corporation, will move its general shops to a location on the Columbia Steel property here in the near future, were fruitless yesterday, as Lester Klein, an executive of the Oil Well Supply, was out of Los Angeles.

The United States Steel recently purchased the controlling interest in the Oil Well Supply, which employs a similar type of labor as does the Union Tool here. It is known that the Supply Company is pressed for space to enlarge at its present location at Nord Junction in Los Angeles, and the move to Torrance is believed almost certain.

Public Bid to Joint Patriotic Program

Members of the American Legion and Spanish American Veterans are hoping that the high school auditorium will be filled Wednesday evening, February 25, when the two veterans organizations will present their first joint All-City Patriotic meeting, beginning at 7:30 o'clock. A parade, which will feature the first public appearance of the Torrance post's drum and bugle corps, will precede the meeting.

The speaker of the evening is Antonio Entenza, Los Angeles veteran of two wars, who has a vital message on Americanism to deliver. A musical program by the high school orchestra, the local drum and bugle corps and the Gardena Valley Legion's corps will precede the speaking. Every resident of Torrance and vicinity is cordially invited to attend this meeting. There is no charge.

Leonard Writes Of Water Dist.

On Page 6-A of today's Herald will be found City Engineer Frank R. Leonard's opinion of the Metropolitan Water District and what it means to Torrance. Leonard has consistently championed the District's cause ever since it was originated and he has written this week of that project's special application to our own local situation.

\$1000 LIQUOR CACHE FOUND IN RESIDENCE

Walteria Home is Raided; Man, Wife Face Charges

C. A. McCoy and his wife, Minnie McCoy, of 24250 Hawthorne boulevard, appeared before Judge Dennis Monday morning on charges of 1000 possession, whiskey, gin and brandy to an estimated value of \$1000 having been seized in a raid on the premises Wednesday night. After the request of their attorney, that the case against the wife be dismissed, had been refused by the judge, a plea of not guilty was entered, and a court trial set for Thursday, March 5, at 10 a. m.

McCoy and his wife were arraigned before Judge Dennis at the Lomita township court Friday afternoon. At that time they asked for three days delay in which to enter a plea. This was granted and the judge endorsed the releasing of the pair on bail bonds of \$500 each. McCoy said they (Continued on Page 3-A)

Torrance Realty Market in Gain

The real estate market in the incorporated cities throughout Los Angeles county continued on the upward trend last month, according to the California Title Insurance Company. This was evidenced by a gain of five per cent in the volume of realty transfers, as evidenced by deed filings, for all cities as a whole in comparison with the preceding month.

Torrance was fourth on the list of cities with the biggest gains last month, having a 69 per cent increase. Tujunga, La Verne and San Fernando's gains being larger. Torrance also showed a 69 per cent gain in January, 1931, compared with the same month last year.

CONSENTS TO REMOVAL OF TREES; CITY GETS WOOD

Dr. Del Amo has given consent to the city to cut out approximately 2900 eucalyptus trees along the proposed route of Sepulveda boulevard which goes through his property—and, has also donated the wood from the trees to the city to be sold and the money applied to furnish more work for the unemployed.

CRAIL WORKING FOR FEDERAL BLDG. HERE

Congressman Joe Crail has telegraphed the local American Legion post and the Chamber of Commerce that he is working hard to get an allocation for a new federal building for this city under the new and enlarged appropriation recently authorized by Congress.

Met. Water District Facts—

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Next Saturday, February 21, the City of Torrance will vote on whether or not it will join the Metropolitan Water District. The Torrance Herald, believing that the issue at stake is one of paramount importance to this city, presents herewith this review of the factors which constitute the Metropolitan Water District and their relation to Torrance. This survey is unbiased, concise and should be taken as unpartisan explanation of the subject awaiting a decision from the voters. The Herald hopes that the following article will be of assistance to the people who are, as yet, undetermined as to their ultimate vote upon the matter.)

The Metropolitan Water District is a group of cities in Southern California that have joined hands to secure a domestic water supply from the Colorado River. It is a public organization, just as the City of Torrance or the State of California is a public organization. The District was formed under the Metropolitan Water District Act which was passed by the State Legislature and went into effect August 14, 1929. At the present time there are 12 cities in the District:

Anaheim, Beverly Hills, Burbank, Colton, Glendale, Los Angeles, Pasadena, San Bernardino, San Marino, Santa Ana, Santa Monica and Fullerton, which voted to go in the District January 20.

Torrance Would Get Three Votes

A Board of Directors, serving without pay, governs the entire District. Each city is represented in proportion to its assessed valuation. But each city has at least one director on the Board, and no city, no matter how large, can cast more than 50 per cent of the total vote of the District. Each director is entitled to vote on all questions, orders, resolutions and ordinances coming before the Board, and is entitled to cast one vote for each 10 million dollars of assessed valuation of property taxable for District purposes. Thus Torrance would be entitled to three votes for its \$26,174,575 valuation.

Project's Total Cost About 225 Million

According to the reviewing engineers' report, the total cost of the whole Metropolitan project is estimated to be \$225,000,000, but they point out, the District could defer a portion of this cost to the amount of \$25,965,000. There are other deferrals suggested in the report, but these are technical and really do not concern the issue as confronting Torrance next Saturday.

Whole District to Vote on Bond Issue

When the time comes to construct the aqueduct, all cities in the District will be asked to vote on the bond issue for the work. If a majority of the electors in the

District favor the issue, the District will then be authorized to issue and sell bonds of the District.

At no time, according to the Act, shall any municipality incur indebtedness which, in the aggregate, shall exceed 15 per cent of the assessed value of all taxable property included in the municipality.

What Our Share of Water Would Be

If Torrance decides to enter the District, it will be entitled to receive its proportionate share of the water available from the aqueduct—the amount to be determined upon the basis of assessed valuation.

City Engineer Frank Leonard has estimated that Torrance would receive about 15 second feet or seven times what the city is using at the present time. The District will sell the water from the aqueduct to the member-cities at uniform rates for like classes of service throughout the District. It is estimated that the cost of water for domestic purposes will be 70 cents to \$1 per 1000 cubic feet.

Cities May Sell Any Excess Water

Opponents of the issue, argue that Torrance may not need the quota of 15 second feet to be delivered when the aqueduct is completed, but would be obliged to buy this water at 70c to \$1 per 1000 cubic feet, which price is much greater than the estimated cost of 19 cents per 1000 cubic feet for pumping water from local wells. However, there is no provision in the Metropolitan Water Act which compels any city to take any more water than it desires, but it may buy any amount within its quota and re-sell it to other communities or private water consumers outside of its corporate limits.

Four Torrance Industries Approve City Entering Dist.

Four of this city's largest industries have made public their opinion of the Metropolitan Water District and Torrance's proposed entry in that association of cities. They are the Columbia Steel Company, a subsidiary of the United States Steel Corporation; the General Petroleum Corporation, the Pacific Electric Railway and the C. C. M. O.

Here's what Columbia says in a telegram addressed to W. Rufus Page, president of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce:

"Answering message 12th we favor Torrance entering Metropolitan Water District and thus secure privilege of using water from Hoover Dam. Signed, Columbia Steel Company, A. T. DeForest, president."

What Will It Cost Us to Join District?

That question is answered in the invitation sent the City of Torrance by the directorate of the District and in the engineers' report of the Parker Route. On entering the District, Torrance will agree to pay the sum of \$17,000.47 in four payments with interest at the rate of three per cent at times varying from December, 1929, to April 20, 1931.

That sum represents Torrance's share of the preliminary expense to the last named date. This amounts to approximately an eight-cent tax per \$100 assessed valuation.

Estimating that the average property owner's holdings here is assessed at \$1800, this tax would amount

THREE CENTRAL PRECINCTS TO BE USED FOR ELECTION

Both Chamber and Legion Post Endorse the District; Usual "Campaign" Bally-hoo is Absent

Long Beach Joins; Ontario and Compton to Vote

By a vote of 8921 for to 4740 against, the city of Long Beach annexed to the Metropolitan Water District Tuesday. Only about 20 per cent, or 12,500 of the 62,000 registered voters, cast ballots on the water question and 18 proposed charter amendments.

The city of Ontario will vote on the Metropolitan Water District March 20, having obtained an extension of time from the directors of the District this week. Compton is expected to vote on the question at the regular election June 2, having until July 1 to enter the District.

Three voting precincts will be thrown open here at 6 o'clock Saturday morning, February 21, permitting Torrance voters to approve or reject the inclusion of this city in the Metropolitan Water District.

The polls will be open from 6 a. m. to 7 p. m., and the result of the election should be known about 10 o'clock Saturday night. As customary, the Herald will publish the result of the election in special bulletins to be placed at the three drug stores and the two banks immediately after the result is known. Telephone calls will be answered at the Herald office until 10 p. m.

There will be but one question on the ballot handed Torrance voters: "Shall the City of Torrance be annexed to and become a part of the Metropolitan Water District?"

Chamber, Legion Approve

The 11 Torrance precincts have been consolidated into the three voting divisions, as follows: Precincts 1, 2, 6 and 7 with portions of Moneta, precincts No. 3 and 4, Lawndale No. 5 of the McDonald Tract to vote at the residence at 2274 Redondo boulevard; precincts 3, 4, 5 and 8 to vote at the city fire hall, 1516 Cravens avenue; and precincts 9, 10 and 11 to vote at the Legion hall, 2252 Carson street.

As yet, there has been but little "election campaign" favoring or objecting in this first election for 1931. The citizens of Torrance are apparently studying the question in private and in small groups rather than in the oratory of mass meetings and special called assemblies.

Both the Chamber of Commerce and the American Legion post here have gone on record as endorsing the District project.

Fall Into Acid Vat Proves Fatal

Lee Robinson, age 29 and unmarried, son of Tempest Robinson, residing at 927 Arlington, died at the Jared Sidney Torrance Memorial hospital at 10 o'clock this morning from injuries received last night when he fell into a vat of sulphuric acid at the Columbia Steel Company plant, where he was employed. Robinson was removed to the hospital about 3 o'clock last night.

Japanese Badly Hurt in Accident

Y. Takazawa, was severely injured Wednesday night when his car collided with a trailer at the corner of 182nd street and Western avenue. Takazawa lost his left eye, his nose and mouth were badly cut and he suffered lacerations of the scalp, but it is not believed that his skull was fractured.

COLUMBIA STEEL TO PAY ON SATURDAY

The Columbia Steel will pay its employees Saturday morning, February 21, instead of the usual pay day on the 23rd, because that later date is a bank holiday this year. Local banks will be open from 9:30 a. m. to 12:30 p. m. Saturday. Most of the Torrance merchants have made arrangements to cash checks for the workers unable to get to the banks before the closing hour.

NEW ORDINANCE

An ordinance was passed by the Council Tuesday night prohibiting the use of firearms, air rifles or explosives by minors.

Invitations May Be Mattered Curtailed

Once water from the aqueduct has been allocated to (Continued on Page 6-A)

SIDELIGHTS

AN EARLY START CHAMBER'S OKAY "CAMPAIGN" SONG

L. A. MAN'S IDEA SEE GREAT MAP WHAT PERCENTAGE?

Torrance gets an early start in elections this year. There were five "campaigns" last year. Saturday will be a good chance for you to resolve to vote at every election.

The board of directors of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce have gone on record as favoring the entry of Torrance in the Metropolitan Water District at the special election to be held Saturday.

The commerce board action was taken Monday afternoon after a prolonged discussion of the various phases of the matter. The board stood eight to one for joining with other Southland cities in bringing the water from the Colorado River.

President W. Rufus Page and Directors Lancaster, Post, Dolley, Spurlin, Leech, Steinhilber and Conners favored the project. Director Sam Levy voted in the negative.

The only approved "campaign" song: "When It's Election Time in Torrance, I'll Be Voting at the Polls."

O. M. Pence, a Los Angeles subscriber to the Herald, has written this paper that "as one owning property just outside of Torrance I feel interested in your coming election in reference to your city going into the Metropolitan Water District."

"I think history shows that California has prospered far more rapidly in those districts where water for all purposes has been most abundant," Pence, who lives at 1644 East Firestone boulevard, continues. "It is, I think, a question in which irrigation should, in all cases, be given the benefit of the doubt and I believe that Torrance should overwhelmingly vote to become a part of this great water system."

Visitors at the National Orange Show, opening tonight at San Bernardino, will be given the opportunity to see the huge Colorado River relief map that is exhibited by the Metropolitan Water District. The relief map displays in miniature every feature of the 60,000 square miles of territory around the river and shows in accurate detail the country to be traversed by the Metropolitan aqueduct. The map is on display adjacent to the auto section at the show.

Torrance has 2800 registered voters who are eligible to participate in Saturday's election. Wonder what the percentage will be?