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TAX RATE ORDINANCE PASSED FIXES LEVY AT HIGH FIGURE

"Old" City to Pay 83 Cents, Slightly Lower Figure Set For
Annexed Territory; Fortnightly
Show Tame Affair

The city dads played to a mighty small house Tuesday night, when a mere handful of citizens gathered at the city hall to witness the council's fortnightly show. And the "show" too, was a flop from the standpoint of amusement to the spectators. Mayor Klusman, star showman of the troupe, which has been playing to capacity houses ever since the April election, complained that he was "stuck," but he rallied sufficiently to put on a few acts for the benefit of the small audience.

"His Honor" got in an ugly jab or two at Carl Hyde, who was not present to defend himself. He growled a little at Councilman Wright, as has been his custom since he and Wright parted ways, and he grinned and wise-cracked with the few loyal political adherents in the audience. But on a whole, the show was a tame affair and long before adjournment the audience had dwindled to less than a dozen sleepy spectators.

Relieved of their task of amusing the audience, the councilmen found time to attend to the city's business.

The tax ordinance was passed, officially setting the municipal rate next year at 83 cents per \$100 assessed valuation in the "old city" and 78 cents in the annexed territory. The new license ordinance was also finally adopted. The much discussed dog ordinance, however, was held over for final passage at the first meeting in September.

Residents on Palm street near Normandie complained in a petition that water flooded the corner during the rainy season and asked that a larger cesspool be constructed to drain off the surface water. The matter was referred to the city engineer.

Two quotations on white traffic point to be used in painting a center line on Western avenue, were read and referred to committee. On motion of Councilman Conner, seven traffic stop signs were purchased at \$10.25 each to be used at school crossings.

Chamber Finances
Before adjournment, the council went into a long discussion of Chamber of Commerce finances. Councilman Lowley said he objected to the council acting as a Chamber of Commerce and recommended that any projects requiring financing be first taken up with chamber officials before being brought before the city council. He recommended that the chamber investigate all such proposals and send its endorsement or disapproval to the council. He made it plain, however, that the chamber board should have no authority to appropriate funds other than the \$6000 covered in its contract. The council authorized the city clerk to advise chamber directors of its attitude in the matter of finances.

Unknown Mexican Threatens Woman Demanding Food

An unknown Mexican, who gave a manifestly fictitious name, and told a rambling story, was arrested by Constable Charles R. Taber Tuesday on complaint of Mrs. K. E. Hineckley, proprietor of a small eating establishment on Redondo-Wilmington boulevard. He was arraigned before Judge John Dennis on Wednesday and was sentenced to 15 days in the county jail, with a recommendation that he be examined by the county physician.

The Mexican, who during his stay in court gave signs of mental derangement, went to the Hineckley establishment Monday afternoon, carrying a big club, and demanded sandwiches. As Mrs. Hineckley was alone in the place at the time, she made up the sandwiches, and as soon as her indigent customer had left without paying for the food, she called the constable's office. The officers responded and interviewed the Mexican, who was still in the vicinity, and ordered him to leave. However, on the following day at the same hour, he reappeared at the restaurant, carrying the same club and demanded more sandwiches, and left without paying. The constables were again called to the scene and took the man in custody on a charge of disturbing the peace.

Through an interpreter the man admitted having been in similar trouble before.

Veterans' Relief Equipped to Can Surplus Supplies

Former Chevrolet Garage Is
Turned Into Cannery
For Local Benefit

With the purchase of a pressure cooker, can sealing apparatus, and a supply of cans, the Veterans' Relief Association this week was prepared to start in the canning business for the benefit of the workers registered in their organization.

Operations will be carried on in the Levy building formerly occupied by the Chevrolet garage. Gas plates have been installed, a sink built, and all preparations are completed for the work which started in an experimental way on Tuesday, following a visit from the state food inspector who called in to look over the place and advise as to the proper procedure.

The pressure cooker, purchased from a Los Angeles firm with funds supplied by the city council, which allocated \$100 for the purpose, has a capacity of 36 cans. The sealer is a hand-operated machine, but will turn out a finished product in a very short time, so that the men who are in charge expect to be able to handle about 700 cans per day. Canning operations will be confined to tomatoes, peaches and pears for the present, as under the advice of state food inspectors, other vegetables and fruits are considered too technical for complete success, and have in them an element of danger from natural causes which make it inadvisable to undertake to can them.

The first plan of the Relief Association was to have the surplus fruits canned by the old method of cooking, but it was found to be too expensive and laborious to be satisfactory. Three crews of women were able to put up only 200 jars of fruit, whereas the pressure cooker method will handle more than three times that number in a day. The cost of sugar, gas and labor made the old way almost prohibitive.

By going into the canning business, provision is made for supplies of certain types of fruits and vegetables for the winter months. However, a large quantity of these commodities would have to be wasted.

All Democrats At Theatre Opening; G. O. P. In Fadeout

Either the Democrats heavily outnumbered the Republicans in the audience at the Torrance theatre last Friday night, or else "somebody lied."

When Gene Morgan, master of ceremonies asked for a little applause to show the political sentiment of the audience, "Just for fun," the Democrats turned loose a volley of hand-clapping and cheers that sounded like convention days in Chicago last June. Beside their enthusiastic efforts, the Republicans in the theatre was almost a fade-out.

During the second show the entire audience with the exception of one hardy soul "went Democratic."

Inquest Holds Man's Death Accidental

An inquest held to inquire into the death of Ellis W. Clayton, employe at the Pacific Smelting plant, which occurred last week, returned a verdict of accidental death. Clayton was burned in an explosion when the cap blew off the furnace he was tending.

Funeral services for the unfortunate man were held at Stone Myers chapel on Saturday, August 20, burial being made at Inglewood. Mr. Clayton is survived by his wife, Mrs. Florie Clayton, and four children.

Carson Street to Be Resurfaced

An improvement project to resurface Carson street from Normandie avenue to Ferris road (Santa Fe avenue in Long Beach) is planned for immediate completion under action of the county road department. The approximate cost will be \$25,000. The paving along this 5-mile stretch which is now in poor condition, will be surfaced with one and one-half inches of asphaltic concrete on the present 30-foot width.

Passkey Burglar Enters Ward Home

While Mr. and Mrs. George Ward, 1823 Fern street, were at church Sunday evening, a passkey burglar entered their home and carried away a radio valued at \$140, a quantity of clothing and some coffee. The burglary occurred between the hours of 8:30 and 8:45. No clues beyond some footprints in a garden were found.

STABBING FRAY BRINGS POLICE TO HOOVER CITY

Serious Quarrel Between
Man and Woman Ends
In Knife Play

Torrance police and deputies from the sheriff's office were called to "Hoover City" located on Amelia and Figueroa streets in Keystone Wednesday to investigate a stabbing affray in which one man was seriously wounded.

According to the statements of persons interviewed, the trouble was the outgrowth of a quarrel between the man and a woman, which terminated when the woman seized a butcher knife and cut the man three times, inflicting wounds which from the quantity of blood that was seen, must have been severe. The man went to a nearby ranch house and asked that a doctor be called. The rancher first called the Torrance police and then summoned a doctor.

This apparently did not suit the wounded man, who jumped into his car and left. When the officers arrived, the parties to the fracas had disappeared and the police were unable to learn their identity or the destination of the wounded man, who had driven up Vermont and turned west on Carson street. A check of physicians' offices in Torrance brought no information that he had visited any of them.

Violates License Ordinance, Local Man Draws A Fine

Dr. C. W. Allen, chiropractor, 2687 Torrance boulevard, was taken into custody by Torrance police Wednesday on a charge of violation of the city ordinance requiring the payment of city license fees for various classes of business, and was arraigned before Judge C. T. Rippey, who fined Allen \$100 or 50 days in jail on each of two counts. On the first count a portion of the sentence was suspended for two days, on condition that Allen pay up the license fees of the past two and a half years that were due the city, and the balance of the fine.

Allen at first declined to pay and was committed to the city jail, where he remained for a time, and then reconsidered his decision. He was released in custody of an officer and went to his home where he procured the money and settled the bill.

Former Employee of National Supply Co. Succumbs To Illness

Miss Grace Olive Hansen, aged 26, former employe of the National Supply Company at Torrance, passed away Wednesday night, August 17, at her home, 331 Bonito avenue, Long Beach, after a lingering illness.

Miss Hansen had been employed at the local factory for six years, as head of the stenographic department. She had been in poor health for more than a year and had at different times taken a brief leave of absence in an effort to regain her health. At Christmas time the Girls' Club of the Union Tool Company gave her a vacation trip to Palmdale where she remained a month and on her return she seemed to be much improved.

However, she was compelled later to take a six months leave, and went to Long Beach where relatives reside. Her death, last week, is deeply regretted by her many friends and associates among the National Supply personnel.

Miss Hansen is survived by her mother, Mrs. Gertrude E. Thompson, and a brother, Earl E. Hansen, employed in Torrance. Other relatives are her grandfather, C. J. Anderson; two aunts, Mrs. Helen Bradbury and Mrs. C. W. Dodd; an uncle, Delbert Anderson, and two cousins, Norman and V. E. Bradbury, all of Long Beach.

Man Picked Up As Drunk Is Ordered Out of Township

G. Conn, said to be a former employe of the Johanna Smith, gambling ship which burned recently off the coast of Long Beach, was picked up on Redondo boulevard, by Constable William Nefz, Monday, and lodged in the city jail. He was brought before Judge John Dennis Tuesday on a charge of appearing in a public place in an intoxicated condition, and pled guilty.

He was given a fine of \$25 or 12 days in the county jail which was suspended on condition that he get out and stay out of Lomita township. Conn asked the nearest way out of the district and departed.

Nigger Slough Is Major Project to Be Taken Soon

Part of County Schedule in
Solving Flood Control
Problem

Nigger Slough east of Torrance is one of six major projects recommended for immediate solution in the annual report filed with the board of supervisors this week by E. C. Eaton, chief county flood control engineer. The other five major projects in the comprehensive flood control plan mapped out for the county are the San Gabriel river outlet at Alamitos Bay, Long Beach, Ballona Creek, San Gabriel, Eaton Canyon and Big Tujunga.

A total of 38 major construction contracts were awarded, aggregating \$604,972, exclusive of San Gabriel Dam No. 2, the report states, including San Gabriel Dam No. 2, which now is well under way, the total is \$2,681,922. The supervisors were expected to adopt plans and specifications for San Gabriel Dam No. 1 this week, after legal technicalities had been ironed out.

Unknown Parties Attempt to Burn Salvation Army Hall

A deliberate attempt to burn the Salvation Army hall on Border avenue, formerly known as the American Legion clubhouse, was discovered Wednesday evening when Envoy Lucy King went to the hall about 7 o'clock. A window on the south side of the building had been broken and a quantity of papers, already ignited, had been pushed through the opening. The papers fell on a chair near the wall and burned "out" after charring the arms and back of the chair. Police and firemen who were called to investigate found no clues to the perpetrator of the deed.

Little Property Lost to Owners Under Tax Sales

Only a small amount of property seized for unpaid taxes in Los Angeles county is lost to the owners, it was revealed today by H. A. Payne, county auditor. A total of 295 pieces of property, with taxes delinquent upon them, were sold to other individuals in 1930-31, Payne said. These, however, cannot be redeemed by their original owners.

While there are 3680 delinquencies for the year, 1375 of them either were redeemed or given time extensions.

Last year the state took over 2010 parcels which became delinquent in 1926. The owners still may redeem this by payment of the back taxes and penalties, however, while this is not the case with the 295 parcels sold to other individuals.

Keystone Man Is Involved In Two Traffic Accidents

David B. Low, Keystone, was involved in two traffic accidents in Long Beach, within a few minutes Sunday evening. According to reports, Low's car struck a woman, Julia Duxey, aged 58, at Fourth and American avenue. She was taken to a Long Beach hospital where it was feared that she had suffered a skull fracture.

Leaving the scene of the accident, Low is said to have failed to note the boulevard stop at Third and Atlantic, and collided with a car driven by Harry E. Stalcup of Bellflower. Mrs. Stalcup was thrown out and received treatment at a hospital for cuts and bruises.

YOUNG BOY DIES AT HARBOR CITY

Funeral services were held last Thursday, August 18, at Goodrich-Halverson mortuary, San Pedro, for Carl Jordan, 11-year-old son of Mrs. Maud Jordan, 2975 252nd street, Harbor City. Cremation took place at Pacific Crest.

GARDENA JUSTICE RECOVERS PROPERTY

An Olds sedan, registered to Frank Carrell, justice of the peace of Gardena township, was found parked in a vacant lot near the California Oil Tool Company Sunday night. The owner was notified and removed his property.

Miss Frances Robertson of Los Angeles was a week-end guest at the Lingenfelter-Engel home on 218th street.

TWO CAPACITY AUDIENCES AT GALA OPENING

Stage, Screen and Radio
Stars Entertain Torrance
Theatre Patrons

Two capacity audiences filled the Torrance Theatre Friday night on the occasion of the gala opening of the theatre under the management of the Kaplan Theatres, Inc.

Long before the hour set for the doors to open the crowds gathered about the entrance and soon after 7 o'clock every seat in the auditorium was taken. Another large crowd waited outside for the beginning of the second show which started at 10:15.

Many baskets of beautiful flowers decorated the stage and lobby, sent by local and out-of-town friends of the new owners, as an expression of their good will and hopes for the success of the enterprise. The theatre auditorium presented an attractive appearance with its new drapes and rearrangement. Loges which are to be placed later in the balcony will add to the comfort of the patrons.

A program of excellent pictures and vaudeville had been provided. Gene Morgan, master of ceremonies at Loew's State theatre, Los Angeles, acted in that capacity here, and introduced the visiting celebrities.

Principal attractions on the stage were the appearance of John Bowers, well-known screen star, and Eddie Lambert, comedian, together with many other leading lights of screen and radio fame. The entire program was repeated for the second show audience.

Business has continued to be good since the opening, according to the statements of the new managers, who are confident that their policy of showing only the best and latest screen offerings will have a material effect. Some excellent attractions have been booked for the coming week.

Electric Protection System Is Installed At Fire Department

New equipment just installed at the city fire department will provide prompt protection in case of fire at the Pacific Electric shops. The equipment is installed by the American District Telegraph system, and is directly connected with the P. E. plant by wire.

An alarm sounded at any of the call boxes located in the plant is communicated simultaneously to the fire department and registers the number of the box from which the call proceeds by means of a paper tape device.

A bulletin board with the numbers of the call boxes and the department in which they are located furnishes the key to the alarm and permits the fire department to go immediately to the location of the fire.

Torrance Company Is Defendant In Suit For Taxes

Suit against the Torrance Refining Company, asking payment of \$10,259.27 in gasoline tax asserted due the state on refined petroleum, was filed this week in Los Angeles superior court by Attorney General U. S. Webb.

The suit asserts that the Torrance plant refined 77,276 gallons of gasoline subject to tax during March, last. The tax on this amount was \$2341.69, of which \$771.47 is yet to be paid, the complaint states.

During May, 310,881 gallons were refined, calling for a tax of \$9326.43. A total of \$10,259.27 is due the state for back tax, the attorney general states.

CITY ASKS PERMIT FOR GRADE CROSSING

The City of Torrance has applied to the railroad commission for permission to establish a grade crossing along Santa Clara street over the tracks of the P. E. railroad. This street enters the property of the Columbia Steel Corporation and has been in use for some time.

BARBER SHOP OWNER HAS BROKEN ARM

Frank Marshall, proprietor of the American Beauty and Barber Shop, is at the Jared Sidney Torrance Memorial hospital, recovering from a broken arm.

No Pyramiding of Assessments Due to Board's Action

Decision Not to Levy Special
Delinquency Tax Boon
to Owners

Good news for thousands of persons owning property in special assessment improvement districts was announced this week when it was stated that there will be no pyramiding this year of delinquencies. This applies not only to the Mattoon Act, but the road improvement act of 1907 and the Drainage district act of 1919.

Decision of the board of supervisors not to levy this special delinquency tax follows the decision made late last week that no delinquency tax would be levied against owners of property in the Alondra Park assessment district north of Torrance, declared to be the highest-burdened district in the entire county.

Under these tax acts, it is explained, when delinquencies occur in assessments, these are to be charged against the remainder of the property in the district for the next year's tax bill. During the depression, this feature has made the Mattoon Act, or the Acquisition and Improvement Act of 1925, almost confiscatory.

County Counsel Everett W. Mattoon, author of the 1925 Act, has this to say about the board's decision:

"I am satisfied that the policy established by the county of Los Angeles in its REFUSAL to levy for any delinquencies in special assessments is a sound one and will afford substantial protection to the private property owners who are called upon to pay large assessments, over-inflated and valorem special assessment districts. This applies to acquisition and improvement districts under the 1925 Act, to road improvement districts under the 1907 Act and to drainage improvement districts under the 1919 Act."

"Under the distressing conditions existing I feel that it is not only unwise but unsound public policy to permit any pyramiding in the levy to meet the delinquent payments of principal and interest in ad valorem special assessment districts. We presented this matter to the board of supervisors several months ago and it was agreed by them that the policy of this county should be to protect the property owner in every way possible and to decline to make such levies for delinquencies. Supervisor John R. Quinn, chairman of the road committee of the board, has sponsored this action. The county auditor has likewise agreed. Definite action to carry this into effect has now been taken. I have also discussed this matter with the attorney general and it is gratifying to note that he has advised the district attorney in the northern county of Contra Costa to follow a like policy. While no court decisions are cited in his opinion and while some may not agree as to the legal aspects of this course, I am willing to rest upon the foundation of a sound public policy designed for the protection of the property owner."

"This course will insure every owner against being called upon to pay any of his neighbor's debts and will protect him against the imposition of added burden against his own property by way of delinquencies until such time as adequate relief measures may be provided by the state legislature for the reduction of what, in many instances, are ill-advised and extravagant debts which were incurred by the carrying on of over-lavish and expensive public improvements in boom times when these things were so insistently demanded by those who deemed them to be desirable. The matter of more adequate and permanent relief from the legislature by way of appropriation is being worked upon and it is hoped that it will be forthcoming."

CITIZENSHIP CLASS REGISTRATION ASKED

All Torrance residents who wish to enroll in citizenship classes at the evening high school next semester, which opens September 12, are requested to telephone the high school, 645, or Mrs. Stella Young, teacher, 160-W, within the next ten days. As a number of economies have been ordered by the board of education for the coming year, unless a sufficient number indicate their wish to join a citizenship class before the opening of the semester, it will be abandoned here and those who wish to take the work will have to attend classes in San Pedro.

POPCORN MAN RETURNS

Joe Stevens, former popcorn and candy merchant, who had his stand in front of the First National Bank here for a number of years, has returned to Torrance from Glendale to which city the family moved a short time ago, and will resume business here. Mr. Stevens will set up his stand in front of the Torrance Theatre in the evening and during the day will cover this territory selling the Watkins products.

STEEL CO. WILL SPEND HUGE SUM ON PLANTS

United States Corporation
Launches Program of
Betterment

As an indication of decided improvement in industrial conditions, comes the announcement released this week, that the United States Steel Corporation, of which the local plant operated under the name of the Columbia Steel Company is a part, will spend \$5,000,000 in replacements and new equipment for its plants in five states.

Myron C. Taylor, chairman of the board of directors, makes the statement. This is the first expansion step on a large scale that has been taken by a major industry since the crash in 1929.

While it is stated that the expenditures are to be made in plants located in Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, Alabama and Pennsylvania, it is not unlikely that the recent development plans as put into operation in the Torrance plant are a part of the program.

Reports from various sections of the country indicate a gradual resumption of activity in all lines. Employment is increasing, and in general a more favorable condition exists than has been the case for many months.

Aged Father of Mrs. Joe Stone Has Passed Away

Joseph Flint, age 72, father of Mrs. J. P. Stone, 1617 Cota avenue, passed away at the Burbank hospital Sunday evening, August 21, following an operation performed Friday. He had been ill for a number of months.

Funeral services were held Tuesday at Vincent M. E. church of which he had been a member for the past 15 years, conducted by Rev. Gabrielson, assisted by Rev. Monkman, former pastor and family friend, who paid tribute to the "Christian" character of Mr. Flint and his loyalty to his church. Mrs. Azalia, widow, sang three appropriate numbers. Interment was made at Inglewood cemetery.

Mr. Flint leaves his widow, Mrs. Ida Flint, of Los Angeles; his daughter, Mrs. Edna Stone, of Torrance; a grandson, Gene Stone, and a niece, Ruth Porter, of Arkansas City, Kansas.

Young Boy Takes Ant Poison, Dies

Herbert Cleveland, aged 15 years, son of Mrs. Elizabeth Cleveland, 526 Fifth street, Hawthorne, died Sunday morning, August 21, at the Jared Sidney Torrance Memorial hospital, from the effects of poison. Young Cleveland, who had been in poor health, swallowed ant poison Saturday evening, and was brought to the local institution shortly before 10:30 where he passed away several hours later.

Mrs. Howerly of Harbor City Dies

Funeral services were held Sunday afternoon from the Ruppel-Undertaking chapel, Los Angeles, for Mrs. Helen Howerly, 2973 251st street, Harbor City, who passed away suddenly last week. Christian Science services were read and cremation followed. Mrs. Howerly was the widow of Lou Howerly who passed away recently. The family had resided in Harbor City for ten years.