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# Torrance Herald

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## Water Problem Nears Climax

An Editorial

By GROVER C. WHYTE

The climax in the long agitated municipal water problem in Torrance is at hand. Whatever is done during the next few days will have a tremendous effect on the future of this city, as cheaper and better water is vital to continued growth—both industrially and residentially.

As the time nears for making a decision on the advisability of purchasing the present water plant and improving it, or of constructing an entirely new system, the situation is becoming tense. Insidious propaganda—inspired by selfish interests—fills the air. No doubt some good citizens, because of lack of knowledge of all the facts, are being influenced by this untruthful propaganda. However, it is to be hoped that members of the City Council, elected to represent the people, will have the courage to see their clear duty and carry out the mandate of their constituents by providing this city with better and cheaper water.

And make no mistake. Under a municipal system, owned and operated without profit, the cost of water will be substantially LESS than the present rates to both domestic and industrial consumers. Propaganda to the contrary is pure bunk, as can be easily proven by a study of the facts. And these lower water rates under a municipal system can be given without any additional taxes.

Until the engineers' appraisal of the present water company's property and its worth to the city is determined, it is impossible for the layman to intelligently decide whether it will be better to purchase the present water system and improve it, or to construct an entirely new system. It must be remembered that before the present system can be used satisfactorily, the cast iron pipes must be thoroughly cleaned and the worn-out steel pipes replaced with cast iron. But one thing is certain—if it seems advisable to purchase the present system, the price to be paid for it should be its value to the city, and not what the private water company wants to charge. The council's clear duty is to represent the people's interest.

Immediate action by the City Council is highly important. And with the submission of the consulting engineers' report tonight, it would seem that the Council will be in a position to act. The delay so far has been costly to the City, as the price of cast iron pipe has advanced 28 per cent during the past few weeks, which advance will be reflected in greater cost of new material and higher appraisal of the water company's lines. No doubt prices will continue to rise, and further delay in the purchase or construction of the system will mean increased costs.

Other Southland cities, quick to realize the opportunity of securing Federal aid under the Public Works \$3,300,000,000 Recovery Act for the construction of municipal improvements, have already dispatched requests for outright grants for 30 per cent of the cost of proposed improvements and loans for the remaining 70 per cent at the low rate of 4%. Federal officials have stated that municipal water and sewer systems are looked upon most favorably for Government assistance. There is everything to gain by pushing the water development as rapidly as possible, and it is hoped that Torrance councilmen will realize the importance of making definite decisions and making them at once.

## New Officers Nominated By Legion Post

Bert S. Crossland Post, American Legion, nominated P. A. Phoenix and H. F. Ulbright for the important office of commander, at the meeting held at the clubhouse, Monday evening. Election will take place on July 24, when Commander Alex McPhail will turn over the gavel to his successor. Other nominees for various offices were Floyd Boyle, A. W. Greiner, Charles M. Smith, and H. C. Barrington, for first vice commander; Ray Cooke, George Thompson, A. Babbitt and Harry Cull, second vice commander; Charles M. Smith, J. H. Scott and R. J. Deiningger, finance officer; J. R. Wilkes, Thomas Turner, J. Edmunds, Thomas Cassidy and Roy White, chaplain; Tim Erickson, Lester Smith, H. Henley, H. F. Robinson and R. Peterson, sergeant at arms; Thomas Cassidy and R. Peterson, service officer; H. M. Bailey, William Stanger, George Thompson, Alex McPhail, J. Edmunds, Victor Edwards and L. H. Deiningger, executive committee.

## Taxpayers, It's Time to Check Up Assessment Rolls

Copies of the assessment rolls covering Torrance property are now on hand at the Torrance Chamber of Commerce for the convenience of local taxpayers, it was announced today by L. J. Gilmeister, secretary.

In a recent statement County Assessor Ed W. Hopkins warned: "It is of great importance that each taxpayer examine the assessment roll during the period between now and July 17.

"Many persons have a misconception as to what the board of equalization is empowered to do," Hopkins continued.

"Taxes can be equalized where it is shown there have been inequalities in assessing, but they cannot be reduced," Hopkins explained.

If property owners are dissatisfied with their assessments, they may obtain blanks upon which to make their complaints at the assessor's office on the fourth floor of the Hall of Justice building.

The assessor also pointed out that the property owner must appear in person when making a protest before the board of supervisors, which sits as a board of equalization for two weeks.

"Property owners who do not avail themselves of the opportunity of examining the roll virtually acquiesce in the assessment as made," Hopkins said. "No change can be made after adjournment of the board of equalization unless it is a case of clerical error."

## NO WORD FROM GIRL MISSING SINCE JULY 3

Officers Search for Genevieve Guyan, Last Seen In San Diego

Although more than a week has passed since Miss Genevieve Guyan, 19, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Guyan, 1807 Andreo, left her home in company with two other young girls and a young man, to drive to San Diego, nothing has been heard or learned of her whereabouts, and the young woman's family is torn with anxiety over the affair.

Miss Guyan left home on Monday, July 3, in company with Celia Ernst, 16, Cornelia Hudson, 19, and Jack Hutchins, 18, but the trip was halted at Oceanside on account of a breakdown which made it necessary to put the car into a garage for repairs.

Hutchins returned to Torrance from Oceanside to try to get a car to bring the girls back, but was not successful and the party hitchhiked to San Diego, from where Hutchins arranged to send Miss Ernst home by bus while he and Miss Hudson hitchhiked home. According to the story told by the three, Miss Guyan declined to accompany them, and after checking out of the rooming house, where the girls had stayed, they saw no more of her.

The matter was reported to the city police, the sheriff's office, which now has a detail working on the case, and Miss Guyan's description was broadcast to all cities down the coast. Her parents made a trip to San Diego to enlist the aid of the police there, and all hotels and rooming houses were visited, but with no success in finding a clue to her whereabouts. Officials at the Mexican border declared that no one answering to her description had crossed the line.

Mr. and Mrs. Guyan are heart-sick with worry over the affair, and are at a loss to know why the girl did not wish to come home, as she was not inclined to stay away from her family, and although she had not told her parents of her intended trip, she went without their knowledge, and left on good terms, and with no apparent reason known to the parents for a prolonged stay away from home. As she had very little money and had taken only enough clothing for a brief stay, her mother believes that she had no intention of remaining away for longer than over the Fourth of July holiday, and fears that she may not be in a position to communicate with her family, or that she has become ill. Miss Guyan was quite seriously injured several months ago in an automobile accident, and it is feared that the blow on the head which she received at that time may have contributed to loss of memory which would account for her silence and her prolonged absence.

## Protest Against Increase In Assessed Valuation Unavailing

Although the National Supply Company of California protested a \$25,000 increase in the assessed valuation of its Torrance properties this year, their protest was unavailing before the county board of equalization on Monday.

Following a detailed presentation by F. J. Carpenter on behalf of the company, which is the successor to the old Union Tool company, an oil well supply company, it was explained by a deputy from the county assessor's office, that "the increase in this particular case is to raise the assessed valuation to bring these factory buildings in line with factory buildings of other industries.

The company owns two parcels of property in Torrance, one assessed at \$172,140 this year, and the other at \$35,840. Carpenter had sought to have the valuations reduced to \$152,140 on the larger parcel, and \$34,840 on the smaller one. This would have been a cut of \$20,000 on one and \$5,000 on the other item. For the previous year the valuation was \$257,440, it was stated.

No explanation was given by deputy assessors in opposing the reduction, other than that the increase in the local firm's assessed valuation was in line with the move to bring oil company properties up into line with the valuations placed on factory buildings in other lines of business. Carpenter argued that his company's buildings were older, and conditions worse than a year ago, when the valuation was \$25,000 less.

## Dignitaries Dedicate Great Bay Bridge Project



In his second public appearance since retirement to private life, Herbert Clark Hoover, only living former president of the United States, was an active participant in ceremonies recently marking the ground-breaking of the great San Francisco-Oakland bay bridge. At left, Mr. Hoover is pictured speaking over a nationwide radio hookup at the ceremonies. Right, Gov. James Rolph Jr turns the first shovelful of sod with a golden spade in the historic enterprise. The bridge, to be built at a cost of \$75,000,000 will be eight and one-quarter miles long and will employ thousands of workmen over the three-year period of construction.

Two little eyes lead Adam into banditry. Baby bandits have invaded Torrance. Last week while J. C. Smith of the Torrance Investment Company was out of his office for half an hour, two little girls and a boy, the oldest not over six years, entered the place and made merry with what they found lying about. Smith's stationery was dumped into a wastebasket and the contents of his correspondence basket were thrown in on top of paper and envelopes. Caps from the posts of his loose-leaf ledger were unscrewed and tossed about.

Happened that the father of the boy passed the place as the trio were leaving, and as fathers do, he started asking a lot of embarrassing questions. "Well, we came down to the show, and it wasn't open, so we went in there. Anyway, the girls went and so I went in too." And so little Adam was snatched home by his stern parent with a warning never to let a girl lead him into trouble, while the two little eyes switched their petticoats and giggled.

## CHAMBER RENEWS DRIVE FOR NEW TORRANCE POST OFFICE

Letters Dispatched to Washington In Effort to Obtain Early Construction of \$85,000 Federal Building Here

Efforts to secure the erection of a new postoffice building in Torrance were renewed this week by the Torrance Chamber of Commerce in dispatching letters to Secretary of the Treasury W. E. Woodin, Postmaster General James A. Farley, and Supervising Architect of the Treasury Department, James A. Wetmore. In all communications the Treasury Department is urged to proceed as soon as possible with the appropriation of funds and the appointment of an architect to proceed with the construction of the building under the recently enacted \$3,300,000,000 Public Works and Industrial Recovery Act. It is also planned to take up the matter with Congressman Charles J. Colden upon his return to Southern California next week.

Some months ago \$85,000 was allocated by the Federal Government for the construction of a new post office building in Torrance, and the purpose of the Chamber of Commerce now is to

## LANZ RE-ELECTED PRESIDENT OF CHAMBER; WORK PRAISED

Secretary Gilmeister to Study Industrial Recovery Act at Stanford University; City Council Contract Accepted

By L. J. GILMEISTER  
Secretary Chamber of Commerce

Bert W. Lanz, general superintendent of the Columbia Steel Company, was re-elected president of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce by chamber directors Monday evening at the first meeting of the present fiscal year.

Fred Isaacs, manager of the General Petroleum refining department, was elected first vice president. Bronson C. Buxton, Torrance realtor, was elected second vice president, and Donald Findley, an official of the Dominguez Land Corporation, was re-elected treasurer. Others serving on the directorate of the Torrance Chamber, are R. R. Smith, in charge of personnel and public relations for the National Supply Company of California; Sherwood McIntyre, superintendent of the Chanlor-Canfield Midway Oil Company; Frank Buffington, manager, J. C. Penney Co.; DeKalb Spurlin, local realtor; and J. W. McQuaid, an official of the D. & M. Machine Works.

L. J. Gilmeister, who has served the Torrance Chamber as secretary since its reorganization last November, was re-elected to the office of secretary.

In its reelection of Bert W. Lanz as president of the Torrance Chamber the directorate signified its appreciation of his untiring efforts as president during the past several months to encourage industrial promotion, an activity which he feels in its effect will be directly beneficial to civic and commercial interests in Torrance. It was the unanimous opinion of the Chamber directorate that Mr. Lanz, as president, should continue in that office to enable effective continuance of the Chamber's programmed activities for the ensuing year, and his reelection is a testimonial of the directors' regard for his ability as a civic leader.

At the meeting Monday, was authorized the acceptance of an agreement between the City of Torrance and the Torrance Chamber of Commerce covering the budgeted administrative and promotional expenses of the Chamber for its programmed activities for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1933. Six thousand dollars is to be set aside by the City of Torrance for the use of the Chamber in its functions.

Donald Findley, treasurer of the Chamber, submitted a report of expenditures by the Torrance Chamber, which totaled \$5,025.20 for the fiscal year, which ended June 30, 1933.

A committee was appointed for the purpose of soliciting renewals of memberships in the Chamber, and to initiate steps for securing new members; the cost to be \$1.00 per membership, per year.

Authorization of the Secretary's attendance at the summer session of the Western School for Commercial Secretaries, Stanford University, July 16-22, was granted by the directorate. This school is sponsored by Stanford University and the Chamber of Commerce of the United States, and this year will have a program covering the National Industrial Recovery Act and other recent legislation composing the "New Deal," both of which will have a profound effect upon industrial functions.

Consideration of the next quarterly meeting of the Chamber members resulted in general agreement to withhold such meeting until a later date because of a plan to hold a membership meeting jointly with members of several local service organizations and city officials.

Consideration of a request for a federal appropriation for a new Torrance postoffice concluded with a general agreement among the directorate that this matter would be presented at an early meeting with Congressman Charles J. Colden.

## EXPLORATIONS FOR SEWER TO BE COMPLETED

Work Finished In 30 Days District Directors Are Told

Explorations for the White Point ocean outfall sewer, to serve Inglewood, Lennox, Hawthorne, Lawdale, Gardena, Torrance, and other cities and communities in the southwestern section of the county, will be completed within 30 days, directors of Sanitation District No. 5 were told at their regular meeting Tuesday at the Hall of Records.

Torrance was represented at the meeting by Mayor W. T. Klusman. The directors instructed A. K. Warren, chief engineer, to proceed with the tests, and authorized him to hire a diver at \$25 a day, an attendant at \$5 a day and a marine assistant as needed. Thus the county will have the work of its own men as to conditions which contractors on the \$2,750,000 project may expect to encounter on the ocean bottom.

Previously the directors authorized Engineer Warren to expend not to exceed \$10,000 for exploration and report, and Warren has the Robinson Roberts Company now engaged in making such a report, he explained.

Mayor Darby of Inglewood asked that when bids are called for and the contract awarded in the next couple of months, that the work be given to residents of the district. The merits of doing the job by force account also was discussed, but while Engineer Warren stated he would like to see it done by force account, nevertheless he believed it advisable to proceed by contract, in view of the opposition that might be raised by landowners hostile to the outfall plan.

Mayor Klusman of Torrance asked the chairman to appoint a committee to adjust salaries in the various districts, stating "he was not going to have tax reductionists bounding him any longer." Mayor F. A. Jones of Hawthorne joined him in this proposal.

Mayor Darby of Inglewood suggested that the advisability of relieving aid from the National Recovery Act be thoroughly studied. It was pointed out that any federal funds obtainable would be welcome.

Supervisor John R. Quinn was chosen to preside as chairman of the district meetings, inasmuch as he is the new chairman of the board of supervisors.

## Torrance Rotary Club to Meet With Hermosa, July 18

Torrance Rotary Club has accepted an invitation to meet with the Hermosa Beach Rotary Club, July 18, for a luncheon meeting at the Surf & Sand Club. It is expected that the Redondo Rotary Club will also join in the inter-city meeting. Frank Tyrrell, prominent Los Angeles attorney, will give an address on the National Industrial Recovery Act. Mr. Tyrrell has given considerable study to the recovery act and an interesting meeting is assured, according to John Glass of the Hermosa Beach club. There will be no meeting in Torrance on Thursday, July 20, Harvel Guttenfelder, secretary of the club, states.

## Dope On Trade Codes At Chamber Office

Detailed information setting forth the procedure to be followed in submitting industrial and business codes under the National Recovery Act, is available at the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, Secretary L. J. Gilmeister announces. The method to be followed in preparing and submitting trade codes is given in a booklet received by the local chamber from the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce.

## Harbor District C. of C. Meeting

The Harbor District Chambers of Commerce are meeting today and this evening at the Houghton Park clubhouse, Long Beach, with the North Long Beach Commercial Club as hosts. John R. Quinn, chairman of the board of supervisors, will be the main speaker tonight.