

Torrance Herald

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Patronize These Advertisers

Furniture Factories All Sold Out; Many Closing World Fair Exhibits

Manufacturers' Prices Advance 10% to 40%, But Star Furniture Company Maintaining Low Prices Due to Heavy Purchases Made Previous to Advances

Despite the fact that factory prices on furniture of all kinds have advanced during the past few weeks from 10 to 40 per cent, the Star Furniture Company, 1273 Sartori avenue, is continuing to maintain the same low prices as formerly, it was announced this week by H. M. Abramson, store manager.

"The reason we are able to continue to sell furniture at the same low prices as have maintained during the past year is due to the foresight of J. G. Koch, proprietor of the Star Furniture Company, who purchased many thousands of dollars worth of furniture before the recent price advances went into effect," stated Mr. Abramson, "and naturally we are glad to share our good fortune with our customers."

"These substantial savings offered by the Star Furniture Company also apply to radios, the factory prices of which have risen substantially during the past few weeks; and we are in a position to offer very attractive prices and terms on Philco, Majestic, El-Rey

and Tiffany-Tone radios," Mr. Abramson stated.

Factory Outputs Sold
Demands of furniture buyers are taking the capacity of manufacturers, many of whom have already sold their entire factory output. This fact is strikingly illustrated by the action of furniture manufacturers in closing their exhibits at the Chicago Century of Progress Exposition because they have nothing more to sell. Mr. Abramson stated he had been informed by Los Angeles manufacturers who recently returned from Chicago. One western manufacturer engaged in making bedroom furniture, stated that he had sold 500 bedroom suites which constituted his entire stock. Mr. Abramson learned:

"With the demand rapidly catching up with available supplies, it certainly behooves anyone contemplating the purchase of furniture, to do so at once, especially while the present record-low prices are still offered," stated Mr. Abramson.

WATER REPORT

(Continued from Page 1-A)

returns. The prices are those that would prevail today. The item of digging is based on hand labor because to replace the present mains in their present location would preclude the use of machine trenches and backfillers. Resurfacing broken pavements is based on the fact that about the eighth of the lengths of the present pipe lines would require pavement cutting. It is estimated the cutting and replacing the local pavement would cost 32 cents per foot out. So the average cost on all pipe would be 4 cents per foot for all lengths. The price table is as follows:

All Prices Per Lineal Foot of Pipe Laid In Line					
Pipe Size	Cost Delivered	Hand Dig & Backfill	Laying & Caulking	Resurfacing	Total Cost Com. Line
4"	\$0.40	\$0.20	3.0c	4.0c	\$0.67
6"	0.60	0.22	3.0c	4.0c	0.89
8"	0.89	0.25	5.0c	4.0c	1.23
10"	1.23	0.33	11.0c	4.0c	1.68
12"	1.53	0.42	12.0c	4.0c	2.12
16"	2.33	0.56	18.0c	4.0c	3.11

At the present behavior of all major commodity markets, it is impossible to say how long these prices will hold.

In considering the value of small galvanized pipe and riveted steel pipe, we are governed by the probable future use for these lines. There is no possible excuse for the placing of such pipes in any City water distribution system. It is only an admission that the water company is unable to raise the money to install proper pipe. It is not customary in business to give a business concern full business credit for the various uneconomical subterfuges that poverty may force them into. So the credit for these pipe lines will be only what it is worth to use them until they can be replaced. In so far as the 2-inch galvanized and smaller pipes are concerned, we allow two years further use to give time to replace them. This is shown on the valuation sheets on the basis of two (2) years' future use. The riveted steel irrigation lines are so old that they are about all depreciated out and are of little future value. The City, however, can probably use them to advantage to serve irrigation water for two (2) years, and they are given a two year 10% value based on this assumption.

The next important item after the pipe, is meters. Their cost is made up of present quotations by the Neptune Meter Company.

Services: For the value of services, we are using the costs set out by the Water Company in the 1930 report by Burns, McDonald & Smith, as that is just a little less than our Beverly Hills costs.

The value of the pumping plant equipment is made up by prices from Byron Jackson Pump Company of similarly powered pumps of the latest type and of equal capacity. To this is added the cost of piping, valves and fittings installed to connect the pumps with suction and pressure mains; the electrical equipment, switches and labor to connect the motors to the Edison Company lines. The present depreciated value is based on the privilege of using it two years yet, as the City would not use it even that long, and the Company would be compelled by public sentiment to change the pressure system within that time, if they held on that long, because that pressure system is the most absurdly out-of-date and inefficient thing about the whole project. The saving in insurance charges alone in the City would pay for proper water pressure changes in a very few years, besides giving the public more satisfactory service.

The value of the water purification equipment is based on the price of replacement of the units installed there at today's prices from Wallace & Tiernan. Like the water pressure pumping system, it is outmoded equipment. The City would only use it two years at most. This material will have a trade-in value of 25% of cost, so we allow 25% for trade-in and one-sixth of cost for two years' use. The equipment can be replaced for \$1,300. Adding overhead and applying the one-fourth plus one-sixth value, we have the present worth of \$612.00.

Valves and cast iron fittings on the cast iron pipe lines are listed from the block maps of the system and are estimated at delivered wholesale cost price, plus one cent per pound for laying in the line with the pipe.

The fittings for riveted steel pipe lines are rather uncertain in quantity and cost, but an allowance of 5% of cost of pipe lines is made for all riveted steel and galvanized pipe for these items, which is liberal.

For fire hydrants, the quantities of each make were obtained from the Water Company and the prices obtained from manufacturers. To this was added \$5.00 each, for installation.

The item of railroad crossings was taken from the Water Company statement and as they are very reasonable in amount, they were allowed to stand as priced. This cost cannot be avoided in building pipe lines across railways, and amounts to very little. Trucks and automobiles are given at prices that equipment of that age can be had on the market today, and no overhead or depreciation figured.

Tools and service equipment are taken at the Company's price, and as they have been accumulated during the life of the plant, they are estimated to be depreciated one-half value.

General Stock: This is pipe and fitting ordered ahead to have ready for use in extending and repairing lines. This was taken from the Water Company list, which has been checked, but on looking over the list, it is over-priced about 5% and this deduction "left-overs" from various orders during the past and is far in excess of a reasonable operating "stock" for such a system of this size and shows very poor judgment in ordering by those in charge of the plant in the past. In all stocks of material of this kind, there is always a part that can never be used; that will not be adapted to the needs of the plant, and when so much is accumulated as is here, interest on the cost will eat up a large part of the value before it can be used. On this account, this "stock" is valued at further reduced by 25% to cover the "wastage" due to the causes listed.

Office equipment is taken at the Company's cost with the usual overhead added, then this amount depreciated on a 10-year life basis at 4-year's age, as that is the income tax depreciation rate allowed.

These above items cover all physical property of the Torrance Water, Light & Power Company used in servicing the area of the district and that is all that the City is really interested in. The property in the shoe-string strip is outside of your field of interest and is so nearly all depreciated out that there is little left to buy but you might want to serve irrigation water to some of that area. In that case, the best thing would be to rent whatever pipes are there for a few years at a price that would pay you, and would allow the Company something for their residual interest in that property.

The pipe lines in the Chanslor-Canfield Midway Oil Company tract are entirely the property of that Oil Company, and the Torrance Water, Light & Power Company has no saleable interest therein, no allowance should be made on that account.

The item of business development is ignored entirely, for although the Water Company owns the physical property, they do not own the business. That belongs to the people who buy their product, water. And they have the right to take it away from the Water Company and serve themselves if they want to do so. If the people of the City should install a water plant and prepare to serve themselves, they would immediately acquire almost all the domestic load and nearly all the industrial load where the industrial plants own their property because by so doing the owners, who are taxpayers, would cut down their tax load; for, if the City plant did not do enough business to pay expenses, these expenses would have to be made-up by taxation so the customers would use the city water to save on their own tax burden. The irrigation load, which is mostly on rented land, might stay with the Water Company as the renters have little property tax burden. But the irrigation water service has very little profit, so the loss to the city plant would be insignificant and the Water Company would not have enough business to survive.

From all the above, our recommendation is that the physical property of the Torrance Water, Light & Power Co. has a present net value for purchase by the City of \$113,441 and no more, and that the City authorities should not consider the payment for anything but this physical property.

Very respectfully submitted
SALISBURY, BRADSHAW & TAYLOR,
By CHAS. BRADSHAW.

CB-m

REVOLVER STOLEN

Mrs. Cora Parrott, residing on Cravens avenue at the rear of the Vonderhake building, reported the theft of a revolver from the tent in which she has been living since the earthquake. Police returned the weapon which some boys had found on Plaza-del-Armo and turned in to the station.

Too Late To Classify

FOR RENT: 1 acre with 4-room house, partly furnished. Some chicken equipment. Between Torrance and Redondo. See Fred Hansen, 2923 Carson St. Telephone 570.

Editorial Comment

"Telephone Petition Racket"

Apparently Torrance has been picked as the next victim of the "Telephone Petition Racket,"—which is a scheme to collect dimes from innocent telephone subscribers on the pretext that lower rates for telephone service is being sought from the state railroad commission. The racket has been worked in other Southern California cities and a communication read at last Thursday's city council meeting from the so-called Citizens' Rate Reduction League indicates that it is to be tried in Torrance.

The scheme works something like this:—A solicitor calls on telephone subscribers and asks if they want their telephone rate reduced, and if so, to please sign the petition and pay a dime or more for each signature. The solicitor, however, gets five to seven cents of the dime and the balance goes to the "big boss" who thought up the idea. The petition may or may not be filed with the state railroad commission, which is the body that sets telephone rates.

It should be remembered that telephone rates are determined by earnings and profits on invested capital, and not by the number of names on a petition. If you feel that you are entitled to a lower telephone rate, a penny postal card to the state railroad commission will get as much attention as a petition signed by thousands. In fact, the Herald is inclined to believe that officials of the railroad commission would pay more attention to a bona fide complaint from an individual subscriber than they would to a petition, the signatures to which were secured at a dime a piece.

Furthermore, a hearing on telephone rates in Torrance and elsewhere in Southern California is already being conducted by the state railroad commission, and if any adjustments are made, you will get the benefit whether you sign the petition or not. Save your dimes.

CHARLIE COLDEN MAKES GOOD

Honorable Charles J. Colden, first representative to go to Washington from the newly created 17th congressional district, of which Torrance is a part, this week faced the crucial test of his career as a congressman when he came home to his constituents. However, if Congressman Colden had any doubts as to whether the folks back home had approved or disapproved of his stewardship, he knows now full well that the entire electorate, Democrats and Republicans alike, are solidly behind him and approve of his unstinting support of President Roosevelt's recovery program.

The welcome-home banquet tendered Congressman Colden last evening at Gardena and attended by citizens throughout the entire congressional district, was eloquent testimony of the high esteem in which our new congressman is held by Democrats and Republicans alike. Partisanship was thrown aside in this whole-hearted tribute to a man who saw his clear duty and had the courage to do what his conscience dictated. The record shows that Congressman Colden supported President Roosevelt on every issue in his recovery program. Knowing Charlie Colden as we do, and his courageous individualism, we know it took considerable self-control to submerge his personal ideas on many of the issues and throw his support to the President's program without comment or reserve. But we admire him for doing so. Under the emergency, only a lesser man would have done otherwise.

Congressman Colden brought home some notable laurels for a first term, who rarely are given committee assignments. However, Mr. Colden was given a position on the important rivers and harbors committee, where he will be able to render invaluable assistance to our own harbor's development. And in addition, he was also put on two other less important committees, where he will have an opportunity of receiving a chairmanship,—a most unusual honor for a new member.

WATER BONDS ONLY HOPE OF AID

It looks as though the only possibility Torrance has of receiving any portion of the \$3,300,000,000 public works fund is through federal financing of its municipal water bonds.

While the government will finance municipal projects 100 per cent, and will allow outright grants up to 30 per cent, bonds must be voted or other guarantees given for the repayment of the remaining 70 per cent. It is doubtful if property owners on Cabrillo avenue or other highways proposed to be improved by federal funds will be willing to obligate themselves for the repayment of even 70 per cent of the cost of such improvements.

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Gets His Share



Benjamin Louis Stephens Harrison, adopted son of the late Laura Oral Harrison of Oakland, was given a \$88,750 share in the estimated \$100,000,000 estate left by Ella Virginia Don Eckstall Wendell, New York eccentric, in a Los Angeles court ruling. The ruling ends another chapter of litigation which brought to light 2000 claimants to the estate.

HOSPITAL NOTES

Dick Abbott, 2464 Eshelman, Lomita, entered the hospital July 17 for medical observation and treatment.

Mrs. Anna Brissinger, 2169 Torrance boulevard, underwent an operation on July 18, and is making a good recovery.

John Ferguson, proprietor of the Ferguson Service Station, who underwent an operation recently was able to leave the hospital Saturday.

Mrs. Ethel Walte, who was seriously ill, following the birth of her baby recently, was able to leave the hospital and is improving rapidly at her home in Lomita.

Miss Elizabeth Perry, 616 Elvira, Redondo Beach, was operated for appendicitis July 14.

Mrs. Josie Hemby, 309 So. Irena, Redondo Beach, underwent an operation on July 13.

Edward Kellam, 631 Esplanade, Redondo Beach, age 65, underwent an operation for appendicitis July 15, and is doing nicely.

Mrs. Laura Cook, 2501 237th street, Lomita, who was a patient at the hospital a short time ago when she suffered the amputation of one leg, returned Tuesday for treatment.

Births

Mr. and Mrs. Foote, 16638 Almsworth, Gardena, a girl, July 17.

Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Hardy, 25608 Lucile street, Lomita, a girl, July 17.

Mr. and Mrs. Shook, 3126 229th street, Torrance, a girl, July 17.

Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Stamas, Villa Tract, Redondo Beach, a boy, July 18.

Bob McGowan's Band Now At Hermosa Hut

Local dancers will be interested in learning that Bob McGowan's Band, popular Torrance dance orchestra, is now playing at the Hermosa Hut. Until recently McGowan and his band have been at the Redondo Pavilion, and local friends of the Torrance musicians will be glad to learn that they can again enjoy his popular brand of dance music at the Hermosa Hut. Other members of the orchestra besides Bob McGowan who are residents of Torrance are Wayne Coffin and Ray Tomkins.

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