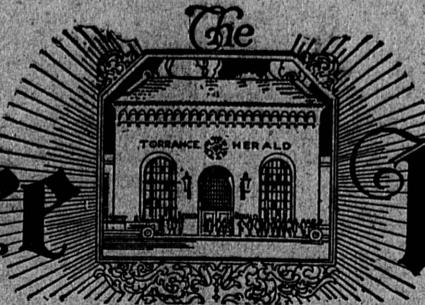




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Consulting Engineers Discuss Water System

Arthur Taylor of the firm of Salisbury, Bradshaw and Taylor, special consulting engineers employed by the City of Torrance, in the following article gives much valuable information regarding the future of this city's water system, and it is hoped that every resident and taxpayer will read the article carefully. The complete text follows:

December 24, 1934. Torrance Herald, Torrance, California. Dear Sir: On the suggestion of Mayor Scott Ludlow we are submitting to your columns a brief explanation of the situation of the improvement District Waterworks, particularly in regard to news that it has been voted with a Federal loan and grant.

First, it must be recalled that the Government turned down the first application for a loan because it was against the policy of the Administration to loan money for the purchase of existing waterworks or to build parallel competitive systems.

Frankly, the writer had little hope that the Public Works Administration would come to Torrance's assistance with money for such use. However, that application had considerable influence in bringing about a fair and reasonable price for the existing utility company.

Upon the refusal of the first application, your City officials sanctioned our submitting a revised application, on behalf of the District for a Federal loan to furnish funds for developing a water supply and carrying out improvements only. This application was based upon the theory that money would be raised from private capital with which to buy the works of the Torrance Water, Light & Power Co.; pay up the District indebtedness to the General

purchase land for reservoir water tower and wells; and a portion of necessary capital for immediate and necessary improvements. The latter to indicate to the Federal Government that Torrance was proceeding in good faith to secure its own municipal waterworks.

Neither your Council nor ourselves have any objection to the fact that going into Municipal (or District) ownership should be anything but a business proposition. That is, the investment should not be greater than the system's ability to support itself—and at rates lower than the present Company rates.

When the voters of the District carried the bond election, they wanted three things: lower water and fire insurance rates, better water quality and service, and a system that would be a credit to the community and thereby invite new industry and population to the City and District.

It was obvious you would not have obtained these benefits from the Utility Company. But you now are in the position to have them, and will have them. The system was purchased at a very fair price, particularly in that the deal was made last summer when reproduction costs were at a low, stable level. Since that time, material prices have increased between 20 and 25 per cent. In other words, had the deal for the purchase of the system been postponed until the present date, the District would have had to pay at least \$30,000.00 more for it, and it is not unlikely that the Company would have now declined to sell at \$137,000.00 plus \$30,000.00, due to the fact that water sales have increased along with the general

slight up-turn of business in general since last summer. Had the deal been deferred until now, the chances are that the City would have been obliged to go through condemnation proceedings—resulting in a present price not far from \$200,000.00.

And it is obvious that your Council was both foresighted and prudent to have made the purchase during the low ebb of business depression last summer. The bond market was not good, as everybody knows, especially District bonds, most of which were selling at 60 to 70 cents on the dollar.

While 6% interest rate on the bonds seems high, it must be remembered that that was the lowest rate obtainable and that \$137,000.00 of that issue was used to buy a waterworks, which was obtained when material prices were about three-fourths the present prices.

PWA AWARDS \$170,000 WATER LOAN

TEN TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS REPORTED OVER CHRISTMAS

Only Three Persons Injured, None of Them Seriously, in Largest Number of Crashes Recorded at Torrance Police Station in Two Day Period

Traffic accidents were numerous in and around Torrance over the Christmas holiday, but in only three cases were motorists injured, and these not seriously. Mrs. Frances Mize, 1643 Acacia, was taken to the Jared Sidney Torrance Memorial hospital on Christmas afternoon, to be treated for a cut on her forehead.

CRASHES ARE REPORTED DUE TO HEAVY FOG

The time was suspended on Stapp's promise to settle all expenses for doctor's bill and damages to Gorman's car. Mrs. Mize was not seriously hurt and was able to go to her home after being given first aid at the hospital.

One Man Seriously Hurt in Head-on Collision on Hawthorne Boulevard

J. C. Siegel, 25832 Narbonne avenue, Lomita, is in the Jared Sidney Torrance Memorial hospital suffering from a possible skull fracture as a result of a head-on collision between his Ford coupe and a car driven by E. R. Kingsland, 1728 Grant avenue, Redondo Beach, about 8:15 Saturday morning.

Two Children Are Saved From Blaze in Home

While two children slept in an adjoining room, an overstaffed chair in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Pierson, 3288 Sonoma avenue, burst into flame and threatened to set fire to the house. The blaze was discovered about 12:15 Monday morning.

Little Girl Proves Heroine in Rescuing Her Baby Brother

When smoke filled the room the family's pet dog raised an alarm, barking and dashing about the house, which roused the older of the children, a 10-year-old girl, who showed admirable presence of mind by opening a window in the bedroom, pushing out the screen and taking her little 3-year-old brother in her arms she dropped him outside and crawled out after him.

Check Drawn For Cedar Ave. Fence Thru G.P.

A \$9000 check in payment for the fence bordering the proposed extension of Cedar avenue through the refinery site of the General Petroleum Corporation was drawn today by the City of Torrance and will be turned over to G. P. officials tomorrow as soon as the necessary legal papers are signed. Allocation of \$26,000 for the improvement of Cedar avenue out of gas tax funds was made last week by the county board of supervisors and will be included in the 1935-36 budget.

New Officers of Masonic Lodge Will Be Installed Friday Night



EDGAR H. BARLOW, Worshipful Master of Torrance Masonic Lodge

Edgar H. Barlow, proprietor of the E. H. Barlow Oil Tool Works, who was recently elected worshipful master of the Torrance lodge, F. & A. M., will be installed at an open meeting to be held tomorrow evening, at 8 o'clock at the Masonic temple.

Other officers who will be installed with their official titles and duties are: Glen Babcock, senior warden; Willis M. Brooks, junior warden; John H. Fess, past master; Jesse H. Sprout, past master; secretary, William J. Moran, chaplain; Hugh M. Steadman, senior deacon; Paul F. Kaepfer, junior deacon; Wallace W. West, past master; Marshall; Clarence L. Ingold, senior steward; Jesse M. Reddington, junior steward, and George D. Watson, tyler.

Past Grand Master Samuel E. Burke will act as installing officer, with Truman Van Dyke as master of ceremonies.

Present Quarters Of Justice Courts Retained For A Time

Present quarters of the five present township justice courts will be retained when the townships are merged under the name of Inglewood township next January 7, if the new board of supervisors approves the recommendation of the county bureau of efficiency.

The bureau recommended to the supervisors late last week that the quarters for Lomita township at 1325 Cravens street, Torrance, be retained on a month-to-month basis. Sam Levy, owner of the property, has agreed to rent the quarters to the county for \$70 a month.

This arrangement is being made in order that the two justices of the peace may determine where the major portion of their business will come from, so that they may locate their court rooms permanently so that they will be convenient to the greatest number of persons concerned.

At Inglewood, the efficiency bureau pointed out that the county still has six years to go on the present justice court quarters, for which the county pays approximately \$225 a month for justice court space. Total rental for the quarters occupied by the several county departments in the same building is \$560 a month.

At Gardena, there is a similar condition, where the present lease does not expire until August 31, 1940. This will therefore be retained as one of the two main court rooms in the enlarged township. Rental here is \$240 a month. At La Rambla township, the county will continue to pay \$28 a month for quarters at 217 South Bandini street, San Pedro, during January.

FUNDS PROVIDED FOR FULL DEVELOPMENT OF SYSTEM

Check Drawn For \$137,000 in Payment of Present Water System; \$4500 Also Paid to C. C. M. O. For Elevated Tank Site

Important developments in the long fought battle to acquire an adequate municipal water system in Torrance took place during the past week:

1. A \$170,000 loan and grant was awarded by the Public Works Administration at Washington. The award was made late in the afternoon of December 26, and word reached Torrance by telegrams from U. S. Senators Hiram Johnson and Wm. Gibbs McAdoo and Congressman Charles J. Golden. Senator Johnson and Congressman Golden have taken an active part in securing the approval of the Torrance application. Official notice of the award was received by the Torrance city council last night.

AGED MAN IS FOUND DEAD IN SUMP HOLE

George Hummell, Age 65, Falls Into Sticky Pool on Marble Lease

Lying face down in a pool of heavy oil and water in a sump hole on the Marble Fee lease, southeast of Cedar street, the body of George M. Hummell, age 65, was found at 12:15 p. m. Monday, where it had lain for possibly 12 hours or more. The gruesome discovery was made by Walter Gilkeson, 25833 Hillsworth avenue, Lomita, who notified Captain John Stroh, of the Torrance police department who took charge of the body.

Hummell, a bachelor, lived alone on the lease. He was last seen alive about 6:30 Monday evening at the Famous Chili Shop on Marcelina avenue, where Fire Chief A. D. Stevenson noticed that the man was considerably under the influence of liquor and advised him to go home.

In walking across the lease towards his home, apparently Hummell failed to see, due to the heavy fog, that he was nearing the sump and either walked over the edge or slipped and fell into the sticky pool. Photographs of the spot, taken by Deputy Sheriff V. Gray and his assistant of the sheriff's homicide squad, indicated that the man's death was due to an accident.

The heavy quality of the liquid into which Hummell fell was such that only a very strong man would have been able to extricate himself without assistance, and Hummell was rather slight in build and advanced in age. This together with his ascertained condition, made it impossible for him to free himself and he suffocated in the pool.

The body was removed to Stone & Myers mortuary, and the coroner's office was notified.

Eugene Denman Is Shot While Hunting

Eugene Denman, age 15, son of Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Denman, 824 Fortola avenue, received treatment at the Jared Sidney Torrance Memorial hospital on Christmas Day for a bullet wound in his heel, received Monday. The family were at their home near Twenty-nine Palms, where young Denman was hunting. The gun was accidentally discharged and the bullet struck the lad in the foot, making a painful though not necessarily dangerous wound.

The council approved a contract drawn up by the city attorney, whereby the firm of Salisbury, Bradshaw & Taylor is retained at a flat fee of \$125 a month to supervise the management of the water department, represent the city in co-operative work with the Metropolitan Water District, and advise the city in any and all matters in connection with owning and operating a water system. The approval was adopted by a vote of four to one, Councilman Klusman voting in the negative. A check for \$1500 in payment for two acres at the corner of Madrona and Torrance boulevard to be used as a site for the elevated storage tank was delivered today by city officials to the Chamberlain-Midway Oil Company. An option on four adjoining acres is also held by the city.