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## SCHOOL REPORT SHOWS EXCESS COST TO CITY

### HIGHER COSTS OF L. A. CITY SYSTEM SHOWN BY AUDITOR

Study of Salaries Paid to Teachers in Various Torrance Schools Also Makes Interesting Reading

Torrance taxpayers contribute a fancy premium to the Los Angeles city board of education for the operation of local public schools, a premium which runs into thousands of dollars each year over and above the actual expense of running the schools. And if one takes into consideration

the huge administrative expenses levied against Torrance property owners due to the high salaries of "higher up" officials in the Los Angeles city system, the savings to local taxpayers by operating their own schools would be much greater.

These facts are strikingly brought out by a study of the report recently filed with the Torrance city council by C. J. Rambo, city auditor and certified public accountant, after an extensive and detailed study of records of the Los Angeles city board of education and the county superintendent of schools.

Figures submitted by Auditor Rambo cover a three-year period, from 1932 to 1935, during which time revenues (not including taxes for bond interest and redemption) from the Torrance elementary and high school districts totaled \$798,141.79 and expenses totaled only \$711,469.58, or an EXCESS paid into the Los Angeles city school district of \$86,672.21.

Comparison Given  
Perhaps the most important highlight of Auditor Rambo's report is the comparison which he draws between the cost of operating the WALTERIA school, which is under the jurisdiction of the Los Angeles city system, and the PRAIRIE AVENUE school, which, although it lies within the city limits of Torrance, is not included in the Los Angeles city system but is operated by the PERRY school district, or county schools.

The average daily attendance of the two schools is practically the same, that of the WALTERIA school being 147 and of the PRAIRIE AVENUE school, 149.

While the two schools serve practically the same number of pupils, the costs of operation are widely different. The PRAIRIE AVENUE school has a principal receiving a salary of \$171.00 per month and four teachers who are paid \$142.50 each per month, or a total monthly salary for instruction and office purposes of \$741.00.

The WALTERIA school has a principal who is paid \$252.00 per month, six teachers receiving \$209.00, \$200.00, \$182.00, \$151.00, \$144.00, and \$132.00 respectively per month. A part-time clerk is also employed on a monthly salary basis of \$43.50, making a total monthly salary expense for instruction and office purposes of \$1318.50, or \$572.50 MORE per month than is paid for the same services in the county-operated PRAIRIE AVENUE school.

In the WALTERIA school the principal is rated as a supervising principal and does not teach classes. A part-time clerk is employed at a monthly salary of \$43.50, who also does not teach.

In the PRAIRIE AVENUE school, the principal teaches regular classes and no clerks are employed.

(The administrative expense in the Los Angeles city high school district, of which the Torrance high school is a part, ran \$10.27 per capita.) Total per capita expense at the PRAIRIE AVENUE school for 1934-35 was \$92.35, and at WALTERIA school, \$118.81.

Salaries At High  
The report of salaries paid various teachers in the Torrance schools is also interesting. At the Torrance high school, the principal receives \$435 per month; vice principal, \$341; 16 teachers at \$284 each; two at \$292 each; one at \$273; one at \$282; three at \$251; three at \$241; one at \$231; one at \$221; one at \$202; two at \$193; two at \$184; and two at \$168.

Fern Avenue School  
At the Fern Avenue school the principal receives \$266 per month and is rated as a supervising principal and does not teach classes. A part-time clerk is employed on a monthly salary basis of \$39; also three teachers at \$228 each per month; one at \$200; one at \$182; one at \$173; one at \$165; one at \$158; and one at \$144.

Torrance Elementary  
At the Torrance elementary school, the principal receives \$225 per month; ten teachers at \$228 each; one at \$218; three at \$209; six at \$191; one at \$182; three at \$173; one at \$165; one at \$158; and two at \$150.

What's This For?  
In Auditor Rambo's report, which is a most comprehensive study covering some 25 pages, there appears an item of \$12,934.64 for capital outlay at the Fern Avenue school in the year 1932-1933. Presumably this unusually large sum is supposed to cover earthquake damage at the Fern Avenue school. However, as the school was completed only a short time before the earthquake, little damage was done. In fact, attaches at the school are reported to have told Auditor Rambo that all the repair work they can remember having been done was the recalculation of two class rooms. Surely, this couldn't have cost \$12,934.64!

1.19% of District  
Total assessed valuation of the Los Angeles elementary school district, 1934-1935, is \$1,358,116,305. The area served by the three elementary schools in Torrance under the administration of the Los Angeles city board of education has a total assessed valuation, 1934-1935, of \$16,165,915, or 1.19 percent of the total for the Los Angeles city elementary district. The total elementary district bonded debt as of June 30, 1935, was \$35,243,765.00. The above percentage of the outstanding bonded debt would amount to \$419,400.80 as the proportion applicable to the Torrance district, according to Rambo's report.

The total assessed valuation of the Los Angeles high school district for 1934-1935 is \$1,422,367.04. The area served by the Torrance high school has a total assessed valuation for that year of \$17,389,220, or 1.222 percent

### Clipper Ship Brings Letter to Torrance

Mrs. J. MacDougall, 2065 220th street, was a proud woman Monday when she received a letter from her son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Baker, written in Manila, Philippine Islands, and mailed on the first trans-Pacific airmail service, December 2. The letter bearing \$1.70 in postage, was carried by the famous China Clipper, reached San Francisco December 6 and Torrance on December 7. It was delivered to Mrs. MacDougall Monday morning.

Ordinarily, says Mrs. MacDougall, mail from the Philippines requires 30 days for delivery. The airmail letter came in one-sixth of that time.

Mrs. MacDougall's son-in-law is a navy man, attached to the U. S. S. Pillsbury, with the Asiatic fleet.

The letter, the first to reach Torrance, with its postmarks showing its transportation on the famous clipper ship, is highly prized by its owner, and in years to come if it is ever for sale may command a nice figure from collectors.

### William Matchan Accepts Invitation to Sing At Orchestra Concert

William Matchan, brilliant young baritone, who has sung with great success with the Los Angeles Symphony orchestra, and at numerous concerts arranged by leading metropolitan groups, will be the soloist at the next concert given by the Torrance Symphonic orchestra.

George N. Merston, conductor, has just received a letter from Theodore Schroeder, vocal authority and artists' coach, advising him that Mr. Matchan has accepted the invitation to sing with the Torrance orchestra.

The next concert will be given January 28, at the Woman's Club clubhouse.

### COUNTERFEIT bills are floating IN TORRANCE

Business men and all other persons are warned to be on the look-out for counterfeit \$5 bills which have been circulated in Torrance. The job is crude and easily detected in a good light, but the passers are apparently making their rounds in the evening when darkness aids in getting rid of the hot money to unsuspecting tradesmen.

Paul Smith, proprietor of the Carson street liquor store, was victimized last night, and it is believed that other bills have been loosed on the community.

### Stores To Be Open Every Evening Until Christmas

Practically all retail merchants in Torrance, excepting food markets, will keep their stores open until 9 p. m. every evening until Christmas beginning this Saturday, December 14, it was announced today by L. J. Gilmeister, secretary of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, following a check-up of local retail stores. Food markets will be open Saturday evenings, as usual.

Service windows at the Torrance post office will also be kept open until 6 p. m. on Saturdays until Christmas, Postmaster Conner states, and on other days from 8 a. m. to 6 p. m.

Santa Claus will be on hand in the downtown business district every afternoon and evening beginning this Saturday, with candy gifts for the children.

### Local Folks In "The News"

#### Torrance C. Welch and Ray C. Young Figure In Two Big Court Cases

Two Torrance residents are playing roles in two important court dramas now receiving wide publicity in Los Angeles newspapers.

Torrance C. Welch, local attorney, is assisting in the defense of Mrs. Frances Mabel Willys who is charged with

the murder of Dr. Walter Hammond, dentist, whom she admitted beating to death with a hammer Sunday afternoon. Mr. Welch, who is a brother-in-law of Dr. Hammond and one of Mrs. Willys' attorneys, was the first witness to take the stand yesterday. He made the official identification of Dr. Hammond.

On Berkeley Jury  
Raymond C. Young, executive of the International Derrick & Equipment Company in Torrance, is taking part in another important court case against Busby Berkeley, Hollywood dance director, who is on trial charged with second degree murder in connection with an automobile crash on Roosevelt highway on September 8 result-

### Lee Haskins Drowns

#### Water-Filled Boots Drag Young Torrance Man to Death In Ocean

A pair of new rubber boots, purchased the day before at a local store, dragged Oscar Lee Haskins, 1006 Sartori avenue, to his death in the ocean off Rocky Point Sunday morning. Haskins fell overboard from a motorboat, but managed to hold on to the gunwale for some moments before the increasing weight of his heavy clothing pulled him down and he sank beneath the kelp-filled waters off the Palos Verdes coast.

The young man, age 29, who has been employed at the Columbia Steel plant here since 1932, had gone with the owner of the motorboat, Jack Bubeck, Jr., 4551 Mathew street, Gillette Manor, on a deep sea fishing trip.

The men lashed the rudder of the boat so that it would continue in a slow circle leaving both of them free to attend the fishing lines.

Haskins in some manner stumbled and fell against Bubeck, knocking him overboard, and, unable to maintain his own balance, also fell into the water, but managed to catch hold of the boat.

Bubeck, although hampered by heavy boots and clothing, managed to pull off his boots and kept himself above water. He could not swim fast enough to overtake the boat which continued to circle around. Haskins held on for three rounds of the 1000-foot circle, but was finally exhausted and lost his hold.

Heavy fog prevented other fishermen in the vicinity from seeing the plight of the two men. Finally Henry Smith, a fisherman of 207 No. Juanita street, Redondo Beach, attracted by the cries of hundreds of gulls, rowed to the spot and rescued Bubeck. Haskins' hat was found floating on the water but the man had disappeared.

Crews from the County Life-guard Service and two coast guard cutters from San Pedro

### Otto Mikelson Succumbs After Long Illness

Business Man Here 22 Years Passes Away At Home Saturday

Illness of more than a year terminated in death Saturday afternoon for Otto Mikelson, 58, well-known business man of Torrance, who passed away at his home, the Roi Tan Hotel, about 4 o'clock. Mr. Mikelson had been a resident of this city for 22 years.

He was born in Mount Horeb, Wisconsin, November 27, 1877, where he spent his early years. As a young man he moved to Denver, Colorado, where he married Miss Anna May Spaulding, on October 13, 1907. Mr. Mikelson engaged in business there and remained for five years after his marriage, later removing to Los Angeles and in 1913 to Torrance where he engaged in the barber business, in a shop in the Colonial Hotel.

In 1918 he bought the Roi Tan Hotel and cafe at 1211 El Prado, which he has conducted until the present time.

In his 22 years of business and social life here he formed many steadfast friendships in the community and his death is sincerely mourned by his many associates.

Funeral services were held from Stone and Myers chapel Tuesday afternoon, December 10, at 2 o'clock, Rev. O. D. Wonder, of the Central Evangelical church, officiating. Pallbearers were chosen from among his close friends and business associates, Al Curler, Beverly E. Smith, James Shadday, DeKalb Spurlin, J. W. Post and W. H. Gilbert. Charles A. Curtiss, soloist, sang "Lead Kindly Light" and "Abide With Me."

Many floral offerings were sent to be placed in the chapel in silent witness to the esteem and affection of the friends he leaves behind. Among them was a beautiful piece sent by employees of the Columbia Steel plant, many of whom had been Mr. Mikelson's friends and customers of many years.

Interment was made at Roosevelt Memorial Park.

Mr. Mikelson leaves his widow, Mrs. Anna May Mikelson; two daughters, Virginia and Jeannette; his half brother, George Gordon, of Inglewood, and his mother and three sisters residing in the east.

### Change of Plan Necessary For Sewer Project

Vista Highlands Project Can Not Be Completed In Required Six Months

According to Mayor Scott R. Ludlow, who reported on proceedings held at the meeting of the sanitary sewer district directors held Tuesday, the proposed Vista Highlands sewer project will have to be revamped and divided into two projects in order to come within WPA provisions. No projects will be accepted, he stated which can not be completed within six months, or by June 30, 1936.

The Vista Highlands sewer project would not be completed in that time, he said. For that reason, in order to secure federal assistance, the plans will be revised and the project will be offered as two projects.

In regard to the work proposed in South Torrance, the job can be completed in the required time and no change in plans will be necessary.

FAMOUS EVENTS  
Wireless telegraph across the Atlantic was inaugurated December 12, 1901. Pennsylvania was the second state to ratify the Constitution, December 12, 1787.

PROWLER  
Residents at 833 Sartori avenue reported a prowler in that vicinity Monday night.

## NEW BIDS ASKED FOR BUILDINGS

### Suicide Attempt Halted By Police

Redondo Beach police arrived at a spot near the Hollywood Riviera clubhouse about 1 p. m. Tuesday in time to save the life of Walter Alexander, 40, residing at 3759 Greenwood, Venice. Alexander had connected a piece of garden hose to the exhaust of his car to bring the fumes into the machine. He was unconscious when found and in a few minutes more his attempt would have proved successful.

A passerby saw the situation and notified Constable Woolsey of the Palos Verdes Estates who called Sergeant T. Chittenden. The Redondo officer notified Torrance police but went immediately to the scene and succeeded in saving the man, who it is said has been in ill health, under a doctor's care, and had made one previous attempt on his life about a week ago.

Alexander was given into the custody of the Torrance officers and his wife was notified. He was able to return home with her in a short time.

The Palos Verdes Hills were the setting of another and successful suicide last week when Ray Raymond, of Long Beach, took his life by a similar method. His body was found by John Dellaqua of Harbor City in a car on Western avenue near the Miraleste school. Raymond had been at one time prominent in radio work.

### Work On Water Units Ordered To Proceed

Final Approval Received This Week From State PWA Supervisor

Receipt of a letter from A. D. Wilder, PWA supervisor for the state, under date of December 7, brought word to the city council Tuesday of the approval of contracts to the Hoagland Engineering Company and the Fred D. Weber Company, for the construction of two units of the city water system. Work on the units will get under way within the next two weeks.

The Hoagland Company secured the contract for the pumping plants on its low bid of \$34,970, and the Weber Company will construct the distribution system at the contract price of \$49,676.

Word has been received that the low storage tank is nearly completed and will be delivered here to be put in place within a short time.

The two water wells, drilled on the city property west of Cedar avenue, are practically complete. Due to unavoidable delay in starting work on the wells the Roscoe Moss Company applied to the council for approval of an extension of time in completing its contract, which was granted and the request has been referred to the PWA officials for their final approval.

Contract on this work carried a time limit of 65 days with a penalty of \$100 a day for exceeding the limit.

DISTRICT MEETING  
Harbor District Chambers of Commerce will meet today, December 12, at 187 North Hawthorne avenue, Hawthorne. Col. Jerome S. Sears, of the PWA, will be the speaker.

## ARCHITECTS TO REVISE PLANS OF BUILDINGS

New Set-up On Civic Structures Designed to Come Within Budget

In order to bring the construction of the new city hall and jail, auditorium and library buildings within the amounts set by bond issue and federal grant the city council at its meeting on Tuesday evening rejected all previous bids and moved to call for new offers on all three structures.

Revised specifications submitted by Walker and Eisen, architects, were approved and the publication of notices to contractors was ordered, setting the date for opening of new bids on Friday, December 27, at 3 o'clock p. m.

In preparing the revised specifications, the architects separated from the construction of the buildings, all items which could be classed as equipment, which had been included in the original draft. Length of the auditorium building was cut from 145 to 130 feet, two porches were removed from the plans, and alternate bids were arranged covering other features of the construction, so that the city may accept or reject them, dependent upon the new figures submitted. Among these the principal item is a projection room and apparatus. Seating capacity of the auditorium will not be materially reduced by the changes.

At the city hall, in addition to segregating equipment items, the size of the proposed hall has been reduced, and garages will not be included. Separate proposals will be asked later on for supplying the equipment items not now included in the specifications. The action of the council was taken on being advised that under the terms of the bond issue and grant the money thus provided could not be used to cover both construction and equipment, as the federal money is supplied to cover 45 percent of the cost of materials and labor for construction only.

Federal money allotted for the projects amounting to \$54,607 was 45 percent of the estimated cost of the buildings. However, when bids were opened, it was found that the offers slightly exceeded the estimated cost, which furnished an additional reason for rejecting all bids and calling for others on the basis of revised plans.

No action was taken by the council to select a site for the library building. Two petitions signed by 149 residents protested the proposed plan to locate the library on lots south of the city hall site at the corner of El Prado and Cravens, because of its proximity to the jail. Signers of both petitions requested its location in the vicinity of the high school.

Mrs. Haggard Buys Flower Store  
Sale of the stock of flowers and equipment at 2221 Lomita boulevard in Lomita, is to be consummated December 19, according to a notice of sale filed in the county recorder's office. Ruth L. Haggard is purchasing the business from Helen Monroe, according to the notice.