



FIRE STATION REPAIRS . . . The photo above shows concrete being poured as repairs to the Torrance Fire station are under way. At the extreme upper left, atop the building are Sam Levy, who is supervising the work and C. Merton Gilbert, city councilman on the job. (Torrance Herald Photo).

SUPERVISORS FIX \$1000 ACRE PRICE ON ALONDRA PARK SITE FOR EL CAMINO JUNIOR COLLEGE

Controversy over granting a site on Alondra park for El Camino Junior college apparently was settled Tuesday by the Board of Supervisors when that body voted three to two to sell to the college 75 acres of land at \$1000 an acre. The deal met with the immediate approval of the trustees of the College district.

The supervisors' decision specifies that the total sale amount of \$75,000 be turned back to the district on a pledge it will spend the money for the cost of constructing a stadium and other recreational facilities.

Voting for the plan were Supervisors Raymond V. Darby, Roger W. Jessup and John Anson Ford.

Supervisor William A. Smith, who with Supervisor Leonard Roach opposed the proposal, requested and secured an order for an opinion by the county counsel as to the legality of the deal.

Forrest G. Murdock, president of the college, earlier informed the supervisors that a plan proposed by Supervisor Roach last week had been rejected by the district board of trustees as unsatisfactory.

The plan which the College District Board opposed provided that 35 acres be given to the college outright, and that the balance be held under title of the county while the college improved the premises with athletic facilities which would be available for public use. Murdock pointed out that it might be found that school districts cannot legally spend money on property not its own, and that therefore the college possibly could not agree to the plan which was presented by Supervisor Roach.

On the other hand, he pointed out, the college would make athletic facilities available to public use at all times when not in use by the college.

The Roach plan which the college rejected was presented May 6 at the time the supervisors had agreed to fix the price on the 75-acre site at Gresham Blvd. and Redondo Beach Blvd.

The offer was made after district-wide opposition to the supervisors' price of \$3000 placed on the land. Opposing interests said the taxpayers already had paid for the land many times over and should not be required to pay for it again.

Trustees of the district were prepared to pay \$2500 an acre for land at Center St. and Aviation Blvd. when the protest over the supervisors' Alondra park price developed.

Regulation of Subdivisions, Ordinance Plan

An ordinance providing for complete regulation of all subdivisions in Torrance was offered to the City Council Tuesday night by City Engineer G. M. Jain and the Planning Commission, and it will be studied at a special meeting Friday at 5 p. m.

Jain said that the ordinance is a model patterned after subdivision ordinances of several Southern California cities, including Long Beach, Santa Ana, Whittier, Los Angeles and the County of Los Angeles.

He said that it will "more than pay for itself."

It will involve resubdivision of land as well as subdivisions, and has been in the process of formation for several years.

CITY EMPLOYEES PENSION PLAN ADOPTED BY COUNCIL; MANY ELIGIBLE TO RETIRE

Torrance City Council Tuesday night adopted for the first time an ordinance providing for an agreement between the city and the California State Employees Retirement System, by which a pension plan will be placed in operation for city workers.

Under the plan, the city and the employees will pay in equal amounts to build up a pension fund to give city workers benefits denied them by the Social Security System of the Federal government.

The plan will cost \$44,856.27 a year for the first several years, it is said, of which amount some \$14,000 consists of retroactive premiums which will enable several older city workers and department heads to retire in August of this year.

The plan is operated under the state law on a 50-50 basis, and the premium is fixed by a state actuary based on surveys made each five years after the initial survey.

It is anticipated that the city will be entitled to a refund in five years, because the number of employees was reduced nearly one-third recently.

The \$44,856.27 premium was established on the basis of 136 employees.

Not only will the plan benefit younger employees who are making city government work their life vocation, but the arrangements have been made by the retroactive premiums so that many now eligible for retirement may step out of their jobs next summer.

City workers do not have the benefits of Social Security nor state unemployment compensation. It is pointed out.

The premium paid by the worker is based upon whether or not retirement is taken at the end of 20, 25 or 30 years of service. It is said.

Among those who would be eligible to retire in August are City Clerk A. H. Bartlett, Fire Chief J. E. McMaster, former Police Chief G. M. Calder, Patrolman George Dolton, now on leave of absence, William Laven, of the street department, and John Fess, of the Recreation department.

Many others are approaching retirement age.

The plan provides that police and firemen may retire at 55 years and compulsory retirement is required at 60 years. Other workers may retire at 60 years, but must retire at 65.

ALONDRA PARK OIL DRILLING DEALS ARE TERMINATED

Contracts allowing drilling of oil in Alondra park by the British-American Oil Producing Co., the Seaboard Oil Co. of Delaware and the Texas Company were terminated at the request of the Board of Supervisors Raymond V. Darby.

The board approved exoneration of the bonds at its Tuesday meeting, since all provisions had been met and the contracts permitted the termination thereof if at least one well had been completed, according to Chairman Darby.

Torrance Will Vote Tomorrow For College And High School Trustees

Voters of Torrance will join those of the balance of El Camino College district tomorrow in electing the first Board of Trustees, to succeed the temporary board named last year by the County Superintendent of Schools.

Polling places will be located in Torrance high school, WALTERIA school and Perry school.

Also, one candidate will be elected on the Redondo Union High School District Board of Trustees.

Five College district trustees will be elected from a slate of eight candidates.

For the one year term office is N. R. Kuhn, of Manhattan Beach, candidate to succeed himself.

The one two-year office is R. L. Whitaker, of Hawthorne, candidate to succeed himself.

For the other two-year term one candidate is Robert Russell, of El Segundo, at present a member of the College board as well as being chairman of the Redondo Union High School District Board of Trustees. The other candidate for this office is Jordan E. Dunaway, Hawthorne resident.

For the two three-year terms, candidates incumbent are Dr. Ernest E. Lyden, of El Segundo, and Mrs. Kathleen Mumma, of Inglewood, while also seeking the offices are John W. Burbary and Melvin R. Allen, both of Inglewood.

N. R. Kuhn is the only candidate running for the one office open on the Redondo Union High School District Board of Trustees. Torrance comes under Redondo jurisdiction next year.

Formation Of Torrance Educational Council To Be Suggested To Board

Formation of a Torrance Educational Council, consisting of representatives of various organizations within the city, will be suggested to the Torrance City Board of Education, according to Superintendent of Schools J. H. Hull.

The superintendent said that the Council is desirable that many community-school problems might have full discussion.

"Through the operation of an Educational Council in the community," Superintendent Hull said, "the schools can be kept informed of the desires of the community and the organizations as represented on the Council can be kept informed about the workings of the schools."

He suggested that it meet periodically, perhaps once each month, and that it consist of one representative of each of the service clubs, veterans organizations, lodges, Ministerial Association, Parent-Teacher Council, the press, a member of the City Council, Chamber of Commerce, Women's clubs and patriotic groups. In all, he estimated the Council would have a membership of approximately 25 persons. A member of the Board of Education and the superintendent also would sit on the Council.

If the plan is adopted by the Board of Education, he said it will be placed in operation at once.

SECESSION AGITATION IN SAN PEDRO FAILS TO COOL AS L.A. GETS NEW DEMAND

Agitation for secession from Los Angeles has not cooled off in San Pedro, Wilmington and even Harbor City, where they claim their discontent with Los Angeles is greater than in San Pedro.

So it appeared as another week went by without decisive action on the bill of Assemblyman Vincent Thomas to permit sections of Los Angeles to vote by sections on withdrawal from the metropolitan city.

In San Pedro, the long list of pledges made by Los Angeles to San Pedro upon consolidation in 1909 was circulated with sarcastic comments. While some of them have been fulfilled, many only in part, the "fisherman's wharf" angle and failure to properly develop the harbor as promised are the key objections.

In Sacramento, Assemblyman Thomas declared he is willing to give Los Angeles a "reasonable time" to comply with San Pedro's demands that Los Angeles live up to the promises of 1909. He said if compliance is not forthcoming, he will press for passage of the bill.

The bill was declined passage once, then a motion to reconsider was granted and the bill adopted by a majority of one. Another motion to reconsider was adopted and Thomas lost the third round. But at the same time, a scorching resolution was sent the Los Angeles City Council by unanimous vote of the Assembly demanding that they live up to their promises with regard to the municipally-owned and operated ferry to Terminal Island, public fish market and fisherman's wharf, first class library facilities, expenditure in San Pedro of tax monies equal to that collected in San Pedro, and other points.

Harbor City's complaint is that it has "nothing" except Los Angeles. (Continued on Page 5-A)

Miss Rosalie Fortin, 20-30 Club Entry, Leads 'Miss Torrance' Race

A count of votes cast in the "Miss Torrance of 1947" contest this week placed Miss Rosalie Fortin, 1317 Amalgam Ave., sponsored by the 20-30 club, on top with 11,870 votes. Miss Fortin is employed at McCown Drug store.

In second place was Miss Carlotta Dean, hard working contestant of the American Legion, with 10,385 votes.

The Lions Club entry, Miss Betty West, placed third with 9,800, and Pat Ream, little blonde entry of the Rotary club is in fourth position.

Anyone desiring to vote for their favorites may mail donations to Junior Woman's club, Y. W. C. A. Building Fund, Torrance Welfare Center, 1359 Post Ave., Torrance, California.

Here are the prizes Torrance girls are striving to win in the contest:

First prize: Beautiful \$125.00 cocktail watch given by the Torrance Time Shop; Emma Roberts' best cold wave permanent, a matched luggage set from Penney's, a dainty 10-piece dresser set from National Home Appliance, choice of any pair of shoes from Bernard's, a tempting Elizabeth Arden set from Torrance Pharmacy, an orchid corsage from Torrance Flower Shop and a loving cup to remind the winner of her successful campaign.

Second prize: A gorgeous waterfall cedar chest from El Prado Furniture Store, a \$25.00 dress from the Gay Shop, a lovely wool blanket from Star Furniture Store, a \$5.00 merchandise order from Mode O' Day, choice of any style bathing suit from Newberry's, an Ellyn Delich perfume set from Allen Jewelers, Watsal store, pitcher and glasses from Torrance Hardware and a corsage from Torrance Flower Shop.

Third prize: A stunning tapper from Benson's, a leather fitted Primrose House cosmetic kit from McCown's Discount Drug, a \$15 merchandise order from Gary's Jewelry, an 8 by 10 double plastic frame from Terry's Variety Store, a "Broiler-master" given by the Laundrette, a lovely Nelly Don Dress from La Salle Shop and a corsage from Torrance Flower Shop.

Fourth prize: Beautiful three strand Richelieu pearls from Howard's jewelry, a \$5.00 gift certificate for records from Don Carper's Music Center, a cologne, powder and puff guest set from Western Auto, an attractive tea tray from Torrance Electrical Shop, two pairs 51-gauge nylons from Adams, a white pottery base table lamp from Universal Furniture Co., a mirrored dresser set with useful jewelry drawer from Burke Bargain Spot and a corsage from the Torrance Flower Shop. (Continued on Page 5-A)

WATER DEPARTMENT PROFITS HOLD; BUS LINE BUSINESS UP BUT PROFITS DECREASE

Financial statements for the two profit-making departments of the City of Torrance have been completed, it was revealed this week, while that of the General fund still was not available.

The reports are for the nine months operation of the Water and Bus departments.

While the Bus department's usual profit, estimated at about \$12,000 for this year as against \$14,062.41 for the entire fiscal year (12 months) dropped to \$1,959.80 for the nine months period due to heavy mechanical expenses, the Water department continued to show its usual profits.

The net profit for the Water department was \$6,083.17, after deducting interest on funded debt and similar expenses from the total of \$18,363.14 profit from operations.

The total operating revenue was \$54,119.11 for Municipal Improvement District No. 1, the central Torrance water company. Domestic sales were \$36,000.00 for the nine months period. Industrial sales were \$10,645.76. Irrigation sales were \$2461.69.

Production expense was placed at \$13,975.72, of which nearly half, or \$6,570.00 was for electric power. Depreciation of production equipment was placed at \$2264.05. Pumping labor was only \$572.88, and maintenance only \$1052.80. The city purchased \$653.25 worth of Metropolitan water in the nine months period. Incidental make up the balance of production expense.

Distribution expense was \$12,491.29, including \$7,429.45 charged off as depreciation on the distribution system. Maintenance made up the balance.

General expense of M.I.D. No. 1 was listed as \$14,288.96 including superintendent's and general office salaries, which total \$6,538. Supplies, office equipment, insurance, miscellaneous expense and depreciation made up the balance of that figure.

Total Water department operating expense was \$46,785.87, a substantial gain over the total 12 months operating expense in 1945-46 of \$107,749.89.

However, the expense column shows \$120,239.34 for nine months this year against a total of \$93,678.48 for all of last year.

Maintenance wages jumped from \$12,677.93 for a whole year to \$22,584.47 for nine months. Driver's wages jumped from \$28,432.31 for a whole year to \$39,166.63 for nine months this year. There was no substantial change in other figures.

However, on the revenue side, agents' fares dropped from \$64,712.10 in 1945-46 to \$49,850.40 for nine months with the trend. Fare box receipts jumped from \$40,453.20 for the year 1945-46 to \$50,639.44 for the nine months of this year. Agents' tickets, however, jumped (Continued on Page 5-A)

WILLET WILL SIT AS POLICE JUDGE

City Attorney Otto B. Willett will sit as City Judge in addition to his other duties, for a two-week period starting May 17.

On that date City Judge John A. Shidler will leave for his annual vacation.

Normal Service On Telephones

Telephone service in the Torrance and Lomita area, as well as the rest of the nation, returned to normal this week as operators and maintenance workers returned to work ending a strike of a month's duration.

According to A. B. Smith, manager for Pacific Telephone & Telegraph Company in the Torrance, Lomita and Wilmington district, all operators returned to work Monday with raises of \$4.00 per week gained.

Installation, maintenance and commercial workers returned yesterday morning, with raises of an equal amount.

Smith expressed his appreciation to the people of Torrance and Lomita for their patience during the work stoppage and for withholding unnecessary telephone calls. While the management and supervisory help manned the switch boards, it was difficult to handle calls at first, he said, but service improved with experience.

The strike started on April 7.

Teacher Hiring For Torrance In Full Swing

Hiring of teachers for the Torrance City school district is getting into full swing and cooperation is being experienced with university and college teacher placement bureaus.

So stated Dr. Howard A. Wood, president of the Torrance City Board of Education. He declared the salary schedule adopted by the Board of Education is proving an attraction to a finer type of teacher, as indicated by letters not only from individual teachers but from placement bureaus.

Dr. Wood announced that J. H. Hull, superintendent of schools, and E. W. Ingram, assistant superintendent, will start interviews of teachers at the California Teachers Association office on May 17. Interviews have been conducted in the board offices at 2693 Torrance Blvd.