

DEAR EDITOR....

No Word Yet On Incorporation

Editor
Torrance Press
We thank you for the space given in the Torrance Press to our meeting on August 14 with your accompanying editorial on the same subject.

We have no quarrel with the editorial policy of any newspaper. That is, after all, none of our business. However, we notice what appears to be a misstatement of fact in the editorial mentioned. You say "the case for incorporation has been presented."

May we ask the reporter's usual question, "Who? When? Where? Surely it has never been presented in the newspapers. The so-called Halferty figures compiled for the extended area from "Lomita to the Sea" cannot be taken for the square miles of Lomita proper. The Chamber of Commerce committee has never made a report. The Chairman, Mr. Sims, said that new figures were being compiled. Where are they? We are waiting for them. We have scanned every newspaper published in the area for some statement to justify in-

corporation. We have not found it.

For this reason we believe that your statement that the case for incorporation has been presented, is erroneous. Surely it has never been presented to the people of Lomita.

On the other hand we have printed and distributed statements of our case against incorporation. I enclose them herewith. The folder has been put into 3000 houses in Lomita. The proponents have made no reply; nor have they replied to open letters addressed to the subject.

Competent members of our group have consulted with all departments of the County government and have compiled accurate figures, based upon present performance, on probable revenues and disbursements of the proposed city which indicate that the city of Lomita, omitting a city tax, would operate with an annual deficit of \$96,000 requiring a city tax rate of \$1.40. We have never seen any figures compiled by any one of the recognized experts listed by the County of Los Angeles, and do not believe that any have been consulted.

Very sincerely yours,

Against Incorporation

Editor
Torrance Press
This is not a "Letter to the Editor," seeking publication. It is a message to the person who wrote what was labeled as an "editorial" on the front page of your last issue.

That "editorial" states, "The case for incorporation has been presented." We are bewildered. Who has presented a case for incorporation of nine quarter sections of land, without much in the way of payrolls, in Lomita or elsewhere?

Two and a fraction square miles constitute an area so small that local government could never be impartial because it could never be impersonal. Anyone with a decision to make

would be influenced by his own investment. Nobody can stay in Lomita and be much more than two miles away from anything in it.

The men promoting the formation of this pigmy "city" are so well known that the financial advantage each hopes to gain is apparent to the dullest. Their government would be one about which no one would cherish illusions.

Lomita has no building suitable for a "city hall." An abandoned wooden oil derrick could be brought from within the corporate limits of Torrance and set up in the middle of Lomita City."

The promoters talk of "crime prevention" in their city. They could install some jaded realltor on a platform atop the derrick to watch, through binoculars, the home-made brand of crime. He might see some impatient woman setting fire to a copy of the Torrance Press before the legal burning time. He might catch some urchin with a prohibited air gun. He would be bored by our peaceful, rural lives.

It is the criminal element which comes over the boundary lines at night which is important to the thinking people of Lomita; the casual arrival from over the Torrance boundary of men who rob gas stations, li-

quor stores, etc., and flee again northward.

Also, the night-time arrival of youth gangs bent on violence is a serious matter. When these "hoods" are apprehended their homes are usually found to be within the corporate limits of Torrance, Compton, Los Angeles etc. If these crimes could be anticipated the competent police forces of the home towns of the criminals would find a way to deter them. What has incorporation to offer to replace the watchful organization of the county Sheriff?

Nobody would work for the pigmy "city" who was competent to qualify for work in the governments of Torrance, Los Angeles, etc., with their retirement plans and job safeguards.

Any master-mind who could anticipate when the next robbery would occur at Highway 101 and Pennsylvania could get a good job somewhere else.

Will you give us space to present the case against incorporation—as many words as were used in that slanted, unfair editorial?

Very truly yours,
(S) MRS. MAY W. ROSS
Lomita

(Editor's note: We thought this letter and the ideas presented were worth publishing. Regarding the editorial, please see explanation under the letter from L. E. Ross. We do

not think the charge that the editorial was "slanted, unfair" is justified, because the speaker made certain statements which could not go unchallenged. It is obvious that we have not taken a stand in the matter, since we specifically stated that no one can do so properly at this time, until all the facts have been presented. As for giving space to your side of the story, that's exactly what we've done. The anti-incorporation forces were given an eight-column headline and a very detailed report of the meeting. Even individuals who took issue with our editorial commended us for the coverage we gave the event. We'll be glad to publish additional facts as they are made available.)

In Japan

Pvt. David H. Shuler, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Shuler, 25935 Narbonne ave., Lomita, is a member of the 40th Aircraft Artillery Brigade in Japan.

A radar plotter in Battery A of the brigade's 753d Battalion, Shuler entered the Army last November. He completed basic training at Fort Ord.

Shuler is a 1955 graduate of Narbonne high school.

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