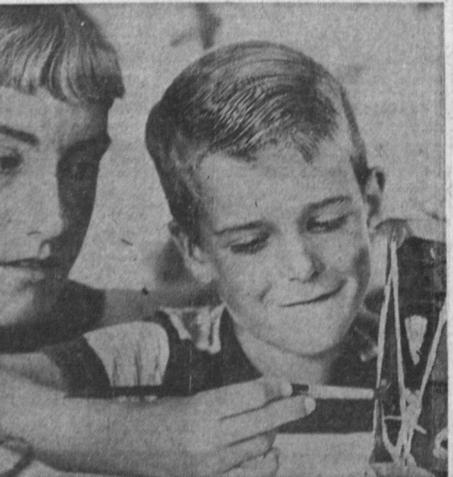


Torrance Mayor Asked to Help Halt Spread of Parasite Cities in County



24-HOUR WANT-AD SERVICE . . . CALL ANYTIME DA 5-1515

TORRANCE PRESS

3238 SEPULVEDA BLVD., TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA 10c PER COPY

VOL. XII 1 • 2 • SUNDAY, JUNE 5, 1960 NUMBER 14



RECREATION—This is the season for outdoor fun and plenty will be provided by the Torrance Recreation Department as



shown in these photos above and to the left. Everything, from golf to swimming to crafts is supplied for youngsters.

Beasley Says Lakewood-Plan Entities Are Just Satellites in County's Grab for Power

Autonomous Cities Plan Meeting, Contend Local Services Cheaper

Torrance has been invited to participate in a move to halt the spread of the parasite cities, which—although they hardly are cities at all—suck revenue from bona fide municipalities to buy county services cheap.

The Southeast Mutual Aid Cities, now numbering 11, have sent an invitation to Mayor Isen to join it in forming a county-wide group of autonomous cities and fight the county's spread of influence and power.

Chief aim of the group will be to battle the philosophy of government that permits such things as the so-called Lakewood plan. Under this system, the county keeps its enormous department going and growing by providing essential services, such as fire, police, tax assessment, public works, and the like.

This was the subject of a revealing talk by Harry Williams, city attorney for several municipalities, including Montebello and West Covina. Williams spoke to the South Bay-Centinel Valley Mayors' and Councilmen's Committee here last Nov. 22, in which he noted that the smaller the county area grows, the bigger the county bureaucracy.

Cities that contract with the county for services simply turn over their share of the 4% state sales tax and gain nothing, he told the group at that time. The self-sufficient cities kick back a share to the county and thus help pay for services provided the contracting entities.

The area thus is faced with the prospect of no incorporated county territory—and soon—plus the curious condition of an enormous county government.

Purpose of the organization meeting, to be held in Huntington Park June 15, will be first to refute the claim of county officials that county services are cheaper.

They are only cheaper, declared organizers of the group, in that autonomous cities are paying much of the freight. It is the contention of the Mutual Aid Cities that home services are cheaper and more efficient.

Torrance Councilman J. A. Beasley, most familiar with the controversy through his constant activity with inter-city groups, said yesterday, "A fight is coming, and we may as well prepare for it."

Although he has no notion how the council will vote, he said, "If we are going to have to continue supporting the parasite cities, it is time to do something about it."

"It is time for a showdown."

"These contracting cities are not cities at all. Their elected officials are simply added to the tax bill, the county Supervisors' power is expanded, and all else remains the same as when the community was a part of the county."

"This concept is permitting the Supervisors to build a machine to perpetuate themselves. Who in Lakewood, for example, will speak against a Supervisor?"

In the background is a plan by the independent cities, which Torrance likely would join, to increase the county Supervisors from five to 11 members in order to make themselves heard.

The services the county provides to contracting cities are at the expense of the county and independent-city taxpayers.

The fact is, the Mutual Aid Cities group is contending, that the county undercharges the cities it serves, adds the difference to noncontracting cities, and thus presents the incipient municipality a pretty package of cut-rate, efficient service thus to perpetuate its bureaus.

The group is heartily in favor of autonomous police departments, fire departments, assessors, building inspectors, and the like, who are responsible to the home governments alone.

In Torrance a major election issue last April lay in this city's contracting with the county for tax-assessor services. Many candidates ran on platforms that included a city assessor.

Last year in Rosemead, as one example of incorporation procedure, a mickey-mouse government was set up as the area became a city. In one swoop the city council adopted all the county laws, let them sit as city law, and made no move to amend nor repeal them.

The city contracted with the county for each and every municipal service, leaving the community in precisely the same fix it always had been in, plus the addition of a city council making a pretense of home rule in a room donated to the city by the local bank.

The only service that changed was that the county had the word "Rosemead" painted on one sheriff's car.

Councilman Beasley summed up his opinion of the whole procedure: "These are not cities. They are only satellites of the county."

Mayor Isen was not available to declare whether or not he will suggest the council authorize him to accept and attend the organizational meeting.

It was believed likely he will go, since this was a principal subject discussed at the Mayors' Conference, which he attended in Chicago recently.

Loss of Taxes Foreseen in Old Folks' City

Although promoters of the Village for Senior Citizens have told the City Council they have no intention of requesting the property be removed from the tax rolls, the city could lose the land for tax purposes.

This was the gist of an opinion by Stanley Remelmeyer, city attorney in a report to guide councilmen in their decision to permit or deny the application for a zone variance.

The council is expected to make its ruling June 21.

Remelmeyer said the property would qualify for removal from the tax rolls as being used exclusively for charity purposes. He cited precedents in which courts have been liberal in granting exemptions to aged and rest homes and declared he knew of no case in which an exemption was denied.

Noting a statement by the promoters would not be binding on directors of the Golden Age Corp., which would own the facility, he said an agreement could be drawn up under which the corporation would pay the city in lieu of lost taxes.

This could be killed by a court ruling too, Remelmeyer believes.

According to an estimate by the city manager's office, the land, located on Del Amo in the Victor precinct, would bring the city \$4000 a year if it were developed industrially.

If the Golden Age Corp. invests \$3,000,000 on the project, the same site would bring the city \$9600 a year—if Torrance can find a way to ensure collection of it.

COLD-WATER TREATMENT

Council Replies No Soap to Request for Car Wash

Mr. George Graziadio, probably the longest-suffering petitioner ever to appear before the City Council, has had it again.

The councilmen have yet to pronounce his name correctly and he has endured some sort of abuse virtually every appearance before the honorable body.

Mr. Graziadio is putting in the Airport Plaza shopping center at Pacific Coast Highway and Crenshaw. Nothing he does appears to please the council.

For weeks he kept coming back for changes, alterations, and amendments in the lease to permit variations and installations unthought of during initial consideration of the plans.

The council became more irritable with each succeeding appearance until now they're mad before he says what he wants.

This week Mr. Graziadio decided the development needs a car-wash facility.

The council, with startling

and instantaneous unanimity, decided it does not.

Furthermore, Councilman Victor E. Benstead took this opportunity to blow off steam about a hamburger stand situated on the premises.

The council authorized a restaurant and here is a hamburger stand, Mr. Benstead complained.

"That," Mr. Graziadio declared, "is a restaurant." Councilman J. A. Beasley, finding at last something upon which to agree with Mr. Benstead, announced that in his judgment it is a hamburger stand.

"Everyone is entitled to his own terminology," said Mr. Graziadio with some acidity. "To me it is a restaurant."

"It's a hamburger stand," rejoined Mr. Benstead with incontrovertible finality.

So it ended—and no car wash.

It appeared dubious at this juncture if Mr. Graziadio could get one vote to install a Lloyd's of London branch at the shopping center.

Council Action Opposes Water Rate Increase

A resolution opposing a request by Dominguez Water Corp. for an increase in rates has been prepared for City Council approval at that body's request.

Councilman George Bradford opposed the resolution, stating he did not believe the council should oppose every price rise willy-nilly, since costs of everything are going up.

The resolution states Dominguez increases would boost domestic bills by 38%, irrigation water by 184%, industrial cost by 36%, and fire protection by 124%.

The resolution states that the increase would be excessive, unnecessary, and opposed to the public interest and requests the state Public Utilities Commission to deny the request by Dominguez.

Public Drunks Voted Illegal

Torrance tipplers will have to stay indoors when they are soused, starting next month. A new city ordinance makes it illegal to be potted in public or any place open to public view.

Also no person who is drunk may even get into a car without violating the law.

South High to Graduate 325 in First Class on Thursday

The first graduating class from South High School—315 strong—will receive diplomas in ceremonies at 8 p. m. Thursday in the school gymnasium.

Taking part in presentation of diplomas will be school board members Clinton Cooke and William C. Boswell and School Superintendent J. H. Hull.

The Spartan band will play under the direction of Glenn Hawley.

James Hawkins, senior president, will present "Remembrances," while Richard Jurmain will give "Forecasts for the Future." Invocation will be given by the Rev. David Beadles, pastor of Welteria Community Methodist Church.

Principal John A. Lucas will present the class for graduation. Graduates are:

Christine Agnew, Irene Ahrens, Roderic Ahrim Jr., Sandra Appleby, Rommel Armitage, Larry Aycock, William Bailey, Constance Baillie, Lucinda Baldwin, Charlotte Ball, Elaine Ballard, Robert Barry, Barbara Bell, Jean Bigelow, Dennis Binford, Barbara Bishop, Linda Bishop, Paul Blaine, Dourine Blair, Chuck Bower, Selma Brady, Susan Branigan, Bruce Brennan, Robert Brooks, Carl Brown, James Buchanan, Lynn Burman, Barbara Burton, Bonnie Butler, Patricia Cassone, Larry Caudill, Nancy Causky, Nancy Cavannah, Sandra Chapman, Lawrence Cluckey, George Gobabe, Joe Cocke, Linda Colbert, Nancy Coleman, Diane Conner, John Cook, Linda Cooke, Vicki Cooper, William Cooper Jr., John Cordes, Sandra Cornin, Maren Courney, Carla Cramer, Arthur Crane, Harold Crofts, Carolyn Cummings, Michael Czarke, Arleen Dalley, Marian Daniels, Albert Danico, Carol Davy, Anne Davis, Linda Davis, Sandra Davis, Willard Davis, Charles DeBass, Gary Desmond, Stephan Dessau, Edward Dettlinger, Edmund Doly Jr., William Doly, Ronald Drilling, Patrick Duffy, William Edwards, Dan Erickson, Linda Eubanks, Joelyn Ferrell, Charles Fischer, Thomas Fitzpatrick Jr., Christa Fletcher, Debra

Inside the Press

A fireman's mother and a college student committee come to the defense of individuals claimed to be unjustly penalized. The fireman believed he was doing right; the college teacher hasn't the faintest notion why he was fired.

Read their letters today on Page 4-A.

Elsewhere in today's edition:

Classified 3-5-B Looseleaf Notebook 4-A
Entertainment 4-A Women 1-B
Letters 4-A



ARLINGTON OPENS—Cutting ribbon on Arlington Ave. link are Abe Robinson, president, Downtown Merchants' Association; George Stevens, city manager; J. H. Paget,

Chamber of Commerce president; Mayor Isen, and Councilmen George Bradford and George Vico. New route goes around the Pueblo and speeds the "street to nowhere."

(Continued on Page A-2)