

A Newspaper
for All the People
All the Time

Torrance Herald



herald

Torrance
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NEWS REVIEW SECTION

THREE

The Southern Counties

Colorado Aqueduct

Greater than the great Boulder Canyon Dam itself will be the Colorado River Aqueduct which will bring life-giving water to the eleven Southern California cities of the Metropolitan Water District.

While only last spring did Congress make construction of the Boulder Canyon Dam legally possible, the Metropolitan Water District since 1926, has had sixteen crews of surveyors in the field investigating, mapping possible routes of the great aqueduct from the Colorado River to Pomona. Over an area of more than 50,000 square miles, from the Mexican border to the Grand Canyon, from central Arizona to the Pacific Coast, have the surveyors charted the terrain.

After three years of effort, Chief Engineer Frank E. Weymouth and his staff have compiled four possible aqueduct routes. To study this data and to select the most practicable and economical of the four routes, the Metropolitan Water District's board of directors last week appointed three famed and able consulting engineers. The board: A. J. Wiley of Boise, Idaho, member of the Boulder Dam Commission; Richard R. Lyman of Salt Lake City, member of the Engineering Board of the Sanitary District of Chicago; Theodorus Merriman, chief engineer of the Board of Water Supply of New York City. Their retainer: a \$5000 retainer fee, \$100 per day and expenses while engaged.

No engineers residing in California, Nevada or Arizona were considered by the board. Reason: They might be prejudiced.

Said Chief Engineer Weymouth: "One thing should be understood by all: the engineers and officers of the Metropolitan Water District have no favorite or 'pet' route in mind. Both gravity and pumping routes are being studied (by the district's engineers). The consulting engineers will be confronted with the problem of selecting the most economical route. In testing whether a given route is the most economical, the capital cost of construction and the cost of operation must be taken into account."

On November 1 the engineers will assemble at Los Angeles. For six weeks will they review Chief Engineer Weymouth's data; construction costs and maintenance they will consider. When they come forth with the secrecy of their conference rooms, announce to the Metropolitan Water District their selection, that decision will be final.

Much hoped for by the Metropolitan Water District directors is that a decision on the proposed route will be made sufficiently early to permit a bond election next spring. Thus actual construction of the great aqueduct could be started during the summer of 1930.

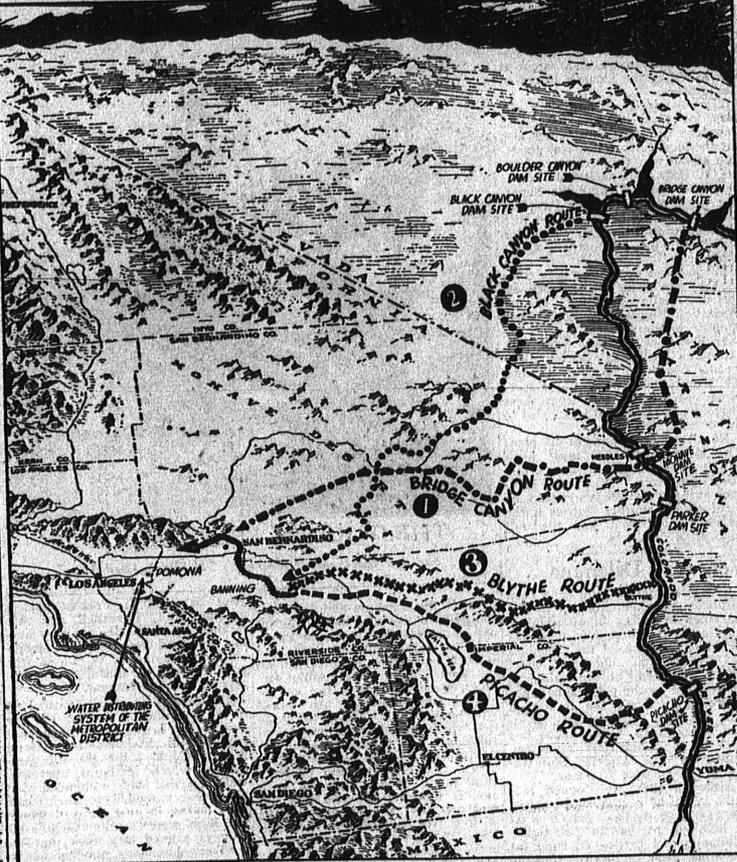
Two types of aqueduct construction will the engineers consider: (1) gravity (following the terrain, no power lifts) and pumping (water-lifting). The proposed gravity aqueducts are longer, cost more to construct, can be operated more cheaply. The proposed pumping aqueducts are shorter, less expensive to construct. Annual maintenance and operating cost for pumping aqueducts is estimated at from \$5,000,000 to \$9,000,000. For gravity aqueducts operating and maintenance costs are estimated at from \$500,000 to \$1,000,000 annually.

Of proposed routes for the aqueduct there are four. The longest route is 360 miles long, all gravity. The shortest: 227 miles long, pumping.

Routes to be considered by the three consulting engineers: (1) Bridge Canyon, a gravity aqueduct, 360 miles long, of which 167 miles are grade tunnels, 176 miles of covered aqueduct and fifteen miles of pressure tunnels. Estimated cost: \$219,000,000, with low maintenance cost. Estimated time for construction: eight years.

Necessary to the construction and operation of this route is the construction, at Bridge Canyon, (above the proposed Boulder Dam), of a second dam.

(2) Black Canyon, a pumping aqueduct, 270 miles long, consisting of tunnels and covered aqueducts, and a pumping plant capable of lifting 1500-second feet of water to a height of 1600 feet. Estimated cost: \$150,000,000 to \$200,000,000. Annual maintenance and operating costs: \$5,000,000 to \$9,000,000. Estimated time for construction: eight years.



A variation of the Black Canyon route is a subterranean gravity aqueduct, 227 miles long, consisting of 175 miles covered aqueduct, 55 miles tunnels, 19 miles pressure tunnels or siphons, 3 miles of infiltration gallery, and a pumping plant capable of lifting water 1635 feet from the intake at Blythe to Shavers Summit. Cost: Not computed.

(3) Blythe Route, a pumping aqueduct, 267 miles long, consisting of 175 miles covered aqueduct, 55 miles of tunnels, eight miles of siphons or force mains. Approximate water lift: 1580 feet. Cost: Not computed.

(4) Picacho Route, a pumping aqueduct, 242 miles long, consisting of 174 miles covered aqueduct, 60 miles of tunnels, eight miles of siphons or force mains. Approximate water lift: 1580 feet. Cost: Not computed.

Necessary to the operation of this route is the construction of the Picacho Dam. All four of the routes would pass through San Bernardino, hence to Pomona, where the central distributing system of the Metropolitan Water District will connect with the aqueduct. From Pomona, Colorado River water will be distributed to San Bernardino, Colton, Santa Ana, Anaheim, San Marino, Pasadena, Glendale, Los Angeles, Burbank, Beverly Hills and Santa Monica, all member of the Metropolitan district.

Mushroom Cities

Mushroom-like has been the growth and development of many a California city. Especially lush has been the expansion of Southern California cities.

To prevent cities and counties from growing up, topsy-like, without plan or system, State's Attorney General Webb last week rendered a decision which provides that all counties have a county planning commission to map out the manner in which the county shall grow. Said Webb: "The County Planning Commission Act is not optional, but mandatory on every county in the State."

In his decision, State's Attorney Webb held that it is prescribed in

the general laws of the State that county governments must be uniform in their make-up, that this precludes any option in the matter. Passed by the 1929 Legislature, the County Planning Commission Act was purportedly designed to prevent disorderly growth of cities in Los Angeles County, especially the cities of Los Angeles, Long Beach, Alhambra County, especially the City of Oakland.

Site Selected

Since the people of California voted in 1926 to provide funds for a State building at Los Angeles, many plans have received consideration; several sites have been contemplated; but no real action has taken place.

Finally taken last week were the initial steps to clear the way for the construction of a \$2,500,000 building on First Street between Broadway and Hill streets. In September the property of the Tally-Ho garage, which now stands on the site, declared County Counsel Everett W. Mattoon: "Every effort will be made to bring this suit to prompt termination as possible."

Additional property also is the Board of Supervisors planning to buy, condemn and raze the Klinker Building with a large enough site so that it may face on three streets: Broadway, First, and Hill. The three-sided site was requested a fortnight ago by Governor Young.

The corner of First and Spring Streets was also considered. This property will be bought, however, by the County for future use. Designers of Los Angeles' civic center at first planned to use the land on which the State building is to rise for a huge county courthouse building. The courthouse will now be erected elsewhere.

The Tally-Ho garage property adjoins a 240-foot lot on the northeast corner of First and Hill Streets which the Board of Supervisors purchased for \$455,000 early last spring. To complete the purchase of the site, it will be necessary to buy, condemn and raze the Klinker Building which is located just north of the garage.

Courthouse

Rapid has been the growth and progress of Santa Maria within the last few years. To conduct County affairs from the distant seat at Santa Barbara has become increasingly difficult. Last week it became a certainty that a branch courthouse would be established at Santa Maria. Now officials there will conduct business from the local branch County seat, will not be dependent on far away Santa Barbara. In Santa Maria the new office will have its location in the Pythian building.

To house branches of County offices, and eventually branches of every County office, will be the chief use of the building. On November 1 will be installed branch offices of the Horticultural Commission, Health Department, Welfare Board, and Traffic Department. Others will be added as necessity arises.

Gas Wastage

Full in force since September 1 are the new State laws prohibiting the flagrant wastage by oil companies of natural gas. On November 1, in drilling their wells, several oil companies have let loose millions of feet of natural gas, wasted it. Outraged citizens, law-making officials, have made war on the companies; tried to stop on the companies; discussed last week at a Chamber of Commerce luncheon in Los Angeles was the unnecessary loss of gas. Many a speaker spoke of the need for immediate action, of arousing the citizenry against the alarming situation. One of the several speakers was J. S. Bennett, attorney for the Director of Natural Gas Resources. He said California officials were prepared to enforce the new gas conservation law—and to enforce without fear or favor.

The first tangible complaint to be made was against the Santa Fe Springs field. An injunction to compel companies there to shut down was the initial move last week to conserve the cheap fuel. It will be filed this week. When the injunction is obtained, similar proceedings will be made against the Long Beach, Seal Beach, Huntington Beach and other oil fields.

Said President E. R. Reeser of the American Petroleum Institute: Southern California is fortunate in having one of the world's greatest deposits of natural gas. At the present rate of waste, Los Angeles county will be short of gas within two years.

Some idea of the enormous waste of gas was given by C. C. Brown, gas administrator for the State Railroad Commission. He said 77 billion cubic feet of gas were wasted in 1928 out of 317 billion total cubic feet. In the seven past months of this year 128 billion cubic feet of gas has been blown into the air.

Seven well known oil companies, Associated, Standard Oil Union, Richfield, General Petroleum and Texas, have formed an association to conserve and pro-rate the distribution of gas at Santa Fe Springs, Long Beach, Seal Beach and Ventura fields. This plan, said R. D. Bush, State Gas and Oil Supervisor, is open to all other operators in those fields.

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Complete masters of their fate for an entire day, next month, will be the populace of Watson Tract, near Ventura.

To the inhabitants—all two of them—will rest the responsibility of deciding who will rule them in the future.

The City Council of Ventura last week set the date of October 15 for the election by which the tract is to be, or not to be, annexed to that city. The voters will be Owner Mrs. Mary K. Watson and her solitary employee. They will also constitute an election board; all other necessary officers.

To open up the polls at 7 o'clock in the morning will be their duty. Also must they see that matters are properly arranged, that no riots have a chance to begin. While one acts as election official, the other will have a chance to slip out, walk around the building, re-enter, cast his weighty vote.

Next they will count the votes; examine them for possible fraud; file the returns; sit around until 7 P. M. to close the polls. On constant duty throughout the day will be a Ventura officer of the law to see that no undue influences are exerted over the voters.

Mists to Cloudbursts

Numerous indeed were the benefits from rainfall which fairly soaked sections of Southern California during last week. From slight mists experienced along the Coast between Redondo and Santa Monica, to the large but harmless cloudbursts in Mill Creek Redlands practically every vicinity had its share of the precipitation.

Especially thankful last week were Imperial Valley farmers. Rainfall enabled them to level down thousands of acres of melon ground in preparation for alfalfa and lettuce crops. Holtville, Calexico, and another Valley town also reported an increase in rainfall and accompanying benefits to crops.

Cut to the minimum will be the fire hazard if the mountainous regions continue to receive as good soaking during the next week as they have for the past fortnight. There has been more precipitation in the mountains than ever before at this time of the year; thorough soaking of the underbrush and trees far overbalances the slight damage done by the violence of the storms.

Fremont-Foxen

Near Santa Maria, last Monday, was celebrated the birthday of California. On the Fox Canyon road, a thoughtful group stood, dedicated the Fremont-Foxen Memorial tablet, unveiled it.

Said the writing on the tablet: "Santa Barbara County dedicates this monument to John C. Fremont, the pathfinder, Benjamin Foxen, the pioneer. Near this site on the Foxen Rancho in 1846 encamped an American Force under Lieut.-Col. Fremont. Warned by Foxen of an ambush in Gaviota Pass and guided by him on Christmas day over Santa Marcos Pass, the Americans took Santa Barbara without bloodshed. Three weeks later, January 13th, 1847, California was ceded to the United States."

High School band music, a dedicatory address by C. I. Preker and a final singing of the Star Spangled Banner were high lights of the program. The tablet was erected by the Pioneer Section of the Minerva Library Club of Santa Maria, under the auspices of the State Landmarks Committee.

NON WATER PLAYS TONIGHT

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Tonight!
from 7 to
10:30

ORGANIZATION
OF RETAILERS
FORMED HERE

Torrance Herald
Secure Municipally

You'll be well repaid for a trip to the business district of Torrance tonight. Nearly every merchant has prepared special window displays of new Autumn goods and the downtown streets will be ablaze with color and light. The event will announce the formal opening of the Fall Season, and anyone who is interested in "what's new" will find plenty to see. The Fall displays include clothing, shoes, furniture, household goods, and many other types of Fall goods. Don't miss it.

Lay Plans for Big Trading Center in Torrance—Problems Discussed Frankly—Next Meeting Oct. 1

Plans for a greater retail center in Torrance were laid at an organization banquet Friday evening, attended by a large majority of Torrance retail merchants.

The banquet room at Earl's Cafe was crowded to capacity as the most enthusiastic gathering of local merchants that has ever met in Torrance discussed vital problems affecting their businesses and the future development of Torrance as a trading center. The meeting was in the nature of a round table discussion and was conducted in a very frank and open manner.

The meeting was called to order by Harry H. Dolley and later turned over to R. F. Hogue, who was elected chairman. Committees on organization and code of procedure are to be appointed and a secretary selected.

It was decided to keep store window lights burning until 10:30 p. m. each night to encourage more people to window shop.

A fall opening window display was voted which will be staged tonight, from 7 to 10:30 p. m. Merchants have prepared very attractive displays of Autumn merchandise for the Fall Opening Event tonight and the rest of the week. Membership in the new Retail Division is limited to merchants who buy goods at wholesale and sell them at retail. A membership drive will be conducted soon to enlist those who were not at the meeting. There are no dues. Meetings will be held the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 6:10 p. m. when a dinner will be served. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 1, and every retail merchant in Torrance is invited to attend, according to R. F. Hogue, chairman.

Sewer Ordered for South Side Redondo Blvd.

A new sewer line was authorized by the City Council last evening for the South side of Redondo boulevard between Madrid and Cravena avenues.

The present sewer in the alley on the south side of Redondo boulevard was laid before the lots were cut down to street level, and as a result the sewer is higher than the street.

On recommendation of City Engineer Frank Leonard, the Council ordered a sewer laid for the present on the south side of Redondo boulevard from Fortola to Arlington avenues connecting with the north of Redondo boulevard. The expense will be about \$450 and will be paid by the City of Torrance.

Industries Ask Better Service from P. E. Office

Directors of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce directed a communication to the Pacific Electric Railway, requesting more modern office equipment and additional help to facilitate shipments of freight to and from Torrance.

A number of shippers including the larger industries in Torrance have complained that the addition of a comptometer and other up-to-date office equipment would in their opinion greatly improve the paper work of the Pacific Electric office in Torrance and better the service to shippers materially.

Business Men's Luncheon to Be Held Fortnightly

Business Men's group of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce resumed its luncheons this week. It was decided to hold them hereafter on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at Earl's Cafe, 12:15 o'clock.

A committee will be appointed to sell monthly tickets, so that a more accurate count can be anticipated. This action was taken in fairness to Earl Conner, who has frequently prepared luncheon for forty when only half that number came.

Cars Crash on Carson Street

Cars driven by Charles McEaren 1618 E. Carson street, and Margaret Huffer, 1444 Post avenue, collided on Carson street between Harvard and Western Monday evening at 9:15 p. m.

McEaren, in his report to the police, stated that he gave the signal to turn right and Margaret Huffer drove to the right of him and the collision resulted. The cars were only slightly damaged.

Weather Machine Transferred to High School

Weather station for Torrance will hereafter be kept by the faculty and students of the Torrance high school. The City Council authorized the transfer of the Government weather machine this week to the high school building. A maximum temperature of 97 degrees was registered this week on Tuesday. The rain gauge showed .01-inch after the shower Tuesday night.

Kettler Opposes Extension of Cabrillo-Eshelman Ave.

The Cabrillo avenue-Eshelman project was given a set-back this week when the City Council received a letter from Benjamin W. Shipman, attorney for the Kettler interests, informing Torrance people that the Kettler interests were not in favor of the proposed extension of Cabrillo avenue through their property.

In the letter, Attorney Shipman stated that the Kettler interests felt that their holdings would be more valuable as potential industrial land

if held in one piece than if divided into two parcels. He stated that he was cognizant of the fact that the City of Torrance could enter condemnation proceedings to acquire the right of way, but expressed the hope that this action would not be taken. He predicted that the Kettler land would soon be needed for industrial purposes and stated that he believed such development would be more of an asset to Torrance if the proposed street were not put through at this time.

Disturb
Themselves

Lawton	12
Bl Segundo	067
Whittier	05
TORRANCE	334

Joe Taven and Robert Kemmel returned Wednesday from a 10 days' trip to Vancouver. The trip was made by auto.

nothing to prevent the City of Torrance from running a nice clean new line of pipes right along beside them and let the water company keep their smelly old green lined pipes filled with yellow stinking water just as long as they want them.