



The Southern Counties

Torrance Herald

Torrance Population 8200

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Harbor Unification

Increasingly evident last week became the fact that plans for the gigantic merger of the two great southern harbors will be a success. Although Los Angeles (San Pedro) and Long Beach respectively get well under way last week in preparing an inter-city program to meet governmental conditions. When completed, the program will be offered for consideration to the Federal Board of Army Engineers.

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The most significant step so far taken is the appointment of these committees. From their efforts will come the bi-city expression of intended compliance to the details on which the project is founded. Practical assurance has the Federal government already given that if the committees are successful in preparing a program to present to the board by November, the sum of \$7,000,000 to \$8,000,000 will be appropriated toward the construction of the breakwater system.

Of sufficient depth to harbor any vessel now afloat will the new harbor be dug; also it will provide a protected area for the Pacific Fleet in place of the ocean roadstead. On the building of the gigantic new breakwater system will depend the development of the southern shore of Terminal Island by Los Angeles, and the outer Harbor of Long Beach. By means of the harbor, large vessels may tie up at either wharves and be free of damaging surges.

Appointed by Los Angeles Mayor Porter to the bi-city committee are Councilman A. E. Henning, Attorney Eugene Overton, and Bert Heiny. Councilman for the Harbor district, Henry A. Stevens, familiar with the port development, Overton is Harbor State Committee chairman. Secretary of the Greater Harbor Committee of Two Hundred is Heiny; he has been associated with that body since its organization.

These three will work in co-operation with the committee appointed by Mayor Hauge of Long Beach to represent that city. On the beach committee are C. A. Bufum, former Long Beach mayor; Long Beach Chamber of Commerce President I. M. Stevens; and Albert deForest Palmer, Harbor Commission member. Also in the body are City Council Members B. B. Stakemiller and Frank H. Church.

Near Disaster

Last fortnight, recently appointed State Engineer Hyatt announced his intention of inspecting all dams, reservoirs, to see if they were safe. (See News Review, Aug. 26-Sept. 1.)

Before Hyatt got around to the Burbank reservoir, local citizens last week did some inspecting of their own. In their 7,000,000-gallon Municipal Reservoir No. 4, perched 200 feet above the city in the foothills, they found a bad leak near the reservoir's base. Perturbed and alarmed they became. Perhaps the reservoir was ready to come in, let loose its stored water, down the city.

Late that day the streets of Burbank were flooded with water. Loath to endanger the lives of the populace, the reservoir officials had opened the emergency valves in the reservoir, turned on the fire hydrants, released the entire 7,000,000 gallons of water. In the interim, everyone in the probable path of the possible torrent—if the reservoir should break—was warned to move out. Seven hundred people from 200 homes evacuated the condemned area. Around that zone was placed a cordon of policemen to bar any entry.

Next day, on the scene with Burbank's Superintendent Smith, C. A. Stakemiller, and Smith, the bridge was checked for a possible leakage. These two probed into the cause of the break. In the meantime came a telegram from State Engineer Hyatt asking MacCambridge if the damaged Burbank reservoir came under his (Hyatt's) jurisdiction.

While Burbank's reservoir endangered the lives of hundreds, one of the frequent inspections of Ontario's gigantic 10,000,000-gallon reservoir was in progress. Officials there, after a thorough investigation, declared there was no danger of the water barrier cracking as had the Burbank reservoir. City Manager August Burt led the inspection, made the favorable report.

LOS ANGELES AND LONG BEACH HARBORS

In the offing: A gigantic merger to benefit shipping.

jurisdiction. If it did, MacCambridge was to stop all investigation until the State had taken over the inspection. MacCambridge decided to give a full report to the State and also to invite special engineers to participate in the investigation.

Completely empty of its huge water capacity, the reservoir's west and north walls disclosed one major crack, one-half inch in width and sixteen feet long, as well as three other smaller fissures, two of them branching off the main break. The floor of the great basin was found to be surprisingly free of mud, debris, after one year's use.

Soon at the spot, from the State Capitol, was State Engineer L. H. Perkins, accompanied by S. A. Kerr, expert on dams. Neither could advance any theory as to the cause of the reservoir cracking. Local people believed that the ground under the reservoir base had settled, as it is filled in territory.

Last week two tunnels were being built for Perkins and Kerr, to aid them in their investigations of the reservoir's base. Through them they would make a survey of the west fill-in walls. Both Perkins and Kerr are former United States reclamation engineers; both have built many dams and reservoirs similar to the Burbank reservoir. They indicated that the portion of the wall near San Jose Avenue in Burbank would have to be reconstructed.

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Only eleven years ago it is since the United States was at death grips with Germany. Goaded by war hysteria, from song-books in 1917-1918 were scratched German songs from the American vocalists, German words. Thus strange in contrast to those hectic years were happenings last week at San Diego. For intertwined were the flags of Germany and the United States.

When the Graf-Zeppelin's motors took her through San Diego on her trip from Los Angeles to Lakehurst, she sailed low, through the mountains between Jacumba and Mt. San Miguel. Hero-admiring San Diegans hastened to name that honored pass, Eckener Pass.

Last week the German ship Emden rested in San Diego waters. What could be more appropriate, thought San Diegans, than to have the Eckener Pass dedicated

in the retail district of Torrance during the past year. Practically every merchant in Torrance is carrying larger stocks than ever before. Styles and modes are being carefully studied and selected. With the increase in patronage has come improved store services, and now that a city-wide retail organization has been perfected, co-operative activities will be undertaken that will be beneficial to customers as well as to the merchants themselves, stated Mr. Hogue. "Already Torrance is recognized as the principal trading center for

by the Emden's commander, Captain Arnaud de La Perier. Therefore, an Army plane was allotted him. Piloted by Maj. Carl Spatz, the Emden commander flew low over the pass, dropped the intertwined flags of Germany and the United States, dedicated the Pass. Citizens applauded, were pleased.

Palmer Resigns

For twenty-one years the Los Angeles Water and Power Board was ably headed by former State Senator Reginaldo F. Del Valle. A few months ago he resigned; in his place, Los Angeles Mayor John C. Porter appointed zealous citizen, Judge Harlan G. Palmer. (See News Review, Sept. 2-8.)

Great was the satisfaction when Judge Palmer accepted the post. Townsmen knew him as a public-spirited, fair individual; knew he could settle without bias the many problems of water and power supply. Enthusiastic folk knew of Palmer's activities as publisher of the Hollywood Daily Citizen, reclamation engineer, both have numbered his tirades against vice, graft, in the Los Angeles government. Enemies and opponents of Publisher Palmer hastened to remember that Palmer's paper had been Mayor Porter's sole support in the primary elections last spring, suggested favoritism. One organization predicted the Hollywood Citizen as Mayor Porter's mouth-piece.

For two months Palmer held the position of President of the Water and Power Board. To its many problems he devoted hours of time. In Owens Valley he dictated, surveyed, soothed the inhabitants. Unexpectedly, President Palmer last week resigned his new post. Scandal-mongering reporters looked

for political discord, trouble; found none. Many a citizen heard of Palmer's resignation with regret. Palmer said he felt too many restrictions imposed upon him as the Board's president. He believed he could best serve the Department of Water and Power as a non-official member. Then he would have full privilege of debate and opportunity for making motions. Those who believed in Palmer's integrity, ability, took the resignation for what it was worth. Others did not.

Dr. John R. Haynes, a former vice-president of the board, was appointed to succeed Judge Palmer.

No Drug Farm

Strong has been the opposition of the Redlands Chamber of Commerce, other civic organizations, since it was made known, last month, that the Federal government was considering building a narcotic farm in or near that city. Rejoicing, however, were citizens of that community last week. Definite word had come to them that the hospital would not be located there.

Out of deference to public wishes, the Federal site committee ignored private interests, dispelled the fears of citizens by announcing last week that the proposed institution would be situated outside of California, probably near the Colorado River.

Redland's agitation against the location of the drug farm nearby was spurred on by local land holders, who, interested in personal, not public gains, had offered sites to the Federal committee.

Dry Drought

Dry drought last week threatened the city of Yuma, just over the border of the Imperial County line. For four long days was the desert city without water. Reason: Between Yuma and its water supply, the connecting canals were blocked, choked, with dirt and debris.

Later, twenty-five men ventured forth with dredge and dynamite, under the guidance of reclamation engineers. In four days they had removed 15,000 cubic feet of sand. Under much difficulty was this accomplished. An eighty-ton dredge was transported ten miles to the scene of the trouble. Along the canal banks the crew were compelled to build roads to pull the dredge. Side canals, clogged, were blasted open with T. N. T.

Replacing St. Francis

Not in the same location as ill-fated St. Francis Dam but only a few miles away is a new reservoir to be erected. Since St. Francis let loose its 38,000,000 acre feet of water, laid waste the land, Los Angeles County's water department has been in continual need of water storage facilities, for its growing population.

Therefore plans were laid last week for a new storage reservoir in the Chatsworth district of the San Fernando Valley, to take the place of the once imposing St. Francis Dam. Located near the present Chatsworth reservoir, the new addition to the Los Angeles water supply will cost between four and five million dollars.

Not unnaturally, many a resident of San Fernando Valley last week wondered if the new dam would be safe, incapable of breaking, flooding them. Reassurance was given them by consulting engineers, A. J. Wiley and Louis C. Hill, who reported favorably on the location. Previously had they surveyed all the mountain ranges in the vicinity of Los Angeles County. None, thought the engineers, suited the present project better than the selected site.

Last week the Board of Water and Power Commissioners authorized the issuance of \$1,000,000 in short time notes to finance the preliminary construction work. But before construction actually begins, official sanction from the State Engineer's office is necessary.

Because the greater single problem of the Water Department since the St. Francis episode has been to provide water storage within the Los Angeles district, dam proponents expect no opposition from the State authorities. When the official stamp of approval is received, work will begin.

Issuance of the \$1,000,000 short time notes is provided for in the new Los Angeles city charter. These notes may be sold up to 30 per cent of the city's gross annual revenues, which amount to \$15,000,000. Thus the notes issued are still within the margin. The Power and Water Board at a meeting last week expressed its desire to finance the entire building of the Chatsworth reservoir through a water-bond election.

Wastage Action

Last week legal action was taken against the oil and natural gas moguls of Southern California. Reason: They had been wasting flagrantly the natural resources of county and State. (See News Review of last week.) In the Superior Court at Los Angeles, Fred Stevenot, State Director of Natural Resources, filed a complaint against a small army of oil companies now conducting operations in the Santa Fe Springs field. He charged them with unreasonable wastage of natural resources. The specially appointed State's Attorney, James S. Bennett, said the complaint would serve to check the natural gas wastage law which gives the State authority to compel oil companies to conserve natural gas.

In twenty-nine lengthy paragraphs, the State set out the cause of the action. A limit of 2500 cubic feet of gas to each barrel of oil produced was set in the complaint as the amount specified by State law. A greater production, such as is the case now among the oil companies, is in defiance of the law. At present, 400,000,000 cubic feet of gas is wasted every twenty-four hours at Santa Fe Springs.

The State's complaint names as defendants 53 of the Santa Fe field companies, large and small; great corporations, small independent concerns. Standard Oil, Associated General Petroleum, Richfield, Shell and Union Oil were among the larger companies affected.

While plaintiffs were prosecuting and defendants defending, the crude oil production of the Santa Fe Springs for the week ending September 7 was steadily decreasing. Since the week previous it had decreased 19,900 barrels.

Last week production picked up with the coming in of twenty-two new wells at deeper levels.

Earthquakes

Five years ago the City of Santa Barbara experienced a major disaster. A violent earthquake destroyed the major portion of that city's business district, wrecked homes; streets; killed several early risers; residents caused millions of

EMPLOYEES OPENED

0,000 Building is in 4-Day Cere-ast Week

and dedication of the new home of the Pacific Employees' club, just at 627 South Los Angeles, was held last week today to Saturday.

fitting the occasion inaugural addresses, fire shows, dancing and of entertainment were for each of the four evenings. Employees, reported departments and were assigned to attend of the four evenings in overflow attendance.

an expenditure in excess of 5000 and distinctive bene provisions made for athletic and educational facilities for Pacific employees and their families club ranks in real estate clubs of southern California. For a nominal monthly fee employees and their families are privileged to 5000 workers of the members.

at the disposal of workers and their motion picture the ball, class rooms, lunching rooms, billiard parlor and other and only in first class

Water

By Grover C. Whyte

The campaign for a municipally owned water system in Torrance made substantial headway this week. City Engineer Frank Leonard acting under instructions from the City Council has been busy all week spotting locations for a reservoir and figuring estimates of pipe requirements, and other details necessary to submit a proposition to the voters for a municipal water system. Investigations of the best water sources are also being made by the city engineers and Mayor Dennis.

It certainly looks like Torrance means business and is seriously taking up the problem of better and cheaper water. In the mean time, citizens having the best interests of Torrance at heart are continually offering to help in any way they can.

There isn't much that can be done until the city engineers finish his report and the council submit the proposition to the voters, but the Torrance Herald in co-operation with the Chamber of Commerce and the City Council intend to keep hammering on this vital problem until the matter is satisfactorily settled for all time by a city-owned and city-operated water system.

The Torrance Herald wishes to again thank the hundreds of good people who have offered their services and tendered their thanks to this newspaper for taking up the fight. The battle is on and we see a united people fighting for the common good. Nothing can stop us now!

Values and Attendance Astounding Gain Since '19 Spend \$53,000 Over Tax Levy

ROBERT S. WOOD

omental growth of Torrance, fully shown by a comparison taken from the report of the board of education, containing the figures for the year ending June 30, 1919, and the year ending June 30, 1918. The total enrollment in 1919 was 119 with 4 teachers. In 1918 the average daily attendance was 119 with 4 teachers and 321 pupils with 32 increase of 716%. The total enrollment in 1919 was 119 with 4 teachers and 321 pupils with 32 increase of 716%. The total enrollment in 1919 was 119 with 4 teachers and 321 pupils with 32 increase of 716%.

ing high school in those ten years from 16 students to 12 teacher-adult students, a truly increase.

It shows an equally increase in valuation of property, buildings and in 1919 the total valuation of all school in Torrance was \$61,000 has increased in ten years to over a million dollars among the four the city as shown in the table.

mentary 5,476 38,685.42 3,662.58 47,823.9

VALUATION, JUNE 30, 1919

EXPENDITURES YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 1919

VALUATION, JUNE 30, 1929

EXPENDITURES YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 1929

schools in Torrance was \$18,124.39 while Torrance schools last year cost \$33,707.53 both figures including money spent for school equipment, etc., as well as for cost of instruction, supplies, repairs and maintenance.

An interesting comparison may be made between the money raised in Torrance by the school tax and school expenditures. On an assessed valuation of 18 million dollars a tax rate of \$1.57 raised last year about \$282,000 while for the operation of the schools the board of education spent in Torrance \$205,393 to which should be added equipment, improvements, new buildings, etc., which was raised largely by tax levy. This does not include money from state funds allocated on average daily attendance basis without regard to school district jurisdiction. This makes the total of over \$350,000 more than was raised by taxes. It is true that in some years during the past there was less money spent in Torrance on schools than was raised here, still a balance of \$53,000 in our favor for this year is a very satisfactory condition.

The schools of Torrance are now better able to care for the educational problems in the community than at any time since they were organized. Many schools in Torrance are crowded, many using tents and bungalows while Torrance is enjoying ample facilities with the most modern type of buildings and equipment.

The tables below give comparisons over the ten year period:

Land Buildings Equipment Total

Fern Street School 13,310.00 3,369.24 2,330.38 19,499.62

Torrance Elementary 23,614.94 2,054.95 24,808.64 25,958.53

Walteria School 6,436.63 27,858.92 2,897.33 37,792.88

Torrance High School 70,867.53 483,216.48 77,088.19 581,172.2

HOUSING DEPT. WILL TACKLE BIG PROBLEM

Chamber of Commerce Employs E. Standish Palmer to Head Housing Bureau

Why do more people not live in Torrance? That is the question Chamber of Commerce directors have been endeavoring to answer for several years. And to arrive at the solution of this stumbling block to civic development, the Chamber of Commerce directors decided this week to establish a department of housing under the direction of E. Standish Palmer.

"The department of housing will be a disinterested agency of service which will co-ordinate and co-operate with all other interests in the city for the common good and progress of the community. A more detailed explanation of the housing bureau's work is given in an article written by Mr. Palmer and published on this page, and everyone is urged to read this comprehensive analysis of the situation," said Harry H. Dolley, president of the Chamber of Commerce.

E. Standish Palmer comes to Torrance very highly recommended. He has given extensive study and has had a great deal of practical experience in the work he is to do for Torrance.

Mr. Palmer is the son of Prof.



Photo by LaPlante E. STANDISH PALMER

Manager Department of Housing Torrance Chamber of Commerce

Albert deForest Palmer, head of the physics and scientific research department of Brown University at Providence, R. I., and is himself a graduate of Brown University where he specialized in scientific and engineering studies.

Upon leaving college, Mr. Palmer was associated with the city housing corporation of New York City, which organization built the Sunnyside project of model low cost homes in Long Island City, immediately adjacent to the large industrial district of the New York area. In this Sunnyside project, two and a half million dollars were expended in homes and Mr. Palmer was given an opportunity of studying costs and designs.

Later, Mr. Palmer was associated with Clarence Stein and Henry Wright of New York City, nationally known architects and city planners, in work on the United States government housing board. Mr. Palmer also studied city costs and administration for the Regional Planning Committee of America.

Mr. Palmer later helped in working out plans for the new model city of Radburn, N. J., now under construction, where a complete city embracing industries, business buildings and homes is being built from raw land.

Upon coming to California, Mr. Palmer was manager of the research and property facts department of W. Ross Campbell, business and industrial realtor of Los Angeles. He left this position to accept an opening with the Palos Verdes Estates as manager of the housing bureau.

In his work with Palos Verdes Estates Mr. Palmer was attracted by the opportunity for development in Torrance and presented his plan to the directors of the Chamber of Commerce. As a result the department of housing was organized. More detailed activities of this housing bureau will be given in subsequent editions of the Torrance Herald.