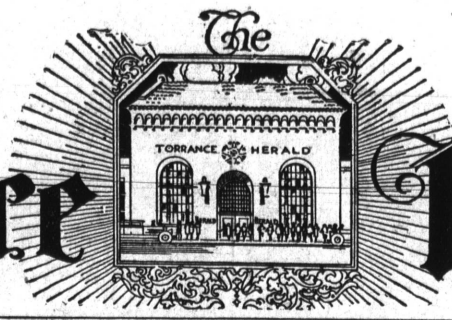




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# Torrance Herald

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## COST OF ALL NEW WATER SYSTEM WILL BE \$357,517

Insurance Rates in Torrance Are Unusually High Because of Inadequate Protection, Say Engineers

The cost of constructing an all-new water production and distribution system in Torrance to replace the present system of the Torrance Water, Light & Power Company, is estimated to be \$357,517, according to a report filed with the Torrance city council this week by Salisbury, Bradshaw and Taylor, special consulting engineers employed by the city.

The latest report, which is an exhaustive study of the local water problem, contains much interesting information. Highlights are as follows: "When the territory now occupied by the City of Torrance was subdivided and the industrial town of Torrance established—in 1912 and 1913—the subdividers installed a water system to cover the central part of the lands subdivided so that they could be sold; the water for this purpose being transported through a six-mile pipe line from waterbearing lands near the Los Angeles river to the east. Soon after the inception of the project, the Torrance Water, Light & Power Company was formed as a subsidiary of the Dominguez Land Corporation, which company continued the operation of the plant. About 1928, this system was sold to the Associated Public Utilities Corporation of Cleveland, Ohio, a water utility holding company, which now owns it.

High Insurance "For many years, the water service rendered by the Torrance Water, Light & Power Co. has been very unsatisfactory to the people of Torrance. The pipes that serve a large part of the city are so small that water pressures are uncertain, variable and often much too low; and fire protection so inadequate that insurance rates are unusually high.

The local reservoir of the water company is merely an open excavated unlined basin without roof and open to contamination by sea fowls and wind-blown materials, and it has no provision for draining and cleaning except by pumping. As it is unlined, the sides and bottom cannot be washed as is customary in a properly constructed distributing reservoir. The pipes are, at times, very badly fouled with organic growth which, together with the condition of the reservoir, gives a very disagreeable taste and appearance to the water.

In commenting upon the proposed new system, Mr. Bradshaw says: "It is proposed to procure the water for the Torrance municipal system from wells to be drilled in the city. From the loss of the near-by wells of the Columbia Steel Company plant, it is quite certain that one well would supply the water used at any time in the past and another well would be drilled and equipped as a standby and for the demands of future growth. Each of these wells will be equipped with an electric power driven deep-well turbine pump and connected by

JENSEN AND LEONARD TO CAMP ON DOOR STEP OF NRA OFFICES To avoid any possibility of unnecessary delays in receiving prompt action from federal public works officials on the city's application for \$375,000 with which to finance the new municipal water system, the city council Tuesday night designated City Attorney Jensen and City Engineer Leonard as "follow-up" men, and told them to keep in contact with NRA officials at Los Angeles. Both Jensen and Leonard are busy preparing the voluminous application for funds and expect to have it ready for filing in a few days. Federal officials require copies of all historical data affecting projects to be financed and a corps of stenographers is being kept busy copying documents to be attached as exhibits to the application. The council adjourned until Thursday (today) when it expects to take final action on changing the terms of the water bonds from 40 to 32 years, as required by federal authorities.

## Passenger On P. E. Car Dies Suddenly Sun.

M. W. Kain, Aged Torrance Resident, Is Stricken Enroute to L. A.

M. W. Kain, who has resided at 2074 Lucile street for several years, died suddenly Sunday morning on board a Pacific Electric street car, bound from Torrance to Los Angeles. Mr. Kain, who is quite advanced in years, was making the trip alone. The street car had left the Torrance station when other passengers heard him cry out, calling for the conductor. By the time the trainman reached him, Mr. Kain had toppled over unconscious. The train continued to Gardena, the nearest station, where a physician was summoned, who pronounced him dead, and the body was carried on to Los Angeles and taken to the county morgue.

Officials of the coroner's office called the Torrance police to notify Kain's relatives, but on investigation it was found that his wife, Mrs. Kain, had gone east some time ago on a visit in Dover, New Jersey. Police wired her the news of her husband's sudden death. A daughter in San Francisco was also notified. Mrs. Kain immediately wired Chief of Police G. M. Calder that she was leaving at once for California, and she is expected to arrive Saturday morning. Pending her arrival, no arrangements for funeral services have been completed.

## TAX RATE UP BUT TAX BILL TO BE LOWER

With the adoption at its final reading of the tax rate ordinance Tuesday night, the Torrance city council definitely established a rate of 96 cents per \$100 assessed valuation in the "old city," and 90 cents in all annexed territory. Eighty cents of the levy goes to general governmental expense and 10 cents to the parks-music-advertising fund. An additional six cents is levied in the "old city" to cover bond interest and redemption. The rate last year in the "old city" was 83 cents, and 78 cents in annexed territory. Assessed valuations in "old city" this year total \$7,468,115 and \$8,719,340 in the annexed territory, or a combined total of \$16,187,455, as contrasted with the 1932-33 total of \$18,655,865, or a reduction of \$2,468,410.

Mayor Opposed Mayor Klusman was the only member of the city council to vote against the 96-cent tax rate. He explained that he was opposed to the construction of a fence bordering the proposed extension of Cedar avenue through the General Petroleum property to connect with Cypress avenue at 190th street. Mayor Klusman stated that while he realized that the construction of the road through the G. P. property would mean additional work for the unemployed, he did not favor adding the cost to city taxpayers. General Petroleum has agreed to donate a \$25,000 right-of-way for the extension of the highway, and the county is to pay the cost of improving the roadway. The extension of Cedar avenue is considered one of the most important projects necessary for the future development of Torrance.

Ready to Lay Boulevard Paving The county is prepared to begin paving on Torrance boulevard within ten days, on the stretch between Madrona avenue and the Redondo city limits, City Engineer Leonard reported to the city council Tuesday night. It is planned to extend the boulevard over the hill at the Redondo end to connect with Opal street, Leonard stated. Rough grading of the parking space on the east end of Torrance boulevard is completed and the city is to begin planting shrubs and flowers. Pavements on the roadways have been widened three feet each.

## Advertiser Boosts Herald

The Torrance Herald gratefully acknowledges receipt of the following unsolicited letter from Mr. Jack Isen, pioneer Torrance merchant and now manager of the Continental Store in Torrance.

"Mr. Grover C. Whyte "Dear Sir: "The Continental Market opened for business last Friday morning and your paper was the only advertising medium used in informing the people to this effect. "It required about two weeks to repair and paint the building previous to the opening. At no time during this period were there any announcing signs on the premises, nor did we employ any other means of publicity except that we placed a one-half page advertisement in the Torrance Herald to which we attribute 100 per cent of the business transacted. "During our two opening days we served 1539 customers by actual count. Within the past three years the writer has had occasion to use newspaper space in various cities in California and Arizona at prices ranging up to five times as much as your price, with the result that only in two instances has the response been as gratifying as at this time. "Yours very truly, "CONTINENTAL STORES LTD. "By JACK ISEN, "Local Manager."

## WOMAN TO SUPERVISE GIRLS PLAYGROUND WORK IS NEEDED

Plenty of Workers Available But General Supervisor Who Will Serve Without Pay Is Essential to Continued Success

Plans to extend the playground opportunities, now available to boys and girls in Torrance, beyond the early date for closing set at September 15, were discussed at a meeting called Tuesday afternoon, by R. R. Smith, chairman in charge of the movement in this city under the auspices of the recreational and playgrounds department of Los Angeles county.

Heads of local organizations were summoned to the conference and invited to offer suggestions for carrying on the work which will be continued during the coming months. Work in the boys' division is going forward well, but assistance is needed in carrying on the project on behalf of the girls.

Under the plan of the department, an opportunity is offered to women to share in the relief employment plan, on the same basis as that offered to men, with part time work paid for at the regular county welfare rate. The great need at present is for the services of some local woman who can devote her time to coordinating the work. Playground directors are supplied through registration with the county welfare, but it is necessary to have some one who will oversee the whole business, and make the arrangements to have the workers on duty at stated times and fill in with the playground work when some worker does not appear. As this will be full-time work, naturally it will have to be a free contribution of services without pay.

Because the girls who are interested in the playground are of all ages from five years to 16, they must be divided into suitable groups, with a director to oversee the work of each group, whether it is games, story-telling, handicraft or other diversion. According to Chairman Smith, the department stands ready to supply the workers, but the supervision of the whole affair must fall on some individual, who has the time, the interest in girls' work and the ability to co-ordinate the work. "The choice must be made at once, and any woman in Torrance who will volunteer for this exacting yet pleasant duty should communicate with the chairman immediately.

At present the girls are meeting at the former Torrance Military Academy, and the boys at the city park baseball grounds, where a large number have already signed up to become members of Boyville. Contrary to the impression that some have, the playground opportunities are free. Small sums may be needed occasionally for trips to the plunges, theatres, or similar paid attractions, but for the regular daily program carried on at the local centers there is no charge, and any boy or girl in Torrance up to 16 years of age may attend. City trucks have been provided to take the children on out-of-town trips already enjoyed, and will be available for future outings. All playground activities and out-of-town trips are supervised by an adult at all times, so that no parent need hesitate to allow the children to take part.

## Gardena Man Is Appointed On Food Committee

Distribution of county food supplies to members of the various units of county self-help groups today was under the direction of H. L. Chapin, 4053 Gage avenue, Bell; Dr. C. A. Van Velzer of Gardena, Duff Pirtle of Long Beach and several others comprising a committee which is directly responsible to the state emergency relief administrator.

Chapin is warehouse manager and is responsible for the distribution of goods received in warehouses of the county purchasing agent. Dr. Van Velzer and Pirtle were given the titles of welfare agent and investigator, and were directed to furnish a list of 750 of their members whom they will recommend for county aid. W. R. Wolf, of 229 Colden street, was designated as auditor and is held responsible for a proper accounting. The supervisors recently allocated \$60,000 to enable self help groups throughout the county to carry on, and announced that they would be under close observation during that time. Whether any further funds will be given these groups by the supervisors will depend upon this trial period, the groups were advised last week. "No purchases are to be made until we have confirmation from Washington that the agreement we made with the county is formally approved," R. C. Branton, state administrator, told the supervisors this week. "While this operation is on a test basis only, nevertheless I am sure that you and I can both feel that full value will be received and probably sufficient proof made to us all that the co-operatives are entitled to and should receive continuous support."

## NRA DRIVE GOING OVER 100 PERCENT

While volunteer campaign workers in the mighty NRA Blue Eagle drive in Torrance began the house-to-house and store-to-store canvass here only two days ago, late reports indicate that practically every business house and every resident will be signed up within the next few days.

Up until noon today, 1538 pledges had been turned into the NRA headquarters at the Chamber of Commerce. This total does not include reports of many campaign workers who have not yet reported and who are known to have secured a great many signatures. Much credit for the remarkable success so far is due to the eagerness with which campaign workers took to their tasks getting everyone in their district to join in the movement to shorten hours, expand payrolls and add to the purchasing power of the American people.

Local NRA salesmen and saleswomen report a most enthusiastic response on the part of Torrance residents and business men to do their part. Only in a very few instances, have workers encountered any hesitancy on the part of those called on to sign the agreements. These few cases have been reported to NRA campaign headquarters and will be given further attention by the executive committee.

## Deputy's Vacation Is Short and Sweet

Deputy Sheriff S. W. Kiraocofe, attached to the sheriff's station No. 3 which handles crime affairs for this district, had a vacation that was short but sweet recently. The deputy left Sunday for the idyllic district on a hunting trip where the next morning he bagged a 162-pound buck, the largest ever taken in that district according to local records. The buck wore a pair of five-prong antlers, which are now resting on the front of Kiraocofe's car. He returned home Monday afternoon.

## Ben Gets License As Pharmacist

Ben Lepkin, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Lepkin, local tailor, received his license as a registered pharmacist today as the early part of the month. He is employed at the Elite Prescription Pharmacy, 815 South Hill street, Los Angeles. Ben is well known in Torrance. He graduated from the Torrance high school several years ago.

## PROPRIETOR OF FRUIT STAND KILLED SUNDAY

John W. Grimes, proprietor of a fruit and vegetable stand near the corner of Willow and Avalon boulevard, was killed Sunday morning when he attempted to cross the street and walked into the side of a car. Grimes' skull was fractured and he was injured internally. He was taken to the Wilmington emergency hospital, where he died soon after.

## CITY MAY BUY LOUD SPEAKERS

Torrance city council is investigating the feasibility of purchasing a public address system in the new municipal park. Mayor Klusman reported that a modern new system could be bought for \$150. Rentals, he said, at \$10 per night would soon pay for the equipment. The matter was left to a committee to report back.

## CITY TO BUY PLAY EQUIPMENT

Torrance city council is securing estimates for the purchase or construction of playground equipment to be installed in the municipal park. Among the equipment contemplated are swings, slides, sand pits, etc.

## CITY RE-ENGAGES RAMBO AS AUDITOR

C. J. Rambo & Company were re-engaged by the Torrance city council for the ensuing year as city auditors at \$225 a year.

## SUPERVISORS "TELL ALL" IN UNEMPLOYED RELIEF CRISIS

Critical Problem Is Frankly Discussed By John R. Quinn and Supt. Jensen Before Newspaper Publishers

By GROVER C. WHYTE Along with 50 other newspaper publishers in Los Angeles county, the writer was invited to meet with the county board of supervisors this week to discuss the critical situation facing county officials in caring for the increasing number of families receiving county aid through the welfare department. The meeting lasted three hours, but I shall attempt to boil down the important phases of the problem presented by John R. Quinn, chairman of the board of supervisors, and Earl E. Jensen, newly appointed superintendent of charities. It is a vital issue that affects every taxpayer and every family receiving aid from the county.

During the fiscal year ending June 30, 1933, the cost of dispensing direct charity and unemployment relief in Los Angeles county was \$16,686,419. Of this amount \$8,727,432 was provided by the United States government, and the balance of \$7,958,987 was paid by the county out of tax revenue. The number of families helped in July, 1932, was 35,765, which cost the county \$681,853. Since then the number of families, or "cases" as the welfare department calls them, have been increasing steadily and alarmingly until in July of this year, the number of cases reached 132,287, and the cost of caring for them mounted to \$2,204,123.

If this burden continued without reduction during the succeeding 12 months, the amount required for relief would aggregate more than \$23,000,000. If this amount were actually expended without federal or state contributions, Los Angeles county would be bankrupt. An 88-cent tax rate, under the present assessed valuation of the county, would not raise the amount required for relief alone, to say nothing of the general cost of county government.

It is anticipated, however, that federal and state aid will be forthcoming. The county expects to receive a minimum of \$6,000,000 from the state as its share of the \$20,000,000 unemployment relief bond issue approved by the electorate. An equal amount is hoped for from federal sources. Assuming, however, that \$12,000,000 is received from the state and federal governments, on the basis of July expenditures, the county would still have to raise by taxation the difference between \$29,999,000 and \$12,000,000, or \$17,999,000. Under the current assessed valuation, according to County Auditor Payne, a tax of one cent per \$100 of assessed valuation will produce \$200,000 in revenue.

If it were necessary for the county to raise \$17,000,000 for relief, then for that purpose alone, a tax of 85 cents per \$100 would have to be levied. Naturally this is out of the question. Confronted with the situation outlined above, the board of supervisors determined that the burden of relief must be drastically reduced.

In their tentative budget for 1933-1934 the board of supervisors set up for welfare purposes, not including cost of operation institutions, the sum of \$20,000,000, which is \$8,000,000 less than the amount which would be required if the peak load of July carried on throughout the year. In setting up this item the board anticipated receipt of \$12,000,000 from the state and federal governments. The balance of \$8,000,000 it was proposed to raise by taxation, which in itself would require imposition of a 40-cent tax. Later the board of supervisors reduced the budgetary figure from \$20,000,000 to \$18,000,000 which will require the raising of \$6,000,000 by the county instead of \$8,000,000 originally set up.

But to maintain expenditures within the reduced budget DEEP relief costs, upon the promise of being allowed a free rein for 30 days without interference by county officials. Immediately Jensen instituted a sweeping program of economy which has met with resentment by some of those receiving county aid, and precipitated an attempted "strike" by those on the unemployment rolls. Prior to August 16, 1933, relief workers were employed for 10-day periods, during which time they worked eight hours each day, at a rate of 40 cents an hour. This gave each worker an average of \$32.00 per month.

On August 16, 1933, the four-hour day unemployment relief workers was put into effect as an experiment. The rate of pay was unchanged, but the period of work days was increased from 10 to 14 a month. Under this new plan workers in unemployment relief received an average of \$24 a month. (It should be remembered that the amount of work made available to individuals varies in accordance with the number of persons dependent upon the applicant for support. Heads of large families are given more work and therefore more pay per month than those who have fewer dependents.)

30 Per Cent Reduction The four-hour day system effected a reduction of 30 per cent in the amount expended for unemployment relief. Allowances for direct relief to the infirm, sick, aged, children and all other "unemployables" were NOT decreased. However, the four-hour day order was modified this week and the six-hour day instituted in its place. The six-hour day is in line with President Roosevelt's program under the NRA. It has been discovered, according to Mr. Jensen, that many persons receiving direct relief from the county are able to work. It is estimated that the percentage of employable persons receiving relief may, by thorough investigation of all cases, be increased from 65 per cent to 75 per cent. It is proposed to strive for such an increase, bringing more and more recipients of direct relief into the category of workers and as such subject them to a reduction. An estimated increase of 20 per cent in work relief, with corresponding decrease in direct relief would effect a substantial saving.

Employment Offices Another definite reduction may be made by divorcing unemployment relief from the welfare department and setting up a new and efficient employment bureau through which gainful employment with private business may be secured for persons on county rolls. Such a bureau is now being organized. It will have a definite check on workers and their desire to secure permanent or seasonal employment, and if he refuses to accept it when offered, he will be dropped from the county rolls, Jensen stated.

Further Cuts It is proposed to effect still further reductions by: (1) co-ordination of bureaus and functions and an accurate check on accounting to eliminate overlapping activities; and (2) removal from county charity rolls of cases in connection with which the facts do not justify assistance; and the elimination of cases immediately when investigation establishes that the need for aid has passed.

Purpose Told The new superintendent of charities pointed out that the purpose of unemployment relief is not to supply permanent and attractive work for the indigent. Its function is to provide temporary employment for individuals sorely in need until such time as they may secure jobs elsewhere; and its operation should be so designed that it does not militate against desire for such other employment. When it does so militate, as it certainly did under the eight-hour day basis, Jensen states, the whole plan defeats its own purpose by encouraging chronic pauperism.

Quinn Talks Supervisor Quinn emphasized that under the law, the only reason for the county rendering aid is to relieve those who are TURN TO STORY ONE Page 2