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DEMOCRATIC CLUB PROTESTS EXPENDITURES FOR SYSTEM

Resolution Adopted Tuesday Evening Presented to City Council Asks Withdrawal of City's Application For Federal Funds

A resolution of protest, drawn up by the Democratic Club, over the signatures of Emmett A. Ryan, president, and L. C. Conner, chairman, adopted December 11, against further expenditures on the water system, proposed to be purchased from the Torrance Water, Light and Power Company, other than for necessary repairs, was presented to the city council Tuesday night.

Response to the communication was postponed on motion of Councilman W. H. Stanger, until the council had time to study the resolution and prepare an answer. Councilman Stanger, in presenting his motion to postpone action, stated that at the present time the city council is still unprepared to announce just what further expenditures will be necessary after the system is acquired, and that until the council is fully informed of conditions and as to what will be absolutely required in the way of improvements, there would be no possibility of rendering an intelligent and satisfactory answer.

The resolution in full is as follows:

TO THE HONORABLE CITY COUNCIL OF TORRANCE:

WHEREAS the City of Torrance is about to acquire the water system of the Torrance Water, Light and Power Company, and \$200,000 in bonds have been issued and sold for the purpose of the purchase of said water system, and necessary repairs, and

WHEREAS the conduct and operation of a municipally owned water system is most desirable to the residents of Torrance, it as a result thereof a cheaper water rate can be established without an increase in the tax burden of property owners, and

WHEREAS the City of Torrance is a member of the Metropolitan Water District and has paid large sums of money into the treasury of said District with the aim in mind that within about four years said system will furnish water to the City of Torrance and the municipally owned and operated water system, and

WHEREAS the City of Torrance through its city council has made application to the Federal Government for a grant of \$170,000 for the purpose of expending said moneys when granted for improvements to the water system, and said expenditure would result because of the obligations created thereby in a heavy tax burden and a high water rate, and would seem to be needless and unnecessary;

"NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

"That this organization cannot see the necessity for further expenditures on the water system other than for necessary repairs, and is opposed to the purchase of land for sinking wells or for reservoir purposes, inasmuch as the system as it now stands is adequate and usable, and further expenditures would be a waste of money and would result in a high water rate and tax burden and would be useless when water is received from the Metropolitan System, and

"BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That this organization respectfully requests the City Council to advise why the application to the Federal Government for the grant of \$170,000 should not be withdrawn, and to give public expression as to its attitude relative to the question of the expenditure of any additional moneys on the water system, and

"BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That this resolution be sent to the City Council of Torrance and the Torrance Herald.

TORRANCE DEMOCRATIC CLUB.
"EMMETT A. RYAN,
President Torrance Club.
"L. C. CONNER, Chairman."

No action was taken by the council in regard to the proposal contained in the resolution to

TURN TO STORY ONE
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Lots of Rain

At the Narbonne high school this morning at 8 o'clock, the rainfall for the preceding 24 hours totaled 7.4 inches, total for the season 7.8.

At Torrance high school at 8 o'clock this morning the gauge showed 5.5 inches. From 8 to 12 o'clock an additional .90 inch had fallen, making the total 1.45 inches, and the total for the season 8.02. Last year on this date the total was 1.67 inches.

Bids On Steel Tank and Tower Are Authorized

Council Will Consider Contractors' Estimates At January Meeting

In order to get an estimate of the cost of the steel water tower, tank and foundation for the structure, the city council passed a resolution Tuesday night authorizing the city clerk to call for bids. Time for closing acceptance of bids was fixed at 5 o'clock p. m., January 8, and the council will open and consider the estimates at 8 o'clock. The right to reject any and all bids is reserved, which makes it possible for the council to delay action if it seems advisable.

Councilman W. T. Klusman objected to the action taken on the ground that the Democratic Club had just been assured that an answer to their resolution would be forthcoming at a later date. Since the resolution objected to any further expenditures on the part of the council in the matter of the water system beyond the \$200,000 bond issue limit, Klusman stated that in his opinion the council should take no action on the matter of calling for bids.

The resolution was adopted over his negative vote. In order, as Councilman Stanger pointed out, that the council might be in a position to have the facts as to the actual cost of proposed improvements and be able to give an intelligent answer to such propositions as presented by the Democratic club or others.

On suggestion of the city attorney, the council also passed a resolution providing for the payment of \$9000 to the General Petroleum Corporation on or before December 30 when the option expires, for a 100-foot right-of-way through their property. The highway to be improved extends from the north end of the pavement on Cedar avenue to 190th street.

However, the resolution contains the proviso, that unless the board of supervisors shall agree to place the improvement of this highway, which is to be done out of county funds, in the budget of 1935 for completion on or before July 1, 1936, the payment of this sum shall not be made.

City Engineer Frank R. Leonard was instructed to contact Supervisor John R. Quinn immediately in regard to the proposition. Further action of the council will depend upon the result of his interview.

Lomita Artisans Take High Degree

Twenty-seven members of the Lomita Assembly of United Artisans were adopted into El Alazar Pyramid No. 3 at a meeting held at the Odd Fellows hall last Monday evening. The degree term of the pyramid put on the work, a beautiful ritual, which was greatly enhanced by the rich, colorful robes of the officiants and the unique decorations arranged in the hall. Dr. M. C. Woods was elected to an office in the pyramid which has for membership representatives from lodges all over Southern California.

A visit to the Torrance lodge in February when candidates from this city may be adopted into the pyramid, is being arranged.

Chief Justice



Supreme Court Justice William J. Millard, who recently was elected chief justice of the Washington State Supreme Court for a two-year term beginning Jan. 14, 1935.

Stores To Be Open Evenings 'Til Xmas

The majority of Torrance retail merchants, with the exception of food markets, will be open every evening until Christmas beginning Saturday of this week. Food markets will, of course, be open Saturday evening as usual. Other stores will remain open Saturday evening until 9 o'clock and beginning Monday, December 17, until 8 p. m.

Reapportionment of Supervisors Districts Is Planned By Board

The first step toward possible reapportionment of the five supervisory districts of the county was taken today when the board of supervisors ordered the county surveyor to make a survey of the five districts as at present constituted, and submit recommendations.

Real intent of the move, this time is to give the second district some unincorporated territory, since it now lies entirely within the city of Los Angeles. It was declared today at the Hall of Records. The last reapportionment was the "trade" between the first and fifth districts whereby the first district dropped half of Pasadena and instead took in all of Alhambra and Monterey Park.

According to registration for the November 6 election, the second district was by far the smaller of the five, by some 40,000 voters. The only way it can be enlarged is to extend it southerly beyond Manchester boulevard, its present southern boundary, thus taking area away from the fourth district, which is by far the largest, with 282,809 registered for that election. This extension would possibly be as far as Gardena.

There also exists the possibility of enlarging the second district by extending it on the east, where it now abuts against Hamilton Park, and then jogs west from Alameda street on Mission avenue to Central avenue. Here is the five districts stand in point of registration:

- First, 279,282.
- Second, 223,175.
- Third, 266,425.
- Fourth, 282,809.
- Fifth, 353,846.

Average for the five districts was computed to be 261,105, showing that the first district is larger than it should be, and the fifth is smaller. The first district also has more than its share of municipalities—44 communities, according to Chairman H. C. Legg. The fifth district also would like to drop one of its municipalities, it is known. The "slack" may be taken up by the second and third districts.

BITTEN BY DOG
Walter Morris, Jr., age 9, son of Walter Morris, 2117 24th street, Lomita, was bitten by a dog while playing near his home Tuesday. He was taken to a local physician for treatment.

Roosevelt, Garner Return to Capital



Vice-President John N. Garner greets President Roosevelt upon his return to Washington after a short stay at Warm Springs, Ga.

Firemen Ready For Children's Annual Party

Six Hundred Pounds Candy to Be Distributed At Free Matinee

Six hundred pounds of candy, which will be enough to give 1500 children each a good, big helping, has been purchased by the Torrance fire department for distribution at its annual Christmas party for the youngsters. The affair will be held Friday afternoon, December 21, at the Torrance Theatre, where through the kindness of Manager DeWitt Van Derlip a Christmas picture will be shown free of charge. Manager Van Derlip is putting his theatre at the disposal of the firemen and is bearing all the expense of securing and exhibiting the film.

In addition to the picture, the SERRA recreation department will put on a vaudeville program, which will include the following numbers: "Gold and Silver Waltz," by a concert orchestra; tap ensemble revue; "Medley of Christmas Anthems," by the orchestra; played, "Santa's Toyshop," by the Dramatic Club; "Poem" by the orchestra.

All the children in Torrance are heartily invited to be the guests of the firemen and Mr. Van Derlip on this day.

On Sunday, December 23, the Loyal Order of Moose will have a children's Christmas party at their hall, Portola and Torrance boulevard, when free candy will be distributed.

The holiday season was ushered in this week when the living Christmas tree in the small park in front of the theatre was dressed up in its annual garb of colored lights. The city hall is handsomely decorated with lights, spelling a Christmas greeting, and many other indications of the near approach of Christmas are appearing.

Louis Murray Asks Damages For Injuries

Suit Is Filed Against Cecil Hixon As Result of Traffic Accident

Damages of \$10,075 are asked by Louis Murray, 18, for injuries received in a traffic accident at Torrance boulevard and Beech avenue, Torrance, last November 9, in a suit on file today in Los Angeles county superior court.

Cecil Hixon is named defendant in the suit, which is brought through the boy's father, John V. Murray. The son was riding in a car driven by Robert Turner when the car was in collision with another driven by Hixon, according to the complaint.

Louis has suffered injuries which have caused him to miss considerable school, and his injuries may be of a permanent nature, according to the complaint filed through Attorney Albert Isen of Torrance.

"Wildman"

Hugo Mayer, 52, "wild man of Curry County," Ore., who was arrested after a month's pursuit by officers in the lower Rogue River wilderness, confessed that he shot and killed Robert Faunin, rancher, last Nov. 6. The toothless hermit said Faunin plotted to drive him out of the country or kill him.

SPECIAL ASSESSMENT WORK IN LOMITA IS ABANDONED

Supervisors Drop From Schedule 48 Street Improvement Projects As Undesirable Under A. and I. District Proceedings; 12 In Fourth District

All special assessment proceedings pending in Los Angeles county were abandoned today under instructions given the Los Angeles county counsel by the new board of supervisors. The proceedings were those instituted as long as five and six years ago, but held in abeyance at the request of property owners within the district.

The acts employed were the County Street Opening and Widening Act of 1923, and the Acquisition and Improvement Act of 1925, according to a list prepared by Harold W. Kennedy, deputy county counsel, who stated in part: "After thorough consideration it appears undesirable to make the proposed improvements by special assessment method and they will serve no useful purpose to retain them as active proceedings in records of the various county departments concerned."

Condemnation actions were filed in 13 of the cases, Kennedy reported, and under the law the county is required to compensate the defendants for reasonable expenses incurred in preparation for trial, including attorneys' fees. Actions dropped in the fourth supervisory district are: Cold Canyon road, Cold Canyon road, Palm street, El Segundo boulevard, Jefferson boulevard, Sepulveda boulevard, State street, San Pedro street, Lennox avenue (two proceedings), Pacific avenue and Citrus street et al.

Instances in which condemnation actions already had been filed included the following in the fourth district: Market street, A. and I. No. 18 (bonds issued in this instance); Walnut street, A. and I. No. 53; Searles boulevard, A. and I. No. 233; and Figueroa street, A. and I. No. 238.

The opening of this highway, which flanks the United Concrete Pipe Company property at South Normandie and 208th street, will be of a distinct importance to the Hughes-Mitchell plant and the city of Torrance, as it affords direct transportation facilities between these two points. The city has had the matter up before the Los Angeles city council at various times, but no progress was recorded until after construction was well under way at the new industry located on South Normandie. Immediate action and early completion of the highway is now anticipated.

Justice Courts Expense Budget Fixed Jan. 31

New Chairman Declares Intolerable Situation Must Be Corrected

Proposed expenditures for justice of the peace courts and other county services in this community for the next fiscal year, beginning July 1, must be tentatively budgeted and submitted to the new board of supervisors five months sooner than usual.

This order of the new board of supervisors was made at the request of Chairman Herbert C. Legg to correct an intolerable situation that exists insofar as budget-making duties of the supervisors are concerned. Explaining the reason for the order, the new first district board chairman explained that the practice has been that the salary budget is adopted July 1, while the maintenance and operation budget was not adopted until two or three months later. Thus the salary budget for thousands of county employes is set two or three months before it is known what service they are to render or what the department in which they are employed is to spend.

"We are setting up our expenditures for a new year without knowing, or even without a fair estimate of what our income is to be, because the tax levy is fixed last, on September 1," Legg said. "Another bad factor is that there is a supervisory campaign every two years during the time the preparation of the budget is of paramount importance to the public. Campaigning supervisors cannot give proper attention to the budget."

Legg said it was the unanimous desire of the new board that these evils be corrected and he issued the order to all department heads to submit tentative budgets for 1935-36 not later than January 31.

Krouse Is Held To Superior Court

Peter Krouse, arrested last week on a charge of stealing an automobile, was given a preliminary hearing before Judge Robert Lessing, Wednesday, December 5, and was held to answer in the superior court. He is now in the county jail awaiting trial. According to a letter, received by Police Chief G. M. Calder this week, from Krouse's mother who resides in Ocean Park, the young man has twice been a patient in institutions for mental cases, and is subject to periods of irresponsibility.

Cigars Disappear By Hook or Crook

By hook or crook, cigars to the amount of \$1.90 disappeared recently from their boxes at the Pacific Electric depot news stand, owned and operated by Miss Ivy Hartley. Police investigating found a piece of wire with a hook bent up at each end, which had been used to pull the smokes out of the boxes and through the barred grating which encloses the front of the stand. Young boys who have early morning errands in the vicinity of the depot are suspected.