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Majority Is Always Wrong

An Editorial
By Lute Fraser

"Don't you believe that the majority should rule?" asked one of the Torrance representatives who appeared before members of the Los Angeles city school board Monday, in an appeal to secure more desirable conditions for athletic competition.

"No," shouted a prominent board member, banging his fist on the desk.

"The majority is always wrong," piped another member of the board, in a weak attempt to back up his chief.

The majority is always wrong when it attempts to go counter to the arbitrary rules set up by the Los Angeles board of education, whose members, strange to say, are occupying their positions because a majority voted to put them there.

If the majority is always wrong, then the members of the Los Angeles school board have no right to be occupying their posts, and they should immediately resign and permit the candidates, defeated in the last election, who were the choice of the minority to take their places.

It is a sad commentary that the children in the schools should have drilled into them the spirit of fair play, the necessity for subordination of their own individual desires to the will of the majority, the right of the majority to rule, while a member of the school board stands up before witnesses and declares that he does not believe in the most fundamental principle in Americanism.

Moments of stress are prone to bring forth rash statements.

In a calmer mood, no doubt this individual regretted his hasty speech. No doubt he had been carried away for the moment by resentment over the temerity of two laymen, who had persisted in seeking audience, and who refused to be put off until a decision had been reached on the proposition they presented. After an hour and a half of more or less heated debate tempers are apt to be frayed and sparks will fly. When a pet project is being assailed it is hard for any man to say "the will of the majority be done."

Because "the majority is always wrong" the taxpayers of Torrance perhaps may see their children housed in outmoded wooden buildings one step ahead of tents when the work of replacing the Torrance elementary school building, damaged by the earthquake, is completed.

As long as 18 months ago, the architectural department of the city school board decided that damaged elementary buildings should be replaced by one-story wooden structures.

The Torrance taxpayers, as represented by the city council, asked the board last week to consider the use of steel construction for these buildings. Their petition was summarily rejected, according to the testimony of one who was present at last Thursday's meeting. "The city council of Torrance must be advised of the definite established building program adopted by the architectural department some time ago."

Apparently no attempt was made to discuss the merits of steel construction, or to refer the matter to the engineering or architectural departments for study. Because the department had adopted its program 18 months ago, apparently that closes the matter and no new ideas will be permitted to percolate. It is a well known fact that steel construction for small buildings is just as practical

(Continued on Page 5)

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G. P. TO BUILD HUGE PIPELINE TO TORRANCE

Bids Asked For Million Dollar Project Linking Lebec and Torrance

Bids for a million dollar pipe line construction job have been called for by the General Pipe Line Company, a subsidiary of General Petroleum Corporation of California. It was announced yesterday by E. L. Adams, vice president. The steady growth of the General Petroleum refinery at Torrance has indicated the wisdom of a direct line from the company's large holdings in the San Joaquin Valley into Torrance instead of carrying products through a more circuitous route which was established by General Petroleum in 1913 as the first pipe line from the San Joaquin Valley fields to Los Angeles tide water.

The new section of line will run from the company's refinery and pumping station at Lebec over nearly 40 miles of country, bringing oil down from an elevation of approximately 4,200 feet through a 14-inch seamless electrically welded steel pipe line to the 20-inch plant at Torrance. It is estimated that some 8,000 tons of steel will be used on the job, and that the ramifications of the project will provide additional employment affecting several thousand men.

Taking advantage of the same opportunity conditions which led to the location of the new, Ridge Route General Petroleum engineers have established a grade which will enable them to carry the products from the Lebec plant to Torrance at a normal rate of 40,000 barrels per day without the use of any intermediate pumping stations, and with a top capacity for the line of 60,000 barrels per day with the use of one electric boosting station.

Completion of this new venture will give General Petroleum a total of approximately 700 miles of main lines in addition to several hundred miles included in test gathering systems throughout various fields in the San Joaquin Valley.

Construction will be started as soon as feasible and it is estimated that the project will be completed sometime during July.

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Two members of the board, Arthur W. Eckman and William E. Beaudry, agreed with the statements of the superintendent.

William H. Henry, now a member of the board and a candidate for re-election, Judge McMill and E. J. Merz, spoke of being very much in favor of steel frames for elementary buildings. The attitude of other members of the board is not known.

Two communications were read at the meeting of the city council Tuesday night, one of which, signed by S. O. Merz, made the statement that the writer was heartily in favor of steel construction for elementary school buildings.

Manager Puts Finger on Stick Up

Manager Earl Worden, of the Carson street Sateway store, was called to Los Angeles last Friday to identify a suspect in the hold-up perpetrated at the store shortly before Christmas last year. The man had been arrested in Phoenix, Arizona, and had been brought back to Los Angeles to face investigation of a bank robbery and several stick-ups, in which he is said to have been implicated.

Worden identified the man as the leader in the store hold-up and he was also identified by the manager of a J. C. Penney store in North Long Beach, and the manager of a Sateway store at Bell.

Preliminary hearing will be held at Compton tomorrow. The companion of the suspect has not yet been arrested but sheriff's deputies are closing in on him and expect to have him in custody soon.

The arrest of the man now in the toll was due to the eagle eye and good memory of Worden, who furnished a good description of the man, the clothes and tortoise shell rimmed glasses that he wore. It was on these items, especially the hat, overcoat and glasses, that the arrest was made in Phoenix, Ariz. Worden went to Los Angeles last Friday when he was asked to identify the hat and coat. "I'll tell you what they are like before you bring them out," said Earl, and did so. When the articles were produced they corresponded exactly to his description, showing that the Sateway manager has a fine eye for details.

WATER PUDDLES at street corners ARE DOOMED

The big water puddle which gathers following each rain at the corner of Cabrillo and Cravens avenues to the annoyance of pedestrians is doomed, and little boys and girls will have to look elsewhere to wade and sail their toy boats if efforts of the city street department are successful.

On action of the city council Tuesday night, the big dip in the street at this intersection is to be filled in order to permit the flood waters to flow away. Proper drainage of Western avenue near 190th street was also ordered in order to eliminate flood waters standing on the highway.

Reconstruction of this school building had been scheduled to start February 1, but so far no activity is noted in that direction.

Conner Chosen Master Artisan Of Assembly

Beverly Smith Resigns On Account of Impaired Health

Beverly B. Smith, master artisan of the Torrance assembly, tendered his resignation at the meeting held last Thursday night. Mr. Smith recently underwent an operation and has not fully recovered from the effects, so that his resignation was given in the interests of his health.

The lodge elected C. Earl Conner master artisan, and Clarence Locke to fill the post of past master artisan vacated by Mr. Conner. Charles Aily was elected warden to fill the place formerly held by Locke.

The lodge will give another of its popular dances at its lodge rooms tonight.

Huge Expansion At G. P.

Significant Developments Indicate Early Construction of Refinery

Launching of General Petroleum Corporation's huge expansion program at an early date on its 930-acre refinery site in Torrance was indicated this week by two significant developments: (1) the company's calling for bids on a million-dollar pipeline linking its property at Lebec with its refinery at Torrance; (2) a request by the Torrance Chamber of Commerce of which Fred Isaacs, G. P. superintendent, is a director, that the city's water department contact officials of the company immediately to discuss the problem of providing the refinery with large quantities of water.

It is quite generally known that General Petroleum has its plans completed for launching its expansion program in Torrance variously estimated to cost from ten to 19 million dollars.

In discussing the matter at Tuesday night's city council meeting, City Engineer Leonard stated that he had already contacted G. P. officials regarding their water supply needs. Leonard stated that the company is now using 1,300,000 gallons of water daily, which is about equal to the present total consumption of the water district. However, Leonard said that the new process to be installed at the Torrance refinery will use from two to three times this amount of water. Thus it becomes imperative that the city lose no time in developing an adequate water supply, and also that every effort be made to hasten the improvement of Cedar avenue through the General Petroleum property in order that Torrance may obtain the full benefit of this important development.

Improve Cabrillo Ave.

Is Request of Property Owners Who Have Sought Relief For Many Years

An urgent appeal for the immediate improvement of Cabrillo avenue and a request that this street be extended to connect with Eshelman avenue is being made by Edward Guth and Henry Austin, owners of property on Cabrillo avenue. In the following contributed article, which the Herald is pleased to print, the importance of the long desired improvement is given.

"Editor, Torrance Herald: "About this time each year almost every city in Southern California points with pride to clean, flower-bordered streets. Visitors to Torrance, however, view with alarm one of our principal streets, Cabrillo avenue.

"The rains brought forth, not flowers, but mud holes north of Carson, weeds between Carson and Plaza del Amo, and both mud and weeds between Plaza del Amo and Sepulveda. Rains merely accent the deplorable condition of Cabrillo which grows more intolerable with the passing of the years.

"Promises have been made from time to time that Cabrillo avenue would be improved, but, to date, the only improvement that has been made since the city was laid out nearly a quarter of a century ago has been some street crossings and reduction of a grade south of Plaza del Amo.

"The business men and property owners of Torrance have been heavy losers by the neglect of this street which is the logical highway for north and south traffic through Torrance to connect with Western avenue.

"Now is the time to improve every inch of this street while men need work. The first necessity is to secure a deed to the short distance required to connect Cabrillo avenue with Eshelman avenue. This connection will enable Torrance business men to profit from trade with residents in the Eshelman district. Eshelman district long ago signified by petition a desire to connect these two streets.

"The time is not far distant, apparently, when federal, state and gas monies will be available for just such worthwhile improvements as through streets.

"If, however, outside financial assistance is not soon available, Torrance can find a way to improve Cabrillo avenue and connect Eshelman as it did to improve Torrance boulevard and other improvements and as it contemplates for still other improvements and without assessment against property.

"If the powers-that-be desire to make this improvement, no time should be lost in securing a deed from the Kettler estate, for the few hundred feet required to join Cabrillo avenue with Eshelman avenue. The deed should be signed and placed in escrow so that not a day's time be lost in improving Cabrillo and Eshelman as soon as money is available.

"To secure this deed without further delay, Cabrillo avenue should be handled as a separate project from Sepulveda boulevard. Sepulveda is a highway to enable San Fernando to reach the harbor district and is not a local project as is Cabrillo and Eshelman. Cabrillo avenue extension and improvement should not be held up longer because of failure to secure deeds for the widening of Sepulveda.

"The question that has been bothering property owners along Cabrillo avenue for nearly a quarter of a century is, 'do the powers-that-be want to improve what is destined to be the most important street in the city?'"

"Nearly a quarter of a century of waiting is enough!" "The Torrance Herald can do the whole city a lasting benefit if it takes a stand to make Cabrillo avenue a through street.

(Signed) "EDWARD L. GUTH,
HENRY AUSTIN."

Friendship Club Plants Trees

At one of the most interesting and inspirational ceremonies ever to be held in the history of Torrance high school, Monday evening the Torrance World Friendship Club instituted their annual plan of honoring our many neighbors, the other nations of the world, by planting two cherry trees which were presented the school by George Muira, one of the students, and his father, in honor of Japan.

The guests of the evening were Mr. Konomi, head of the educational department of the Japanese Association of California; Mr. Makiada, president of the association; Mayor Scott R. Ludlow and Arthur G. Waldloch, the high school principal.

The program was opened by the World Friendship Club president, Ruth Granger, who welcomed the guests and then called on Julian Inoué for a talk on Arbor Day and how it can be celebrated in a way to promote world friendship. Following Julian's talk a group of Japanese girls, students at the school, who were arrayed in beautiful Japanese kimonos, did a Japanese folk dance. Mr. Konomi, the feature speaker, then gave a most interesting talk on "Cherry Trees in Japan," which was followed by another dance by the girls, after which they led the company to the north patio where the actual tree planting took place.

George Muira presented the trees to the school and student body vice president, Hal Smith accepted them. The first tree was planted by Mr. Konomi and Mayor Ludlow. Mr. Makiada and Mr. Waldloch officiated at the planting of the second tree. Inspiring talks were delivered on the site by each of the guests.

The girls then danced another folk dance, in the patio, which was decorated with Japanese lanterns; then the company adjourned to the music room where tea was served.

Around the Council Table

On recommendation of the Chamber of Commerce, the Torrance city council Tuesday night appropriated \$100 for the purchase of baseball equipment to be used by the Torrance All-Stars, hard ball team managed by Jack Silva. Among the articles to be purchased are 12 suits, chest protector, balls, bats, etc., all of which is to be returned to the Chamber of Commerce after the ball season. It was stipulated that the team be composed of Torrance players and the equipment bought from local merchants.

A resolution addressed to the board of supervisors and the planning commission was adopted expressing approval of the proposed \$1,800,000 county yacht harbor and \$170,000 county pier at Redondo Beach, and asking that the above projects be included in the county's allotment of funds from the four billion dollar federal works fund, if and when passed by congress.

In response to resolutions sent to representatives at Washington recently, Congressman C. J. Golden advised that he would continue to lend his support to the Patman soldiers' bonus bill and the federal public works bill, as recommended by the administration. Senator McCadeo "acknowledged" the city's communications on these bills but did not commit himself.

Decision to continue renting the present quarters for the Recreation Center on Cabrillo avenue on a month to month basis was voted upon recommendation of Councilman Tolson. The city pays \$12.00 per month for the building.

A resolution was adopted and forwarded to members of the state legislature urging the passage of pending legislation which will eliminate the present fee of \$1,200 a year which the city pays the county for health services.

Checks for \$982 from the Southern California Edison Company and \$1.84 from the Southern California Gas Company, covering franchise fees for the past six months were accepted.

BUILDING SHOULD BE USED EXCLUSIVELY FOR LIBRARY

Committee Says \$23,000 Steel Building May Be Built Without Increased Cost to Taxpayers By Using Promotion Fund

Immediate construction on city property of an attractively designed steel building to be designed and used exclusively for library purposes was recommended to the Torrance city council Tuesday night by the special library committee appointed by Mayor Ludlow a week ago to study the problem. It was suggested by the committee that such a building should be approximately 55 feet by 60 feet with a high basement which could be used for a children's reading room, storage of books and heating plant. The committee of six, including Councilmen Klusman and Stanger, City Engineer Leonard, City Attorney Rippey, City Clerk Bartlett and Grover C. Whyte, publisher, met Monday evening at the city hall, and unanimously agreed that the idea of incorporating an assembly hall and offices for the Chamber of Commerce in a library building was not feasible.

CITY REDUCES ENGINEER FEE \$125 A MONTH

Discusses Plans For Eliminating Loss In L. A. Shoestring Strip

Cancellation of the \$125 monthly consultation fee now being paid the engineer firm of Salisbury, Bradshaw & Taylor for advice in operating the present municipal water department was authorized by action of the city council Tuesday night. Formal notice of the cancellation of the contract was ordered sent to the consulting engineers, terminating the contract on April 24.

This action does not affect the technical services being rendered by the same firm in connection with revamping the present water system and construction of new units as contemplated by funds to be provided by the P. W. A. The consulting engineers' services for this type of supervision is covered by another contract calling for a fee of \$1,000.

Mayor Ludlow explained that the action of the council should not be construed as any reflection on the engineers as the city feels it can operate the present system without outside advice and is desirous of reducing the operating expense of the system.

Collections Good

City Engineer F. R. Leonard, manager of the water department, reported that collections were better than prevailed before the city took over the water system. There is now less than \$100 delinquent, and it is probable that the majority of this amount will be collected, Leonard said.

Shoestring Loss

Loss of revenue from large quantities of water which leaks out of old riveted pipe in the Los Angeles Shoestring Strip was pointed out by Leonard. After discussion of the matter, the council instructed City Attorney Rippey to study the contract between this city and the City of Los Angeles to determine if it would be possible to collect for this lost water from Los Angeles. It was also suggested that a study be made of the situation revealed that the Torrance water department was serving the L. A. Shoestring Strip at a loss that it might be advisable to cancel the contract with Los Angeles and ask the L. A. water department to take over the service in the Shoestring. No action was taken, however, pending a report by City Attorney Rippey.

Women Present

Mrs. Juliette Johnson, president of the Woman's Club, and Mrs. O. W. Hudson, past president, addressed the city council and pointed out that the Woman's clubhouse had an assembly room which could be used for civic purposes and asked that consideration be given to the necessity of supporting the Woman's Club before building another assembly hall. Mrs. Hudson stated that the clubhouse had been built and furnished at a cost of \$18,000, in order to meet the demands for an assembly room. There remains \$5,000 to pay on the clubhouse, and rentals of the clubhouse are needed to meet this obligation, Mrs. Hudson stated.

SOUTH TORRANCE sewer completed TOMORROW

Work on the South Torrance sewer line, which has been in progress for some time, as an SRA project, will be completed tomorrow, according to information received by City Engineer Frank Leonard, when the line will be connected up with the main trunk line leading to the plant at the Poggi ranch and eventually to the outfall sewer.

The South Torrance line passes along 23rd street from Narbonne avenue east, through the Kettler ranch, with branch lines along Western avenue and Meyler street. It was constructed at a cost of \$78,000, some of the materials left over from the construction of the Lomita sewer line being used, which effected a certain saving.

TORRANCE MEETS
ALL COMPETITION

J. C. Higgins, 1820 Plaza
del Amo, has a White Leg
horn hen who takes her job
seriously. This week she laid
an egg which weighed six
and one-half ounces, measur-
ing nine and one-half inches
around the long way. A few
days ago a Los Angeles hen
set the example by producing
an egg of the same weight.
But Torrance bidders are
ready to meet all competition.
