

“Petition-itis”

Will Get You If You Don't Investigate Before Signing
AN EDITORIAL

Be careful, when you sign a petition, that you really know what it is all about—and that you are sincerely in favor of what it proposes.

Some years ago, during one of those petition epidemics for this and that, a group of factory workers hereabouts prepared a petition and arranged with an outsider to bring it into the plant for signatures. The petition started out with three or four long paragraphs about the desirability of a shorter work-week and more pay, then drifted into a discussion concerning the prevalence of high fogs and wound up by resolving that all of the employees of the plant work six months each year for no wages at all and that three members of the factory baseball team be discharged because of errors made in a recent ball game.

Ninety per cent of the employees signed the petition—without reading it, of course—including all three of the victimized members of the ball team. When the trick was exposed by the jokesters, everybody had a good laugh—but ever after that, whenever a petition was circulated in that factory or at the homes of those employees, no signatures were attached unless the petition was carefully read—and the signers thoroughly and sincerely in sympathy with the proposal.

When a solicitor rings your doorbell and asks you to sign something, tell him to leave a copy of the petition or whatever it is he (or she) wants you to sign. Read it carefully and at your leisure. Discuss it with adult members of your family; with your neighbors in whose judgment you have confidence. In most cases the solicitors are paid from 25 cents “up” for each signature. We are informed that in one instance solicitors were paid \$1 per petition. Solicitors usually are not interested in the petition's proposal; their interest begins—and ends—in your signature and in the price they get for it.

Carelessly signed petitions for proposals with which the general public is not in sympathy will cost taxpayers a lot of money, provided such petitions get signatures sufficient to place them on the ballot. Many times taxpayers find themselves directly or indirectly contributing to campaign funds in an effort to defeat some measure which they themselves helped put on the ballot by carelessly signing petitions.

Don't sign any old petition merely because it is the easiest way. It may be the hardest way, the most expensive way.

Be careful, when you sign a petition, that you really know what it is all about—and that you are sincerely in favor of what it proposes.

LEGION ENTERS COUNTY FIGHT AGAINST EPIDEMIC OF RABIES

Responding to a request from Dr. J. L. Pomeroy, county health officer, Commander Grant Barkdull of the local American Legion post, said today that the ex-service organization would cooperate with the county authorities in stamping out the epidemic of rabies which Dr. Pomeroy declares is serious in this county.

The Legion was asked to assist the county health department in securing better law observance, to teach people to keep their dogs under control at all times, to notify the nearest health officer if their animal appears ill at any time and, to have all dog bites cauterized by a physician at once.

According to information received this week by The Herald from Dr. Pomeroy's office, there was a rabid dog captured in the 24000 block on Pennsylvania avenue in Lomita during the week ending March 12. This was the first diseased animal to be impounded and destroyed here in several months.

Quarantine In Effect
Dr. Pomeroy's letter to Commander Barkdull stated these facts about the rabies epidemic: “Rabies in dogs has increased from 146 cases in 1932 to 773 in 1937. Last year nearly 800 persons were bitten by mad dogs and had to be given Pains treatment free by the health department. In spite of this treatment three persons died of this disease last year. The total cost of all control measures to the taxpayers for the past 12 months has been \$50,000.”

“The situation has become so serious that we have placed a quarantine on all dogs in the County Health department territory, which means that all dogs and cats must be kept at home unless the owner has the animal under control on a leash or in an automobile. The

Mattoon Faces Damage Suit As Attorneys Seek His Job

Many attorneys throughout the county today had filed applications to take the examination for filling the \$10,000-a-year job as county counsel. Last date for filing applications will be March 25, the civil service commission announced. The examination is open to all attorneys in the county and is to fill the post left vacant by the resignation of County Counsel Everett W. Mattoon.

Latest aftermath of the circumstances which led to the official's resignation was a \$50,000 damage suit against Mattoon, on file today in Superior court.

In the meanwhile, the county grand jury is reported to be

Council Plans Pay Boosts for Two Officials

Whoever are elected city clerk and city treasurer here 27 days from today will receive pay increases on the day they take office.

This was proposed by the city council at an adjourned meeting held late Tuesday afternoon.

The salary ordinance governing those two elective offices was introduced at that time and it provided that the city clerk will receive \$225 per month—a \$25 boost from the present stipend—and the city treasurer will go on the municipal payroll at \$60 per month—\$10 more than the present salary.

Bonds for the two officers, \$4,000 for clerk and \$3,600 for treasurer, will remain the same, according to the ordinance, No. 302.

Safety Engineer Wins Essay Prize

Using the “safety huddle” plan as followed at the Columbia Steel plant for his theme, Les Berger, safety engineer, wrote an essay for the contest sponsored by the Southern California Safety Society recently. This week he was notified that he had won first prize and \$30 in cash for his effort.

The “safety huddle” is a brief conference held by steel workers at the beginning of every shift. There they are informed of new safety ideas, consider the routine hazards and try to bring about greater precautions.

It was this practice which prompted Berger to describe the excellent results achieved in his essay “The Most Efficient Method of Promoting Safety Among Employees.” The S. C. Safety Society is composed of about 170 men in charge of such work among the various industrial plants of this area.

Prepare Office for Attorney

An appropriation of \$190 made by the city council at an adjourned meeting late Tuesday afternoon will be spent to provide an office in the city hall for City Attorney John E. McCall.

That sum is deemed necessary to make the alterations and changes in a room across from City Judge Robert Lessing's chambers. This space, located to the left of the city hall entrance from El Prado, was formerly occupied by William Gascoigne, superintendent of streets, and Oscar Butterfield, city electrical inspector.

Gascoigne and Butterfield have moved into the city engineer's department. As soon as his office is ready for occupancy, City Attorney John E. McCall intends to adopt regular office hours.

City's Red Cross Flood Quota \$415

This city's Red Cross quota to raise funds for the relief of Southern California flood sufferers is \$415, according to Mrs. Flora McDonald, local chairman. Contributions are coming in very slowly to the Torrance National Bank and Bank of America, she said. The quota is one-fifth of the sum raised here two years ago for Mississippi and Ohio valley flood relief. Mrs. McDonald appeals to all residents to contribute whatever they can to the present drive which she regards as “exceptionally worthy” because we know the urgent need for relief to our own people in Los Angeles and Orange counties.

Moneta School Site for Sale

The Moneta school site of nearly three acres, fronting on Gardena boulevard and Gramercy Place, is being offered for sale by the Los Angeles city board of education. Bids will be received at the board's headquarters up to April 7 when public auction of the property will be held. A minimum price of \$1,000 has been set.

COUNCIL MEETS MAR. 22
The next regular meeting of the city council will be Tuesday night, March 22, at 7:45 p. m.

Niver Let It Be Said Ye Failed Erin!

Shure, an' did ye have a bit o' the green about ye today? Bad cess to you if ye were the kind o' a scallawag wid the manners uv a goat and forgot this was St. Patrick's Day!

Ivery candidate for election—if he knew his Sons uv the' Ould Sod sported somethin' green about him today and was busy tellin' all the folks what a braw lad his Irish grandsir or what a smillin' colleen his grandnithur was.

The paypers was full of the Austrians an' Eyclatians an' Germans an' their Foolheers an' Docces an' all today but a little old island in the Atlantic was th' real heart interest for a lot uv us who can tell the difference between a shamrock an' a bit uv clover.

Th' sons uv Erin have one day in the year to scolybrate and this is it. Th' wearin' o' th' green is a badge of high distinction today—tomorra we can go back to our blues, blacks and browns.

But this is St. Patrick's Day and th' Ireland of sweet songs and tall tales is th' center uv th' universe for 24 hours!

SAND SWIRLS SWEEP CEDAR

Residents on Cedar avenue north of Torrance boulevard are “up-in-arms” about the almost continual sand storms which are sweeping into their homes from the recently-planted tomato field west of Cedar. Mrs. James Brown of 1008 Cedar told members of the city council late Tuesday afternoon.

She said that the sand filters their windows and “covers every thing in our houses.” The field was recently leased to a Japanese gardener who was cultivating tomatoes under cultivation.

Mrs. Brown asked if the city could do anything to stop this nuisance. Mayor William H. Tolson referred the matter to City Attorney John E. McCall but said that he believed that the annoyed residents have to bring a civil action to get relief. Until the field was cultivated, the grass and weeds prevented the swirling clouds of dust from blowing across Cedar into homes. The land is owned by the C.C.M.O.

Deep Oil Activity Maintains Pace

Entrance of one new operator and continued drilling toward the deeper sands in the South Torrance field marked a week that did not record any new production of high gravity oil from the 45 or 50 wells now active in that second most active field in Southwestern California.

The newcomer was the Peters Royalty corporation which is completing a new rig at 229th off Narbonne. The C.C.M.O. started drilling yesterday at its No. 23 hole on Sepulveda across from the Torrance Oil company's holdings. Charles C. Camp Oil started deepening another hole at 229th and Pennsylvania, moving the outfit from No. 1 on the Pegor lease.

There were reports current in the South Torrance field this week that operators with deep-level wells in the water-bogged sector east of Narbonne may shortly begin deepening to still lower levels to escape the wet strata that now makes their explorations practically worthless. Several operators are said to be considering drilling considerably below the section.

A new rig at Vermont and 253rd gave visible evidence this week that Harbor City may soon be revived as an oil production center. The new well, Cramer No. 1 will be spudded in within a week or 10 days and will seek oil sands which “old-timers” of 1924 insist produced a fair quantity of good gravity oil some 18 years ago at a new abandoned well at Vermont and Lomita boulevard, a block away from the present development.

Altho oil leases have been talked of in that district for

Official Flood Damage Figure Said 12 Million

Bridges damaged and destroyed throughout Los Angeles county constituted more than one-third the \$12,435,883 public property loss due to the flood, according to an official estimate on file today in the office of William J. Fox, chief engineer of the county regional planning commission. All but \$3,028,000 was outside the city of Los Angeles, with \$4,033,500 of the damage in unincorporated territory.

City officials here estimated that the damage to a few streets in South Torrance by the flood can be repaired as “normal maintenance work.” An estimate of \$700 damage here, as reported by the planning commission, “is about \$500 too high” according to Leonard Young, assistant city engineer, and William Gascoigne, superintendent of streets.

The losses by other cities, outside Los Angeles city follows: Alhambra, \$25,000; Arcadia, \$70,000; Azusa, \$883; Burbank, \$25,000; Claremont, \$140,000; Compton, \$2,500; Culver City, \$8,000; El Monte, \$5,500; Gardena, \$700; Glendale, \$100,000; Glendora, \$38,000; Hawthorne, \$22,500; Hermosa Beach, \$2,200.

Ten Escape Damage
Inglewood \$2,000; La Verne \$3,100; Long Beach \$3,057,500; Monrovia \$39,000; Montebello \$11,500; Monterey Park \$45,000; Pasadena \$1,165,000; Pomona \$15,000; Redondo Beach \$250; San Gabriel \$400; San Marino \$800; San Fernando \$600; Santa Monica \$5,000; Sierra Madre \$41,500; Signal Hill \$150; South Gate \$600,500; South Pasadena \$700; West Covina \$500; Whittier \$500.

Only 10 cities, according to the Planners' report, escaped damage, including Avalon on Catalina. Others reporting no loss to public property were: Bell, Beverly Hills, Covina, El Segundo, Huntington Park, Lynwood, Manhattan Beach, Maywood and Vernon.

Rehabilitation of public properties in the unincorporated areas is the largest item of loss in those districts, estimated at \$1,250,000. Loss to highways and streets is placed at \$1,221,000; bridges \$682,500; structures and basins \$750,000 and general cleanup \$130,000.

Holmes Out for Clerkship

Manager of the collection service which bears his name and which he helped found here in 1935, Bert J. Holmes of 1604 Juniper was the third and last candidate to file a nominating petition for city clerk last Saturday. Holmes, a native of Michigan, came to California in 1926 and to Torrance four years ago.

“I propose to give the people of Torrance a simple, business-like administration as city clerk, ready and willing at all times to abide by instructions of the city council and eager to extend any service within the range of the clerk's office to any person or firm,” he said this week. “My business training qualifies me to conduct the office in this manner and my past record shows I have had

Hagberg Seeks Council Post

Declaring that Walteria needs a representative on the city council, Joel Hagberg of 21241 Neece avenue, was one of the last candidates to file nominating petitions last Saturday. Hagberg, a native of New York who came to California in 1921, purchased his home place in Walteria about a year ago with his soldier's bonus. He is a longshoreman.

Hagberg claims to have been the youngest enlisted soldier in the U. S. Army during the World War. He joined up under his true age of 16 years and served at Camp Upton, Long Island remount station. He is married but has no children. The present campaign is his debut in politics but he has a well-defined platform for which

City Election Campaign Under Way With 19 in Race; 13 for Council

J. H. Scott Out Mrs. Leech is for City Clerk Campaigning



JAMES H. SCOTT

Eighteen years a resident of Torrance, James H. (“Scotty”) Scott is a candidate for city clerk at the April 12 municipal election. He is a property owner, ex-service man (15 months in France with the A.E.F., and a past commander of the local American Legion post), and is now in the roofing business with H. M. Bailey. “Scotty” was six years with the Torrance National bank and when he took the county civil service examination for clerk rated among the top tenth of candidates for deputies' positions.

He lives at 2415 Sonoma ave. (Continued on Page 4A)

Tiffany Seeks Treasurership

Previous clerical experience, covering a wide field, is being cited by Frederick A. Tiffany as his chief qualification for seeking the office of city treasurer in the municipal election next month. Tiffany came to Torrance in 1919 and entered



TIFFANY

the employ of the Union Tool company in the cost department. He is now pensioned from the National Supply company, successor of that first-named firm.

“I know I am capable of handling the job of city treasurer,” he said this week. “At the solicitation of many friends I am making this race, confident that my past experience speaks for itself. I have the

Wright Gives Council Stand

Joseph Manter Wright, candidate for city council at next month's municipal election, is a native of Maine who came to California 30 years ago, to Torrance 20 years ago and he has lived at 1024 Arlington for the past 18 years. Owner of several residences here, he has been vitally interested in city government for most of his time in Torrance.

He served as a constable in Massachusetts and from 1932 to 1934 was a member of the city council here, serving on the Finance and Ordinance committees. Altho he was a candidate for re-election in 1934 he worked for two men who were successful in that race, believing their election would be better for the city than his own individual efforts.

“I have made no promises to anyone other than that I shall try, as your councilman, to do the best I can for everyone and every industry,” Wright said this week. “One of the things I learned as councilman was that our industries are paying a preponderant share of our



MRS. HARRIETT LEECH

The only woman candidate in the April 12 municipal election, Mrs. Harriett Leech who is a nominee for city treasurer, is basing her independent campaign on two factors: trust and competency. She is confident that her practical experience as a business woman, proprietor of an attractive flower shop for nearly three years here, qualifies her for the office.

Mrs. Leech has been a resident of Torrance for the past 14 years and is a property owner. She was born in Phoenix, Arizona, and before coming here, lived in Hermosa Beach. The widow of the late James Leech, for 15 years a bank

Shawger Files for Councilman

Thirteenth and last candidate to file for election April 12 as city councilman was William E. Shawger—but he claimed later that he was not superstitious. Shawger, who has been chemist and superintendent of the D. & M. Machine Works' rubber division since 1932 was born in Newark, N. J., and came to California in 1914 to engage in rubber work. He entered the U. S. Service during the World War, attended training school at the University of California and was serving as a supply sergeant at Ft. Bliss, Texas, at the close of the war.

On his return to Los Angeles in 1919 he resumed his work with rubber companies and studied rubber chemistry at night school. In 1922 he advanced to a superintendency, a position which he held for 10 years. He came to the Eno Rubber company, successor of the Rubbercraft corporation, moved here in 1934. (Continued on Page 4A)

\$112,000 in Radio Equipment Arrives Here for CBS-KNX

With the arrival at the Pacific Electric station here yesterday of one carload of equipment for the new quarter-million dollar CBS-KNX transmitter station, now under construction at Hawthorne and 190th, the magnitude of the “world's finest radio plant” was revealed.

That one carload contained \$112,000 worth of new equipment, built under special order by Radio Communications of America and General Electric at Schenectady, N. Y. More shipments are to follow shortly until more than \$200,000 worth of equipment is landed here. Supervising the unloading and trucking of the multitude of crates, one of them weighing close to four tons, were J. L. Middlebrooks, liaison engineer for the Columbia Broadcasting System, who is in charge of construction for all CBS stations, and L. Shepard, transmitter supervisor who will be in charge of the Torrance outlet.

No Interference Here
“The transmitter station, the most modern of its kind in the entire United States, will be

‘Labor League’ Supporting Pair

A prolonged wait from the city fire siren signalling what turned out to be a false alarm precisely at noon last Saturday sounded the start of a race by 19 contenders for four city offices—none of whom will admit until April 12 that their campaigns were “false alarms.”

Ladies and gentlemen of the 4,376 qualified voters in Torrance, step up and meet the largest number of candidates ever to solicit your ballots:

FOR CITY COUNCILMAN
(two to be elected for four-year terms):

Frank H. Egerer, toolroom foreman at National Supply company;

Wallace H. Gilbert, insurance agent, member of the city's first council (1921-24) and mayor in 1923;

Joel Hagberg, Walteria longshoreman;

Ondus (“Doc”) Hill, Columbia Steel worker;

James E. Hitchcock, incumbent veteran head of Public Works Dept., seeking re-election;

Lindsay B. Kelsey, former insurance agent;

William T. Kussman, former councilman (1932-34) and mayor 14 months (1932-33);

Carl E. Marsteller, cost department, National Supply company;

John V. Murray, barber;

Howard F. Raymond, maintenance department, National Supply company;

Frank Schmidt, turn foreman at Columbia Steel plant;

William E. Shawger, superintendent of D. & M. Machine Works' rubber department; and

Joseph Manter Wright, former councilman (1932-34).

FOR CITY CLERK:
Albert B. Bartlett, incumbent seeking fourth term;

Bert J. Holmes, head of Holmes Collection Service; and

James H. Scott, roofing material salesman.

FOR CITY TREASURER:
Mrs. Harriett Leech, florist;

Scott R. Ludlow, incumbent, paymaster at National Supply company; and

Frederick A. Tiffany, National Supply company pensioner and Major, inactive, Reserve U. S. Army.

That's the imposing list of politicians who this week began impressing their friends with their relative merits and qualifications for the four-year public service terms they seek.

“Labor Ticket” Appears
Pay for city councilmen is \$50 a month. Salary of the city clerk-elect will be \$225 a month.

(Continued on Page 4A)

put in service about July 15,” Middlebrooks said. “Yesterday we purchased a 500-foot tower from your International Derrick and Equipment company and the building has been completed up to the first floor.”

Shepard said that between 12 and 18 men will be employed at the station which will send out all CBS and KNX programs. These men, he pointed out, will live in Torrance. Shepard himself now lives in Van Nuys but he plans to sell his home there which narrowly escaped destruction in the March floods, and build a residence here.

Asked by a Herald reporter if the new transmitter will “drown” out all radio reception but KNX, Middlebrooks declared that local residents need have no fear of this. The broadcasting unit will not interfere with other stations, he said. The only noticeable change will be that KNX will “come in” much better.

Open to Public
In addition to the 43,889 pounds of crated equipment, the shipment being transported to the new plant includes two of

(Continued on Page 5A)