

# COUNCIL TO TAKE STEPS TO SOLVE WATER PROBLEMS OF ENTIRE TORRANCE CITY AREA

The water level of underground sources in the West Basin adjacent to Torrance has dropped 11 1/2 feet in the past four years, sufficient to cause grave concern as to future development and expansion of this area, it was revealed Tuesday night during an informal meeting of the City Council with Arthur Taylor, of the water engineering firm of Tremor and Taylor.

This tremendous drop has been registered in the wells of the Palos Verdes Water Co., Ben Haggard, president of the company, said during the meeting.

Haggard's company serves Palos Verdes Estates and his source of supply was tapped recently during the failure of the pump at the Quanta Pumping Company plant which has been supplying the Walteria section of Torrance for many years.

Residents of Walteria have petitioned the City Council for the formation of a water district in the southern and southwestern section of Torrance, and the City Council at its informal meeting announced that it petitions submitted are found to represent 15 per cent of the registered voters in that area an election will be called to bond the area and develop a water system.

At the same time, North Torrance water problems came in for discussion, and the council informally made it known that the needs of that area will be given immediate consideration. Petitions bearing some 85 names asking for a water survey and recommendations in the North Torrance area recently were presented to the council, and the problems there will be made a part of the general city-wide study upon which the community is embarking.

The council indicated that it is the official opinion of Torrance that it will be necessary sooner or later to depend upon the supply from the Metropolitan Water District, for which taxpayers here are paying 48 cents per \$100 assessed valuation, but it also was the consensus of opinion that present ground-water supply and lines should be utilized and the municipal program expanded from systems now in existence.

While the water level of Torrance Municipal Water District No. 1's wells has dropped only six inches in four years, according to Manager William Stanger, in attendance at the meeting, the whole harbor and West Basin area, including all the territory within the bounds of the Inglewood-Newport fault has no definite assurance of future water supply.

"Water-Busted" Taylor said, "is being overdrawn. It is going 'water-busted,' just like your bank account if you draw out more than you have on deposit."

He recommended that development of a water program be made on as broad a scale as possible, declaring that it will be a mistake to isolate districts into little groups each serving its own needs. He indicated that the cost of larger development per capita will be much smaller.

(Continued on Page 3-A)

## Interest Runs High in Semi-Pro Ball Play Here

Interest is running high in the forthcoming Southern California Semi-Pro Championship Baseball tournament to be played in Torrance ball park starting Aug. 4, according to Dale Riley, Torrance city recreation superintendent and coordinator for the tournament.

Nine of the sixteen teams to engage in the double-elimination play already have signed up. The games will be played nightly until 15 teams have been eliminated and a championship Southern California baseball team thus picked. Games will be called at 8:15 in the well-lighted Torrance park considered one of the finest in the state.

Newest entries are the Ironworkers, union team from Anaheim, and the Paramount Cubs, from the Paramount lot in Hollywood.

Previous entries announced are Signal Oil Co.; Arcadia; El Monte Dodgers; Standard Oil of El Segundo; Glendale Stars; Pittsburgh Pirate Jrs., and the Torrance Athletic club team.

Sponsored jointly by the Southern California Baseball Association and the Bert S. Crossland post, American Legion, Torrance, the tournament is expected to run for 30 or 31 nights. The winning club is guaranteed a \$500 purse, and half the gate receipts are paid back to the club.

This is the fourth time the tournament has been played in Torrance, the other years being 1939, 1940 and 1941. They were not played in 1942, '43 and '44 because of war restrictions.

# G. L. Johnson Heads War Chest Drive

George L. Johnson, assistant cashier for the Torrance branch of the Bank of America, has accepted the chairmanship of the campaign committee of the Torrance War Chest for the coming



fall appeal, according to information given out today by Chest officials.

Johnson has been actively interested in both War Chest and Red Cross since coming to Torrance two years ago. Prior to moving to Torrance, he was in the main office of the Los Angeles Bank of America for 15 years.

He is a member of the Torrance Rotary Club, Presbyterian Church and interested in furthering civic affairs. The family home is at 2554 Torrance blvd., and a son, Tyler, attends Fern Avenue school.

Mr. Johnson is busily engaged in appointing vice chairmen and colonels, who will have direct charge of the various divisions of the appeal.

## Shell Chemical Employees Get Smoking Rights

Special smoking periods for operational employees of Shell Chemical Company's Torrance butadiene plant are provided for in a ruling handed down by E. H. Rowe, Tenth Regional WLB arbiter. The arbiter was called in following a dispute over smoking in which 89 men were discharged, thus closing down the whole plant for three days.

The award, final and binding on both parties by previous agreement, provided:

1. That the 89 employees "fired for violation of a no-smoking rule" be reinstated with all privileges.
2. That two 10-minute smoking periods be provided during an eight-hour shift for 137 employees working a continuous shift.
3. That the company need not pay the 89 men for time lost during the plant's shutdown, but that the remainder of the 550 persons employed are entitled to pay for three days lost due to the company closing down the plant.

The first of the arbiter's findings was put into effect last week, with the company reinstating workers who on June 28 took time out to smoke in violation of a company rule.

Restoration of the smoking periods for men on continuous shift as ordered by the arbiter eliminates discrimination among plant personnel, said C. E. Fredricks, Oil Workers' secretary.

## Water Controlling Factor in Locating New Factories; Survey Being Made

"In the post-war years, information on water supply will be a controlling factor in the location of new factories."

This is the significant hint to business management given in a recent issue of Nation's Business. The important point in this observation is especially plain in Southern California where the present demand for water, in many instances, is far in excess of the local available supply and where in many other places suburban and industrial development can go forward in the future only if large supplemental water supplies are tapped.

So far as the areas within the Metropolitan Water District are concerned, the required quantities of supplemental water are already at hand and available in increasing amounts through the Colorado River Aqueduct. Torrance is one of these areas, although distribution facilities to serve the whole area of Torrance are lacking and are the subject of present discussions by the City Council.

The magazine article goes on to cite some interesting facts concerning the basic importance

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## Glowing Tribute Paid Blaine Walker As He Takes New Chamber Duties

Blaine Walker, new executive secretary of Torrance Chamber of Commerce, assumed his duties here this week and immediately set about the task of reorganization of the office to enable the chamber to carry on a vigorous community development and betterment program.

Coming here from the Culver City Chamber of Commerce, where he served in a similar capacity for many years, he succeeds Harry B. Lewis, resigned, now director of the Compton Veterans' Service Center.

In a tribute to Walker, Bill Shea, publisher of the Culver City Evening Star-News, Friday, published a glowing "swan song" to the retiring Culver City and new Torrance Chamber of Commerce secretary, as follows: "Blaine Walker writes 'thirty' on his career with the Culver City Chamber of Commerce today. That is about how Blaine, essentially a newsman himself, would put it, for that is the designation newsmen put on the end of stories. And Monday, he starts a new chapter of a decade ago. A few years later, in 1937, Walker was elected chamber president. A that time the organization was somewhat in the financial doldrums and Walker offered to serve without salary as manager. His offer, of course, was eagerly accepted. Later he went on what he termed a 'part pay' basis."

Had Varied Career Walker had completed a somewhat hectic and vigorous career as a film news man and editor and he brought into his new office all of the dynamic color and ballroom of motion picture exploitation. He projected or assisted in the projection of many spectacular stunts and events which attracted wide attention and publicity. Among them was Tom Sawyer Day, when the entire community garbed itself for a day in the traditions of a generation, and broadcast its fun-making over the national (Continued on Page 3)

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BLAINE WALKER Undertakes Chamber Job

## Departmental Heads Named At Columbia

Changes in two departmental heads at the Torrance plant, Columbia Steel Company, effective July 16, are announced by O. A. Kresse, general superintendent.

Don W. Lasell, former assistant superintendent of the sheet mill at the Pittsburgh Works, has been appointed superintendent of the sheet mill at Torrance, succeeding Paul M. Watson, who has been appointed supervisor of production planning here.

Jay Newman, former supervisor of production planning, is returning to the Pittsburgh Works as assistant superintendent of the sheet mill there.

## American Legion Plans Building On Lots Here

Construction of a new American Legion Hall in Torrance is planned by Bert L. Crossland Post No. 170, the American Legion, it was revealed this week. Plans for a structure to cost approximately \$12,000 have been drawn by A. R. Walker, and the members are said to have accumulated sufficient funds or prospects for the money to construct the new building.

The post owns a parcel of land 90 by 138 feet on Border ave. between Encinaga ave. and Torrance blvd., which will be the site for the new building.

The auditorium of the structure will be 25 by 42 feet, capable of seating 150 persons. A platform of 12 by 16 feet is provided; a kitchen 12 by 34 feet; an office 10 by 12 feet and storage and locker facilities also are included.

The whole building will be 50 by 73 feet in size, and the balance of the lot will be utilized with parking facilities for members of the post and guests.

It was reported that the structure will be strictly an American Legion Post, and in no way will interfere with plans for the development of a Veterans Memorial Hall being forwarded by the local Veterans of Foreign Wars Post.

The V.F.W. post will reconstruct and modernize into a veterans hall the old earthquake damaged structure at Cabrillo ave. and Gramercy ave.

## U. S. Safety Award Given Goodyear

Ernest Dutcher, U. S. Labor Department, recently presented J. K. Lockridge, plant manager, and B. O. Keith, safety manager, both of the Torrance plant of the Goodyear Synthetic Rubber Corp., with a certificate of safety achievement.

The award was presented as a result of the plant having reduced accidents 89 per cent during the last half of 1944.

The Labor Department is working in cooperation with industry in establishing safety programs in all industries.

Dutcher mentioned in his presentation of the certificate that "only through the cooperation and sincere effort on the part of management, supervision and labor can we achieve in this country a high standard of efficiency and safety."

## New Building For Water Dept. Planned

Plans have been ordered prepared for a new service and utility building for Torrance Municipal Water District No. 1 to be located at the rear of the main office at 1510 Cravens ave.

The structure will cover the entire rear of the lot, and will replace the sheet iron structure which has been used for garage, service and repair work.

It is estimated the building will cost from \$8000 to \$9000. The water department recently completed a warehouse and workshop at the water works at 1001 Elm ave.

Equipment presently housed in the sheet-iron structure to be replaced will be housed there until the new building is completed, according to Manager William Stanger.

The new building will be 30 by 40 feet in size, and will include a large work room and meter testing department, a vault, toilets, and foreman's office. A new chapter of a decade ago. A few years later, in 1937, Walker was elected chamber president. A that time the organization was somewhat in the financial doldrums and Walker offered to serve without salary as manager. His offer, of course, was eagerly accepted. Later he went on what he termed a "part pay" basis."

It is expected that bids will be called for the new building at the next council meeting.

## Civil Service Appointment To Benstead

Victor Benstead was appointed to the Torrance Civil Service Commission, Tuesday night by the City Council to replace J. W. Lockridge recently named maintenance and recreation man to Walteria Park.

While the appointment of Benstead was unanimous, it provoked a short argument between Councilmen N. H. Cucci and J. E. Hitchcock.

Councilman Hitchcock moved to amend Cucci's motion by submitting the name of George Thomsen to succeed Lockridge. Cucci insisted on what he termed his rights under "arrangement and custom" of the City Council to allow each member of the body to appoint one man to the Civil Service board. Hitchcock pointed out that Cucci had named Lockridge to succeed Paul Smecker, also named to a city job, but Cucci declared it still was his right to name a man to succeed his appointees as long as his appointees resign during their terms of office.

After Hitchcock's amended motion failed to get a second, Mayor W. H. Tolson put the question to the council and Benstead's appointment carried. Hitchcock pointed out he was not against Benstead's appointment, as indicated by his vote, but that he felt that another member of the council should have a chance to make the appointment.

Lockridge and Thatcher are members of two separate political "factions" in the Walteria area.

## Lawrence Pankey

Lawrence L. Pankey, is now an electrician's mate, 3/c. He reports good food at his Guam base and admits it's a little on the lonely side. Overseas since last October, he has been in service for about 18 months. He will welcome letters from his friends here.

## 'Give Returning Vets All We Have,' Caldwell Says in Urging Program

"That kid you did not think was worth a 'd'—a few years ago has saved Democracy for you and me here today. Bear that in mind when you think of these veterans returning by the thousands to readjust themselves to civilian life in your community."

This was the challenge of J. G. Caldwell, secretary of the Veterans Service Council and a member of the local Selective Service Board, to members of Torrance Lions Club in their weekly meeting Tuesday noon in the Civic Auditorium.

"I wish the boys who are going into the service of their country were as gentle as those who are coming out," Caldwell said in referring to his dual capacity, giving all of his time away and welcoming them home.

"The load is getting larger and we need help to pay our debt of gratitude," he continued. "We must absorb those fellows before they get moribund. Let us give them all we have when they come back here."

Caldwell warned his listeners against the many "gyms" which are awaiting the return of the service man, the most common

## NEW EFFORT TO SELL BUS LINES IN TORRANCE RESULT FROM CONTINUED DISHARMONY

Continued disharmony in connection with operation of Torrance Municipal Bus Lines may result in a new effort to sell the \$12,000-a-month business, it was revealed this week as Charles F. Koors, former Torrance transportation coordinator and now executive vice president of the Southern Cities Transit Co., Inc., was completing his deals for the purchase of bus lines in San Pedro and Compton.

From the time Koors first entered the scene as a city transportation executive, early in 1944 there has been unrest in the bus department, first a union-sponsored move against Koors because he was given the \$300 a month job instead of C. Z. Ward, bus manager.

The dissatisfaction resulted several months later in cancellation of Koors' contract by Councilmen N. H. Cucci, C. M. Gilbert and G. V. Powell, and seizure of control by those councilmen from Mayor W. H. Tolson and Councilman James H. Hitchcock.

Koors came forward then with an offer to buy the lines, but his \$20,000 bid was rejected by the council.

Since that time, under Ward's direction, the four new buses were utilized to the benefit of the community, and the old ones repaired, and the business has doubled from about \$6000 a month to \$12,035.88 for June.

However, interference of members of the council transportation committee with the operation of the lines has renewed controversy, schedules have been irregular and a move to sell the lines again was instituted.

It is rumored that the bid has been upped considerably, and that the necessary votes are available to sell out to Koors.

It would be of advantage to the community to do this, it was pointed out, because it will provide direct and complete transportation for Torrance throughout the Harbor District and inland, Koors' company, a subsidiary of Crown Body and Coach Co., owning lines in San Pedro and Compton. Koors also owns a line opening out of Belvedere Gardens and has under consideration several other purchases. Under the plan, complete service between Torrance and various beach and inland communities, including Long Beach, San Pedro, Wilmington, Redondo Beach, Torrance, Huntington Park and Los Angeles would be possible.

The revenue from the Municipal Bus Lines has jumped regularly each month, on the local lines and the Los Angeles line. The \$12,035.88 total was made up last month as follows: Fare boxes, \$4,782.41, a slight drop under May; Tenth and Hill ticket agency, \$4,168.85, a gain of about \$300 over May; Beacon (Continued on Page 3-A)

## James Brodie Commander of Legion Post

James Brodie, popular Torrance veteran, was elected commander of Bert S. Crossland Post, the American Legion, at its meeting Tuesday night in Civic Auditorium. He succeeds Lester E. Fix.

Joel Hagberg was elected first vice commander and Sanford Whiting, second vice commander.

James Burchett was named chaplain; Gene Hall, treasurer; Verne Babcock, historian; H. C. Bender, sergeant-at-arms; Mrs. Edith White, service officer.

Members of the executive officers' body are Thomas Babbitt, Nolan Beadle and George Thompson.

Delegates are Commander Brodie, First Vice Commander Hagberg, Gene Held and Mrs. White.

The post will install its officers in a joint meeting with the South Bay post in Redondo Beach Elks club on Monday, July 30.

## H. C. Greenman Pays \$150 Fine In City Court

H. C. Greenman paid \$150 in City Court last week for driving while drunk without an operator's license.

City Judge Otto B. Willett gave Greenman 40 days to think about his offenses, placing him on probation during that period providing he does no driving.

## Five Years to Life, Sentence Of Mrs. Reid

Five years to life in the state penitentiary is the penalty Mrs. Doris L. Reid, 32, 1355 W. 24th st., must pay for the slaying of her "boy friend" almost a year ago. The slaying took place in the shadow of the Torrance police station last May 6. Convicted of second degree murder, she drew that verdict Monday in Superior Judge Clement D. Nye's court. Her attorney Ernest Utley, appealed the sentence.

Mrs. Reid was found guilty July 11, of stabbing to death William Kenneth Strang, 40, just outside of a Torrance cocktail bar across the street from the police station.

A few minutes after the fatal stabbing, Mrs. Reid told Torrance Chief of Police J. H. Stroth that she and Strang had a murder pact, whereby both married knives, and if one caught the other "stepping out," death was to be the penalty.

Mrs. Reid on the night of the stabbing contended Strang was paying too much attention to his pretty ex-wife, Lola.

Mrs. Reid denied that she and Strang had a stabbing pact, and said that she merely gave Chief Stroth that story in fun.



Ask the Professor

(By H. F. Noake)

Dear Professor: I understand our Army is using a weapon called the Bazooka. Just what effect does it have on the enemy?

Answer: They die of Burns.