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Tax Sale Ads In Community Newspapers

Sixty-one community newspapers, including the Torrance Herald, are being used by H. L. Byram, the county tax collector, in advertising 1410 tax-deeded properties which are to be offered at public auction in the Hall of Justice beginning Monday, Dec. 10.

The aggregate value of the properties to be sold is \$332,365. The auction is the third such to be held this year.

In his announcement Byram called attention to the fact that the formula for the opening bid prices, heretofore seven times the amount of the current year's taxes, has been increased to ten times the current year's levy. The new formula is now in effect on all applications being made, the first of which will reach the sale stage at the second auction, to be held in 1946.

Sales for the fiscal year ended last July 31 aggregated \$775,807.90, involving 6203 parcels. Of this total, \$285,769 came from the sale of 1177 properties to various cities and other taxing agencies; \$480,038.49 came from the sale of 3146 parcels to private buyers at the three public auctions held during the year.

Average prices in relation to assessed valuations are becoming higher with each successive sale, Byram pointed out. During the year, 19 parcels of property in Torrance priced at \$5383.11 were sold to the city, and four parcels priced at \$80 went to private owners.

Local Serviceman In Hospital At Campo, Calif.

Pvt. Alfonso R. Gonzales, son of Frank V. Gonzales, Torrance, is now a patient at Mitchell U. S. Army Convalescent hospital at Campo, Calif. He served with the Infantry, has one battle star and the Purple Heart.

At Mitchell he will take part in the reconditioning program which will fit him for return to duty or civilian life. Checked by army medical officers, he will have prescribed for him cales-thenies and active sports according to his strength, and may choose from a variety of hobbies and classes, the hospital reports.

LT. W. H. HUFFMAN, O-54567,
309th SQD. 315th T.C. GROUP.
A.P.O. 133, c/o P.M. NEW YORK.

UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER
2:40 A.M. May 7th
V-E

TORRANCE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
1119 SARTORI
PHONE 125

UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER
SEPT. 1, 1946
V-J DAY

COVER FOR CHARITY ... To raise \$1000 for the Lions Club charity program, this cover, flown over Berlin on V-E Day and postmarked from an APO in Germany that day, and over Japan on V-J Day and so postmarked, has been presented to the Lions by Harry B. Lewis, president. He is a friend of Lt. W. H. Huffman, who carried the letter.

RULES FOR ANNEXATION TO METROPOLITAN WATER DIST. TOLD AS LAWSUIT PENDING

Timed almost to coincide with the filing of the water rights adjudication suit by the City of Torrance and two private water companies against all other municipalities, districts, corporations and private well owners in the West Basin, the Metropolitan Water District, in its monthly publication, has reviewed the rules and policies governing the annexation of districts to the MWD.

Basis of the suit filed in Superior court Oct. 24 is the fact that the ground-water of the West Basin, all that area from Inglewood to Long Beach, is lowering in level each year because the withdrawals are exceeding the replenishment by from 25,000 to 35,000 acre feet per year.

This overdraft is causing salt water inroads, and the salt water sooner or later will render all wells in the district unusable unless the proper level of fresh water is maintained, it is claimed.

The question naturally is asked by the consumer: What are we going to do for water if we cannot safely use our wells?

The only answer lies with the MWD, officials point out, and steps for the annexing to the MWD are outlined for the benefit of the readers of this newspaper inasmuch as only Torrance, of the communities in the vast area of this part of the coastal area, is a member of the district.

Despite the fact that Southern California up to the winter of 1944-45 had experienced seven years of above normal rainfall, a number of developing areas outside the boundaries of the Metropolitan Water District are today confronted with a serious water supply problem. In certain of these areas there is an increasing demand for water; and this demand is surpassing the dependable supply available from local underground sources. In other areas, underground water levels are steadily dropping and the quantity available is diminishing accordingly. In still other sections, notably along the coastline, salt water en-

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croachments from the ocean have despoiled and made useless underground water reserves.

Outside Areas

Several areas outside the boundaries of the District are considering the use of Colorado River aqueduct water as the only adequate and permanent means of solving their water problem. With all such areas located on the coastal plain and within economic reach of the aqueduct, the District Board of Directors and the General Manager and Chief Engineer have consistently stood ready to confer and to discuss the terms under which aqueduct water service may be obtained.

With regard to the water plans and problems of outside localities, the Board and the General Manager have sought from the beginning to make plain the position and policies of the District. A brief review of the position and the policies of the District may be helpful at this time.

Must Be In District

1. Service of aqueduct water is available exclusively to cities and areas within the boundaries of the Metropolitan Water District in Southern California. Exceptions to this rule are made only in the cases of certain military and other government institutions.

2. Areas now within the boundaries of the Metropolitan Water District represent about 75 per cent of the assessed valuation of the entire territory deemed to be within the service range of the Colorado River aqueduct. The ultimate capacity of the aqueduct does permit the extension of the present District area within certain definite limits. The officers of the District recognize that the maintenance of sound economic conditions in every part of the coastal plain is of value to the entire territory. It is on this basis, and on this basis alone, that favorable consideration may be given by the District to the annexation of certain additional territory situated within the service range and capacity of the Colorado River aqueduct.

3. Cities and areas outside the boundaries of the District may become eligible for the service of aqueduct water by annexation.

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tion. Annexation may be effected by certain legal processes set forth in the state laws and in accordance with certain policies and regulations of the Board of Directors of the District. Among the conditions and policies governing the process of annexation are the following:

(a) Incorporated cities of an acceptable size and location are legally eligible to annex. Unincorporated areas or several incorporated and unincorporated areas may become legally eligible to annex as one unit by organizing one of several types of county, municipal or utility districts authorized by state statutes.

(b) In treating with applicants for annexation the District finds itself able to give favorable consideration only to areas of sufficient size and water requirements to justify an economically feasible delivery of aqueduct water. Preferably such areas should be so located as to control the entire production of water from the local underground water basins affected. The District Board does not favor the acceptance of a proposed annexation unit with one or more "islands" of excluded territory which would benefit by the delivery of aqueduct water to the general territory but be exempted, by remaining outside the District, from any share in the financial obligations of the District.

(c) An area annexing to the District is required to pay, usually over a period of 20 years, the "back taxes" that such an area would have paid into the District had it been a part of the District from the time of the first tax levy in the year 1929-30. To these back taxes there is added interest at the rate of 4 per cent for the period of delinquency. No interest is charged for the period of repayment following annexation.

(d) Softened and filtered Colorado River water is sold to areas within the district at a rate of \$15.00 an acre foot. This amounts to 3.5 cents per 100 cubic feet.

Supplemental Supply
4. The Colorado River aqueduct was constructed primarily to provide a supplementary water supply. It was never intended that aqueduct water would replace local water supplies where such supplies are ample and of satisfactory quality and where the continuing use of local water supplies would not have an adverse economic effect upon the areas involved. The determination as to how much of its pro rata share of aqueduct water any given District city may take during any year is one that is made only by the officials and people of that particular area.

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PHONE SIX - ONE

TORRANCE LUMBER
1752 Border Torrance

TORRANCE HERALD

November 8, 1945

Torrance, California

Section B

Recreation Facilities Of Harbor District Subject Of Bell Meeting

Delegates from 39 communities in this area will gather at Bell High school tonight to confer on plans for improving recreation facilities in the harbor area. Mrs. Gertrude Austin has announced.

Mrs. Austin is chairman of the committee on arrangements which is acting for the Harbor District Chamber of Commerce, the sponsoring agency.

Herman Stark, director of field service for the California Youth Authority, will be the chief speaker, it is announced.

A boy from Gardena and a girl from Bell will present the needs of the teen-age young people as the teen-age people see them.

Pat MacDonnell of Gardena, president of the Harbor District Chambers of Commerce, will deliver the keynote speech.

Mrs. Austin has arranged five panels for discussion of specific topics at this meeting.

DeWitt H. Pfeiffer of Los Angeles, executive secretary of the Welfare Council of Los Angeles County, will be the chairman of this section of the conference.

He will outline the plan for the panel discussions.

Representatives of Inglewood, Lawndale, El Segundo, Santa

Foulks Is New Santa Fe R. R. Superintendent

Lt. Colonel Ernest E. Foulks, who commanded the 713th Railway Operating Battalion overseas, has been appointed superintendent of transportation of the Santa Fe Railway with headquarters at Chicago, according to an announcement made today by George H. Minchin, Operating Vice-President.

Previous to commanding a military railway service battalion, Colonel Foulks was superintendent of the Albuquerque Division of the Santa Fe at Winslow, Arizona. Colonel Foulks' overseas service with the 713th, which was sponsored by the Santa Fe and activated in April, 1942, began with its departure from this country in February, 1943.

In an active life is sown the seed of wisdom; but he who reflects not, never reaps.

—Edward Young

Vets Commission Considering Housing Problem

The California Veterans Commission met at Sacramento Nov. 1 to search for a solution of the housing problem as it affects returning veterans.

William T. Sweigert, chairman of the commission, told Gov. Earl Warren the conference "will seek a clear picture of housing conditions in California communities, and will attempt to develop a program for utilizing to best advantage the normal housing turnover. It will also attempt to develop a program for emergency and temporary housing facilities and an accelerated permanent building program."

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