

DISPUTE LOOMS ON WATER RIGHTS

Manslaughter Charge Asked After Accident Victim Dies

Attempt To Annul Pact Hit

An attempt by Dominguez Water Co. to annul agreements with the city for water service to the Kauffman housing development west of Hawthorne Ave. and south of 190th St. will be fought with all the resources of the city. It was reported last week end by City Manager George Stevens.

Acting on the desires of the City Council, Stevens and City Attorney James Hall are preparing to defend the city's rights in the matter now before the Public Utilities Commission.

Dominguez Water Co. has petitioned the PUC to annul the agreement made with the city two years ago when the tract was up for consideration before the City Council. At that time, the water company agreed to pay in the water system and supply water for a period of 10 years. At the end of that time, the system was to revert in its entirety to the City of Torrance, who would thenceforth supply the water.

The Council authorized Hall to use all means to protect the city's rights in the matter.

Seek Complaint Against Driver

Torrance police reportedly are seeking a manslaughter complaint against Robert McNeill, 36, of Inglewood, in connection with the recent death of a Lawndale man from a car accident here on Jan. 19.

Cars driven by McNeill and Joseph M. Libby, 44, of Hawthorne collided at the intersection of Crenshaw Blvd. and 182nd St. in Torrance the night of Jan. 19. Hobson Denmark, 57, a passenger in the Libby car, died last Sunday in a Los Angeles hospital from injuries sustained in the wreck.

Authorities said they believe McNeill was at fault in the crash.

Action on the complaint, if any, is supposed to be completed early this week.

New Telephones Going in West Torrance Today

Telephone service will be installed at Torrance Blvd. and Anza and at 5225 Laurette today as a stop-gap measure for residents in west Torrance, it was announced here Saturday by H. C. Vaupel, manager of the General Telephone Co. office for the area.

Establishment of the service was requested by the City Council after residents of the area said they could not even call police from the neighborhood.

Service has been established at Reynolds Drive and Cathann and an effort is being made to establish a public telephone near Lenore and Billinwood, Vaupel said.

All efforts are being made to speed up installation of complete exchange service to the area.

Incumbents To Run at Palos Verdes

Four incumbents are seeking re-election to Palos Verdes Estates city posts in the forthcoming municipal election to be held April 10.

Seeking election to the same positions they now fill will be Mayor H. F. B. Roessler; City Treasurer, R. W. Mooney; Councilman, E. E. Parkhurst; and City Clerk, W. C. Platt.

Both Roessler and Parkhurst have been nominated for the City Council, which after its first post-election meeting selects one of its five members to become mayor.

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Clerks Union Signs Six-Year Contract

One of the longest labor-management pacts on record was completed here Friday morning when representatives of Retail Clerks, Local 905 and the Harbor Area Employers' Council inked a six-year contract which can be reopened only for wage adjustment before Feb. 3, 1962.

Hailed as a move toward stabilizing the mercantile industry's labor-management relation in the Harbor area, the agreement was announced jointly by Ben N. Scott, secretary-treasurer of the AFL-CIO clerks local, and Frank S. Selover, executive secretary of the Employers' Council.

Under terms of the new agreement, which covers all organized mercantile and variety store clerks in the Harbor area, a wage increase of five cents an hour was granted. Wages may be adjusted annually in proportion to the cost of living index of the United States Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics, Scott and Selover said.

Effective Friday the agreement covers more than 1000 employees of 250 retail stores in Torrance, San Pedro, Wilmington, Gardena, Lomita, parts of Compton and south Los Angeles. It was effective Friday.

"During the past few years, tremendous gains have been made in the improvement of labor-management relations in the Harbor area," a joint statement by Scott and Selover stated. "With the tremendous influx in population, new business has its eyes on the area, and this new agreement will encourage the introduction of new enterprises and the expansions and improvement of present concerns."

Strong Responsibility

"The new agreement represents an outstanding example of the stability which has been sought during the past several years, both by the employers and the union, and both groups feel a strong responsibility for the future welfare of the community," the statement concluded.

The agreement was ratified by members of the Clerks Union Thursday night, and the settlement also was accepted by the variety store group effective March 1.

Agreements for food clerks are being negotiated on a Southern California wide basis and the drug clerks' contract does not come up for negotiation until later this year, Selover said.

Widow Seeks \$206,000 for Fatal Crash

Allegations that the driver of a vehicle involved in a fatal crash here early Christmas morning failed to "stop, or avoid the collision although having the time, means, and ability to do so," were revealed in a lawsuit asking \$206,000 filed last week in Los Angeles Superior Court by the widow of the accident victim.

Named defendant in the action filed by Bonnie Sells, widow of Major Franklin Sells, 42, of 2448 Park St., was James Darrell Brown, 19, driver of the vehicle which collided with the Sells vehicle at Lomita Blvd. and Hawthorne. Listed with Brown as defendant were Oliver Fletcher, Torrance, and four John Dees.

According to terms of the complaint, filed by Atty. Boris Woolley of Torrance, Sells was "in a position of peril" just prior to the fatal impact, that the defendant was aware of this but failed to stop or "take the proper measures to avoid the collision."

The suit asks for \$100,000 for the loss of future earnings; \$100,000 for "services, comfort, and society of a husband"; \$1000 for the demolished car; and \$5000 for other expenses.

School Presents Show

A variety show to be called "N-Review" will be presented Saturday, Feb. 11 at 8 p.m. by students of North High School, according to Mrs. Betty Lou Warren, Director.

The show will include singers, dancers, comedy acts and tumbler acts and will be given at Torrance High School Auditorium.

Torrance and North High School students will compete here Wednesday evening for a chance to represent the city in the annual American Legion Oratorical contest, it was announced here Saturday by Contest Chairman Dick Miller.

A panel of prominent citizens, whose names have not been revealed, have been selected to judge the contest as



JUDGING PANEL IN HUDDLE . . . Judges who will select the top speakers of Torrance High School and North High School in the American Legion Oratorical contest here next Wednesday evening in the Civic Auditorium prove a little camera shy when a HERALD photographer visited them Saturday. Contest Chairman Dick Miller, however, agreed to pose and went so far as to say that the panel included one woman and two men (which should be obvious).

High School Students In Speech Contest

The students speak on the American Constitution.

Three students from North High School have been selected by Speech Instructor Lou Bereskin to compete in the Wednesday evening contest here. One Torrance High School student had been named by Saturday and others were to be selected today. Each school may submit three candidates.

Winners of each school will compete in zone contests later. Top national winner will receive a \$4000 scholarship.

RARE 600-YEAR-OLD PAGES GIVEN COLLEGE

Acquisition of Spanish manuscript pages valued in excess of \$1,000 which date back to the 1300's was announced Saturday by Dr. William H. Harless, Director of Instruction at El Camino College.

Presentation of the rare pages was made to the college by Stanley S. Slotkin at a recent meeting of the Lawndale Rotary Club.

Authorities have traced the sheets back to a cathedral in Seville. They were originally found behind the wall of a building being remodeled in Madrid for construction of a chair factory.

The sheets were bound in heavy wood covers and measured two by three feet each. The large initialed letters used on the manuscript pages were painstakingly drawn and have intricate penwork backgrounds.

Slotkin discovered the valuable manuscripts while he and his wife were en-route to Majorca during a tour of Spain.

No announcement was made as to when the documents will be put on display for the public.

Man Held for Beating Wife; Officer Hurt

A Torrance man landed in jail here early Saturday morning after police were called out to break up a family argument that ended with his wife in the hospital, the victim of a severe beating.

Conrad Mack Dalrymple, of 2013 W. 178th St., was arrested by officers and charged with assault and battery after a woman at 2033 W. 178th St. called authorities into action. She told police that there was an injured woman at her house.

Details of the assault were still being checked late Saturday by detectives, but Dalrymple filled in authorities on the beating.

He told them that he works the late shift at a local machine company and that he had arrived home earlier Saturday morning. He and his wife, Jimmie, began to argue and he began to beat her, authorities say.

When police were called in Dalrymple turned out to be a reluctant suspect, they said. He reportedly smashed a window in a police car and Officer Hughey B. Ingram suffered in a white scuffling with Dalrymple.

Mrs. Dalrymple was taken to Harbor General Hospital by Wright's Ambulance.

Authorities said Dalrymple expressed regret over the attack. His wife reportedly was in a pregnant condition, according to officials.

LOMITA APARTMENT HIT BY BURGLARS

Burglars entered an apartment building at 1820 W. 255th St., Lomita, Thursday afternoon and got away with about \$50 in coins from pay laundry machines, sheriff's deputies reported.

Thomas R. Marshall, of the Lomita address, reported the burglary. He said coin boxes were pried from the machines and the money taken out.

Torrance Given Funds

The State Controller today advised the Torrance City Council that its share of the \$350,000 apportionment for 1955 of unrefunded taxes on aviation gasoline to airport-owning cities and counties is \$581.02.

Nab Merry For Making False Report

Lloyd A. Merry, 40, of 5205 McCallan Ave., South Gate, was arrested here Friday on charges of making a false police report.

Merry was taken into custody at the store at which he works, 3077 W. 174th St. He is free now on bail, detectives said.

He told officers here that he was kidnapped by two men from a Torrance street, driven to a desolate section of the county, and beaten and robbed, then driven to Norwalk and beaten again on Jan. 27. He told authorities that the men carried knives.

Detectives grew suspicious of his story when he stated he was kidnapped in the early afternoon, but he didn't report the "incident" until late in the evening.

Merry told detectives that the story was just a hoax, which he concocted to keep his wife from becoming suspicious when he returned home late from work.

'Citizen of Year' to Be Named Soon

"Citizen of the Year" nominations for 1956 are being received by the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, President John A. Ebbenghouse announced recently.

Individuals and groups interested in sponsoring a candidate for the title should write a letter to the Chamber stating the qualifications of the person they wish to have named.

The person chosen by the Chamber "Citizen of the Year" Committee and the Chamber Board of Directors will receive the William Laughon, Grover C. Whyte Memorial Trophy at the annual banquet to be held Feb. 28.



CLERK PACT SIGNED . . . Ben N. Scott (left), secretary-treasurer of Retail Clerks Local 905, and Frank S. Selover, executive secretary of the Harbor Area Employers' Council, sign a new long-term labor-management agreement which can be reopened for wages only before Feb. 3, 1962. The six-year pact is believed to be a near record for such agreements.



REPAIRS UNDER WAY . . . Repair work is still under way in many parts of the city following the heavy rains of 10 days ago. Here the gaping hole which nearly undermined the Riviera Beach Club is shown before the huge refilling task was completed. The club was threatened for some time during the height of the storm.