

Torrance Needs Water - Vote "Yes" on Bonds Tuesday!

(Editorial)

After a thorough study of the water bond election to be held next Tuesday, the Torrance Press gives its solid support to the issue. Population growth and industrial expansion have added to the need for a larger reservoir system—more mains, and feeder lines. The \$2,000,000 bond issue, it is believed, will serve as the backbone for these needs.

There's no question that the water rates will be doubled in some localities. However, the greatest good for the greatest number should always be considered when a citizen stamps his secret ballot.

Here are the facts: At present there are three water districts. They are in no way connected. As a result operation costs are higher, and it is difficult to channel water into certain areas.

Angus McVicar, Water Superintendent, reported today, that the election will make it possible to combine the three districts into one.

There are other serious water shortage problems which the City faces. Parts of Walteria are now serviced

by water wells on private property. Most of the industrial area north of Highway 101—all the way to Sepulveda—uses wells.

There are parts of North Torrance where wells and tankers are being used.

In parts of original district number one, water is still lacking. This is particularly true in the industrial area south of 203rd St.

The area on the Torrance side from 203rd St., to 190th is not in any water district at this time. Through the election, it will be brought into the Torrance Water District. If rumored industrial expansion of a steel mill and other construction is to be consummated, there is no question that this area must be serviced with water.

Even now, the City cannot furnish water to the Truman Browne tract. And at best, City Manager George Stevens offered to lease the needed water from the Dominguez Company. It was an argument over this water situation that almost led the city into a multi-million dollar suit.

One argument in opposition to the bond election

which has been levied, charges that industry would not pay its fair share of the increase. A check of records showed that this is entirely unsubstantiated. Under the new proposed rates, General Petroleum would pay \$8,735.46 more over a two year period. This figure is based on consumption for the period July, 1948 to June, 1950.

On the above basis, here are some other raises in rates for local companies: Columbia Steel, \$3,135.18; National Supply Company, \$2,204.90; American Rock Wool Corporation, \$1,756.86; American Radiator and Standard Sanitary Corp., \$1,038.93.

Even with these rate increases proposed, no argument has been heard from the corporations. They undoubtedly realize that their water lifeline for expansion depends on this water.

Opponents of the water bond issue have said that City Hall officials are incompetent, shortsighted, and too stupid to administer the bond money wisely.

While the democratic rights of residents have been ignored by certain Councilmen, the answer does not lie in defeating a needed improvement. Businessmen com-

plain that home building and industrial expansion has been stymied in many instances for long periods of time by the Ruling Four Councilmen. This charge is undoubtedly true.

Numerous examples can be given to support this point of view. Truman Browne's proposed business development near his 150 home tract was held up for almost a month. The January Company of Long Beach waged a long battle before this construction firm was given permission to build 129 homes on part of the old Weston Ranch.

Local residents complain that their rights have also been ignored and for this reason the water bond issue should be defeated. Here again we disagree. It's true that four city councilmen over the protests of Pacific Hills residents reopened an oil sump, that nothing has been done to shut down noisy gravel pits and other nuisances; however, we still need water.

The City Administration is much like a home. If weeds are growing where a lawn should be and the house

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ALUMINUM PLANT WILL BE SOLD!

TILT UP SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION BEGINS

Prefab Buildings Ready in Feb.

Economy-minded educators and tax experts throughout the United States were watching the Torrance City School's prefabricated building program progress as the Madrona and Hollywood Riviera elementary schools were nearing completion, this week. The two schools will be ready for occupancy by the end of next month, Board of Education members revealed.

It is believed that this is the first time that any school system has attempted to use the tilt-up technique, which is another name for pre-cast structures.

The Madrona school is attracting the most interest at this point since the precast walls have already been knitted into place.

This school is located on a site at Madrona Ave., and El Dorado. Construction workers had scores of "sidewalk superintendents"—school officials from throughout the state who have heard of the pioneering method of school construction and are intensely interested in its time and money-saving possibilities.

The cost reduction factor was explained in a comparison cited by Ernest Ingram, board of education business manager. The Madrona School and a similar unit in the Hollywood Riviera district are being built at a cost of \$9.94 per square foot. This he compared to a previous district average for the past five years of \$10.51 and a current state average of about \$14.

LOWER COST

Further savings are to be effected in "terrific" lower maintenance costs, Ingram said. Insurance rates are expected to be less because the structures are more sturdy than the frame-and-stucco construction usually employed in California schools.

But the saving of time is one of the most important factors here, where the district's population is growing almost faster than classroom space can be provided, according to Dr. J. H. Hull, superintendent of schools. They are due for completion within 150 days after the contract was let and are now ahead of schedule. Schools of comparable size have taken 240 working days for completion.

POPULAR

The method of construction is almost identical with that which is becoming increasingly popular for industrial buildings and other large structures. Steel-reinforced concrete wall forms are molded on the site and then "tilted up" into place along the sides of the concrete foundation slabs.

The Madrona plant is to have 10 classrooms and the Hollywood Riviera School is to have 14 classrooms. There is 960 square feet of teaching space per room.

Construction is being undertaken by the George Carter Co. Architects were Schreiber and Peterson.

Answer on Strike Awaited

Columbia Steel workers after having experienced a wildcat strike at the Torrance plant a week ago today, again were sitting on pins and needles.

This time, the employees were worried about a CIO United Steelworkers special convention being held in Atlantic City today. This convention, it is believed, will determine whether steelworkers throughout the Nation accept wage terms offered by U. S. Steel or whether a National Strike is called.

FAIRLESS INVITED

President Philip Murray, of the CIO Union, informed the newspapers that he had written President Benjamin Fairless of the U. S. Steel Corporation, inviting him to attend the special convention and to address more than 2500 delegates.

The strike at Columbia Steel in Torrance, a week ago, appeared to have two sides, and is believed to have no connection with the proposed National strike which may follow today's convention.

To company officials in Los Angeles and to union leaders there seemed to be one point of agreement: The strike at the Torrance plant last week started after two stockyard crane operators refused to carry out a foreman's assignment, it is reported. As a result, the two were suspended.

OPINION DIFFERENCE

Difference of opinion exists over the reason for the suspension. Union leaders claimed that the employees refused to work, until a matter of safety was settled. Company officials claimed that the two workers wanted more money and that safety was not a factor in the argument.

When the two cranes were suspended last Wednesday evening it was reported by Frank A. Burns, public relations director for U. S. Steel, six more stockyard cranes on the following shift

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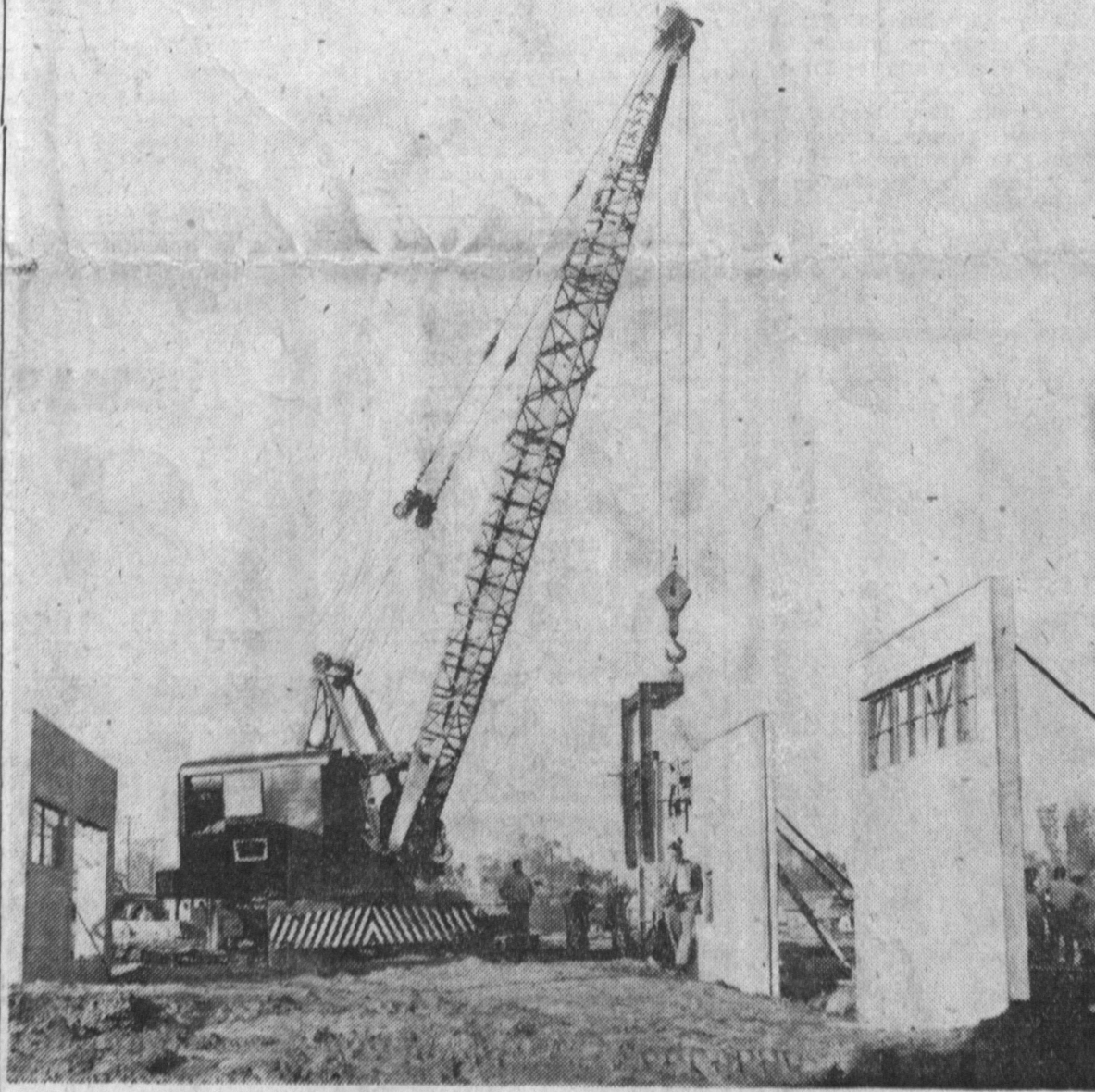
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TORRANCE SCHOOLS PIONEER AGAIN! — In the picture above a huge crane and workmen are erecting the walls for the first tilt-up school in existence. It is the new Madrona School. At present a race is being conducted for completion date leadership. A similar school is being constructed in Hollywood Riviera. J. H. Hull disclosed that both schools should be ready for occupancy by the end of next month.

Alert Police Capture Dual-Murder Suspect

A double-murder suspect was arrested last Monday by alert Torrance police officers, when he turned up at the home of friends at 1614 Cota St.

The suspect, Merton Charles Misener, 34, an aircraft assembler, was charged with the murder of two nurses at a Santa Monica bungalow following a Saturday night party.

The nurses were Mrs. Anne Symington, 42, and Mrs. Margaret Cramer, 31, a divorcee who was living with Mrs. Symington.

Mrs. Symington was found lying partly on a couch at her Santa Monica cottage. She died of a bullet wound in the right temple on arrival at Santa Monica hospital. Mrs. Cramer's body was found lying unclad in a blood-smeared bed. An empty shell was found in the bed.

A third victim, Paul M. Beck, Goleta, collapsed at the feet of Santa Monica police officers, who arrived at the scene in answer to a call put in by a neighbor. Goleta was suffering from bullet and stabbing wounds.

Misener was picked up later at the Torrance address when it was learned that he was also at the party. Police said he admitted a gun used in the shooting was his.

Torrance police turned the suspect over to Santa Monica authorities.

Keystone Selected For Installation

KEYSTONE — Installation of officers elected at a recent District Harbor Chamber of Commerce meeting will take place Jan. 10 at the Lone Pine Inn in Keystone.

Those who will be installed at the Keystone Lone Pine Inn meeting are Wallace Reynolds, president of the Dominguez Chamber of Commerce; vice-presidents, T. V. McGowan of Hermosa Beach, V. D. McGuffin of Long Beach, Tom Shaheen of Compton, Paula Coleluca of Gardena, and Carl Hoffman of the Southside of Los Angeles.

Torrance Police Find No Drunk Drivers In Jail!

People who went on a drunken spree in Torrance over the New Year holiday, evidently left their cars behind, for today Chief of Police John Stroh reported that not a single person was arrested for drunk-driving.

"It's the first time in six years," declared the Chief. "We've never had a lot of drunk drivers compared with some cities, but we're mighty proud of the record."

Residents of the area gave full credit to the police department for keeping drunk drivers out of jail.

"Police officers in Torrance were watching the bars like hawks," one bartender reported. "Whenever an officer would observe someone on the tipsy side open his car door, he would be warned that if he started to drive he would be arrested."

It's a more healthy approach to law enforcement, local citizens agreed.

New Wage Increase Opposed

The Harbor Area Employers' Council will open negotiations with Retail Clerks Local 905 on the 1952-53 Mercantile Contract shortly after January 1, determined to keep the contract in its present form, except for granting such wage increases as are allowable under regulations of the Wage Stabilization Board, according to Frank S. Selover, executive secretary of the Employers' Council. The contract expires Jan. 31, 1952.

Merchants who are members of the Council employ 91 percent of the clerks involved, Selover said, and they elected their negotiation committee at a meeting in the Council's office Thursday.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The committee will consist of: C. L. Prow, J. J. Newberry Co.; Sam Levy, Sam Levy's Dept. Store, Torrance; Carlos R. Worrall, San Pedro Hardware Co.; A. J. McCown, McCown Drug Stores, Inc.; B. M. Malone, McMahan's; John T. Binkley, counsel for the Employers' Council; and Selover, J. C. Caldwell, of Caldwell's Dept. Store, Wilmington, is an alternate member.

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Sales for Holidays Jump 20 to 50% Over 1950 Period

Holiday sales jumped 20 to 50% over 1950 it was revealed today. Leading businessmen claim that Torrance witnessed the greatest Christmas business in its history.

The consensus of merchants credited the increase in business to the new residents and also the increased number of businesses in the area since the last year.

One merchant said: "We are beginning to complete the shopping desires of the entire family in Torrance."

Residents and businessmen both expressed enthusiasm over the beautifully lighted streets on Sartori and Ed Prado due mainly to the efforts of Harry M. Abramson and Archie Wachs, who single-handedly accomplished this miraculous task within a very short time.

Through the efforts of the Junior Chamber of Commerce and the retail merchants, the kids had an opportunity to shake hands with Santa Claus on a mobile flat-bed truck.

Santa showed the kids his workshop, listened to their desires, and presented them with favors.

Kids and grownups alike interviewed liked the spirit of the merchants in brightening up the community for Christmas.

Besides the lighted streets and the mobile Santa unit, another project which won the merchant's enthusiasm was a window display contest.

L. A. County Puts in Bid

Rumors that Columbia Steel would build its multi-million dollar steel mill in Torrance rose from a whisper to a buzz today when it was disclosed that United States Steel plans to unload the aluminum plant at 190th and Normandie as soon as possible to the highest bidder.

Planner H. Bolas Resigns

H. B. Bolas, a member of the Torrance City Planning Commission since 1948, resigned from the Planning Commission Jan. 1, he informed the Torrance Press today.

Speculation among politically-wise residents anticipated that Bolas

plans to run for the City Council in 1954. It is also believed that one of the current council members will resign by the end of 1953 and that Bolas might be appointed to fill that vacancy.

Bolas is not eligible to take an elective position until Jan. 1, 1953. According to a Council ordinance, a year must pass before a commission member may be eligible for an elective position.

Whether Bolas runs for the City Council or not is a matter of speculation.

He claims that his real estate building ventures in Visalia and Fresno Counties made it impossible for him to travel back and forth.

He, however, revealed: "Once my business is completed, I plan to return to Torrance."

He said that he will keep his home in Torrance, located at 848 Calle de Arboles in Hollywood Riviera.

"I enjoyed my work on the Planning Commission," declared Bolas, "but one has to evaluate the

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One of the plans calls for a trash tax. It is believed by Torrance residents familiar with the political aroma that this is just a revival of the old rubbish tax which has already been rejected by the voters. The other proposal is for the utilization of a sales tax.

Drale's motion carried unanimously. City Attorney James Hall was ordered to draw up an ordinance which would be presented to the people at the next election.

On the suggestion of Councilman Harvey Spelman, the whole matter will be discussed in a secret Council agenda meeting which the public is not permitted to attend.

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Today his relatives were hoping that the North Korean prisoner of war mail which is being flown to the United States by plane will contain at least one letter from Arellano. Mail arrived from Korea toward the latter part of last week and was immediately speeded along after processing at an Army Post Office, it was revealed today.

The Communists turned over more than 800 letters from Allied prisoners to United Nations dele-

gates at the Panmunjom truce talks Wednesday.

It was not determined immediately if the Army released all letters for forwarding.

"So far, we haven't a word from my brother, Danny," declared his sister, Mrs. Virginia Ortega. "We are keeping our fingers crossed. You know that letter could arrive any day. I'm only sorry that the truce talks had to break down."

Recently, it is reported, four top officials from Douglas Aircraft looked over the aluminum plant site.

When questioned about this, Frank A. Burns, public relations director for U. S. Steel declared: "Just because a company visits our plant doesn't mean that we are ready to sell. I have no information."

One thing is certain: The aluminum plant is up for sale. Who will buy it and the exact price being asked has not been determined.

Recreation Meets Test

Councilman Nick Drale made a motion this week to present the entire problems connected with a planned city recreation program to the voters at the next election.

Drale pointed out that Torrance was far behind the times in its recreational facilities.

He also emphasized that voters ought to have an opportunity to choose the plans presented or to reject them.

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Relatives Still Expect Danny Arellano Letter

Private First Class Daniel Arellano, only Torrance soldier, so far reported as a prisoner of the Chinese Communists has been in the news since the Torrance Press in an exclusive interview with his mother and one of his sisters, reported that the 20-year-old serviceman is still alive.

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Judge Shidler Holds Court on Operating Table at Hospital!

Dispensing justice from an operating table doesn't appeal to Judge Shidler, he revealed today. However, he had no choice, in the matter last Saturday.

As he parked his car in the rear of the South Bay Justice Court, located at 168th and Western in Gardena, the ground was soggy due to the rain. He lost his balance and fell forward on his left hand. Broken whiskey bottles ground into his hands and arms from the impact of the fall.

While Shidler was on the operating table at the Park Emergency Hospital in Gardena, he was told

that several county prisoners were scheduled for processing.

It was also brought to Shidler's attention that if the prisoners did not get back to the Los Angeles County Jail by 11:30 a.m., they

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