

District Blames Planning, Deficits; Cites Money Saved On Sale Of Bonds

Editor's Note—This is the fifth in a series of six articles on the South Suburban Sanitary District.

By TOM STIMMEL

Faced with a \$200,000 deficit even before construction began, the South Suburban Sanitary District cut corners as sharply as it dared. Its economies were significant.

It changed plans, rescheduled work, and developed new techniques to save money. It delayed paying almost half a million dollars by deleting that much work from its contractors.

But unplanned and unanticipated expenses transcended savings the district had achieved. A result was a proposed tax levy to meet imminent bond and interest payments and to fix streets.

A unique cost saver was a pipe laying machine developed by

Maurice Gunderson, district project manager, and pieced together by Gunderson and Fred Lewis, president of the board of directors. It is the only known machine capable of simultaneously grilling under streets and laying asbestos cement pipe without cutting into street surfaces. It saved time, tempers, and money—an estimated \$40,000 so far.

Construction was scheduled on a basis of minimum cost instead of convenience. That was one reason crews seemed to be working in one place one day and somewhere else the next. "We had to go by something," Gunderson said, "and cost of construction was the angle we used. It wasn't convenient, but it saved money."

The type of excavation employed—most of it Class C—saved money although it contributed mud and dust, and left great

heaps of dirt along most suburban streets. Pipe used—most of it asbestos cement—was considered wholly practical, but less expensive than other types.

The office, unpretentious by any standard, was equipped with a used typewriter, used adding machine, used desks, and some furniture obtained for nothing. Vehicles and construction equipment were second hand. A tank truck needed to water down dusty streets was assembled for \$3,000.

Most of the district's 18-man crew works on Saturdays, and for overtime payment receives not cash but promissory notes due in five years.

The office is open on Saturday, and inspections may be arranged on Sundays for convenience of property owners. Consumers could do themselves and the district a favor by paying \$14,000 due in delinquent connection fees and rental charges. The district can legally write off unpaid charges, drawing interest at eight per cent. The law says charges must be paid.

Blames Engineers

Despite an optimistic prediction by Cornell, Howland, Hayes and Merryfield that its engineering estimate should absorb a 10 per cent increase in bids, Gunderson says bluntly that the consulting engineers goofed. "They didn't include incidental costs they should have," he said. As examples, they forgot office rental and supplies, omitted the two office employees salaries, and underestimated legal costs by \$5,000.

On the job, too, engineering errors were costly. An estimated 100 yards of blasting at \$25 a yard actually became 1,104 yards. The job cost \$27,610 instead of \$2,500.

Wind and water erosion began eating away dikes around the oxidation ponds. The district covered dikes with rock-rip-rap—an unanticipated \$5,000 expense.

When these omissions and extra costs began to compound, the district exercised its option to delete work from the contract. From a \$1,618,412 contract (the value of performance bonds), it deleted \$226,966 from sewer line construction, \$17,763 from the oxidation ponds, and \$100 from pump-house construction. Total deletions: \$249,749.

A few of these deletions represent money saved, but most do not. District crews still must complete much of the work. "We have a lot of work to do," Lewis said.

Long before construction began, the district effected substantial savings in two areas. One was the disposal facility; the other was the bond sale.

For treatment facilities, the district chose oxidation ponds that operate without manpower and render waste biologically pure. Directors say the unit, largest on the West Coast, emits no odors. The pump-house and oxidation pond along Lake Ewauna were described by an engineer for the Oregon State Sanitary Authority as the most satisfactory sewerage disposal unit now operating in the state.

Engineers estimated a conventional plant would cost \$310,000; the pump-house and ponds cost (by contract price) \$206,401. Over the 25-year bonded indebtedness period, the facility is expected to save property owners a million dollars.

Bond Interest

The first estimate the district received on bond interest approximated five per cent. This was dismissed immediately as too high, and Gunderson was put to work seeking a better rate. He and Harold North, office manager, prepared their own prospectus, rather than hiring an outside firm to do the job, and made a pitch for Eastern buyers.

The prospectus attracted more than 40 bond purchasing firms. The first opening produced a low average bid of 3.985 per cent interest. The district rejected this offer and re-advertised. The second opening produced a low bid of 3.705 per cent from John Nuveen and Company of Chicago. The district had saved \$77,000.

"It was almost unheard of in financial circles to turn a bid down," Lewis said. "Bond and insurance people from all over the United States came here to take a look at us—to see what kind of people we were, and how we got that low rate." A Portland financier told Gunderson it was the slickest bit of bond selling he's ever seen, and he was willing to bet it couldn't happen again.

Simple interest over a 25-year period is expensive. The average 3.705 rate accepted will cost \$1,032,374 interest on a \$1,000,000 principal. Any higher interest would have cost that much more, and would have required monthly charges higher than \$3.25, Lewis said.

"Every property owner out here owes Gunderson a real debt of gratitude for getting the interest where it is," Lewis added. "This is the only issue (bond buyers) were scrambling for."

Next: The District and the Court

"DENNIS THE MENACE"



"I DON'T WANT A RED COWBOY SHIRT! YA CAN'T SEE THE BLOOD!"

Con's Lawyer Uses Politics

HONOLULU (UPI)—C. Edmund G. Brown of California could "walk into the White House" if he commuted Caryl Chessman's death sentence, according to Chessman's attorney, George T. Davis, who is vacationing here, said such action would establish Brown as "the greatest humanitarian who ever sat in the California governor's chair."

Davis, the convict-author's attorney, said Brown might have a chance to commute the sentences because the California Supreme Court "might" change its opinion in the case.

"Right now Brown isn't the power," Davis said. "He has to have a majority recommendation from the court. I think a member of the court is wavering and will give him the fourth vote needed for a majority."

Davis said Brown would have a "choice of action" if that happened. "He has the choice of either flopping around and getting no place... or walking into the White House," the attorney said.

Mouth Cancer Test Reported

WASHINGTON (UPI)—The Veterans Administration reports the development of a simple and painless test for mouth cancer that has proved "highly efficient for early diagnosis" in a three-year trial.

Dr. Henry C. Sandler, chief of dental service at the VA's Brooklyn, N.Y., hospital, said Sunday night the technique involves taking a smear or scraping from the mouth for microscopic examination.

He said in a statement that the method's accuracy as a cancer test compares favorably with the biopsy test, which calls for removal and laboratory examination of a tissue sample.

Sandler said the smear technique may be widely used by dentists to check on harmless appearing lesions of the mouth and for patients who object to biopsy.

Minor Accident

State police reported a minor two-car accident at Modoc Point about 3:45 p.m. Sunday. Officers said a car driven by John Lehan, 55, 45000 Greensprings Drive, was making a left turn from 97 to the old highway when it was struck by a car driven by McNeill Adams, 65, 1139 N.E. Imperial, Portland.

With Lehan were three passengers. Officers said no injuries were reported. Both cars left the scene on their own power.

HIS LEGS FASCINATING EAST HAGBOURNE, England (UPI)—Winner of a "most fascinating legs" contest in which 15 barefoot contestants Sunday night paraded behind a curtain raised knee-high was 29-year-old Colin Chapple, a married man. Lucy Granito, 15, was runner-up.

Paris Debuts Knee Hemline

PARIS (AP)—Paris fashion designers today lifted the wraps from their new spring creations, to permit publication of the first 1960 high fashion photos.

Buyers and manufacturers have had a month to exploit the new styles before copyists get a chance to make what they can of pictures and sketches.

The public can now take its choice between Dior's somewhat shapeless "Silhouette of Tomorrow," Nina Ricci's whirling gypsy line, Heim's conical Eiffel tower, Ballmain's tubelike Corinthian column, Lanvin-Castillo's "free and easy" fashions, or half a dozen others.

The "free and easy" claim and a hemlength that just covers the knees, incidentally, are the two things that all the major fashion collections have in common.

The waistline wanders from normal to low to high, jackets are long, or short, or medium, and the new colors make up a whole spectrum—white, coral pinks, violets, blues, yellows, the green, beige, navy, and black and white combinations. Shallow scoops and bateau necklines are winners, and sleeveless dresses are as common as crocuses in spring.

They silk prints, mostly floral, are out in front, with a modest following of polka dots and big pale plaids. Creses, shantungs, chiffon, mat satin, organdy, lace and smooth wools fill in the fabrics picture.

Nothing the designers brought out could be described as revolutionary. Even Saint-Laurent's "Silhouette of Tomorrow" didn't keep the fashion crowd sitting on the edge of its chair for long.

What could be less original than the small-waisted, flaring-skirted pleated-princess style which is the basis of Ricci's 1960 gypsy? But by a sort of slight-of-seam, designer Crahay's creations on a familiar theme managed to look fresh as a daisy.

Tanganyikans Hear Graham

MOSHI, Tanganyika (UPI)—Evangelist Billy Graham told 40,000 persons Sunday that "Christ belongs to Africa just as much as he belongs to any other continent."

More than 10 times the population of this Tanganyika town flocked to hear Graham on his religious crusade of Africa.

The meeting was conducted before the backdrop of snow-covered Mount Kilimanjaro, Africa's tallest mountain.

Graham is on a three-month religious crusade over the African continent.

At his rally, Graham urged those who had never been Christians to remain after the meeting. More than 6,000 persons stayed behind to hear Graham speak on the Christian faith.

After the meeting, Graham was introduced to 102-year-old Samson Chakugaro who, in his youth, met the famous British explorer David Livingstone in Nyasaland.

Samson is now a pastor of the Lutheran Church of the Moshi area.

Beatnik Poet Takes Bride In Japanese Buddhist Rite

KYOTO, Japan (UPI)—Beatnik poet Gary Snyder of San Francisco, was married Sunday to Joann Kyger, 25, of Santa Barbara, on a Zen Buddhist ceremony.

Snyder, 29, has been living in Japan for the past year studying the Zen Buddhist religion. He met his bride at a poetry recital in San Francisco's North Beach area in 1958.

The couple exchanged their vows before a small group of friends and rows of Zen Buddhist monks who sat closely together, chanting the traditional sutras.

Snyder recited a solemn pledge of marriage and then the couple exchanged a string of Buddhist beads to complete the ceremony.

Snyder, who describes himself as a "vagabond" poet, said he is a serious student of Zen. "But I am not qualified to discuss anything about Zen," he said.

He is studying under Ruth Sosaki, an American woman who is the widow of Shigeo Sasaki. Sasaki is credited with spreading Zen in the United States.

Snyder lives in a three-room Japanese house on the outskirts of Kyoto. He draws his water from a well and cooks with a wood stove. He chops the wood himself.

His bride is a former student at Santa Barbara College and the daughter of retired U.S. Navy Capt. J. H. Kyger, of Santa Barbara.

Snyder said he has no definite plans about coming back to the United States, but plans to write a novel if he does.

Kennedy Asks Defense Hike

WASHINGTON (AP)—Sen. John F. Kennedy (D-Mass.) called on Congress today to vote increased missile, air-alert and ground force spending before President Eisenhower goes to the summit conference.

A candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination, Kennedy said in a prepared Senate speech this "investment in peace" would cost less than Eisenhower's estimated \$4,200,000,000 budget surplus.

Kennedy said he agrees with Eisenhower that, with its present mixture of forces, America's defenses are superior to the Soviet Union's at the present time.

But if the administration's defense program is allowed to stand, Kennedy said the United States faces a missile gap "on which we are gambling with our survival."

Such a situation, he said, not only creates doubt among U.S. allies, it leaves the enemy in doubt—and such doubts are tempting him.

"While those doubts persist, he will want to push, to probe and possibly to attack, Kennedy said. "He will not want to talk disarmament. He will not want to talk peace at the summit."

"I urge that this Congress, before the President departs for the summit, demonstrate conclusively that we are removing those doubts—that we are prepared to pay the full costs necessary to insure the peace."

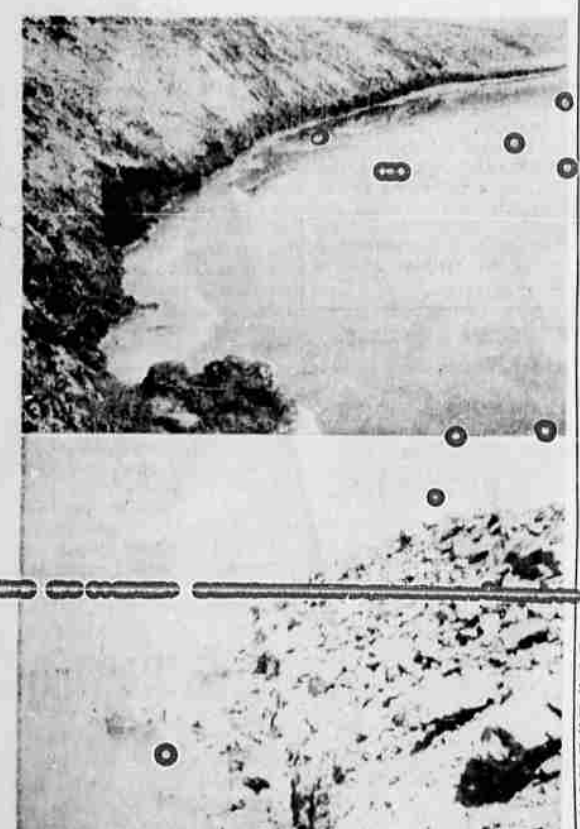
The American scientist Steinmetz discovered the laws of alternating current in 1892.

On The Record

SEKIYUO COUNTY MARRIAGE LICENSES
Homer Duane Alexander, 24, Cloud, and Dorothy Marie Hamilton, 26, McCloud, license issued February 23.

DIVORCES
Helen Richter from Joe A. Richter granted February 19.
Final decree of divorce: Artie L. Price from Evelyn G. Price, granted February 23.

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UNPLANNED and unanticipated expenses contributed to South Suburban sewer construction costs. An example was water erosion of oxidation pond dikes (top photo) controlled, at an extra cost of \$5,000, by a rock rip-rap surface (lower photo).

Decision By Supreme Court Gives Women Right To Sue

LANSING, Mich. (AP)—Married women of Michigan now enjoy a new right before the bar of justice under a pioneering 4-3

decision of the State Supreme Court.

It is the right to sue for loss of consortium—that is, marital effort, affection and companionship. The doctrine reportedly exists in few other states.

Justice Talbot Smith, who wrote the majority opinion, said the decision marks a stride away from the outworn legal view derived from Old English and Roman law that a wife is only a "vassal, chattel, and household drudge."

The court ruled Thursday in the case of Shirley Montgomery of Garden City, who sued William S. Stephan, Stephan drove a car which collided in 1958 with one driven by her husband, Robert, injuring him severely.

Mrs. Montgomery said she was deprived of her husband's "aid, assistance, enjoyment, sexual relations, love, conjugal affection, companionship, felicity, advice, counsel, comfort, cooperation and mutual service."

She asked \$35,000 damages. Judge Carl M. Weideman dismissed the case in Wayne County and the high court reversed Weideman.

In the accident, Smith said, the husband suffered a brain concussion, lost voluntary kidney functioning, and sustained four fractures of the pelvis and other severe injuries.

QUAKE SHAKES TOWN

ORLEANSVILLE Algeria (UPI)—Orleansville, scene of a 1954 1,500 lives, was shaken by a slight tremor Sunday night. There was no damage or casualties.

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