

# Clergymen Oppose Racial Discrimination In Belmont Battle

Church leaders today took issue with Belmont home owners concerning a proposal to insert racial discriminatory clauses in land deeds. Among the clergymen opposing any form of racial discrimination are Rev. Noble Owings, Church of the Good Shepherd vicar; Father James Doyle, Belmont area parish priest; and Sister Superior Paula of the College of Notre Dame.

Rev. Owings, influential Belmont-San Carlos minister and church youth group leader, said that he was calling a protest meeting for Sunday at 8 p.m. in community hall, Belmont.

Agitation started Tuesday at a meeting conducted in the Belmont City Hall to form a Civic Improvement Assn. intended to represent home owners. At that meeting it was pointed out that original racial deed clauses, which run for a 20-year period, had expired for many Belmont areas in 1941 and had not been re-established.

Dr. David R. Sears, Alexander Sanitarium, Inc., protested any moves to reinstate them because they "segregate all non-Caucasian people into the undesirable places to live while their boys overseas are fighting to overthrow that sort of thing in Germany."

Questioned today, James D. Ross, one of 14 persons designated to form the association, said that moral issues did not enter into the matter. He said his group was merely interested in protecting property values by excluding Negroes and Japanese.

E. M. Brooks, another of the organization founders, said that his only reason for wanting such a group was that it would provide home owners with a place where problems could be discussed; problems such as the race one, he added.

Ross listed these persons as the group which would meet tonight to draw a constitution for the association:

- Peter F. Ross, Mrs. Lloyd W. Taft, E. M. Brooks, Wellman H. Gopham, Mrs. David Simon, Lorin M. Sims, Mrs. Mary L. Humason, Mrs. J. C. Merrick, Mrs. H. C. Welch, Elvin J. Stuparich, Ben V. Schweickert, G. W. Draper and Ralph A. Haag.

Meanwhile, Paul A. McCarthy, Belmont city attorney, made these observations: Discriminatory phases of deeds can never be renewed. They can be re-established, however, according to a Supreme Court ruling. Home owners in any given area may form a mutual restrictive agreement by which they agree for a specified time not to allow any but Caucasians to occupy area land.

Such an agreement would need approval of approximately 90 per cent of the persons in any area to become legal. When approved, it would be binding only on those who signed it.

"In other words," McCarthy said, "any objector could refuse to sign the agreement and sell or rent his property to persons of any race he desires despite restrictive agreements effecting plots on all sides of him."

Ross said that at the improvement association preliminary meeting only five or six persons, led by Dr. Sears, made any objection to the discriminatory proposals and that, therefore, the organization was going ahead with its plans. Ross further maintained that he was against racial discrimination as much as the next man but that this was a matter of protecting money values.

Brooks claimed that he didn't believe the deed clauses would be racial discrimination but rather "social discrimination."

Unofficial historians remembered today that racial clauses first began appearing in San Mateo County land deeds in 1905 during a "yellow peril" dispute. County officials said that they were a "general" thing throughout the county with certain striking exceptions.

Most outstanding exception is Hillsborough where City Mgr. Earl P. Wilsey said that some areas did not now have nor never did have racial discriminatory clauses.

*Belmont Civic Improvement Association  
Redwood City Tribune  
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# Belmont Citizens To Delay Action On Racial Problem

On the eve of the San Francisco conference aimed at promoting unity among peoples, San Mateo County is experiencing racial discrimination trouble.

A group of 75 Belmont citizens, meeting at the town's community hall, in an apparent effort to avoid an embarrassing situation during the San Francisco conference, last night voted to ask the Belmont Civic Improvement Assn., now forming to postpone discussion of the whole race issue until the conclusion of the conference.

The group last night also voted to recommend to the civic improvement body that it set up, with the advice of the Belmont Planning Commission, a master plan for zoning the residential areas of the city on economic lines and not on lines of race.

The usual quiet of Belmont was disrupted last Tuesday night when 150 Belmont citizens gathered for formation of the improvement association and found the first order of business to be concerned with deed restrictions excluding Japanese and Negroes from living in Belmont.

No action on the matter was taken at last Tuesday's meeting. Next meeting of the proposed improvement association is set for May 1.

Last night's meeting was called by the Rev. Noble L. Owings, vicar of the Church of the Good Shepherd in Belmont, who presided as chairman. James H. Hammond acted as secretary.

Rev. Mr. Owings, as chairman, was authorized to appoint a liaison committee to make the purpose and decisions of the meeting clear to those who are forming the civic improvement association. Rev. Mr. Owings said those who attended last night's meeting will become members of the proposed improvement association, declaring there will not be two city groups.

"The main purpose is civic unity," he stated.

The motion that a master plan for zoning the residential areas of the city on economic lines instead of lines of race was made by Mrs. David Sears and seconded by George C. Uria. Motion that the discussion be postponed until the conclusion of the San Francisco conference was made by Mrs. Joseph Murphy and seconded by Mrs. Robert Tuck.

Meanwhile in San Francisco Margaret Chung, prominent Chinese colony member, said land discriminatory clauses had prevented her from obtaining an Emery Lake residence. Dr. Chung, besides her medical practice, for many years has maintained a home for more than 600 old-time aviation experts. Many of them call on her whenever they reach San Francisco from the war zones.

The Chinese assistant consul in San Francisco said his office was aware of the racial discriminatory clauses and that they did cause suffering to Chinese in the United States. Pointing out that they cannot be renewed once they lapse, he claimed such clauses exist only in California.

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Redwood City Tribune  
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## Belmont Civic Assn. Considers Clubhouse as War Memorial

BELMONT — The Belmont Civic Assn. in a spirited meeting that filled the large hall of the former Belle Monti Club house last evening heard Mayor J. F. Furlong Jr. give facts and figures concerning the proposed purchase of the clubhouse as a War Memorial Community Center.

This property, which includes several acres, has a two-story building, formerly a country club, used during the first part of the war by the army, and at present being occupied by a private school. There is a swimming pool on the grounds.

Mayor Furlong said his figures were tentative but he felt they were as close as one could estimate. "If we are to have recreational facilities," he said, "they should be in the 'top drawer manner' with no hit or miss propositions. Now how are we going to do this? We can't buy this building out of thin air."

In coming to his conclusions on cost and ways of meeting this, he said, he had consulted at the courthouse, with Al Sagehorn and Martin Flynn, county treasurer and county assessor, respectively, and he figured it would cost the people of Belmont approximately \$50,000. The price asked for the building is \$25,000 and perhaps may be purchased for less he said; repair costs have been quoted as \$10,000. Then there is the swimming pool to put into proper condition; personnel and maintenance.

This would involve a cost to the city of about \$7000 to \$8000 a year, he figured, and the only way of raising it seems to be an increase in the tax rate, which would have to be voted on by a two-third ma-

jority of the people. As applied to the tax levy of last year this would be about \$.40 per 100 on the assessed valuation of a piece of property. A further bright side to this, he commented, was that any revenue derived from the building had not been taken into account and also every new home built would reduce the pro rata.

Frank P. O'Brien, Belmont postmaster, raised some objection as to the method of meeting the cost, saying he had it on authority that state and federal funds could be used for this. Mayor Furlong said it was his understanding this was only available for new constructions but if O'Brien thought there was a way he should be appointed to look into it.

In conclusion, the mayor said he now considered the matter in the hands of the association to act as it saw fit, but that if it were presented to the council, he added, "I want the people to know this is no blue sky stuff and if they decide they're going to get it, then they're going to pay for it."

George Draper, president of the civic group, said in regard to the figure presented by a local engineer of \$10,000 for repairs the investigating committee had found the building in good shape and he would like to see some community spirit in volunteer help to fix up the place for the least possible money.

Other matters the association dealt with last night included a letter to be addressed to San Mateo Improvement Club and to Judge A. R. Cotton protesting the proposed juvenile home "at Belmont's back door," a communication to the sanitary board of the city, objecting to the unsanitary conditions existing in certain Chinese nurseries in town; an endorsement by the group for the acquisition of the Butano Forest as a state park, and a promise by the mayor that "there will be buses running around in Belmont before the rains start."

The committee investigating the purchase of Belle Monti clubhouse included Draper, James Ross Jr., W. H. Topham, Loren Sims, J. F. Calverly, Mrs. A. S. Alexander, Pete Tedesco, David Simon, J. W. Brool and A. B. Denny.

Belmont Civic Improvement  
Association  
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## Racial Battle Boils After Belmont Meet

Belmont was faced with highly controversial racial problems today.

More than 150 Belmont citizens gathered in their city hall last night to form a Civic Improvement Association and found that their announced first order of business proved to be a "hot potato" that was tossed gingerly about among the audience and the committee in charge.

Impetus for organizing was revealed to be concerned with deed restrictions excluding Japanese and Negroes from living in Belmont. No action was taken on any matter at the organizational session, but fervent discussion centered around the proposed plan to insert the qualification in the upcoming deed restriction renewals, that only Caucasians be permitted to live in those areas.

Proposed by-laws for the organization were also read. One section that also brought a flurry of objection from the minority group attending was the rule that anyone in Belmont could apply to join the association, but that anyone could be excluded by a majority vote of the membership.

According to the committee in charge of organization, including Peter Ross, who chaired last night's session, Mrs. Lloyd Taft, and E. M. Brooks, the club is being initiated to further civic improvement in Belmont.

At the next meeting planned for May 1, officers will be elected; a name will be chosen and by-laws adopted.

It was the reported minority opinion that slums were not wanted in Belmont, but that adequate housing restrictions would care for the situation, without excluding Asiatics and Negroes by inserting the "Caucasian" clause in the deed restrictions.

The "black-balling section" of the proposed by-laws was also protested by a small group, which felt that the Civic Improvement Assn. should be open to all residents upon payment of dues, if any were prescribed by the adopted rules.

## Haag Installed Civic Club Leader

The Belmont Civic Improvement Assn. installed Ralph A. Haag as President at its meeting at the Belmont School last night.

The meeting was delayed one week for the closing of school. Installed with Haag, were George W. Draper, vice president; James D. Ross, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Peter Tedesco, recording secretary and George Derham, treasurer.

The newly-formed organization appointed several committees of a semi-permanent nature until increased membership can provide greater participation in the Belmont group.

A civic affairs committee was set up with the following members. Mrs. Lloyd Taft, Lorin Sims, Leo Oligher Jr., Melvin J. Stuparich, and J. W. Brooks.

A membership committee was organized with David Simon, Frank O'Brien, and Gordon Howes as members. E. de Gras, Mrs. H. C. Welch, and Mrs. F. E. Kilkeary were appointed to an entertainment committee.

Membership in the club is open to all residents of Belmont, after the issue was heatedly debated in the first meetings of the group. A controversial racial issue and proposals for race zoning was not discussed at this meeting and the matter is expected not to become an issue, Brooks, a founding member, said.

March-April 1947

3-12-47

# Belmont Group Discusses Plan to Widen the Alameda

The question of widening the Alameda de las Pulgas in Belmont was revived again last night at a meeting of the Belmont Civic Assn. after a year's lull over the issue following a rejection of the project by the Belmont City Council.

Chairman James Ross said City Engineer Robert Klassen was unable to attend last night and introduced Lester Reetz of the planning commission. Reetz withstood a barrage of protests from members, mostly homeowners beyond Ralston Ave., who would be affected by such widening. Reetz explained that a year ago he favored setback lines to prepare for the future.

He said this was turned down by the city council but that there are now four new members on the council. He said the proposal to widen the Alameda had been taken in the advice of the city engineer.

Mrs. David Simon said she thought this was still the plan as only recently "fill" had been placed in the creek adjacent to her place. When she protested she was told by Klassen it was for the road extension. Most members present felt the pressure was coming now from San Mateo.

Mrs. Caston Pope of the recreation commission reiterated this statement. The greatest concern seemed to be whether a speedway would come in the residential section, she said.

Reetz explained that this widening might avert the extension of Junipera Serra Blvd. through the heart of San Mateo County, which according to him, was still favored by some county and state officials. Klassen has favored routing that highway toward the skyline so as to avoid the cities. No action was taken last night. However, Reetz insisted that a visit to the planning commission meeting and conferring with the city engineer should clarify the intentions to all concerned.

Lloyd Taft of the civic committee reported on the boundary lines of the city and said that Belmont stood a good chance of being in the adjacent industrial area.

He also said that Christensen definitely intended to incorporate in Belmont his extension of the Garden Terrace now annexed to San Carlos. He also discussed speeding on Ralston and said so far the city "hadn't gotten very far with the council."

A speaker from the Cancer Society addressed the club telling of the coming drive for funds to carry out research and establish clinics for early diagnosis. He asked everyone to get behind this movement.

The chairman announced that the April meeting would be in the form of a visit to the firehouse with a talk from Fire Chief Miller.

# Belmont Civic Assn. Probes Widening of Alameda, Ralston

Discussion of road improvements topped the meeting last night of the Belmont Civic Assn. at the Community Church.

The group heard proposals for the widening of the Alameda de las Pulgas and Ralston Ave., as well as preliminary talks on a civic Christmas party, licensing of a trailer court, and rezoning the Belmont Country Club.

A capacity crowd turned out for the meeting which was scheduled to take up the trailer court licensing and the Alameda widening.

R. N. Cushman, president of the association, called for reports of various civic organizations, explaining that the group is functioning to become better informed on all the workings of the civic government.

R. N. Taft reported on the city planning commission meeting and urged that members of the association be present at the next meeting of the commission to bring pressure against the rezoning of the country club area for second residential.

A new pumping station is to be established by the water department, according to the report by David Simon.

The city council was accused of letting things "slip by," and Ralph Riedy, reporting on the council, urged the association to watch the group closely and bring pressure to bear on issues of importance.

Jim Ross, special committee chairman, reported on a Christmas celebration for the children of Belmont, to be sponsored by the association, Dec. 21. On the day of the party, Santa will tour the town on the big red fire truck and visit with the children. The committee suggested

that each club in town share in the expense.

"Is this road really necessary?" is the question the committee on the widening of the Alameda must decide, according to Ross. The group made a tour of the Alameda from 37th Ave. in San Mateo to Brittan Ave. in San Carlos and took pictures of the present situation for the edification of the association.

It was announced that Ronald Campbell, consulting engineer of the county planning commission, would be the guest speaker of the association at its next meeting to give the picture from the county's point of view.

The proposal that the county and city governments turn their attentions toward the conditions of Ralston Ave. met with acclaim by members. Cushman promised immediate action by the association directors to see what can be done on putting sidewalks of some description to lessen the pedestrian danger.

The police department was criticized for its lack of traffic control during school and commuter rush hours. The association proposed to advise the council on the subject, inasmuch as the police chief had already been asked for cooperation on the school traffic problem and no help had been forthcoming.

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## Mosquito Nuisance Told Group

"Give us a ring and we'll be out with fish for you," R. H. Thomas superintendent of the Pulgas Mosquito Abatement District told members of the Belmont Civic Assn. last night meeting at Social Hall, in describing to them measures used by the district to combat the mosquito and the way the citizen could help.

The fish referred to were the "Mosquito fish" which residents of the county are supposed to obtain if they have fish ponds on their grounds.

Thomas explained that 50 per cent of the trouble from these pests in this area came from the salt water bred mosquito, the "Aedes Squamigis" which occur in great quantities in the salt marshes of the Bay Area.

He explained that one of the worst sections were 500 acres north of Belmont. He said spraying of that area was done regularly but that was only a temporary measure, and the real solution was an engineering problem.

Thomas explained how the mosquito larva egg may remain dormant for 10 years or more in dry mud, but that water is required for any breeding of mosquitoes. He said they will like to harbor after breeding in "cool, slightly damp resting places" and that's why so many persons think they breed in grass and lawns. He said mosquitoes can fly from 50 yards to 80 miles depending on the species. The marsh type travel many miles.

He cautioned persons who repeatedly had mosquitoes coming from their lawns to investigate whether any old septic tank or open sewer existed beneath, and better still to call the abatement district so that a check up could be made. These are the cesspool variety of mosquito, he said, and more likely to carry disease. He said constant watch was maintained in the county of dairy drains and creeks where the "Culex Tarsulis" type bred and was thought a carrier of the disease encephalitis. The Bay Area was fortunate in not having much trouble with disease bearing mosquitoes.

## Water System Proposal Hit In Belmont

"Municipal ownership of the water system would be the worst calamity that could happen to Belmont," Herman Kohlmoos, secretary and auditor of the Belmont District Water System said last night in addressing the Belmont Civic Assn. at the social hall in Belmont.

"There is immediate diversion of funds," he said, and he pointed out how the water system, being the only revenue producing outfit in a city, would provide funds for city use maybe a fire truck — while the consumer paid excessive water bills.

Kohlmoos said the city of San Carlos would not hope to operate as economically as Belmont under a water district as in Belmont the "big fellow paid the bill."

Municipal ownership of the water system was an issue for several years in San Carlos initiated by Councilman Truman S. Waterman. The matter had reached the point of the council hiring an hydraulic engineer and placing the issue on the ballot. The question, however, never reached the voters.

In referring to the "big fellow," the speaker said Belmont was unique in all the institutions it served, and such places as the Harbor Development Co. which serves the nearby radio station and the midget race track. The commercial flower gardens, once a big factor have dwindled considerably, he said.

The secretary reviewed by statistics the general development of the water system since 1935. He stated that at present it was in excellent financial shape. Such places as Sharpe's Park, Half Moon Bay, region and as far South as Laguna Beach had asked information on the local set up.

Questioned on the installation cost of water meters in GI homes, the speaker said they had to be paid either by the builder or the owner.

A sound picture "From Water Fall to Water Faucet" illustrated the Hetch Hetchy water system from which this district derives its water. Present at the meeting were, W. P. Davis, general manager of the water district, H. W. Hannibal, chairman of the water board.

At a short business session presided over by Robert H. Cushman, Ralph Ready reported on the recent council meetings and stated he thought the organization should take a stand on the proposed purchase of a Cadillac for the city fire department. It was brought out that the association had gone on record as opposing this.

Ready took issue with a statement made by former Mayor F. J. Furlong Jr. just prior to his resignation that the city had \$30,000 to use, stating that \$15,000 of this had already been earmarked for other use. Lloyd Taft, recently suggested as a possible successor to Furlong, said it was even worse that that and that everything was not "rosy" by any means. He stated the city could just about buy a car and that was all. A communication from now Postmaster Furlong said he was working on delivery service for the city.

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# Ralph Reedy Named to Head Belmont Civic Association

Ralph W. Reedy was elected president of the Belmont Civic Assn. at last night's meeting in the parish house.

Elected to serve with the new president for the coming year, starting June 1, are Ernest Kruttschnitt, vice president; Mrs. John MacLeod, recording secretary; Leroy Derham, re-elected treasurer; and Dirs. Mrs. Christie Calverley, Mrs. Cas-ton Pope, Wallace Benson, Richard Irwin, Alan Kahn, George Pyatt and Lloyd Taft.

James Ross was chairman of the nominating committee, with Walter Truce and Lloyd Taft assisting.

Mayor Bayley Kohlmeier introduced the members of the city council and reported on their various responsibilities. "We are moving cautiously," the mayor said, "and giving careful consideration to all matters that come before us that no item will be merely snap judgment."

He said that the council felt that it had the substantial backing of the citizens of the town and wanted to keep it. "But sooner or later we are bound to make some decision that won't please everyone, and we hope Belmont citizens will be good sports and try to see that we are making decisions in the way we feel they will benefit the town as a whole."

Greater cooperation between the Belmont Property Owners Assn. and the Belmont Civic Assn. was asked by the mayor. "There is some ill-feeling between the two organizations," he said, "and it is all wrong. Both organizations are working for the same ends and there is a place for both in different capacities, if they will only work in harmony."

Kohlmeier condemned the town as being a "great rumor factory." He asked citizens not to be disturbed by rumors and to wait for official action on matters before getting disturbed and spreading the rumor.

"We ask patience," he said, "we have a limited personnel to do a great many things."



**BELMONT** — A suit against the City of Belmont charging that the city's zoning ordinance was adopted illegally was continued yesterday until April 5 by San Mateo County Superior Judge W. Howard Hartley.

The continuance was granted at the request of Belmont City Attny. Kenneth M. Dickerson, who asked for more time to file affidavits in answer to an amended complaint brought by the plaintiffs, Glenn E. Pollock and members of the Belmont Civic Improvement Club.

The plaintiffs claim that the city's zoning ordinance, adopted last Aug. 22, is invalid because the city failed to publish the ordinance within a 15-day time period.

# Belmont Civic Group Backs Recreation Bond Proposal

The Belmont Civic Assn. last night voted almost unanimously in favor of endorsing the proposed \$99,000 recreation bond issue, to be decided Feb. 3.

Ralph Read and Walter Truce upheld the defense of the recreation commission in the presentation of the issue to the civic group.

According to Lloyd Taft, all Belmont grievances were acknowledged by the two recreation representatives before the main issue could be decided.

"Let us not lose track of the main issue," said Taft, "and that is if we reject this opportunity for a recreational center, there is no other seven acre area even comparable to it in Belmont, and seven acres is the minimum area recommended for general recreational facilities."

In answer to a question on staffing such a proposed program, Read said that according to a study made on the Palo Alto recreational setup, \$5000 per year was judged sufficient for a couple to live on the grounds as caretakers and direct a professional recreation program. He felt that sufficient volunteer help, augmented by hourly paid help, would swing the program.

Much stress was put on the bad traffic location of the Pullman estate and the fact that two highways would have to be

crossed in order to gain entrance to the center.

In answer, Read said that he did not consider that an insurmountable problem, but a good suggestion for incorporating some provision for an underpass in the proposed plans.

An estimate of the proposed expenditure was outlined by Taft in concurrence with an estimate given by the architect for the plan, Alfred Johnson.

No structural changes are necessary, according to Read, merely adaptation for recreational needs. That adaptation program was outlined as follows: \$6000 for paving, levelling and grading the 25,000 square foot parking area; \$8000 for the tennis courts; \$5000 for sanitary facilities; \$60,000 for the actual purchase of the property; and the remainder for baseball diamond, bleachers, knocking out existing partitions to make larger meeting spaces, and miscellaneous items. "If spent wisely," said Taft, "the whole thing could be done and have a surplus of \$15,000 from the bond in the amount proposed."

First year's cost of maintenance is included in the bond, said James Ross, chairman of the association's board of directors.

After that, an accumulated sum from taxes for recreational activities, placed in the city treasury, will be used until the center can be self supporting from its own revenues, he said.

The Pullman estate will be open every Sunday from 11 o'clock until 4 p.m., for public inspection, Robert Cushman, civic association president announced.

The association voted to call Senator Richard Dolwig to speak on the recreation program being outlined by the state, at its Jan. 23 meeting. The meeting will be open to the public and will be held in the Community Hall.

APR 3 1971  
**Endorsement**  
 Percy E. (Pat) Roberts of Woodside and William B. Black of East Palo Alto have been endorsed for election to the Sequoia Union High School District Board of Trustees by the executive committee of the Belmont Heights Civic Improvement Association.