

## "Harum Scarum" Upholds Theatre of Melodrama

(Continued from Page 1-B)

ness in which he endowed his lines as the stern father with a heart of gold, the tempo of the play itself and the stage presence of his cast. Too much cannot be said for the way in which the other characters—amateurs all—carried out their roles, including the revival of that "Lost Art"—the manner of speaking "asides" or "soliloquies."

Dick Benton, the Harum Scarum and later as Happy Henry, a disguised tramp, was excellent although he may not have given evidence of his role of the happy-go-lucky Harum Scarum of the Miller family. William J. Gallardo, playing his brother, Frank, was a money-filching villain of the melodrama type and played his part with all the dastardly cunning of the tradition.

### Building at Fault

It was a tossup as to who won the most laughs—John Irwin as Billy B. Gosh; Wilson Moore or Walter Wallace as the old gossips. This trio contributed the rib-tickling comedy interludes without which no "meller" would be complete. Mrs. O. H. Olson as Mrs. Miller was splendid as the loving mother, another character limited by Author Showalter's pen with a gesture toward the old stage plays. Belle of the play, Mrs. J. Armstrong was a demure heroine who braved scandal, prison and everything but "the fate worse than death" to give her heart to Hero Benton.

Mary Silverthorn, the vamp, other woman or designing adventuress of the play, swept through her role with the sophistication demanded by the part. And Harry Showalter, the stern father, played his role to the hilt. It was his play and instead of stealing the show, as he could have done easily with his long stage experience, Showalter was content to depict his part with the authority it contained and leave it go at that.

One fault of all four performances was common but not that of the cast, the attractive stage setting, the music or the stage "business." It was the fault of the Civic Auditorium itself. Although the actors well knew they must give their lines everything they had, the poor acoustics of the building made it difficult for those in the rear of the hall to hear the lines. Some effort should be made by the city to remedy this drawback to stage presentations in the auditorium. It is a regrettable feature that has and will mar every presentation there that cannot make use of the public address system.

### Dances Follow Shows

Music by the orchestra, conducted by Charles E. Chaplin, with Mrs. Kathryn Buffington at the piano, contributed much toward the success of "The Harum Scarum." The overture numbers, "Tannhauser" and "Light Cavalry" were rather lengthy and cumbersome to introduce the play but they were splendidly done. Easily the hit of the orchestra's performance, the selection of Gilbert-Sullivan operas, was more in the spirit of the show.

## Building Indices Show Costs 15 P.C. Under '26

It is still possible to build homes at approximately 15 per cent less than they could have been built for in 1926, the county assessor's office disclosed this week following completion of a comprehensive study of building costs from 1926 to date.

Results of the study are available to anyone interested in building, and the information will be of interest to those in the building trades. Purpose of the study was to establish indices in order that the assessor's deputies may know the relative cost from year to year of building the same type of structure. While homes can still be built for 15 per cent less than in 1926, Class A structures, on the other hand, now cost 92 per cent of the 1926 figure.

There has been a sharp increase in the value of most commodities which go into a building with the exception of cement, rock and gravel, the study disclosed. These three commodities now are cheaper than they have been at any time since 1926. There is no indication that the price of these commodities will be higher in the near future.

## THIS IS NEW YEAR'S DAY

Millions of Chinese Clean-Up Morally, Generally

Grotesque dragons and fabulous creatures of Chinese legends cavorted amid the crackling of thousands of firecrackers today as the Chinese of Los Angeles county celebrated the arrival of their New Year with a parade at the Old Plaza in Los Angeles.

The Chinese New Year is a "movable feast" regulated by the sun, because the Chinese year is a lunar one. Each year the Chinese New Year is set by the first new moon after the sun enters Aquarius. Under such influence of the zodiac the date cannot come before Jan. 21 or after Feb. 19. The Christian Easter is determined in a somewhat similar manner.

Los Angeles-born Chinese say that so far as they are concerned, Jan. 1 is good enough for them each year as a New Year, but add that the "old folks" still like to cling to the ancient calendar.

### Noise Battles Demons

"The New Year means much spiritually and physically to the old Chinese and the Chinese of China," said one young Los Angeles Chinaman, a high school student. "It is a day to say prayers, pay debts, confess sins and weaknesses, and to clean up morally, generally. The Chinese women scour the homes, lecture the kids, and put everything on a new path from the highest of religious standpoint."

"A Chinaman is not a fierce person. That he is kindly, and believes in peace is attested by the fact that for years—in fact ever since the Chinese invented gun-powder—he has been shooting off firecrackers rather than rifles. The Chinese New Year is the big day for the most noise. Many persons think the Chinese people are making 'whoopie' when they shoot firecrackers. This is not true. The noise is to scare away evil forces—the belief of which is part of the Chinese religion—and the more firecrackers popped the more 'boogies' and 'devils' are put to rout."

Just an old Chinese custom, the young Chinaman said.

### Marine Ball Schedule

(Continued from Page 5-B)

San Pedro at Rilis, Narbonne by.

Friday, Apr. 9—Banning at TORRANCE; Narbonne at San Pedro, Rilis at Gardena, El Segundo at Leuzinger, Jordan by.

Friday, Apr. 16—TORRANCE at Rilis, Jordan at El Segundo, Leuzinger at Banning, Gardena at Narbonne, San Pedro by.

Old Town Clock Ticks On—WILMINGTON, Del. (U.P.)—The old town hall clock has been set in motion after being idle for 26 years.

## ATTENTION PLEASE!

**NO-SCREWS**  
through the lenses

**SPRINGS**  
guard against lens strain

By these two improvements, rimless glasses are made far more practical and serviceable. For added attractiveness, comfort and security try on a pair of Ful-Vue No-Screw glasses. They have the modern high-up temples, too.

**RESULT**

**FUL-VUE NO-SCREW**  
Rimless  
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doubly guarded against breakage

Convenient Terms  
Pay \$1 Weekly

**Alden W. Smith, O.D.**

OPTOMETRIST  
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**HOWARD'S JEWELERS**  
TORRANCE

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## DETOUR

Col'm Under Construction  
By BETSY BYRNES

They would say  
He is dead.  
Lincoln, dead?  
Poor, studious sages.  
Know they not?  
Lincoln lives  
In all hearts!  
"He belongs to the ages."

The name of Abraham Lincoln lives on because of great and noble works. The name of the wretch who killed him is remembered only because of his base deed.

### QUESTIONS:

Who said of Abraham Lincoln, "Now he belongs to the ages?"

Young and old love valentines. Who knows anything about Saint Valentine? What connection has he with the sending of sweet messages on Feb. 14?

You all know what your street address is. You may plan to address your club this week. What is the correct pronunciation of the address?

### TODAY'S PROVERB:

"Live! Live today! Tomorrow never yet."

On any human being rose or set.

We like those lines. Let us try to live all our todays more fully and more truly!

### ANSWERS:

Edwin M. Stanton, secretary of war, and members of the cabinet were at Abraham Lincoln's bedside as he breathed his last. Stanton was the first to break the silence, saying: "Now he belongs to the ages."

Well, it's quite a surprise about Saint Valentine. To begin with, there were several saints by that name. The most prominent seems to have been the third century Christian martyr whose festival is observed on the 14th of February. He was a Roman priest and has absolutely no connection with the sending of love tokens on that day. The lovers' festival, probably the survival of an ancient festival in the Roman Lupercalia, as far as we are

able to find out, just happened to be celebrated on Saint Valentine's Day.

"Address," as a noun or as a verb, has only one pronunciation. The accent is always on the last syllable: ad-DRESS! Never, never is the accent on the first syllable!

ADIOS  
"The world is so full of a number of things  
I'm sure we should all be as happy as kings."

—Robert Louis Stevenson.  
Stevenson named that little gem of his, "Happy Thought."

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## Red Cross Relief Forces Active in 10 States



Acme Photo



Left: Red Cross Chairman, Cary T. Grayson, leaves White House after conferring with President Roosevelt on flood relief. Right: Red Cross supply station at Cincinnati rushes blankets and bedding to flood sufferers.

WITH 800 nurses and 300 trained disaster workers in the field the American Red Cross is easing the plight of flood sufferers in 10 inundated states in the Ohio and Mississippi Valleys. The Red Cross reports that 425,000 persons have been driven from their homes and need urgent assistance. Admiral Grayson, chairman of the Red Cross, has been ap-

### Aerial Picture Taken in 1857

BOSTON. (U.P.)—E. R. Snow, local historian, believes he's discovered the first aerial photograph. He found the picture, dated 1857, in the public library. It was taken from a balloon. It shows Boston's skyline before the great fire of 1872.

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## Pittsburg Doctor Goes to Reward

Death came to one of Pittsburg's most prominent physicians late last week when Dr. G. L. Coates, Sr., succumbed to pneumonia at Martinez Community hospital, where he had been confined during the past 10 days.

A resident of Pittsburg for the past 17 years, Dr. Coates, was 64 years of age. Surviving the physician, whose offices were at his residence in Home Acres for the past two years, were his widow, a son and a daughter. Private funeral rites were held Friday afternoon in Martinez, with interment following in Alhambra cemetery.

Build a Home Now!

### STEEL FOR BIKES IN '36 SETS NEW HIGH

Revival of the sport of bicycling during 1936 brought orders for 30,000,000 pounds of steel to the mills of the country, according to estimates of the American Iron and Steel Institute. This is by far the largest amount of steel ever bought in one year by bicycle makers.

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## Scrap Iron Stealers Each Pay \$25 Fine

Accused of stealing scrap iron from the rear of Columbia Steel plant and California Tool company, M. M. Meyer, 25, and Harold W. Foat, 24, both of San Pedro, were taken before City Judge Robert Lessing Saturday.

Both were fined \$100, of which \$75 was suspended on their good behavior. Each paid the \$25 balance and they were released.

## Donahue Optimistic Over Ball Season

(Continued from Page 5-B)

week. "And I believe that with a little more experience, we'll show up well in the weeks to come. From what I hear of the other schools, they haven't much on us in the way of baseball material this year and, with the possible exception of Gardena, none is outstanding."

## Hits Light Pole; Fined \$50 Plus Cost of Damage

Arrested early Friday morning after he had struck a light pole with his machine, Charles Alfred McAfee, 34, Redondo, was haled before City Judge Robert Lessing Saturday.

He was fined \$150, of which \$100 was suspended when he promised to pay for the damages to the pole. He agreed to pay the \$50 balance at the rate of \$10 each payday.

### REPORTED ILL

John Haig, business manager at the high school, was confined at his home in Los Angeles from an attack of influenza this week.

### Increased Activity

Increased real estate development and building activity is in evidence thruout the state of California.

## Dr. W. I. Laughon

Announces the Opening of Offices February 1

1337 El Prado  
TORRANCE

For the General Practice of  
MEDICINE and SURGERY

PHONE 31

They Said It Wasn't Possible... But Here It Is!

Piece Set of Lovely  
"King Edward" Pattern  
**99 Silverplate \$24.95**

On Sale Previously  
at

**\$50.00**

Sale Starts  
Monday, Feb. 15

Complete Service for 8



The Above Picture is Exact Reproduction of the Set

The National Silver Co., famous makers of fine silverware, have made this great saving possible... but only for a limited time. Advertised nationally in the better magazines for \$50, this set at only \$24.95 is the outstanding value of the year! Comes attractively packed in a luxurious tarnish-proof chest.

### The Set Includes These 99 Beautiful Pieces:

- 16 Teaspoons
- 8 Cocktail Forks
- 6 Serving Spoons
- 8 Dinner Forks
- 8 Butter Spreaders
- 1 Sugar Spoon
- 8 Dinner Knives
- 8 Ice Tea Spoons
- 1 Butter Knife
- 8 Soup Spoons
- 8 Coffee Spoons
- 1 Berry Spoon
- 8 Salad Forks
- 8 Bouillon Spoons
- 1 Gravy Ladle
- 1 Cold Meat Fork

### Small Down Payment - Pay Only \$1 Per Week

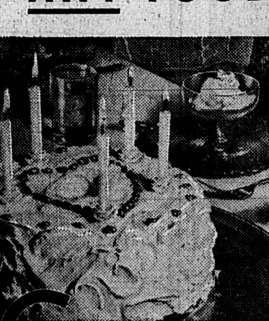
**National Home Appliance Co.**

HARRY M. ABRAMSON—"Friendly Credit"

1318 Sartori, Torrance

Phone 78

## ANGEL FOOD ~ ANY FOOD



**GAS COOKS BETTER AND COSTS LESS**

Small wonder that it's known as "angel" food when it's baked in a modern gas range! The necessary low temperature is simple with the 1937 models. Just set the control. The range will see to it that the proper temperature is maintained till the cake is done—golden brown on the outside, white and fluffy within!

What's more, with the new gas ranges there are as many opportunities for delicious dishes as there are foods on the market! From low temperatures for certain kinds of cakes and for waterless cooking of vegetables—to high for roasting and broiling. Live heat—greater range of temperatures—greater speed—far lower cost—you have all these!

Don't wait longer to inspect the many conveniences and economies afforded by the new gas ranges. The latest models are now on display at your appliance dealer's or your gas company.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GAS COMPANY

