Torrance Herald

SECTION B

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SHOP TALK

By RAY BROOKS

MODERN MAGIC

To Kathryne Buffington's piano studio I went this week to witness a demonstration of the Magic Board, a device for teaching very young children how to eventually become expert ivory manipulators.

Mrs. Buffington, exceptionally skilled in the flats and sharps business, showed on the board how tiny tots first learn the positions of notes, and, their values. The board is magnetized and the removable notes stick on to the face wherever placed. Color and nursery characters are also used.

"This," said I to Mrs. Buffington, "is a far cry from the methods used on me when, as a child of three months (or maybe it was 16 years) I had my fingers whacked by an irate old hussy when I would clumsily sock the wrong note. Needless to say, of course, I was no juvenile genius; maybe I did need the tough treatment."

Mrs. Buffington went on to show me the various systems she used to teach children, and even adults, who, usually, after they get long white beards, yearn to dash off a tune if and when they care to . . . and if and when they have a piano.

According to Mrs. Buffington, however, adults are easy to teach, learn quickly, and what's VERY important . . . start right off playing tunes . . . no long, tiresome exercises.

And confidentially, Mrs. Buffington confided to me that she could even teach 'em how to "swing it"!

JOCKEY THOMAS

A little heavy around the middle but having all the mien of a Santa Anita jocky, Bob Thomas, liquor store operator, was caught on El Prado last week astride a prancing nag, which, according to Bob, belonged to someone (I couldn't catch the name) and he, Bob, was doing something to the oat burner (I couldn't make that out either.) It might have been "breaking him in", but more likely, "breaking him down!"

GETTING WRIGLEY'S GOAT

Harvel Guttenfelder, mighty big game hunter super deluxe, brought home this last weekend from Catalina several mountain goats with long shaggy hair and horns that reach clear from here to there.

The heads of two of them were perched atop a stack of tires in Harvel's back room, and believe you me, they were the real McCoy.

Harvel has promised to tell me the story of "How to Hunt Goats" in one easy lesson. Must be a great sport.

LADY PICKET

Last Saturday A. M. the ladies of the Saint Cecelia Guild staged one of their periodic "Bake Sales" in the doorway of the Torrance National Bank. The idea seems to be that the Guild members all fetch along a cake, pie, cookies, etc. and then the husbands and other Guild members come along and make cash (no credit) purchases.

Mrs. Dean Sears, comely Saint Cecelian, busied herself all morning as chief taker-inner of the cash . . . and then . . . this'll kill ya . . . was accused of picketing the Torrance National.

You see her husband is manager of the Torrance Branch of the Bank of America! !

And speaking of Saint Cecelians . . . Mrs. Emma Quaggin has an Onion-Complex. She retires each night with an Onion under her piller (so I'm told) to keep away the demons and the devils. Emma, it seems, puts much faith in Ye Goode Olde Onion and rigidly prescribes the cure for almost every ailment from the common cold to hoof and mouth disease. Her children long ago discarded cod liver oil for a big, juicy onion, and husband Fred is said to be the only hold-out at the Quaggin house.

Emma's pet retort to smart crackers is "Oh, Onions to you!"

PWA SHUFFLE DELAYS CITY BUILDING

Mayor Anticipates Third Call for Bids Will be Necessary

At Tuesday night's meeting of the city council, a resolution was adopted authorizing a delay in the proposed construction of the proposed civic administrative building for five days after the PWA grant is allowed. This was a necessary formality, according to City Attorney C. T. Rippy, to check over all details of the project before work is actually started. The city is still awaiting word from Washington, D. C., that the project has been given final approval.

Because the Southern California administrative positions of the Public Works administration have undergone a thorough shuffling, Mayor W. H. Stanger said this week that "it wouldn't surprise me a bit if we receive word from Washington PWA headquarters that our application for a Federal grant toward the proposed civic administrative building was again approved and to go ahead and advertise for bids."

If such an order is received in the next few days, it will be the third time that the city council has advertised for quotations on the structure and opened bids on it here. Mayor Stanger said that the council's action of last Thursday afternoon in "accepting" Eiser Wickholm, Ltd's., offer of $19,790 included the qualification that such acceptance was approved by the PWA.

Complete data on all details of the proposed addition to the civic center buildings, to be erected adjoining the Civic Auditorium on El Prado, together with a review of the 13 bids received and opened by the council Feb. 15 has been submitted to the Los Angeles PWA office. Authorities there have assured Mayor Stanger that this information has been sent to Washington for a "final okay."

Repetitious Resolutions

Wickholm's bid was the lowest received on the second call for building quotations, the first set (opened Jan. 5) were adjudged too high by the council. W. W. Petley, contractor who built the existing civic center structures—city hall, police station, library, auditorium and city water office—was next lowest, his offer being $19,813.

After tentatively accepting the Wickholm quotation, the council adopted a resolution authorizing City Clerk A. H. Bartlett to apply to the PWA for a Federal grant toward the construction cost. This, was another repetition, the municipal board having adopted two or three previous "request resolutions" for the same purpose.

The date for starting the administrative building project has been extended by the PWA to March 1, the council was informed.

Lomita Bank Aide Wins Promotion

V. E. Larsen, who has been assistant manager of the Lomita branch of the California bank, has been promoted and transferred to the Terminal Island branch where he is promanager, according to Art Franklin, manager of the Lomita bank.

Larsen's place has been taken by John McGregor, Jr., who was transferred to Lomita from the San Pedro California bank.

Who Succeeds to This Honor?

The passing of "Grandpa" William Mendelssohn, 102, and Job Albert Paddock, 90, brings up this question:

"Who is the oldest person in Torrance and Lomita today?"

The Herald would like to know the identity of this city's and the adjoining community's patriarchs or matriarchs.

Due recognition will be given to their careers if those who believe they are qualified by years will let us know.

Friends of oldsters are urged to "point with pride" to resident old-timers so that they can be interviewed and the title of "Senior" conferred upon the most advanced in age.

137 At Lomita Club's Charter Presentation

Having become a full-fledged unit of Kiwanis International at charter-presentation ceremonies following a dinner-program last Friday night when 137 Kiwanians and their wives were present at the Hollywood Riviera clubhouse, the Lomita club is now on its way to becoming a public-spirited institution in the neighboring community.

Next Tuesday evening Col. Jack Forbes, program chairman, will present Mike Carew of the San Pedro postoffice as principal speaker. President John Holm will preside at the session which will be held in the Lomita Community church, starting at 6:30 o'clock.

Secretary A. F. Franklin announces that the following are charter members of the new club: Henry Backlund, Joseph Burkhard, Ray Campbell, Earle Duarte, Coy F. Farquhar, Jack Forbes, A. F. Franklin, Monroe Gamby, Norman Gardiner, Merle Gasser, Sam Goldstein, Robert E. Gumm, John Holm, George Morse, E. M. Mosher, H. B. Osborne, Rev. John E. Orr, Pete Pedersen, Dr. F. H. Racer, Al Sonnichsen, Hugo F. Schmidt, Ervin Steigh, Ray Townsend, Roy Trunnell, Wally Welch, Roy Wilson, M. C. Woods.

SHRINERS PLAN GRAND CANYON CEREMONIAL

C.N.P.A. Service

Inviting Shriners of Southern California to hold their March ceremonial on the rim of the Grand Canyon came Princess Walks Alone of the Arizona Navajos this week presenting a scroll of welcome to Potentate Lawrence Cobb of Al Malaikah temple. Al Malaikah will join with El Zaribah temple of Phoenix on March 20 initiating scores of candidates at midnight on the edge of the great abyss. Ten special trains will carry the nobles from Los Angeles.

Scout Court and Rally Tonight

Many Awards to be Made at Public Session

Boy Scouts of the Torrance district, which includes this city, Walteria, Lomita and Harbor City, will hold a Court of Honor and rally tonight at the Scout hall and Recreation Center on Border avenue, beginning at 7:30 o'clock.

Many badges of advancement will be awarded with Robert L. Lewellen, district commissioner, in charge of the ceremony. Joe Bay, district senior patrol leader, will be in charge of the rally. The public is cordially invited to attend the session.

Book-Making Exhibit at Library

"How Books are Made" is the self-explanatory title of a most interesting exhibition now at the Public Library. Consisting of a series of panels with many actual materials fastened above descriptive captions, the display was brought here thru the courtesy of the editors of Compton's Pictured Encyclopedia.

Mrs. Dorothy Jamieson, librarian, does not know exactly how long the library may keep the exhibit but expects it to remain here for about a week more. Anyone interested in books, binding, printing or art work should see this display.

All details in book publication, from the actual manuscript thru all stages of type casting, plate making, half-tone engraving, printing, assembling, binding, gathering, covering and the finished product are shown and illustrated with actual working material and large photographs.

Plant Robbery Frustrated

Frightened off the premises after they had broken into the Perforating Pipe and Supply company building on Engracia avenue, burglars failed to get anything there Sunday night. They had entered the building after breaking a window. A night watchman, hearing the noise, started to investigate but was unable to apprehend the fleeing men, according to police reports.

DRIVE ON SPEEDERS ENTERS FINAL WEEK TOMORROW

Three weeks of a month-long tour of duty nabbing speeders along the state highway in Walteria will end tomorrow for Sergeant Ernest Ashton—three weeks in which he has cited more than 50 motorists into court but has only been forced to write three tickets for the more serious offense of reckless driving.

Sergeant Ashton was detailed to that asserted "speedway" by the city council after repeated efforts to slow down traffic there, especially in the vicinity of the Walteria school and the intersection with Hawthorne boulevard, failed.

These efforts were concentrated on attempts to have the state highway commission post the artery properly for pedestrian safeguards. The state, however, maintained, and still maintains, that the traffic is not heavy enough for the customary warning signs.

Use Common Alibi

During the month the council is again bringing the matter of excessive speed to the attention of the state and the cooperation of the Automobile Club of Southern California has been sought. No definite results have been obtained as yet.

"The average speed of motorists I have stopped has been between 60 and 70 miles an hour," Ashton said this week. "Altho they have generally produced the commonest alibi—that their cars 'simply could not go that fast'—only one

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County Fights City Over Gas Tax Diversion

Los Angeles county will oppose Los Angeles city's assembly bill that would give the city "all moneys received by the county from the motor vehicle fuel fund" based on population, it was learned this week at the Hall of Records.

Theory of county officials is that Los Angeles city residents do not do their motoring or trucking entirely within the city limits. The bill, distributing gasoline tax funds on the basis of population, would mean that Los Angeles would receive about seven-twelfths of the county's total gasoline tax receipts from the state. This is about $1,000,000 more than Los Angeles now receives.

Harold W. Kennedy, deputy county counsel, said he had been informed by county officials that passage of this bill, which is Assembly Bill 728, would mean discontinuance of the county road system and of the county road department. The bill would apply only to Los Angeles county.

Passage of the bill would work a serious hardship upon the unincorporated area of the county, and upon the 43 other cities that now receive gasoline tax moneys thru the supervisors for needed improvements, according to George Jones, county road commissioner.