P. E. OFFICIALS OFFER NEW BUS PLAN

SHOP ▼ ▼ TALK

By RAY BROOKS

HAIG HALLUCINATION

Into the fine points of barbering we drifted, Photographer Haig and I; tho I really should say Haig drifted and I was carried along by the tide of his conversation that is still today a bit crusted with the thick brogue of Olde England.

From him I learned that when he was a boy living near Liverpool, most of the barber shops were operated by one man, the owner, who charged tuppence (two pennies) for a shave and four pennies for a hair cut. On Saturdays, when the laddies got paid, the one-man shop did a tremendous business, sold only shaves, would charge sixpence for a hair cut if and when the barber could slip you in during a lull.

Hard workers these barbers must have been. As helpers on Saturdays they hired school boys for the Blue Eagle wage of eight or ten cents per 14-hour day. These boys were called lather boys and did nothing but spread on the soap, jump to another customer, then return to dry and powder the first one when the barber had completed the razor manipulatoin.

Having created a background, Photog Haig eyed me with a sinister twinkle and asked if I had ever heard of Sweeney-Todd, notorious London barber who has a peculiar social psychology. He would cut his customer's throats quicker than Barber George Morton can sell you a tonic, shampoo and hair singe (which is plenty quick) and then press a button in the floor and his blood-gurgling victims would tumble from the chair into the basement.

Of course, Barber Sweeney Todd would razor only the filthy rich gents who sported diamonds and carried a fat wallet.

To top off this lovely bedtime yarn Haig remarked off-hand that a certain lady (she must have been a lady) lived across the street from dear old Sweeney and this lady made meat pies that were the rage of London and all points west. Her's were superior by all odds and were known for their tasty tenderness.

Now the story is (or do I need tell you?) that there was an underground passage between Sweeney's jernt and Milady of Ye Goode Olde Meat Pies. And kiddies, what do you suppose Sweeney did with his nice fresh corpse and of what chief ingredient do you imagine the famous meat pies were made?

(Answer next week if I'm able.)

THINGS I DON'T CARE ABOUT EVEN NOW

Roland Blakeman, of the RB Cut Rate Drug, confided to me that his window trimmer uses over 4,000 pins in dolling up his windows. That's a lot of pins. If they were laid end on end they would reach from . . . well, they'd look pretty silly, anyway.

CANINE CONSOLATION

Woe are the poor Alcorns.

Next door to their home are dogs, barking, howling, whining dogs that choose the choice early morning sleeping hours in which to render their most accomplished melodies. Not content with ordinary continuous yapping, these purps quiet down until the Alcorns sigh with relief and start back to sleep. Then all hell breaks loose again and there's positively no sleeping to be done.

Something should be done. Why doesn't the Society-for-the-Prevention - of - Sleepers - Being - Awakened - By - Barking - Dogs take a hand?

(I understand a shotgun full of bacon rind and salt is a pretty good cure, too.)

GOOD YARN

If you want a good laugh read this week's Literary Digest article on radio announcers and the "bulls" they have committed on the air. The yarn is worth the admission fee and then some.

GUTTENFELDER GUFFAWS

Guffawing last week was Harvel Guttenfelder as he listened to the Firestone radio across the street as it blasted forth with a loud selling program for Goodrich tires.

EARLY SETTLER

Driving to Redondo Beach the other day I was given the hitch hiker's crooked thumb by an old man who hobbled along the highway on a rheumatic leg. Knowing full well that some day I would be as gouty as he, I stopped and after much wheezing and manipulation he seated himself beside me.

At the corner of Torrance

(Continued on Page 11-B)

Harbor, South Bay Cities Interested

If plans formed at an inter-city meeting held at Gardena last Friday are carried out, Torrance, Gardena, Moneta, Redondo Beach, Manhattan Beach and El Segundo are due to enjoy regular and frequent Pacific Electric bus service. Motorized transportation is believed to be the only solution to those cities' transit problems.

President O. A. Smith of the Pacific Electric participated in the conference and with his aides, H. O. Marler, passenger traffic manager, and E. C. Thomas, general plant, showed that the bus system was the only feasible method to improve transportation service in this area.

Smith said his company would prepare data for possible bus service here which would include maps, routes, schedules, rates and density of population figures. Then the same committee could meet with him again and go over the company proposals, offering suggestions and criticisms. As soon as some plan was agreed upon the company would purchase the necessary buses and open the routes, the Railroad Commission being willing.

One of the proposed bus lines would run from Redondo Beach to Torrance, thence to Gardena and on into Los Angeles via Avalon boulevard or some similar route. All of the projected carriers would supplement and not retire existing rail facilities.

Torrance Men Present

Trials and tribulations of the train business were outlined in detail by Smith, who explained that the present Gardena, Del Rey and Redondo Beach lines were steadily losing money, making the purchasing of new equipment and schedule increases rather dubious. He indicated the company would be glad to substitute buses for passenger facilities on these routes, using the rails chiefly for freight hauls. The buses would run much more frequently than the present train service, it was indicated.

Mayor Colfax Bell of Redondo Beach presided at the session after it was opened by Earl Jacobs, president of the Gardena Valley Improvement association, the group which arranged the conference. Torrance representatives were City Attorney C. T. Rippy, Councilman Thomas McGuire, DeKalb Spurlin, director of the Chamber of Commerce, and L. J. Gilmeister, secretary of the chamber.

Will Meet Again

Smith declared that the only possible solution to the transportation problems put before him by the various cities in this area, problems which involved better maintenance of tracks, replacement of outmoded equipment and schedule increases and improvements, was to replace or augment present rail service with bus lines.

Members of the inter-city group heartily concurred in the P. E. plan and agreed to meet with Smith again when the figures were ready on the bus proposal. A vote of thanks was given the rail company officials for their co-operation.

R. R. Crossing Study to Open Soon In County

Study of all railroad crossings in the county will be started July 1 by the Regional Planning Commission, to determine which should be closed to public use in the interests of safety.

In a recent opinion of the California Supreme Court, upholding the authority of the State Railroad Commission to order railroad crossings closed, brought the matter to a head locally this week. The supervisors were advised of the matter by the State Chamber of Commerce, and immediately ordered the planning commission to make the survey.

There are approximately 3,500 crossings at the grade in the county, many of which should be eliminated because they are extremely dangerous, according to J. A. Mellen, office engineer for the commission. Grade separations were planned under the Federal Emergency Public Works program at many locations, but not all of them were realized.

Fire Chief Urges Better Protection

Three reccommendations by Fire Chief A. B. Stevenson to the city council Tuesday night were referred to the Fire committee for action. They were: (1) installation of four additional fireplugs in Walteria; (2) painting the curb red in front of plugs on Ward street in the same section, and, (3) clear away debris to permit easy access to plugs at 236th and 240th and Hawthorne.

Mrs. Curtiss Home With Daughter Now

Mrs. Charles A. Curtiss returned to her home at 1321 Engracia avenue yesterday afternoon with her daughter, born May 27 at Jared Sidney Torrance Memorial hospital with the aid of a Caesarian section. Both Mrs. Curtiss and the baby are making a steady gain.

Million Dollar Factory to Rise Near Torrance

The Harbor district's claim to industrial supremacy in the Southland was augmented late last week with the announcement that the Johns-Manville corporation has purchased a 50-acre tract at Alameda avenue and 183d street. Construction of a million-dollar factory is to begin in the near future, according to Franklin Shuey, vice-president in charge of west coast operations.

The price paid for the factory site was not disclosed by the firm of O'Melveney, Tuller & Myers, legal representatives, who handled the transaction.

The new plant will specialize in the manufacture of rock wool home insulation and transit pipe for Pacific Coast consumption. In the past these products have been made by the firm only in its middle west and eastern plants.

Will Employ 300

Construction of the first unit of the new factory is scheduled to start at an early date, according to Shuey, with completion expected during the early months of 1938.

Employment for approximately 300 men will be provided by the factory as soon as it is completed, Shuey said.

Tax Canvass Completed

The annual field canvass for the assessment of personal property and the return of real estate has been completed, it was announced today by Ed W. Hopkins, county assessor. All temporary branch offices have been closed.

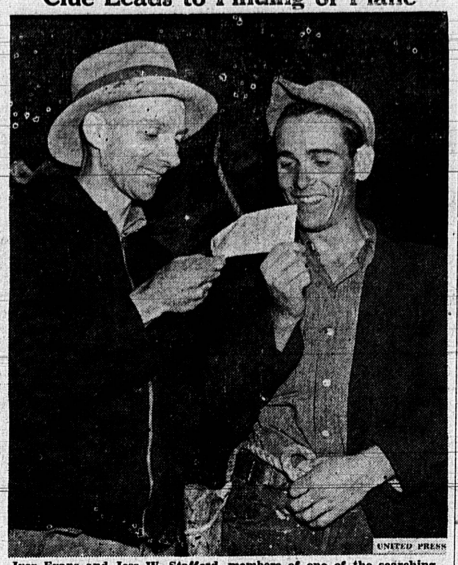
Taxpayers who have not yet made a return to the assessor should do so at their earliest convenience at the main office of the assessor at the Hall of Justice, Los Angeles, or at 820 South Beacon street in San Pedro.

There still are a large number of veterans who have not yet filed their claims for exemption, according to John W. Hartman, chief deputy. Such claims must be filed before July 3 if they are to receive the $1,000 property exemption for the next year, which will mean some $40 on their tax bill. A new claim must be made each year by veterans.

Pass Law Permitting Service Station

Ordinance number 294, rezoning property at Cravens avenue and Torrance boulevard to permit the erection of a service station on one of the corners was adopted on its second reading at city council meeting Tuesday night.

Clue Leads to Finding of Plane



UNITED PRESS

Ivor Evans and Jess W. Stafford, members of one of the searching parties which found the lost Western Air Express plane in the mountains of South Utah, look over a letter picked up just prior to the discovery of the plane. The find spurred searchers on and shortly thereafter the plane, all seven of its occupants dead since their crash last winter, was found on Lake Hardy Peak.

GARBAGE LAW EFFECTIVE ON FIRST OF MONTH

All hog-ranch owners in Torrance have been notified, City Clerk A. H. Bartlett told the city council Tuesday night, that the ordinance banning transportation of garbage thru the city goes into effect July 1. This measure was passed to bring about the abandonment of hog ranches here, an industry which has been under fire for several years.

Romance By Wireless

CORINNA, Me. (U.P.)—Clarence Stone was a modern Romeo. He wooed and won Miss Doris M. Fenwick of Hampton, N. B., by short-wave radio.

City Hall dangerous

NEW PHILADELPHIA, O. (U.P.)—City council recently heard complaints about the tower on the city building, from which, in one evening, six loose bricks fell to the sidewalk. The structure has been condemned for 16 years.

Hot Weather Halts Aqueduct Work in Desert Sections

Checking of 221 miles of completed main line aqueduct to their credit, Metropolitan Aqueduct workmen today suspended "open work" concreting operations for the summer months on the desert sections of the giant waterway. Temperatures that are rising above the 100 degree mark make it necessary to defer the balance of this type of work until next fall.

Being built to carry a thousand million gallons of water a day across the state of California, the aqueduct is now in its fifth year of construction. Divided into two principal features, the 242-mile main aqueduct and a 150-mile distributing system, the entire project is now more than 62 percent completed.

Less than ten miles of conduits and siphons remain to be constructed on the main aqueduct which extends from the Colorado river to the Cajalco reservoir, near Riverside. In addition to the work on the main line, 43 miles of huge pipe lines and tunnels have been completed on the distributing system.

FINAL FORUM

The final meeting of the Torensic Forum, a high school group, was held Monday night with Mrs. Young in charge.