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TWO SECTIONS
16 PAGES
THIS ISSUE

TWENTY-THIRD YEAR—No. 29. SECTION A

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, JULY 29, 1937

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DEAN SEARS HEADS GROUP OF PLAYERS

Anticipating a pleasant fall and winter of theatrical activity which will include not only the study and presentation of recognized stage attractions but also the production of original manuscripts, the Torrance Community Players were formed here Monday night at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Willis Brooks.

A group of local residents who are interested in dramatics elected Dean Sears, president; Hugh Barnes, vice-president; Lil-



DEAN SEARS
...president of Players

lian Barrington, secretary; Dulcie Brooks, librarian; Willis Brooks, director, and Ray Brooks, business manager of The Players. By-laws of the group are now being drafted by Willis and Ray Brooks, who were appointed to perform this duty by President Sears.

Members are to be admitted as needed or from applications and The Players aim to produce plays, study theatre arts and write and produce plays within the group. There will be a number of public presentations interspersed with productions for the entertainment and instruction of members alone. Groups are to be formed for the study of "stage settings, costumes, make-up, direction and other allied fields of the theatre."

Torrance had a similar organization about 10 years ago, old files of The Herald reveal and at that time it was reasonably successful. Then the interest lagged and finally the amateur actors disbanded. The Players hope to form a representative company here so that every member will find some aspect of the stage work of absorbing interest and thus maintain a thriving organization.

City Dance Set for Saturday

A public dance, sponsored by the city of Torrance, will be held at the Civic Auditorium Saturday night, July 31. The music will be furnished by Ray Dietrick's swing band and the admission will be 25 cents per person.

It is hoped that the attendance will justify the continuance of the "city dances" with music by top-notch orchestras. The city recreation department is making arrangements.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING
Members of the city council will gather at the city hall at 4:45 next Tuesday afternoon for an adjourned regular session.

Girl Falls Down 300-Foot Cliff; Rescued by Father

A fall down a 300-foot cliff on the Mt. Wilson trail suffered by five-year-old Jacqueline Fritts and her father's plunge after her last Thursday resulted in the little girl's suffering severe lacerations and bruises and a nerve-racking hour for Glen Fritts of 21318 Western avenue. Jacqueline is being treated for her injuries by a local physician.

Glen Fritts and his daughter were returning down the Mt. Wilson trail above Sierra Madre when the accident occurred. The little girl had gone ahead a short distance and when Fritts rounded a curve on the path he did not see the child. Looking down the rocky cliff, he was astounded to see his daughter rolling down the declivity.

He leaped after her and almost succeeded in catching hold

Moose Drill Team Wins State Title

Picture of the championship drill team is on Page 3

With the snap and precision of West Point cadets, trim and smart in their new uniforms with the name of their chapter prominently displayed, the drill team of Torrance chapter, No. 44, Women of the Moose, swung thru the intricate maze of march formations last Sunday morning in Sacramento's Senator hotel.

Although the local team was the last to appear on the competitive program, it captured the keen interest of 1,000 women and 700 men watching the rigorous inspection for the state championship. Without a mistake, without a single fault, the Torrance women, captained by Zoe Deithers and led by Irene Wilkes and Marie Humer, proceeded to capture that high honor.

The team competed against the crack drill teams from Maywood, San Francisco, Long Beach and Westwood chapters. Announcement of the Torrance victory was greeted by salvos of applause which gave ample testimony that the local women's expert performance met with popular favor. Members of the team are Ruth Kidd, Emma Mackey, Olive Javens, Katherine and Lillian Gossiaux and Mae Bodiford with Augusta Barnett as substitute.

A beautiful plaque which was presented to the team in token of its excellence is now being engraved and will be placed on display at the Chamber of Commerce when it arrives here. Those attending the Moose convention with the team were Mr. Deithers, T. J. Wilkes, S. C. Humer, Ralph Howe, Mr. and Mrs. Humer, and Mrs. Bailey and family.

PONS PLANS NEW PLANT

Purchase of the two-story building at 1610 Cabrillo avenue, next to Ed Thompson's Chevrolet agency, was announced yesterday by Max Pons, who also revealed that he has become "completely disassociated from the firm known as the Pons Corporation" which is located below the P. E. station on 21st Street. The purchase price of the building, 30 by 70 feet, was not disclosed but J. C. Smith of the Torrance Investment company handled the deal.

The Max Pons company, is now remodeling the structure, preparatory to moving in machinery, which is now stored here, for the manufacture of straw mosaic and inlay patterns in finished products of baskets, coasters, a variety of permanent display, calendar racks and display backgrounds. Production is expected to start this week.

Products are Hand-Made
Pons claims to be the inventor and originator of the product known all over the world except in the United States as "Stroh-moskalk." His patents on this invention, which incorporates the use of a hand-cut straw im-

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of her dress but was unable to check the child's plunge. She finally rolled to the bottom of a canyon and when Fritts reached her she was unconscious. He obtained water from a small stream and brought her to and then attempted to find a way out of the canyon. He was blocked in this because it was boxed at both ends.

Then Fritts started back up the cliff, carrying and lifting the injured girl. This proved a terrific strain on both the father and his daughter but they finally reached the trail and Fritts then carried his daughter to the outskirts of Sierra Madre. He was nearly exhausted. Little Jacqueline is reported making a rapid recovery but she doesn't want to go mountain hiking again for a long, long time.

C.I.O. Loses at Nat'l Supply

SRA May Take Crossing Guards

All school crossing guard positions are expected to be taken out of the hands of the WPA soon and placed under the direction of the SRA, working thru the Sheriff's office, according to reports from Los Angeles this week.

Each city in the county is to make its request for a quota of crossing guards. Men will be sent to local police stations, it is said, where they will be fingerprinted, photographed and questioned. All with police records will be refused for duty.

This change is made because of the several recent moral cases involving WPA crossing guards. The slaying of three Inglewood girls allegedly by Albert Dyer, a WPA guard in that community, was followed by asserted improper advances made by a crossing guard in Gardena and one in Gardena. The Gardena offender, 62 years old, was sentenced to one and one-half years in jail after four little girls had related stories of his misconduct.

WATER PLAN HITS SNAG

"Let's call the whole thing off!" are more than words of a popular song to a number of North-Torrance residents who heard City Engineer Frank R. Leonard explain at city council meeting Tuesday night what he believes is the most feasible plan to give the city domestic water service. Because Leonard reported that it would cost the residents living in a district 600 feet each side of Arlington avenue near 182nd street approximately \$10,949 for water, they indicated in no uncertain terms that they wanted to "call the whole thing off."

However, several of the North-Torrance folk who have been conducting the campaign to obtain water service for the past several months said even at that figure the benefits which would accrue to the district would more than offset the expense of installing the eight and six-inch water lines.

Because of this difference in opinion, another meeting is planned by those interested in the water problem for next Tuesday night, August 3, at 7:30 o'clock in the city council chamber to consider Leonard's plan further. All North-Torrance residents in the proposed water district are urged to attend this session, which will be devoted entirely to their interests. Members of the city council, Engineer Leonard and City Attorney C. T. Rippey will attend but it will not be a council meeting.

Said "Too Elaborate"
Leonard's plan includes a hookup with the Moneta Mutual Water company's 12-inch main as the source of supply. No election will be held to determine whether or not such a water district will be created but a public hearing (in addition to the one next Tuesday night) will be held when it may be accepted or rejected by a majority of interested property owners.

The principal objection Tuesday night to Leonard's plan was that it was "too elaborate." It included laying a main eight-inch line down Arlington, re-

New License Law Awaits Action

City Attorney C. T. Rippey reported to the city council Tuesday night that he had completed drafting a revised ordinance for license fees to be charged used car dealers. The council, on account of the pressure of other business, decided to hold over discussion of this matter until next week.

The new license law was prepared in response to a petition presented last week by six local automobile agencies who asked the city to raise the fee to \$200 per year for firms dealing exclusively in used cars.

WORKERS ENDORSE OWN LOCAL UNION

First major reversal to the C.I.O.'s penetration of local industry occurred last Thursday when 704 of the National Supply Company's 1,100 employees participated in an election that favored the Employees' Association over the John L. Lewis Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers of North America, Lodge No. 1023.

The official result of the vote was:

For Employees' Association 366
For the C. I. O. union 322

Conducted under the auspices of the National Labor Relations Board, the election was open to every worker in the National Supply's plant, warehouse, yard, field shop and production office. It was a secret ballot, with voters participating along the lines of any local, county, state or national election.

Is Independent Group
It is reported that 718 workers were entitled to vote in the election. There were 688 votes adjudged valid. Thirteen "working-foremen," men who follow the regular production schedule but who assist in directing other workers, were challenged by C. I. O. observers at the polls. The N. L. R. B. representatives conducting the election recognized the challenges and refused the 13 ballots. Two blank ballots were found during the count and one ballot was held void.

The Employees' Association, which held the scant majority of 44 votes, is an independent organization and has no connection with any other union group. It is headed by two committees, of which L. B. Babcock is chairman of both. A general committee of 42 representatives of all departments, receives any grievances or suggestions for improvement of

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8 STRIKERS IN COURT

Contempt citations against eight former employees of the Torrance Laundry and Dry Cleaning company, four of whom paid fines after previous convictions on similar charges, were being disposed of Wednesday and today in Los Angeles county Superior court.

Testimony in defense of three of the defendants, Ethel Kirk, Emma Allgood and Gladys Brownlee, occupied the entire day Wednesday in Superior Judge Joseph W. Vickers' courtroom. The first two defendants had been cited for contempt about two weeks ago.

The other four defendants are Blanche Cunningham, Archie Snow, Eva Roseman and Virgil Shinn; Shinn and Miss Roseman having been found guilty of contempt previously, according to court records.

Report Charges Dropped
A late report this afternoon from the courtroom indicated that it was doubtful the case would end today. Testimony as to the actions of four or five of the defendants remained to be taken and one witness was still

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Artist Making Thousands of Sketches at Columbia Steel

An artist employed to follow his art at the Columbia Steel Plant?

Impossible! That's what a Herald reporter thought when he was writing the story about C. H. Daniels' series of hand-carved wood panels on display last week at the Redondo theatre.

But Daniels is employed in that capacity at the local steel plant and, even after completing more than 3,500 sketches there, expects to continue his art work to 1940.

In a letter to The Herald, Artist Daniels expressed his thanks for the story published about his wood-carving works in last week's paper and revealed his present occupation—unique in California industry.

COMMANDER



GRANT BARKDULL
... ex-mess sergeant

With the Wilmington post's crack drill team serving as honorary escorts to the recently-elected officers, Bert S. Crossland post of the American Legion will change commands here next Tuesday night. L. G. Barkdull will succeed Pat Boyle as commander of the local unit of ex-service men.

The district commander is expected to be present at the Legion hall to install Barkdull and his staff for 1937-38. The staff will be composed of Charles Myers, first vice-commander; Dewey Goddard, second vice-commander; H. C. Bender, sergeant-at-arms; James Wilkes, chaplain; Lytle Doan, finance officer; Louis Deininger, historian; and Tom Babbitt, adjutant.

Members of the executive committee for the coming year are: Boyle, William H. Stanger and James Burchett.

Commander-elect Barkdull was in service about four months during the World War but he saw quite a bit of territory. He was a mess-sergeant and trained at Camp Lewis in Washington. Later he was transferred to Ft. Stephens in the Coast Artillery. When the Armistice ended the war he was in Newport News, Va., awaiting transportation to France.

New Social Club Is Incorporated

Articles of incorporation for the Torrance Social club, listing Bert M. Sharron, John Murray and J. J. Hornback of Torrance as directors, have been issued by the secretary.

Other directors are listed as Vern Kirk and Mark Jones both of San Diego. There is no capital stock.

Gang Purge Opens in L. A. as Gun Victim Gains Here

Bruneman Covers Up on Removal from City

Gripping a sheet tight about his face so that only his bald pate was exposed to the glare of four L. A. news photographers' flash bulbs, George (Les) Bruneman was wheeled out of the hospital here this afternoon, placed in an ambulance and rushed to the Queen of the Angels hospital in Los Angeles. He uttered no sound, not even to the entreaties of reporters to "get out from behind the sheet, Les, this won't hurt you." The removal of the gambler was made on the signed order from District Attorney Burren Fitts and Capt. Wm. Penphraze, whose letter to Miss Esther Z. Maxwell, hospital superintendent, stated that the "request is made for the preservation of his (Bruneman's) life and health."

Two deputy sheriffs, who have been guarding the gambler's victim here, accompanied the ambulance to Los Angeles.

The switch in hospitals was made at the request of Mrs. Bruneman, who obtained the order from the district attorney last night. Bruneman did not want to leave the Torrance hospital, it was learned, and refused to sign the release order. Mrs. Bruneman would be nearer for her, and Bruneman's relatives. Even the gambler's physician objected to the change in hospitals, it is understood, preferring the local institution to "any in Los Angeles."

Los Angeles city and county authorities, reform groups, grand jury, state attorney-general's office and scores of other individuals, law-and-order groups and plain "publicity seekers" flooded the pages of the metropolitan press this week with statements, conjectures and hopeful remarks concerning "the most intensive clean-up drive" in the history of the county and the man who caused all was resting quietly today at Jared Sidney Torrance Memorial hospital.

HIGH HONOR PAID LOCAL CLUBWOMAN

Seventy delegates elected from the 23 units of the American Legion Auxiliary that comprise



LUCILLE LEWELLEN
... first from Torrance

The 19th District met in Whittier Wednesday and elected Lucille Lewellen, past president of Bert S. Crossland Unit 170 as their president for the ensuing year.

Mrs. Lewellen will be installed at the department convention to be held in Stockton, August 9, 10 and 11. Cora Dunn of Redondo Beach, was elected to serve as first vice-president. Fan Wilkes will be appointed by Mrs. Lewellen to serve as district secretary. It was learned today by The Herald.

Mrs. Lewellen's election to the highest office in the district comes as a reward for her untiring service during the past few years. She was unopposed for the office, having earned the high esteem of all with whom she has associated when in 1935 she served as president of Torrance Unit and attended all district meetings. The following year she served as educational chairman for the district and

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Despite reports in Los Angeles papers that George Lester (Les) Bruneman, now a "beach city underworld czar" in the big dailies, was "making a fight for life," hospital attendants merely said that he was "showing good progress." He is believed out of danger. Bruneman hasn't talked yet and no one outside of a few police officials and one or two intimate friends have been allowed to see him.

Saturday his "guard" was changed for the second time—by command of Sheriff Eugene W. Biscailuz. Instead of the "private detectives," successors of the "muscle-men" who flocked to the hospital here the night of July 19 when Bruneman was shot in the back by two gunmen still at large, there are a couple of deputy sheriffs in uniform at the entrance outside his door. The weekend man was placed under "technical arrest" Saturday morning and the self-styled "private detectives" departed.

Fitts' Statement Is Model
Their leaving was a signal to droves of "Bruneman friends" who had thronged the hospital for days, eager to learn the latest about the gambler's condition. Those friends have not called at the hospital since and, if one is to believe the metropolitan press, several of them are "urgently wanted" by county authorities for questioning.

Meanwhile, the grand jury opened its widely-heralded probe into the "two-million-dollar-a-week gambling racket" and the salvo of statements concerning the eastern gamblers converging on Southern California field began. Just about everyone who bears an official title has leaped into print with quotations, based more or less on District Attorney Burren Fitts' pronouncement. This, in part, was:

"This Bruneman mystery is not just another shooting. We want to clear it up for more than one reason. We want to serve notice on outside gun mobs that there is no place for them in Los Angeles county."

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Firemen Complete Work on Second Floor Quarters

Firemen on duty at central station looked more like painters and carpenters' assistants than "smoke-eaters" early this week as they "chipped in" and completed the work of renovating the second floor of their headquarters to make that one-time location of city offices their sleeping headquarters.

As result of their assistance, the upper floor was ready for occupancy tonight and if any alarm comes in, they will put the new steel (not brass) pole to good use as they slide down stairs to mount the fire trucks.

Fire Chief A. D. Stevenson pointed out that the benefit sleeping quarters and are moving their beds upstairs from the main floor "dormitory" today.

planned to raise a fund to purchase recreational facilities for the new "firemen's hotel." All other equipment is furnished either by the men themselves or the city. The dance fund will permit the firemen to buy sports equipment and games to be installed in one room of the new upstairs quarters.

Where once the city clerk, building department, city engineer and city council held forth—before the new city hall was built—the firemen have remodelled and renovated the rooms to provide light and airy sleeping quarters and are moving their beds upstairs from the main floor "dormitory" today.

Mayor and Fire Chief to Attend Spokane Meet

Mayor William H. Tolson, as fire commissioner, and Fire Chief A. D. Stevenson will attend the Pacific Coast Association of Fire Chiefs' convention at Spokane, Aug. 13-14, with all expenses paid by the city. They were authorized to attend the gathering, which is to be addressed by experts in fire prevention and fighting, by the city council Tuesday night.

Included in the itinerary of the delegates will be a trip to the Grand Coulee Dam in Washington. There will also be demonstrations by fire fighting units from several Pacific Coast cities.