

# SHOP TALK

By RAY BROOKS

## PHONE FINDINGS

When the 1938 telephone directory comes out around the first of the year Torrance citizens will blink their eyes, gape incredulously at the columns wherein will be listed Torrance's first four digit telephone numbers. Already have been assigned new subscribers, but the one that has come to my attention is number 1071, the figures plastered on the buzzer recently installed in the new Buick sales rooms, the Prewett Auto Sales, over on Cabrillo avenue. Mr. Prewett, a retired naval officer, is sitting patiently, getting up steam for the new Buicks that are due soon. He comes from Virginia, was never in Torrance until he heard about it thru a friend, visited the town to sum up possibilities for an agency.

Evidently he found them to his liking.

**CANNED CANDOR**

Into my hand yesterday L. C. Doan, owner of Doan's Associated Market, plunked a can of oysters (advertised in today's Herald) on which was the inscription:

"Men and women will find oysters give them increased energy and a renewed interest in life."

## TORRANCE TEXAN

With a typically Texan moniker and a tell-tale Texan drawl as heavy as a Texan dust storm, Bill Zachary started to work last Monday for Carl Paxman up & coming young hardware merchant. Bill, here only a short time from Dallas, worked for several years in the hardware business, promises to be a big help to Carl who has pyramided his business to a point where a helper was necessary.

"Texas" Bill lives in Torrance, is married and has a "Lone Star" in his firmament—a girl aged four.

**PIANO PROGRESS**

So long ago that I've even forgotten the difference between crescendo and purissimo I thumped and banged about a piano keyboard in a valiant but wasted effort to at least learn to play the "Over the Waves Waltz." My music prof. was a sour-pussed, hawk-faced female whose long neck hung over my shoulder like a pelican diving for smelt and whose agility was positively astounding. When my erring fingers smashed the wrong key out of nowhere would come a long pencil that fell with sharp crack across my knuckles.

Kids are still trying to play "Over the Waves Waltz" or its equivalent but not the same are music teachers nor methods. As up to date as streamlined cars and 21 passenger airplanes, for example, is the system taught by Mrs. Kathryn Buffington, local teacher with a music degree from Washington State College and many years of teaching, seven of them in Torrance.

Mrs. Buffington starts classes this week, has many pupils who got far beyond the "Over the Waves Waltz" stage, have become accomplished players. She has piano pounders of all ages, says adults are more interested than before. Truth is, if I had a piano and had the time to practice and had the insignificant price of the lessons I would take up where I left off, providing, of course, I could get a written guarantee of no knuckle-cracking.

## LESLIE PRINCE

...one of the few native Californians, who, like his father, was born in redwood country near Santa Cruz. Les owns and operates the Beacon Drug Co., graduated from the school of pharmacy at U. S. C. in 1919, has been behind a drug counter since 1914. Was shuffled into the infantry near the end of the war, got all excited, was never out of the States.

Les loves any kind of sport. He goes fishing whenever it is possible, likes to go hunting, too. Shoots around 90 in golf, is one of the Torrance tennis players who are now engaged in a racket & ball tournament with teams from other towns.

Five and a half years ago Les came to Torrance from Wilmington, where he worked in the Beacon Drug there. He is married, of course, has two children who are getting up in age and size. He is a Rotarian and on the board of directors.

Only one of his eccentricities with which I am familiar (we all have 'em) is his antipathy for liquors in any form. Asked why he did not more prominently display his liquor stock he replied that he "just as soon make a counter display of narcotics!"

# Torrance Herald

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## DERBY ENTRIES TO CLOSE SATURDAY

### Soap Box Racers Must Sign Up

Boys in Torrance, Lomita, Welteria, Harbor City, Wilmington, San Pedro and other nearby communities who intend to participate in the qualifying races of the Harbor District Soap Box Derby, to be held here Sept. 25, must enter the big junior sports event not later than Saturday noon.

This was emphasized today by Judge Robert Lessing, chairman of the Derby which will be held on Sepulveda west of Hawthorne avenue. He urges every youngster planning to compete with his home-made speedster for an attractive array of prizes to let him or Michael Straszer, city editor of The Herald, know by that time so arrangements can be made for division of the racers into heats.

About 20 local boys have already signed up to enter the qualifying races that will be held Saturday, Sept. 25. The finals will be held on Sepulveda boulevard, Oct. 2, and at that time the first and second place winners of the two age divisions from each community will drive for prizes.

**Free Lumber Offered**

It was reported this week from San Pedro that Clyde Lowell, car dealer in that city, has arranged to secure a quantity of shining helmets for the use of all Derby entrants. Each community will also accumulate awards for its semi-final winners.

Some boy who has a lot of "Dividend Dough" realized by his parents' or friends' purchases in local stores is going to receive a complete set of Goodrich rubber-tired and ball-bearing wheels and axles for his "car" Saturday night at the "Dividend Dough" auction in front of the Torrance theatre, starting at 7 o'clock. This gift will be "sold" by Harvel's Service station to the highest bidder in Share Shekels.

Lomita boys are greatly interested in the Soap Box Derby. They have held two meetings to discuss building plans for their cars and the following business men have offered prizes: Shank's Economy store; Lomita Home Appliance company.

### WPA Offers Class In Contract Bridge

A six weeks' course in contract bridge is offered residents of this district by the WPA in cooperating with the Los Angeles county recreation department. The first class will be held Friday, Sept. 17, at 8 p. m., in the Woman's clubhouse, Pearl and Broadway, Redondo Beach. Classes will be conducted each Friday thereafter at the same place under the direction of a certified Culbertson system instructor. The course is offered without charge to those enrolling.

### Revive Hit Musical by Local Cast

By popular demand, a return engagement of the tenuous musical production, "Love's in the Air," will be staged as a benefit for the Torrance Woman's club Friday night, Sept. 24, in the Civic Auditorium. Mrs. Lillian Barrington, club president, said today that special admissions have been planned, students' prices being 25 cents and adults may see the hilarious comedy at the bargain rate of 49 cents.

Mr. and Mrs. Lucien Denni, noted production team who directed the first presentation of "Love's in the Air" here July 22 and 23, will return to Torrance to revive the cast that scored such a hit and drill the singers, dancers and actors anew for their roles.

Most of the original cast will be seen in the "demand" performances Sept. 24 and there will be several added specialties. One of these will be James Wilkes in an eccentric dance and songs. The leading roles will again be taken by Conrad Gray, baritone, and Doris Roche, Hermosa Beach soprano. Announcement will be made of the complete cast next week, Mrs. Barrington said. All of the proceeds will be used for maintenance of the Woman's clubhouse and the tickets will be placed on advance sale at once.

### Ride the Rising Tide of Advancing Real Estate ...

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### Torrance Day at Fair Next Sunday, 19th

All indications—public interest, Pacific Electric advance ticket sales and announced plans for attendance—point to a record delegation of Torrance folk at the Los Angeles county fair in Pomona on Sunday, Sept. 19, which will be "Torrance Day" at the great exposition.

The special P. E. excursion rate of \$1.85 per person, which includes admission to the fair grounds, is luring a large number to the fair on that day, according to W. H. Bratton, local railway agent. The special red cars, with the Torrance Municipal band aboard, will leave the P. E. station here at 9:30 o'clock Sunday morning and will go direct to the fair grounds in Pomona.

Those participating in the railway excursion trip will have the option of returning on the special train or at any time they desire on regularly scheduled trains with connections at Los Angeles. The city band will give a concert enroute to the fair and will also appear on the auditorium stage there between 2 and 3:30 o'clock Sunday afternoon.

**Get Tickets Now!**

George Watson, director of the band, has been practicing the organization of musicians in some exceptionally fine numbers for the Pomona engagement.

The Sunday "date" is regarded by Secretary L. J. Gilmeister as one of the best "spots" on the entire fair program that will run to Oct. 3. The band will wear its new white uniforms for the first time and its appearance should result in much favorable publicity for this city.

Fred Ralston, who has been working on the aqueduct is visiting with his mother at 1667 Gramercy avenue, this week.

### VERSATILE MISS BEGINS SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

This cap-and-gowned young lady is Miss Midge Higgins who began her administration as president of the Torrance high school student body with the opening of the 1937-38 term Monday.



Midge is one of the most versatile girls in the Torrance institution and her direction of student activities this year is expected to be an outstanding success.

Last year she served as commissioner of entertainment, was a member of the student control board, pepped up the student body as one of the song leaders, was president of the Girls' Athletic association, editor of the Flame and a member of the scholarship society.

**Leaves Big Family**

WINTERSTOWN, Pa. (U.P.) here, left 167 direct descendants.

### County's New Law Affecting Drunks Effective Oct. 2

Oct. 2 is the effective date of the county's new ordinance prohibiting drunkenness in unincorporated territory, according to action of the board of supervisors.

A new section has been added to the old county ordinance prohibiting any intoxicated person from appearing in any public place or place open to view. The amended ordinance reads:

"It shall be unlawful for any intoxicated person, willingly to appear, remain or be in or on any open place open to public view in any store, railway depot, stadium or other place to which the public is admitted or invited, or in or on any private premises or in any private house to the annoyance of any other person."

### Near and Far

LAWTON, Okla. (U.P.)—For 20 years Ralph DeWitt Cook, a cream buyer, lived within a short distance of Ralph DeWitt Cook, a carpenter, before they finally got acquainted through a case of mistaken identity.

### Three Out of Four Steel Men Own Autos

Steel workers have apparently chosen automobile driving as their favorite leisure time activity. Three out of four steel workers now own cars, according to an estimate by the American Iron and Steel Institute based on information obtained from representative steel plants in Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia.

Of the 150,000 steel workers covered by the study, approximately 117,000 owned passenger cars, it was indicated. If the ratio of car ownership found in these representative steel plants holds good throughout the industry, approximately 400,000 of the 533,000 steel workers now own cars.

Steel employees drive extensively, not only on the open road but also to work from their homes, which are now generally located farther from the mills than when automobile ownership was less widespread.

## ANNOUNCING

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AND OCT. 1st

TORRANCE CIVIC AUDITORIUM