

# SHOP TALK

## COLOSSAL CONTEST

Swamped and buried beneath an avalanche of entries of every size, shape and kind was The Herald this week as hundreds of the local citizenry answered last week's "Scrambled Words" contest—a contest designed to stimulate interest in and publicity for the President's Birthday Ball for the fight against infantile paralysis, to be held next Saturday night at the Hollywood Riviera.

Plenty of hard work and long hours went into the many solutions received. Many were tied with fancy colored ribbon, many typewritten, others were in longhand. Some in ink, some in pencil. Some were cleverly cartooned. Some wrote business slogans beneath each firm name.

By a large most of the entries were "unscrambled" correctly. But most of them were ruled out thru pure carelessness on the part of the contestant. They had to be discarded because of commas and apostrophes omitted, words misspelled, words incorrectly grouped.

Most common of the errors included spelling of "Harriett Leach, Flowers". Dozens of contestants left off the last "t". "Jake Lepkin, Tailor" was another hard one. "Jack Lepkin, Tailor" and "Jack Lepkin Tailor" were on quite a few entries. "Ed Torrence Club" also stumped a good many. They insisted on spelling "Torrence" with an "e". Another florist in Torrence had a sticker. "William E. Wylam" is owner of the Poppy Flower Shop and his name came in spelled a dozen different ways.

Sorry is The Herald that all couldn't win. But to the winners our congratulations and to the losers... better luck next time.

Amiable young Jim Rahl, manager of the Sartori Ave. Safeway (and incidentally doing a good job as general chairman of the President's Ball for his 20-30 club) has asked a sign in the vegetable dept. over the tender skinned avocados—"Please, No Touches."

## JUNE IN JANUARY

If these beastly, balmy June breezes don't begin to subside we'll have to take it up with the Miami Chamber of Commerce. My winter flannel underwear itches like the devil these days and my long flannel night shirt darn near suffocates me. Why, just today, I thought seriously of trotting out some white shoe cleaner and putting a bit of a polish on my white button shoes. Not only that, but my house is full of flies and the kitchen's full of ants and our mammoth (3 foot) peach tree is gettin' all primed to bust out in bloom. They say weather comes in cycles. This is no cycle. This is a merry-go-round.

## GREATEST GRIPE

This week's Greatest Gripe goes to the Simple Cinema Saps who harangue the State Vehicle Department for license plates that correspond to their phone numbers, street numbers, lucky numbers, dog's license numbers, and What Have You! Out of the murky depths of understanding comes the belief that there is some honor or distinction in being able to ask for and get a special number. But if there's an honor attached then I'm sure it's mighty obscure & worthless.

Suppose all car owners in California sent to Sacramento for such special favors. The joint would be swamped. We'd get our 1938 plates in 1943. But just to show these Hollywood Hairbrains a thing or two or three about requesting special numbers, next year I'm going to demand this nifty: NK-15 1/2 SL-35. This is the size shirt I wear. NK-15 1/2 means size 15 1/2 neck. SL-35 is the sleeve length. Or again I might write for something like this: CH-10 SH-12 WA-340 TIS-35. It means the size suit I wear. CH-42 SH-42 SL-42 WA-34 Trousers In-Seam-35.

I'll bet that would stop 'em. FIX 'EM UP STANLEY. Now operating at 1318 Sartori, in the building formerly occupied by the National Home Appliance Co., is young Stanley Gilbert. Stanley will maintain a repair service and fix 'em up business and guarantee to mend any and all vacuum cleaners, washing machines, refrigerators, and all sundry and divers small electrical appliances. Stanley, quite skilled in mechanics, will share working space with Radio Repairman N. A. Collins, who has been in this shop for some time.

# TORRANCE HERALD

TWENTY-FOURTH YEAR

TORRANCE, CALIF., JAN. 27, 1938

SECTION B

## NEFF BUILDING 100,000 BOXES HERE

### Ex-Kaiser, 79, Still Active Woodchopper

DOORN, Jan. 27 (U.P.)—Wilhelm Hohenzollern, 20 years ago war lord of imperial Germany, today celebrated his 79th birthday as a white-bearded country gentleman.

Princess Hermine, as she has done every year since she joined him 15 years ago, was the first to congratulate him. The ex-kaiser's second wife is 29 years his junior.

A year ago, Wilhelm spent his birthday with only his wife. Visitors were excluded on doctors' advice. The former emperor was then recovering from a severe attack of influenza which kept him in bed for three weeks.

Health Better Than In 1937. Today, however, his health is good and there were several guests at the castle. Each day of the new year has seen Wilhelm at his desk in the mornings dealing with correspondence. In the afternoons he devotes several hours to scientific studies.

He still keeps up the wood cutting for which his post-war years became famous. He spends about two hours a day felling trees and saving them into firelogs. He has exhausted all the timber available on his own estate and now motors over to the extensive forests of his friend Count Godart Bentinck of Amerongen, who lets Wilhelm cut and saw wood to his heart's content in the vast forest surrounding his castle.

It was Count Bentinck who offered hospitality to the fallen monarch in November, 1918, when Wilhelm fled from Germany. The Bentincks are one of the oldest and noblest families in Holland. One branch lives in Germany, another branch—the Dukes of Portland—has its seat in England.

Has Berlin Business Office. From that memorable day nearly 20 years ago, the ex-kaiser has been a busy man and has lived an active life. As head of the Hohenzollern family, he is consulted on all family affairs, personal and business. Most of his possessions are still in Germany, and with the many financial and other restrictions now in force in Nazi Germany, the management of this property often causes Wilhelm a great deal of trouble. To facilitate the management he has a business office in Berlin, in charge of Baron Von Sell.

Wilhelm still is strict in his habits. He never indulges in heavy or rich food. At luncheon and dinner he drinks only one glass of red wine. He does not smoke. He goes to bed early and arises early. He is punctual in his schedule and he expects the same punctuality from all members of his household.

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### Order Provides "Sideline" Job

Without any fanfare of publicity—until now—and still regarded by it's boss as a sideline, altho an important one, a new industry is progressing thru a large contract here.

It is the construction of more than 100,000 hardwood box containers for the Seven-Up Bottling company of Los Angeles by William J. Neff and his Torrance Oil Field Supply company at 1719 Carson street. During the past month, approximately 6,000 boxes were completed and shipped to the Los Angeles firm. Neff said this week that he expects to keep his box-making crew at steady work thru September to complete the order.

Using what he terms a "Rube Goldberg machine" of home-made construction to print the identifying names and addresses of the bottling company on the sides of the containers, Neff and crew are daily increasing production and soon expect to hit capacity. Just what "capacity" is, the young businessman does not know.

"We're stepping up our production steadily as we are getting more acquainted with our machinery and learning how to cut down on waste motion," he said. "Making these hardwood boxes we are using gumwood is quite different from ordinary wood containers such as are used for fruits and vegetables. In addition to nailing them together we are binding them with metal tape so they can take a lot of punishment and last longer."

Neff is not neglecting his oil field supply firm for the box-making work—not these days when the South Torrance field is teeming with activity. The two businesses are being conducted separately and, Bill Neff says, "are doing very well, thank you!"

### Six Patients Enter Hospital

Six new patients were received at Torrance Memorial hospital during the past week. They were: Olin Clark, Redondo, who was critically injured in an automobile accident outside of Torrance last Friday is reported to be making a good recovery from fractured ribs and a congested lung condition. John Grau, Redondo, entered last Thursday for medical treatment; Mrs. Elizabeth Gilmore, Hermosa, was received for surgery Sunday; Miss Catherine Owen, 17, of Redondo, entered Monday for surgery; Mrs. Elizabeth Peters, Hermosa, is recovering from an operation of last Thursday and Mrs. Alice Van Vleet, Gardena, entered Monday for medical observation.

### Californians Benefit From Old-Age Fund

The federal government made 2,427 payments, amounting to \$63,719.95, to Californians, their relatives or their estates during 1937 under terms of the government's old age insurance program. These payments averaged \$26.25 against a national average of \$24.

Two classes of claimants received benefits. These were estates or relatives of workers who died after making payments to the fund since Jan. 1, 1937, and those workers who reached 65 years of age since that day.

### Police Officers Plan Benefit Show Feb. 11

To institute a series of annual benefit shows, the Torrance Police Relief association has booked what the local officers proudly assert "will be the biggest entertainment in this city this year." Net proceeds from the entertainment, to be given Friday night, Feb. 11, at the Civic Auditorium, will be placed in a police welfare and relief fund.

Twelve acts of vaudeville, headlined by the tuneless Peter Sisters of radio and motion picture fame, a seven-piece orchestra and a "well-known movie star" for master-of-ceremonies is the show. All city police officers are now selling tickets for the gala presentation at 50 cents each. There will be no reserved seats.

The vaudeville acts, as announced by Police Chief G. M. Calder include Johnson and Johnson, comedy jugglers; Evelyn Farney, star tap dancer at the L. A. Paramount theatre; Fulton and Wells, streamlining athletes; Will Aubrey, an N.B.C. vocalist; the Janet Sisters, dancers; Frances Dexter, banjo plunker and acrobatic dancer; "Lasses and Honey," blackface comedians; Bill Passo and Company, lightning roller skating; Estis Campbell, a whistler and singer whose artistry has been screened by Walt Disney; Beeho Gray, "the original hill billy"; Velma Allen, "the Ringle 'Believe It or Not' Girl," and the Peter Sisters.

All the entertainers have been seen by members of the department who vouch for their entertainment value. Efforts to learn the name of the "movie star" who is to come to the show were fruitless this week, Chief Calder explaining that he could not reveal the celebrity until later.

### Dog Tax Office Located In Lomita

For the convenience of dog owners of Lomita, Jack Birkin, deputy field license collector from the office of Tax Collector N. L. Byram, will be at Gasser's garage, 2258 Lomita boulevard, each Saturday from 9 a. m. to 3 p. m. to collect the county dog license fees. This is the third year that the county has collected such a tax and rigid enforcement of its ordinance is planned.

### Tin-Safety-Hard Hats Boon to Oil-Workers

"Tin hats," popular name for the steel millinery of the World War, are now the latest-in-men's-headgear styles in the South Torrance oil field.

"Safety hats," they are called officially, and many an oil worker is thankful that the war led to the development of a protective top piece before something falling from an oil derrick selected him for target.

"Hard hats," as the oil men know them, have been put to the test. Recently a socket wrench weighing more than two pounds fell from 35 feet up in a derrick. The human target had a broken hat, but only a minor scalp wound.

Another worker was struck on the head by a 35-pound snatch block, which caromed among the braces and finally took a 13-foot direct drop.

Again the blow broke the helmet, while the worker escaped. Hard headed? Perhaps. But toes are something else again. The successful use of steel hats has encouraged the use of steel-toed shoes.

Plenty of pieces of heavy equipment around a rig to smash workers' toes as well as heads, and many a worker has 10 good toes today because he had one steel toe yesterday.

### Fingerprint Work Explained to 20-30

A detailed explanation of civilian fingerprinting for civil identification purposes was given members of the 20-30 club last week by Capt. John Stroth of the local police department. The club is shortly to institute a campaign for fingerprinting here.

### Judge Denies Probation Plea

His plea for probation denied, James Wilson, 36, 1323 Carson street, was sentenced to 25 days in the county jail last Friday morning by City Judge Robert Lessing. Wilson had been arrested with his 50-year-old brother, Bert Lee Wilson, an escaped inmate of Patton insane asylum, for driving while intoxicated.

Bert Lee Wilson was taken to the psychopathic ward at the county hospital at once instead of being held to await trial for being drunk in an auto. Brother James applied for probation after being sentenced early last week. He was taken to the county jail last Saturday to serve his 25-day term.

TOUR P. E. SHOPS. Nine Torrance high school boys, members of the machinists' class, toured the Pacific Electric shops last Friday afternoon with their instructor, L. E. Austin.

### Toot! Toot!



Mrs. Betty Grose, 24-year-old mother of five children, is confounding physicians in Oakland, Cal., where she has been sneezing for the past week. She sneezes every 20 seconds and every three minutes a shrill whistle emanates from one ear, where it is believed the sneezing has injured an ear drum.

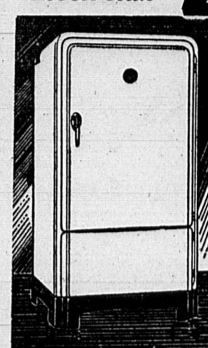
### R. R. Boosters Film Scenes At P. E. Shops

An old-time horse-car, stored in the paint shop of the Pacific Electric shops here, was the focal point of interest for 23 members of the Railroad Boosters club of Los Angeles when that group came to Torrance last Sunday on a special train.

Armed with many types of cameras, the visitors toured the shops "shooting" scenes that appealed to their fancies. Formed for the purpose of maintaining interest in railroad roads and making a pictorial record of railroad rolling stock and equipment, the club found the local shops well worth its attention.

The old horse-car still has periods of active service when it is rented out to motion picture companies desiring "shots" of early 1900 vintage.

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