TORRANCE HERALD

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RAY BROOKS

SHOP TALK

I TALK ABOUT MYSELF

Shop Talk's editor prepared himself & spouse last week-end for a whooping (and I DO mean whooping) 3-day holiday aboard the palatial & luxurious garbage barge, the Nadiene, whereon & wherein much fun & frolic was to have taken place.

Nadiene Is Nawgood

Now Ye Goode Ship Nadiene is a worthy old mermaid matron who some months ago passed her 32nd birthday with a swaggerish flip of her stern and a bit of a wheeze in her manifold. But Nadiene loves the sea; in fact she is as much at home in the water as the water is in her! She rolls with each wave (Yi! Yi! How she rolls!) and puffs and blows like a polluted porpoise. Her hull is very much as sturdy as a paper sack and she's chubby and fat and squatty and as streamlined as a bowl full of herring.

Anchors Aweigh (Far Away)

Now don't get me wrong. I love the Nadiene. Especially do I love her anchor. Now there's an anchor! It never knows when to hang on or fall off or come loose. Fickle is the word for that chunk of iron. Fickle and exasperating and devilish. For it now lies in the bull kelp sundry & divers fathoms below the surface of Avalon Bay.

After an uneventful trip across (except that we muffed three schools of bluefin tuna; (Nadiene would NOT turn around) we dropped that piece of miserable metal into the bay at Catalina. Forthwith we were piped ashore (or maybe it was poured) just in time for lunch, or perhaps it was dinner or maybe for only a cup of tea. Anyhoo, after we had returned aboard in the middle of both night & bay (what a pun!) Skipper Pegleg "Charles Dear" Watkins, my friend, (until last Saturday) thumped aft or maybe it was astern. What difference does it make. He was always thumping somewhere or another.

Pegleg Ponders A Predicament

Well, as I was saying, Pegleg observes that Nadiene is restless, has slipped her moorings (how quaintly nautical) and is headed sternmost for yon rocky coastline.

Now with his good eye Pegleg also observes that the heavens were full of a mighty wind and storm. Mountainous combers crashed over the Nadiene's Roman snout. Her timbers groaned and creaked. (Didn't I tell you she was old)! Great flocks of Wrigley's birds were flying from the island. Sure as the devil it looked like a hurricane!

(Don't go away folks! All the above is merely background and color. Actually the bay was as calm as a bucket full of cement).

Well, to get on . . .

After quaffing three Martinis and a bottle of Budweiser, Pegleg battens down a hatch or two or three and bellers, "Blast my timbers and for **Heaven's sake!** Avast, you swabs! Mix me another Martini and let's drink to old Nadiene. She's aheadin' fer the last rock pile."

Then came the crisis! Or have we passed the crisis? Certainly there should be a crisis in here some place! Oh, well! What's a crisis or two between friends?

Winch Trouble

Now at this pernt old Pegleg accidentally swallows a cork, gulps a few times and is a changed man. He wants to save Nadiene. So with customary thumping & ribald blasphemy Pegleg hollers, "Grab the winch!" "Which winch," answers First Mate "Forgetful" Fortner, "the blonde one?" "The anchor winch, you X!!??"?!, roars Pegleg, "leave the blondes to Brooks."

Well, say, dearie, you can see what an embarrassing position I was in. It was just too killing. But right off I find that the only blonde aboard is Old Pegleg's wife (Drat it!) and I can have no truck with her. So I bustle for'ard to find two swabs all in knots over the winch.

"How cometh all this panting & puffing?" asked I. Whereupon I lifted the anchor rope daintily betwixt thumb & forefinger and what do ya tink was on de end? Not even an anchor! Not even a kippered snack! Not even a package of Wrigley's Spearmint!!!

Pegleg Can't Take It

"This is too much," sobbed Skipper Watkins. "They can't do this to me! I'll SUE 'em!!" (Pegleg is an attorney in his less trying moments).

"Sue 'em if you like," snaps "Funny" Fortner, "it won't help the sweet mess we're in."

Whereupon at this suggestion we locked arms and busted out in melodious three part harmony on that old favorite, "Sweet Sue." It was beautiful, glorious! The wind ceased & the waves stood still. And Nadiene, a sentimental old hussy, choked & sobbed. We knew she would give her all.

So with a fond caress on her carburetor and a loving pat on her flywheel, Nadiene responded to the starter like a firecracker to a match. With a loud chug we sped (at 2½ knots) out to sea & safety.

So ends another saga of the sea. Ah, me, yes! Down to the Sea in Ships! The Captain Hates the Sea! (I wish I could think of some more nautical nifties).

P. S. Call me up some time and I'll tell you about Dottie who went swimming at 3 a. m. off Avalon pier whilst we were tied to the dock trying to get some sleep after having nearly piled on the rocks (as so thrillingly related above).

What! You thought this story had ended! Why it has only just begun.

SPORTS NITE SHOW AT CITY PARK FRIDAY

Two Clubs Staging Athletic Attraction

Featuring outstanding performers in some sports events which are not ordinarily seen by John Public and his wife, in addition to a program of other athletic attractions to round out a two and one-half hour show, the Kiwanis and Key clubs will stage their first annual Sports Nite at the illuminated city park baseball field tomorrow (Friday) night, starting promptly at 7:30 o'clock.

Tickets for this stellar event are now being sold by many high school students, all members of the Kiwanis club and by a score or more of local merchants at 40 cents for adults, 25 cents for students. The box office at the entrance to the ball park will also be open from 6:30 o'clock on to accommodate those who have not purchased their ducats in advance.

All of the net proceeds of the Sports Nite show will be divided between the sponsoring clubs. The high school Key club will use its share to pay for the new track suits which were purchased by that organization for Torrance high school athletes this year and to establish a fund to provide medical care for any Torrance athlete injured in sports competition. The Kiwanis club will devote its portion to continued under-privileged children's assistance.

'Bernie' Donahue Coming

Honorary ring-master of the show tomorrow night will be Bernard J. Donahue, beloved former coach at Torrance high school who is now coaching at Alexander Hamilton high school. "Bernie," as he is familiarly known to many local residents, said last night he was glad to accept the invitation of the two clubs to return to Torrance and direct the Sports Nite program.

Athletes from Gardena and Inglewood high schools as well as the local high school will participate in the various events and a group of sportsmen from the Inglewood Athletic club and some U.S.C. students are also billed to appear.

The Kiwanis and Key clubs will operate refreshments concessions and a large supply of popcorn, peanuts, soda pop, hot-dogs and other munchables has been prepared to meet the demand.

Extra Seats Installed

In addition to the regular center section of the ball park's grandstand, several thousand other seats are being erected today in the form of bleachers surrounding the arena where most of the events will be staged. Additional lighting facilities are being erected and a public address system will be used. The Torrance Municipal band has agreed to play during the evening.

Among the events on the program will be exhibitions of "kendo" Japanese fencing by two Inglewood performers who will each have three balloons attached to his uniform. The one breaking all three balloons will win the maten.

There will be demonstrations of weight-lifting, hand-balancing and gymnastics by Inglewood and U.S.C. athletes; ju jitsu by experienced performers in that quick rough-and-tumble sport; tumbling and two Inglewood twins, seven years old, are to present what is said to be the most hilarious take-off on a wrestling bout ever seen.

Several Surprises Planned

Gardena is sending Melvin Campbell and the Zacharìo brothers, Tom and Bill, to demonstrate the "manly art" and the Torrance contingent of athletes will do their stuff in several surprise numbers.

Robert J. Deininger, immediate past president of the Kiwanis club, is general chairman of Sports Nite and the Key club's representatives on the committee are Henry Pupkoff and Reggie Treloar. Members of both organizations will serve in various capacities throughout the evening to make the show as enjoyable as possible for everyone.

PARENTS OF SON

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur D. Case, of 2134 Sepulveda boulevard, became the parents of a son last Thursday. The boy weighed seven pounds and his name is Jack Howard.

SHRINERS PLAN 3 GALA DAYS AND NIGHTS FOR LOS ANGELES WITH MOVIE PAGEANTS, RODEOS, PARADES AND PROCESSIONS FEATURED IN COLISEUM TO ENTERTAIN 100,000 VISITORS

A limited number of choice seats for all Shrine convention events are now on sale at Harvel's Service Station, corner of Cravens and Marcelina avenues.

NEW PHONE BOOK OUT IN MONTH

With the next telephone directory scheduled to be delivered the early part of next month, preparation of the material for the book is under way, according to F. W. Smith, district manager of the Southern California Telephone company. Smith stated that the closing date is June 14. Revisions of existing listings will be included in the new book if they are received by the final day. Listings of new subscribers will be included in all cases where telephones have been installed by June 14.

TOUR CIVIC CENTER

About 20 members of Narbonne high school's Scholarship Society will tour points of interest at the Los Angeles civic center June 8, accompanied by Miss H. Marie Stiff, club sponsor.

Barbary Coast Echo Rises

SAN FRANCISCO (UP)—The clergy and women's organizations of the city have arisen in protest against a proposal to construct a $1,000,000 replica of once notorious Barbary Coast, at the 1939 exposition.

A wife always remembers the things her husband wishes she'd forget.

U. S. Steel Bond Coupon Rate Set

The $1,000,000,000 ten-year debentures to be offered by the United States Steel Corporation will carry a coupon rate of 3¼ percent, according to the amendment filed with the S.E.C. The offering is scheduled for today.

Clock Ticks 265 Years

DETROIT (U.P.)—Among the property bequeathed to Thomas Jones in his father's will was a grandfather's clock made in 1673.

CENSORSHIP

The censors continue to amuse. One in London feels that Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs would frighten the British babe out of its gas mask.