RAY BROOKS

SHOP TALK

TORRANCE TRIPE & TRIVIA YOU NEVER SUSPECTED BEFORE:

. . . . . **that Martha M. Steiner,** whom many local oldsters will remember as the widow of G. A. R. Steiner, much-loved Torrance councilman who died in office in 1932, is admirably fighting Ye Olde Economic Problem, has opened a boarding house called The Wisteria Inn at 1007 Cota street.

No hollow moniker is "Wisteria" Inn. The place has a tremendous wisteria vine smothering the front of the house, which, by the by, is owned by Mr. & Mrs. Addis Thomas, who have recently slicked up the place inside & out, done everything to help Mrs. Steiner get a start.

And it's a start Mrs. Steiner richly deserves. Her husband gave freely of his time to this community for many years (before councilmen were voted a salary) and owned considerable property here. Now back on her feet after a long illness, Mrs. Steiner launches a business of her own, will offer top-notch board and room at reasonable rates.

Shop Talk has never met Mrs. Steiner. It would like to sometime.

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. . . . . **that in a story in last** night's L. A. Herald-Express about the near-crackup of Captain Eyston in his "Thunderbolt" on the salt beds of Utah, the following appeared:

"Eyston was remarkably calm. He nervously smoked a cigarette."

What do you make of that, Watson?

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. . . . . **that lovely Mary Kay** Haynes of Redondo Beach relates a ghost story that brings out pimples on the most skeptical goose.

Seems that a young girl friend's parents were out for the evening and the sweet young thing had retired. Awakened later by the insistent ringing of the phone, the gal trooped down stairs, entered the living room to answer. Before she reached the phone, however, the ringing stopped. Next thing she knew her parents were leaning over her with smelling salts in hand. Then she remembered the cause for the swoon. As she had entered the room she realized why the phone had stopped ringing . . . . . that silhouetted in the moonlight on the table was the phone with the receiver OFF the hook!!

Gosh Almighty!!!

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. . . . . **that good natured "Mac"** MacCallum, prop. of the Torrance Sheet Metal Co., pulled up short the other morning as Shop Talk remarked that the hammering he was doing on a piece of sheet metal was making a frightful din and howinhell could he stand it!

Said Mac quietly: "You know, the noise you make yourself never bothers you. But when some of my men start hammering I darn near go crazy!"

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. . . . . **that there is a vast and** inexplainable difference in saying "My feet hurt" and remarking "my foot hurts." The former has a smack of the vulgar while the latter seems in right good taste.

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. . . . . **that with bright, new** paint glossing everything, a new sign and window decoration, bright-eyed, blond Phyllis Steere formally dedicated her new beauty shop on Torrance Blvd. last week. Formerly Myrtle's, now the Phylane Beauty Shoppe, Phyllis has lowered several prices, has high hopes for a booming business.

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. . . . . **that kindly, helpful Mrs.** Dorothy Jamieson, librarian, reports that Torrance & Walteria showed a total increase in circulation this year over last of 8,000 books. Maybe there's some hope for this burg after all. A little book larnin' is a mighty fine thing!

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. . . . . **that Julia Coucci, smart** & sassy ex-school teacher, asks the darndest questions . . . such as . . . what are the original or ancient Seven Wonders of the World? To anyone who can name 'em (without peekin') a beautiful autographed copy (by la Coucci) of our famous, famous Souvenir Edition "Torrance-On-the Air!"

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. . . . . **that Dick Richardson,** of Ed Thompson's Chevrolet Emporium, tells us that nature-lover Big Bill Thoma, shop foreman, went out on the desert several weeks ago with him and "Spud" Murphy. Bill saw his first rattlesnake, promptly smacked it down. Whereupon he became extremely remorseful, cried big crocodile tears, stated emphatically he would never kill another. Reason: rattlesnakes are sports and give warning before they strike. So he felt sorry for the little snakes that "sings."

(Incidentally, Murphy wanted the rattles, now carries them about in his pocket for his own amazement!)

DRIVE STARTS FOR LOCAL RELIEF FUNDS

No Overhead Costs Sap Charity Gifts

Urging local residents, business, professional and industrial leaders to favor this community for Torrance relief benefits rather than make a contribution to the Los Angeles Community Chest, the Torrance Community Service association this week began its annual canvass for strictly local relief funds.

Sam Levy, well-known business man, is again heading the campaign committee, which is composed of Henry T. Lintott, William H. Tolson and Wallace Post. The goal is $1,800—the same amount that has been asked here for the past several years.

Torrance is not part of the Los Angeles Community Chest and receives no benefits whatever from that unified charitable agency. For more than 15 years, the cause of local relief has been carried on by the Torrance Community Service association whose administration is conducted by an unpaid staff of volunteers.

Depositories Listed

Every dollar contributed to its budget goes into channels of only thoroughly investigated cases. The association, it is emphasized, has the whole-hearted confidence of the community and has received the commendation of the established welfare departments of the county and the state.

For the past month the campaign committee has been engaged in careful study of the local relief situation, Levy said this week. The campaigners are now endeavoring to reach every interest in the community and appeal to all for contributions in such proportion as individuals, business, professional and industrial groups feel they can consistently subscribe.

Such contributions may be left at Levy's department store on Sartori avenue, the First National Bank, Chamber of Commerce or at The Herald office with assurance that all such gifts will be promptly transmitted to the campaign committee of the Torrance Community Service association.

COMMANDER . . . Stephen Chadwick, Seattle attorney, conceded to be the American Legion's choice for its next national commander and scheduled to be elected at tomorrow's closing session of the Los Angeles convention.

More Interest In Agriculture Studies

As result of a student canvass, an increased enrollment in high school vocational agricultural classes is noted by Principal Thomas Elson and instructor Harry Stone. Interest in agricultural studies has been stimulated thruout the Los Angeles city school system, Principal Elson said, because the Voorhees school near Monrovia is now a part of the state educational facilities and students may obtain extra-curricular instruction there.

The Future Farmers of America unit here expects to attend the Los Angeles county fair at Pomona in a body Friday, Principal Elson said. The group will enter some of the student events there.

BIKE FOUND IN SUMP

A bicycle stolen in Inglewood, Aug. 4, was discovered in a C. C. M. O. oil sump last Saturday, according to police. The rear tire and wheel were missing.

TWO DRUNKS FINED

Two Mexicans, one a WPA worker from Los Angeles, were fined $5 each by City Judge Robert Lessing Monday morning for being drunk on city streets last week-end.

GOING TO "ROUGH IT"

Captain G. M. Calder of the police department will leave Saturday for his annual vacation in the "wild and woolly" Modoc county.

Foundations for New Catholic Church Prepared

A full crew of men is now engaged in preparing the foundations for the new Catholic Church of the Nativity at the corner of Engracia and Manuel avenues. They started work on the day following impressive ground-breaking ceremonies Sunday, Sept. 11, and the building permit was taken out during the past week for the sum of $18,000.

When completed and furnished, the beautiful structure will represent an investment of more than $25,000, according to Rev. Father Joseph V. Fitzgerald, local pastor who instituted the building campaign more than a year ago. The church is expected to be ready for dedication on Christmas Day.

People

what they're doing

Mr. and Mrs. Walter J. Whyte of Danville, Illinois, who for the past two weeks have been the guests of **Mr. and Mrs. Grover C. Whyte,** 1620 Post avenue, left Tuesday evening to spend several days at Yosemite National Park, before returning to Illinois.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Burns held open house at their new home in Palos Verdes Estates last Sunday. A large number of Torrance friends were among those attending.

Mrs. Carrie Parks, 1003 Portola avenue, had as her house guest recently Mrs. Anna Hamer of the Blackstone Hotel at Long Beach. **Mrs. Parks** visited with Mrs. Hamer over the week-end.

Mr. and Mrs. George Scheidel and son Richard, of Fort Dodge, Iowa, are guests at the home of **Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Darling,** 1434 218th street. Mr. Scheidel is a 40 and 8 delegate to the Legion convention.

Evening School Enrollment Is Nearly Double

Much interest is being shown in the adult classes at Torrance Evening high school. To date the enrollment is about twice what it was at this time last year and new students are registering nightly. The typing class under the instruction of Matthias Merrill offers beginning and advanced typing. Individual instruction is given to each student and free placement service is available upon completion of the course.

Comptometry, shorthand, and bookkeeping is under the supervision of John Anderson and the class in beginning shorthand is now being formed. Physical education for women is more popular than ever and students in the Arts and Crafts class are preparing many choice articles as gifts for the Christmas season.

Woodshop, machine shop, sewing, commercial law, public speaking and gardening are also included in the curriculum. The school is open Monday and Wednesday evenings and information may be obtained by calling Torrance 645 or calling at the school.

Railways Lose On President's Frequent Trips

WASHINGTON (U.P.)—Railroads lose money when they carry the President of the United States, but they love it.

The loss is not a matter of free rides, for the President and those of his party pay the same fares as do ordinary citizens. An Interstate Commerce Commission regulation provides for that.

It comes because the carriers are forced to added expense in the handling of the Presidential Special. They must be certain that everything is perfect—that the train is not delayed, that all equipment is in order, in short, that everything has been done to assure the President a swift, comfortable and trouble-less ride.

An Anxious Job

New equipment is trotted out. The latest type engine gets a fresh coat of paint. The engineer and firemen, when notified that they are going to take out the Presidential Special, show up in new overalls, cap and bandana.

The job of moving the President from one city to another is an anxious one for the executives, too. Daniel Willard, head of the Baltimore and Ohio, receives a report every hour, night and day, on the progress of the Roosevelt train while on his system.

None of the big bosses wants anything to happen. On more than one occasion this correspondent has heard a railroad man heave a sigh of relief as the special was shunted to the tracks of a competing line after finishing its run on his road.

Special Precautions

The high cost of handling a Presidential Special is not only in equipment. Additional man power is required all along the route. Hours before the scheduled run, the full maintenance crews are called out to check and double check on every inch of track over which the train will pass. Moreover, they remain on duty, rain or shine, night and day, until the "all clear" signal is given.

Switches are spiked down and locked as a precaution against accident. At each division point a complete wrecking crew, engine, tender, crane car and others laden with emergency supplies, is on hand—just in case.

Many railroads compel traffic approaching on other tracks to come to a standstill until the Presidential Special has roared by.

The railroads are getting away from the old idea of sending a pilot train ahead of the special. However, the custom still prevails on all of the systems thruout the South and on some in the West.

ENTERS COLLEGE

Miss Doris Kresse, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. O. A. Kresse of 1443 El Prado has entered Whittier College as a freshman student.

Ugly Duckling of Flower World Blooms

MRS. MAE R. REESE and Exotic Plant

For 14 years a rather scrubby looking stalky plant got along without much attention in the spacious front porch of Mrs. Mae R. Reese's home at 1739 Arlington avenue. It appeared to be some form of cactus but it didn't grow much nor did it blossom. Mrs. Reese watered it only when she washed the porch and gave it almost no care.

Then last year when she returned home from a mid-western trip she noticed it had bloomed during her absence and its strange sweet odor permeated the closed-in porch. Last week it bloomed again—at night—and its beautiful star flowers gave evidence it was one of those rarities among the cactus family—a night-blooming cireus.

The above photo was taken by a Herald photographer at the peak of its nocturnal development. Clearly to be seen are the blossoms which drop out and down from the side of long leaves of the plant. The flowers are unusually large and the centers develop tendrils which look like stars. Mrs. Reese has owned the plant since she came here with the late Mr. Reese in 1923.

Mayor's Light Deposit Doubles in 19 Years

One of the first things newly-wed William H. Tolson of this city did after getting the rice out of his hair 19 years ago this month was to plunk down a $2.50 deposit on his light meter.

The years rolled by and Tolson, busy with his trucking business, forgot all about that post-nuptial guarantee that he would pay his light bills.

Last week, while attending the California League of Municipalities' convention in Santa Barbara he happened to remember that $2.50 when talking with an official of the Southern California Edison company. He mentioned that it was about time he should be getting that deposit back. The official said he would look into it.

Monday morning's mail brought him a Southern California Edison check. It was for $5.30—the $2.50 plus interest for 19 years.

CIVIC CENTER BUILDINGS

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When Built--How Paid For

The following factual data, compiled from official city records, tells the dollars-and-cents story of the Torrance Civic Center buildings:

CITY HALL and JAIL

Completed June 1, 1936. Cost of project, $60,106.72 of which $30,000 came from the sale of Torrance city bonds, $19,827 by P.W.A. grant and $10,279.72 from the city's general fund.

CIVIC AUDITORIUM

Completed June 16, 1936. Cost of project, including land, $62,556.97 of which $35,000 came from the city bond issue, $22,087 by P.W.A. grant and $5,479.97 from the general fund.

LIBRARY BUILDING

Completed June 23, 1936. Cost of project, including land, $32,113.09 of which $19,422.09 came from the city bond issue, and $12,691 from the P.W.A.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BUILDING

Completed Oct. 13, 1937. Cost of project, including land, $28,739.90 of which $18,044.90 came from the city general fund and $10,695 from the P.W.A.