SHOP TALK

by RAY BROOKS

LET'S GO TO PRESS . . .

With the story about Ernie Murchison who just this week pulled out his wallet, plunked down $57 or more for a new outboard motor for fishin' purposes. Ernie is an ardent fisherman, prefers ocean, bay, lake, stream, river, sea or brook fishin' (they ain't no mo'). He has been married nigh on to twelve years, but only last season persuaded his wife that fishin' was a fine thing, that she should do more of it. Now the frau has an outfit of her own, even suggested Ernie buy an outboard. (All married men wanting to know how this trick is done, please write E. E. Murchison, c/o Western Auto, City!)

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With the yarn about Harriett Leech, who gets about almost as much as Mrs. F.D.R. The flower vendor and city official last week made a business excursion to her old hacienda at Tucson, Ariz., came back loaded with strange desert cactus. Oddest were called "desert spoons," strange looking things, which, with The Madame's skill at decorating, turned into a unique window display.

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With the tale about George & Homer Morgan, brother owners of Two Macks Electric. George likes boats, just bought a new speedster for Lake Arrowhead. Homer plays golf, took it up less than a year ago. Together they play pool, only last week installed a complete outfit in the loft over their work shops. On slow days Two Macks men gather around the pool table, keep out of mischief.

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With the narrative regarding Barber Earl Rinker, who opened a one-man barber shop at 218th and Cabrillo only eight months ago, worked up the volume until now the shop supports two barbers. New man is Tommy Bond (no relation to Al) from Fresno. Tommy labored here previously for Columbia Steel, went to Fresno, went thru barber college, started a shop in that town. Recently he and brother Harry came south to Torrance, both finding jobs immediately; Tommy with Earl Rinker, Harry as helper to new Richfield station operator Mark Wright.

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With the sad saga of Les Prince who has been ailing for the past several weeks with the flu, returned to the Beacon last week end for only a day or so, went hurrying off to the Torrance hospital with a relapse. Les is doing better now, is going to spend a few days at Catalina, hopes to be back to take care of the Beacon's big Rexall One Cent Sale, scheduled for early next month.

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With the allegation that Howard Tucker, bookie at Ed Thompson's Chevrolet, is careless with matches. Only three days have passed since Howard lit his pipe, tossed a burning match into a full wastepaper basket behind him, jumped like a crazy man when someone came in the office and reminded him that flames were shooting two feet right up his back. Tch! Tch! Tch!

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With the news that: the Torrance Theatre recently had their screen painted for better vision; that the Plaza Theatre in Hawthorne installed these fancy, new sliding seats which eliminate customers tramping on your bunions when finding their seats, or vice versa; that some confusion resulted two weeks ago in Shop Talk when Councilman Jack Murray, who sells Plymouth-De Sotos for Allen Paull, had numerous requests for Hot Dogs. The latter were reported here as being the sole property of another Jack Murray who runs Daniels Cafe; that Harvel Guttenfelder played ping pong with Jack Abramson at brother Harry's new ping pong estate on Post Ave., got the pants beat off him; that now that Don Miller's wife is away up near Visalia Don is lost . . . or is he?

Movie Frightens Prisoners

GUELPH, Ont. (U.P.)—Altho most prison inmates are reputed to be tough and not easily frightened, more than half-a-dozen of the 700 prisoners in the Ontario reformatory here fainted during the showing of a Frankenstein thriller.

Benjamin Franklin is said to be one of the first to advocate insurance to protect farmers against crop losses.

GOLD SPIKE . . . Under guard, the gold spike that linked the East-West limits of the first transcontinental railroad at Promontory, Point, Utah, in 1869, is taken from the San Francisco world's fair Wells Fargo exhibit to Omaha.

A CALICO print blouse in pink and yellow, bordered with rickrack and buttoned down the front with shiny black cubes, as featured in April's Harper's Bazaar.

Cut Registration Fee In Half

Compensation for deputies who register voters in this community will be reduced from the present fee of 10 cents a name to five cents, under an informal decision of the board of supervisors this week.

The move is in line with efforts to effect economies wherever possible in the county government and will bring the fee paid in line with that allowed by other counties in the state.

The supervisors also have decided to allow not more than 200 new precincts in the county this year, pending the taking of the 1940 census and the ultimate reapportionment which will follow. W. M. Kerr, registrar of voters, will make the changes shortly in preparation for the election 16 months hence.

Sailor's Murder Trial Dated

William D. Vaughn, 17-year-old sailor, will go to trial May 31 on a charge of murdering Clarence M. McCann, organist, who body was found at the foot of a Palos Verdes cliff last April 3.

Vaughn, who was arrested for the murder when he was located driving McCann's automobile near Bakersfield soon after the crime, plead not guilty and not guilty by reason of insanity before Judge Clarence M. Kincaid this week.

Hawk Exhibited

VINITA, Okla. (U.P.)—A stuffed hawk was exhibited at the Vinita city hall. It was shot as it attempted to fly away with a goldfish it had filched from a pool here. The fish also was stuffed and placed on exhibition.

Swing Time Stumbles

BETHANY, Mo. (U.P.)—There are a few "jitter bug - rug cutters" among the high school students in Bethany but a proposal to form a swing band was discarded when not enough students reported.

Woman Operates Mine

JESSUP, Pa. (U.P.) — Mrs. Anna Sklepko, 24-year-old Jessup widow believes she is the only woman anthracite operator. She employs 20 men and mines 35 to 40 tons of coal a day.

MOTHERS' MEETING

Job's Daughters mothers' club will meet at the home of Mrs. Henry Wertalla, 2363 233rd street, Monday, May 1, at 2 p. m.

Outbreak of Hoof-Mouth Disease in Europe Puts County on Alert

Serious outbreak of the dread hoof and mouth disease among livestock in many countries of Western Europe has caused officials here to be on the alert to investigate any condition affecting animals which is evenly remotely suggestive of the malady, L. M. Hurt, county live stock inspector, revealed today.

The disease has invaded many areas which had been free for years, and in some countries already has reached deadly proportions, Hurt declared.

Whether reports of the outbreak, which has spread widely in the last year, have been ignored by news services because of repeated war threats or whether this news had been suppressed, Hurt was unable to explain.

Testing of dairy cattle brought into Los Angeles county during the past three months reveals a reduction in the incidence of infection from 1.98 percent in the previous quarter-year to .92 of one percent during the three months just ended. No serious infectious or contagious diseases have been encountered in county dairy herds during the quarter.

Around Hollywood Film Lots

HOLLYWOOD (U.P.) — Washington comes to Hollywood, or so it will seem when six of the largest stages on a movie lot are taken over by full-sized reproductions of parts of the senate chamber, the senate office building and other structures in the national capital.

The nation's capital is being brought to the film colony for the start of Frank Capra's new picture, "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington."

Forty-three sets are being constructed at Columbia studio for this picture based on life in the city of government officials and employes. Because of the many sets, which would occupy all 14 sound stages on the lot if built at the same time, the studio plans to erect a few sets at a time and then "strike" them after they have been used to make way for others.

One entire stage will be filled with the Hollywood version of the senate chamber, complete ground plans and architectural measurements having been obtained from Washington. On the same set a second floor is to be built to house the press gallery and visitors' gallery. Because part of the action takes place there, the second floor will be designed to accommodate 700 persons.

The senate elevators, lobby cloakroom, grand staircase, public reception room and press room all are being reproduced on the film stages.

Capra, a stickler for accuracy, went to Washington to see some of the scenes that will be used in the picture and he has had technical experts at work obtaining measurements of the settings he wants to use.

Other scenes in the film are the railroad terminal at Washington, a committee-room in the senate office building and various other settings not so closely associated with the government.

Lionel Banks, studio art director, has been buried in piles of blueprints for weeks and says it may be some time yet before he emerges and can relax for a few hours.

CLASSIC IN COTTON . . . Fresh white cotton floods the evening scene . . . this is Maggy Rouff's creation of white dotted swiss with a bustle effect in back, as shown in April's Harper's Bazaar. A bunch of violets and lilies of the valley tied with pink and purple ribbons adorns the waist.

City Grants Lawn Subsidy

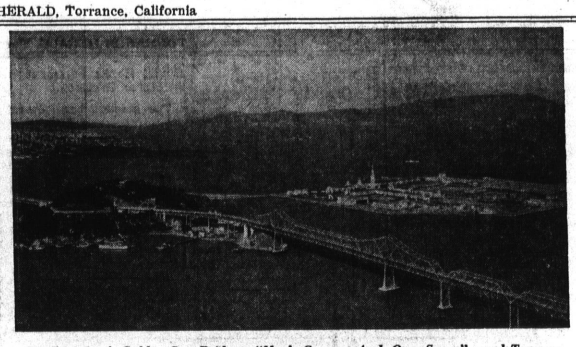
EL PASO, Tex. (U.P.)—A 20 percent cut in water bills for April through September has been authorized by the city council to encourage the watering of lawns and gardens.

Children's Hearing Poor

ST. LOUIS (U.P.)—An audiometer test given 205 kindergarten children showed that 7.3 percent have a hearing loss of 9 percent or more in one or both ears. About 5.5 percent of 1,592 grammar school children tested were found to have hearing defects.

Vermont Safety Conscious

MONTPELIER, Vt. (U.P.) — Soon after the Vermont house adopted a bill requiring that red reflectors be attached to bicycles, another bill was filed to require pedestrians walking along state highways to wear similar reflectors at night.



San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge—"Man's Greatest Arch Over Space"—and Treasure Island, Site of the Fair, in the Background

Unified Highway Name Sought

Orange county cities are scheduled to consider shortly a proposal to designate a through route under the name of Pacific Coast Highway, as the result of an agreement tentatively reached by the street-naming committees in other cities along the coast.

Los Angeles city and Torrance are ready to change the name of the artery sometimes designated as Roosevelt Highway U. S. 101, State 60 and Wilmington-Redondo boulevard to Pacific Coast Highway when other communities along the coast route are ready, according to J. A. Mellen, highway engineer for the county regional planning commission.

It will be up to the county regional planning commission to push the matter, it has been indicated, if the proposal is to materialize. It has been pending for some time now.

CHIC, charming and cooling is Bruyere's white cotton duster, buttoned all the way down. A feature from April's Harper's Bazaar.

School's All Trutnas

WAHOO, Neb. (U.P.) — The Trutnas have something to talk about. School district 87 near here is made up entirely of the Trutna family and relatives. The teacher, three pupils and three board members are all Trutnas.

Elk Trouble Ranchers

WISDOM, Mont. (U.P.)—Snow which has forced the elk from the hills down to the lower country, has created a new problem for ranchers. The elk attack the hay stacks by leaping over the barbed wire netting around them, and in so doing frequently either break their legs or are caught on the wire.

The Herald—3 months, 50 cents.