

VERNON and WATERMELON and SHIRLEY
... brittle bones can't break his smile

Twelve-year-old Vernon D. Cherry, late of Ft. Smith, Arkansas, has had more than his share of "the breaks."

And they've been all bad.
A victim of an incurable malady which has made his bones as brittle as egg shells, 52 breaks since his birth. He has been unable to walk for the past four years and now weighs only 37 pounds.

But his smile and good-nature have not been broken.

Vernon is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Cherry, who arrived here recently to visit their daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Turner at 1311 1/2 Sartori avenue. Before they left Arkansas the Cherrys purchased a 118-pound watermelon which they believe must have been grown from California seeds!

Featured by Ripley
It was young Vernon's duty to guard that huge melon all across the country and on their arrival he presented it to his niece, little 13-month-old Shirley Ann Turner.

When Vernon suffered his 17th broken bone—the slightest pressure results in a fracture—his plight was reported to Robert L. "Believe It or Not" Ripley and that collector of oddities promptly featured him in one of his cartoons. Mrs. Cherry, his mother, has kept a record of the boy's injuries in his "baby book"—much after the manner of mothers listing their child's teething, walking and speaking accomplishments.

In one day, this strange record shows, Vernon snapped three bones and he has "taken" three more breaks since June 21.

He has shown unusual talent as a mandolin player and he is acquiring quite a repertoire of cowboy and western ballads. He aspires to appear on a radio program—preferably with Bob Burns, who is his favorite entertainer.

Health Better Here
Seated on a little platform equipped with roller-skate wheels, Vernon gets around a room as actively as any other boy. But when he goes out he has to be carried as tenderly as any infant because of his affliction, which was first noticed when he was six months old and his upper leg bone snapped.

The Cherrys may locate in Southern California because of his health. He appears to sleep much better here and his strength seems to have increased. Altho he does not wear one now, he has been in a cast from his chest to his ankles 27 different times while his faulty bones were healing, according to his father.

Local Man Hurt in S. P. Crash

Stacy W. Griffith, 1515 West 218th street, was reported seriously injured at 8:30 a. m., Tuesday in San Pedro when his car struck a power pole on North Garvey street near the San Pedro police pistol range. Leslie Hedrick, 17, of 1614 West 215th street, was slightly injured in the crash.

According to a report given police, Griffith, who was assertedly driving at a high rate of speed, turned into the right-hand traffic lane to pass a car which was traveling in the same direction and struck the power pole.

He was taken to Torrance by a passing motorist.

L. A. Police Chief to Address Rotarians

Police Chief Arthur C. Hohmann of Los Angeles will speak on "Law Enforcement" at the dinner-meeting of the Torrance Rotary club tonight at the American Legion clubhouse. Rotarians are expected to have a number of guests present.

Lingerie-Slasher Wields Knife Again Here

"The screw-loose party who used to have a habit of cutting ladies' underclothes to ribbons in the southern part of town is evidently on the loose again," a notation on the police-blotter reported this week.

"Miss Melby of 1008 Sartori avenue put a washing on the line Thursday afternoon and upon returning from downtown found all her lingerie slashed to pieces. Other articles of clothing were not molested," the report concluded.

Police Chief John Stroh has notified the officers to be on the lookout for the clothes-cutter who has caused considerable damage here during the past several months.

Brush Blaze Sweeps 3,000 Acres in P. V.

Fanned by ocean breezes, a brush fire swept over approximately 3,000 acres in the Palos Verdes Estates Tuesday afternoon and evening, approaching within five miles of the Rolling Hills residential section before it was brought under control and put out shortly before midnight.

The blaze, believed started by a carelessly thrown cigarette burned northeast near Palos Verdes Drive. More than 150 county forestry fire fighters and volunteers, working in an area of 12 square miles between Point San Vicente and White's Point, put out the fire before any property damage was done.

Excessive heat and low humidity made the fire-fighters' job doubly difficult but no prostrations were reported. Lightning, which ignited more than a score of spot fires in other parts of the Southland Tuesday, is not believed responsible for the Palos Verdes blaze. The freak lightning storm and the rolling billows of smoke from the hill fire were subjects of much comment here as residents watched the aerial display from yards and streets.

Teacher Believed Homeward Bound On Freighter

Only the information that she expected to board a freighter for her homeward passage across the Atlantic has been received by teacher-friends here from Miss Ruth Locke, algebra and geometry instructor at the high school.

On account of British censorship, the name of the freighter, its sailing date and port of embarkation was not mentioned. Miss Locke has been stranded with hundreds of other vacationing Americans in London for several weeks.

Pass-Key Burglar Robs Auto Court

A burglar who used a pass-key to gain entrance to one of the Sunshine Auto Court apartments early Sunday morning evidently had a craving for listening to the radio in bed.

He took a wireless set, two pink wool blankets, two white pillow cases and a bed-spread—all marked with the court's name, according to a report given police.

Hot Days Set Water Record

Instead of consulting the thermometer to see how hot it is, William H. Stanger, superintendent of the municipal water department, looks at his pump charts.

Tuesday, when the mercury shot to 104.2 degrees, he delivered an all-time record of 2,579,000 gallons of fresh, cool water thru the city mains. Yesterday, when the thermometer shot up to 107 here, the consumption was only 2,428,000 gallons.

"We are averaging better than two and one-quarter million gallons of water daily," Stanger said Tuesday. "Our two well pumps are drawing about 3,900 gallons of water per minute, which is just 100 gallons under their capacity."

Altho this is a tremendous strain on the city wells, Stanger reported that they are bearing up exceptionally well. In fact, he has not been able to detect any drop in the subterranean water levels here. Therefore, he does not anticipate any threat of a water shortage and residents may continue to water their lawns and shrubbery at will without any curtailment.

The big elevated tank off Torrance boulevard and Cedar avenue, which has a capacity of 1,785,000 gallons, is being replenished every night by booster pumps.

MERCURY HITS 107 HERE YESTERDAY

Setting what is believed to be an all time heat record, the thermometer gauge traced a red line up to 107 degrees at 11 o'clock yesterday morning in the weather observatory cabinet atop the fire department garage. It was 100 degrees at 9 a. m. At noon the mercury dropped to 105 and at 1 p. m., when a most welcome breeze swept in from the ocean, it was 94.

FISHING WAS GOOD BUT WEATHER WAS BETTER

While he mops the perspiration from his moist brow, C. E. Houts, well-known real estate and oil property dealer at 23730 Narbonne avenue, thinks of the nine glorious weeks he spent at Big Bear. With his wife, Houts returned home this week—just in time to swelter. Up in the mountains he reports they caught over 1,000 fish—and what's more important—these warm days—a week ago the temperature was down to 30 degrees and a thin but perceptible coating of ice noted near the shoreline next to the Houts' cabin.

HOTTER EVERY DAY AT NARBONNE HIGH

Levi Stump, head of the Narbonne high school Science department, found it was getting hotter every day in Lomita this week. Monday he took a temperature reading of 102 degrees outside in the shade, 93 degrees within the school. Tuesday the outside reading was 105.5 degrees, 97 inside. Yesterday it was 106 outside, 99 inside. Stump said that the air is so saturated with water vapor the ordinary air-cooling system does not do any good.

NO PROSTRATIONS REPORTED HERE

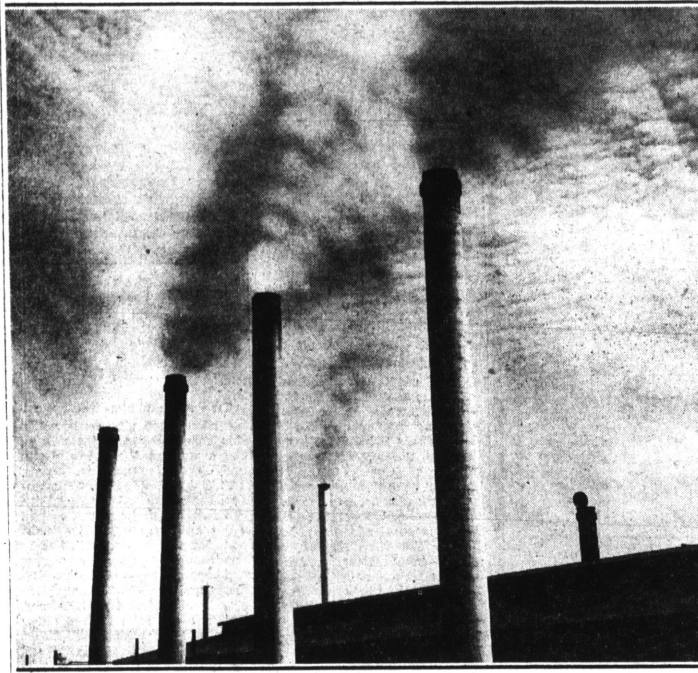
A survey of police records, doctors' offices and the hospital revealed today that despite the unseasonable heat, no prostrations have been treated here as yet. But many a housewife let her washing or other household cleaning duties go by rather than risk collapse.

IT'S PARTICULARLY TOUGH ON MAILMEN

A good soaking of the head is the best relief, according to Mailman Claire Urquhart. He says his fellow-carriers bear the brunt of the heat as no other workers—not even excepting those who labor at the Columbia Steel furnaces. Claire says he has found the best way to obtain comfort is to drink sparingly—and only of water.

BECOMES ENGINEER

E. C. Prime, one of the custodians at the high school last year, has been advanced to low-pressure engineer.



PILLARS OF PROSPERITY... Smoke began belching from the fourth and last tall stack at Columbia Steel's Torrance plant this week, signifying 100 percent capacity production in ingot production—key department in the plant's operation. The full capacity of the open hearth furnaces was required to supply ingots for the 24-hour production schedule which also went into effect on Monday, when a third "turn" or shift was added in the 36-inch and 22-inch mills. The above picture was taken Monday morning this week by The Herald staff photographer.

Schedule Two Aud Events

Final arrangements were completed this week for holding the annual convention of the Southern California Edison Company American Legion Post at the Torrance Civic Auditorium on Saturday, Nov. 4; and the Masonic highjinks here on Saturday, Jan. 13, according to L. J. Gilmeister, secretary of the Chamber of Commerce.

The Legion post convention to be attended by between 300 and 350 Edison employees, and the Masonic highjinks by 700 to 800 Edison men. This is the third year the Masonic club has met in Torrance.

GOAT STOLEN

The best milk goat of three owned by Mrs. Josepha Barriga of 203rd street was stolen Friday night by thieves who tore off a piece of tin from the side of the pen to get the animal. The other two goats were left behind, police were told.

Pencil Portraits of Prominent Personalities

Sketched by ELIZABETH LOSEY
Altho he has been a Californian since 1929, City Attorney John E. McCall still maintains that corn-pone, "pot-licker" and fried chicken are far superior to avocados, orange-juice and hot tamales. Born on a farm in Wayne County, Miss., Oct. 18, 1890, McCall, who became the city's legal consultant in April, 1928, holds a deep affection for the "Deep South" where he studied, joined the Army and was married.

He was attending State Normal College at Hattiesburg, Miss., when the war broke out and interrupted his education for two years while he served in the A.E.F. Returning home, McCall entered the University of Mississippi where he received his L.L.B. degree in 1921 and was admitted to the bar.

In his home state he served on the American Legion's executive committee and was commander of the Oxford, Miss., post for two years. He practiced law in that city until 1924 when he moved to New Orleans where he met Constance Leach who is now Mrs. McCall and the mother of their two children, Edward, 13, and Patsy, seven.

McCall became interested in New Orleans politics and was assistant campaign manager for Henry L. Whitfield, who was elected governor. When the Huey

Fire Hazard Said at Peak; Caution Urged

A grass fire at 166th and Crenshaw was extinguished Monday afternoon by the fire department before any damage was done.

BUT... City firemen ask all residents to be especially careful of burning trash at the present time in view of the exceptionally high fire hazard. They point out that all grass and shrubbery on or near vacant areas is like tinder and constitutes a real menace to surrounding property.

OIL RIG BLAZE

A pulley belt that began slipping on an oil rig at 23601 Narbonne avenue, owned by the Southern California Drilling company, caused friction that resulted in a blaze Monday afternoon. Damage was confined to the loss of the belt, city firemen report.



JOHN E. McCALL
... raconteur and singer

Long machine" began riding rough-shod over Louisiana government, McCall thought it was time to move west and he came to California with his family. Today he is a member of the Torrance Kiwanis club, Masonic lodge and local Legion post. He is a teller of good stories and on occasions has been known to break into some weird noises which he claims are old Seminole Indian songs. McCall regrets he has no holidays but asserts his greatest joy is "playing with the kids."

County Refunds A. and I. 70; Halves Debt

Decision by the board of supervisors to proceed with the refunding of Acquisition and Improvement (Mattoon Act) district No. 70, located along Normandie avenue south of 182nd street to Lomita boulevard and contribute one-half of the remaining indebtedness or \$34,120 to clearing up the district is believed to be acceptable to most of the property owners in the district.

The supervisors adopted a resolution to refund Dist. 70's indebtedness last Thursday and will receive written protests to the plan Nov. 8 at 10 o'clock. By contributing \$34,120 toward the district's indebtedness, the county leaves but \$34,120.89 to be paid by property owners.

This obligation may be cleared up at once or over a period of nine years, that time being allowed by the sale of bonds to cover the remaining cost. These bonds will acquire interest at the rate of six percent. The remaining half of the indebtedness will be a direct assessment against the district property.

The original A. and I. Mattoon debt of the district was approximately \$260,000 and the county has been assisting the property owners by paying 90 percent of the cost until last year. The refunding has been chief objective of the A. and I. 70 Property Owners' association, headed by Mrs. Ada Green of 22412 Normandie avenue, for several months.

Property owners who have kept up their tax assessments will have little to pay to clear their property of the bonded debt and anyone who has paid his 1938-39 tax bill in full will have a credit when the refunding set-up is complete, it is reported.

Three Building Permits Issued

Three building permits, totaling \$650, were issued from the city engineer's office this week. The General Petroleum corporation continues its expansion of the Torrance refinery plant by installing a foundation, costing \$150, for a turbo mixer.

Mrs. E. Schneider is adding a service porch to her residence at 16920 Redondo avenue, costing \$200, and Louis Ordaz is building a frame addition to his residence at 2066 203rd street for \$300.

Columbia Adds Third Shift; All Furnaces Working

Reflecting the rapid upward surge of business now current throughout the steel industry, Columbia Steel Company fired its fourth and last remaining open hearth furnace at the Torrance plant this week, bringing its ingot production to full 100 percent capacity, according to H. T. Lintott, general superintendent.

Red Cross Preparing for Action

Hundreds of offers of volunteer service, both at home and abroad are pouring into the Red Cross headquarters office in Los Angeles, according to Flora McDonald Wright, Torrance chairman of the local branch of the American Red Cross.

"So far no personnel is being sent overseas, but what the future holds no one can foretell," she said. "In the meantime, the American Red Cross is busy co-operating with the state department in the evacuation of American citizens from the war zone. 'Thank God for the Red Cross' is a sentiment heard on many lips these days.

"The Torrance quota has been set at 450 memberships," Mrs. Wright continued. "Last year we secured 343. Already we know that we will be called upon for aid in the way of furnishing garments, surgical dressings and other material for the war-torn countries. This means more money is needed.

"We could not have a Red Cross organization were it not for individual contributions. President Roosevelt's advancement of the date of Thanksgiving will not interfere with the Red Cross annual Roll Call or membership drive, which will be held Nov. 11 to Nov. 30 inclusive," she concluded.

GARDENA BUS PLAN READY FOR SERVICE

Gardena is prepared to launch its municipal bus service, connecting with Los Angeles bus lines, at any time that city's council fixes it, it was learned this week as Councilman Jacobs completed his exhaustive survey of bus costs, routes and fares.

The bus plan of the Gardena Valley Chamber of Commerce was referred by that city's council to its committee, headed by Jacobs, with instructions to report a recommendation at the next meeting, Oct. 3. The Gardena council also took under advisement a communication from the Palos Verdes Homes Association asking that the proposed bus line be extended to that community.

The Palos Verdes made no definite offer but it is understood that they are prepared to subsidize a bus system that will give them access to Los Angeles yellow bus lines.

Having worked out their bus plan, which includes a fare of five cents within Gardena, 10 cents for a terminus-to-terminus trip, Gardena civic leaders are interested in what Torrance will do.

(Continued on Page 3-A)

At the same time, a third "turn" or shift of men was called to work at the 36-inch and 22-inch mills, placing these important departments on a 24-hour production basis. Approximately 50 additional men were employed, bringing the total employment at the Torrance plant to well over 1,150 men, Lintott states.

National Adds 100 Men
Increased production at the National Supply Company plant here has also necessitated adding over 100 men during the past two months, company officials revealed yesterday. Other smaller industrial plants also increased orders since the European war began.

However, none of the increase in the steel business, according to Superintendent Lintott, has been due to "war orders," and the sharp upward demand for steel has been wholly to meet regular peace-time demands.

73 Percent of Capacity
Present prices for steel products have been reaffirmed up to December 31, 1939, for delivery and consumption in the U. S. A.

Nation-wide operations in the steel industry for the current week will advance 9.1 points to 79.3 percent of capacity, highest since Sept. 13, 1937, the American Iron and Steel Institute estimates. Last week's figure was 70.2 percent. A month ago operations were at the rate of 62.2 percent, while a year ago they were 47.3 percent.

School Enrollment Gains But Junior College May Close

Gains in enrollment at every school except the Community College, Lomita Elementary (whose attendance remained stationary) and Orange street in Lomita (which showed a decrease) were noted in Torrance and Lomita today as the institutions were ending their second week of scholastic work.

The comparative first day and today registrations are:

School	Today	Sept. 11
High school	760	738
Elementary	881	864
Fern St.	315	296
Walteria	127	125
Perry	150	148
Jr. College	15	35

CITY TOTAL	2,248	2,206
IN LOMITA		
Narbonne high	1,090	1,060
Elementary	420	420
Orange St.	337	345

LOMITA TOTAL	1,847	1,825
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DIST. TOTAL	4,095	4,031
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The decrease in Torrance Community (Junior) College attendance may mean abandonment of that advanced institution which was to have been given a trial here this term. Principal Thomas Elson of the

(Continued on Page 2-A)

SRA Cannery Staff Increased as Tomato Season Peak Nears

More than 100 additional workers have been assigned by the SRA to the Harbor City cannery during the past three weeks, increasing to 250 the number now employed on that state relief project, according to M. O. Palmer, superintendent.

Increase in cannery personnel was made in anticipation of the peak of the tomato packing season, which is scheduled to start this week and extend, with favorable weather, thru Nov. 1, Palmer said. The cannery during the rush period will use approximately 1,200 cases of tomatoes daily in packing an estimated

7,200 cans of standard tomato products, ketchup and puree. A lunch room with cooking facilities was opened this week for cannery workers. General repairs to the plant were also made. Cannery materials are supplied from surplus goods produced in SRA community gardens, with only persons on state relief rolls eligible for employment.

Products are taken to SRA warehouses for distribution to relief clients. The Harbor City unit is the only SRA-operated cannery in Southern California, Palmer said.