

# 'All Quiet' on Harbor City Front, Hot Rods Simmer Down After Raid

Except for the back rap of mufflers and the squeal of burning rubber, all was quiet on the Hot Rod front Tuesday night. About 50 cut-down souped-up roadsters, the mechanical pride and joy of their youthful owners, gathered at Rogers Drive in Harbor City marking the weekly anniversary of a head-making spree of a week ago. It was a week ago that a horde of the roaring underling hot rods "terrorized" motorists by roaring down Sepulveda boulevard near Hawthorne boulevard, four abreast. Head lights on high beam forced startled motorists off the road into the sandy shoulders.

Among the crowd of carefree speed addicts was a young man complaining of a "hatchet" in his head. He was Richard "Doc" Reiberger whose stripped down go-crate crashed last Tuesday skidding 178 feet, rolling over three times, and pinning him underneath the overturned car. The hatchet? That's a painful moment Reiberger carries of last week's crash. Sometimes he can hardly feel it, but then again, when he turns his head a certain way.

Leaning from the glassless, topless, wrinkled car he voiced the opinion: "Not for me!" Small talk of the evening was sprinkled with foreign sounding phrases.

"Pet's double stacker was clocked at 118 at Muroc."

"She's milled down plenty and carries four stacks."

During the earlier part of the week, word spread among the hot-rodgers of the Tuesday meeting like a war-time rumor that the May Co. had nylon. From all over the South Bay and Harbor area the hot-rodgers poured into the large parking lot.

Even Life magazine showed up to shoot a couple of pictures. Without a program it was hard to tell one hot-rod from another to the layman. But to the hobby of custom-built jobs one roadster was as different from another as a Stanley Steamer is from the new seeing-eye dog Studebaker.

One under-slung model was tagged "For Sale—\$450." That was F.O.B. Harbor City and did not include ton, fenders, running board, or hood.

"I got more than \$800 in her," asserted the owner of the doodle bug as he pointed to the chromium-plated heads and carburetors of the V-8 power plant. Eavesdropping on bits of motor chatter revealed that some of the more serious-minded hot-rodgers have spent as high as \$5000 on their crates. They are lucky if they get \$2000 on the market—damn lucky!

Though there was often a discussion about alcohol it was not about the bonded variety but of the motor burning brand. Some of the engines are designed to burn alcohol. Gasoline apparently being relegated to the menial task of cleaning greasy nuts and bolts, spindles, and calloused hands with skinned knuckles.

Though there was some talk about driving out to the Torrance Municipal Airport to race on the wide, flat smooth runways of the flight strip no one seemed too eager for a "drag" (race). The heat was on. Every cop in the area was laying for them. Court trial for six of those "ticketed" by cops last Tuesday was due for hearing in the Torrance City Court today. They'd wait to see what happened to them in court.

Maybe some other night, but not tonight!

## Letters to The Editor

Editor Torrance Herald Sept. 20, 1949

My answer to Councilman Bob L. Haggard: I respectfully decline his request that I resign from the Civil Service Commission. Due to Mayor J. Hugh Sherrif's absence I will make only one statement in answer to his charge. I never at any time criticized any member singly or the Commission as a body. Each and every member is 100 per cent sincere and unbiased. This board was created for the protection of city employees as well as department heads and as long as I am on that Commission I am going to remain conscientious of that fact. What I criticize is the fact that the Commission, in not one single instance, has the power to enforce any decision they may make.

This action requesting my resignation is pure spite and each credit can be given Councilman Nick Draie and George Powell for their courageous, unbiased and Democratic action in granting any citizens or public servant the right to strive for better government. More power to them.

The efficiency of the City Attorney is becoming more evident as time progresses in guiding the actions of the City Council, and I do hope, in the future, that more pleasant relations exist. And they can.

In conclusion I still say that I intend to exercise my rights as a citizen.

The right of free speech!  
v/s GEORGE DOWNING  
1511 Crenshaw



PICKING UP POINTERS... Judge John A. Shidler (left) receives a little schooling in background information about the city's school system from Board President Dr. Howard A. Wood. The lesson took place shortly after the judge was sworn in as a member of the board to fill the unexpired term of George Thatcher.—Herald Photo

## Man Blind 18 Years Recounts Experiences in Dark World

"It is not shameful to wear a pair of glasses," George Campbell, who was blind for 18 years before recovering his eyesight, told two student audiences at Torrance High School Friday.

Speaking under sponsorship of the Torrance Lions Club Sight Conservation and Blind Committee, Campbell encouraged those with good sight to protect it, and those who have impaired sight to conserve and treat it. He urged the students with good sight not to "kid" those who are forced to wear glasses.

Dr. Rollin R. Smith, past deputy district governor of Lions International, introduced the speaker who lived for 18 years deprived of the light of day. During this period he was educated in the public schools rather than in a blind institute.

A series of surgical operations by ophthalmic surgeons was completed and glasses fitted 12 years ago. George Campbell regards that date, January 27, 1937, as his real birthday, he told the students. "Life then began with realization of light and vision," he said. He related his endeavors in attempting a normal existence while handicapped by a total lack of sight as he delivered his story, "Out of Shadows, Into Light."

Appearing with Dr. Smith on the stage of the high school auditorium were Paul Diamond, of the Gay Shop, second vice president of Torrance Lions Club, and Herb Cohn, of Torrance Men Shop, Lions Tamer of the club.

Campbell, who lives in Long Beach, has appeared before 740 industrial plant audiences totaling 760,000 employees in number, as well as in hundreds of public school and service club programs, and is recognized as one of the most active safety speakers in America, Dr. Smith said.

## El Camino in Building Surge

Swamped by the probability of a student enrollment of 3000 to 3500 students this year the El Camino College Board of Trustees meeting in a four-hour session last week attempted to speed the construction of the permanent building program by approving final plans for construction of a Student Union-cafeteria building and an addition to the new shop building.

The Board also approved final plans as presented by the architectural firm of Marsh, Smith and Powell of Los Angeles for the construction of a press box and radio broadcasting booth on the top of the new stadium. Under authority of the Board, a call for bids for these projects will be issued as soon as the plans have been approved by the State Division of Architecture.

## Management Club to Install New Officers Friday

Richard D. Miller of the General Petroleum Corporation will be installed as president of the Torrance Industrial Management Club Friday night at the annual meeting of the club to be held at the Villa Riviera Hotel in Long Beach.

Others taking office will be R. L. McGuire, International Derrick Company, vice president; George Hunt, Columbia Steel, secretary; William Weiss, International Derrick, treasurer; and Milton Isbell, Y.M.C.A., co-ordinating secretary. W. T. Tiltonson of American Rock Wool Corporation will be guest chairman and will install the new officers.

Directors for the coming year are Joe G. Arnold, Chicago Bridge and Iron; Vernon W. Crumm, Rubber Graft Corporation; Karl E. Hansen, National Supply Company; Don Hyde, Columbia Steel; W. R. Patterson, National Supply Co.; R.-I. Plomert Jr., General Petroleum; Douglas Simcoe, American Rock Wool Corporation; Earl Weber, Dicalite Division of Great Lakes Carbon Company; and Hampden Wentworth, Longren Aircraft Corporation.

Entertainment will be furnished by John Ramero, well known comedian. A social will follow the dinner meeting that begins at 6:30.

## Court Battle Looms Over Buildings

One of the city's most complicated legal entanglements, involving the removal of two buildings from an unused street in Hollywood Riviera, probably will reach the courts next week, according to City Attorney C. Douglass Smith, who is now preparing final briefs on the matter.

Smith revealed that the city intends to seek a mandatory injunction to force the removal of the structures which are located on property deeded to the city.

One of the structures is a former residence which was used as a real estate office in Palos Verdes and later moved to the Hollywood Riviera Park way location. The other building is a house owned by a Palm Springs real estate company and placed there as a model of the type of houses they have for sale in Palm Springs.

The Hollywood Riviera Home-owners Association has protested the structures because "they serve no useful purpose and degrade real estate values."

The preparation of legal papers for the removal of the structures is complicated by the fact that the real estate office has changed hands and the city has vacated part of the property. Owners of the model house claim that they are not subject to city building codes since there is no one occupying the building, nor is there any plumbing. Added to all this, says the city attorney, the fact that the deed giving the property to the city is probably the most restricted legal form under which the city has accepted property of that type.

## POSES AS DETECTIVE

A Torrance housewife told the local police department Friday that an unidentified man, posing as a detective, asked admission to her home. When told he would have to return when the woman's husband was home, the man disappeared.

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## Clerks, Market Operators Open Negotiations

Negotiations for a new labor agreement for markets of the harbor area were opened Monday night when representatives of Retail Clerks Local Union 905 met with the bargaining committee of the Food division of the Harbor Area Employers' Council.

Attending the meeting as Union representative were Haskell Tidwell, secretary, Bob Watson, president, and Wallace Elliott, business agent.

Representing employers were J. W. Jensen, of Better Foods Markets, Inc., Andrew Vaselenko, of Vaselenko's Markets, Ken Meigs, of Safeway Stores, Inc., and Frank S. Selover, executive secretary of the Employers' Council.

Thomas K. Ware, of Valley Food Market, Gardena, the other member of the employers' committee, did not attend the first meeting as he is at a grocers' convention in Santa Barbara.

A meeting of all food employers was called for Monday night at 8 o'clock in the City Hall to discuss the union's proposals, and the second negotiation session will be held on Wednesday, September 28, at 2:30 p.m., in Torrance.

## Irwin Kasten New Leader of Torrance Hi-Y

Irwin Kasten was elected president of Torrance Hi-Y, Chapter II, Monday night in the first meeting of the high school Y.M.C.A. club meeting at the First Methodist Church in Torrance. Other officers elected to serve the 1949-50 school year were John Carlisle, vice president; Joe O'Toole, secretary; Bill Wegnet, treasurer; Gordon Stanley, chaplain; and Gary Barkdull, sgt.-at-arms. Jack Hoy is adult advisor of the club.

The chapter is one of two in the Torrance High School. Hi-Y is a national fellowship of high school boys whose purpose is to "create, maintain, and extend throughout the school and community high standards of Christian character." The club platform is clean speech, clean living, clean scholarship, and clean sports.

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SEASIDE—NO. 2 CAN **14¢** Yacht Club-Cut—No. 2 Can **18¢**  
**Butter Beans** **14¢** **Green Beans** **18¢**  
12-oz. Btl. Burbank  
**TOMATO SAUCE 7¢**  
10½-oz. Monarch, All Green  
**ASPARAGUS SPEARS 19¢**  
KRAFT **Spaghetti Dinner 10¢** SANTA MARIA **Chili Con Carne 14¢**  
VAL VITA—WHITE MEAT **Albacore Tuna 29¢** MIRACLE WHIP SALAD **DRESSING 47¢**  
Qts. Pts. 27¢  
Swift's Lean **SPARE RIBS 33¢<sup>lb</sup>**  
Center Cut **CHUCK ROASTS 39¢<sup>lb</sup>**  
Round Bone **SWISS STEAK 48¢<sup>lb</sup>**  
SKINLESS **WIENERS 34¢<sup>lb</sup>** BONELESS **BEEF STEW 56¢<sup>lb</sup>**  
**Ground Round 58¢<sup>lb</sup>** PIN BONE **ROASTS 47¢<sup>lb</sup>**  
**FRYING RABBITS 47¢<sup>lb</sup>**  
**PURE PORK SAUSAGE 38¢<sup>lb</sup>**  
FULL CUTS **ROUND STEAK 64¢<sup>lb</sup>**  
JONATHAN **APPLES 8 lb. 25¢** BERMUDA **ONIONS 3¢<sup>lb</sup>**  
NORTHERN **CABBAGE 2¢<sup>lb</sup>** ICED **CARROTS 4¢<sup>PER BUNCH</sup>**

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