

BY JACK O. BALDWIN
Managing Editor

A column about going broke, rainmakers, a Bible class and other closely related local subjects.

Casually asking "How's business?" brought a rather interesting answer this week from Jack Dabbs, manager of Torrance's three theaters.

Quite naturally the chat turned to a discussion of how television is affecting the motion picture business.

"It's true," says Dabbs. "That TV has hurt the theater business—BUT it hasn't hurt it as much as it appears."

"Talking with operators of theaters who come to 'film row' to book pictures from areas where there is no television it has been found that the drop in attendance in those areas matches, almost to the half per cent, the drop in theaters located in strong television areas."

"What's the answer? I'm not sure I know. Better pictures wouldn't hurt, of course. Neither would good promotional campaigns by the studios. Although better pictures isn't the magic key to the problem."

"Take the picture 'Go For Broke'. A tremendous picture, highly publicized. The studio gave it the same build up as 'King Solomon's Mines' and expected the film to equal the gross take of the 'Mines'. It didn't come close. Why, I don't know. Good picture, lots of action, humor, top cast, plenty of publicity and yet the film in the ticket office nearly went to sleep between ticket sales."

"What we conventional theater operators believe is partly responsible for the drop in attendance is our cousins the Drive-In theaters. Not entirely mine, but they are definite competition."

"At present with studios promising better pictures, and more of them, the feeling among 'film row' is much brighter than it was several months ago."

"Time and the public hold the answer," philosophized Dabbs.

Incidentally, while we have Dabbs on the keys, Dabbs has agreed to give two tickets to the Stadium Theater to the person submitting a quote for our "Bright Sayings of Children Department."

To start things off here is one from my number three boy, Danny—age five.

Before they left on vacation Mrs. Meade Ferguson, 23121 Falena avenue, was conducting a once-a-week Bible class in her home for a small fry in the neighborhood. After one of these sessions our young son rushed home to relay some of his newly gained information.

"Mommy, daddy," said Danny breathlessly, "did you know that when Jesus died some bad men nailed him to the Red Cross?"

Winning by the office right now is one of Chief Jake Benner's fire wagons on the way to a grass fire. "Big menace right now," says the Chief stumping through tinder dry wild oats.

"Could do for a bit of rain." Which brings to mind the great lengths that I have been reading about on how professional rainmakers liquefy the skies over sunbleached heads. Great research has gone into the project. Seems rather silly to spend so much money on how to make it rain when thousands of motorists could offer an answer, including me.

I just wash my car. My wife Carolyn has another method. She cranks up the Bendix and by the time the last sheet is ready to go onto the line—RAIN!

Corwin Jones, he owns a hunk of Virgil's Wheel Alignment Shop, has still another method. He soaks his lawn.

Chief Benner might try one of these anti-grass fire methods but he probably won't have the moral support of Fire Captain Gene Walker, a rain-hater. Says Walker:

"Rain? Naw, definitely not. Look at all the grass it brings up in the spring."

Ask for Help:

Guardsmen Launch Plan To Give City of Yomoto First Church

Half way around the world from home, a group of Torrance boys in Japan are helping build a church in a town of 16,000 persons—the first the people have ever had.

Helping construct the church are members of the 578th Combat engineers now stationed in Japan near the city of Yomoto where the new edifice is to be erected.

The Herald learned of the undertaking this week from Sgt. Deporte J. Skidmore, attached to the medical detachment of the former local National Guard outfit.

SGT. TELLS PLAN

"We will have to leave this location at a later date and our chaplain believes that there is nothing which we could do that would be of as much universal good to each and every one of our Japanese friends as a church where they can assemble to worship. There are 16,000 persons here and many have never heard the gospel of Christ."

"Many men of the Battalion are donating sums from their army pay to help erect the church. We feel that many of our friends back in Torrance, Lomita and surrounding communities would like to help in the enterprise."

SITE ASSURED

Chaplain Chester O. Mulder, battalion chaplain, reported that the mayor of Yomoto, Mr. Oe, assured the local soldiers that his city would donate a lot for the site of the church.

He said the mayor granted the engineers the use of the city hall in which to hold worship services. The first night, 92 attended the services. On June 17, the second time services were held, 165 were present while on June 21, 223 persons crowded into the chambers designed to hold 150 persons.

SOMETHING WORTHWHILE

"I sure hope our fellows can leave this camp with the satisfaction of having done something worthwhile in helping these people get a church," wrote the chaplain.

Sgt. Skidmore suggests any local resident wishing to contribute to the Yomoto Church Building Fund to send offerings to Chaplain Chester O. Mulder, 578th Engineer (C) Battalion, APO 6, in care of the Postmaster San Francisco, California.

Moose to Stage Dinner Dance

A dinner-dance will be presented by the Torrance Lodge Local Order of Moose at the Carson street home of the Moose on Saturday July 21 at 7 p.m. Danny Hutchins, club steward, announced this week.

The dinner, fried chicken with all the fixins' will precede the dance scheduled for 8:30 p.m. A repeat performance by the fire-house orchestra will provide music for dancing.

Joins Accountants

The Los Angeles chapter of the National Association of Cost Accountants announced this week the admission to membership of Howard C. Vandenberg, of 137 Paseo de Granada. He is employed as a salesman for the National Cash Register Company.

Barbers to Stay Open Mondays

You can still get clipped on Mondays.

So states G. J. Berger, secretary-treasurer of the Journeymen's Barber Union, Local 881, in commenting on the practice now in effect in other nearby communities.

Berger, with 78 barber shops in Torrance, Lomita, Waverly, and the San Pedro area in his union, says the local AF of L union has taken no action to close shops on Sundays and Mondays.

Slight Gains Noted in Number Of Job Seekers

A slight rise in the number of persons seeking employment through the Torrance branch of the California Department of Employment was reported this week by Mrs. Winona Ellis, manager of the local office.

A total of 446 persons were registered with the office at the time the manager reported this week, while 365 were registered at the same time last month. Increases in applicants were noted in every classification except agricultural workers, Mrs. Ellis said.

Of the 446 now registered, 260 are women and 24 per cent of the remaining 186 men are veterans. Mrs. Ellis said the figure still reflects a large number of women who are housewives re-entering the labor market for defense work.

Applicants living in Torrance and registering under the various classifications include: Professional—18; clerical—66; sales people—32; service—80; agricultural—28; skilled—55; semiskilled—56; and labor—111.

Seaman Richard Wright Assigned to Sub Duty

Richard G. Wright, seaman apprentice, USN, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Wright of 2117 Torrance boulevard, was recently graduated from the enlisted basic submarine course at the U. S. Naval Submarine Base, New London, Conn., and has been assigned to duty with the Submarine Force, U. S. Pacific Fleet.

Concert Announced

A 28-piece concert band led by Ted Klages will perform Sunday afternoon at Pt. Fermin in San Pedro. The concert is free.

LOCAL MARINE

Wounded in Korean action recently was Marine Pfc. Charles P. Klutz, son of Mr. and Mrs. Leo Klutz of 2403 South Vermont avenue, according to Department of Defense casualty list number 353 released earlier this week.

LILIA FOLEY
Has What GI's Want Most

Candy High On List of Items Wanted by GI's

Do you have a husband, son, brother or friend serving in Korea and don't know what to send him? Mairne 1st Lt. Jeremiah A. O'Leary public information officer with the First Marine Division in Korea, has come up with a few suggestions for the home folks here in Torrance.

Send him candy, lots of candy. O'Leary says. Plain chocolate bars and fruits drops are given free to front-line troops but the sameness quickly palls and the division PXs only occasionally stock other varieties of the nicker-candy bar type. The boys really crave sweets, in the absence of bars and drugstores, and the fancier the candy the better they like it.

PACKAGE WELL

Send cakes and cookies but package them sturdily or mail them in tin. A piece of pastry takes an awful mauling in the mails and an indifferently wrapped item will often arrive as crumbs.

Send books and magazines. A "new" national magazine of true accumulates a never-ending waiting list.

Send him socks. A front line trooper can never get enough. Woolen socks, white or brown to meet uniform regulations. If he has a camera, send him film for it. Or, better still, send him a camera. A good many troops already carry cameras of all conceivable types and there doesn't seem to be any objection on the part of commanding officers.

He can use a flash-light, too, unless actually committed to a front line position, and even the combat soldiers go into reserve from time to time.

NO LAUNDRIES

Send him soap and laundry dry flakes. Remember, the American fighting man in Korea does his own laundry in a creek or a ration can. The standard joke of the peninsula is, "What is it, in a country so lousy with Chinamen, I have to do my own laundry?"

If he smokes, send him cigars or a pipe once in a while. Cigarettes are plentiful and free in the divisions.

When the weather turns cold, he will have genuine use for a patented handwarmer—something like a palm-sized cigarette lighter that glows warmth from inside a metal cover. It is ideal for pre-heating sleeping bags, the universal bed-chamber of the infantryman in Korea summer and winter.

WANT CANNED GOODS

Your Korean serviceman also

SHOWMAN JACK DABBS
Shoulder Goes to Wheel

Head of Theater Chain Gets Feather for Cap

A feather, a big red one, went into the cap this week of Jack Dabbs, general manager of the M and M Enterprises—operators of five theaters in this area.

Dabbs was named to head the Red Feather Drive during the 1951 Community Chest Campaign in Torrance by Noble Waite, Harbor Area Chairman.

The ex-signal corps soldier will announce the appointment of his command staff next week, he said.

"We're going to try something different in the way of a drive this year—something I think will meet everyone's approval," said the new Red Feather campaigner.

Dabbs succeeds Dean L. Sears and Sam Levy who shared the responsibilities last year.

The new chairman has been general manager of the three Torrance theaters and two near-

by show houses since 1938 when he came to Torrance. He is a Rotarian.

He and his wife, Margaret, live at 1640 Juniper with their children, Janice, 9, Stephen, 6, and Marilyn, 3.

The new plan to bolster the rapidly dwindling Chest funds will be revealed by the chairman after the appointment of his sub-chairmen, he said.

Picnic Announced

Wyoming's mid-summer picnic will be held at Sycamore Grove Park, Los Angeles, Sunday, July 29.

will appreciate almost any kind of canned or packaged food that he doesn't present get in the drab GI diet. Some men go strongly for smoked oysters, fancy canned fowl or meats, while others develop a great taste for any variety of soup beside the ubiquitous chicken noodle provided by the supply services.

A good, serviceable watch or sun-glasses also, make a nice gift.

If he is your sweetheart or husband, send him pictures of yourself. The men can't get enough photographs of their girlfriends or of their wives and children.

But above all, send him words. Write to him as often as you can, whether there is any news or not. Mail call is still the high point of any man's day in Korea. And he infinitely prefers your letters to your packages.

Torrance Eighth In New Building During Jan.-June

Torrance is far ahead of communities of comparable size and holding well against bigger competition in new building during the first six months of this year.

Of 72 Southland communities Torrance is eighth in the list with \$7,835,603 in building permits issued from January to June of 1952.

Topping Torrance are these seven communities, all larger than Torrance (at the moment): Los Angeles County, Los Angeles City, San Diego, Burbank, Long Beach, Pasadena, and Compton—in that order.

That Torrance is going along at a clip greater than it maintained during the first six months of last year's record year is noted in comparing the six months total for the two years.

Jan. — June 1951—\$7,835,603

Jan. — June 1950—\$6,307,807

Helping were the permits issued during last month which were \$2 million more than those issued during June of last year.

TORRANCE HOPALONGS TO HAVE OWN WEEK

Local cowboys will take over next Monday as Cowboy Week starts on all seven Torrance Playgrounds.

To further stimulate interest in the lives and activities of cowboys is the purpose of the program outlined by Mrs. Betty Schaefer of the recreation department.

Children will learn about horses, cattle, and other farm animals from Monday through Friday through story telling, drama, drawing and crafts, and a special cowboy parade on Friday.

Featured in the parade will be live horses at several play-centers. Kids in the parade will be dressed as cowboys and Indians, and awards will be given for the most original, the funniest, the prettiest, the most authentic, and the most colorful costume along with many other classifications.

Illinois Picnic Set

The 45th annual Illinois summer picnic will be held in Bixby Park, Long Beach, Saturday, July 21. Program will begin at 1 p.m.

Letters
To The Editor

Pet Owner Wants to Know What Happens to All The Money Collected by Local Dog Catchers

(Copy sent to Governor Warren)

Dear Mr. Editor:

I see that the "Humane" Society is going around "again." Making people pay to keep a dog in their "own" back yard. I have watched them do it for years. Don't you think that is going long enough?

What do they do with the millions of dollars they collect? From people who have a dog in their yard? Nothing, counting all the thousands of dogs they sell annually, averaging from \$5.00 up. Plus a dollar or two from each person who delivers them in, so they can sell them.

Besides the large donations they get, plus fines, etc. When a person buys a piece of property, they purchase what's above it, and what's below it, unless there is a clause, oil and mineral rights reserved.

I think it is against the Constitution of the United States, to make a person pay to keep a dog on his own property.

Isn't there any more honest politicians, or law-makers left?

Then why doesn't the newspapers do something about it? It is no more legal for them to pick-up a child's stray dog and sell it, than it is for anyone else, to pick up dogs and sell them. Besides it keeps a child from having a pet.

The dog owners are the ones who pay millions of dollars annually. While thousands of cats roam free, they pay nothing, and do damage. Do you ever see the Humane Society, ever picking up stray cats? No. But oh boy, will they pick up a well bred dog? One that they can sell.

I think it has become somewhat of a commercial racket. Run by the politicians, (for the politicians).

For the "little-good" the Humane Society does, could be done at no extra expense, by the local law officers, who are already being paid, by the public, for protection. (Besides it would keep them out of mischief).

I think they make more money than the president of the United States. Should be immediately stopped.

Sincerely,

Mary Price
Los Angeles County,
Calif.

While we are cleaning up other country's, how about some of you politicians, clean-up some of these rackets here, that cost the public millions of dollars annually? After all, you were put there for the people, by the people, to save them money, weren't you?



KIDS KEEPING KOOL . . . These boys and girls, all from Torrance, find that Alondra Park Pool rates number one as a heat-beater these summer days. The group above is part of 300 local energy-filled youngsters taking advantage of free transportation to the pool furnished by the

Torrance Kiwanis Club on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Arrangements can be made at any Torrance Park. The event is under the sponsorship of the Torrance Recreation Department.—(Herald Photo).