TORRANCE HERALD

PART TWO

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Managing Editor

A column about a telephone, a flower grower, a movie actress, a judge, and other closely related important local problems.

The Shidlers, Judge John and Rosemary, are among that group of persons to whom things always seem to be happening.

Take the day of the ground breaking for the new South Bay Justice Court Building, Judge Shidler's soon-to-be new headquarters. A group of civic leaders had gathered to witness the first plunge of the shovel. We'll let the Judge take it from here. "My long-time friend the Mayor of Redondo Beach, Dr. Russell J. Shea, was to hand to me a flag to be used in the new courtroom when it is completed. I used to know Shea when he was working his way through medical school playing piano in a beer joint."

"We were standing a short distance from "Bill" Haynes who was doing the announcing with a hand-held microphone." (The Judge refers to F. S. Haynes publisher of, (this hurts) a daily newspaper in the South Bay area.

"Mayor Shea handed me the flag and thinking he was out of range of the mircrophone, whispered "Here's your flag, judge, take it, ole buddy, and ram it down your throat...

"Just as he made this remark Haynes handed me the mike and into the crowd boomed the words . . . and ram it down your throat — or some such similar wording."

Rosemary (more about her later) and the Judge have a fine sense of humor to which Mr. and Mrs. Phil Benjamin, local flower gowers, will attest. It happened because Rosemary had difficulty getting home from the studios in time for dinner. So for her birthday recently the Judge gave his actress-wife a telephone in her automobile so that she might inform the household when to put the fire under the soup. The first night they had the phone they pulled up in front of the Benjamin's home, picked up the radio-telephone, and called the Benjamin's number.

"Hi, Phil," said Rosemary, "John and I were just sitting here thinking we might drop over for awhile if you weren't doing anything. Okay?"

"Sure, come on over."

"Oh, fine" Rosemary told him. "We're on our way."

With that they left their car car and made a quick dash to the front door.

Mr. B was shouting to the household as he walked away from the telephone to pick up the papers, and empty the ash trays the Shidlers are coming over. The door bell rang. "Now what?" asked Benjamin aloud as he strode to the door.

"We were delayed by traffic or we'd have been here sooner," quipped Rosemary to Benjamin.

"You should have seen the expression on Phil's face. His mouth hung open in utter astonishment clear down to here," said Rosemary indicating a level about knee high.

Actually, the Benjamin call was not the first to be made on the mobile telephone unit. The telephone company installation crew called her on it to tell her they just had the rear end of her car smashed in at a boulevard stop. The second call went to the P. T. and T's insurance company.

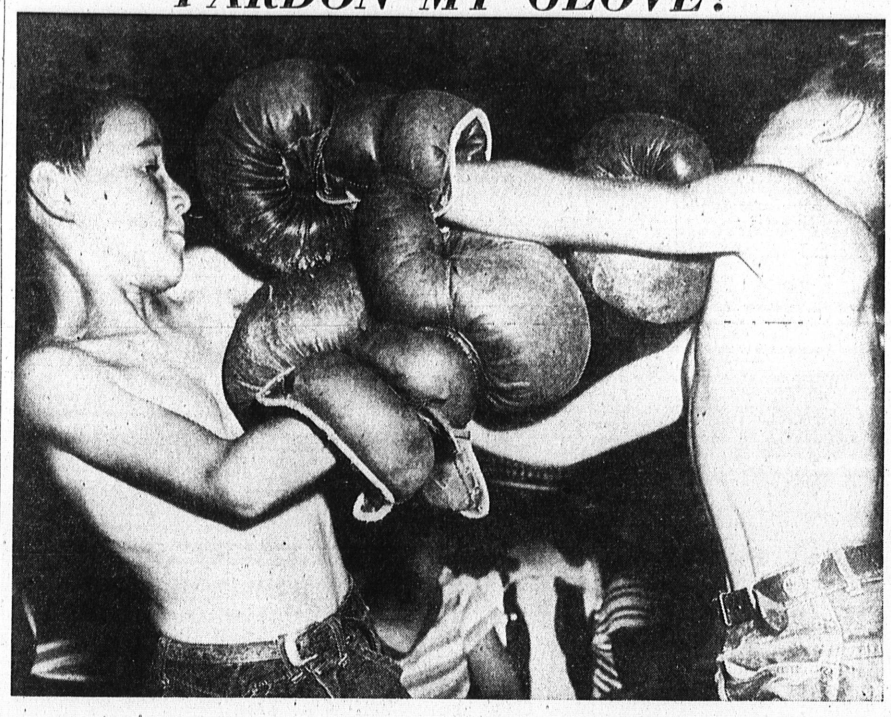
If Rosemary's newest picture clicks it could well put her on the road to big time stardom. She just finished making the indoor fire scenes in a movie in which she stars opposite Dick Powell. There is small boy, Tommy Ivo, who plays the couple's son in the picture and aside from a few extras the three of them constitute the cast.

The Universal Technicolor production is an adaptation of a Robert Louis Stevenson story "The Treasure of Franhard." The original story was laid in France but Universal transplanted the whole thing to Sonora County. In the picture Rosemary plays an ex-dance hall queen, who is the wife of Powell, an ex-gambler. The part calls for Rosemary to do a song and dance—her first on celluloid.

"We are going to have to have every floor in the house refinished," commented the Judge about Rosemary's practice sessions before the filming of the sequence.

"Look for a name change before it is released," advises the movie and radio actress. In the meanwhile radio listeners can catch the local actress, known professionally as Rosemary De Camp, on the "Dr Christian Show" over KNX (CBS) on Wednesday evenings at 8:30.

PARDON MY GLOVE!



SLUGGERS . . . Learning the manly art of self defense at the local YMCA Summer Club are Robert Johnson, 10, of 3545 Newton street, (left) and Billy Cooper, 9, of 2716 El Dorado street—both in the paperweight division. Said Robert, "With these things on I'm all thumbs." (Herald photo).

Schools Receive $130,000 Grant

Certification of federal funds totaling $130,246 to be paid to the Torrance Unified School District was announced in Washington this week. The district applied for the money earlier this year.

The money, approved by the Federal Security Agency, is made available under Public Law 874, a law which provides federal financial assistance to school districts for construction of new facilities where the impact of the mobilization program has caused overcrowding.

Basis in computing the federal assistance granted the Torrance district was a survey conducted by Dr. J. H. Hull, superintendent of schools, with the cooperation of principals and teachers of the city's schools.

Children in school were given questionnaires to take home, on which the parents listed their places of employment, Dr. Hull said. These questionnaires, plus information provided by city officials, the Chamber of Commerce, executives in local industries and the U. S. Employment Service office here, were used in the application for the funds.

One board of education member said yesterday that the money would probably be earmarked for school sites, although no definite plans had yet been made for it.

The federal aid received this week represents less than 10 per cent of the district's $1,690,740 budget for the coming year.

YWCA Receives $3000 Donation To Apply Toward Building Fund

Receipt of a $3000 check to apply toward the building fund of the nearly completed YWCA building, was announced this week by Dean Sears, manager of the Bank of America here, to whom the check was sent.

Presented to the YWCA by the Los Angeles Area Building Funds Incorporated, an organization of Los Angeles businessmen who contribute to the fund through the Community Chest, the gift represents the final 10 per cent of the funds for the building.

"We were able to show the organization that we had raised $27,000 in contributions, drives, and donated labor and material for the building," said Sam Levy, who has been a driving force behind the new building program.

"We were eligible for the money through our connection with the San Pedro YWCA," according to Charlotte Lukes, executive secretary of the Torrance YWCA.

Plans for a dedication program sometime in September when the building will be opened are being discussed, according to Levy.

GEORGE PIERSON
. . . Joins Herald Ad Staff

Advertising Salesman Joins Herald

To give better service to display advertising accounts, the Torrance Herald this week increased its staff with the employment of George Pierson, an advertising salesman with nearly a quarter of a century of experience in the business.

Pierson, a member of the Blue Lodge of the Ancient, Free, and Accepted Masons of Kansas City, came to the Herald from the Times Delta in Visalia, California. Prior to his position with the Times Delta he serviced accounts for the Valley Times in North Hollywood.

His newspaper career started in Topeka, Kansas when he was 11 years old. He was a "Copy boy" on a large Kansas daily before he joined the staff of the Kansas City Journal for whom he served 17 years.

Jury Trial of Local Man Held Unconstitutional

Because he was not in court at the time his jury was picked, the Appellate Court in Los Angeles this week ruled his trial was unconstitutional and granted a new trial to Sol Burns, owner of the Pacific Waste Products Company, who was once found guilty of maintaining a rat harborage.

The court ruling, which set a precedent in California, held that even though Burns consented to the selection of a jury in his absence, that the defendant had been deprived of his constitutional rights and that under the American system of government not only was the accused interested in his life and liberty, but also the people of the State of California.

Burns was found guilty of violation of Torrance City Ordinance 464 last December in a jury trial in the courtroom of City Judge Otto B. Willett. Burns' attorney at the time, Don Armstrong, had been instructed to proceed with the selection of the jury by Burns. All parties and the court agreed to the plan.

During the appeal the court found the law to be constitutional but not the manner in which the jury was selected.

Judge Vickers ordered the case sent back to the superior court for trial.

Local YM Has Answer To Summer Problem

The local YMCA has the answer to that recurring summertime question posed by little boys: "Mommy, what shall I do today?"

Milt Isbell, executive secretary of the Torrance "Y," suggests that mothers who are having difficulties answering the question send their offspring to the YMCA building at 2080 Washington avenue, corner of Arlington avenue and Plaza del Amo.

"Have them bring a lunch and stay all day," Isbell suggests.

In progress at the local "Y" is the "Summer Fun Club."

The boys meet three times weekly, Monday and Wednesday for the "Preps"—8 to 12 years, and Tuesday and Thursday for the Juniors—12 to 15 years. Each Friday a one-day trip is arranged for both age groups.

TO BERRY FARM

Tomorrow's trip includes a visit to Knott's Berry Farm and a swim at Long Beach. Last week 74 boys made the trip to the Griffith Park Zoo and enjoyed a swim afterward. On August 3 the club will make a tour of the harbor, visiting several ships.

Hours for the club are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

A small charge (used mostly to buy glue to repair furniture and replace an occasional broken window pane at the "Y") is 50 cents per week. Bus transportation for the field trips varies according to the distance traveled.

VARIED DAILY PROGRAM

The daily program includes ping pong, shuffleboard, boxing, quiet games, horseshoe pitching, darts, songs, stunts, movies, handicrafts, tracking and similar activities.

An overnight trip is planned before the program terminates on August 10. That night has been designated "Awards Night," during which winners of the various tournaments will be presented with trophies.

Also scheduled by the "Y" under the direction of V. T. Vanderpool, coach and instructor, is the "Little League Baseball," a fast-growing popular attraction for boys 12 years and under. Games are held on the Torrance High School grounds twice weekly.

Additional information regarding the "Summer Fun Club" may be obtained by phoning Torrance 1563. Boys may register any day at the "Y."

Driver's License Bureau Closed For Vacations

Issuance of driver's licenses by the state in Torrance has been temporarily discontinued while employees of the Department of Motor Vehicles are on vacation, according to W. L. Putnam, senior examiner.

Meanwhile motorists wishing to apply for a license, either new or renewal, may obtain them at the office in Culver City, 11354 West Washington boulevard.

The local examiners will return to Torrance on August 6 and then on the first and third Mondays of each month thereafter.

Body Sent to New Mexico For Burial

Funeral services for Mrs. Lillian Erna Draper, 60, wife of A. L. Draper of 2005-C Cabrillo avenue, were held at the Stone and Myers Chapel here last Saturday following her death in Seaside Hospital in Long Beach. Rev. C. J. England, pastor of the First Christian Church, officiated at the final rites.

She leaves her husband and two sons, L. E. Draper of Torrance, and E. K. Draper of Great Falls, Montana. Her mother, a sister and two brothers live in Trinidad, Colorado, and another brother lives in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

The body was flown to Albuquerque for burial this week.

Cat Show Slated For Civic Aud

Fifth annual championship Cat Show will be held at the Civic Auditorium here December 1 and 2, it was announced this week by the Pacific Cat Fanciers.

The finest of Siamese, Persians, Abbyssinians, Manx, Burmese, and American Short Hairs, as well as household pets will be exhibited.

Mrs. Billie Gerst, a well known judge of San Francisco, will make the awards.

Anyone interested in entering an exhibit may call Mrs. B. K. Culver at FRontier 5-2858 or J. T. Kilpatrick at Lomita 1581-W.

Films Playground Scenes

Colored moving pictures of the summer program on all seven Torrance Playgrounds and other recreation special activities are being taken by Tony Gallo, of the city's recreation department.

Four Local Drivers Win Trophies

While most of the Torrance boys came home from the Soap Box Derby races last week lugging a memory of an exciting experience, four local boys were hugging gold trophies for winning their respective heats.

All the local boys were later eliminated in the semi-finals of the Chevrolet sponsored event, according to Paul Loranger, local "Chevvy" dealer.

HITS 30 MPH

Clipping along at a speed greater than 30 mph was Tommy Cook, 2822 Gramercy avenue, sponsored by the Torrance Herald, who became the only Class A boy from Torrance to win a heat. Class A is for boys 13 to 15 years of age.

In the Class B division, 11 to 13 years, were three heat winners. Bill Gray, 5243 Zakon road, sponsored by Torrance Plumbing; Wayne Miller, 26202 Zephyr road, sponsored by Austin Plywood; and Reese Haggott, 23250 Roberts road, sponsored by Royal Cleaners.

OTHER DRIVERS

Other drivers in the annual downhill race were: Bill Cozart, Pat Jelsma, Jim Hussey, Ronald Johnson, Donald Johnson, Bob Keith, Don Hawks, Ronald Caulkins, James Clouse, Don Iwata, Dick Burgner, Donald Bleich, Toc Alexander, and Robert Lewis.

All of the boys were given "crash" helmets and "Derby Shirts."

The boys will race again locally in September during a soap box derby to be conducted in connection with the Annual Kiwanis Club sponsored Kids Day.

Winner of the finals on Saturday was Eddie Compte, 12-year-old from Montebello, who took second place last year. He will be sent to Akron, Ohio with his parents to compete in the National Finals in August.

HOW IT WAS DONE . . . Ralph DePalma (center front) tells some of the boys who raced in the recent Chevrolet Soap Box Derby how he used to pilot his cars to a long list of racing firsts. The former auto racing "great" was guest speaker last Thursday night at the Torrance Rotary Club. The five Class B Derby drivers, three of them trophy winners, pictured above were guests of the club to hear DePalma and see a color movie of the 1949 Indianapolis 500-mile classic. Eavesdropping are Russell Lund, president of the local Rotary Club; Dr. Ray Larson, program chairman; and K. D. Figgins, of Paul's Chevrolet, local sponsors of the derby. The boys are (l. to r.) Reese Haggott, Tom Alexander, Robert Lewis, Bill Gray, and Wayne Miller. (Herald photo).

It Was That Hot!

8,400 Bottles of Pop Downed at Oil Blaze

Things got so hot during the recent Wilmington refinery fire that the Union Oil Co. dispensed 8,400 bottles of soda pop during the four-day campaign, it was disclosed today in the "Refinery News," plant publication.

In addition the fire fighters consumed 5,800 meals in the cafeteria and the company passed out some 2800 sandwiches.

The official management estimate of the damage caused in the first explosion and subsequent flames was set at $800,000 to tanks, piping and other facilities. In addition 180,000 barrels of finished gasoline and gasoline blending stocks.

As yet there is "no conclusive answer" to the question of what caused the inferno which injured three men and was one of the most spectacular in harbor area history.

Construction of temporary replacement piping at the plant is "progressing as rapidly as materials arrive," although final hookups may not be made for several weeks. Plans to rebuild the storage tanks lost are not yet completed.

Over 14,000 gallons a minute of fresh and salt water and 18 pieces of fire fighting equipment were used in fighting the fire at its height, according to the publication. Over 35,000 feet of fire hose was laid and over 300,000 pounds of foam powder was used.

"It was only through long, hard hours and fine teamwork that the damage was confined to only a portion of our storage tank area," said E. B. Palmer, manager of the plant. "I am most thankful that no one was seriously injured."