

LINK SHOW PICKETS TO COMMIE FRONTS

Pickets' Claim Not Shared by Negro Newspaper

Ripped of its camouflage this week exposing its Red heritage was a Communist-inspired attempt to coerce the people of Torrance to stay away from a minstrel variety benefit show in the Torrance High School auditorium last week-end.

While placard-bearing pickets paraded before the entrance to the auditorium handbills were passed out to those entering the auditorium.

The placards and handbills attempted to sell the idea that the show ridiculed, made buffoonery, and belittled the Negro race.

Proof that not all colored people share the opinion of last week-end's parading pickets is found in an editorial published in the Los Angeles Sentinel, one of the nation's leading Negro newspapers and warden of many campaign ribbons for editorial battles against the Reds. Under the heading "Let's Grow Up" in the February 1, 1951 edition, the editorial slaps sharply at anti-minstrel show propaganda and pin-points the issue with these words:

Quote:
A full-decked minstrel show, sponsored by Elk officials is scheduled to be held Feb. 23-25 in Santa Monica High School's Barnum Hall.

We understood that a few narrow-minded persons in the Santa Monica community strongly object to the show, on the grounds that minstrel shows give a distorted view of how Negroes really act.

We agree—it is a distorted view—but it cannot rightly be termed a slap at the Negro race. Minstrel shows have long been an integral part of the American theater, and some of the outstanding actors of our race and other times have participated in them. Ethel Waters, "Rochester," Bert Williams, Hatfield McDaniel, Clarence Muse, Mantan Moreland, to name but a few have portrayed "minstrel show types," with undeniable success, and with no discredit to the race.

Even if minstrel shows could conceivably be considered objectionable, we would have small cause to complain. Remember how many times we've guffawed at numerous radio programs, books, motion pictures, cartoons, and the like portraying whites in a ridiculous light? How often all of us have laughed at the antics of Tom and Abner, "Tobacco Road," John Steinbeck's "Grapes of Wrath," Sinclair Lewis' "Kingsblood Royal" and others too numerous to print in this limited space.

Chief objection to minstrel shows appears to stem out of the actor's blacked faces. Whites spend endless hours sun tanning and curling their otherwise straight hair—Negroes spend millions on skin lightening devices. Where, then, can one draw a hard and fast rule covering imitation?

Let's grow up. Let's stop belly-aching about things which really don't matter. Many of our real problems as a race seem unsolvable without adding self-imagined ills to them.

If the minstrel show is funny, let's laugh at it—if it isn't, it will meet a timely death anyway.

End quote.
"Join the Protest! Don't Go

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Plan Modern Industrial Plant Here

Plans to construct a \$600,000 resin manufacturing plant in Dominguez were announced this week by William F. Leicester, president of the Borden Company's chemical division.

Authorization to build the plant has just been granted by the National Production Authority in view of the critical shortage of resin which is hampering production of vital defense materials.

Borden acquired a 7½-acre tract facing on Wilmington avenue between Del Amo and Dominguez streets, the announcement said. The new plant will be adjacent to the Stauffer Chemical Company installation in that area.

Resorcin is used chiefly in making adhesives, hard resins, rubber and tire cord sizing. The Borden plant will be the first on the west coast to produce the vital material, a company spokesman said.



PARADING PICKETS . . . Although they bore placards decrying "Abolish Jim Crow" and "Minstrels Insult the Negro People," these pickets failed to have much effect on Friday and Saturday night audiences of a variety-minstrel show staged in the high school auditorium. Some younger generation members thought it was an advertisement for the show and that Jim Crow was a member of the cast. (Herald photo).

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Carnegie Medal:

Sewer Rescue Hero Awarded High Honor

One of the nation's highest civilian heroism awards has been won by husky, handsome William Katko, 37, who died here last January after leaping fearlessly into a fume-filled sewer to save the life of a fellow county sanitation worker.

Described by his friends as "a man who never considered himself," Katko is to be honored with a bronze Carnegie medal for his heroic deed.

The medallion, accompanied by a \$50 monthly gratuity is to be presented to his mother, Mrs. Victoria Katko, of Cleveland, Ohio.

Just before noon last Jan. 19 Katko's fellow worker, Albert M. Hartwig, 39, of Los Angeles, was 25 feet underground cleaning a sewer along Lomita boulevard near the Union Oil Company tank farm when he was heard to groan and fall into the mud below.

Katko sprang into action, grabbed a rope and clambered down through the manhole, fastening one end of the line to the unconscious worker.

Two other members of the county crew had barely pulled Hartwig out when they heard Katko sigh and fall. A fireman wearing a gas mask brought Katko to the surface. More than an hour of resuscitation failed to revive him. He was buried in Cleveland.

Friends said it was one of several rescue efforts in which the San Pedro World War II veteran had participated.

Breathless Dad Loses Midnight Race to Stork

A San Pedro father lost a race to the stork here last week as his wife gave birth to a healthy 6-pound, 15-ounce daughter in the back seat of the family auto as it sped toward the Torrance Memorial Hospital.

It was close, however. The father, Melvin Drake Jr., who lives at 517 28th street, San Pedro, was only a block away from the hospital entrance at 12:20 last Thursday morning when his new daughter greeted him with a wail.

"Boy, I don't care to do that again," said Drake, an attendant at Harbor General Hospital.

The Drakes have two other children, Patrick 11, and Rochelle 9.



AND ONLY A BROKEN ARM . . . After skidding for 195 feet, 18-year-old James Douglass Spivey, 25402 Petroleum avenue, crashed into a power pole on Lomita boulevard east of Hawthorne boulevard Tuesday night, demolishing his car and snapping off the top of the pole. He told Torrance Police Officers Jay R. Stroth and Bob Lewis that his auto speeded up after he lost control and went into the skid. He sustained a fractured arm. (Herald photo).

YWCA to Receive Industrial Relations, Hospital \$768 Variety Show Profits

Profits from the "Three Nights in Torrance" variety-minstrel show amounted to \$768.85, according to Mrs. Emma Roberts, general chairman of the YWCA benefit performance.

A final tabulation of expenses incurred by the Senior and Junior Woman's Clubs of Torrance, co-sponsors of the event, were released this week by Mrs. Ruth Rogers and William A. Zoeller of the finance committee.

The various expenses were: Stage crew, \$60.00; pianist, \$75.00; programs, \$87.95; candy, \$23.95; make-up, \$25.51; bags, \$1.76; director (board and room) \$111.10; beverages, \$14.95; federal tax, \$250.31; insurance, \$37.50; and Geller Productions (music, royalties, percentage), \$333.34.

The proceeds from the show will be given to the YWCA for finishing and furnishing the new building at Plaza del Amo and Carson street.

THE WEATHER

Cloudy this morning, partly cloudy this afternoon. Slightly warmer temperatures this afternoon.

Tell Chest Drive Results

Residential Area Over Top in Day

Torrance's one-day Community Chest Campaign was a complete success in residential areas, but other phases of the campaign are still in progress, City Chairman Jack Dabbs reported yesterday.

FIRST OVER TOP

Torrance was the first city in the Los Angeles area to complete its residential solicitation.

At noon yesterday the city had raised \$4,977.75, which is 41.40 per cent of its \$12,020 quota for 1951.

The residential unit, headed by Mrs. B. T. Whitney, went over the top of its goal 10 hours after the campaign started. The residential workers raised \$2,235, or \$14 more than the goal.

Chairman Dabbs expects to have all phases of the campaign finished by this afternoon, leaving only the Advance Gifts and Commerce and Industry units still out.

Scoring a first among the rest.

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Peace Talks Continue:

Foodstore Strike Hinges on Parley

City Waives Fee for Sound Truck Permit

Waiving the fee, the City Council Tuesday night okayed a request of the Torrance YMCA to operate a sound truck on November 16 and 17 to publicize the organization's Annual Good Neighbor Pancake Breakfast.

The use of the truck, which belongs to the United Steelworkers of America, CIO, was arranged for by Joe McNally, a Columbia Steel Company grievance committee chairman.

Retail Clerks Okay Strike if Necessary

BULLETIN

John T. Binkley, attorney for the Harbor Area Employers Council, reported last night that the Retail Clerks and the employers had made "some progress" during a meeting held in his office late yesterday afternoon.

He declined to state what that "some progress" was, but did say that the employers would meet tonight—perhaps to consider a last proposal by the union. If accepted by the employers the action would dissipate a threat of a strike.

Eleventh hour negotiations were underway late yesterday afternoon between the retail clerks union and food store employers in an effort to forestall a possible strike against local food stores on Friday.

Principally the main point of controversy is length of term of the new contract.

G. P. Refinery Workers Launch New 'Give' Plan

Paul Narveson, 1323 Date avenue, has been named to a committee which will administer a new kind of charity fund to be raised by employees of the General Petroleum Corporation's manufacturing department.

Narveson and six other employees at General Petroleum's Torrance refinery, where over 1000 people are employed, will launch the new charity fund on November 5, D. R. Anderson, fire and safety man at the refinery, is committee chairman.

Key idea of the plan is to consolidate into a single campaign each year all requests for funds by major charitable organizations.

Volunteer fellow workers will make the single annual solicitation. The plan provides that every employee, if he wishes, can designate the specific charity and locality where his donation will be sent. Gifts may be deducted from pay checks if the employee wishes.

The new plan was proposed and developed by employees of General Petroleum's manufacturing department who believe that greater total donations would result if all charitable appeals were focused into a single campaign.

A similar committee has been organized at General Petroleum's Vernon plant under the chairmanship of James W. Kerr. Besides Anderson and Narveson, other members of the Torrance refinery committee are J. G. Lemat, Gordon Lewis, Miles Headley, Robert Evans, and Damon Jacobson.

Scooter Crash Victim Serious

Listed as serious yesterday was Clifford Ball, 25349 Woodward avenue, who sustained a possible basal skull fracture after he crashed his motor scooter into the side of an auto at Carson street and Crenshaw boulevard at 12:29 a.m. Wednesday morning.

Listed as driver of the auto was Vaughn Leroy York, 20, of Terminal Island.

Witnesses' accounts of the accident, taken by Officer R. C. Wright, indicated that the scooter may not have had a light.

The victim was taken to the Harbor General Hospital by Miller and Figueredo ambulance.

The clerks voted at a meeting in San Pedro Monday night 375-1 authorizing Tidwell to use "all legal means" to obtain a contract such as the union demands.

Said Tidwell yesterday before the meeting:

"We are hopeful of reaching an agreement but the members of the union have authorized me to use handbills, pickets, and if necessary a strike to obtain the contract."

Meanwhile the employers were bracing for a "divide and conquer" technique to be used by the union before resorting to calling out the clerks on strike. The employers were expecting Tidwell to attempt to get separate contracts from individual employers.

Both parties have agreed on wage increases amounting to approximately \$3.60 per week per clerk, the maximum the Wage Stabilization Board will allow.

The Employers' Council, in a bulletin to all food employers sent out Tuesday, urged members not to sign any contract until notified of the completion of negotiations, or until they are advised of their responsibilities and obligations under the contract. Any employer so signing, it was said, would be required to file an individual report with the Wage Stabilization Board before making the increase in wages provided effective.

The meeting with the negotiating committees of the Employers' Council and the Union, to discuss the differences between the union and the employers was to be held yesterday in the offices of John T. Binkley, counsel for the employers, according to Frank S. Selover, executive secretary of the Employers' Council.

The employers membership meeting will be held in the office of the Council, 1308 Sartori avenue, Suite 14, Torrance, at 8 p.m. on Thursday.

The current contract with the Retail Clerks Union does not expire until midnight, November 1, 1951, according to Selover, and thus economic action by the Union would not be legally possible prior to Friday morning.

"The Employers Council is making every effort to avert a work stoppage, and at the same time uphold the rights of employers to fair and just contractual conditions," Selover said. "If this can be accomplished prior to Thursday night, we will have prevented the first strike of a general nature since this council was formed in 1948."

