TORRANCE · HERALD

PART TWO

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 1951

BY JACK O. BALDWIN
Managing Editor

In the jargon of the newsroom I guess this column could be titled "29"—just one digit ahead of "30" which in the vernacular of the Fourth Estate means the end.

* * *

Next week I wind-up my editorial activities with the Torrance Herald and dash off the final edition of this column. I'll fold-up my little note book, pocket it, and point my often-bloodied nose for news toward Long Beach. There I'll start cluttering a desk with a paste pot, a basket full of clippings, and an ash tray full of cork tips in the city room of the Daily Independent.

* * *

A strange combination of news beats I'll have to cover. The "desk" has assigned me to the police beat writing crime news three nights a week; I'll also grind out the church page in between burglaries.

* * *

As I thumb through the pages of the past four years during my stay in Torrance as a member of the Herald family there comes to mind a few stories—"sidebars" we call them, that at the time provoked a smile.

* * *

For instance there was the yarn about a man named Barefoot who went east to claim a bride. That week, so the story said, his new spouse, whose name was Shoemaker, came to Torrance as a Barefoot bride.

* * *

It is not long after the news hounds of the Harbor Area gather around a table of free drinks before someone brings up the story of "Simba," the long-tailed, often-trailed, elusive Palos Verdes mountain lion. Practically every reporter in these parts was in on the story and including one Mr. Baxter Omohundro, who, although he never went on the lion hunt, did go scurrying after a story about a two-headed cat owned by Mrs. F. E. Line.

* * *

I remember the night a rather red-faced gent came staggering into the Torrance Police Department with a story that falls into the "Now-Let-Me-Tell-One" category. It seems, or so the story goes, that the gentleman was on a Sunday school picnic at Torrance Beach. He went to his car to get something from his trousers and there he was set upon by two women. At gun point, the man said, he was forced into a lonely wooded section of the near-by hills and defenseless he became the most unusual police statistic of the season. He was the only male raped in Torrance all summer.

* * *

Looks and long-sleeved sweaters can be so deceiving. One day I searched for a girl to pose with the Lupins which were cascading over the nearby hills in waves of royal purple. It suggested a "spring-is-here" shot. For several days I searched for just the right girl to pose among the flowers. Finally I found her. A fresh young blond with a sweet smile and a sweater personality. After some persuasion she consented to wearing a strapless bathing suit. I arranged a time for the picture. It was a beautifully clear day. She stepped from her car modestly shrouded in a beach robe.

We found the perfect spot for the picture. A rustic log in the background and flowers everywhere. My camera was set up on a tripod. I was ready to shoot.

"Now slip off your robe," I told her.

On her arm nearest the camera was a blue and red tattoo—"Mother."

I quickly whirled her other side toward the camera.

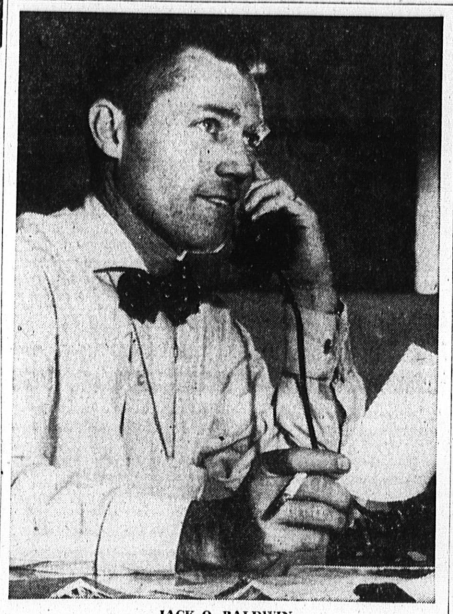
Just below her shoulder in red and green this time was an elaborately decorated dagger around which entwined a scaly cobra with its fangs grasped around the word "Jim."

* * *

Many a story crosses the desk of an editor that never gets into print. Such is this one about a fellow news hawk, Joe Goss of the Mirror. 'Twas late one night and Joe was checking in at his city desk. Nearby stood Florabel Muir who recently won the nod over Franchot Tone for the presidency of Ciro's Spit and Argue Club. Never having met the lady reporter, Joe asked his city editor:

"Who's the old bag talking to McDonnel?"

"That," said his city editor, "is Florabel Muir. And that gentleman standing next to you is her husband."



JACK O. BALDWIN
. . . Leaving Herald Editorial Family

REID L. BUNDY
. . . New Managing Editor of Torrance Herald

Bundy New Herald Editor; Baldwin Joins L. B. Paper

Appointment of Reid L. Bundy, city editor, to succeed Jack O. Baldwin as managing editor of the Torrance Herald was announced this week by Grover C. Whyte, publisher.

Baldwin who came to the Herald four years ago, is joining the editorial staff of the Long Beach Independent, a daily tabloid serving the near-by beach city.

Bundy has been serving as city and sports editor of the Herald for the past 19 months. He will take the editorial helm of the Herald with the issue of November 22.

EFFECTIVE NEXT WEEK

Baldwin's resignation becomes effective with the publication of next Thursday's issue of the Torrance Herald. He will continue to live in Torrance with his wife and four children at 23114 Falena avenue.

He is a member of the Torrance Lions Club and the Torrance Junior Chamber of Commerce.

The new managing editor received his journalistic training at the University of Southern California where he was managing editor of the Daily Trojan, campus newspaper.

He is past president of the Southern California chapter of Sigma Delta Chi, national professional journalistic fraternity, and is a member of the Torrance Optimist Club and the Torrance Junior Chamber of Commerce.

3 YEARS OVERSEAS

During World War II, Bundy served as personnel officer for a major mobile port of embarkation and spent three years in Africa, Sicily, and Italy.

He and his wife and 9-months-old daughter live in their recently acquired home at 1121 Patronella avenue in Torrance Gardens.

Asked what his new writing duties would be at the Independent, Baldwin said:

"About the same as on the Herald, only more often, I guess."

CAME HERE IN 1947

The former managing editor came to the Herald in 1947 as sports and city editor. He succeeded Cliff Johnson as managing editor in February of 1949. He came to the Herald from the California Newspaper Publisher's Association where he was editor of the California Publisher, monthly publication of the association.

He is a veteran of the last war having served as a Captain in the Marine Air Corps as a pilot of a B-24 photo reconnaissance plane.

IN COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

During his tenure with the Herald, Baldwin has been actively engaged in a number of civic and community undertakings. He was among the group of parents and teachers who drafted the uniform method of reporting to parents now in use in local schools. He was appointed by former Mayor J. Hugh Sherfey as chairman of the Fly Abatement Committee of Torrance and assisted in establishing a city operated fly abatement program.

In transferring to the staff of the Long Beach paper, Baldwin becomes the second member of the Herald editorial staff to join the Independent. Employed on the paper also is George Barker, who yielded his duties as city editor of the Herald to Bundy.

OTHER JOIN 'METS'

Other former members of the Torrance Herald staff, whose talents have been recognized by metropolitan newspapers include: Michael Straszer, who left the Herald to go with the Los Angeles Times. Straszer was recently promoted to the post of night news editor of the Times; Ray W. Brooks, former advertising manager of the Herald who now holds the post of Director of Advertising and Promotion of the Southern California Associated Newspapers (Copley) group.

National Officer To Show Movies Of Boys Home

Phil D. McHugh, publicity and public relations director for Optimists International, will be on hand for the club's November 12 meeting with a motion picture of the Optimist Club's Boys Home in Los Angeles, it was announced this week by Dr. Allen L. Pyeatt, president of the club.

Slated to accompany McHugh on the visit to the Torrance club is Jim Westervelt, president of the Optimist Boys Home.

The Torrance club is joining with other clubs of the service organization during the week of November 11 to 17, in observance of "Optimist Week," and the film will be a special showing to point up the need of supporting the Boys Home.

The club meets at the Ding How Cafe, 1652 Cabrillo avenue, each Monday.

Each member of the club has been asked to bring a guest to Monday's meeting, President Pyeatt said, in the hopes of getting across to more persons the work being done by the club under the motto of "Friend of the Boy."

New members of the club will be inducted during the evening, the president said.

Other plans for observing "Optimist Week" are being studied by the club and will be presented to the members Monday evening.

In 40-7 Rout

Tribe Homecoming Spoiled by Vikings

Long Beach City College's Vikings turned El Camino's Homecoming football game into a sad affair last Saturday night as the mighty Vikes romped to an easy 40 to 7 victory on the Warrior's turf.

A large throng of 4000 fans saw the Long Beach invaders score almost at will against the hapless Caminoites.

A strong running attack that netted 419 yards proved to be the main factor in the Vikings' triumph.

Backs George Van Zant, Dick O'Niell, and Bob Brogleman were the big three in the Long Beach offensive attack that ran all over the Warrior line. Fullback Van Zant had the best statistics for the game with 116 yards gained on 14 carries for a 8.2 average.

O'Neill led in the scoring department with 18 points to his credit.

Long Beach started their scoring marathon with the game but four minutes old. It took the Vikes just 11 plays to march 77 yards with Halfback O'Niell going 23 yards around right end into the promised land for the Vike's score. El Camino's Max Burris blocked the extra point try.

O'Niell went on to score the next two touchdowns for the Vikes on runs of 46 and 13 yards each. Long Beach racked up their fourth score on a 69 yard pass play from Quarterback Hal Fairley to End Jack Swain. The final Viking TD was in the last second of play with Fairly hitting Half Benny Aoki in the end zone for 30 yards and the score.

El Camino's only score was tallied by Halfback Ray Day who gathered in a punt and went 62 yards down the sidelines for the six points.

Phony Checks Adrift in Area Says C. of P.

There are some phony checks in the area!

Such was the warning issued this week by Police Chief John Stroh.

Some 500 checks drawn on the Community Bank of Burbank made out to Vernon M. Hume and endorsed by Melvin L. Benson, are floating in the area, the chief said.

The checks are for amounts ranging from $78 to $80, he said.

If approached by any person attempting to cash one of the phony checks, call the police department, the chief asked local merchants this week.

$30,000 School Site Purchased By Local Board

Authorization to purchase another school site of approximately 10 acres for $30,000 was granted to district officials Tuesday night by the Torrance Board of Education.

The Board accepted the offer of Mrs. Jessie H. Downie to sell 9.56 acres at 178th street and Arlington avenue.

Accepted by the Board also was a legal description of another school site, known as the Corsaro property, which was recently purchased by the board for $25,000. The nine plus-acre site is located on 230th street near Hawthorne boulevard. The transaction is now in escrow.

The Board acting on still another school site, requested the County Counsel to investigate condemnation proceedings of nine acres of land on 166th street between Yukon avenue and Crenshaw boulevard. Authorization was granted for the district officials to order the title company to begin a title search of the property.

Following a request of the owners of the Ellinwood property near Walteria, proposed site of a new high school for the district, the Board granted the owners a 10-day extension to answer condemnation proceedings instigated by the County Counsel's office.

The 40-acre site is located on the north side of Pacific Coast highway between Hawthorne boulevard and Roberts Road—entrance to Seaside Ranchos.

Start Lampshade Class

Women interested in attending a free lampshade making class are urged to attend the first meeting of the class which will be held Thursday, November 15 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon in the Walteria Recreation hall. The class will be taught by Dorothea LeMenager.

Chinchillas Making Backyard Comeback

"Chinchillas that once faced extinction like the American buffalo, are making a comeback in backyards, garages, and basements all over America."

So stated Lloyd Prestwitch, president of the Allied Fur Industries, in addressing members of the North Torrance Civic

BEEFING ABOUT STEAK PRICES? . . . If you think beef is high consider what a steak would cost from an "extra choice" Chinchilla. Some Chinchillas come as high as $1500 a piece. Others may be had for as low as $375. Don Grover, district manager for Allied Fur Industries, a local industry, says this little fellow is generations away from becoming a fur coat. (Herald photo).

Improvement Association last night.

"But it will be a long time before the furry immigrants from South America will be used in any great quantity to adorn the bare shoulders of American beauties," he said.

"The first Chinchillas were brought to the U. S. in 1923 and a ranch started in Inglewood with seven males and four females. Today the breeding stock in America is estimated at 125,000—all offspring of the original 11 animals."

"It is not uncommon for raisers of the squirrel-like animals to realize a 100 per cent profit a year," stated Don Grover, district manager for the corporation.

Allied Fur Industries, located at 2227 West 182nd street in North Torrance, holds a daily open house for those interested in Chinchilla raising. The company's position in the industry is similiar to a jobber in other businesses. Housed at the local "farm" are some 500 of the "Living Jewels" as they have come to be known. Actually, Allied does no raising but only serves as a showroom where prospective Chinchilla owners come to buy animals.

"To go into Chinchilla raising requires about $1650," according to Grover. "That amount will buy a healthy pair plus two babies and a specially designed metal cage. The feed bill for a year is about $3 per animal. Gestation period of the Chinchilla is 111 days with the offspring bearing within a year."

The life expectancy of the animals which are members of the rodent family, is on the average of eight to nine years. Some have been known to live as long as 17 years. Litters average from one to six offspring.

The extreme high cost of the animals at present prohibits the use of the animals for coat-making except in the case of casualties.

It requires 125 to 150 pelts to make a three quarter length coat. At $1600 per pair the cost of the coat would hit $100,000 to $120,000 for the pelts alone.

At present, according to Grover, there are only 30 to 40 Chinchilla coats in existance.

Value of the animals as a fur stems from the peculiar hair growth of the animal. Where others fine fur animals have only one hair per follicle the Chinchillas have as many as 80 hairs per follicle.

Raising of the small animals, is not extremely tricky, Prestwitch told the North Torrance group. Raisers need not be too concerned about low temperatures although the animals should be kept indoors where the temperature can be kept below 85 degrees.

The animals are classified into five divisions and the price set accordingly. Some are sold for as low as $700 per pair while others bring as much as $3000 per pair.

The program presented by Prestwitch included the showing of colored slides was arranged for by Dave Dyer, program chairman and vice-president of the North Torrance Civic Improvement Association.

OPEN TO VISITORS . . . is this display room of Allied Fur Industries where prospective Chinchilla raisers come to buy the squirrel-like animals. Located on 182nd street, the local million dollar business is rapidly becoming the hub of a new world industry sending the expensive Chinchillas to all parts of the globe. (Herald photo).