

\$50,000 FIRE GUTS LOCAL MARKET; FIREMEN BATTLE BLAZE FOUR HOURS

Herald Reporter Gagged by TUTers in 'Town Meeting'

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Free Concert Scheduled for This Afternoon

Torrance Concert Orchestra, under the direction of Abe Milstein, will present its annual "Keyboard Concert" this afternoon at 3 o'clock in the Torrance High School auditorium.

The orchestra, made up of residents of the area who play for the fun of it, will be augmented in the concert by five young pianists, who will appear as soloists.

Stated for solo roles today are Anita Menzi, Carol Campbell, Mickey Van Deventer, Judy Yeltema and Linda Thistle.

Numbers to be performed by the orchestra include "Marche Hongroise," Johnson; "The Bat," Strauss; Savannah Overture, Barthelme; "In a Persian Market," Kotelby, and excerpts from Beethoven's Fifth Symphony.

Popular features of the program will be Anderson's "Fiddle Faddle," in which Concertmaster Bernard Lee is given a chance to show his virtuosity on the violin and "The Syncope of Clock," in which drummer Leon Meskimen takes a leading part. The concert, presented as part of the adult education program of the Torrance Unified School District, will be free.

Steel Strike Threatened For April 8

Threats of a steel walkout which would close down the Columbia plant here April 8, loomed yesterday as industry officials blasted the recommendation of the Wage Stabilization Board that steelworkers be granted a 17½-cent hourly pay hike and union shop agreements.

CIO United Steelworkers Union officials said a strike would be called April 8 if industry had not accepted the recommendations of WSB by that time.

Negotiations with industry are slated to continue this week.

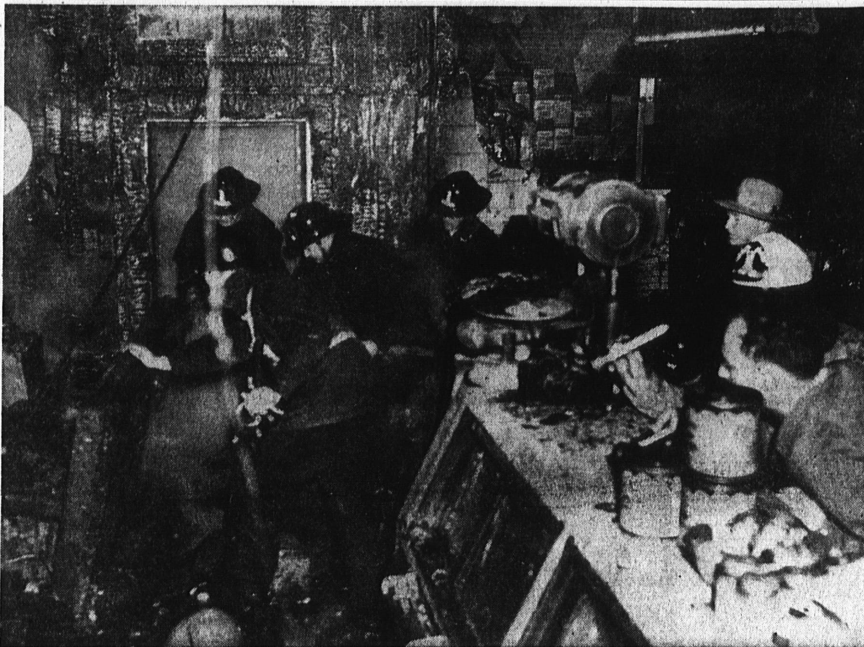
Service Clubs Meet Together Tomorrow Night

Torrance's service clubs will hold a joint meeting tomorrow evening in the American Legion hall to hear John B. Long, general manager of the California Newspaper Publishers Association speak on the topic "Freedom Is Not Free."

Meeting together will be the Rotary, Lions, Kiwanis and Optimist clubs of the city. The Kiwanis Club is the host for tomorrow's affair.

Los Cancloneros, the top mixed chorus in the Southland, will sing at the dinner meeting. Members of the chorus are residents of the Hollywood Riviera and Seaside communities.

Fellowship hour for the clubs begins at 6 p.m.; dinner will be served at 7.



EARLY MORNING BLAZE . . . Market owners Grant and Dean Barkdull watch with Fire Chief J. J. Benner as firemen removed burning portions of wall material from behind a counter at the Quality Market on Torrance Blvd. A pre-dawn blaze yesterday did damage estimated at \$50,000 to the

flames from spreading to an adjacent frozen food plant. store and contents. Men from three fire companies kept the frozen food locker and meat departments are still open for business, it was stated.

City Crews Work To Open Walnut

Bulldozers and tractors of the city's street department began eating into the dirt this week to cut a roadbed for Walnut Ave. from Middlebrook Road to 235th St., according to John Patrick, assistant city engineer. John Kettler, developer of the adjacent Kettler Knolls home development, granted the city an easement on the condition that the dirt removed from the roadbed be distributed in low spots on property adjacent to the new street. The city was agreeable with the plan since it eliminated long hauls by dump trucks. The street will be paved with asphalt topping.

Riviera Property Values Threatened

A court decision due tomorrow might easily affect the future development of Hollywood Riviera as an exclusive residential area and send property values skidding to a record low.

A verdict in the case in which the Hollywood Riviera Community Association is seeking to stop the construction of a private school in the area is expected sometime tomorrow afternoon in the Inglewood Superior Court. Named in the suit is Albert Trier, principal of the school.

If the court rules in favor of Trier, the association will no longer be able to enforce its deed restrictions which have prevented low-cost housing projects in the area. It has been expressed that if the court decision is against the association, homes as small as 750 square feet could be constructed adjacent to homes now valued at \$15-\$25,000.

The case went to trial Friday and was continued until tomorrow when the judge will hear

TUT Version Of Alondra Park Deal Challenged

I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it.—Voltaire.

By JACK O. BALDWIN

As I had anticipated, the TUTs lowered the boom on me Friday night, leaving me with the impression that I was a newspaperman suddenly dropped behind the iron curtain.

How to report this without sounding bitter is going to be a neat trick.

"Why report it at all?" Because it is quite important. I believe, that the residents of this town be given a glimpse of what may happen during the next four years.

Here's the background: The TUTs and their three City Council candidates scheduled a meeting for the Hollywood Riviera Beach Club Friday night. It was reported that "the meeting will be conducted in the interest of residents of the three districts (Seaside Ranchos, Seaside Heights and the Riviera) involved and talks from the floor will be so limited."

During the meeting A. B. Gianni, a resident of North Torrance, attempted to get recognition from the floor.

Frank Brennan, the chairman, refused to recognize him. Moments later two TUT camp followers, J. A. Beasley and Jim Minter, neither residents of

Mom Said We'd Have Such Days

Yesterday was one of those days. While battling smoke and flames at the Quality Market fire, a blaze was reported at Helen and Vesta's Cafe, Cabrillo and Gramercy Aves. Firemen from Station 3 responded and snuffed out a minor fire in a kitchen stove.

And scarcely had the smoke men cleaned the ashes from their fire trucks, when Engine 1 sped to the Torrance Metal Products Co., 1030 Engracia Ave., to a rubbish-type fire. No loss was recorded at either.

Wild Boy Friend Tears Up House, Wallops Gal

It started as a nice evening out for dinner. But here's what happened, Nancy Tracy, 116 Paseo de Granada, told Torrance police Friday evening.

1. She and her boy friend started out to dine. Boy friend felt sick and woozy. They left before eating.

2. Boy friend felt worse. Nancy got out of the car in the Keystone area, took a cab home.

3. Boy friend arrived at her home shortly after her, kicked in the back door, jerked up some furniture, then hit her.

4. Nancy went next door with a bloody nose and called police. The boy friend had gone when officers arrived.



SMOKY . . . City fireman, wearing special oxygen equipment, climbs to the roof of the Quality Market during a pre-dawn fire yesterday. The market was severely damaged, and many cans of food destroyed by the blaze. The fire was listed as the city's worst in half a decade.

Water Surrounds House

Home Sought for Victims of Flood

Only one of the seven families living in the flooded West Torrance area who were forced to evacuate when rain-swollen slough waters seeped into the houses, has yet to find a new temporary home, it was reported yesterday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Stonebreaker and their three children have not as yet been able to find new shelter.

Their house is surrounded on all sides by water.

Three of the families, all with young children, found shelter with relatives; three were able to move back into their homes, although water surrounds them on at least

Postoffice Cries 'Uncle' On 2c Cards

Uncle Sam cried "uncle" this week in the battle of the two-cent postcards.

Postmaster Clara Conner reported yesterday that from now on, postcards will be sold at face value regardless of the quantity purchased.

The way the orders were handed down when the price of the cards went from one to two cents recently, the first 49 cards went at two cents a copy. After that, the post office was required to add a 10 per cent levy on the cards.

Local patrons, however, who purchase cards in huge quantities were buying the cards 49 at a time—thus skirting the 10 per cent added cost.

Facing such action in nearly every post office in the nation, the department backed down and told patrons they could buy two cards or two million—all at two cents apiece.

Blame for Fire Tagged to Short In Compressor

A fire, described as the worst in the past five years, gutted the Quality Market shortly before dawn yesterday, doing an estimated \$50,000 damage.

Not damaged in the fire was an estimated \$20,000 of frozen food stored in 300 rented lockers in an adjoining building. The market is located at 2171 Torrance Blvd.

City fire crews received the call at 4:10 a. m. The fire was finally declared out and the trucks returned to the station at 8:03 a. m.

Summoned to the scene were the owners of the market, Grant Barkdull and his son, Dean.

"It's the first fire we have had in the 27 years we have been at this location," the senior Barkdull said.

Fire Chief J. J. Benner, who commanded the 13 fire fighters from three fire companies, theorized that the blaze began when a compressor unit became overheated.

Although the building was extensively damaged by the flames, a greater portion of the loss was a result of smoke and water damage to merchandise.

Once believed under control and nearly extinguished, the fire broke out anew in the narrow attic-like space between the ceiling and the roof rafters almost an hour after

(Continued on Page 10)

Judge Shidler, Rosemary Decamp Get Fourth Girl

A fourth daughter was born shortly before 9 a.m. yesterday to Judge John A. Shidler and his radio and screen actress wife, Rosemary Decamp Shidler. Miss Shidler No. 4, checked in at 8:40 a.m. at the Torrance Memorial Hospital weighing six pounds, 14 ounces.

She was delivered by Dr. John Beaman by Caesarian section.

Mother of the new-born tyke is familiar to radio listeners as the voiced of "Judy," the nurse on the famous Dr. Christian show. She will soon be seen on the screen starring opposite Dick Powell in the color motion picture based on Robert Louis Stevenson's "The Treasure of Franchard."

Shidler is judge of the South Bay Municipal Court and president of the Torrance Board of Education. The Shidlers live at 317 Camino de las Colinas in Hollywood Riviera.

The other three daughters include Margaret, 9; Martha, 6 and Valerie, 4.

State Says Airport Overwhelmingly Safe

Residents of Lomita protesting "joy-riding," in answer to specific complaints.

"Flying is too expensive for that," he added. Doolin and R. M. Byrne, members of the State Aeronautics Commission, were here in another round with residents of Lomita who have been complaining for two years about airport operations.

Leading the protesters was Mrs. Victoria Phillips, head of the Lomita Property Owners and Registered Voters Association, who asked that a compulsory liability and property damage be forced on fliers.

"The airplane is a necessary nuisance as part of our economic life," Doolin said. He pointed out that very little of the flying at the Torrance airport was forced on fliers.

NOW — THE HERALD ON SUNDAYS TOO!