

By JACK O. BALDWIN

There have been times during the past 15 years that I have felt like chucking the whole newspaper business and turning to selling oranges from door-to-door as a career...

But then comes along an experience like the one of last week.

It started when the mother of a little Torrance school girl called to ask a favor.

"My daughter," said Mrs. William Wixom, "is in an iron lung. She's not doing too well."

So we started to find out why. As near as we could figure out Judy was just plain lonely. She's been in her iron lung for nearly three months, lying there flat on her back her paralyzed arms lying useless beside her also paralyzed chest.

She wanted to get some mail, some letters, or cards. This seemed like a minor request from a girl with such troubles so we ran a story about Judy and her desire for mail.

This is what makes me feel good to be a reporter.

From kids in nearly every school in Torrance, from Harisburg, Pennsylvania, from Hawthorne, and from Long Beach came the letters.

The first day she received at the hospital 37 letters. The next day 66.

Delivered to her home at 1521 Date Ave. and to the Torrance Herald were other batches of letters.

In all she has received nearly 500 letters.

Some are scribbled on school "scrap" paper and in shaky juvenile letters, urge Judy to "get well quick." Others like the one from Mrs. Figgins indicate she must have dipped her pen point in the deepest well of her own heart to bring such words of encouragement and kindness to a child whose very life depends upon the slushy wheeze of a rubber bellows, the spin of a motor's axle, and the roll of ball bearings.

As a result of the letters, cards, notes and seven small dolls, Judy has shown more improvement in the past two days than she has in the preceding two months.

Mrs. Wixom's mind is more at ease than was a week ago. But she still is not entirely without other troubles. Judy is one of eight children.

"This latest blow has strangled us all a pride," Mrs. Wixom told me yesterday. "My husband earns \$20 a week. I earn a little more distributing newspapers to stores for a Los Angeles newspaper. Whenever I get a tip I put it in a fund for the March of Dimes."

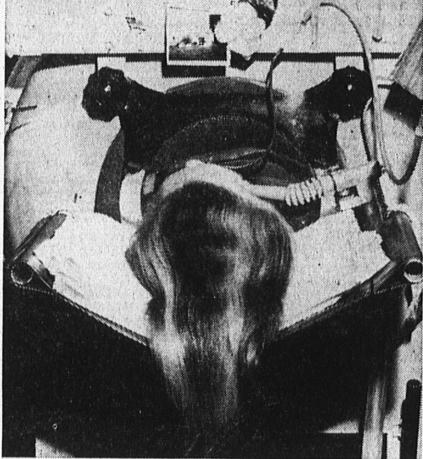
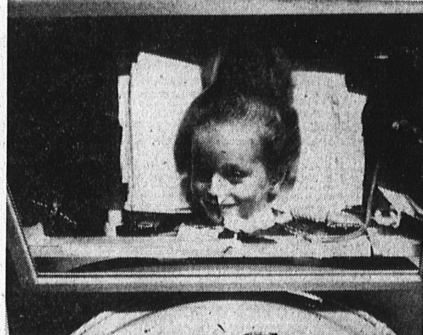
The hospital bill for Judy's first two months of her illness was more than \$1200. The National Infantile Paralysis Foundation is footing the bill at present.

"I am not going to touch that March of Dimes fund. Some day I hope to pay back every cent the Foundation has paid for Judy's treatment."

"It is hard to say this but we're having a difficult time of it. For instance, we don't have enough bedding as we discovered this week. It has become a constant problem of what to buy next—food or shoes for the kids. It seems we are always out of both."

"We're behind a little bit more than normal now because the week before Judy took sick my husband broke his arm and was out of work for six weeks. He's back now though and thank heavens he is."

Perhaps the last few paragraphs above will answer the question asked of me several times last week by people who wanted to know, "Is there anything else we can do?"



JUDY WIXOM ... Called a Princess

Letter to Judy Sums Up All Best Wishes

EDITOR'S NOTE: Many were the letters addressed to little Judy Wixom this week as Torrance opened its heart to let her know that her friends had not forgotten her.

I saw a picture of a beautiful little "princess" at the window of her iron tower and she was hanging her lovely golden hair out the window and looking in her mirror while she waited for Prince Charming to come and see her.

When I was a little girl in the second or third grade, someone read the fairy story to me about Rapunzel, the lovely princess who was shut in the iron tower (or it may have been a stone tower) for a little while by a bad old witch. There was no way to get into the tower except by the window, so the old witch would come outside the window and call, "Rapunzel let down your hair!" And the princess would let her long golden hair so the witch could climb up into the tower to bring her food and water.

Princess Judy has her iron tower, and her sweet pretty face and lovely hair just like "Princess Rapunzel," and we could pretend the old witch is just "any of the things that happen to you which you don't like"—but now comes the good part.

The princess didn't spoil her pretty face by crying or fussing over things she couldn't change right now, and did as the old witch said, but that didn't stop her from hoping and praying that she would get out of the tower. And sure enough, one day the handsome Prince came, and after seeing the old witch leave, he got a ladder and climbed into the tower and he and the princess left the tower forever.

So you see, since you are our little "Torrance Princess," in an iron tower for a while, just close your eyes and think hard about your Prince Charming who will help you out of your tower some day. (Did you know thoughts can come true if you hope hard enough?)

Now your Prince can be one of your nice doctors, or some little boy at school, or Mr. Baldwin, who put your picture in the paper, or you could take turns using one and then the other for your prince. That's the lovely part about pretending, isn't it?

Maybe you have read this fairy story sometime, and maybe I left some out. Or, if you haven't read it, maybe someone could read it to you now. I think Mr. Grimm or Mr. Hans Christian Andersen wrote it (for some little girl or boy, no doubt).

This is the first time I have ever written to someone I didn't know, so I guess you've already been thinking good thoughts about wanting letters to help you along.

Best wishes from MRS. FIGGINS, (who still believes in fairies if they're good ones. Don't you?)



RICHARD A. FRIEND (Herald Photo) ... Leaves for Basic Training

Herald City Editor Answers Draft Call

Richard A. "Dick" Friend, city editor of the Torrance Herald since last January, entered the armed services yesterday.

The 23-year-old journalist joined the Herald staff last January a week after graduating from Occidental College with a bachelor's of arts degree in political science.

The son of Mr. and Mrs. James R. Friend of Rolling Hills, Dick attended Narbonne High School prior to entering Occidental. During the summer months he worked with the Herald as a replacement during vacation periods.

A top flight photographer, Friend has been responsible for many of the excellent photographs appearing in the Herald during the past 10 months. He did photo features on the Torrance Fire and Police departments, the unveiling of the jet helicopter, and other noteworthy events in the community during his time with the Herald.

Covered Many Events While serving as the Herald's city editor, Friend reported on the Torrance Fire Department, Police Department, city court, the Board of Education and sports, in addition to handling general news assignments ranging from PTA meetings to suicides.

Coincident with Friend's departure for the service, Managing Editor Reid Bundy announced the appointment of Winthrop Bowles, veteran newspaperman from the San Francisco Bay area, as Life Herald city editor.

Bowles will take over most of Friend's duties with the Herald. He is also an accomplished photographer and will help maintain the Herald's emphasis on pictorial journalism.

Before joining the Herald, Bowles was a general assignment reporter with the San Francisco Chronicle, and was editor of a Northern California weekly.

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Variety Show Cast (Herald Photo)

High School Students to Present Show

"Mardi Gras" will be the theme of the Torrance High School annual varsity show to be presented by the Girls and Boys Leagues at the high school auditorium Friday night, Dec. 5.

Featuring a cast of more than 100 students, the show will serve as a vehicle for the school's talent dancers, singers, and young thespians.

Included on the program are skits, choral numbers, impersonations, popular song stylings, and a list of other entertainment highlights, according to Louis Bereskin, faculty director for the production.

Codirecting the play are students Dwight Hanna and Nancy LaDuke. Choral presentations will be under the direction of Walter Slike.

Admission to the affair will be 80 cents for reserved seats and 50 cents for general admission, school officials have determined.



ROSEMARY DE LA CRUZ ... Si, Senorita



NADINE VASQUEZ ... Si, si

More Violators Listed by State Vehicle Bureau

More violators of the California Vehicle Code were told this week by the State Department of Motor Vehicles.

Locals listed with symbols indicating violation—DD, drunk driving and FR, financial responsibility law were the following:

- Howard Lester Babbett, 1513 W. 254th St., Harbor City, DD; Juanita Echo Friend, 4215 W. 178th Pl., FR, license suspended; Frank Kwiatkowski, 2224 Gramercy Ave., DD, license suspended; Arzella Mote, 1412 W. 256th St., Harbor City, FR, license suspended; Troy Orville Pierce, 1343 W. 254th St., Harbor City, DD; and Ambrose H. Whitlock, 1851 Pacific Coast Hwy., Lomita, DD.

Second Annual Rabbit Show Set Nov. 23

What Mama Rabbit had to say to Papa Rabbit will be demonstrated by the animals themselves when the second annual Torrance Area Rabbit Club show is presented at El Camino College, Crenshaw and Redondo Beach Blvd's., Sunday, Nov. 23.

Ralph Bezanson, club president, revealed the show will be open in most of the popular classes, with the exception of doe, litter or meat pen categories.

"This table show," Bezanson explained, "is an official sweepstakes show for Rex, Satin, Champagne, D'Argent and Creme D'Argent classes."

A trophy will be given for best of breed in any breed with 25 or more exhibits. Sally Bezanson, secretary, explained that the club is one of the newest and largest in California. The second anniversary was celebrated Oct. 17 with a dinner attended by more than a hundred persons. Membership in the club now numbers 80, she said.

Entry blanks may be obtained through her at Box 171, Torrance. El Camino's course in rabbit husbandry was a direct result of urging by the Torrance Area Rabbit Club, she declared. Show chairman is N. E. Hamilton, Torrance, superintendent is D. C. White, Torrance, and his assistant is Joe Buffalo, Lomita.

Rabbit Club Will Meet Tomorrow

Bunny fanciers will hear Dr. Wayne L. Simmonds of USC on the subject of his most recent experimental work in connection with Pasteurellosis when the Torrance Area Rabbit Club holds its monthly meeting tomorrow night at 8 o'clock at the Moose hall, 1744 W. Carson St.

New Twist to Bad Check Racket is Told to Police

A new twist to the bad check racket which has been plaguing Torrance merchants was added this week by a man who signs his name George E. Howell. Howell, 33, deposited a \$150 check with the Torrance National Bank, and while it was being cleared with an Odessa, Tex., bank, wrote two more, one for \$20 accepted by Roth's and one for \$25 which was cashed at the Torrance Bank. When his \$150 draft was returned by the Odessa bank, police started looking for him. Howell is described as 5 feet 8 inches, 200 pounds, with hair and brown eyes.

Model Airplane Club Changes Meeting Day

Torrance's model airplane club, the Glow Bugs, have decided to change their meeting date from Thursday to Wednesday and to advance the time of meeting from 7:30 to 7 p.m.