



By JACK O. BALDWIN

The story currently making the rounds whenever newsmen of the area gather to shop talk and swap tales concerns Sid Bernstein, former reporter for our compatriot newspaper to the west, the South Bay Daily Breeze.

The story goes about like this, Sid was attending an S.C. class reunion and ran into an old classmate. After the usual "How-are-you's" the pair began telling each other how successful they had been since leaving dear ole S.C.

Sid's friend proudly claimed he was a song pluggier for a reputable song publishing house in Hollywood.

"I've written a few song lyrics myself," said Sid placing his empty glass on the bar and holding up two fingers like Churchill's famous Victory sign toward the bartender.

The song pluggier crowded Sid for details.

The quick-thinking Sid hesitated for a fleeting instant and then popped up with a title that he pulled out of thin air. "Some matter a fact I'm working on a tune now. I called 'Born to Lose Blues'."

"How's a lyrics go?" asked Sid's friend.

Sid whipped out a pencil, grabbed a napkin and began writing—composing as he wrote.

"Sounds pretty good," the song pluggier told Sid as he read the lyrics. "Who's written the music?"

Sid remembered a well-known song writer he had met casually years before. He named him. The song-writer's name rang a bell with the song pluggier. He and Sid went over the lyrics again. Changing here and there and improving the prose.

"How's the tune go?" the pluggier wanted to know.

From the same thin air from which he had taken the title, Sid pulled a tune and began singing adding gestures which by now came easily.

Next day, as are so many of the day-after-the-night-before, was a long and foggy one for Sid. He forgot all about his song plugging friend. But apparently his friend had not forgotten about Sid. A few days after the reunion Sid received a letter from a reputable song publishing house in Hollywood.

Would Sid and his well-known song writer come into the offices for a discussion of "Born to Lose Blues"—the next great Western song hit?

Sid is in a frenzy. He can't remember the song. Nor the words. Nor even the first note. And the napkin—probably gone where all other napkins went that wonderful party night.

Sid is really singing the blues these days—"The Born to Lose Blues."

Which reminds of this one that happened to another brother reporter just a few days ago.

When the mystery-shrouded ship "Fairhope" pulled into the harbor last week, hordes of FBI agents swarmed over the ship in droves. Guards were every where. No one but government officials were allowed to go aboard the ship with its secret cargo and bloodstained port hole through which it is suspected a body was pushed into the sea.

On the dock stood a dozen reporters and photographers all under orders from their respective city editors to get aboard that vessel and get some pictures. The armed guards at the gangway were letting no one aboard but FBI agents and maritime officers. On board, the swarms of federal men were asking questions and among them was one individual who had gone aboard the ship without a challenge when the last bunch of agents walked up the gangplank. The guard assumed he was another FBI man. After noosing around the ship for quite a while coming and going as he chose he got a lot of answers from some of the crewmen still aboard. One of the government investigators, not recognizing the man, asked him what office he worked out of.



THE CAPTAIN'S TABLE... Eating spaghetti at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Popovich, 2067 Carson St., is the new Captain of the Tartar Knights, Lee Mortenson, right, and other Knights, Harry Fraulich, Danny Mayers, and Sid Staxrud. More than 20 Tartar Knights joined in the installation ceremonies.

Bids to be Called for Widening of Lomita Blvd.

A call for bids for the widening of Lomita Blvd. to a four-lane highway from Crenshaw Blvd. to Allene St. will be issued within two months, County Road Commissioner Sam R. Kennedy, said this week.

Doubling the width of the highway for the half-mile stretch will cost approximately \$43,000, he indicated. The sum has been budgeted, he said.

Additional improvements of the road, also a widening project covering the stretch from Woodward Ave. to Western Ave. are contemplated during the next fiscal year.

At present the street is a four-lane highway for a single block east and west of Narbonne Ave.

Pea Soup Fog Hampers Police in Crash Call

With red light wagging from side to side and with sirens screaming at full high pitch, California Highway Patrolmen sped to a three-car accident Saturday night at 15 miles per hour.

Fog conditions held visibility to zero.

After groping their way to the scene of the accident at 1238 E. Carson, the Highway Patrol officers found three persons injured in the fog-provoked accident.

Injured was Mrs. Martha Darrow, 30, driver of one of the autos and two of her passengers, David Darrow, 37, and George J. Vega, 24, all of Los Angeles.

The accident occurred as Frank W. Perkins, 22, of 1238 1/2 E. Carson St., attempted a left turn into the driveway of his

"The city room of the Los Angeles Bugle."

He was a reporter. Very unceremoniously the reporter was lead back down the gangplank—his elbow in the firm grasp of an FBI agent. On deck the investigation was attempting to clear his own hair out by the roots distraught by the thought that a reporter had been allowed to snoop around at will during the hush investigation.

On the dock the reporter was quickly surrounded by the other newshounds. "What'dja find out?" "Did you visit the murdered man's stateroom?" "Have they pinched anybody yet?" The reporters pumped the ejected reporter for answers. Finally one question got through to the reporter.

"What did you see when you were up there?" a brother reporter from the same newspaper asked as he waved a hand up toward the deck of the "Fairhope."

"Up where?" asked the reporter who had prowled the mystery ship.

"Up there, stupid. On the Fairhope," said his fellow employes impatiently.

The reporter heeled slowly toward the ship. The other reporters awaited his answer. "Zat where I was? I was wondering where I was. I didn't see anybody I knew. Watz goin' on up there anyhow? Sompin cooking around the ship for quite a while coming and going as he chose he got a lot of answers from some of the crewmen still aboard. One of the government investigators, not recognizing the man, asked him what office he worked out of.

Tartar Knights Install New Captain at Feed

Lee Mortenson was installed as the new captain of the Tartar Knights Tuesday night in ceremonies which followed a spaghetti feed at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Popovich, 2067 Carson St.

The new leader of the Knights, a high school service organization, succeeded Bob Kulp who headed the group during the first semester of the term.

Taking office with Mortenson were Chuck Bingham, 1st Lieutenant; Don Kastner, 2nd Lieutenant; Vladimir Popovich, secretary; and Greg Jenkins, treasurer.

High School Principal Bruce W. Magner Jr., and Vice-Principal Dale Harter, who is sponsor of the Knights, joined the 20 Knights in the dinner and installation.

Man Rams Car, Smashes Radio; Fined \$50

Malicious mischief, ramming his car into the auto of a female friend and smashing the radio in her Arlington St. home following an argument cost Louis Hicks Stepp Jr. \$50 when he appeared before Judge John A. Shidler in South Bay Municipal Court this week.

Stepp was arrested Monday at 9:40 p.m. by Patrolman A. L. Jackson and Reserve Policeman Steve Schmidt.

Luck came to San Pedro in 1904 and moved to Lomita in 1907. A resident of Torrancia for the past two years and a former employee of National Supply Co., he died at 1:30 o'clock Tuesday afternoon at Harbor General Hospital. He had been in ill health for four years.

The Rev. Miles Northrup of the First Baptist Church will conduct the funeral rites. Cremation will follow at Inglewood Park Cemetery.

Luck is survived by his wife, Mrs. Yurefita Luck, 2312 Andro Ave., and his mother, Mrs. Nora M. Luck, who is now at the Bayshore Sanitarium in Hermosa Beach.

SIX HURT IN CRASH

A two-car crash at 190th St. and Normandie Ave. sent six persons to Harbor General Hospital with cuts and bruises early Sunday evening.

Treated were Ernest Hardwick, 26, John Bowden, 19, and Kenneth Bowden, 26, all of Gardena; Tetsuo Kawahara, of Compton; and James Justice, 25, and Maxine Justice, 19, of Los Angeles.

Hardwick and Kawahara were drivers of the colliding autos.

Mother of Torrancia Woman Laid to Rest

Funeral services for Mrs. Mary O. Sheets, mother of Mrs. Dorothy Davis of Torrancia, were held in the White and Day Colonial Chapel in Redondo yesterday afternoon.

BLOOD PROGRAM INCREASES NEED FOR RED CROSS AID

Highway Patrol Explains Effect Of High Speeds on Side Vision

Drivers who survive a high-speed collision with another vehicle and then say "I didn't see it" can in many cases blame their lack of perception on their high speed, the California Highway Patrol said today.

Officials pointed out that eyes normally tend to focus on stationary objects. Thus, in a fast moving car a driver's eyes will focus on the roadway ahead at the point where it seems to stand still.

"Studies" by research groups shows that at 60 mph this distance is about 1800 feet, said the Patrol. At higher speeds, eyes will focus on the horizon. The result is that objects between the driver and the focal point, especially those in the near foreground, often appear blurred and indistinct.

Side vision is also affected by speed, the Patrol added. Motionless, a normal pair of eyes can take in about 200 degrees when focused straight ahead. At 20 mph, this is cut in half; at 40 mph it's down to one-third and at 60 it's only one fifth or about 40 degrees.

Restricted side vision was listed as a possible cause of many one intersection collisions where one or both drivers claim the other vehicle "appeared out of nowhere."

The Patrol suggested to motorists that the best protection against the tricks nature plays on them is to be aware of their limitations and compensate for them.

"Driving at lower speeds and flicking your eyes from one side of the road to the other are two excellent ways to compensate," the Patrol concluded.

Mother of Five Buried Tuesday

Funeral services were held at the Stone and Myers Chapel Tuesday afternoon for Mrs. Katherine Leona Colaclosure, 58, of 1925 Gramercy Ave., who died here last Saturday for 10 years.

A resident of Torrancia for 10 years, Mrs. Colaclosure was interred in Roosevelt Cemetery following rites conducted by Rev. Ida Sande of the Torrancia Assembly of God Church.

Surviving are her husband, J. A. Colaclosure; four sons, Francis, Howard, Roscoe and Paul; and one daughter, Evelyn Schneider, of Illinois.

Two sisters and one brother also survive.

Court Demands Man Repay Stolen Money

Nelson Carl Varnholt, 15134 Vermont St., must pay the balance of \$240 taken from the Inglewood Dairy Farms several months ago within 30 days or serve 180 days in jail, according to a bench warrant issued Monday by Judge Otto B. Willett.

SAFETY RECORD... Shell Chemical employees Robert C. Moldey (left), head fire and safety inspector, and Charles H. Hahn, chairman of the employee safety committee, mark the 500th day of operation without a lost time accident at the Torrancia Butadiene plant.

Completion of today's record of 1,669,287 accident-free man-hours by the plant's 375 employees is equal to 51 years without an accident in the home of an average family of four persons. The Torrancia plant was reactivated in December 1950.

"YOU GIVE—THEY LIVE!" Behind this ringing slogan—geared to the expanding Red Cross Blood Service program—hundreds of men and women canvassers will call upon their neighbors and business associates in this area during the 1953 Red Cross fund-raising campaign.

Torrancia branch fund drive chairman J. Hugh Sherrey said this week.

Sherrey pointed out that in addition to the collection of whole blood needed to produce the polio fighting serum, gamma globulin, Red Cross must continue to supply blood for the armed forces and for use in civilian hospitals throughout the nation.

"The only source of income for Red Cross operations comes from donations to the organization's annual fund drives," Sherrey said. "My gift and yours—and those of our neighbors—finance all Red Cross projects."

Torrancia's Red Cross advance gifts division started making the rounds this week, after a final planning meeting with Chairman Sherrey. Committee members, in addition to Sherrey, are branch chairman W. A. Felker; Lester T. King, of Torrancia General Insurance; R. G. Miller, Home Loan Realty Co.; Charlton A. Mewborn, attorney; and Dr. Allen L. Pyatt, optometrist.

"We in Torrancia, who have seen and experienced the terror of polio striking at our children, will do all possible to enable the Red Cross chapter to bear its full share of operation gamma globulin as well as to maintain at top strength all other services of the organization," the chairman said.

In addition to its blood service program, Red Cross is committed to financing, from the contributions of men and women residing in this area, its round-the-clock projects dealing with civil defense, the supplying of volunteers in Veterans Administration hospitals, the financial and other assistance given servicemen and their families, and countless other services.

And wherever a major disaster strikes—be it earthquake,

lood, fire, or atomic bombing—Red Cross must be sent to the scene with your dollars to carry on its long-established assistance to the stricken zone," he emphasized.

Up and down the business streets of Torrancia today, merchants will be putting the finishing touches to their displays for what promises to be a record-breaking Dollar-Day business Friday and Saturday.

Local merchants have combed both California and eastern markets for big valises in fresh spring merchandise, according to Dale Isenberg, executive secretary of the Torrancia Chamber of Commerce.

The sale, sponsored by the Retail Merchants Division of the Chamber, will not be, in any sense, a clearance sale, Isenberg said. He said merchants have reported that their stores are full of new merchandise for the event.

Today's 32-page Torrancia Herald is crammed with values which should interest the budget-wise shopper.

Three Hurt as Cars Crash in Dense Fog

Three people ended up at Harbor General Hospital for treatment of cuts and bruises Sunday evening after two autos collided in the fog at Hawthorne Ave. and Pacific Coast Hwy. at 7:30 o'clock.

Tartar Teen Talk Junior Spook Show Features Wolf Man

Torrancia and a prize will be awarded to the girl with the best posture on Feb. 25th. Remember their slogan "Good Posture—Good Health."

A shunter party selge was reported last Wednesday night. One of several girl slumber parties was held at the home of Sandy Sanders while Jack Beeman played host to a group of male friends at his house.

"Sunday Cost Five Pesos" is the title of the one act play Torrancia High drama department is working on. The play will be going to the Pasadena Playhouse One-Act Festival in that several new acquaintances March. Mr. Berens (Drama Teacher) as well as all Torrancia students hope it will be a great success. Lenis Smith and Babs Whitley have the leads in the play backed by a swell cast of others.

Torrancia "Cee" basketball team, All Bay League Champions, journeyed to San Juan Capistrano to compete in the big Capistrano hoop tournament last Tuesday. They hoped for the highest honors. A "Cee" team can attain a first place Capistrano Trophy.

Let's all get out and support our basketball team this Friday night in the Tartar gym. The Tartars will need a lot of support to beat Inglewood, their opponents. The Varsity Club is having a dance directly following the game. The admission is 25c per person. Manuel Burgara's Band will play. Everyone is invited to attend.

The Boys League is sponsoring an interclass track meet on March 10th. All you guys start practicing so you can bring your class to the top in each event.

Posture week began last Monday for the girls of T.H.S. This posture contest is an annual event. Don't forget the Junior Class "Spook Show."

