

Many Improvements in Shoestring Strip Area Completed During 1956

By BILLIE ROBERTSON
Herald Correspondent

In the Shoestring Strip area, 1956 was a good year. Not only was considerable street work done, but it all was finished during the year. During the year we had 10 jobs to contract. Total cost was \$159,952, of which \$138,177 was assessed against local property owners, while \$21,775 was provided from public funds. Among the five assessment jobs were almost 15 blocks of paving, curbs, gutters and sidewalks.

These jobs included all the major east-west streets between Carson and 228th St., leaving only a small portion of Plaza Del Amo remaining unimproved. Two petitions are now on file for this street, which will reduce the unimproved portion to one block.

Streets improved during the past year included 205th, Denker to Harvard; Normandie to Western, 223rd; Halldale to Western, 224th; and Harvard from 224th to Plaza Del Amo; and 227th St. from Normandie to Western. The remaining job was sidewalks in the 209th and Brighton area.

The amount of money expended on the cash jobs could never tell the real story concerning these projects. For instance, the pedestrian crossing over 223rd St. actually cost less than \$500, yet we had several special meetings over it, and the Councilman had to enlarge the services of the finance committee, the chief administrative officer, and others to get the funds in time.

Most of you can well remember how the school board promised to have this in February only to notify us in January that they could not legally spend school funds on the job. Although delayed six months, we finally got it installed in time for the September semester. It easily has proved its worth.

We also had a sidewalk on Normandie Ave. for the children going to the Halldale School and the cost was \$4100. An outright appropriation was necessary to eliminate the mudhole and mosquito breeding ground at 207th and Denker. This was denied until the Health Department joined in the request. A suggested delay in the construction of the storm drain at 220th and Normandie was opposed and instead expedited to be completed just ahead of the first storm.

Prospects for 1957 herald another banner year for the Shoestring area. We disposed of six of the 13 assessment act jobs processing at the beginning of 1956, but got petitions for three others, leaving 10 on the books. Already this year we have received one new petition, and have awarded one contract.

Under the normal process, six other projects will be completed during the year including the west Normandie roadway, which is six blocks in length.

Bids for the sewer and paving on 208th St. from Denker to Harvard will be received March 6 with work starting early in April. Protest starting is set for Thursday on paving the north half of 208th and construction of sidewalks from Harvard to Western. Work is expected about May 1.

Plans have been completed for four other jobs, and a fifth is undergoing final check and might go to contract before the year is out.

Bids are to be called this month for the construction of the 212th St. storm drain. This is a county flood control project. Meanwhile the city has completed plans for lateral drains on Halldale Ave which must yet be financed. Money for this project will be asked in the 1957-58 budget.

Another project which should lead toward greater residential development in the area, was the blanket change of zone south of 223rd St. between Halldale and Western. Already some building has been started. The ordinance actually becomes effective on Thursday of this week. We had quite a stormy session at the public hearing, but bringing it here, rather than holding it in Los Angeles, gave more people a chance to have their say.

The Shoestring Strip Advisory Board will continue to meet each month and will attempt in every way possible to help solve any of your problems. The job is much easier with the help of this committee. The public is always invited to attend these meetings held the first Tuesday of each month.

Former Herald Employee In Graduating Class
Two Torrance students were graduated Feb. 1 with the senior class of San Jose State College, it was revealed here yesterday.

Graduates included Arnold W. O'Connor, with a master's degree in industrial arts, and Miss Dorothy L. Hooker, with a bachelor's degree in education and a general elementary credential. Miss Hooker has worked during several summer vacations as a receptionist and classified ad solicitor for the HERALD.

Details of Mrs. America Contest Told By Gas Co.

Local homemakers will once more be vying with their counterparts from all over the state in search for California's No. 1 "keeper of the hearth," according to plans for the 19th annual "Mrs. America" contest released yesterday.

Eligible to enter the "Mrs. America" competition are local homemakers, married, and 21 years of age or over. They will be competing for the coveted "Mrs. America" title and more than \$15,000 worth of prizes, the reward for the national winner. Contestants in the search for "Mrs. California," next-to-last step in the nationwide competition, will share in some \$10,000 worth of prizes.

Housekeeping Stressed
The Mrs. America contest, the announcement stresses, is not a bathing beauty competition but a test of homemaking abilities. Although personality, personal appearance, and community and family interests will be considered in the judging, the major emphasis will

be placed on important house-keeping talents such as cooking, sewing, and ironing. First step for would-be contestants is to obtain application blanks at local gas company offices. From the field of applicants, a group of top local homemaker entrants will be chosen to compete for victory in regional finals. The regional winners will then travel to the Beverly Hilton early in April for the three-day state finals which will name "Mrs. California."

Trip to Florida
The state winner, with her husband, will go to Fort Lauderdale, Fla., for the national "Mrs. America" finals the week of May 7-14.

The national contest is being conducted under the auspices of the American Gas Assn.; DeSoto Division, Chrysler Corp.; and Mrs. America, Inc.

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of the Southwest Park Homeowners Assn. chosen last Tuesday are shown getting ready for one of their first important activities, the installation dinner-dance at Club Alondra March 2. Seated, left to right, are Mrs. Leo

STROLLIN' THRU SOUTHWEST PARK

Winter Camping Scouts Scamper Home to Avoid Being Snowbound

By RUTH FOSTER
FR 9-5508

With so much talk of adventuresome Southlanders being snowbound, Troop 372 must have felt fortunate, getting home last Sunday without incident. The hearty leaders who took the Scouts were Warren Pancake, Keller Lottermoser, Alan Beresford, Eldon Fish, Louis Bisou, Don Casper, and Rex Tidball. The group pitched their tents in Pine Canyon, Lower Shake Camp, Jan. 26 and 27. The following is a list of the boys who went: Richard De Smidt, Tommy Smith, Dale Lokey, Ronald Heller, Charles Breski, Bill Starns, Larry Lue-rance, Dean Stanton, Danny Swanson, E. N. N. Beresford, George Christianson, Charles Bearden, David Halsey, Danny Anderson, James Masaki, Gregory Coffman, Donald Peasley Jr., Michael Shawgo, Gerald Wagner, Clayton Kyle, Ben

Ditch, Bob Bisou, and Tommy Barton. Spending most of the day trying to get the boys home was Warren Pancake, who happened to have a birthday the 27th. I did, too, and was pleased when Mother Foster called over 2500 miles of telephone wire to express best wishes.

"Sing a Song of Sixpence" or of any of the many things one sings about... but sing it when the Mother Singers meet. The mothers who have joined think it's very worthwhile and they would like to have more women enjoying this musical diversion. They plan to prepare a skit for R.T.A.

Larry and Linda Freeman, twins of Mr. and Mrs. William Freeman, would be considered quite lucky by most of their

pals. You see, when one makes a wish and blows out the candles, the other one is puffing on the opposite edge of the cake, making sure they all go out at once. Watching this procedure at their recent party were Douglas McDonough, Marilyn Harte, Susan Traynor, Colleen Traynor, Judy Lionberger, Nila Lionberger, Karen Wells, Sammy Wells, Cindy Hatton, Earl Van Fleet, Dorry Van Fleet, Billy Barto, and Lydia Coats.

Destree, the little crib-size daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Sheets, 4918 Halson, had her first birthday celebration Jan. 18. It was a family affair, including sister Cheri.

"Early Bird League" of bowlers includes a team known as the "Angels," two members of which live in the tract. They are Mrs. Bill McArthur and

Mrs. Lyle Prosser. The activity is sponsored by the Inglewood YWCA and runs 14 weeks. This is the seventh week and the Angels are in fourth place. Wonder if they bowl in "dem golden slippers."

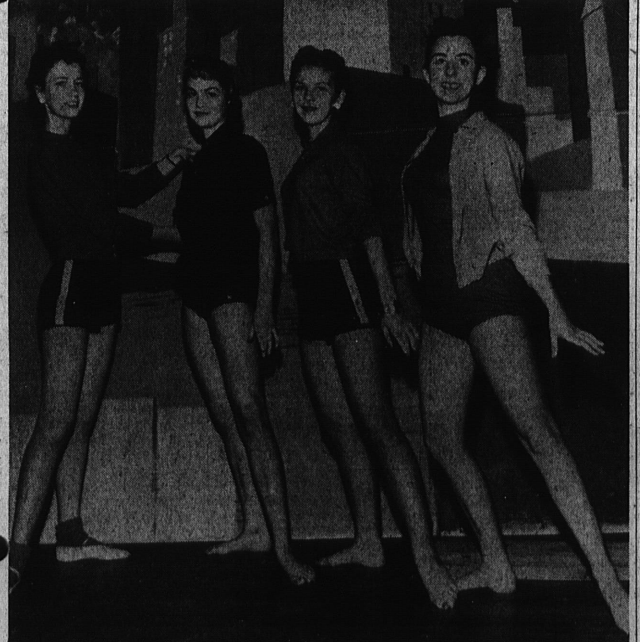
Competition is keen and coffee vanishes by the gallon when the Herb Watts and their friends gather for Wednesday evening cards. Mr. and Mrs. C. Turner and Helen O'Neil are regular players at these sessions.

A simple Sunday drive for the Earl Barackmans recently took on all the aspects of an official weather bureau tour. The family was somewhat weather-wiser when they returned, having seen snow, slipped over sleet, and watched the hail. They still prefer sunshine.

Curtis, brother of William Freeman, will soon establish a home for his family here. He has been making his home with the Freemans on Narrot St.

"James Ells" is the name given their new son by Mr. and Mrs. Tom Prevo. The child became baby brother to the couple's elder son, Billy, Jan. 21. His I.D. card at Queen of Angels Hospital read "7 lbs., 13 oz." The Prevos live at 18401 Anza.

A far-away place with a strange-sounding name is calling A/2 class James A. Redman Jr. He will leave for Okinawa Feb. 14, having been stationed in Shreveport, La. Jim is the son of Mr. and Mrs. James Redman, 19205 Anza, and nephew of Mrs. A. D. Hawkins, 19406 Anza.



GETTING IN STEP... Elsa Barlow is showing three other dancers the steps for "Slaughter on 10th Avenue" which will be part of the Torrance High Variety Show presentation here Feb. 16 and 18. Other dancers are Yolande Goodman, Diane Hunter, and Sandra Bearld.

Harvey Technician To Direct Sessions

Gilbert Moudry, a technical director for Harvey Machine Co., will be in charge of an American Society for Metals session devoted to forming techniques for metals in aircraft when the 10th Western Metal Congress convenes at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles on March 25, it was announced yesterday.

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