

... Let's Go

By LARRY MACARAY

There are so many things and events to celebrate these days that somehow their importance becomes lost in the maze of cards, gifts, and well-wishers. Sometimes we forget a birthday, an anniversary, or the illness of a friend—it has happened to you and it has happened to me. However, this week is the first anniversary of an unforgettable experience for me.

One year ago I was in Istanbul — where East meets West — the only city in the world that straddles two continents. One of the truly magnificent cities of the world where foreign intrigue fairly drips from every corner of the city. The international spies used to sit on the veranda of the Park Hotel and count the ships passing up and down the Bosphorus between the Black Sea and the Dardanelles.

How the scene has changed — particularly one year ago. As I was changing for dinner in my room on the ninth floor of the Istanbul Hilton the ground began to rumble. The rumble quickly developed into a severe jerking motion that literally threw me off balance. It was an earthquake — and stronger than I had ever experienced.

SOME OLD TIMERS will recall the severe earthquake we had in Southern California in 1933. The Turkish earthquake was worse. What to do on the ninth floor of a hotel during an earthquake? Too far to jump—too difficult to find room on an elevator — too little time to do anything! Plenty of time, though, to struggle to the balcony and watch the building sway while the throngs of people poured out of the building.

Hundreds of people between Istanbul and Ankara were killed. How fortunate to be in a building made of steel and concrete. In the context of my life, the earthquake is something to remember—but in the matter of the history of Istanbul—it was nothing. The well documented history of Istanbul can be traced to 657

B.C. when then Megarians named their settlement Byzantium in homage to their leader, Byzas.

During the reign of Marcus Aurelius, the city was renamed Antonion, to honor the Emperor's father, Antonius. The city was renamed again as Constantinople, when Constantine moved the capital of the Roman Empire from Rome. Fatih Sultan Mehmet took the city May 29, 1453, after 53 days of attack. With this demise of the Byzantine Empire, the Middle Ages ended and the New Ages began. Istanbul stood as the capital of Turkey from that day on.

TO THE TOURIST Istanbul is noted as a city of mosques. There are more than 500. The most famous are the Blue Mosque and St. Sophia (first a church, then a mosque and now a museum). St. Sophia, destroyed by fire after its construction by the Emperor Constantine in 347, was rebuilt by the Emperor Justinian in extraordinary splendor. Despite its age, the magnificent interior still shows through in various places.

Another tourist attraction that always fascinates me is the Grand Bazaar, a city within a city with 19 miles of walks and more than 2,500 shops. The gold shops are particularly unique and offer attractive buys for the shopper. Talking about gold — every tourist should visit the famous Topkapi Palace where the state treasury is kept. It contains the richest collection of jewelry anywhere in the world. There is a solid gold throne set with 30,000 jewels. They told me it was worth \$50 million.

More important than the extreme wealth of the jewels, manuscripts, porcelains, and historical documents of the Topkapi Palace is the fact that during its golden years 20,000 persons lived inside the palace. Hundreds of beautiful girls from many lands were enslaved, the companions of the sultans. Seeing the lavish gardens, the massive kitchens, the exquisite porcelain dinnerware, and the intricate array of harem bedrooms left me with a feeling that the Topkapi Palace must have been a swinging place 450 years ago.

MILK SHORTAGE

India, with the largest cattle production in the world, has a shortage of milk and dairy products.

Press-Herald

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QUEEN NAMED ... Sixteen-year-old Linda Hitchcock will reign as queen of the 1968 Torrance Mounted Police-RCA Rodeo next weekend. A junior at Torrance High School, Linda sold the most tickets during the queen contest. She is sponsored by the Torrance Jaycees. Two performances of the rodeo are scheduled at 2 p.m. next Saturday and Sunday. Tickets may still be obtained at the rodeo. (Press-Herald Photo)

Obituaries ... Park

William Bottom

Services will be held at 10 a.m. tomorrow at the Halverson-Leavell Mortuary Chapel for William Benjamin Bottom, 90, who died Thursday in San Pedro after living in the Torrance area for 17 years.

Formerly of 23701 S. Western Ave., he is survived by his widow, Lula of Torrance; two sons, Thomas William and Benjamin; three daughters, Kathleen Short, Mary Ruth Gallagher, and Marguerite Harrington; 13 grandchildren; and 13 great grandchildren.

Interment will be at Green Hills Memorial Park Cemetery.

T. R. Hellenen

Services will be held at 7:30 this evening at the Halverson-Leavell Mortuary Chapel for Torolf R. Hellenen, 61, who died Thursday in Los Angeles after living in the area for 20 years.

Formerly of 218 Prospect, Redondo Beach, he is survived by his widow, Olga; a daughter, Laura Lambrose of Huntington Beach; and a grandson, Paul.

Interment will be at Sawtelle Cemetery, Rev. Lewis Szabo officiating.

Joseph Merx

Services were held yesterday at for Halverson-Leavell Mortuary Chapel for Joseph Leo Merx, 65, who died Monday in a Laguna Beach hospital after living in the Torrance area for 20 years.

Formerly of 34542 Via Verde, Capistrano Beach, he is survived by two daughters, Nancy Thayer of Capistrano Beach and Lucille Roth of Ohio; nine grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

(Continued from Page 1)
have come from United California Bank, Bob White, St. Lawrence Martyr Church South Bay Insurance Co., John Earley, Wood and Maher Realtors, Dave Halstead, Curt Wagner, Wally Botello, Dean Johnston, Hy-Tone Cleaners, Ray Robinson, Paul R. Comon, and Bragi Freymodsson.

Reis also said contributions of up to \$100 had been received from some 53 other individuals and firms associated with the project.

Total cost of the project, Reis said, will be about \$25,000. Grading and other preliminary work—including the installation of curbs, gutters, and pavement—will be done by the two cities at a cost of about \$11,000.

IN ADDITION, each of the cities will maintain their section of the park, once it is completed.

A large plaque will be placed in the park to acknowledge all donations of \$100 or more, Reis said.

Serving with Reis on the park project committee are Stanley Dunn, secretary; Lee Larsen, vice president; and Robert White, treasurer.

Formal groundbreaking ceremonies will be held at the site once plans have received final approval and a contract for construction has been awarded.

... Crash

(Continued from Page 1)
Montoya of San Pedro and Cheryl Nielsen of San Diego.

Graveside services are scheduled at 11 a.m. tomorrow at Green Hills Memorial Park with Bishop Broadbent of the San Pedro Ward of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints officiating.

Lutherans To Hear Rupert

Thomas C. Rupert, Torrance city treasurer, will address the Lutheran Womens Missionary League (LWML) of Ascension Lutheran Church, 17910 S. Prairie Ave., Tuesday at 8:15 p.m. Rupert will speak on "Citizens' Responsibility in Government."

As a Lutheran and a city official in Torrance, Rupert will answer questions and offer his views on how concerned Christians can fulfill their responsibilities and work within their local governments.

Mr. and Mrs. Rupert, Torrance residents for 12 years, have two children and reside at 2039 W. 230th St. They are members of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Redondo Beach.

Woman's Death Is Mystery

A 28-year-old Torrance housewife died suddenly Thursday morning after mouth-to-mouth resuscitation failed to restore her breathing.

A coroner has been assigned to determine the full facts surrounding the death of Mary Antonia Scott, 3512 W. 187th St., who was pronounced dead at the home shortly after 7 a.m. Police listed the death as natural.

Mrs. Scott's husband, James Scott, told police he heard a "gurging" sound from his wife's bedroom about 5:45 a.m. He discovered that his wife was not breathing and had no apparent heartbeat.

Scott said the victim had a heart murmur prior to her death.

Chorus To Form

Active citizens over 50 who enjoy singing with a group will have the opportunity to join a newly formed chorus sponsored by the Torrance Recreation Department beginning Tuesday.

Walter Wittel, director of the Hometown Singers and

Joslyn Youth Chorus, will hold rehearsals every Tuesday from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Bartlett Center, located at 1318 Cravens Ave.

Those over 50 interested in joining the musical group should attend the first rehearsal on Tuesday. There is no participation fee.

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