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OBSERVATIONS

(Continued from Page 1)

But her own convoy finally takes her protesting from the sea.

THE sun is getting well along toward its evening dip in the western sea. Our boat's shadow takes length on the waves of the water. The race broadens out.

More red flags in rowboats now—signals of swimmers giving up the fight because of cold, fatigue or cramps. Hospital and official boats scurry about faster than ever, busy taking distressed contestants aboard. Agony is written on the faces of many that are lifted from the frigid sea.

ON our craft, as the sun swings low and the round moon takes on more silver in the east, there is a feeling of unexpressed relief that our swimmers are out of the water and safe aboard the convoy.

Pity for the swimmers wells up in every heart. One wonders if it is fair for a millionaire to dangle money before the noses of men and women and send them through terrible agony for the love of gold. One wonders.

WE send through the waves, circling about, taking census of the men and women still in the sea. Still the shoulders flash under the low sun. Still beautiful bodies move with that precise, one might almost say musical, rhythm.

Ross and a young fellow named Young are heading north. It is evident that they have planned a canny race. Ross is swimming strongly, beautifully. We time him—44 strokes to the minute as regularly as the clock ticks.

We locate Summers. He is visibly tired and swimming toward the south. We follow. Summers, suffering with an agony that is written in sharp lines over his face, is taken from the water.

ONE wonders about this thing. Will men and women suffer these horrible pains for \$25,000? It requires no great understanding to realize why men rob banks seeking "easy" money. At least the jails and prisons are warm.

IT is dark. The swimmers have been in the water for hours. Asten the magic islands rise black out of the sea, seeming close. Yet the mainland is barely visible over the bow.

In the water for hours—many taken out unconscious already—and none half way across. Surely no man or woman will reach the mainland. The race is over now.

Mr. Wrigley will keep his money. The task is too great for human beings. We put our entrants on the back. It's good to know they are not suffering in the frigid sea, good to feel them safe aboard.

WE close our eyes. What do we see? Broad shoulders and arms, stroking, stroking, one—two—one—two! Out there in that black water. One—two—one—two!

THE rest over the radio. Ross and Young and Myers swimming strongly in the order named toward fame and financial independence, stroking, one—two—one—two in the black, cold sea.

There are twelve left in the race and though only twelve women started, six of the dozen remaining are feminine. There is no weaker sex. No woman has left the water voluntarily, although several have been lifted out unconscious, fighting the horrors of the cold and cramps until only a spark of warm life remained in their bodies.

The weak sex is the strong sex when it comes to enduring physical pain and agony. Hundreds of thousands of generations of child-bearing mothers have left their heritage, fitting women to stand more than men. The prowess of women in athletics requiring courage and ability to withstand agony is something new under the sun. If the Catalina swim established nothing else it threw in sharp relief the Spartan courage of womanhood, proved the fact that Nature, which fitted women to bear children, made them generally more courageous than men.

THE radio again. Young, nearing shore, only a few miles left. But nobody who had not seen scores taken from the water could realize what those few miles meant. Again we could see them stroking, stroking, one—two—one—two. In the cold black sea!

WHAT a finish! A Milton or a Dante might pen it into an epic. Here is a 17-year-old boy—an unknown to the experts, crossing the continent on a wheezy motorcycle, bumping rides, getting help through the sheer nerve of youth—and besting the greatest swimmers in the world.

HE is a few hundred yards from shore. The revolving beacon of the Point Vicente light beckons him on to fame and fortune and security. The tide changes. He is caught in the giant swirl of rips and currents. His body is tangled in the twining, clinging kelp. For an hour he battles against these odds but makes no headway. Every stroke of those long arms is an agony. His skin is the color of a dark blue woolen shirt. Yet he fights, and when there is no more fight left in him he fights some more.

THE tide changes a bit, eases off. Calling on all the reserve power in his young body he puts forth his last gigantic effort. What feelings must have swept over him when he felt his body responding in forward movement to the stroke of his young arms! Ten feet from shore and the back wash of a great comb carries him back into the sea.

But his is youth and guts and strength. With one more great stroking of arms, every muscle coordinated, he plunges shoreward again—this time to win as his feet touch the welcome sand and his hands fly into the air to indicate that for the first time in more than 15 hours he is standing on his feet.

WRITE that into a scenario, you movie men. Put it into an epic. It is a greater story than your facile imaginations ever could have conjured up.

Find a Virgil or a Homer to help you out. You will need one. There is only one man in all the world who could have stroked across that channel Saturday and Sunday morning.

And he was seventeen!

BACK in Toronto—but you know the story—the little mother, working as a servant, widowed, loving her son, fearing for his health, praying for his success, glorying in his victory.

Call up your Dante, your Milton, your Virgil, your Homer. Give us a modern epic, if there is left in the world a poet equal to the task.

Spartan Quintet Were Big Winners

Six games in a row, each won by a comfortable margin is the enviable record established by the Spartan basketball team, composed of Torrance lacrosse players.

Defeated teams include such sturdy opponents as the Redondo Congregational, El Segundo Methodist, Huntington Park K. C., Gardena Methodist and San Pedro Methodist.

Monday night, January 17 the Torrance team defeated San Pedro Methodists in their own gym by a score of 15 to 6, and on Wednesday night, January 19, won from

the Huntington Park Knights of Columbus in the Torrance warehouse gym 16 to 8.

The lineup of the Spartans includes B. Smith, H. A. Campbell, H. H. Bontine, C. T. McLean, R. P. Vonderhake, G. M. Burke, C.

Their schedule includes some fast games for the immediate future. Home games are played on Wednesday nights at the Torrance Warehouse gym.

The tea to be held Friday at the Forsythe Memorial Home for Mexican Girls will be attended by Rev. and Mrs. F. A. Zeller and Mrs. George Key. Miss Elsie Burkholder, whose home is on Portola avenue, is a member of the faculty.

WOMEN SOCIETY

JOINT INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS HELD

The W. B. A. Installation, an open joint installation of the San Pedro and Torrance Reviews of the W. B. A. was held at the L. O. O. F. Hall in San Pedro January 13.

The officers elect were installed by District Deputy Mrs. Piester of Long Beach, assisted by the San Pedro guards.

Both Reviews presented their past commanders with beautiful jeweled pins.

A very enjoyable program was given by members and friends of both Reviews.

A delicious lunch was served and the rest of the evening spent in dancing.

AID SOCIETY WILL MEET ALL DAY

The Ladies' Aid Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church will hold an all day work meeting in the church parlors on Tuesday, Jan. 25.

The day will begin at 9:30. All members and friends are very cordially invited to attend. A pot-luck lunch will be served at noon.

MRS. S. J. JACKSON HOSTESS AT DINNER

Polisettias and other fancies in red and green were used with pleasing effect when Mrs. S. J. Jackson entertained a dinner last Thursday in honor of Mr. Jackson's birthday.

Covers were laid for Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Partridge of Redondo Beach, Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Sullivan of Los Angeles, Mr. and Mrs. M. Higgins of Compton, Mr. and Mrs. D. W. Pearson, and the host and hostess.

RELIEF SOCIETY GROWS RAPIDLY

The membership and regular attendance at the Torrance Relief Society meetings has so increased that a private home is too small to accommodate the loyal workers with any degree of convenience.

All the meetings held Tuesday at the home of the president, Mrs. W. W. Woodington, it was decided to move. But where?

A telephone call to Rev. F. A. Zeller brought a cordial invitation to use the basement of the Central Evangelical Church as temporary headquarters and storehouse, and tomorrow is moving day. Plans are afoot for a permanent home in the near future.

An interesting feature of Tuesday's meeting was the talk given by Mrs. Myrick, who is associated with the faculty of the elementary school.

Mrs. Myrick discussed her work as visiting teacher in the homes of the foreign element in this community.

The society is well supplied with large, substantial bags for the use of those who will save, or gather from their neighbors, discarded clothing. Phone 119-J, and your bag will be delivered, and called for when it is filled.

SHRINERS WILL HAVE FEBRUARY OUTING

El Rightem Shrine Club is sponsoring a dinner dance at Alpine Tavern, Mt. Lowe, for all Shriners and their families for Feb. 14. The Shriners will leave the Pacific Electric station on private train at 12:45 p. m., arriving at the tavern about 4 p. m. Dinner will be served at 6:30 p. m. Dancing will start at 8 p. m. A special rate of \$3.45 will include round trip, and dinner. Reservations should be made as early as possible with Eugene Page, or Chas. H. Mueller, Pacific Electric agent. All Shriners are invited.

W. B. A. WILL HAVE REAL GOOD TIME TUESDAY

Members of the Women's Benefit Association who fall to attend the meeting next Tuesday evening at the Women's Clubhouse are sure to be sorry, the committee says.

A birthday celebration will follow a short business session. Those whose birthdays occur between January 1 and July 1 will entertain the members whose birthdays occur during the last six months of the year.

MISSIONARY SOCIETY IS MEETING TODAY

The Missionary Society of the Central Evangelical Church will meet this afternoon at the home of Mrs. Rupp of Portola avenue. All members are urged to attend.

MISS MARY POYET WEDS IN SAN DIEGO

Miss Mary Louise Poyet and Hollis W. Fitz were married at San Diego, Monday, January 10, by Rev. G. M. Park, a friend of both the bride and groom.

Mrs. Fitz, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bartholomew Poyet of Anaheim is a member of the faculty of the local elementary school. A graduate of the University of California, Los Angeles class of February 26, Mrs. Fitz has specialized in Physical Education. Mr. Fitz, at present a student at San

Diego State College is also specializing in Physical Education. The young couple will make their home in Torrance where Mrs. Fitz will continue teaching.

Mr. and Mrs. William Bell entertained for Mr. and Mrs. Fitz at a bridge party at the Bell home in San Pedro Tuesday evening, and Mrs. Fitz was honor guest at a faculty meeting Tuesday when a handsome silver bon bon dish was presented to her by her associates.

ROYAL NEIGHBORS TO INSTALL S. P. HEADS

The Royal Neighbors will hold no meeting this week, due to the fact that local members will install San Pedro officers Friday night at the L. O. O. F. hall in the harbor city. The local meeting will be held Friday night, Jan. 28. All members are urged to attend.

MRS. SUSIE RENN WEDS NEW YORK MAN

The marriage of Mrs. Susie W. Renn of 1434 Post avenue to Thomas E. Buchanan of New York City was announced today. The ceremony was performed at Santa Ana, December 28 in the presence of the bride's young son, Alan Renn.

Mr. and Mrs. Buchanan were old schoolmates in New York 20 years ago, when Mrs. Buchanan was taking a post graduate course in music.

Following a honeymoon in San Diego Mr. and Mrs. Buchanan returned to Torrance, where they will continue to make their home.

TORRANCE HOSPITAL

Five boys and three girls arrived at the Torrance hospital during the past few days. The proud parents of the boys are Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Ashford, Mr. and Mrs. William E. Hook, Hermosa Beach; Mr. and Mrs. L. W. Laning, George H. Leech, Redondo Beach; Mr. and Mrs. D. Burlingame, Harbor City. Equally proud of the girls are Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Trimm, Torrance; Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Rizzuto and Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Ethridge of Redondo Beach.

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COLD SEA DEFEATS PAIR

(Continued from Page 1)

with two strong searchlights. This fact attracted the attention of the moving picture men, and one may expect to see Harold Gattenfeder, Maj. Jamieson and Carl Burmaster on the screen when the pictures are released. Surveys of other convoys convinced everyone aboard the Torrance boat that no convoy was so well prepared for all events as that which accompanied the Torrance swimmers.

Start Out Early
The Torrance party left Avalon at 4 o'clock Saturday morning for the isthmus. The swimmers and a small party left for the isthmus on the steamer Catalina at 6:30.

The Torrance men were unusually well pleased with the grease which they used. First they were rubbed well with olive oil. Then a

thick coating of goose grease was rubbed in well. After that a thick layer of heavy black bear grease was applied. Long before the Torrance swimmers left the race other contestants in the water had lost touch of their grease coats, particularly near the knee and elbow joints. When the Torrance men were hauled aboard their coatings of grease were intact all over their bodies.

After the Torrance men had left the race the boat cruised about among the remaining contestants before heading for Wilmington.

Hear Radio About Saives
The Torrance boat was equipped with a radio. When Hyde and

there were on the deck at the stern the steamer Avalon passed. The Avalon was broadcasting. The Torrance boat's receiving set was tuned in on KNX at Hollywood.

The Avalon was alongside, and the following words came over the Torrance boat's set:

"To our left is a boat with two swimmers aboard. They are cleaning the grease off their bodies."

At 7 p. m. Carl Hyde heard over the radio that he was still in the water, and someone who had felt the temperature of the sea said: "Well, Carl, it is better to be on the air than in the water."

The erroneous report caused great interest in Torrance, coming as it did with the report that Ross, the champion, had given up.

Express Gratitude
The swimmers and the committee in charge of the Torrance convoy wish to express unbounded gratitude to all the persons who so enthusiastically assisted in preparing the safeguards and comforts for the Torrance swimmers.

The committee and swimmers are also unusually grateful to the men and women aboard the Torrance boat who so readily volunteered for every duty that arose.

The swimmers and committee also wish to thank the Torrance persons who accompanied the swimmers and members of their families to the steamer Friday morning. The turnout was large and sent the men away with deep gratitude in their hearts.

Hydrants installed

Fire hydrants have been installed and connected throughout the Cedar avenue-Redondo boulevard district, which was recently improved and which is being built up rapidly with dwellings.

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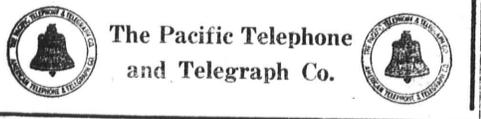
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