

by RAY BROOKS



BACK TO BORE YOU...

Back in print this week after a Thanksgiving holiday is Shop Talk with old news and late gossip.

Unfortunately, after much cudgeling of my brain (singular) nothing of startling importance came to light and the column died in its tracks.

CRACKS ABOUT CHRISTMAS

As it must to all towns Christmas came last Friday nite to Torrance. Those presents and accounts for at the corners of the Marcellina & Sartori were amazed to see that there really was a Santa Claus who stuck out his stomach and belched.

But don't be discouraged Mike Strasser... er... we mean Santa Claus. You did right smart and even had East Coast footed for a bit.

TREASURE IS WHERE YOU FIND IT!

Important object of Santa's visit (as so lucidly described above) was to give information about the Third Annual Christmas Treasure Hunt.

BUNION BUSINESS

Jumping into a new & different business feet first is Saul Koch this week as workmen started tearing out shelving, moving hundreds of cans of paint, building new shelves and windows in Saul's Torrance Paint Store.

CHRISTMAS AGAIN

Few towns of our size can boast of so many civic improvements or of the close & pleasant relationship between city officials and the town in general.

City Paint & Sporting Goods Store

1324 SARTORI Phone 251

COIL WORKER SAVED FROM FIERY DEATH

Pair Rescue Man Burning on Rig

Transformed into a writhing, flaming human torch 80 feet above ground on an oil derrick, M. L. Hockett, veteran C.C.M.O., oil worker, was fighting a losing battle with fire that was consuming his oil-soaked clothing last Saturday morning when he was rescued by two fellow-workers.

G. D. Andrews, of Walteria, a gang-pusher, and Homer Kirkpatrick of this city, a helper, climbed the derrick of the Del Amo No. 62 well west of Hawthorne to beat out flames that were eating Hockett. They stripped him of his burning clothing, dropped the smoldering garments (which started two more fires below) and then helped the critically-burned man to the ground.

Hockett was given first aid treatment by a local physician and then rushed to the Santa Fe hospital in Los Angeles. According to reports from that institution today, his condition is still critical. He has been given a 50-50 chance for recovery from his third-degree burns that literally cooked his flesh.

His clothing that had been torn off by his rescuers, dropped to the ground, ignited fires inside the oil-soaked derrick and an adjoining oil sump. These fires were extinguished by the C.C.M.O.'s own fire department before any damage was done.

Only the quick action by Andrews and Kirkpatrick saved Hockett from a horrible death high above ground and their heroism in climbing to his assistance and beating out most of his flaming clothing has won them many tributes this week.

Hockett, who resides in Redondo Beach with his wife, was working up in the derrick at 10:30 Saturday morning. As he was crawling between some cross-riders some matches in his pocket were rubbed together and ignited, according to the account of the mishap he gasped out to Sheriff Wood McIntyre, C.C.M.O. superintendent, after receiving first aid.

As fast as they could, Andrews and Kirkpatrick, mounted up the derrick and began beating at the flames with their bare hands and ripping off Hockett's clothing. Then they carefully assisted him in the painful 80-foot descent to the ground where other workers, attracted by the sight of the flames and smoke in the air, awaited them with a doctor.

Hockett has been employed by the C.C.M.O. since December, 1921.

Local Resident to Share Estate

Robert W. Craig of Torrance and Mary C. Craig of Riverside are to receive the entire estate of their late step-mother, Mrs. Mattie Craig, who died last Nov. 7 at Burbank, according to petition for probate of the will, filed this week in Los Angeles county superior court.

Wooldridge Writes

Hew straight to the line—when the chips fall they won't bounce back and hit you in the eye.

WHAT ABOUT GIVING THOSE SPORT-MINDED FRIENDS GIFTS OF SPORTING GOODS?

Sports-minded friends are SURE to appreciate gifts of Sporting Goods... perhaps more than any other gift! Select, then, from our large and varied stock of all kinds of sporting goods bearing the greatest names in the sporting world... gifts of quality, yet inexpensively priced.

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Arrested



William C. Hardison, 31-year-old OCO enrollee from Georgia, who was arrested by Federal agents at Medford, Ore., on charges of writing an extortion note received by Shirley Temple in which the child movie star was threatened with "fury or death" unless \$10,000 was paid him. He was bound over to the Federal Grand Jury with bail set at \$50,000.

Mortality Rate Drops; Births Gain in State

By UNITED PRESS

One of the lowest mortality rates on record is in prospect for California this year, director of public health Walter M. Diddle said this week. During the first half of 1937, there were 43,467 deaths registered, compared with 38,592 for the same period this year.

Study Conditions at H. S. Probed

A long-range investigation at Torrance high school into student study conditions, embracing a number of subjects such as better reading habits, development of vocabularies, improved spelling and home surroundings will be concluded by asking local parents to fill out a questionnaire about school work in general.

Victory Ball

Democrats of Los Angeles county will celebrate their first state election victory in 44 years, Wednesday, Dec. 7, with a Victory Ball at the Shrine Ball Room, 32nd and Royal streets, Los Angeles.

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MAY CHARGE CITIES WITH COURT COSTS

Actual cost of operating the municipal courts in Los Angeles and Long Beach may be assessed against each municipality, if the board of supervisors orders legislation drafted for introduction at the 1939 Legislature, as suggested by Wayne Allen, county administrative officer.

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AQUEDUCT IN SERVICE SOON

First Tunnel to Lift Colo. Water to Reservoir

First water from the Colorado River will be taken into the giant Metropolitan Aqueduct early this month, according to an official announcement made today by Jonas Hinds, assistant chief engineer of the Metropolitan Water District. That day, it was pointed out, will mark the culmination of 15 years of engineering construction work and will witness the actual functioning of the first section of the \$200,000,000 aqueduct system.

A few days ago the last barrier on the main line of the aqueduct was removed when the 13-mile San Jacinto tunnel was holed through, after almost six years of continuous work. While the last few feet of granite barrier on the tunnel were being drilled and blasted away, members of the District's electrical and mechanical engineering staff, 200 miles to the east, were engaged in final tests on the

sheer rock walls of Parker Canyon and into the first of the 38 hard-rock tunnels on the aqueduct system. The first tunnel, a little more than a mile in length, will deliver the water to the Gene Wash reservoir.

To Fill Reservoir

A number of weeks will be required to fill the Gene Wash reservoir, it was stated, and thereafter the District's engineers will begin the testing and initial operation of the aqueduct. The second pumping plant, situated at the base of the Whipple mountains.

Co. Buys Land for New Water Tank in Lomita

Purchase of a parcel of property for a site for a new steel storage tank for the Lomita county water works district was approved this week by the board of supervisors on recommendation of R. E. Shoner, county mechanical engineer.

The property is owned by Sadie E. Nathan and Jay A. Nathan, and the purchase price will be \$675, free and clear of all encumbrances.

Additional territory that was annexed to the water works district at a recent election necessitates the construction of the new steel tank reservoir for storage, Shoner explained.

The Nathan property was determined to be the best location. Funds are available in the capital account of the district, the chief engineer said.

Will You Be Proud Of The Gift You Give?

IF YOU'RE THE LEAST DOUBTFUL WE SUGGEST:

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Stunning new Elgin "Classic." Accurate, semi-baguette... \$24.75

Graceful new Elgin, 15 jewels semi-baguette, cord or metal band... \$33.75

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