

### DATES TO REMEMBER

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union, active church worker . . . was called to the door of his home late at night by an unknown man. Grabbed in his own doorway, jerked to the yard by two other men. Verbeckmose was beaten unconscious by criminal use of riding crops and kicks from heavy boots. His wife stood and screamed. These things are still at large.

**AT THE SAME TIME**—W. K. Verbeckmose, who was alarmed at the course Tidwell was leading the union, had become head of a group of members who had brought Superior Court action to compel Tidwell to hold a proper election of union officers.

**MAY 13, 1948.**—Harry Carr, San Pedro, harbor area civic leader for over twenty-five years, Chairman of the San Pedro Civic Betterment League . . . walked out of his office on this sunny afternoon, was met by two big thugs, was knocked down and thoroughly beaten about the face and body as he lay on the sidewalk. Two big young bruisers pitting their strength against a slight, gentle 64-year-old man. One of those men has been identified by Carr as Eli Lubin, reportedly a Mickey Cohen cohort, professional picket, hoodlum. The other man is still at large.

**AT THE SAME TIME**—Harry Carr was signing his name to paid advertisements appearing in the San Pedro News-Pilot and the Torrance Herald calling for the Clerks Union, Local 905 to "clean house" to "return to sanity," to "bring to an end a policy which was destroying the shopping centers of the harbor area, costing hundreds of clerks their jobs and a total trade of millions of dollars a year." He made it clear that his fight was not with the union but with the individual who controlled the union, Haskell Tidwell.

**OCTOBER 19, 1947.**—Larry Lofman, member of the San Pedro Typographical Union and personal friend of Haskell Tidwell was employed as a linotype operator by the Torrance Herald and has been paid a total of \$5487.86 in wages or an average of \$85.75 a week.

**AT THE SAME TIME**—Trouble in the Herald's composing room started . . . the first the Herald had ever experienced after twenty-five years of happy pleasant union relationship. They were little things at first . . . they grew till the little things were big things . . . there were fights with the management, with the foreman, and with each other. Costs more than doubled . . . production dropped 25% then 50% . . .

**FEBRUARY 11, 1949.**—Five printers, led by Larry Lofman, newly elected union chapel chairman, walked off the job without notice . . . refusing the Herald's offer of \$85 to \$94 for four regular seven and one-half hour shifts (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday) and five hours overtime at the overtime rate spread over the first three days.

**THREE DAYS LATER**—The printers again led by Larry Lofman, returned to the Herald office and demanded their old jobs back. Faced with the suspension of publication, the Herald had by that time hired other competent printers and is paying them the same rate of pay refused by Lofman's boys.

**FEBRUARY 23, 1949.**—Mass picketing started in front of the Herald about 7 o'clock in the evening, led by Haskell Tidwell and his boy Friday, Larry Lofman. An unsuccessful attempt was made to halt the publication of the Torrance Herald, just prior to press time, by preventing printers and pressmen from entering the building.

**AT THE SAME TIME**—Haskell Tidwell stood in front of the Herald entrance, between two of his strong-arm boys and hurled vile, obscene, and unprintable words at the members of the Herald staff. Others he challenged to

### ... Attorney

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Torrance, to serve employers of Torrance, Lomita, San Pedro, Wilmington, and Gardena.

The bringing about of permanent labor peace in the Harbor Area, such as has been achieved in San Francisco through the San Francisco Employers' Council, is of importance to every employer, business property owner and other individual or firm who relies upon the successful flow of commerce for his business success, Selover declared.

"Only through united employer-action, backed by others vitally interested in the labor problems of the Harbor Area, can we bring about the peaceful labor relations which will remove this area from the 'black list' upon which we have been placed due to events of recent years," he said.

The Council has but one purpose, he pointed out, and that is to bring about peaceful and harmonious labor relations. It appears that this can be accomplished only by multi-employer collective bargaining.

"This Council has no resentment toward organized labor," Selover said. "Likewise, there appears to be no resentment upon the part of the unions toward the Council. In fact, many employees are enthusiastic about its prospects for bringing about permanent labor peace."

Officers of the Harbor Area Employers' Council are A. J. McCown, president of McCown Drug Stores, Inc.; president; H. W. Smith, A-1 Photo Service, Inc., San Pedro, vice president; Harry M. Carr, realtor, San Pedro; secretary-treasurer, Cecil Caldwell, Caldwell's Department Store, Wilmington; Paul Diamond, the Gay Shop, Torrance; Capt. L. E. DeLaney, DeLaney Publishing Co., Inc., Torrance; Leon Ferrier, Harbor Laundry, San Pedro; Walter Hooke, H. Kress & Co.; and Thomas K. Ware, Valley Food Market, Gardena, all directors.

### Torrance Kiwanians Honor State Leader

Local Kiwanis club members and their wives who attended a dinner in honor of H. Park Arnold, governor of the California-Nevada district of Kiwanis clubs, Monday evening at the Breakfast Club in Los Angeles included Dr. Howard A. Wood, Bob L. Haggard, Charles Ragsdale, R. J. Deininger, and E. B. Brown.

fight, while surrounded by his "protectors." Another case of three to one!

**MARCH 19, 1949.**—Seven men picketed, then beat up the owner of a radio shop in Los Angeles. Fleeing from the scene of their crime they were halted and arrested by two alert Los Angeles police officers. One of those arrested was Eli Lubin. They were taken under handcuffs to the Wilshire police station, but were released without being booked and their weapons returned.

**AT THE SAME TIME**—Haskell Tidwell stood in front of grapher took a number of pictures of the hoods at the time of their arrest including one of Eli Lubin. These pictures were then turned over to the Los Angeles Times.

**MARCH 22, 1949.**—Harry Carr was reading his morning Times. He turned to page two. There was the picture of the man who Mr. Carr says beat him up a year ago on May 13th.

**AT THE SAME TIME**—Eli flew. But later caught in Phoenix, he was returned to Los Angeles and positively identified by Carr in a police line-up as the hoodlum that administered his beating with another unknown brute.

The Herald believes in the rights of organized labor but also believes in the rights of the individual. The Herald believes that the individual, no matter who he is or what he is or what he thinks . . . should be able to walk the streets, go to the door of his home without the fear of being set upon and beaten by professional hoodlums.

The Herald is not particularly interested in Eli Lubin, although his cowardly acts are despicable and he should be punished to the full extent of the law.

But the Herald is interested in ferreting out who ever hired Eli Lubin and others to commit these acts. He is the man who must be brought to justice . . . for until this is done, no man who opposes the will of the man who hired Lubin will sleep peacefully.



**NEW COMMAND . . .** Boatswain John Summers, assumed command of Minesweeper last week the Navy reports.

### Local Navy Man Given Command Of Minesweeper

Boatswain John Summers, USN, of 1720B Cabrillo avenue, assumed command of the USS Cardinal, a minesweeper, at the Naval Station Terminal Island, according to a recent Navy dispatch.

The navy man with 15 years service, relieved Ens. Louis Yakish. Summers has lived in Torrance for the past 4 1/2 years with his wife Genevieve, a telephone operator at the local office.

The Cardinal is used as a training vessel for reservists, the dispatch said.

### Liquor Board Grants License to Legion

The State Board of Equalization last week approved a recommendation of Viggo Hansen, Los Angeles supervising liquor control officer, asking the board to grant a license to the Bert S. Crossland Post, American Legion, 1109 Post avenue.

### AUD USE GIVEN MOOSE

The Loyal Order of Moose, 785, was granted free use of the Civic Auditorium by the City Council Tuesday night for the purpose of holding a public installation of officers.

### ... Lubin

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picture of him printed in the Los Angeles Times.

Asked for a statement regarding the latest development in the four-year-old labor dispute, Tidwell said:

"I don't know anything about who beat him (Carr) up—if he was beat up. I wouldn't give a statement to the damn Torrance Herald on any subject."

Tidwell was recently named individually in an injunction granted the Torrance Herald against mass picketing of the newspaper. Tidwell appeared on the picket line in front of the Herald Building last February 23 in support of five union printers who quit their 35-hour \$85-\$94 a week jobs and who were seeking to force their re-employment at the Herald.

The secretary of the clerks union was heard to hurl taunts at regular employees of the newspaper and "dared" them to come out into the alley with him. With him on the picket line were several large muscular men—none of whom ever worked at the Herald.

Carr told newsmen this week: "I am not opposed to unions, or organized labor in any form, nor is my fight against any union including the Retail Clerks Union. I object, however, very strongly to the type of leadership that has plagued this retail area for the past four years."

"This leadership, brawn in place of brain, has forced the permanent closing of eight stores in this area and has kept untold numbers of new retail stores from coming to this district," Carr said.

The Torrance J. C. Penney store was closed on February 6, 1948, following the brutal slugging of Hillman Lee, manager of the local department store.

Lee was slugged by unknown assailants on February 1 as he attempted to start his car. The civic campaigner—he led seven of eight war bond sales—was blackjacked from behind as he looked beneath the hood of his car after it failed to start. Investigation later indicated the ignition wires had been cut and other crippling tinkering attempted.

A reward of more than \$3200 was pledged by local citizens, including \$1000 offered by the J. C. Penney Company, for the capture of the goon squad who attacked the local chain store manager.

No arrests were made in the case, though the reward still is pledged.

Beaten also at the same time as Lee was John Melville, manager of the Mayfair creamery. Melville saw the slugging of Lee take place and rushed to his aid. As he approached the scene of the incident he was struck from the rear by two stand-by goons parked in the get-away car.

At the time of the Lee beating the Penney store was being picketed by Tidwell's union. The store had opened that day on a self-service basis. It was immediately after closing for the day that Lee was knocked unconscious, beaten, and kicked.

The blackjacking of Lee was the first of four such sluggings to cast a black shadow of violence over the harbor area during the succeeding four years.

Next to fall before the blows of goon squad leaders was Bill Grace, operator of a San Pedro candy store who was beaten as he left the YMCA in answer to a fake telephone call that his wife was ill. He was never able to identify his assailants.

Grace was involved in a dispute with Tidwell at the time as member of the merchants negotiating committee.

W. K. Verbeckmose, manager of a market in San Pedro and retail clerks union member was

### Red Cross Drive Here Nets 58% Of Quota, Report

Harry Greenwood, Torrance Red Cross chairman for the 1949 campaign announces that 58 per cent of the fund goal of \$3,585.44 has been collected to date.

The Torrance quota for the industrial and geographical divisions has been set at \$6,200.

"Majors" under supervision of Mrs. Helen Lorange, "colonel" for the geographic division, have practically completed their assignments, Chairman Greenwood reported.

Other campaign committees are redoubting their efforts to reach their quotas before the extended deadline, April 15.

### Club President Dies at Home

Mrs. Florence Elizabeth Hall, 68, died Saturday morning at her home, 2211 Andros avenue, following a brief illness.

A native of Osborne, Kansas, she had lived in Torrance 14 years and had been a resident of California for 30 years.

Beloved by all who knew her, she was an active member and ardent worker in Torrance Royal Neighbors and at the time of her death was president of Torrance Townsend Club No. 1.

Her remains were shipped yesterday afternoon to Stockton, Kansas, for services Saturday afternoon and burial.

Survivors are a daughter, Freda Gilbert, Newhall; two sons, Delmo H. Hall, Torrance; and Elmo E. Hall, Los Angeles; three sisters, Mrs. Della A. Moon, Torrance; Ella Hock, and Mary E. Ines, both of Stockton, Kansas; two brothers, Solomon H. Maddy, Torrance; and William H. Maddy, Stockton.

### CLUBWOMAN RETURNS

Mrs. Lee A. McCoy, president-elect of Torrance Junior Women's Club, and son Lee Allen returned on Monday from seven weeks visit with relatives and friends in the east. Their itinerary included New York City, Washington, D.C., and cities in Pennsylvania.

beaten a year ago April 30 by a strong-arm squad who knocked on the door of his home and pulled him into the yard.

"I believe this beating was a direct result of my union activities," Verbeckmose said at the time. He had brought court action calling for Tidwell to hold a proper election of retail union officers.

Like the others, Verbeckmose was never able to identify his attackers.

Carr's identification of Lubin ties-in with a theory advanced last May by San Pedro Police investigators. Captain Henry Evans of the San Pedro Detective Bureau said at the time of the investigation:

"The scarcity of clues as to the identity of the strong-arm artists who beat up Mr. Carr leads us to believe the goon squad was imported for the job."

Lubin was due for a Grand Jury appearance last Tuesday to answer questions in regard to the beating of radio repairman Albert Pearson. He refused to testify however on the grounds that such testimony might incriminate him.

A reported henchman of gambler Mickey Cohen, Lubin was one of seven thugs apprehended by officers and later released from the Wilshire Police Station before they were booked. The action prompted the Grand Jury investigation and a major shake-up in the Los Angeles police force.

Gerald Eastham, M.D.

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## GREEN HILLS

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