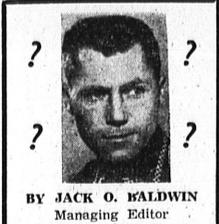


TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1951

Nine



BY JACK O. BALDWIN
Managing Editor

A column about zig-zaggy chorus girls, the YMCA, the YWCA, goose bumps, and other closely related topics.

Plans are already being made for another variety show similar to last week's "Three Nights in Torrance?" production which was hailed as the surprise success of the season.

The Board of Managers of the YMCA called a special meeting last Saturday morning to discuss with Carl Hawley, director of the variety-minstrel show, a proposal to bring another show before local footlights—possibly as early as next spring.

Although the size of the audiences during the three-night showing was disappointing to many, it is understandable. So accustomed are Torrance ticket-buyers to viewing a line of very young and very amateurish toe dancers and little girls doing belly rolls after six months training that the professionalism of "Three Nights in Torrance?" took most viewers by surprise.

This expectancy of another "kid show" undoubtedly kept many people at home in front of television screens.

People here have been nickered so frequently for high price tickets to low talent shows which have been staged as an excuse to separate local residents from their hard-earned dollars that a show of the caliber of entertainment of "Three Nights in Torrance?" left most viewers with the feeling they got their buck's worth—and perhaps a little more.

By the time the word got around from first and second night audiences it was a little too late to expect many more than those who took seats in the final night audience.

The show was not perfect. Nor was it without its chorus girls who zipped when they should have zagged but in some respects because they were known to many in the audience it added to the enjoyment of the show and created the feeling that at least they were trying.

However, for top talent no one can challenge the performance of 17-year old Wesley Smith whose moving rendition of "There Is Something About An American" left hundreds with goose bumps and for me a chill that ran up and down my spine when he hit that final note.

All of the soloists were good. Among the local talent which was not in the show the feeling was "If I'd known it was going to be anything like this, I would have tried to get into it."

It was this attitude which prompted the Board of Managers of the YMCA to investigate the possibility of sponsoring the next show. The present show was sponsored by the Senior and Junior Woman's Clubs of Torrance as a benefit for the YWCA. However, with the dedication of the new YWCA building scheduled for the middle of this month the fundraising campaign conducted by the Juniors will have reached a successful conclusion.

After Uncle Sam received his \$250 in federal taxes and after insurance, lights, printing and other incidentals were paid the show netted approximately \$760 according to Mrs. Emma Roberts, general chairman of the production.

"We still have a few minor bills to pay," said the president of the Senior Woman's Club, "but the final audit should show approximately \$750 for the YWCA."

If the show had not made a single cent it would have at least accomplished one thing for the good of this town.

It created a feeling of comradery and fraternalism among all those who had anything to do with the show. All felt that the undertaking created a unifying effect upon those who took part.

Especially did this feeling develop after a group of pickets



FOOTLIGHT SERENADE . . . Lovely Rochelle Scott and Lloyd Jones are joined by her bridesmaids in singing the confession "I Didn't Even Know Her Name" during Saturday night's performance of the "Three Nights in Torrance?" musical in the Torrance High School auditorium. (Herald photo).

appeared before Thursday and Friday night's shows. The demonstration was soon pegged for what it was worth. The feeling among the cast, and one shared by this writer, was that the intention of the group bearing picket signs inscribed "Abolish Jim Crow" and "Minstrel Shows Insult the Negro" was to cause dissension, unrest, and fear among the cast.

One point which seems to support a feeling is this. The first place to which most groups go to enlist a picket bearer is to the newspapers. This group never approached the publisher, the editor, or any member of this newspaper's staff to enlist their editorial help. If the group who picketed the show had a sincere, genuine interest in the abolishment of racial injustices then they would have sought the services of newspapers to carry their message. Proof of the fact that they had a message were mimeographed handbills, an "Open Letter" they called it, which were passed out in town, before the show and another sheet handed to those entering the high school auditorium.

Although the letters were signed by committees with long drawn out names most people believed the real instigators of the demand was a well publicized political party.

I heard no expression from any member of the cast that the minstrel show was ridiculing any minority group. They were sincere in their belief. But they did resent the swearing and the threats made against some of those who had a hand in staging the show. It was for this reason that they ignored the message of the pickets and not because they wished to promote a feeling of racial prejudice as claimed by the Committee-for-the-something-or-other.

I shall undoubtedly be accused of exposing a long section of my neck to the critic's axe. So be it. But I do not believe that creating fear, making threats, and causing dissension is any way to sell Americanism.

Well, I guess I can get down off my editorial soap box. Who's next?

To Mrs. Alice Wallace, president of the Junior Woman's Club, to Bob Johnson for the thankless, sweaty hours he worked as stage crew manager, to the four Marines who came four nights from Long Beach to act as color guards, to the Fire House Five for pre-curtain music, to the Police Department for changing the date of its show, and to the hundreds of others who served in on capacity or another should go the praise for a job well done.

Any similarity between this review and a rave notice is purely intentional.

Steel Show Listed

Marlene Dietrich and Richard Widmark come to the U.S. Steel Hour November 4 for the fall hour broadcast of "A Foreign Affair" to be heard via stations of the NBC network at 8:30 p.m.

Columbia Names J. W. Wayt to Personnel Post

Appointment of J. W. Wayt as personnel supervisor for the Columbia Steel Company here was announced this week by O. A. Kresse, general superintendent.



J. W. WAYT
Promoted by Columbia

of the company. Wayt will assume his new duties today. An employee of Columbia Steel since 1927, Wayt has filled many positions, the most recent being transportation supervisor. He has been a resident of Torrance since 1919.

As chairman of the baseball committee for the Bert S. Crossland Post of the American Legion, Wayt was instrumental in bringing the Semi-Pro Tournament to Torrance for several

Old Grads to Return To El Camino Friday

Old grads will return to the El Camino College campus tomorrow and Saturday, when the annual Alumni Day and Homecoming celebrations are observed. Friday, November 2, has been designated as Alumni Day. Graduates of El Camino will visit the campus between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. to greet old friends.

visit with former teachers, and see the new developments in the campus building program. Friday night, the alumni dance will be held at the Westport Country Club in Playa Del Rey, following the Homecoming grid game between El Camino and Long Beach City College.

College students have volunteered to baby-sit while the "oldsters" enjoy Alumni Day activities.

Also on the program will be a variety show performed for the alumni by El Camino students.

Bernie Richards' orchestra has been booked for the dance, and the alumni committee has announced an admission charge of \$2.10.

The usual floats, songs, and parade will be held and colorful half-time activities have been promised for Saturday night's football game. The Homecoming theme is "American Holiday."

National Supply Earnings Reported

The National Supply Company's net earnings for the first nine months of 1951 were \$6,682,821 on sales of \$158,361,766. It was announced this week by President A. E. Walker. This compares with net income of \$4,634,754 on sales of \$107,755,541 for the corresponding period of 1950, he said.

Wayt has always been active in civic affairs. Wayt's appointment was made to fill a vacancy created when L. S. Patton accepted a position with the Delta Steamship Lines in New Orleans.

F. K. Hull, who has been acting as crane dispatcher for the plant, will succeed Wayt as transportation supervisor.

Immunization Program to Start Today

Although the total number of diphtheria cases reported in Los Angeles County Health Department area has dropped more than 25 per cent compared with last year, Dr. Roy O. Gilbert, county health officer, is urging that parents take advantage of the immunization program planned for children through 12 years of age in the local schools, starting today.

"Only by having children immunized against this disease can we hope to continue effective control," the health officer pointed out in announcing this regular fall program of the County Health Department.

In cooperation with local school officials, the following schedule has been arranged for the next few weeks: Today, 9 a.m., Crenshaw School; Nov. 5, all day, the North Torrance School, and Nov. 6, 9 a.m., Nativity School.

two girls receiving the second highest number of votes being named assistants.

The queen and her assistants will preside over the game and act as official hostesses to all alumni.

Under the direction of Ray Parrish, band major and Abe Milstein, faculty advisor, the high school band will present special half-time ceremonies to honored guests.

Following the football game, a reunion will be held in the school library. Coffee, tea, cake and cookies will be served to alumni and their friends.

Don't miss an opportunity to be reunited with your old friends. No matter how old or how young an alumnus you may be, Torrance High will welcome you back November 9.



DANNY DESMOND . . . as a comedian, as he appeared in "A Walk in the Sun," and as Danny Desmond.



2000 Parents Visit Torrance Schools for 'Report Cards'

By the end of last week more than 2000 parents completed their own "back to school" movement, according to the office of Superintendent J. H. Hull.

Dr. Hull said that the end of the week marked the concluding week of parent group conferences, conducted in local schools. The group conference during which the parents confer with their children's teachers is "Report No. 1" in a new four-report system to be used in local schools this year.

The next report, due sometime before Thanksgiving, is slated to be an individual conference between parent and teacher. The third report, due before Easter, may or may not be a parent-teacher conference, depending upon individual problems and arrangement between the teacher and parent. A fourth, and final report is due near the end of the school year.

Some schools in the district are using the parent-teacher type of reporting method for the first time. The plan succeeds the less informative method of A, B, C, D and F.

The new plan was adopted by a group of parents and teachers who met to form a method of reporting which would result in a greater "exchange of information" about the child between the teacher and the parent.

WILLIAM E. BRATTON
Retires Today

PE Agent Here Since 1934, Retires Today

The "Smiling Irishman" at the Pacific Electric station in Torrance is retiring.

William E. Bratton, who began his railroading career with PE in Torrance 32 years ago and has been the agent here since 1934, announced his retirement effective today.

Bratton's transportation duties have given him a "front row seat" as the amazing development of the Torrance area progressed.

His first job after three years of Army duty in World War I was as a clerk in the Torrance station in 1919. He was assistant agent at Redondo Beach and Wingfoot, became ticket agent at Ocean Park in 1931, and assistant agent at El Segundo in 1933 before taking his present position in Torrance.

"My biggest job was serving the large war industries here during World War II," says Bratton. "But I've enjoyed my work with PE from the beginning and have always been treated fairly," he added.

A native of Kansas City, Mo., Bratton was educated at Gonzaga and Washington State colleges. The Brattons, who reside at 1627 Buckingham road, Los Angeles, have a daughter, a son and three grandchildren. They are readying a house trailer for a sightseeing and fishing trip. On returning, Bratton will join his son in operating a sporting goods store in Westchester.

Bratton was a member of the Torrance Rotary Club for 13 years and secretary of the service group for three years. He has been a member of the Masonic Lodge for 25 years and a past president of the PE Agents Association.

Sheldon V. Hall will take over Bratton's duties as agent for about two weeks until a permanent appointment is made.

Pilot Lands Plane After Engine Failure

Making a forced landing at the Torrance Municipal Airport last Sunday was Pilot Leslie DeMott, 23223 Huber avenue who brought his plane to a safe landing after an engine failure during a takeoff.

With him at the time was Richard DeMott, 3342 Dalemead street. Neither was injured.

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Footlights Best Medicine For Self-Consciousness Sufferers

"If a person is self-conscious the best place he can learn to lose the feeling is on the stage."

So claims Danny Desmond, talented and veteran trouper who is conducting a Drama Workshop for the adults of Torrance and surrounding communities as one of the courses offered by the Torrance Adult School of Education.

According to the registration booklet, Desmond emphasizes training in the development of the total personality through the mediums of speech and dramatic expression. "But," says the young dramatic instructor, "is a worthy way of saying that the class helps students lose that self-conscious feeling."

NOW AT FREMONT
Last year Desmond was the dramatic instructor at Torrance High School and climaxed a successful year with an "Academy Award" dinner in the Civic Auditorium. He currently is dramatic instructor at Fremont High School in Los Angeles.

Desmond does not lean solely on textbooks for his teaching "helps and hints." He has an extensive and varied experience in almost all phases of the acting profession. He has appeared in 15 motion pictures including several of the "Charlie Chan" series.

On the stage he has had roles in "Standing Room Only" during its Los Angeles run; "The Drunkard," "The Chocolate Soldier"; and appeared in the New York version of "The Milky Way" and toured Europe with the cast of "Good News."

He has also toured the Orpheum circuit with vaudeville shows and has appeared in several night clubs including the

once most famous of all Hollywood night clubs, "The Trocadero."
RADIO EXPERIENCE
He has been heard over KNX, KMTR, KGER, KMPC, NBC and WOR in New York, and KPO in San Francisco.
Television viewers have seen him over KTLA, KNBH and on five other stations throughout the nation.
During the evening classes each Tuesday at Torrance High School, Desmond leans heavily on his experience to teach local residents how to walk, sit, stand and to move with grace and dignity. Students learn how to express themselves through movement of arms, hands and torso; how to correct speech defects and how to think creatively.
FOR THE AMBITIOUS, TOO
For those with more professional ambitions Desmond offers instruction in stage techniques, mood, pantomime, acting, production direction and play promotion.
Desmond's class is open to any high school graduate or anyone over 18 years of age, regardless of where they live. The free classes are conducted at 7 p.m. Tuesday in room 101 at Torrance High School.
The instructor is planning to climax this season with a jointly sponsored production with the San Pedro Evening High School Dramatics group.