

Brothers Start New Torrance Industry After Bartender Airs Gripe About Boats

Sportsmen, meet Louis Homand and Zane Zandel, two brothers with different names but with a single idea—that their future lies in going down to the seas in ships.

The saucy little sea horse standing on its tail atop the building at 1609 Border Ave. and indicating the home of Pacific Water Crafts, is the latest change in Torrance's industrial skyline. It also marks the location where the brothers convert their ideas into sturdy seagoing outboard motor boats.

The two craftmen turn out four models—all full V-bottom. Designed to be as stable as a living room floor are the 12, 14, and 16-foot open row boat type and an 18-foot cabin cruiser. All are designed to be powered by outboard motors.

These are some of the features of the 18-foot cruiser. It has a broad beam of eight-foot, two inches, can sleep three inside and at least two more on the open-deck, a closed head and a galley.

It retails for \$1460. Another brain child of the boat building brothers is a circulating bait tank which is available for all models. The 18-footer easily can accommodate six fishermen because of the roominess created by the wide beam.

On a recent test run the cruiser slipped along at 31 mph with a 25-horsepower Mercury Thunderbolt doing the pushing.

Overall weight of the cruiser is about 700 pounds and can be carried on a trailer, which the Pacific Water Crafts designers also construct.

The idea for the sturdy broad beamed craft came to Zane while sitting in a bar in Las Vegas. The local boat builder overheard a conversation between the bartender and a customer about a fisherman, a relative of the bartender, who drowned while fishing the sometimes turbulent waters of the Colorado River and Lake Mead.

"The boats you rent around here are just too dangerous. They tip over so easy you'd think they were designed to be floated bottom side up," claimed the bartender.

That set Zane to thinking. He dreamed up a design—nothing



NEW INDUSTRY . . . Already behind with their orders are Zane Zandel (left) and Louis Homand, brothers, who recently brought to Torrance another industry, pleasure boat building. The pair are working on another hull of their popular 18-foot cruiser model. In the background can be seen the trim lines of a nearly-completed outboard cruiser which the brothers have designed and constructed for the nearby rough waters. (Herald photo).

too radical, just a wide, safe, steady V-bottom skiff. He made a model of his idea and back to Las Vegas he went. There he showed his miniature to local boat operators and fishermen. "Looks great. When you go to start building them?" was the general comment.

Zane went to his brother Louis, a carpenter who had spent 30 years building movie sets for Fox studios. A few weeks later the boys were in the boat building business.

Boat enthusiasts who have seen the cruiser in action threw the question at the builders, "How soon can I get one?"

Here are some of the specifications of the smaller boats:

12-footer: weighs 80 pounds. Designed to be carried on the car top. Fishes four men. 60-inch beam. Constructed of marine plywood with herring-bone stiffeners. Easily pushed with a five to 16-horsepower outboard. Retail price \$257.40.

14-footer: Rugged enough to make the Catalina trip. Has clean bottom with no slats to trap dropped sinkers, pliers, and other small fishing paraphernalia. Can take the bait tank, which sells for \$160. Five-inch draft. Will take a five to 25-horsepower motor. Stern steered.

16-footer: Strictly an ocean-going all-weather craft. Sturdy, clean, reinforced, full-length V-bottom. Can take the circulating bait tank. Needs a 10 to 25-horsepower motor. Price, \$383.50.

The friendly boatworks owners welcome visitors except those who drop in to say, "Let's go fishing!" The temptation is too great.

It is a toss-up with Louis and Zane which they would rather do most—go fishin' and build boats or build boats and go fishin'.

Chamber Announces Date Of Annual Dinner Meeting

Annual dinner meeting of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce will be held in the Civic Auditorium Wednesday, March 26, it was decided Monday at the directors' meeting of the chamber.

Plans for one of the "best ever" gatherings of business, industrial, and civic leaders of Torrance are being studied. R. I. Plomert Jr., president of the chamber, said after the meeting.

"This year's program will be choicest full of entertainment," Plomert said. "There will be no long speeches—only fun galore."

Committee members met Tuesday noon to begin the groundwork for the dinner. Mayor Bob Haggard is heading the committee in charge of the arrangements.

The directors also set March 19 as the date of their fellowship dinner. The governing board will meet at the Jonathan Club in Los Angeles, Plomert said.

In other business, the board tentatively approved a plan to sponsor the 1952 edition of the Shoppers' Guide. Plans call for a printing of 20,000 copies to cover the Torrance trading area. R. H. Jacobs is the publisher.

The board unanimously commended the YMCA on the activities of the past year, and directed Dale Isenberg, executive-secretary, to send a letter to the local YMCA Branch giving the official commendation of the chamber for work done during the year.

Isenberg announced after the meeting that the annual membership drive of the group would get under way in April.

A communication from the Associated Telephone Co., regarding a contemplated rate increase was referred to the Seaside and Hollywood Riverside homeowners groups for their comment. The rate boost would apply only to Frontier numbers in Torrance.

Committees set up by President R. I. Plomert Jr. for the coming year have been announced.

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Through The Keystone Keyhole

By BETTY LINN
Terminal 4-8864

What a week! Have you ever participated in a rag and paper drive for your local PTA, taken part in a skit for the same PTA, and in the meantime tried to get a new group of prospective Bluebirds organized? That's what we've been doing, and it's been a hectic week to say the least, but fun too, as we look back.

The regular monthly meeting of area leaders of Campfire and Bluebird groups was held Thursday evening, from 7 to 9, at the Halldate School in Torrance. Mrs. William Hoy presided over the meeting, with Miss Cynthia Keyes, Los Angeles district executive leader, assisting. Plans are being made for the annual candy drive to be made in April. New projects were discussed along with plans for the summer day camps. Torrance, Hawthorne and Gardena areas were represented, with new leaders being introduced from Hawthorne and Keystone areas.

The first meeting of new Bluebird and Camp Fire girl groups in the Keystone area will take place at the Carson St. School Feb. 26, from 3 to 5.

Four past presidents of Carson PTA were present at the annual Founder's Day meeting last Thursday at Carson St. School, with Mrs. Jack Spence, president, conducting the unusually interesting session. Past presidents honored were Mmes. Elmer Lancaster, Milton Wilson, Herbert Johnstone and Fred Cain, who were presented with attractive scatter pins. Signal honor was also accorded Mrs. Clarence Wittenburg, who was given a PTA life membership. Highlight for the afternoon was the humorous skit, "Name It, You Can Have It," written by Mmes. James Campbell and Alfred Barkan and enacted by Mmes. William Nott, James Campbell, Marvin Pike, L. Moore, Carl Brooks, Russell Gilbert, R. Minchow, Richard Landon, Charles Linn, Jack Spence, Ben Cluff, Clarence Wittenburg, Alfred Barkan, Roy Carter, and James Luten. This production featured a mock PTA meeting and showed proper parliamentary procedure completely in reverse. With all participants in ridiculous costumes it was a riot to say the least. A poem, "A Divine Inspiration," was read by Mrs. R. Gilbert. Room count was won by Mrs. Claypool's kindergarten room. Second grade

room mothers were hostesses for the social hour when a beautifully decorated cake bearing the Founder's Day emblem was served.

The next monthly meeting of the Gardena-Wilmington PTA Council will be held at Chapman Ave. School in Gardena on Feb. 29, from 10 until noon, with Mrs. James Gauley presiding. The speaker of the day will be Mrs. Myra E. Nelson from the Los Angeles Board of Education. Her subject will be "Classroom Teaching in City Schools." Question and answer period will be unit goals. Potluck luncheon will be served following the meeting.

Keystone Red Cross workers Mrs. E. C. Small and J. G. Caldwell outlined the Keystone 1952 Red Cross drive as a one-day affair, scheduled for Mar. 4.

Candidate Says Council Worst In 25 Years

"The present City Council is the poorest I have seen in 25 years," City Council Candidate Al Isen told approximately 50 members of the TUT organization at a meeting held in the Waltham Recreation Hall Friday night.

Getting in his first licks of the election year was Councilman Nick Draie, who is seeking re-election.

"Only with proper faith, and a vote for Benstead, Isen, and Draie can we hope to end the dictatorial government that has ruled Torrance for the past 25 years," he said.

Vic Benstead, the third man of the three-man TUT ticket, also spoke.

Jim Minter, president of the Pacific Hills Homeowners Assn., gave the keynote address.

He charged the City Council was responsible for the lack of traffic signals at Newton St. and Highway 101, no street lights for the Pacific Hills area, the clogged condition of a flood control project in the area, and an unfenced sump in the area, and that the council had failed to give members of his group a fair hearing when they appeared before the council on several occasions.

GP Appoints New Refinery Engineer

Appointment of Lorne E. Fowler of Palos Verdes, as refinery engineer for the General Petroleum refinery here was announced this week.

THS Election Tally Ends

By MARIAN McDONALD
Choosing officers for the four classes at Torrance High runs into something like a national election, as far as the students are concerned.

Facing the students in the semester class elections were ballots with as many as six candidates seeking an office. A run off election was needed to decide the senior vice-president, and a run off for every freshman office was necessary.

The successful candidates line up like this:

Seniors: Edgar Forester, president; Dayle Denham, vice-president; Nancy Miller, secretary; Jane Fischer, treasurer; Rudy Bowen, Boy's League representative.

Juniors: Lee Mortenson, president; Ted Marcoux, vice-president; Janet P. O., secretary; Sally Hayakawa, treasurer; Jim Haefeli, Boy's League representative.

Sophomores: Jerry Farrar, president; Greg Jenkins, vice-president; Pat Fenton, secretary; Sally Sprout, treasurer; Bill Oehlert, sergeant-at-arms; Bob Hopkins, Boy's League representative.

Freshmen: Jim Donette, president; Dee Gibson, vice-president; Peggy Wood, secretary; Judy Nash, treasurer; Lloyd Finch, Boy's League representative.

FUEL EXPENSE
Fuel represents about 40 percent of total tractor operating costs.

WINDMILL HOME
Windmills first became common in Germany and the Netherlands.

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