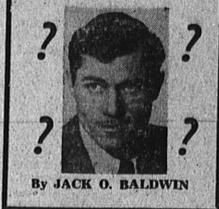


38th Year—No. 79

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 1952

Eleven



By JACK O. BALDWIN

I wonder how many readers would care to invest a three-cent stamp to help save a child's life.

Right now the life of seven-year-old Judy Wikom is dependent upon the electric motor that operates her iron lung and her will to live.

The electric motor is in good condition.

The doctors wish they could say the same about Judy's morale. She's lonely. She wants someone to write to her.

Tuesday I visited Judy in Ward 60 at the Rancho Los Amigos. She lies encased in an iron lung, her head resting on a steel half shell padded by a thin pillow. Blond hair cascades over the edge and it moves ever so slightly with every slushy pump of the bellows on her iron house.

Pasted on the cross-bar before her face is a snapshot of her family. A nurse has Scotch taped a yellow flower where Judy might see it. Being a man I am not much for flowers, but I guess little girls like to see them, especially when there is little else to see except a hospital ceiling and several other polio patients in iron lungs.

Life doesn't hold much for Judy right now. Her lungs are a motor, a rocker arm, and a rubber bellows. Her arm, her leg, her shoulder and one side of her face is partially paralyzed. It has been two months since she tasted a candy bar, an ice cream cone, or a bottle of root beer. "Nourishment enters her body through a tube in her nose and held in place by a criss-cross of adhesive tape.

A rubber band holds a suction tube against a hole cut into her throat to prevent her from choking to death.

If it were possible to write with sound I would attempt to describe the hollow wheezy tone in her voice when she asked me:

"Mr. ? Are you going to ask somebody to write to me? My mommy said you were."

Maybe the kids in Judy's second grade room at Fern Ave. School could form sort of "A-Letter-A-Day-For-Judy" club.

Maybe somebody, someplace else, would like to drop Judy a note, a card, or a letter.

The letters should be addressed to Judy Wikom, Ward 60, Rancho Los Amigos, Hondo, California.

It isn't much of an offer, but be there a boy or a girl in Torrance who wants to write a letter but can't get hold of a three-cent stamp, if they will bring their letters to the Torrance Herald, I'll see that they get stamped.

Or the letters may be taken to Judy's mother, Mrs. W. L. Wikom, who lives at 1521 Date Ave.

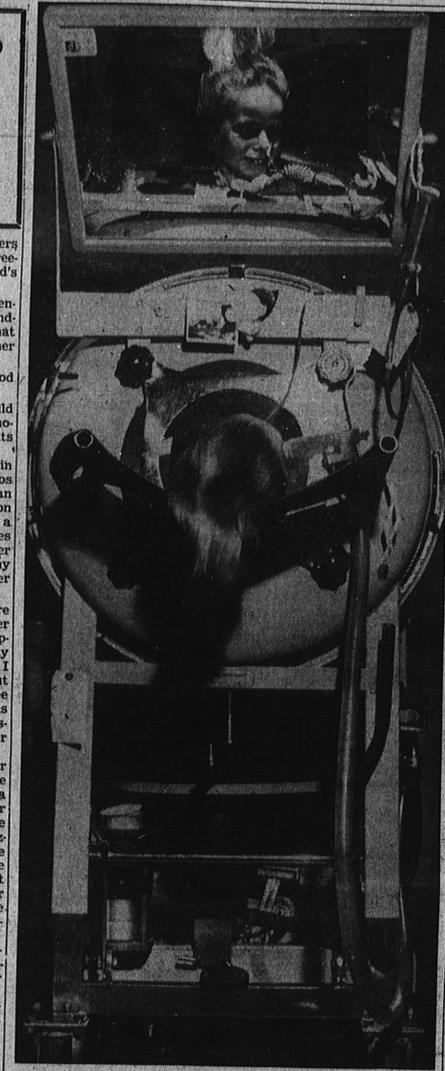
There are seven other children at the Wikoms to keep Mrs. Wikom on the go. There is Ronald 16, Marilyn 14, Joyce 13, Jack 12, Howard 10, Mike 6, and Dorothy 4.

Judy won't be able to read the letters herself. She's only in the second grade. In fact, she won't be able to even hold the letters because her hands are encased in the iron lung beside her weakened body. But, they will get read to her because that's what the doctors feel that Judy needs now—a morale shot-in-the-arm that will reach her heart and give her the will to live.

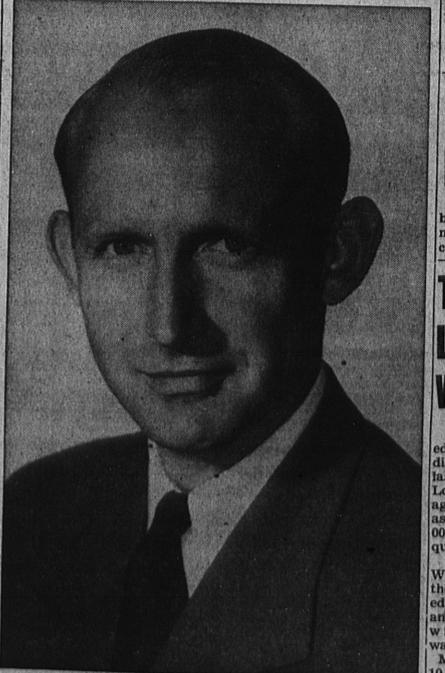
Fires Threaten But Quick Work Snuffs Flame

A fire at the Paramount Builders Supply, 3401 Torrance Blvd., early yesterday morning resulted in damage to several hundred dollars worth of paper stock and one wall in a print shop at the location.

Believed started by electric wiring, the fire was confined to the printshop area, according to Battalion Chief Gene Walker and Captain Bob Lucas, who commanded Torrance fire-fighters. Owner was listed as J. Phil



LONELY . . . Seven-year-old Judy Wikom of Torrance has a new mailing address. It's Iron Lung No. 37469. She wonders if someone would care to write to her. (See Jack Baldwin's column at the left about Judy.)



RICHARD E. LAUTERBACH
... Heads \$35 Million Refinery

lips, of the Torrance Blvd. address. Another fire this week brought firemen on the run, but there was more smoke than fire. A gallon bottle of lacquer thinner was broken in a garage at the home of Walter L. Gross Jr., 816 Faysmith Ave. Monday afternoon, and children playing with matches accidentally ignited the liquid. The Grosses' oldest daughter, Teri, 13, used a garden hose to

extinguish the fire, which was nearly out when firemen arrived.

Henry D. Horne Receives Northrop 10-Year Pin

Ten years of service with Northrop Aircraft on the part of Henry D. Horne, 23211 Doris Way, earned him a gold pin denoting a decade of employment. The firm announced yesterday,



BOND WINNER . . . Robert I. Plomert Jr., president of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, presents Ellen Koehn with a \$25 savings bond as her prize in winning the Chamber-sponsored essay contest on "Why Every Eligible Citizen Should Vote." The presentation was made yesterday at the High School.



ANOTHER WINNER . . . Mayor Mervin M. Schwab presents Danny Mayer with his \$25 savings bond for being selected as co-winner with Ellen Koehn in the Chamber-sponsored essay contest. Mayer and Miss Koehn were selected after essays of more than 80 students were received and read.

Local GP Official Heads New Refinery

Richard E. Lauterbach has built in Ferndale, Wash., by the General Petroleum Corp.

Lauterbach is at present assistant manager of General Petroleum's Torrance refinery.

For the initial portion of the two year construction period of the 35,000 barrels daily Ferndale refinery, Lauterbach will make his headquarters at General Petroleum's home office in Los Angeles. As the construction project, which is being undertaken by the Bechtel Corp., progresses, he will move to the Ferndale area.

Lauterbach is a native of San Diego, and a graduate, with honors in chemistry, of the University of California at Los Angeles. He joined General Petroleum in 1936, as a laboratory assistant. He became a chemical engineer in 1939 and for the next six years, worked in the company's Laboratories Department in that capacity.

In 1945 he was assigned to the Torrance refinery as a refinery engineer. He became assistant manager in 1950.

Lauterbach is a member of Phi Beta Kappa, and two honor societies for chemistry graduates. He is also a member of the American Chemical Society.

The complaint alleges that Miss Vasquez will require extensive plastic surgery to remove facial scars and disfigurements.

The suit alleges that 14th St. is dangerous because it makes a sharp rise, then a severe drop combined with a sharp turn which is very difficult to see. No date for a hearing on the complaint has been set.



SHE'LL DO . . . Hal Massie, who stands 6-feet, 4-inches, says o.k. to Walt Sharon who is measuring up Mrs. Davo Figueredo (4-feet, 10-inches). Massie had been looking for some way to get into the Junior Chamber of Commerce dance Saturday night, Nov. 22, without spending a bundle of dough. The men get in for a buck a head, the ladies will cost their escorts one cent per inch. At that rate, Mrs. Figueredo would set her escort back 53 cents.



A CLEAN SWEEP . . . Promising an easier time at housecleaning in the area are members of the Torrance Lions Club who will stage their annual "Brooms for the Blind" sale through out the city next Friday and Saturday, Nov. 21 and 22. Shown here are Lions Dr. Alfred Redisch, President L. Milton Isbell, Warren Hamilton, Paul Diamond, Mrs. Jane Walls, John Ritchie, and Fred Boren. Proceeds of the sale is used to care for the eyesight of needy Torrance school children.

Gas Rate Increases Sought in Southland

Requests for a 15 cents a month increase in gas rates will be considered by the California Public Utilities Commission at a hearing to be held at 145 S. Spring St., Los Angeles, Nov. 13.