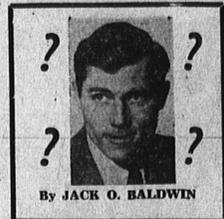


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Nine



By JACK O. BALDWIN

Here it is almost Christmas and I suppose I should be feeling some of that old kindly Yuletide spirit. But as yet it hasn't hit me. To the contrary, I am full of pet peeves.

Topping the list of pet peeves is the careless manner of restaurant cooks who get the cheese on my cheseeburger off center. This situation is not quite so bad when they don't wrap the burger in a napkin. But when the bun comes a 11 wrapped up in a paper that is when I start getting indigestion. The trouble stems, it seems to me, when the chefs try to make a square piece of cheese fit a round bun. The corners stick out. And they invariably stick to the napkin. Why doesn't some enterprising dairy make round rolls of cheese to fit the bun — or perhaps some on-it-toes bakery could make square buns to fit the cheese. This latter suggestion is not as good as the round cheese idea because then the cooks would have to make square meat patties which is probably asking a little too much. However, if they could if would be one way of getting an inexpensive square meal.

Another pet peeve which (if I see it just once more) almost makes me scream is that character on television and his assortment of handy kitchen gimmicks. If I have to hear him tell me one more time that he has a pair of tongs, a pair of tongs is handy for taking the baby out of the bathtub. I'll blow my stacking gravel. Now there is another little gadget that certainly must have been what the world has been waiting for. This particular thing—a ma-jig is supposed to lighten the housewives' work by hours. It is a pancake flipper-over. Look what it does for the tiring housewife: After she has scooped up a hotcake on this elaborate pancake turner she doesn't have to twist her wrist to flop the cake back into the pan. All she has to do is squeeze and... flipper, over goes the pancake. This chrome plated, atom-age invention practically strikes from the English language the age-old expression "just a twist of the wrist." I suppose we must now substitute the phrase "just a squeeze of the flipper."

A pet peeve of our City Editor, Win Bowles, is matchbooks. It irks him to the point that he has almost given up smoking—paying good, hard-earned money for a box of matches only to tear open the carton and find advertising printed on the covers. Another peeve of his concerns the movies. "I pay admission. On top of this I pay entertainment tax. And then between pictures I have to sit and look at screen advertising. Must I pay entertainment tax to watch advertising?"

Number one character on my pet peeve list is Harry Lang of the Los Angeles Examiner. Harry first irked me with a quota which he claims was made by Martha Morris, who is probably better known as the "Cinderella Girl." According to Harry, Martha is supposed to have made the statement that she "preferred hamburgers with her high school boy friend than a pheasant under glass with her millionaire husband." Fiddlesticks! I happened to be with Martha, who was then 15 years of age, when she read Harry's story. She had to ask her mother what was "pheasant under glass."

Several weeks ago we wrote a story about Judy Wikson, seven-year-old Torrance school girl, who wanted someone to write to her at the Rancho Los Amigos where she is confined in an iron lung. Torrance folks responded terrifically. The letters poured in. Many different classes in Torrance schools wrote Judy whole batches of letters. The first week she received over a thousand letters. Of these approximately 950 bore Torrance postmarks. Two weeks



(Herald Photo) SANTA'S COMING . . . And these two little boys gaze in wide-eyed anticipation at the top of the Christmas tree which their mother, Mrs. Kerman Bowdoin, 1751 Fern Ave., just purchased from the Boy Scout lot on the Jim Dandy parking area at Crenshaw and Torrance Blvds. Scout Tom Marshall, 15, of Troop 315-X, makes the sale, to the delight of Jimmy, 6, and David, 5. The Scout lot will be open daily from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. until Christmas eve. Funds raised from the sale of the trees will go to the benefit of Scout organizations in Torrance.

# Patronsky Calls For End to Dissension

Support for the dissension-ridden Torrance recreation situation came yesterday in the form of a three-page statement from A. J. Patronsky, commission member, who also wants the row to end.

Patronsky painted a picture of diligent public officials—on the council, on the commission, and Recreation Director Frank Carpenter.

The differences of opinion came, Patronsky said, not as a result of "selfish motives," but rather from the "manner in which each approached the recreation problem."

Mr. Benstead (Victor Benstead, city councilman) as council commissioner of recreation," the statement said, "assumed his duties seriously . . . (and) went out to observe whether or not the taxpayer was getting his money's worth."

After a thorough investigation, the statement continued, "the (Benstead) found winter recreation programs non-existent, yet the recreation department had seven full-time and seven part-time employees."

In defense of Carpenter's job, which Patronsky acknowledges is a difficult one, the statement had this to say: "Mr. Carpenter is doing the job he was entrusted with to the best of his ability . . . For this (the recreation program) Mr. Carpenter figures he needs a certain number of employees. This then is the basis for the number of employees he keeps. However . . . certain employees . . . have been employed for many years before Mr. Carpenter, Civil Service employees . . . He is giving Torrance recreation on meager funds."

# GP Pays First Tax Installment

Three Torrance taxing authorities were \$345,576 richer today after General Petroleum Corp. paid the first installment of its taxes on the company's huge Torrance refinery.

R. I. Flomert Jr., General Petroleum's tax representative, said the company had sent in a check for \$1,496,691 to Los Angeles County tax collector H. L. Byram in Los Angeles — just like all the other citizens in the county are doing. It covers the corporation's taxes on Los Angeles county mining rights, real estate, improvements and personal property.

Over a third of this total was for taxes on the Torrance refinery. Here's how the Torrance taxing authorities fared out of the total:

Torrance Unified School District	\$206,270
City of Torrance	93,564
El Camino Jr. College District	45,742
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$345,576</b>

Next April when the second installment of the tax is due, the same three taxing authorities will receive a total of \$206,817 out of a payment of \$1,036,863. Flomert said the \$345,576 almost equaled the amount received last year when the first installment of the company's taxes was paid despite the fact that petroleum inventories were \$800,000 smaller this year.

The \$800,000 worth of oil, which would have produced about \$52,000 in taxes has "gone to war," Flomert explained the refinery's stocks of petroleum are far below normal due to heavy military demand and due to large increase in civilian demand springing from an accelerated defense economy on the Pacific coast.

## Coroner's Corner

# 170 Sign Petition For Signal Lights

One hundred and seventy irate residents of Coroner's Corner — East Rd. and Vermont Ave.—put a petition in the mail yesterday demanding the installation of traffic signals at the dangerous intersection.

The petition was addressed to the Board of Supervisors of Los Angeles County, and was entitled "Traffic Signals, Signs and Road Markings (the inadequate and absence of . . .). A direct question, asked in the last paragraph of the petition, seeks to pin down the report that an authoritative official has said signal lights would not be installed at the corner "because not enough people have been killed." The petition wants to know how many people is "enough."



(Herald Photo) SHUFFLEBOARD CHAMPS . . . Lined up to receive their plaques as champs of the recent city shuffleboard tourney are J. H. Paget and G. E. Poplsh, consolation; John Raynor and Clara Witmer, champions; and Carl L. Bryson, singles consolation. Mrs. Witmer also was singles runner-up.

# Industry Growth Of City Tops S. F. Bay Area

Torrance's industrial development exceeds that of the entire nine-county San Francisco Bay Area, according to figures released by Dale Isenberg, chamber of commerce secretary, who has returned from the convention of the California State Chamber of Commerce, held in the Northland.

Isenberg presented Bay Area industrial building figures for the first 10 months of this year which shows 12 plants scheduled at a cost of \$46,944,000. On the slate for 1953 in Torrance is some \$101,000,000 in industrial plant expansion and construction.

That staggering sum represents a new \$36 million Carbon and Carbides Chemical plant; a \$20 million Douglas Aircraft plant; two new Harvey plants of \$15 and \$20 million; and a \$10 million expansion of the present General Petroleum msetup. Not included is a multi-million dollar development scheduled by Dow Chemical.

The Torrance chamber, Isenberg said, "is busily engaged in promotional activities emphasizing the location of other new factories in our greater Torrance area."



(Herald Photo) HORSESHOE CHAMPS . . . Receiving their trophies from Recreation Director Frank Carpenter are Jack Baldwin, champion; and Ernie Krig, runner-up, in the horseshoe tourney. Awards were made at a pot-luck dinner at the Adult Center Tuesday night.

tersection better than any other method could. Here, in full, is the plea: "We, the undersigned, all residents of the Hammerton Tract located at Vermont Avenue and W. East Road in Torrance, presume that you have laws and regulations regarding the placing of traffic signals, signs and road markings effectively in order to give everyone equal rights on the streets."

Truly Coroner's Corner "We beg of you, then, to consider these facts existing at the intersection known as Vermont Ave. and East Road — truly, a 'Coroner's Corner'."

## Where's the Fire?

SATURDAY 4:33 p.m., 4090 Pacific Coast Highway, house fire, SUNDAY 12:07 a.m., American Rock Wool, 401 Arlington, molten metal ate through the bottom of a furnace.



HELL SPEAK . . . Maj. Gen. Alfred A. Kessler will give Air Force reservists in this area a glimpse into their military future tonight when he speaks at the Virgil High School auditorium, 132 N. Vermont Ave., Los Angeles.