

# Picking Diamonds Out of Thin Air Aim of Local Firm



ALL SET . . . Jim Cost (right) teacher-sponsor of the Hot Rod Show to be staged at Narbonne High School on Sunday, learns from Dick Barrett, executive secretary of the show, (left) and Jack Carden, chairman of the show, that all is ready for the show which will open to the public on the high school athletic field at noon. The gates will close at sundown. More than 100 hot rods, coupes, and custom jobs have been entered in the show.

## Notes on Narbonne

### Hot Rod Trophies Shown at Hobby Show

By ADRIENNE SIDWELL  
The trophies that are to be awarded at Narbonne's Annual Hot Rod Show today were shown at the Guilders' Hobby Show last week at open house. These handsome prizes will really be coveted by any hot rod owner. Ralph de Palma, a former Indianapolis grand race winner, will be one of the celebrated judges. So come on, come all! This should prove to be one of the biggest events at Narbonne this year. All the cars from all over will be entered. It starts at noon and the admission fee is only 50 cents. Let's have a large attendance to assure an annual repetition of this unique event.

Seven Narbonne co-eds attended the May Day Festival held at Occidental College last Saturday. All the girls reported that it was all so beautiful (and hot too). The girls who went from Narbonne were Marie Traunfelder, Shirley Endo, Eve Petranovich, Darlyne McCann, Kay Francis, Flora Hameetman, and Janice Chambers.

Last Thursday's open house at Gauchoville was very successful. There was a big attendance. Both the senior and junior assemblies in the auditorium were filled to capacity. Everyone greatly enjoyed this year's rhythmic dance, "Magic Moments."

The students beat the parents in the spelling bee in the Little Theatre! Humint and man, you should have seen the Hobby Show sponsored by the Guilders in the cafeteria! There were many interesting exhibits. Bet it was a hard job to choose the blue ribbon winners. Many parents thoroughly enjoyed the beautifully decorated rooms. The Lettergirls refreshment



SUNDAY DINNER . . . Maxine Howe, in costume of 1910, serves up homemade noodles for the "After Church Sunday Dinner" she will prepare next Friday, May 15, the last day of the Herald cooking school at the Civic Auditorium.

### Felker Building Special Plant to Trap Diamonds

By MARV HALL  
Diamonds may be a girl's best friend, but diamond dust is strictly business to Max Felker, owner of the Felker Manufacturing Company.

Felker is in the process of building a new air-tight, dust-free, humidity controlled plant behind his present building in which he and his associates will specialize in crushing and cleaning industrial diamonds into sizes ranging from that of a pinhead to a diamond powder so fine that it floats.

The new building, which should be completed in about 60 days, will be 40 by 50 feet in size, will contain a complete research laboratory to develop improved methods of obtaining better sizes of diamonds, and will be used by the Di Met Corporation, a Felker-owned concern.

The estimated cost of the new plant, including equipment, will be about \$50,000. The anomalous thing about it is that a package containing a mere five pounds of the Di Met finished product, is far more valuable than the plant itself. Diamonds in the rough retail for about \$11,000 per pound—and you think the price of steak is high. The Di Met Corporation will take borts—which means simply a material dug up in Africa consisting of imperfectly crystallized or impure diamonds—and through a cleaning and crushing process, will turn out various sizes of diamonds to be used in diamond saws, drills, grinding tools, and for many varied industrial uses.

Incidentally, the process used to imbue the diamonds into the metal saws and drills is a well-kept Felker secret. Bystanders gawk in amazement when witnessing a Felker saw cutting through cement or asphalt like warm butter.

The whole process of crushing diamonds goes something like this: The raw borts is brought into the air-tight, dust-proof, humidity controlled plant, where it is bathed in acid to remove impurities. Next it is sent through crushing machines, then it is sized by special machines into various mesh sizes. A 20-mesh size, for example, would be about the size of the head of a pin. The micron mesh sizes are as fine as flour. After sizing, the diamonds are cleaned again, and then they are ready

to be shipped—in very fragile glass packages. The whole process takes several days.

Over each crushing machine is an individual air filter which sucks up the smallest diamond particles through a suction blower. These particles imbed themselves in mats, the mats are then cleaned, and the result is that there is very little loss of the priceless product throughout the whole process—about five per cent of the rough borts is lost when the process of crushing and sizing is complete.

In order to preserve as much of the "money in the air" as possible, the diamonds are weighed carefully after each process to see how much has been lost. Then strenuous efforts are made to reclaim the lost particles. The workers themselves have their gloves burned periodically to salvage any little bits of diamond that have become imbedded in them. All floor sweepings in the plant are gathered tenderly together, saved, and later burned to extract errant diamonds.

"Extreme physical control is exerted at all times to minimize losses," is the way Felker puts it. An important function of the new plant, he said, will be to do extensive research to improve methods of crushing diamonds to yield better grain sizes.

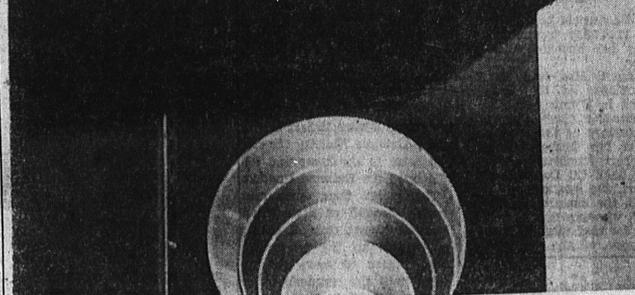
Some readers may wonder what possible use "diamond smoke" or the micron size diamond could be put to. This size is used in the "lapping" of metal tools, the final honing and polishing process. It is this size that is used also to polish the tiny jewels used as bearings in finer watches.

The diamond dust is rubbed back and forth over the metal or jewel in an oil base until the surface gleams like—well, like a diamond. Larger sizes are used for diamond blades, but unfortunately, diamonds can cut only brittle metals. "Soft" metals, like steel, will not take to a diamond cutting edge well.

Perhaps other readers are all on edge wondering what this diamond dust does to the workers' lungs, etc. The answer is—nothing. The dust is so controlled by the air filters, that none floats free in the air. As for taking home samples, let's face it. What can you do with a sack of diamond dust nowadays?



ADVICE FOR QUEEN . . . Sylvia Reed, 16, of 21431 Halldale Ave., Torrance, (second from right) gets advice from Mrs. Margie Sandhoff of Avalon Village in her quest for "Queen of the Teens" at the Carson Community Carnival May 21 to 24. Mrs. Sandhoff was Miss Stardust of Kansas in 1950 and now is a candidate for Mrs. America. Miss Reed is vying with ten others for the Teen Queen crown. Final judging will be at the Community Carnival to be staged at the Avalon Village Shopping Center on May 23. Others shown left to right are Wills Spears of Dominguez and Doris Perry of Lincoln Village.



\$22,000 IN DIAMONDS . . . Meral Hinshaw, vice-president of the Felker Manufacturing Co., holds two pounds of "crushing more" in glass jars in his left hand. The stuff in the jars looks like ordinary gravel, but it is actually a lot of small industrial diamonds valued at \$11,000 a pound. In his right hand Hinshaw shows one of the diamond-impregnated cutting wheels used to saw through concrete highways. The wheel manufactured by the local firm is used by contractors to slice through roadways and sidewalks for pipeline.

### El Camino Offers Political Science Exam to Teachers

For the benefit of teachers in this area, El Camino is again offering a political science examination for teachers who need to meet the Constitution requirements for their teaching credentials.

Dr. William H. Harless, director of instruction, said the material covered in the examination would be taken primarily from the Constitution of the United States. In addition, he said, it will cover some facts of a fundamental nature which provides a background for understanding the Constitution and its provisions.

Dr. Harless suggested that interested teachers should consult any good standard text as a reference work. He recommended "The Path of Our Fathers," by A. J. Cloud, which is available in most public libraries.

The examination will be held on Friday, May 15, at 4 p.m. in Room 1 of the Social Science building facing Gretnah Blvd.

### Cook School

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chocolate cherry tree log, and date pie recipes.

"In Southern California, cookery seems effortless compared to old recipe directions, and this is as it should be," Miss Howe says.

"It's no secret that modern, worry-free cooking is the direct result of the invention of those mechanical kitchen servants, the automatic gas range and gas refrigerator. As is our custom in the Modern School of Gas Cookery, we use the latest models of these automatic appliances; and in this new series of lecture-demonstrations, the recipes illustrate the use of each cooking or freezing section.

The Herald is co-operating with the Southern California Gas Co. in presenting the school.

### Bar Association Plans Annual Breakfast Fete

The South Bay Bar Association plans to hold its annual breakfast in honor of the Superior Court Judges of Los Angeles County on Saturday, May 16, at 8 a.m. at the Potrero House of the Inglewood Country Club, according to James M. Hall, president of the association.



READY FOR "O. H. DAY" . . . Bobbie Petkow, a telephone operator at the Navy Supply Depot, practices her welcoming smile on Lt. Commander H. R. Clark, commanding officer of the local military installation, in preparation for an Open House to which the public is invited on May 16. It will be the first time the doors of the Torrance depot have been thrown open to the public.

### Open House To Receive USC Awards

(Continued from Page 1)  
in our harbor, the Torrance Storage Area is waiting and ready to supply them with fresh and dry provisions. Replenishment of our stock being supplied by local concerns.

Many of the employees have found Torrance the answer to their idea of better living and are now proud home owners.

Two residents of Torrance who are among 81 graduating seniors of the University of Southern California School of Education will be honored at the second annual Education Alumni Association Awards Convocation to be held Thursday on campus.

Mrs. Agnes Joy Furtado, 17223 Wilkie Ave., will receive the commencement award for outstanding scholarship and excellence in practice teaching as well as the California Student Teachers Association citation. Harry R. Hammond, 1325 Arlington Ave., will receive the honors award for proficiency in teaching and scholarship.