

# 4 THS GRIDDERS OUT AT EL CAMINO

**Bill Crawford,  
All-Metro QB  
Last Year, Back**

Four former Torrance High School gridders turned out to greet El Camino football coach Norm Verry as the local college opened practice this week. On hand were Bill Crawford, all-Metro quarterback last year as an El Camino freshman and a fancy quarterback at Torrance High the year before; Larry Roy, THIS end last year; Ted Marcoux, captain of the Tartar grid machine last year, who goes from either half or center; and Dan Mayers; center, one of the roughest in the league with the Tartars last season.

Roy, Marcoux and Mayers will be freshmen at El Camino this year, and hope to help the team repeat their Metro league championship, taken last season with seven straight conference wins.

The college alumni team, to be led by USC's Jim Sears, began practice Monday—25 strong—for their opening game against the varsity on Sept. 19.

## Letters To The Editor

**Reader Amused at Plan to Bring Major League Team Here for Spring Training**

Torrance Herald: Who's kidding who? It was with the utmost amusement, and the best laugh since Skelton's vacation, when us "diehard" baseball fans of Torrance read where the City Council advocated the plan to bring Major League baseball to the Los Angeles metropolitan area. The council also offered the use of Torrance Park to any major league team for spring training.

How they can offer Torrance Park to any major league team for spring training is strictly "Mugy McFuggs"! City officials themselves have openly referred to the local ball park as "rat's nest" because of the run-down condition. Also, wasn't there some tennis courts or a swimming pool to be built in the approximate location of second base? Maybe the boys forgot?

It's about time the City should take ambitious steps to save what there is left of the present ball park, and make it their business to see that there is a team playing semi-pro baseball there, every Sunday! Talking major league baseball, instead of semi-pro, is actually putting the cart before the horse! A good semi-pro program could be a stepping stone toward building up the local baseball park and, thereby, obtaining a big league team for spring training.

The "Little Leaguers" aren't going to stay little forever and semi-pro baseball is their gateway to become big league baseball players, for the better aspirants. Who is to deny them that?

It's possible that there might be a change of location with the city officials in accord to the local baseball picture. We hope so!

Sincerely,  
JACK H. FRENCH

## SPORTS

TORRANCE HERALD SEPTEMBER 3, 1953

### New Baseball Field High On Pink Cloud

Ed. Note: In the year 1932-33, with the cooperation of the Works Progress Administration, (WPA) a baseball field was built at Torrance Park and christened Torrance Municipal Baseball Park. In the year 1953, after 15 years of service, the park was torn down.

In the last issue of this paper, we recited what we thought was an appropriate epitaph over the grave of Torrance Municipal Baseball Park which, as you know, died this season.

When the last softball was packed away after the city summer league season, the old field peacefully closed its eyes, confident that it had lived its 15 years of life in superlative service to a great sport, and confident also that it would be succeeded by an equally faithful new baseball park, that would carry on the tradition for another 50 years or so.

Unfortunately, the birth of the new municipal park has been delayed, perhaps permanently.

The city had originally planned to build a new baseball field on property that once served as a city dump, at Western Ave. and Plaza Del Amo. Now it has been decided that that piece of ground lacks central location, so plans have been changed to include a new baseball diamond on the projected "Central Park," which will be laid out next to the projected "Civic Center," at Torrance Blvd. and Madrona Ave.

Thus, the new baseball field lies behind a jagged maze of "ifs." "If" the voters pass a \$300,000 bond issue, and "if" monies for the central park are included on that bond issue ("if" the city fathers decide to build a central park, which they will "if" the money will not have to be used for other civic improvements such as a new fire station) then, perhaps, Torrance will get a new baseball field in a couple of years.

Even though the new park now lies in this nebulous, uncertain future, plans are still grinding doggedly ahead to eradicate the old park. The remaining bleachers at Torrance Municipal Park will probably be torn down this winter.

That not only puts the City of Torrance in the unenviable position of being the only city of its size, perhaps in the whole state, without a hardball diamond, but it also leaves Torrance High School without a home field for next season's baseball games.

This difficulty will be partially eliminated if the city installs portable bleachers around Torrance Park, as is the plan. This enables the spectators to sit somewhere besides the little dirt watch games, and is all well and good—but bleachers do little to improve the condition of the playing field which, in the out-field, is ragged and uneven; nor do they improve the backstop, which will undoubtedly fall over once the stands are removed from behind it; nor do they help the fence around the field, of which only one fourth remains.

As Recreation Director Harry Van Bellehem puts it, "it seems silly to sell the old car before the new one is in the garage."

But Torrance Municipal Park is being sold down the river right now, and nobody seems to give a damn.

And if everybody continues to "not give a damn," baseball will disappear entirely from this fair city, because the city fathers have no intention of spending money on something that they think nobody wants or needs.

We think that enough people will come out in favor of a new hardball diamond when the bond issue comes up in April, but that's the future—this is the present.

There is one thing, and one thing alone, that can guarantee improvement of Torrance Municipal Park—yes, that can waken it from its death-like sleep. That one thing is this: A Baseball Team. Just a simple baseball team, composed of nine players, playing baseball on Sundays—that's all.

A baseball team would preserve Torrance Park as paint preserves wood. The field would blossom anew under the care that would be given it each week to prepare it for the Sunday game.

Strangely, however, out of a city of 40,000 people and over 45 major industries, it seems that not one merchant or industry gives enough of a damn about baseball to sponsor a team.

Torrance does not lack good baseball players. Jack French, who wrote the letter to the editor on this page, can get together a top flight team on any given day. What is needed is someone or some business that is willing to underwrite the team's expense, which is estimated by French at about \$30 per week, minus all that is collected from spectators. Collections from spectators would, actually, take care of the major part of the expense.

Surely, there must be one baseball lover in this town who is willing to part with a few dollars a week to see the game preserved.

So arise, baseball lovers, you have nothing to lose but your apathy. M. H.

### Week-end Races Set at Carrell

The greatest week-end of championship auto and motorcycle racing in the history of Southern California is in store for fans this Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights at Carrell Speedway in Gardena.

The colossal championship conclave kicks off on Friday night.

### Dandoy Named On Trojan First String Squad

The list of Torrance's Greatest Athletes was closer to being increased by one with the announcement that Aramis Dandoy, former T.H.S. Football star, has been named to the first string left half back post at USC, where football practice opened this week.

Dandoy, a good bet for All American, will join Louie Zampieri, world famed miler, and Bill Stewart, who once held the world's high jump record, as one of the greatest athletes this area has produced.

The lightest man on the first string Trojan team, Dandoy weighed in at 180.

### 'Jungle Jim' Sent to Navy Football Team

"Jungle Jim" Leech, who played guard on the Torrance High School football team the same time as Aramis Dandoy—'49 and '50, has been transferred from the USS Rochester, heavy cruiser, to Terminal Island, where he will play guard on the Navy football team.

When the season is over, he will return to the ship and take another trip to Korea. He has done two battle turns in Korea already. Leech is the son of Mr. and Mrs. George Leech of 724 Border Ave.

### Midland Nine to Meet All-Star Aggregation

An all-star team composed of players from the Torrance softball leagues will meet the City champs, Midland Rubber, in an exhibition game at Torrance Park tomorrow evening, Sept. 4, at 7 p.m. The game was arranged by Recreation Director Harry Van Bellehem to give Midland some additional practice before entering the county softball tourney later this month.

### Yellowtail Fishing Good

Prior to Monday, 54 Yellowtail were brought in within six days from the waters off San Clemente Island, according to reports from Pierpoint Landing in Long Beach.

### 45 Day Trot Meet Set

The trotters of the Western Harness Racing Association will invade Hollywood Park for the opening of their 45-day meeting on Oct. 6. The meet will last until Dec. 5.



A BIG ONE . . . Tony Silva holds the monstrous 18 lb. Sheephead that he boated off San Clemente Sunday on a charter boat out of Long Beach. "I thought I had hooked the bottom of the ocean," he said. The fish approaches record proportions—20 pounds being considered a practically impossible catch and 18 pounds an astounding one, for a Sheephead, Silva, who lives at 1423 W. 220th St. and is in the trucking business, plans to have the fish mounted.

### Rainiers Top Pony League

The Rainiers, after losing their first game of the season, won eight straight to take the championship of the Pony League for '53. Coach Re Welch reported this week.

The Rainiers completed their season with an 8-3 win over the Angels Thursday. Their only loss was to the Padres 10-9. Following are the final standings and leading batters.

#### STANDINGS

Team	W	L
Rainiers	8	1
Stars	5	5
Padres	4	5
Angels	2	7

#### LEADING HITTERS

Player	G	AB	H	AVG.
S. Tiernan	17	61	21	.412
Padres				
C. Valencia	10	27	11	.407
Rainiers				
G. Todd	9	37	13	.351
Stars				
R. Anderson	14	61	21	.344
Rainiers				

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JOY RIDE . . . Paul Smith, owner of the Torrance Desk and Equipment store, right, and his partner, Stan Fall, hurtle around the 55-degree banked turn at the Flying Saucer Velodrome in Burbank, where Smith won a first-place trophy in the one-hour race two weeks ago. The races are televised each Monday night. Smith and his partner are hitting about a 50-mile-per-hour clip and Fall is just about to shoot ahead to break through a "jam."

### Lion Plans Nine Day Bike Ride at 55 MPH

Lions Club member Paul Smith is going bicycle riding on Sept. 11—for nine days.

Smith, who owns the Torrance Desk and Office Equipment store at 2081 Torrance Blvd., is an amateur bike racing enthusiast and two weeks ago he capitalized on his hobby by winning a first place trophy in the one hour team race at the Flying Saucer Velodrome in Burbank, mecca for bicycle racers.

He plans to enter the nine day derby at the Velodrome, which begins on Sept. 11. Those who win at the thought of riding a bicycle for nine days—be comforted. Smith says that amateur racers—who ride for fun—don't

blinding speed.

Since a good racing bike costs around \$150 and tires run \$19 a pair and seldom last for more than three races, bicycle racing is a rather expensive hobby. While racing in San Jose, also a center for the sport, Smith estimates that the merchandise prizes given to race winners enabled him to just about break even.

It was also in San Jose that Smith was involved in his most serious mishap. Nineteen speeding bicyclists piled up in a mangled mess of metal on that particular night, but none was seriously hurt.

Smith was not so lucky during one race when he hurtled the 30-foot bank, went through the rail, and came out with a fractured skull. The normal degree of slant on a track is about 60 degrees, and the riders are just about horizontal going around the turns.

The Burbank track, which is located at Victory Blvd. and Hollywood Way, is one half mile around and is banked to 55 degrees. The riders race in teams, one laying up near the top of the track while the other tries to break through the "jams" and vice versa.

Since the rider is strapped to the bicycle, which has no brakes, it's safer to stick with the bike if you leave the track, rather than kick off the foot straps and go it alone. As for me, I'll stick to bird watching any day.

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