

# Early Struggles of Waleria Club Told in History

## Picnic Race Winners List

Mary Gertrude Green, Duane Harbison, Andrea Stiles, Donald and Allan Swanson, and Ray Stiles were declared winners of the children's races held at the Torrance Moose picnic this week. James Stiles, committee chairman, announced yesterday.

The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Green of Beech St. won the 50-yard sprint race, while Andrea Stiles, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Stiles of Cabrillo Ave., came in a close second.

A sister and brother team, Donald and Marilyn Swanson, children of Mr. and Mrs. Len Swanson, took first place in the wheel-barrel race, while Donald and Allan Swanson won the three-leg race.

Trustee Jim Stiles and Joe Platt, governor of the Torrance lodge, won over Alice Swanson, chapter senior regent, and Lou Johnson, junior regent, in a special three-leg race attraction.

## Waleria, Pacific Hills

# Summer Trips Visits Start

By BETTY MITCHELL DA 6-4438

This really looks like a busy, busy summer. Everyone either seems to be planning on company, or on going somewhere themselves, or both. Home from a busy three-month trip to Italy are Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Senia and nephew, Richard Ravoli of W. 242nd St. The trip was made via air.

Company from Salinas is visiting Mr. and Mrs. N. H. Wood and family of Ocean Ave. The guests are Mrs. Bessie Smith and Bob and George Van Rensselaer.

Arriving home after a two-week visit with relatives in Nebraska and Missouri is the Dale Broderson family of Winlock Dr. They got home last Friday and reported a fun-filled

trip and a real good time catching up on the folks "back home."

A three-week visit in Sioux Falls, South Dakota was in store for the Morgans of Adolph Ave. They returned last Friday after visiting friends and relatives in that fair city. The Morgans were accompanied by their daughter, Eula Jean Ferrin, and her small son, both residents of Park St.

The Raymond Deuroles and son Bobby returned Wednesday after a visit with relatives in Michigan and a visit with their daughter Alice and her family, now residing in Ohio.

Home again are the Nate Gordons of Newton St. The Gordons' trip was necessitated by the illness of Nate's mother, but they brought back the good news that she is now well on the way to recovery. Destination of their trip, by the way, was Oklahoma.

A brief visit with his mother was the order of the day for Frank Coates of Winlock Dr. Accompanied by his daughter, Frances, he flew to Texas last weekend for the visit.

The JFF Club held its monthly meeting on June 15. Due to the absence of the president, Mrs. Edith Buckingham, the vice-president, Mrs. Ann Loughridge presided over the meeting. Nine of the members were present. Election of officers was held for the coming year. The officers are, president, Mrs. Ann Loughridge; vice-president, Luella Lassen; secretary, Bessie Slonecker; treasurer, Elsie Minor; Winner of the raffle prize was Mrs. Helen Conze. After the business of the evening was over, the ladies gathered round a table tastefully laid with a centerpiece of lovely flowers. Co-hostesses for the meeting were Mrs. Lorine Harline and Mrs. Elsie Minor. Their next meeting will be held at the home of Mrs. Eva Kelley of Park St. on July 20. The ladies plan to put the finishing touches to their quilt at that time. One of their club members was wished "Bon Voyage" by the group since she is going to Europe for the summer. Lucky traveler is Mrs. Taraldson, formerly resident of Waleria, now living in

San Pedro. She plans to be back by August.

Having a pleasant evening together last Saturday were Mr. and Mrs. Robert Cramer of Los Codona Ave. and Mr. and Mrs. John Chaudano of Crickwood. They gathered at the Chaudano residence for dinner, complete with home-made ice cream.

Birthday time was a happy occasion for Jerry Carrillo of Hawthorne Blvd. Seems that on that great day, June 20, his mother, Frances, presented him with a beautiful, shiny, new bicycle.

A father-and-son banquet is being held at the Waleria Community Methodist Church this Saturday evening at 6:30. For tickets contact Robert Cramer at FR 5-4050.

Our deepest sympathies this week rest with the family of James Mitchell of Neece Ave. Mr. Mitchell passed away last week.

Johnny Minor, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Minor of Park St., is gone again. His ship is headed back for Japan after a stop to be made for much needed repairs in San Francisco. His wife and children have taken up residence in Torrance.

Our most sincere sympathies go to Mrs. Blanche Lamberston of Winlock Rd. upon the loss of her mother in Phoenix, Ariz. last week.

Both Gordon girls of Newton St. are leaving this week for summer camps with the Methodist young people. Colleen is left on Tuesday for Camp Colby, while sister Moreen leaves today, Thursday, for the Lazy W Ranch which is near San Juan Capistrano.

Dora Lee and Gwenn Chaffin and Janet Van Dyke of 242nd St. have returned after spending two weeks in the San Fernando Valley with their aunt.

Mr. and Mrs. Irv Radtke of Dalemead are taking a six-week trip back to Wisconsin. With them is Mrs. Radtke's brother, Gary Penn, who has been staying with the Radtkes while attending El Camino Junior Col-

lege, from which he was graduated this spring. The three plan to journey up the coastline through Washington, and then go to their home in Wisconsin, where they will part company. Irv and Joyce will return to their home here, but Gary will be left in Wisconsin where he will join up with Uncle Sam in the fall.

Mike Tranham of Ward St. has gone for a summer vacation with his aunt, who lives in the motherlode country near Sacramento.

Moving from their home on Los Codona Ave. are the Roy McKinnays who are planning to move to their brand new house in the Ellinwood tract, now being constructed. They are temporarily renting an apartment here in Waleria.

For the many readers of this column who have known Dale and Betty Wickstrom comes this item. Betty is slowly recovering from her bout with polio, which she contracted last Christmas week. She is now in the Kist-Kaiser, Forti, Santa Monica, while husband Dale and the children are back in their home in Lomita. Any correspondence addressed to the hospital will reach Betty, so why not drop her a card or a line? It will make her convalescence a little easier if her friends remember her.

A trip to Redlands for Women's Day during the Methodist Conference held there was in store for five of our Waleria women. Making the journey last Friday were Bea Monaghan, Joan Cramer, Bonnie Beck, Kay Grogan, and Edna Cunningham from Palos Verdes.

The Kendall Bakers of Adolph St. enjoyed a short but pleasant journey to Mexico last week.

Police Cite Dwyer

Easley Ray Hayes, Hawthorne, was arraigned by South Bay Municipal Court Friday to answer charges that he dumped trash on a spot on 190th St. near Hawthorne Blvd.

Hayes' arraignment marks the continuation of a drive by Torrance police to prevent dumping of trash in unauthorized areas. A policeman watched Hayes unload the trash, and then made the arrest.

## Hard Work Key to Growth of Waleria Businessmen's Club Since '48 Start

(Founded in April, 1948, by a small group of civic-minded businessmen, the Waleria Businessmen's Club has grown steadily in numbers and stature over the past years until now it is a group that could well be used as a model by other small communities with large ideas. The club didn't "just grow," like Topsy, however. Each step along the road to success was taken by applying the elixir of growth—hard work.

Typical of this sweat and industry is a complete history of the club prepared recently by Loring L. Bigelow, charter member. In tribute to the club and the men who made it, the Herald begins in this issue a series of articles based on Bigelow's history and covering the evolution of the Waleria Businessmen's Club from its beginnings to the present time.)

**PART I**  
**THE START**  
PREFACE—This is the story behind a small group of men in a small but growing community—the fun they've had, their trials and tribulations and their club, of which I am proud to say, I have been a part.

**LORING L. BIGELOW**

For several years in the community of Waleria there was an organization which represented the community and which acted as a liaison between the citizens of the community and the powers-to-be in Torrance, of which Waleria is a part (an often forgotten part in the past).

This group is now defunct, but an introduction to it is of prime importance because it was the nucleus of the Waleria Businessmen's Club. It was formed in 1948 after three individuals met outside on the curbing and discussed the procedure that the group was following and how it could be improved.

As the three talked, they wondered if perhaps there weren't other businessmen sitting home who also had the same problems, thoughts and ideas—if so, why couldn't they all be brought together some night to see if, collectively, they couldn't improve things that individually they could not?

**Trio Named**  
These three men, who met several times again during the days of sager planning that followed, were L. Austin Beasley, then of Beasley's Feed Store, Neece Ave., Waleria; Thomas Kirk, then of Park Snack Bar, Pacific Coast Hwy., Waleria; and James Whitmer, then a chef at the Fish Shanty.

After much time and leg work by this trio, contacting other businessmen, a dinner was set to be held at the Fish Shanty and in April a dozen men met for the first convulse of the Waleria Businessmen's Club.

Some of the men were strangers to each other when they arrived, but they did not remain so long. An exact listing of these founding fathers is not available, but the best knowledge of those still active in the club, these men were present at the first meeting:

James Whitmer, J. Austin Beasley, Thomas Kirk, Nate Gordon, Loring L. Bigelow, Ronald Taylor, William Ferguson, Fred Stevens, Paul Slonecker, Joe Verkerke, S. C. Murray and B. P. Pendleton.

**Form Nucleus**  
On that night, there seemed to be no doubt in anyone's mind that a group of businessmen in the Waleria Fire District was to be formed, with those present as a nucleus.

Chairman Whitmer recommended, and was unanimously elected, that an election of officers be held. Beasley was elected unanimously as first vice-president and Joe Verkerke secretary-treasurer.

Beasley's first move after accepting office was to appoint Kirk, Whitmer and Bigelow as a by-laws committee to formulate the rules and regulations of the new group.

The infant was beginning to toddle. It was an enthusiastic group that finally left the Fish Shanty that Friday evening, after resolving to meet again in two weeks.

At this next meeting, the by-laws were read and approved and the Waleria Businessmen's Club began to operate officially.

**Plan Youth Activity**  
One of the first decisions made in the early days, and one which has guided the club since, was the plan to go all out for youth activity within the community. As a first step toward completing this idea, it was proposed that free movies be sponsored for the kids during the summer. A Mr. Gallagher approached the club with a price of \$50 a night for showing movies once a month. This was rejected as too expensive, but the movie idea was not.

Through the efforts of the president and of Staff Sergeant Conger of the U. S. Army, an early associate member of the organization, the club itself arranged to put on the movies at a total cost of \$6 per night. A soft drink bar was installed to help defray this expense.

Free movies were shown every Saturday night starting in June, 1948 and ending in the last week of August. Thus, the first project undertaken by the club was a success.

**Tradition Starts**  
One of the men accepted as a new member in the early days started a tradition that has lasted to the present. The member was Joe Snow, his idea—a box—in which to place fines assessed against members. The fines were to be for fun and strictly "out of the coin pocket" so that no one would be unduly embarrassed.

This fine box has been present at every meeting since, and once became so heavy with coins that a smaller, substitute box was provided, which, when filled, was emptied into the larger one.

In five-and-a-half months, a Next—"THE EARLY GROWTH."

notation was made in the club ledger. It stated: Bal. Brt. Fwd. \$9.17. On Oct. 22, the following notation was made: Deposited—\$89.15.

Also in October, the Club donated \$16 worth of apple cider to the PTA Carnival and later D. Boone Kirk, Waleria School principal then, and the teachers of the school joined the club in a meeting at the Fish Shanty.

**Start Turkey Raffle**  
Another club project was inaugurated soon which was so successful that it has been repeated each November since. The project was a turkey raffle and raffle which netted \$187.74 at first try.

During the fall of 1948, feeling that Waleria did not have enough police protection during the night and early morning hours, several members helped the Police Department by working during the night in the growth car serving the area. The club volunteered an extra man to assist the officer each night.

**Move Barracks In**  
One of the major projects completed during the early months was the moving of a surplus barracks building from San Pedro to be used in the City Park as a Community Recreation Hall. Many long hours were spent on Saturday and Sunday afternoons to make the building into a going concern and several events were held in the hall during the summer of 1948.

To top off the year, the club decided to hold a Christmas party for the youth of Waleria. Whitmer was selected as master of ceremonies, a Santa Claus was obtained and the kids were entertained with comedy and songs. Each one received a present. The club spent \$160 for this party and the City of Torrance assisted the financing by donating \$150.

**Check Honors**  
As a touch of irony, the check from the City of Torrance bounced. Oh, it wasn't because of insufficient funds. The club secretary forgot to endorse it.

Athletics was the next step on the agenda. The club got into a good time doing it, a good start by spending \$75 for uniforms. Several trophies won by these first teams are now on display at Penny's Barber Shop.

Always alert for ways to increase the club treasury and have a good time doing it, the group started off 1949 with a box supper at the Recreation Hall. It brought \$132 into the coffers.

**Donations Made**  
Donations from the treasury provided \$10 for silverware for the Recreation Hall, \$35.20 for referee expenses during the basketball season, a kids' night, and last but not most important, the first club Easter Sunrise Service in Waleria Park.

Although first results were discouraging, the club resolved to try again the following year and this judgment proved correct. The Easter Sunrise Service has continued to grow each year since.

Once again, April came around. The club had passed its first year, and it was time to elect new officers. Accordingly, on April 7, 22 eligible members elected Whiter president, Stevens vice-president, and Bigelow secretary-treasurer. Elected to the board of directors were William Ferguson, George Stebbins and Tom Kirk.

Thus ended "THE START."

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**Main Smog Causes Cited, Study on Others Promised**

Hydrocarbons, smoke, dust, fumes, and sulfur dioxide are the main causes of Southern California's ever-present smog problem, according to a pamphlet issued by the Los Angeles County Air Pollution Control District.

Motor exhausts, open fires, and various industrial processes help to fill the air with chemical substances which combine to make the eye-burning smog.

Thus far, considerable research has been done on the problem, as well as inspection of sources which contribute to the problem. A force of 20 inspectors and two investigators handles this work. Plans of new industrial plants are checked in advance to prevent installation of equipment.

**Study Continues**  
Work on controlling fumes emitted by petroleum refineries is being carried on at present, as are studies of means to prevent escaping fumes at Los Angeles' 9000 filling stations.

Devices which would eliminate or reduce the amount of vapor emitted in automobile and truck exhausts are now being tested. Studies which would substitute some other means of disposing of trash other than the backyard incinerator are being made. Both problems are aggravated by the fact that the number of people and automobiles in Los Angeles County has nearly doubled since 1940.

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**Head of Phone Group Quits After 20 Years**

Charles F. Mason, president of the California Independent Telephone Association told the members at the annual convention in San Francisco on June 10 that he would not serve in this capacity for the coming year.

Mason, who had held this office for the past 20 years, said: "Now it is fitting and proper that I pass on to younger and able hands the torch of leadership which has been by trust for two decades."

At the beginning of his address, Mason hesitated to say whether the organization had just finished a bad or good year. He stated that a person tends more and more to treat the years of an association and cherished experiences.

**Year of Growth**  
He brought out the fact that it would be very hard for him to choose the outstanding characteristic of the past year, from the standpoint of the independent telephone companies. Then Mason said: "It has been another year of steady expansion,

both in plant and in number of customers, in a fast-growing service area where record expansion has become almost an old story."

Mason told the audience of the latest marvels to come out of the Bell Laboratories. One being a battery that runs on mere exposure to the sun and air. Also the chemical experts were making steady progress on the eventual solution of desalting sea water so that the oceans will, in the future, provide us with an abundant supply of pure, sweet water for all purposes.

**Why Worry**  
Mason ended the main text of his speech by saying that he wished people would remember him by the six simple words: "You cannot solve tomorrow's problems today." And then he added, "While doing our best let us not strain for the impossible nor the unnecessary. Let us leave some work for the next generation to do. We can't do it all, so why worry about it?"