

# Truly American, They Looked Forward As Recorded in 1815 Boston Patriot

BY ELEANOR B. GILBERT

"Peace and Free Trade, the Liberties of America Secured by Republican Energy," read the headlines of the Boston Patriot on Wednesday, May 31, 1815.

A cowhide-bound trunk, lined with copies of this historic old New England newspaper, is the latest addition to the extensive collection of Americana belonging to Edward R. Dawson, 1906 Plaza del Amo.

The news items contained in papers dated from April to September 1815, furnish a wealth of homely details of American life shortly after the end of the second war with England. In typical American fashion the interest was focused ahead on the elections for Massachusetts' governor and lieutenant-governor, and typically recommendations were being made about the candidates.

The candidates so recommended to their fellow citizens were "deserving their confidence and support. The talents, integrity and respectability of these gentlemen require no comment or eulogy." The paper continues, "In times of darkness, danger, and dismay, THE TIMES THAT TRIED MEN'S SOULS, they stood forth, the defenders of their country's cause, and the OPPOSERS of faction and rebellion — such a Governor and Lieutenant-Governor would retrieve our reputation, and once more place the commonwealth on an AMERICAN GROUND." The war was not a popular one with some people, being called by the Federalists "Mr. Madison's War," much as the British conflict in Egypt has recently been called "Eden's War."

## HISTORY REPEATS

That it was not very popular with some of the participants is evidenced by the several rewards offered for deserters. \$10 was being offered for the private, Solomon Miller, "18 years of age, five feet five and a half inches high, hazel eyes, brown hair, light complexion, occupation farmer." Bank made a difference in those days too. \$50 was offered for a corporal belonging to Capt. William Gates Company of Artillerists, by the name of Thaddeus B. Russell, aged 20 years, five feet seven in stature . . . by profession a Shoemaker." Of course, the Captain may have required some work done on his boots.

The capture of the private armed vessel Grand Turk, was occasioned a Marshal's Sale, the goods having been condemned and ordered sold for the benefit of the captors. Ladies were thus availed the opportunity of buying "coarse and fine Cloths and Kerseys - Dimities - Cotton Cambricks - Cotton Handkerchiefs - Silk and Cotton Hose - York Stripes - Vestings - Colored Velvets - dress's Leathers - Cotton Imitation Shawls - fine Jeau for Vestings and Pantaloons - Knit Stockinet, assorted Cotton Plaitillas - Superfine Prints &c. &c making a complete assortment for the present and approaching season."

A commentary on family life might be deduced from the following announcement: "The public are informed that a Coffee Room is now opened on the first floor over the Merchant's Hall . . . Gentlemen of the neighborhood who are obliged to come to town

## Sorority Prepares for Jewel Test

Delta Gamma Chapter of the Epsilon Sigma Alpha international sorority met Monday, Feb. 11, at the home of Mrs. E. C. Osterlind, 2803 Sonoma. The recent visit of Mrs. Dixie Palmer, international director, to Los Angeles was discussed by the group who were in accord with Mrs. Palmer on the possibilities of more chapters in Torrance.

The group reviewed program five and six on "Your Chapter and What Epsilon Sigma Alpha Expects of the Chapter." The group will complete their study soon and take their Jewel Pin test.

Participating in the program were Meses. Robert Mosher, Allan Beresford, Marguerite Kelsey, W. J. Bullock, Jack Clifford, Winona Jackson, and P. M. Crossman.

The next meeting will be held at the Crossman home, 2143 Middlebrook Rd., on March 11.

early will find this establishment very convenient, as they can obtain a breakfast without delay." Perhaps wives liked to sleep in then and husbands could get breakfast at the nearest beanery.

## FOR CULTURE

There was no lack of something to do. For the socially-minded there was the "meeting of the St. David Musical Society at 10 o'clock a.m. Public exercises commencing at 1 p.m., at Stratton's Tavern." The Boston Theatre was presenting "an interlude in 2 acts, called 'All the World's a Stage', after which for the 9th time in Boston a play in 5 acts, called 'The Aethiopian, or, The Child in the Desert' (For Characters see Bills)."

There was also the Canal Lottery. The paper advised the public that it was "Drawn on Wednesday, and drawn again next Thursday, \$15,000, Highest Prize, free from deduction." (Apparently there was always somebody waiting to get a slice of the pie even in those days, but lottery winners got a break) "Ticket remain at the low price of \$5.50 whole and \$1.50 Quarter." But it really didn't matter too much, the paper goes on to say they're nearly all sold now.

Marriages and deaths were suitably recorded. In the latter case, following the announcement of the funeral, the following note was added: "friends and relations are requested to attend without further invitation." The Miniature Almanac was a regular item. There were announcements of Auction Sales. Partnerships formed, the arrival of "Lemmons! 30 boxes of fresh lemons in prime!"

There were classes designed to appeal to those interested in self-improvement. "Mr. Carter respectfully informs his friends and the public that his Spring and Summer School for instructing Masters and Misses in Dancing will commence on Monday next . . . terms \$5 entrance and 9 per quarter." "Mr. Cobb's system of simple mechanical rules "would practically ensure the prospective student that with 15 lessons in penmanship requiring 30 hours, he could "exchange his stiff and heavy style for an easy and even elegant mercantile hand." Pupils of all ages were welcome.

**THE TRIUMVIRATE**  
The announcement about ships' movements noted that the Triumvirate has been taken and sunk by the Portsmouth American privateers. In brackets the paper adds "The above is incorrect. The Triumvirate was captured the 7th of Feb. by the Macedonian privateer of this port."

Being a conscientious paper the following was included on the first page: "On General Boy's Pamphlet - The Editors have to apologize for the postponement of the following communication. While they unite in bearing witness to the honorable character and bravery and good intention of General Boy, which they do with candid pleasure. Their correspondence has been sparing . . . words are missing but General Boy's Pamphlet follows. It might be added the price of the paper was \$4.00 a year."

Interesting Foreign News included Bonapart's Reception in France. A book just published was entitled "Approved Instructions for Sailing to New Orleans," drawn and revised by an American captain of Boston - 25¢, liberal reduction by the dozen." "The Analectic Magazine for August 1815 was just received by R.P.&C. Williams, "Embellished with an engraved likeness of General Jonathan Williams, who was no doubt the cover girl of his day. A rather plaintive ad states that "Cash will be paid for the first volume of Pope's Works, Durrell's edition, by R.P.&C. Williams No. 8 State street." For the more literary-minded, "A painting, 'The Landing of the Fathers,' by H. Sargent, Esq., was also on exhibit for the art-conscious.

They believed in open letters in those days. In the equivalent of six columns of print there was a "Letter to

the Earl of Liverpool on the American War." In detail the writer analyzed the conduct of the British during the war and their inordinate failure in the face of superiority of arms, ships, etc., but not the calibre of its men. Included was a nice hypothetical verbal exchange between "Jonathan" and "Johnny." The essence of which was, was there any question but that the British had fought more because of their fear of the gallows than for the King and Crown. The name of the author of the bitter and ironical comments and suggestions as to how the war should have been fought is unhappily missing. There were apparently Monday-morning quarterbacks even in those days.

Evidence that the world was getting smaller all the time was indicated by the record speed made by the British brig, Unity, owned by Harrison, which arrived from Sunderland, England, after 40 days, with coal, crates, coppers, glass ware, white lead and bottles.

## 223rd Street

It may well be "your life" that will be depicted at the Founders' Day meeting on Feb. 19, at 1:30 p.m., in the 223rd St. School auditorium.

With Mrs. Carl Epperheimer playing the role of Ralph Edwards, acting as mistress of ceremonies, "This is Your Life" will be presented with the star of the show picked from the audience.

The program is being prepared by the following committee members: Meses. Carl Epperheimer, LeRoy Jacobsen, Amanda Tapia, Edward Kollmeyer, Gene LeRoy, Paul Kelso and Francis Anania. Decorations and greetings will be under the supervision of Mrs. Ralph Wareing, hospitality chairman; Mrs. Oren Deuschle, crafts chairman; and Mrs. Vincent Babayco, arts chairman.

"This Founders' Day program is in commemoration of the beginning of National PTA 60 years ago. Mrs. LeRoy Jacobsen, founders' day chairman will briefly summarize the objects of PTA.

Introduction of guests and the presentation of an honorary life membership by Mrs. Carl Epperheimer, will close the meeting.

## Riviera

Founders Day will be observed on Feb. 20 by the Riviera PTA at their regular association meeting. The time is 8 p.m., in the school cafeteria.

A short program is planned which will include a skit entitled "What PTA Means to Father" with Maurice Wilson, George Stefan, Ed Shields, Rod Freeman, John Smith, Berney Beard, and Mel French participating.

The past presidents will be honored and the Life Membership will be awarded. John Walker's 7th Grade chorus will sing at this meeting.

Refreshments will be served after the meeting by the 2nd Grade room representatives.

## Elementary

Founders Day will be observed by the Torrance Elementary PTA on Wednesday, Feb. 20, at a 7:30 p.m. meeting at the school.

Mrs. Dorothy Jamieson will be the speaker. A skit "The Dad's Talk Is Over" will be put on by the teachers. H. Preston will sing two songs.

At this meeting past presidents will be honored and two Honorary Life Memberships will be awarded.

Fifth and sixth grade mothers will be hostesses.

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**TIMES THAT TRIED MEN'S SOULS . . .** The year 1815 in the United States, shortly after a war with England, found a young America in search of liberties and peace. This is recorded in copies of the old Boston Patriot which line an antique cowhide bound trunk recently acquired by Edward R. Dawson, 1906 Plaza del Amo. Mr. Dawson, who has an outstanding collection of items in which the early history of America is written, is shown here as he peruses the ancient pages of the New England paper in which is the printed proof that "history repeats itself."

# LOCAL PTA ACTIVITIES

## Casimir

Mrs. T. Knighten was hostess to the executive board of Casimir Elementary PTA which met at her home, 2434 W. 164th St., Wednesday, Jan. 30.

There was discussion regarding the growth and success of the PTA operated library at the school.

Mrs. C. Long, parent education chairman, reported that the first of a series of meetings on "Knowing Your School" will be held on Monday, Feb. 18, at 9:30 a.m., in the school cafeteria. The meeting will be conducted by Mr. Dunworth, school principal, and the topic of this first gathering will be "reading."

An open discussion will follow a film titled, "We Begin to Read." Classroom visitation and observation of actual instruction will be included. All parents are urged to attend all the meetings of this very informative series.

Mrs. F. Sherman announced plans for an interesting meeting on Thursday, Feb. 7, at 1:15 p.m., on the subject of dental health. Dr. Arthur Burke, dental dentist and member of the Dental Health Assn., will speak. Mrs. Sherman stated that Mr. Dunworth will be present along with Mrs. Ayers, school nurse. In the near future Dr. Burke and several other dentists will conduct, in the classrooms, an examination of the teeth of all youngsters in the first and third grades.

Mrs. L. Graham reported that the new money raising event to be held in the spring will be a circus presented by a well-known small circus company. It will provide the many acts and interesting features in addition to concessions selling "snow-cones," popcorn and cotton candy. The PTA will operate a concession selling hot dogs, coffee and cold pop. The event will take place Saturday afternoon, May 11.

## Sepulveda

A Sepulveda PTA sponsored Parent-Teacher Information Course will be held at Sepulveda School starting Feb. 27. This will be a six week course with meetings every Wednesday from 9 until 11:30. The course is planned as a study guide for anyone desirous of acquiring a better understanding of Parent-Teacher policies and objectives. Participation in the course is equivalent to three years of actual PTA work. Officers and chairmen will find it helpful as a general background for the specific work they have undertaken. The membership at large will gain an appreciation of the great opportunities for service offered by the Parent-Teacher organization. The study course will cover the following topics:

Leadership, its qualities and their development; the local association and its function; ethics of money raising; committees, their purposes and duties; membership; courtesies; state organization and history; state policies; the PTA and the school; national history and policies; parliamentary procedure.

Mrs. Edward G. Kemp, first vice president of 33rd District, will assume the leadership of this course. All persons attending the course with satisfactory attendance will receive a certificate of completion. The only expense involved during the course mentioned above will be the purchase of a manual.

Present at this meeting in addition to those already mentioned were Meses. R. Payne, president; L. Cunningham, B. Cook, G. Stashak, D. Sherwood, C. Harris, B. Baker, B. Peters, L. Nelson, T. Rogers, N. Boy, J. Begando, C. Carlston, R. Hobbs and H. York.

## Crenshaw

"Founders' Day" was the theme of the Feb. 6 meeting of Crenshaw Elementary PTA conducted by Mrs. Clint Chapman, president. Past presidents were welcomed by Mrs. Chapman and presented corsages. Earl Eckert received a plaque, honor of past presidents, Meses. Dana Huston, William Skiles, Ralph Eystone, and William Drake.

A quiz on "Founders' Day" was presented with Bert Richardson emcee. Mrs. M. Hanson and Mrs. D. Richards represented Phoebe Hurst and Alice Birely, PTA founders. Dr. Sheffield, first parent teacher chairman, reminisced on the history and growth of PTA at Crenshaw.

The honorary life membership was presented to Mrs. John Ruckle by Don Robinson on a "This is Your Life" pro-

## Harbor Insurance Women Given National Charter

Their national charter was presented to the Harbor Cities Insurance Women at a recent meeting at Caprino's. The charter was presented by Miss Reva Steward, organizational chairman from the Long Beach Insurance Women's Club which sponsors the local club.

The congratulatory speech was made by Miss Connie Winkler, president of the Long Beach Club. Several members of the sponsoring group were also in attendance.

The Harbor Cities Club, organized in July, 1956, serves Torrance, Redondo Beach, Hermosa Beach, Manhattan, Lomita, Harbor City, Wilmington and San Pedro. It is affiliated with the National Association of Insurance Women.

The purpose of the club, as defined by Mrs. Elenora Durst, is to encourage educational programs to broaden the knowledge of insurance, to cultivate good fellowship and to promote a bureau of employment for women who are trained in insurance.

For the last meeting Mrs. Mrs. Ruckle is a leader of Girl Scout Troop 1388 which is sponsored by the PTA and neighborhood chairman for North Torrance Girl Scouts. She has acted as Den mother, is a registrar of voters, and is attending Long Beach State College in preparation for teaching.

A slate of nominees for officers for next year was presented by the nominating committee. They will be elected at the March meeting. Students from Mr. Demyon's folk demonstrated several folk dances. His students also won the attendance prize for the upper grades. Mrs. Chapman had the most parents representing the lower grades.

An appeal for Brownie and Intermediate leaders was made by Mrs. James Bramlett and the association voted to sponsor a Brownie troop to be led by Florian Reutz and Jean Dye.

Open house at the new library was announced by Mrs. William Drake, library chairman. The library will be in use on Feb. 15. Parents were reminded that they must sign permit cards for the children to check out books.

Hostesses from the rooms of Mabel Ashley, Ursula Wallace, and Maureen Sharp served refreshments.

Leila Bowen, hospitality chairman, had decorated the dining room in pink and gold.

The next meeting will be held at Caprino's on Feb. 21, at 7 p.m. Reservations must be made by Feb. 19, with Mrs. Leila Bowen.

The group meets every third Thursday for a dinner meeting. Anyone in the area interested in joining the group may call Mrs. Durst, membership chairman.

## NEW CLASS FOR BEGINNERS OPENS

"Boots and Bows" square dance club of Lawndale announces an adult beginners square dance class. This class will be held each Wednesday evening from 8 to 11 p.m. starting Feb. 20 at the Will Rogers School cafeteria at 4110 W. 154th St., Lawndale.

Betty and Les Forges, presidents of "Boots and Bows," maintain that square dancing is easy and it's fun. Anyone interested in this recreational activity is invited to attend the class on Feb. 20.

## North High

Tuesday night, Feb. 19, at 8 p.m., in the cafeteria, North High PTA will observe Founders' Day with a skit, "The Meeting's a Wonderful Thing," by Evelyn Carr PTA Mother Singers. The skit is a parody from the Gilbert and Sullivan "Mikado." Members of the cast include Meses. Reese Holbrook, Jan Asper, Clinton Beedon, Jack Latton, Robert Moore, Wendell Towell, Merle Love, Walter Fress, B. B. Ball, Richard McDonald, Lester Oswald, Richard Hubert, George Flemmons, Hernon Cortez, Ralph Gastelum, Robert Heyns, Robert Steele and J. Holmquist.

The students of North High will present a situation comedy, "One Egg," that takes place in a restaurant. The cast includes Anne Kirner, Carl Thornton and Susan Matson.

There will be a presentation of one Honorary Life Membership and special honor will be paid to the one past president, Mrs. A. B. Cowie, and Mr. A. Lifton, now vice principal at Torrance High and past honorary membership recipient.

This promises to be a fine evening's entertainment; and it is hoped that parents of all the high school students will attend.

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