

Herald Weekender

Containing Stories from Sunday's Herald

(The following stories are reprinted in part from the Sunday, May 26, Torrance HERALD. These represent only part of the complete news, sports, and society sections which give HERALD subscribers complete, up-to-the-minute review of Torrance news. To receive this news first, call the Circulation Manager at FA 8-4000 and ask for twice-a-week delivery of your local paper, The HERALD.)

Sam Levy Wins Citizen Award

Sam Levy, Torrance merchant since 1919 and a leader in a large number of the area's philanthropic campaigns, has been named Torrance's "Distinguished Citizen" for 1956. He became the fourth winner, joining Mervin Schwab, Paul Loranger, and Dean L. Sears.

Announcement of his selection to the coveted honor was made here Thursday night by Sears, the 1955 winner, as a highlight at the annual Chamber of Commerce installation dinner.

Park Sites Toured

Torrance Recreation Commissioners yesterday made a tour of the park sites proposed for the city in the Gold Report, after receiving a "vote of confidence in principle" from city and school officials attending the regular Wednesday night meeting.

The commission ordered a letter sent to the City Council, recommending that Robert L. Gold's report be accepted in principle as a working plan, with additional recommendations to be made later. The letter asked that the Council authorize the Recreation Commission to proceed in drawing up a working plan to be presented in a bond issue to the voters.

Big Building Month

Torrance is having its biggest building month this year, with building permits issued for 107 tract houses, 32 apartment units, four units of a new Catholic High School, and a new Torrance schools warehouse. To date, \$2,797,676 in permits has been taken out during May, according to Walter Bradford, senior clerk in the City Engineer's office. This brings the year's total to nearly \$8,000,000.

Grade Report Made

General approval of the present "gradeless" reporting system used in Torrance schools was indicated by a committee studying the elementary school reporting system, but recommendations were made that teachers avoid "sugarcoating."

The committee, however, recommended that letter grades be made available to seventh and eight grade parents who request them.

450 Attend Banquet

A capacity crowd of more than 450 persons attended the annual Chamber of Commerce installation banquet here Thursday night, according to Manager Dick Fitzgerald.

All in attendance agreed that it was one of the finest chamber banquets served here in recent memory.

Woman Pilot Crashes

An Inglewood woman pilot and a male companion were seriously injured Friday night when the plane she was piloting crashed into a Torrance field north of Sepulveda Blvd. and west of Madrona Ave. Taken to Harbor General Hospital were Mrs. Donna Belle Brown, 35, and Cecil Springer, 29, of El Segundo. The pair suffered severe cuts and possible internal injuries.

Joyrider Crashes

Somebody apparently took his car for a joyride Friday, returning it yesterday morning with the side smashed in, William J. Rutz, 25005 Narbonne Ave., told sheriff's deputies.

Fire Damages Garage

Some damage to a garage at 2098 Middlebrook Rd. was apparently caused by a cigarette thrown in a wastebasket, Torrance firemen reported yesterday.

Girls Win Offices

It was ladies' day at Torrance High School Wednesday, as the girls walked off with 11 of the top 14 offices in the all-school elections. Two of three offices won by boys are traditional male strongholds.

Berta Rogan, however, burst into another male stronghold, becoming the first girl in anybody's memory to be named student body president, succeeding Don Kelley. Upholding male dignity was Victor Masaki, student body vice president.

Golf Team Unbeaten

Schwab said the meeting—designed to discuss problems facing Torrance and to endeavor to constructively plan to solve them—will start at 7:30 p.m. at the Torrance Elementary School, 2005 Martina Ave. The chairman emphasized that this is most certainly not a political meeting and no attempt will be made to emphasize any individual or group or to place any civic official "in the pan."

School Aide Chosen

Max M. Appley, an administrative assistant to the superintendent and high school principal in San Rafael, has been named as a curriculum consultant by the Torrance Unified School District.

Women Join Campaign

Torrance Women's Club members have enrolled as participants in the Sister Kenny Foundation's May fund raising drive it was announced today. Mrs. Norma K. Clausery, 1542 Post Ave. was appointed Sister Kenny chairman for the group.

Harvey Adds Press

Harvey Adds Press draught unit with side ramps. In operation at the Torrance plant, the newly installed press makes it possible for Harvey to produce complex aluminum shapes and parts or back-drafts.

Harvey Aluminum is now in full production on a forging press unparalleled in the aluminum industry—a 4000 ton hydraulic press.

Graduation Slated

Graduation ceremonies for graduates of Torrance elementary and high schools will be held on June 12 and 13. Some 1200 eighth graders will move on to high school, while about 450 students will get their high school diplomas.

Ardent Drake Trying To Win Stony-Hearted Lady

A mystery writer might call this story, "The Case of the Ardent Duck."

A couple of months ago, a passing mallard duck spotted a white duck statue in the yard of the Kenneth Millers home, 2426 W. 236th St.

It was love at a first sight and the duck stayed. His ardor leads him to a daily attempt to woo and win the statue, which remains non-committal about the whole thing.

As a result, the Millers and their three children—Ronald, 19; Larry, 15; and Dixie, 11—are getting a rare treat—the

view of a male mallard duck doing his mating dance. Nature experts report that this is a sight that humans rarely see.

"Punch and Judy" Since the statue is named "Judy," the Millers have called the new member of their household, "Punch."

The lack of Judy's ardor hasn't cooled off the passions of the green-crested "Punch," who daily performs his mating dance, consisting of violent gyrations of the neck, wild flapping of his wings, and cuddling up to the statue. His "kisses" have chipped the orange paint off the bill of the statue.

Although he could fly away any time, the duck chooses to stay to push his suit. The Millers have furnished him a pen and a plastic dishpan for bathing and very limited swimming. Only once has he flown out of the yard.

Attracts Attention

These antics have attracted the attention of a national magazine and Walt Disney Studios, which plans to take pictures of "Punch" and his stony-hearted sweetheart.

The Millers apparently have an affinity for unusual ducks. The statue, a pure white creation with orange bill and feet and black eyes, is a replica of Judy, a lady duck they owned several years ago. This bird gained some local fame by chasing pretty girls down the street.

"It was a funny thing," Mrs. Miller said. "Lots of girls would go by, but Judy only chased the pretty ones."

Anyway, the Millers had to get rid of Judy, but recently got the white statue to remind them of their lost pet.

He Liked Her

At this point, "Punch" entered the scene and apparently liked what he saw and has been a Miller pet for about two months.

"I first saw him when I woke up one morning. He was cuddled up close to the statue. Then, a little later, he started his dance. He was afraid of us at first, but now he is quite tame," Mrs. Miller reported.

"Punch" gets quite upset when the statue is moved or upset. When Miller took it into the house to repair a cracked leg, "Punch" was heartbroken and flew away, but when the statue was taken out in the yard again, he came back and has been happy ever since. When the statue is tipped over, the mallard does his best to right his stone girl friend, and quacks impatiently until she is upright again.

Takes Bath

Before he begins his mating dance, "Punch" gives himself a complete bath in a plastic dishpan. Mrs. Miller donated for him. Apparently, the bird feels that he must be at his best to win his lady love.

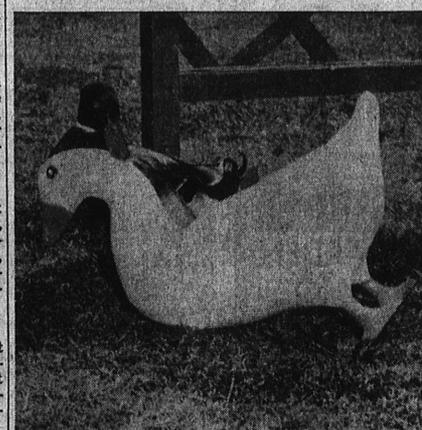
He apparently doesn't realize the fact, but she's his already.

U. S. Jobs Open Here

Information on U. S. Civil Service Commission examinations for several jobs, including engineering aid, cartographic draftsman, women correctional officers, and education assistants is available at the Torrance Post Office, according to Victorine Weback, U. S. Civil Service information representative there.



I LOVE YOU! . . . That's what Punch, a live mallard, is telling Judy, a statue at the home of the Kenneth Millers, 2426 W. 236th St. Several months ago Punch appeared at the Miller home, fell in love with the statue, and does a daily mating dance which seems to have little effect on the statue, but greatly interests humans, who rarely get to see the dance.



GET UP, JUDY! . . . Punch, the duck who fell in love with a statue of a duck, is upset because his lady friend, Judy, also is upset. The mallard duck is extremely protective of his stony sweetheart, and quacks loudly if she is moved from her spot in the garden.

Town Hall Meet to Air City Problems

Final plans are completed for the Town Hall Meeting to be held on Wednesday, according to program chairman Mervin Schwab of the Torrance Coordinating Council.

Schwab said the meeting—designed to discuss problems facing Torrance and to endeavor to constructively plan to solve them—will start at 7:30 p.m. at the Torrance Elementary School, 2005 Martina Ave. The chairman emphasized that this is most certainly not a political meeting and no attempt will be made to emphasize any individual or group or to place any civic official "in the pan."

Speaker Named

Guest speaker will be Dan G. Pursit, director of Delinquency Control Institute of the School of Public Administration of USC.

Pursit served as a probation officer for three years in Cleveland, Ohio. Following release from the U. S. Navy as a Lieutenant Commander in 1945 he joined the Delinquency Control Institute at the University of Southern California. His interests are primarily in the field of delinquency control including police juvenile work, social case work, probation, parole, and training schools.

He co-authored with John P. Kenney the book, "Police Work With Juveniles." He has contributed many articles for professional journals and has been a consultant to National Consultants on Youth Welfare.

The guest speaker is a member of International Association of Chiefs of Police, California Peace Officers Assn., National Association of Social Workers, National Probation and Parole Assn., and the

American Society for Public Administration.

Following a "buzz" session and the address, groups will enter discussion groups in five major areas—education, youth and community welfare, recreation and cultural activities, civic improvements, and health and safety.

Every organization has been asked to send at least four delegates to the session. Further information may be secured by calling the Torrance Chamber of Commerce.

'Learn-to-Swim' Classes Registration Set June 6

The Torrance Recreation Department will take registrations for its "learn-to-swim" program at the Torrance Municipal Plunge, 3331 Torrance Blvd., starting Thursday, June 6, according to Recreation Director Harry Van Bellehem. Registrations will be taken from 1 to 5 p.m. and 6 to 9 p.m. on Thursday and Friday, June 6 and 7, and on Saturday, June 8, from 9 to 5 p.m., if there are any sessions remaining open.

Parents who would like their children to take swimming lessons for a two-week period during the summer may register on those three days. Registrations will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis.

Beginning Swimmers Children should be a beginning swimmer or non-swimmer between 7 and 12 years old. He or she should be in good health, and at least 3 1/2 feet tall.

It is not necessary for parents to bring their children

when they register, Van Bellehem said, but parents should have the names and addresses of all children they wish to register and should be prepared to pay a \$2 pool service charge for each.

After registering and paying fees, parents will be issued cards entitling their child to attend classes during the two-week period for which he was registered. The director urged that the card be filled out immediately, so that it could be returned to the owner, if lost.

2160 Swimmers The swim class schedule will handle a minimum of 2160 beginning swimmers in the program, Van Bellehem said. Registration will be taken while classes are in session only if vacancies occur, he reported.

There will be no refunds. Mimeographed brochures are available in the Recreation Department office in the City Hall and at the cashier's desk at the pool. These give the swim schedule for the summer.

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, MAY 30, 1957

Seventeen



VISIT UCR CAMPUS . . . Connie Walton (right), 1955 graduate of Torrance High School now a sophomore on the University of California's Riverside campus, recently showed the new four-year college to four Torrance seniors (left to right), Bob Hinesley, Mary Wood, Donna Walker, and Joanne Minniear. Connie is majoring in social sciences at UCR and is active in the ski club, Glengarries' social organization, and the Canyon Crest residence association. Her father, Wilford E. Walter of 1415 Acacia Ave., is a graduate of the state-wide university's Berkeley campus.

Early-Day Resident Turns 89

Mrs. Phoebe Sykes celebrated her 89th active year last Saturday, and hopes to fly to England to celebrate her 90th in 1958.

The sprightly lady, who lives with her son, William, at 1521 Cota Ave., operated the first concession stand, carried the first mail, and was one of the first newspaper distributors in Torrance.

She celebrated her birthday by taking her weekly trip to an Acton ranch with her son, but was deluged with cards and well wishes at home. The weekly trips out of the crowded smoggy area have something to do with her long life, she believes.

Came Here in 1911

A native of England, Mrs. Sykes came to Torrance in 1911 with her son and husband, who died in 1912. She was a resident of Torrance before it was a city, and has lived in her present home since 1918, which may be a record.

Her husband operated a concession stand in a tent on the site of the present National Supply Co. in 1911, and after his death, Mrs. Sykes opened a stand in the old Pacific Electric Depot and operated it for about 10 years until the height of the Torrance oil boom in the Twenties.

"I sold it and bought a couple of acres of what I was told was good oil land. I thought I was going to be rich," she said. "I finally sold it later, making \$83 profit."

During her early years, she was acquainted with nearly everyone in town through her concession stand. She recalls the early plans to build a canal from Los Angeles Harbor to Torrance.

She recalls the sandstorms which used to sweep through the area before it was built up. Once, when she was carrying mail from Torrance to Lomita, it took her four hours to get there because of the heavy sand. Another time, her car got stuck in the sand and she had to walk over a mile-and-a-half.

As a girl in England, she had worked in the office where her father was postmaster and spent several years carrying mail here. Her husband had hoped to become the first postmaster of Torrance, but he died before the office was established.

Newspaper Distributor She also was distributor for several newspapers in the early years and used to get up at 3 a.m. to get the papers ready for delivery.

Nowadays, she takes life a little easier, although she still does most of her own housework and gardening. She and her son, head of the electrical department at Columbia Steel, have made several trips in recent years, visiting every state in the union and all but one province of Canada.

Last year, they went to Florida and flew to Havana to take in some of the night life, which Mrs. Sykes found quite interesting. She is hoping to go to

Bermuda this year, and for her 90th birthday wants to fly back to her native England. She flew there six years ago, and was interviewed by London papers who were impressed by her stamina.

Stopped Driving

An automobile driver since 1910, she only recently stopped, due to the heavy traffic on the streets. Officials told her that she could get her license renewed, but she has decided that she's done enough driving. She walks downtown and takes the bus to other places.

She likes to read detective stories, magazine and newspapers and plays both the organ and the piano. In her spare time, she knits and crochets. She became royal matron of the Torrance Amaranth Lodge at 78 and also belongs to the Rebekah Lodge.

Her name, Phoebe, means "shining light." "I have always tried to live up to my name," she declared. "I have tried to bring sunshine into people's lives and I hope I have succeeded."



HAPPY BIRTHDAY . . . Mrs. Phoebe Sykes, pioneer Torrance resident, looks over the flowers and some of the cards she received for her 89th birthday last Saturday. A resident of Torrance before it was a city, she hopes to fly to England for her 90th birthday.

Camino Board of Trustees Approves Building Plans

Final working drawings of new additions to the El Camino College campus were submitted and approved by the college's board of trustees at their regular semi-monthly meeting Tuesday evening, Carl G. Arfwedson, director of business, announced this week.

Buildings under study will be a new men's athletic building, which will be located north of the pools and will be connected with them by a tunnel, and a warehouse and maintenance shops, which will be constructed at the northwest corner of the campus.

The athletic facilities will include additional shower rooms; lockers and instructors' offices. Present physical education facilities were designed for and enrollment equal to approximately half of the present registration figures.

If approved, bids will go out next week with contracts awarded July 9. Construction

will then commence immediately.

To make way for the warehouse, the board has approved a plan to move the baseball field to a site north of the fieldhouse parallel to the Dominguez flood channel. This will enable more parking facilities to be provided in the area where the present field is located.

Also on the agenda in the future of El Camino is a preliminary drawing of the first portion of an applied arts building which will house cosmetology, power sewing, apparel design and vocational drafting. It is hoped that this project will be constructed before January, 1958.

Aided by the overwhelming acceptance of the recent El Camino tax continuation, the board also anticipates a large construction project during the second year of the tax appropriation.