



IDEA MAN . . . Larry Latulip, 324 E. Carson an employee of the Downtown Torrance Post Office, is pictured receiving a check for \$12.50 from Postmaster Clara Conners Tuesday. Latulip's idea for lighting the parking area and the loading dock stairs earned him the bonus through the Employees' Suggestion Program (Herald Photo)

Tips on Writing Fiction Passed on to Area Writers

"Fiction is a distillation of human experience," quoted Charlotte Armstrong, the award-winning author who was the recent guest speaker of The Southwest Manuscripters at Clark Stadium in Hermosa Beach.

The popular mystery writer of fifteen novels, two Broadway plays, TV plays and numerous stories published in the Saturday Evening Post, McCall's, Ellery Queen and other magazines, discussed some of the essentials for novel writing.

A NOVEL may belong to any

one of several categories. Besides the "straight novel" there is the comedy-mystery; suspense — (which is less a "whodunit" and more of "is he going to be able to do it?"); the travelogue — international spy hunts, etc.; and the realistic detective, courtroom, psychological, etc.

Most of these require a lot of research by the writer. All of them require long and detailed preparation. After the writer has equipped himself with the necessary "tools"—language, descriptive ability (neither reporting nor catalog-

ing, character study (including self-probing) and good dialogue, he is ready to start work.

SOME OF the essentials for a successful novel, according to Miss Armstrong, are:

1. You must have a strong plot and story structure.
2. The plot must be something that does not happen every day. Mystery novels need not contain a murder.
3. The writing must have quality.
4. "Good guys" must win—the

story must end in an upbeat. There is a trend toward changing the traditional "upbeat" but for the present it is still generally considered a "must".

"NEVER REWRITE for any man who doesn't have a check in his hand," is the credo Miss Armstrong follows when an editor returns a manuscript with suggestions for changes. She compared a writer's first draft to a sculptor's armature. As sculpting molds the mass covering the armature, so the

re-writing forms the final details of the story.

Manuscript sales were reported by Dorothy White — two articles, and Jean Aarberg — material for an article.

The next meeting of the Southwest Manuscripters on Dec. 16 will be a combination election of officers and Christmas party. Members will bring books to exchange at the Christmas tree. On the outside of each package is to be an original humorous verse containing a clue as to the book's identity. For further information call Lani Bolotin, secretary, FR 4-0605.

National Writers Club Accepts Local Member

Elnora Ball, 2521 W. Carson, has been accepted as an associate member of the National Writers Club whose home offices are in Denver, Colo. The organization, which serves freelance writers by informing, advising and aiding them professionally, was organized twenty years ago.

Memberships are awarded on the basis of serious effort on the part of the writer and adherence to the club's code of ethics.

Lomita Park Scores Well In Regatta

Alondra County Regional Park held its Annual Shingle Boat Regatta on Friday Nov. 25 at 12 noon. All the boats entered were made in various County Parks out of a single wooden roofing shingle and were propelled by sails.

The following County Parks entered boats in the Regatta in both the racing and workmanship judging. There were over 90 boats entered. First Place went to Lennox County Park with 44 points. Will Rogers County Park was second with 39 points, Lomita County Park, third-32 points; Scott County Park, fourth-17 points; Alondra County Park, fifth, 13 points, and Sportsman's County Park was sixth with eight points.

Local winners in different divisions all from Lomita Park are as follows: Jimmy Estes, 24003 Lomita Ave, best designed boat; Phil Irons, 2107 W. 237th St., and David Wheeler, 1743 W. 247th St., best decorated boats; Sydney Estes, 24023 Eshelman, Gary Gazley, 20 W. 244th St., Patsy Rico, 27 242nd St. and Mark O'Brian, 2344 W. 237th St., best decorated sails.

Winner for the best made boat was David Wheeler, 1743 247th St., who was also sweep-stake winner.

Lomita County Park winner in the third racing heat was Jimmy Estes and in the fourth racing heat, Susan Boyle, 24403 Helman.

State to Offer \$95 Million in School Bonds

Bert A. Betts, Treasurer of the State of California, today announced plans to offer for sale at public bid \$95,000,000 worth of state school building aid bonds on Jan. 11, 1961.

He stated that the credit of California is excellent and that the net interest cost at which the bonds will be sold should not be affected by the recent passage of a \$1,750,000,000 water bond issue. The first of these water bonds will not be sold until 1963 or later. In addition, Betts said the bonds will be sold over a period of approximately 20 years, "which will certainly not disrupt the bond market."

The sale of the \$95,000,000 School Building Aid bonds on January 11th is a continuation of Betts' policy of selling state bonds in varying amounts and at times when the bonds can be most readily absorbed.

This is the last of a \$220,000,000 school bond authorization approved by the voters in 1958. Betts said the money received from this sale will be used to continue California's excellent program of state assistance to local areas for construction of school buildings.



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RECEIVES AWARDS . . . Hal Trotillo, who with his wife operates Hair Styling By Hal-Madelyn, located in the Hollywood Riviera business district, poses with trophies he received at recent Paris Carnival of Beauty held in Los Angeles. Trotillo won the Grand Award that qualified him for the Master Stylist trophy.

(Herald Photo by Bill Brown)

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