

For a few minutes last week it appeared as if the Torrance City Council chamber was a stage and all those present, players.

Key figures in the cast of characters were Mayor Albert Isen and Councilman Willys Blount who, extemporaneously, came up with better dialogue than is heard on most TV programs.

But, let's do this right:

The Torrance City Council Presents— BOMB SCARE, or, POOF TO YOU A One Act Play, or Something by

Mayor Albert Isen and Councilman Willys Blount

directed by

Mayor Albert Isen and Councilman Willys Blount

starring

Mayor Albert Isen and Councilman Willys Blount

(Far be it from us to show favoritism)

The Scene: A near-empty council chamber, unfortunately. It's the day after New Year's. Torrance has just been chosen "All-America City" and has had an informal celebration. Highlights of the celebration which no one paid particular attention to was the setting off of a handful of "bombs" which exploded with the violent intensity of a pop-gun. It appears, however, that they were set off in the vicinity of Councilman Blount's home.

COUNCILMAN BLOUNT: I want to make a statement that I want thoroughly understood.

I deplore, and a number of my neighbors deplore, the fact that the mayor took upon himself the authority to shoot off a bunch of aerial bombs in the middle of a residential section, which just by the grace of God did not cause serious injury to some children—one of which was my own—and some adults.

I don't think that would have ever passed this City Council had we known where these bombs were to be fired from, and I don't like it and I want the record to show that I don't like it and that I think it's a deplorable state to deliberately expose people to that type of danger. That's all

I have.

MAYOR ISEN: Okay. Gentlemen, may I answer out of turn since this is particularly directed against me.

Number 1: The mayor did not take it on himself the authority to shoot off bombs, and I think I have verification...

COUNCILMAN BLOUNT: The location. I said the location.

MAYOR ISEN: No, the location. I think that...

COUNCILMAN BLOUNT: You did not authorize the location?

MAYOR ISEN: No sir, for your very...

COUNCILMAN BLOUNT: Well, I will make an apology providing you will get the Fire Chief to tell me you didn't.

MAYOR ISEN: Well, I think I'm honorable enough to say that, and I think the Fire Chief will corroborate it. I didn't choose the location.

FIRE CHIEF J. JAY BENNER: Well, Mr. Blount, the statement I made to you in regards to our mayor was: I could not get the owner of the location of the property where we had anticipated exploding these bombs. The man that exploded the bombs suggested that they be exploded in the Torrance park—rather, the El Prado park. I told that man I had no jurisdiction of granting that permission. About then, our mayor walked up, and I said 'Here is our mayor.' That is all I said. I did not say that the mayor said that they could be or could not explode them there, nor did I.

COUNCILMAN BLOUNT: That's good enough for me. Thank you. I don't withdraw any remarks.

MAYOR ISEN: All right, let's go on from there, then. These so-called bombs were of an intensity that they could be held in the hand, I am told, and lit, and all that would happen would be a blackening of the hand.

Secondly, they were of such an intensity that most of the people here at city hall didn't even hear them go off.

Thirdly, and this has been checked, the Police Department, the Fire Department, the switchboard here and the Chamber of Commerce received not a single complaint over

the telephone.

Fourthly, the hospital, I am advised, was phoned in advance that these would be shot off.

Fifthly, I don't know all these people on El Prado who have complaints.

COUNCILMAN BLOUNT: I'll get you a list... MAYOR ISEN: All right. At least, nobody has complained to me.

COUNCILMAN BLOUNT: They don't figure it would do much good. If a citizen would do the same thing he would be subject to arrest.

MAYOR ISEN: Secondly — or fifthly — we're about seventhly now — I will stand by the fact that the city was informed in a very safe and sane manner of the All America Award.

Next to last, I believe that there is nothing illegal here. A majority of the council ordered it, this would be tantamount to an amendment of the ordinance, because we are the legislative power here, and the ordinance could at any time be amended that such fireworks, or pyrotechnic display, or whatever you want to call it, could be on the Fourth of July or any other day approved by a majority of the council.

And lastly, I hope this is the end of the tempest in a teapot over this matter, and a fiasco which started that evening and carried itself through up to tonight.

That's all I have to say about it.

COUNCILMAN BLOUNT: Well I have this further to say—that when the matter was brought up, this council was led to believe that these so-called harmless fireworks you can't hear across the street would be shot at a safe place, namely, around the PE property. I would suggest that this 50 acres out here you gentlemen have under condemnation would be a far better place to shoot off any further displays.

MAYOR ISEN: It that all?

COUNCILMAN BLOUNT: Yes, that's all.

MAYOR ISEN: Mr. Drale?

COUNCILMAN BLOUNT: But if my boy had been hurt that wouldn't have been all, sir. I'll guarantee you that.

Curtain



THIS FUNNY GISMO IS ELVIS GISMO

Jon Edmonds, handling the controls, brought the motor and plans; Jimmy Bruner obtained the electrical equipment; instructor Roscoe Jackman was the guiding light, and Diana Smith was one of 30 members of the science club at Carr Elementary school who brought Elvis Gismo, the rock-n-roll robot, into being.—Press Photo.

YOU'RE NOTHIN' BUT A ROBOT, ELVIS GISMO

Evelyn Carr elementary school now boasts a refined version of Elvis Presley. He—or it—is Elvis Gismo, the mechanical man, who 'sings' "You're Nothin' But A Hound Dog"—but without the pelvic gyrations (and, with the aid of a record player).

But, lest anyone think Elvis Gismo is a poor substitute for the real McCoy, let it be known that the rock-n-roll robot has:

- 1) A warm heart that beats (a little red light keeps flashing on and off);
2) A handsome head and willing arms that move (courtesy of a wood drive shaft and motor);
3) Two romantic eyes that light up and keep staring, staring, staring into space;
4) The ability to make weighty decisions (a bell rings if it's "yes," a buzzer if it's "no");

Whatever shortcomings Elvis G. has in comparison with Elvis P. are undoubtedly compensated for by the fact that the reserved, reluctant robot's talents are endless.

They are limited only by the number of records that are available and can be played on the record player attached to The Gismo.

Elvis Gismo (alias, Rudy the Red-nosed Robot) was made by the 30 members of the school's Science club under the sponsorship of Roscoe Jackman, science teacher.

Youngsters found the plans in a magazine and then scoured the city for the right materials. The finished product is a composite of a five gallon lard can, a five gallon oil can, a five quart oil can, a peach can, a couple of drain pipes, a few pieces of wood, and, of course, the vital organs (display motor, electrical equipment)—all of it topped by a cocky scotch cap.

Electrical equipment was donated by James Bruner, father of one of the students.

The project, in addition to being lots of fun, proved highly instructive, Jackman said, since the students learned about direct circuits, blueprint reading, the importance of following directions, and creative and imaginative thinking.

While a number of improvements are still in the offing for Elvis, Jackman assured Torrance residents that there is no immediate threat that the Gismo's race will multiply and flourish and take over Torrance.

'Much Ado About Nothing' Opens at El Camino JC

El Camino College's mid-winter production, "Much Ado About Nothing," will open Thursday, January 10 at the College Campus theatre, 8:30 p.m.

Heading the large cast in the fast-moving Shakespearean comedy are Joyce Griffith and Tony Castano in the lead roles of Beatrice and Benedick. Also featured in strong supporting parts are Lou Magadonna as Claudio and Carole Peterson portraying Hero.

Establishing another first on the El Camino campus, the play will be staged in the same classic manner as Shakespeare wrote it with a fore-apron extending into the pit area for many of the scenes.

Theatre arts instructor David P. Shannon stressed the fact that only abstract scenery will be used since the importance of Shakespearean presentations are the lines and characterizations.

Costumes for the presentation will be designed and made at the college. In the past, all costumes, have been rented, but it is hoped that a costume wardrobe will be initiated with the current production.

Special lighting effects will also be utilized. Spotting and black-outs will be used in place of a house curtain for scene changes.

The cast includes James Engle, Ben Ybarra, Roland Short, Bob Goldsborough, Bob Raupp, Conrad Wiedman, Eugene Paslov, Irving Joseph, Charles Fox, Bruce Scott, Rolie Dimitron, Richard Cameron, Gary Diehl, Lucille Liberatore, Joan Kirkendall, Judy Hardisty, Penny Phillips, Noreen Azdavinis and Sandra Eddy.

Sandra Yates is student assistant to the director with Bonnie Flagg as stage manager. Other backstage help includes Sally Jensen, properties; Barbara Clark, costumes; Lucille Liberatore, choreography; and Sally Jensen, Rande Rash and Lou Magadonna, publicity. Kay Haga is in charge of sound and music.

The Theatre Arts Stage Crafts class is responsible for lighting and scenery for the play.

GP MACHINIST RETIRES HERE

W. N. Hiatt, 21502 S. Berendo st., retires this month from General Petroleum corporation.

Hiatt joined the company in 1945 and retires as a machinist helper for the engineering-maintenance department at General Petroleum's Torrance refinery.

He retires under General Petroleum's annuity plan.

MUSICAL TRYOUTS SCHEDULED

Preliminary auditions for "Wonderful Town," the annual spring musical at El Camino college, will be held Thursday, January 17, at 11 a.m. and Friday, January 18 at 7 p.m. Both sessions will be held in room 17 of the music building.

Several eligibility requirements have been set for the play which is based on the Broadway and Hollywood success "My Sister Eileen."

All students connected with the production must be registered in Theatre Arts 20abcd. Registration in the class will be confirmed by the instructors during the second week of classes.

No students may participate in more than four musicals. To participate in a musical performance, the student must also be enrolled in a minimum of two additional units of work at the college. Students seeking information concerning try-outs may contact the campus Music library staff.

The musical, one of the entertainment highlights of El Camino activities, will be presented during the spring semester.

Try-outs by all eligible college students are encouraged by the music faculty.



SECRETARY OF NAVY VISITS HERE

Secretary of the Navy Charles S. Thomas, third from right, tours the Torrance facility of Douglas Aircraft's El Segundo division, accompanied by Donald W. Douglas, Jr., vice president-military relations, second from right. J. D. Thomas, factory superintendent, extreme right, briefs Secretary Thomas on the operation of the F4D Sky-ray's final assembly line. Others from left: Rear Admiral D. L. McDonald, Air Warfare division, CNO; A. E. Raymond, vice president-engineering; Rear Admiral James S. Russell, chief of the Navy's Bureau of Aeronautics, and E. H. Heinemann, chief engineer of the El Segundo division.

NURSE WILL SPEAK AT PTA MEET

Miss Ruthita Shidler, school nurse, will speak at the January meeting of the 186th Street school P.T.A. Today, at 8 a.m. Her topic will be "Working Together For Better Health." There will also be a skit presented by the children of the Health Club.

The P.T.A. is sponsoring a class on "Know Your Los Angeles Schools," and is issuing an invitation to all interested parties to attend. The class will be held every Tuesday morning at 10 a.m. in the school auditorium, and will feature a prominent speaker on the phases of the Los Angeles School system. Baby sitting care is provided for the parents of small children. The meetings will last about an hour and a half and will continue for seven weeks.

The December meeting of the P.T.A. was so successful that many parents were unable to find seats in the school auditorium.

SCHOOL BUILDING TO BE DEDICATED JANUARY 8

Dedication of 223rd st. school's new building will be January 8, it was announced, by Principal Mrs. Elizabeth Danky.

Los Angeles City School system officials, and civic dignitaries have been invited to participate in the 7:30 p.m. ceremony at the school, 1123 W. 223rd st.

Among officials expected to attend are Mrs. Edith K. Stafford, board of education president; Mrs. Georgiana Hardy, Mrs. Ruth C. Cole and Dr. Hugh C. Willett, members of Los Angeles City Board of Education. Superintendent Ellis A. Jarvis, Deputy Superintendent Dr. Louise W. Seyler, Business Manager Schuyler C. Joyner, and Assistant Superintendent Mrs. Grace M. Dreier, in charge of the south elementary district.

Hostessing will be the school personnel, and the Halldale mothersingers will entertain. Mrs. David P. Goolsby, 223rd St. P.T.A. president, will preside and welcome persons attending the ceremony.

As Community Chest volunteer budget committeemen, including Harbor representatives, face the realities of allocating campaign-collected funds to Chest dependent agencies, City Chairman Richard S. Pyle pointed to a quota yet unmet in Torrance.

"We feel sure that many, not yet contacted and now made aware of a missing \$548 chest quota, will want to add a sizeable sum to take up the slack and boost us over goal. None of us would want one child to be turned away from the services our Red Feather dollars assure."

Now that he is retired, he spends his time collecting, arranging and rearranging various rocks, shells and fossils in his beautiful rock garden lathe house and flower beds at his home, 2074 Lincoln ave.

His outside rock garden, which extends the length of the house, is attractively landscaped and filled with huge, smoke colored slag pieces, rocks with colorful flecks of gold, lead, crystal, and copper, clear, turquoise boulders, too large to lift; sandstone and quartz. He has even combined rocks, shells and cement to make interesting composites and bird baths.

In the midst of the garden is a miniature bridge, under which water flowed at one time into a small pond. Situated near the bridge is a brightly painted cement man, made by Murphy, about four feet tall, with a head obtained in Mexico.

Rare Plants At the rear is an extensive lathe house which he constructed by using large, cement lamp posts for the supports. Besides a beautiful collection of unusual rocks, abalone shells and other seashells, there are many hanging boxes of rare plants in and around the lathe house — an eight year old cactus, dainty ferns; butterfly geraniums, fuchsia plants and a coveted bird of paradise in full bloom.

Next to the lathe house is a glass house which he built with stained glass windows. The shelves inside are filled with abstract rock shapes and driftwood and other irregular geological formations.



WON'T BUDGE

F. W. Murphy, 2074 Lincoln ave., finds rearranging the "furniture" in his lathe house a difficult task. In the background (left) is a display of colorful sea shells and in the back (center) is one of his prized possessions—a cement slab salvaged from the Redondo high school structure after the earthquake in 1941.—Press Photo.

Trio Odd Fellow Lodge Installs Officers January 2

Trio Odd Fellow lodge No. 495 installed 1957 officers on January 2, at the Torrance Masonic temple, 2336 Cabrillo ave.

Charles Merryman assumed the duties as Noble Grand, and his fellow officers are: Forest Perkins, junior past noble grand; George Jennings, vice-grand; Andrew Branagh, recording financial secretary; and Lester Walling, treasurer.

The following officers were escorted to their places by Rebekahs from Torrance Rebekah lodge No. 347: escort to Noble Grand, Irma Powers; escort to vice-grand, Alice Jennings; escort to secretary, Fronia Branagh; escort to treasurer, Dorothy Rogers.

Appointive officers installed were: George Robeson, warden; Buster Brandon, conductor; Edward Collins, chaplain; Ernest Littrell, right scene supporter; Delbert Bench, left scene supporter; Ray Ferrin, right supporter to the noble grand; LeRoy Snow, left supporter to the noble grand; Warren Powers, right supporter to the vice-grand; Arthur Caryl, left supporter to the vice-grand; Henry Weaver, inside guardian; and Gerald Ralyea, outside guardian.

The District Deputy Grand Master, John Weist, and the installing staff were from the Compton Odd Fellow lodge.

Honored guest of the evening was Mrs. Gertrude Chandler, Marshal of the Rebekah Assembly of California.

Following the installation a social hour was held in the dining room with Mrs. Irma Powers and committee hosting.

Weber Will Lead Pledge Of Allegiance

C. N. Weber, well-known former Torrance resident and adjutant of the California Department of the Disabled American Veterans, will lead the pledge of allegiance to open the January 15 meeting of the board of supervisors, it was announced this week by Supervisor Kenneth Hahn.

ROCK, SHELLS, FOSSILS,

Hobbyist, Collector Has Many Unusual Displays

There are many hobbyists in the world. Some collect rocks and minerals, others collect fossils, others grow unusual plants, still others collect sea shells and unusual geological formations.

But, F. W. Murphy, fits into all of these categories. He's what might be termed a "collector's collector."

Rocks, Shells Now that he is retired, he spends his time collecting, arranging and rearranging various rocks, shells and fossils in his beautiful rock garden lathe house and flower beds at his home, 2074 Lincoln ave.

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