

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, JUNE 19, 1952

Thirteen



BY JACK O. BALDWIN

I have attended two eighth grade graduations. My son's last week, and mine own — back in . . . we can skip that.

I had forgotten what it was like to attend such a solemn . . . Of course, that first one I attended. I was seeing through different eyes than those through which I saw the Torrance High elementary exercises last Thursday night.

Down the aisle came the boys and girls. Side by side. There were more girls than boys and towards the end of the procession the girls were walking side by side. The boys trying desperately to master the complicated little skip step and making a vain but not too successful effort to keep time to the professional.

It was all very solemn and I shared the obvious embarrassment of one of the boy graduates. All was very still in the auditorium as the procession of graduates came down the aisle. Then a proud little boy of about four years, spied his brother and with unsophisticated glee shouted.

"Mommie, there's Jimmy. Hi, Jimmy. Here we are."

Everyone understood, except Jimmy who turned the color of Mr. Morton's red carnation. Later a baby got hungry and mother had to take it up the side aisle patting it on the back and saying, "Shush, baby."

Mr. Morton, the principal, said goodbye to the class and Mr. John Steinbaugh, the high school principal, welcomed a new batch of undergraduates.

Then Dr. Rollin Smith, one of the Board of Education members awarded the diplomas. Each student's name was called out and a round of hand clapping followed each call. A camera-minded Dad stood up and from half way back in the auditorium fired a flash bulb as his daughter took her diploma. Everyone said, "Oooh, quite a surprise" like as they always do and then turned back to watch the awarding of the diplomas.

The audience clapped nicely for the Audio Visual Club, and for the boys who attended to the sports equipment, and for a lot of other groups who had helped the school.

Then a boy wearing a loud sports shirt read the Lord's Prayer — while the audience bowed their heads in respect.

And finally the end of the ceremony came and the graduates, now full-fledged high school students and proud of it, strode back up the aisle. The boys stomped up the incline in great boyish strides while the girls, many wearing their first long party dresses, tried to keep up with the boys and still maintain their lady-like demeanor.

Outside I heard one mother tell her son, "Tommy, for heavens sake. Tie your shoes." "I haven't had time, Mom. I loaned them to Freddie 'cause he had on metal heel taps and was 'mbarrassed to walk across the stage on account' he'd make so much noise."

We'd like to toss into the laps of those who helped with the High School all-night party following graduation a nice bouquet of roses.

The night went off without serious incident.

Most important; there were no accidents such as the one that claimed the lives of five Long Beach youths five years ago.

So long as the kids at the party behaved like ladies and gentlemen, as they should and did, the many chaperons let it be "their party."

They danced until the wee hours at the Hollywood Riviera Beach Club. After dancing there followed a full-length motion picture and for those who preferred to take a dip in the Club's pool, a crew of volunteer life guards came on duty about 3 a.m. and watched over the swimming party. It broke up about 6 a.m. following breakfast.

Two girls, whose boy friends insisted they do a little celebrating before the dance, arrived in quite a gay mood. Home they went. Pleas and tears from the



COSTUMED CUTIES . . . Winners of the 1950 Huck Finn Day contest at Alondra Park are shown here as they lined up after the judging for the Herald photographer. It will take costumes at least this good to win Saturday's medals.

Annual Huck Finn Contests Scheduled

All the Huck Finns and Becky Thatchers will be out in force at Alondra Park Saturday for the annual Huck Finn Day celebration at the park.

Each spring thousands of boys and girls don their Huck and Becky costumes and parade up to have a shot at the perpetual trophies donated by the eight major Southland rod and gun clubs. The winners receive medals and have their names inscribed on the huge perpetual trophies.

This year there will be two main divisions in the annual affair, according to Nancy Johnson, supervisor at the park.

Children under 10 years of age and children from 11 to 15 will compete in different groups, Miss Johnson said. In each of these divisions children will compete for the best Huck Finn costume, best Becky Thatcher costume, largest bass and the largest bluegill caught.

Special Awards Set In addition to the above awards there will be special ones for the youngest child in costume as Becky Thatcher, the smallest fish caught, and for the first limit catch.

Only children 15 and under may participate in the event. Contestants must furnish their own poles and hooks, but Lycut bait will be furnished by Bill Sperry.

Fishing for the contest will begin at 9:30 a.m. Saturday.

Judging Time Set Judging of the Becky and Huck costumes will be started

girls who begged, "Oh, you can't send us away from our party. We're sorry," brought this answer (perhaps a warning to future classes) "You were warned."

Another youth tried to pass contraband merchandise through the men's rest room window to a confederate on the inside. A teacher who must have had these windows wired for radar it nipped the little plot in the bud.

No one made a side trip to the hospital or the morgue. Everyone agreed it was a good party and wished they could do it again next year. But that privilege is for the new seniors at Torrance High.

This verbal corsage goes to those many, many PTA women who, without children in the class, to the teachers, and school administrators who contributed unselfishly of their time, efforts, and their sleep to make the all-night high school after graduation party the success that it was.

Finch Released From Marines

Lieutenant Robert H. Finch, Inglewood attorney and Republican nominee for Congress from the 17th District, was released from active duty with the United States Marine Corps June 13, the Commanding General of the Training and Replacement Command at Camp Joseph H. Pendleton in Ocean-side announced this week.

Finch, who has been assigned to the 2nd Infantry Training Regiment, was recalled to active duty in April, 1951 and has been stationed at Quantico, Va., and Camp Barrett, Va., in addition to Camp Pendleton during his 14-month tour of duty. Finch had previously put in three years in the Marine Corps during World War II, rising from the ranks to win a commission.



AWARD WINNERS . . . Jo Ann Benard, left, and Sylvia Harper were named Best Directors for the year at the annual THS Drama Club and Thespians banquet recently. Here they receive trophies from Desmond Wedberg, drama instructor. Miss Benard also was voted Best Thespians.

THS Thespians Receive Awards At EC Nabquet

Torrance High School Drama Club and Thespians, Troupe 1133, held their second annual awards banquet at El Camino Campus Center recently. The evening's agenda included the initiation ceremony of new members, the one act play, "Common Clay," and musical arrangements by Buddy Powers, Ann Flanagan, Patty Dunmyer, and Richard Uglund. Pictures were also shown of year's productions.

Climaxing the evening was the awarding of trophies and plaques to some of the outstanding drama, speech, and music students. Those receiving awards were: Best Thespians, Jo Ann Benard; Outstanding Actress, Marian McDonald; Outstanding Actor, Dwight Hanna; Producer, Jim Crain and Dwight Hanna; Director, Jo Ann Benard and Sylvia Harper; Technical Director, Bob Hubbard;

Stage Craftsman, Hilma Jalo; Supporting Actress, Ann Stephens; Supporting Actor, Richard Uglund and Dan Rohrdanz; Character Portrayal, Nancy Miller; Most Improved Actress, Janet Williamson; Musical Artist, Buddy Powers; Variety Artist, Richard Uglund; Stage Technician, Bill Volmerding; Most Cooperative Thespians, Donna Latture; Best Public Speaker, Roger Wright.

Fare to Gardena Blvd. will be 15 cents.

Hundreds Fete Beginning of HC Bus Service

Hundreds of well-wishers turned out Sunday morning at a gala celebration marking the start of bus service between Harbor City, Gardena and South Los Angeles. The "wishers" hoped that the service this time will remain in operation.

Sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, the event kicked off the first day of bus service by the Gardena Municipal Bus Lines. A caravan of cars toured the route to be followed by the passenger-carrying vehicles.

Officials Preside A group of local officials, including Councilman John S. Gibson; C. E. King, Chamber president; Mrs. Frances Hencel, who headed the civic group's battle to get the buses rolling and Al Drew, member of the Public Utilities Commission of Los Angeles.

Traveling along Western Ave., buses will go southward as far as Pacific Coast Hwy. and northward to Imperial Blvd. Buses on Normandie Ave. will travel between the highway and Gardena Blvd.

Fare to Gardena Blvd. will be 15 cents.

Where's the Fire?

Torrance fire department responded to the following calls this week:

SUNDAY 1:30 p.m., 2026 W. 236th St., grass fire.

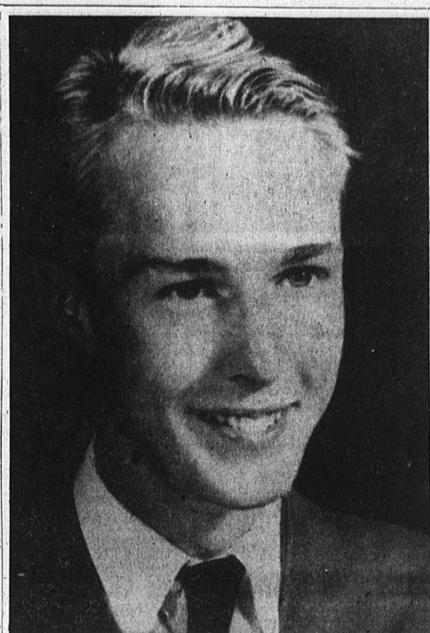
5:22 p.m., Walteria fire station, next door, re-susceptor.

MONDAY 8:28 a.m., Naval Supply Depot, box alarm, no damage.

1:24 p.m., 2300 Jefferson Ave., grass fire.

2:14 p.m., 1819 Torrance Blvd., grass fire.

TUESDAY No calls.



(Photo Arts Studio)

WILLIAM R. WILCOX . . . Another Scholarship

Outstanding Senior Gets Another Award

William R. Wilcox, of 2824 Carson St., who was graduated from Torrance High School last week, received notification of another honor this week.

The THS grad, who walked off with a \$50 Lions Club scholarship, a \$200 National Supply Co. Management Club scholarship, and a \$500 Zone "A" National Association of Foremen scholarship, was notified this week that he has been awarded a scholarship grant by the George Henry Mayr Foundation at the University of Southern California.

Announcement of the SC scholarship was made Tuesday by Dr. Bernard L. Hyink, dean of students at the university.

Award of the university scholarship to Wilcox was made because of his "outstanding scholastic record and leadership ability," Dean Hyink said.

Wilcox was awarded the National Supply Management Club scholarship on the basis of an essay on the subject, "How Further Education Will Increase My Opportunities in Industry," according to Todd Gardner, scholarship chairman of the club.

The Zone "A" scholarship of \$500 was made in competition with 36 clubs in the Los Angeles-San Diego area. Wilcox plans to become a chemical engineer.

Reported improving yesterday following surgery at Torrance Memorial Hospital Tuesday night was 44-year-old Denzil Warner, 3560 W. 203rd St., who was injured while at work at the Mayfair Creamery here Tuesday morning.

Warner was injured when parts of a cream separator struck him about the face and head as he started to dismantle it.

He was rushed to the hospital by F&M ambulance, where his condition was reported as serious.



SMOKY, SMELLY RUINS . . . A grass fire spread into a tire shop at 4121 Redondo Beach Blvd. late Saturday evening doing damage estimated at \$2000 to a building and a supply of newly recapped tires. County firemen from two engine companies, fought flames for 30 minutes before snuffing out the thick, choking smoke which rolled high into the sky. Joseph Richmond, 62, was listed as owner.



CHANGE OF COMMAND . . . Capt. George E. Duffy, left, commander of the Naval Supply Depot, shakes hands with his relief, Cdr. D. T. Rohde, at ceremonies held before employees of the Naval Depot recently.