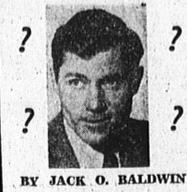


TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, JUNE 26, 1952

Eleven



BY JACK O. BALDWIN

While breaking bread and gnawing on fried chicken at a Junior Chamber of Commerce installation the other night we sat opposite what a national magazine in a recent article labeled as a gangster. Actually he looked more like a music critic or a juke box operator—which is just exactly what he was.

The young man was Leon Flynn and sitting next to him was his pretty wife who shares her husband's enthusiasm for operating a string of juke boxes as a means of making a living.

Under the "things-I-never-knew-'till-now" department concerning juke boxes were these tidbits we gleaned in talking to our real-life "gangster."

A new 45 r.p.m. record player costs about \$1200—without records. At a nickel per record the machine has to play 24,000 times before Flynn starts to break even. Those counter selectors that allow a music lover to drop his nickel, dime or quarter into the machine without leaving his seat cost another \$100 each. He has several installations costing \$2000. Some run as high as \$3,000.

"How about putting on a blank record for people who would like three minutes of silence," we asked him.

"Needles cost too much. About \$3 a piece to be exact," avers Flynn.

For music fans who have home record players Flynn recommends a sapphire needle as the best.

"The darn thing is almost human," says Flynn about the slug detectors on his "groan boxes." Here's what happens when a music lover who has larceny in his soul drops a nickel in the nickelodeon.

"First," says Flynn, "it is weighed. Then it is measured—twice. Once for diameter and once for thickness. Then it is tested to see if it will magnetize. And finally a gadget tries to poke a hole through it. If there is a hole—no music. In fact if the coin flunks any one of the tests—silence. Actually the machine wins the argument because it hangs onto the slug and takes it out of circulation."

"We have to be music critics in this business and pretty good ones if we want the income to exceed the outgo," says Mrs. Flynn.

"We have to be ahead of the hit parade in selecting records for our machines. If we wait until they make the hit parade the records are on the way out as far as popularity is concerned."

A juke box operator with a tin ear is headed for "treble." "For instance," says Mrs. Flynn as she does a bit of mental arithmetic with the aid of her fingers, "if we decide to put a certain piece on our machines we have to purchase about 45 records. At 80 cents a record that amounts to \$36. If we make, say three, bad choices, we've lost a hundred bucks quicker than you can at Hollywood Park."

The trend in music is toward instrumentals, according to the Flynn's.

"How about these westerns, especially these vocalists who are under the impression that their noses were meant to sing through?"

Together the Flynn's in chirped with:

"Definitely on the decline. Of course we'd sure like to catch another one like 'Ghost Riders.'"

Among the records earning their board and room are:

"If You Loved Me," and "Blue Tango."

We asked him what gives with this gangster angle.

Well, according to C... 's magazine—we operators are a bunch of gangsters and the juke box business is run by racketeers. Great balls of fire, we run music boxes, not one-armed bandits," said the perturbed Mr. Flynn.

We had to admit that he didn't look much like a gun-toting gangster. Although wedged quite a bulge under his seat when he got up to dance. This, we later discovered, turned out to be his wallet. And it wasn't stuffed with nickels!



ENDS HALF CENTURY . . . Honored after completing half a century as a machinist last Friday was William Ogg, shown here with Mrs. Ogg and a Highland dancer, Janet Calderwood. Ogg, a Scotsman, is wearing his Irish 'Kilties' presented by Cal-Metal President Jerry Revell. Those are one-dollar bills.

Machinist Gets Irish 'Kilties' After 50 Years

Scotsman William Ogg celebrated his 50th anniversary as a machinist last Saturday by trying on a pair of Irish "kilties."

A machinist at the Cal-Metal Corp. plant at 1157 W. Maple St., Ogg was met at the gate by his fellow employees, a bagpipe band, and Mrs. Ogg as he left the plant Friday evening.

There he was presented with a set of over-sized callipers autographed by everyone in the plant, a plaque made up of 50 "Buffalo" nickels glued to a disc of wood, a bottle of Scotch, and the Irish "kilties." The kilts were made of 50 one-dollar bills fastened to a belt to hang grass-skirt fashion around the machinist's waist.

Receiving a huge bouquet of yellow roses was Mrs. Ogg, who had arrived from the couple's Wilmington home by cab just as the bagpipes moaned into action.

Ogg began his career as a machinist at the Fairfield Shipyards in Glasgow, Scotland, on June 21, 1902. He has been with Cal-Metal for more than six years, he said.

Overseeing the ceremonies was Jerry Revell, president of the firm.



NICE NUMBER . . . Pretty Jean Wren, secretary at the Torrance Fire Department, gets a word of advice from Fire Chief J. J. Benner. To call the Torrance Fire Department, ask the operator for Torrance 3126—and accept no substitutes, Chief Benner urges. Residents in areas served by Frontier or Menlo phones, living in Torrance, should dial 116 and tell the operator, Benner says.

Brice Geisert Receives Marine Combat Award

Lt. Brice E. Geisert, a public accountant at the Columbia Steel Co. here, was honored last week by the Marine Corps with a Bronze Star and Letter of Commendation with a combat "V" for his heroic achievements against the enemy in Korea.

Receiving the Bronze Star last week from Col. James O. Brauer, director of the 11th Marine Corps Reserve District, Lt. Geisert was commended for his heroic action while acting as Company Commander in the First Battalion First Marines, in exposing himself under

fire. Lt. Geisert saved the lives of many of his fellow comrades." Colonel Brauer commented. The action took place while his unit was fighting against numerically superior forces that had his unit surrounded near the Hwachon Reservoir.

The Letter of Commendation with the combat "V" was awarded the lieutenant for his outstanding performance in supplying ammunition and supplies against the enemy in Korea. Lt. Geisert lives at 1694 Vermont Ave.

How's Your Memory?

Here Is A Number Worth Remembering

If you are an average person, it's a heck of a job to remember phone numbers, especially those which are called only once a month or so.

But if you're real smart, you'll take a tip from Torrance Fire Chief J. J. Benner. Have a department handy; in fact, write it on a piece of paper and tape it to your telephone.

A minute or two delay in getting a phone connection through to the CORRECT fire department can cost a life or result in hundreds of dollars worth of property damage if you have a fire, Chief Benner says.

Because much of the Torrance city area is served by telephones not in the Torrance exchange, it is doubly important that you, and your kids, know how to call the fire fighters, the chief urges. If you live in the city of Torrance, and have a Torrance phone number, ask the operator for "3126" if you want to report a fire, or need information from the department.

If you have a Frontier or Menlo phone, dial 116 and tell the operator you want "Torrance 3126" or tell her you want the Torrance Fire Department. Residents of Lomita should also familiarize themselves with the number of their local County Fire Station, Lomita 263.

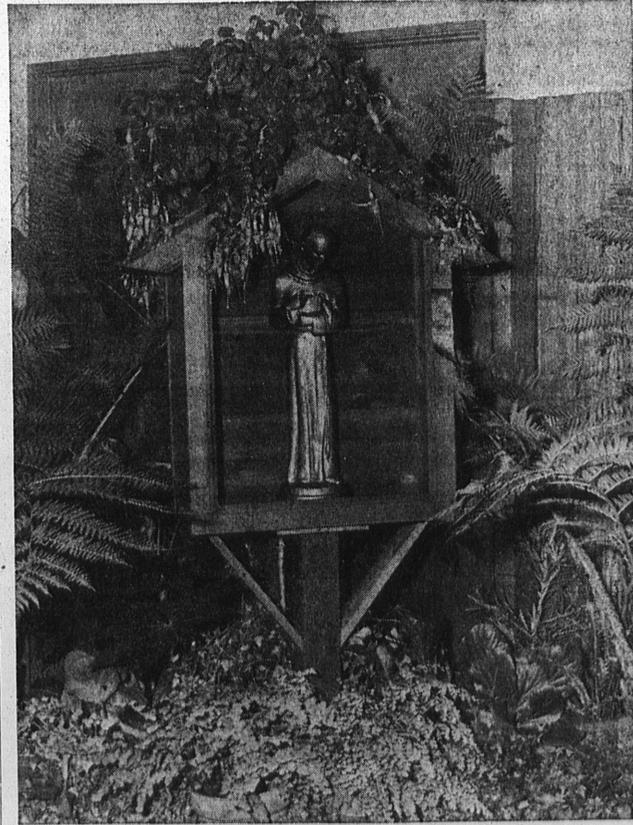
In the Keystone area, the number to call to bring firemen on the run is Terminal 43281. Householders in the Shoostring Strip and Harbor City should ask operator for Terminal 2-4241, the Los Angeles Fire Department.

Chief Benner said that the Torrance 3126 number rings in the headquarters station dispatch board, from which ALL fire equipment to Torrance, Waverly, North Torrance and Hollywood Riviera-Seaside is then dispatched.

Sewer District Area Changed by Supervisors

Vermont Avenue Sewer District—originally from 23rd to Ocean—will be enlarged to take in the area from 23rd Street as far as Ocean. Supervisor Raymond V. Darby announced Tuesday.

The Board of Supervisors approved revision of the District on receipt of a supplemental petition including the additional area.



WINNING DISPLAY . . . Central figure of the winning Torrance Terrace Garden Club display which topped the Torrance Art, Flower and Hobby Show and the Lomita Flower Show last week-end is shown here. The display was set up in a redwood enclosure and contained fuchsias, fern, tropical plantings, and potted specimens nestled in a rock garden over which spilled quantities of baby tears.

Firefighters Stage Dance To Help Association Funds

"Why not come to our dance; we always come to your fires!" With this thought in mind, members of the Torrance Fire Department are staging a real-isms piece band, complete with a pipe band, Gordon Northington and his Fire House Crew, at the American Legion Hall Saturday night. Starting promptly at 8:30 p.m., the dance will provide a

Where's the Fire?

Torrance Fire Department responded to the following calls: SUNDAY 3:35 a.m., 2370 Torrance Blvd., garage fire, \$2500 damage.

MONDAY 12:16 p.m., Newton and Adolph Sts., grass fire. 12:39 p.m., 4405 Emerald Ave., resuscitator.

TUESDAY No calls.

WEDNESDAY 1:03 p.m., 4473 Del Amo, grass fire. 1:10 p.m., Maple and Carson Sts., grass fire.



RECEIVES HONORS . . . Lt. Brice E. Geisert, right, receives the congratulations of Col. James O. Brauer, director of the 11th Marine Corps Reserve District on receiving the Bronze Star and Letter of Commendation with a combat "V" device.