

Board to Probe Initiation Rites Of Varsity Club

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facilitate the cleaning up of the vomit.

Unsigned Letter
The letter bore no other signature other than this note:

"No signature — otherwise an innocent boy would be subjected to more indignities by the members of the Varsity Club."

Dr. Hull summoned to his office Bruce Magner, principal of Torrance High School; Coach Graybehl, advisor of the Varsity Club; Charles Bingham, past president of the Varsity Club and the student-in-charge of the initiation. In attendance also were members of the press. Dr. Hull questioned Magner, Graybehl and Bingham regarding the initiation of the 14 athletes into the Letterman's society.

Bingham denied the truth of some of the statements and admitted that some of the charges were correct "per se" but that they did not correctly reflect what actually happened.

No Itching Powder
He and Coach Graybehl both denied that any itching powder had been used.

"One youth," said the coach of the varsity football team, "went to get a towel for one of the pledges. Unknown to myself and the others he smeared some analgesic balm onto the towel and handed it to the boy taking a shower. I can presume that this can be construed as an 'itching powder' or similar irritant. No itching powder as such, was used."

Bingham, who was present for the major portion of the initiation, said he was unaware that any adhesive tape was being used in a painful manner or on sensitive portions of the body.

Would Do It Again
"We talked it over after this deal came up," Bingham told the reporters and superintendent, "and not one of the boys initiated said they would mind going through the initiation again."

Both Graybehl and Bingham denied any knowledge of "black quick-drying cement" being used on the boys in such a manner as to cause any pain.

Principal Magner stated that on the morning of the "atrocities" it was called to his attention that some of the boys had been made to swallow Ex-Lax tablets before school began and that he called the boys to the office and told them to "knock it off." He said he also instructed them that initiation rituals would not be allowed during school hours.

Pals
Coach Graybehl stated that the rituals were performed from approximately 4 p.m. until 5:30 p.m., after which the boys all shook hands and went home feeling like "pals."

The boys received two swats during the rite, according to the athletic coach. "In view of the fact that one swat can cause a black and blue mark it might be said that the boys were paddled, until they were black and blue," but there was no prolonged or malicious beatings as the author of the letter would indicate," Graybehl stated.

Graybehl admitted that the Varsity Club members did pour oil on the pledges and that they were covered with shavings from the high jump pit in a mock tar and feathering ceremony, but were allowed and encouraged to take showers immediately.

'I Bought It!'
"As for being forced to eat 'various concoctions of nauseating mixtures,' it was being bought by myself. There was nothing I or you gentlemen would refuse to eat this minute," student leader Bingham said. "If the guys didn't want to swallow it they could spit it out. I suppose that was what the guy thought was vomit. And it wasn't thrown in anybody's face. They simply spit it out and it was washed down the shower drain," explained Bingham.

Principal Magner produced a memorandum written to the athletic coaches directing them to inform the vice-principal of the plan of initiation rites which any organization, and particularly the Varsity Club, intended to carry out. Magner said he wrote the memorandum to the coaches after learning that some of the boys have been instructed to swallow laxative tablets.

Swapped Swats
Coach Graybehl said the entire initiation ended on a note of fraternalism. "Each pledge was brought into a room with all the members. He was told that the members were well aware of the fact that one member of the club probably had been tougher on him than any other member. He was invited to give that 'tough guy' one swat. This tended to control the regular members from getting out of hand because they knew that they themselves would get a swat if they got too tough. After the pledge gave the member a swat he in turn



RING OUT, WILD BELLS . . . Switchman Bill Lowe makes a check of brush on ringing machine in the Torrance telephone office. This machine also makes the dial tone, busy signal, and various other tones heard on your telephone. The ringer is busy buzzing FAIRfax telephone bells this week after the big switch from operators to dial, completed at 12:03.10 Sunday morning.

got one himself for swatting a member but what he didn't realize until the paddle actually hit was that there was a pillow between him and the paddle. "Everybody shook hands and went away buddies," Graybehl claims.
Meanwhile, Dr. Hull has put the 45 members of the Varsity Club on probation for one year. The club is composed of boys who have earned a school letter as a member of one of its varsity athletic teams and has been an on-campus organization since 1929.

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Phone Switch

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average of 20,000 per day there. As a result of the switch, 865 new telephones went into operation in the Torrance exchange. These phones had been installed prior to the cutover, but could not be used until the dial system was inaugurated.

Two hundred and sixty five telephones are still not in service, but will be within two or three weeks, as soon as certain cable rearrangements are completed.

Manager Richard S. Pyle thanks all telephone subscribers for their cooperation in making the dial conversion a success, and said: "Torrance telephone users now have dial telephone service of the most up-to-date type. The dial conversion program has been a huge project. Local telephone subscribers have been particularly cooperative in making the program a success and we are very appreciative."

Nab Ex-Con

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they came any closer. The patrolmen, radiated for reinforcements and then began to spray the underbrush with their Thompson sub-machine guns in an attempt to flush Falls out.

Reinforcements arrived, along with a wrecking truck, which was driven back and forth through the brush until Falls was forced from hiding.

Falls has been identified by two truck drivers as the man who sideloaded their vehicle in the stolen car. The ex-convict denied both car thefts, and said that he did not pull a gun on the highway patrolmen, and did not threaten them.

Falls had been staying in Torrance with his brother on W. 225th St., police said.

Two articles of brand new clothing, still in their boxes, were missing from Kaseno's car when it was found in Van Nuys, police stated, and Falls' possessions and the car stolen in Van Nuys are both being searched for this clothing.

The proximity of the Kaseno car to the place from which the Van Nuys car was stolen, led police to believe that the suspect might be responsible for both thefts.

taken to Harbor General Hospital early Monday morning by a friend. According to police reports, she slashed her left wrist and took rat poison containing arsenic and cyanide.

The woman, Frances Ortega, 28, of 2212 W. 203rd St., was

Columbia Steel Promotes Price

Appointment of Charles F. B. Price Jr. as sales engineer for Wire Rope Products of the Columbia-Geneva Steel Division, United States Steel Corporation, was announced this week by Joseph N. Kemple, manager of wire rope and electrical wire sales.

In his new capacity, Mr. Price will be responsible for furnishing technical sales engineering assistance to the various sales district offices and customers throughout Columbia-Geneva sales territory.

Mr. Price received his engineering degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1936. From then until 1938 he was successively employed at Bethlehem Steel Corporation, Anaconda Copper Company and Climax Molybdenum Corporation in various engineering capacities.

In 1938 he joined the wire and wire rope division of Jones and Laughlin Steel Corporation, where he held the positions of Supervisor-Engineering, Sales Engineer and Acting Chief Engineer. During World War II he served in the Engineers Corps in the United States Army as Lt. Colonel. In 1947 he joined the Pittsburgh, Calif. plant of Columbia-Geneva as Wire Rope Engineer.

Reunion Picnics Slated by States

A whole bunch of states have scheduled reunion picnics for all of their former residents now living in Southern California, during the first part of June, on Saturday, June 6th, former residents of Arkansas, Kentucky and Tennessee are invited to attend an all-day joint reunion at Sycamore Grove Park in Los Angeles. Coffee will be served, and everyone will be given a badge.

The South Atlantic and Gulf States picnic is slated for Saturday, June 18, also at Sycamore Grove. Former inhabitants of the states of Maryland, Virginia, North and South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana are invited to this all-day affair.

The program will begin at 2 p.m., and Garfield Bradley, noted singer of "Dixie" songs, will be featured.

And finally, former residents of Hot Springs, Arkansas, will hold their annual picnic reunion from 12 to 4 p.m. on June 14 at Banning Park in Wilmington.

Police Nab 3 Men On Housing Tract

Scheduled to appear tomorrow in South Bay Municipal court on a charge of trespassing and loitering on private property were three Eastside Los Angeles residents who were apprehended by police last week while allegedly going through houses on a tract at 182nd and Western Aves.

Two of the men told police their names were "Hole Train" and "Hambone," but under further questioning, it was found that the men's given names are William Cardwell, 39, Ketter Moore, 41, and James Franklin, 38.

They plead not guilty and were released on bail last week, and held to answer in court tomorrow.

Truck Amok, Brush Crushed, Seek Sneak

"Don't Let the Cars Get In Your Iris" was the plaintive theme song being sung by Nick Augustatos this week.

Augustatos complained to police last week that a heavy vehicle had been driven through his newly planted Iris beds during the night and had destroyed plants and beds of Iris, besides breaking water pipes and flooding the area.

The flower grower estimated that the nocturnal vehicle's ramp had cost him approximately \$5000 in expected revenue from the Iris destroyed. His fields of flowers are located at Madrona and Sepulveda Blvds.

Supervisors Approve Storm Drain Projects

County Supervisors Tuesday approved an agreement with the City of Torrance, whereby this municipality will prepare plans for its three storm drain projects to be financed under the \$179,000,000 storm drain-bond issue approved by voters last year.

The contract provides that the County Flood Control district will reimburse the city for the maximum amount authorized in the bond issue, a total for all projects of \$70,500, according to report from Supervisor Burton W. Chace.

Kiwanians Hear Talk On Miracle of Help

Don E. Gillman, representative of the Kelco company, spoke on the subject "The Miracle of Help" at the Monday night meeting of the Torrance Kiwanis Club, and illustrated his lecture with 60 colored slides, followed by a short motion picture filmed in color under water.

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