

39th Year—No. 59

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TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, JULY 23, 1953



**HOME AGAIN . . .** Pretty ladies, even little ones like Judy Wixom, like "to 'mell nice," especially after spending 10 months in a hospital polio ward.



**IT'S A PLEASURE . . .** Even brushing her teeth is fun to seven-year-old Judy, who is allowed to come home week-ends after lying paralyzed in an iron lung for nearly nine months.



**'LOOK, MOM!' . . .** Not too long ago the brown haired Judy (her hair used to be long and blonde) could move only her eyes. Saturday she showed her mother how she has improved.



**REAL HAPPY . . .** Although she must wear a feeding tube in her nose because she cannot swallow, Judy is mighty happy about being allowed to visit her family over week-ends. She also wears a tube in her throat as a constant reminder of her battle with polio which completely paralyzed the second grade Fern Ave. Elementary pupil last August.

**Judy Wixom:**

## Polio Princess Now Helps Other Victims

Golden-haired Judy Wixom, the seven-year-old Torrance girl who won the hearts of many local residents as the "Polio Princess," was back home among her brothers and sisters last week-end after spending 10 months in an iron lung.

Gone, however, is her long blond hair which draped toward the floor from the steel shelf on

her iron lung. Her hair is growing back in, brown and short. But she doesn't mind, for she is able to walk, and talk, and even put her leg behind her head like she used to before she took sick. Life isn't exactly normal for the Fern Ave. second grader yet, for she still has a tube in her throat and one through her nose through which she is fed. Wherever she goes, an emergency suction pump goes with her. She can't swallow, according to her mother, Mrs. Weldon Wixom of 2661 Sonoma Ave., so she takes all her nourishment, including a formula which cost \$12 a bottle, via the rubber tube through her nose.

From the paralyzed little girl whose every second of life depended upon other people, the doctors, the nurses and the physical therapists, Judy has emerged a helpful aid to the nurses in the polio ward at the Rancho Los Amigos Hospital in Hondo. She is the only polio victim in her ward that is able to be up and on her feet, so she helps the nurses. In her little nurse's white uniform and cap she fits about the ward bringing wash basins, water and in many other ways tending to the needs of the other seven polio patients in her ward.

At eight years of age (her birthday is Tuesday) the little girl has learned more about life and death in her few years than many adults learn in their entire lifetime.

Happy about being at home with her seven brothers and sisters, Judy thinks a new home built by her father, an automobile wrecking yard worker, and his mother who distributes the Mirror to local newstands, is "real fine."

## Contractors Start Construction On \$9,000,000 GP Refinery Job

Construction of a new processing unit for increased production at the General Petroleum refinery here was started Monday as construction workers broke ground for the new addition with out ceremony.

The new unit, to be known as "thermofor catalytic reformer" (TCR), the new process is a continuous method of upgrading low quality gasoline stock to a gasoline which, with the addition of tetraethyl lead, will have an octane number of 100 or more.

When completed in about a year, the new unit will produce about 15,000 barrels of high quality gasoline blending stock daily.

Developed by Socony-Vacuum Oil Co., Inc., with which General Petroleum is affiliated, the TCR process will be made generally available to the oil industry through licensing agreements, according to GP officials.

Construction of the unit in Torrance will be under the supervision of C. M. Reading, GP's engineering department manager, with B. L. Rodzianko, project engineer, and Howard Rustad acting as construction engineer. Bechtel Corp. will build the unit.

## Young Bums Invade No. Torrance School Grounds

A troop of junior hindlestitfs invaded the grounds of the North Torrance Elementary School Friday to attend a "Ho, Ho Day," sponsored by the City Recreation Department.

Winners of the costume contests were: Boys—Tom Heydon, most authentic; and Jim Van De Vort, most humorous. Girls—Lynn St. Onge, most authentic; and June Carol Halsted, most humorous.

Winners of the game contests were Dana Walker, go-and-go-back race; Van De Vort, newspaper foot race; and Danny Saunders, cracker-eating contest.

## Purse Snatchers Get \$24,653 and Old Style Bills

Los Angeles police alerted local citizens this week to be on the lookout for \$50 and \$100 bills of the old type large currency which was part of \$24,653 snatched from a woman's purse on July 2.

The victim, a 54-year-old woman, was robbed by one of four men in a car who approached her on Burlington Ave. near Olympic Blvd. in Los Angeles.

Anyone seeing any of the old style bills is urged to contact the Torrance Police Department or the Robbery Division of the Los Angeles Police Department.

## Navy Man Promoted

Clifford E. Hamm, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Hamm of 4501 Torrance Blvd., has been advanced to gunner's mate third class, USN, the Navy News Center announced this week.

## Angel Pitching Star to Appear At Little League Benefit Show

Bill Moisan, Los Angeles Angels pitching star, will lend a hand in the festivities planned for the local Little Leaguers, at their benefit show, which is being sponsored by the Torrance Barbershoppers of the SPEBSQSA, Doug McClay, show chairman announced this week.

After a short interval on the ups and downs of his baseball team, Moisan will conduct a baseball quiz during which the 90 members of the Little League teams will answer questions for prizes.

All of the six Little League teams will be present in uniform at the benefit, which will be held at the Civic Auditorium Saturday night at 8 o'clock. Tickets can be purchased from any Little Leaguer, any Barbershopper, or at Herb Allen's restaurant, on Cravens Ave. between Gramercy and Marcelina. They are priced at \$1, and are going fast, McClay said.

Top-notch entertainment will be provided by six well-known Southern California Barbershop quartets and a chorus of 75 voices, singing songs old and new in the inimitable Barbershop style.

Four-man harmony will be provided by the Oriental Orioles, a novelty quartet from Hollywood; The Verdugo Dons, runners-up in the District quartet contest held recently in Long Beach; the 4 Colonels of Corn, the local quartet, composed of Doug McClay, Herb Allen, Al Ewalt, and Francis Lehr; the Les Woodson quartet from Huntington Park; the Scrap Iron 4; and the Novelists, who also do instrumental numbers.

Another feature of the program will be the auctioning off of a baseball signed by players in the 1951 World Series. The ball was donated by Mike Kaseno, of the Torrance Army-Navy Store.

Carl Larson, Torrance High School graduate, will render the famous "Casey At The Bat" as part of the entertainment program.

The Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet Singing in America will donate the proceeds of the show to a fund that will be used to build the Little Leaguers a clubhouse.

A surprise ending has been planned for the show that will astonish everyone, McClay said.

## Plan Child Film For Almost Moms

"Preface to a Life," a film on child training, will be shown to the Expectant Mothers Class today at 1:30 p.m. in the Torrance Health Center, 2300 Carson Street, Mrs. Leona Brown Rowe, Public Health nurse-instructor, has announced.

Prospective mothers and fathers are invited to see this film, Mrs. Rowe said. There is no registration fee as the classes are under the sponsorship of the County Health Department.

## Snipers Hit Four Windows Here in Day

Someone who apparently likes to hear the tinkle of plate glass, could put four more notches on his gun last week, according to reports made to Torrance police.

Sometime during the night of July 16, or early morning hours of July 17, windows in Paramount Builders at Torrance Blvd. and Madrona, Tony's Liquor at 1825 Crenshaw, and Sol Levine's Liquor Manor at 174th St. and Crenshaw were broken by pellets fired from a passing auto. Police investigators said the slugs appeared to be .38 caliber.

At 5:30 p.m. July 17, a similar slug crashed through the window at the home of Mrs. Winifred Giovenco at 3880 W. 171st St., she told police.

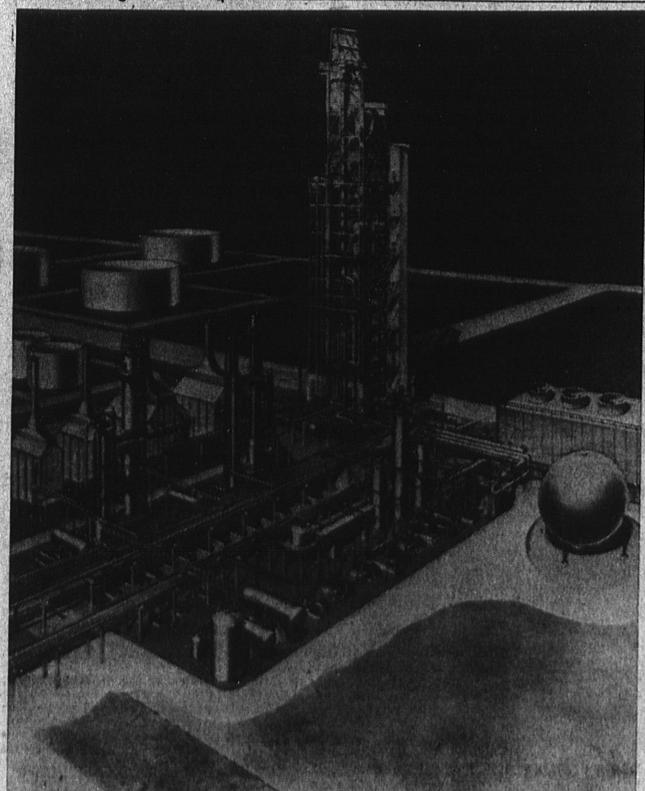
Soft dirt in the yard apparently saved Goebel from more serious injuries.

## Truck Backs Over Worker

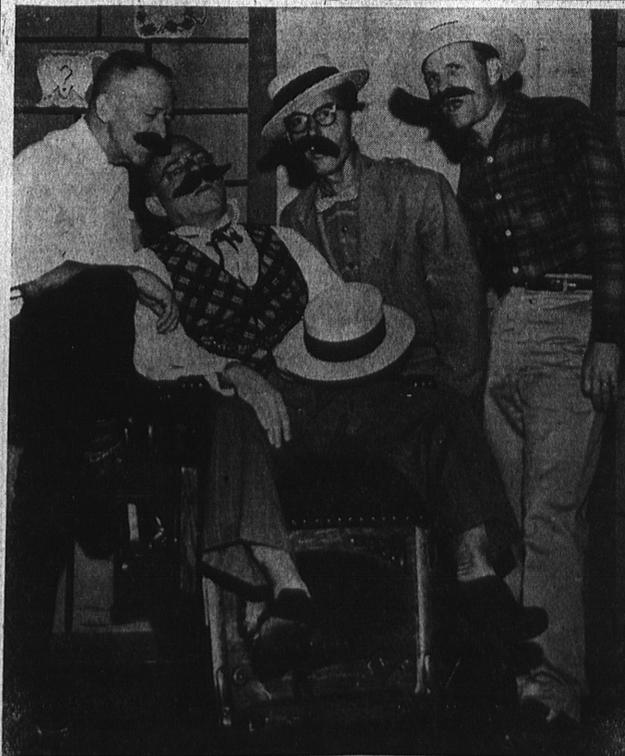
Charles L. Goebel of Manhattan Beach learned one thing about runaway trucks here last week—keep your feet away from them.

Parking his truck in a yard near Palos Verdes Blvd. and Susana St. to unload some topsoil, Goebel was about to open the tailgate when the truck rolled back on him. The rear wheels of the truck rolled over his left leg.

Rushed to Harbor General Hospital by South Bay ambulance, Goebel was treated and released. Ambulance attendants said the



**REFINERY ADDITION . . .** Work started here Monday on the new \$9,000,000 refinery processing unit at the General Petroleum refinery. Work will be completed in July, 1954, company officials say. The unit will be used to make high octane gasoline.



**LET'S HARMONIZE . . .** The 4 Colonels of Corn, local barbershop quartet, warm up for the Little League Benefit show they are sponsoring this Saturday night at the Civic Auditorium. They are, left to right, Herb Allen, Al Ewalt, Doug McClay, and Francis Lehr. They will add their talents to an all-star show which features Bill Moisan, member of the Los Angeles Angels baseball team, and several well-known quartets, plus a chorus of 75 harmonized voices.

## Manuscripters To Attend Santa Monica Club Tea

The Southwest Manuscripters, a writers group numbering among its members several Torrance people, have been invited to attend a literary tea and garden party at the Santa Monica Writers Club, Elsie Pestoff, secretary of the group, announced this week.

The party will be held at the home of Dr. Roberta Rippe, 120 Margarita Ave., Santa Monica, Sunday at 2 p.m.

Speakers for the occasion will be Robert Campbell, former president of the American Booksellers Assn.; Scott Odell, author-editor and director of the Book Department of the Los Angeles Daily News; and Raymond Hooley, author-editor and publisher's representative.