

Dave Daniels Says:
(Bacon Sales)

Howdy Folks:
I would like you to read a letter sent in by one of our customers. (Quote) "Dave: Our car is running fine now. We surely appreciate the trouble you went to make things right. Thanks so much and I hope our car troubles and yours, too, are over. Sincerely, Mr. and Mrs. Patrick."

Dave Daniels Satisfied customers are one of the reasons I enjoy working with the public. I think any of us enjoy a compliment. We, at Les Bacon's, at least try our best to keep all of our customers happy. The only way we know how to do that is to always do our best work and greet you with a smile, whether you are one of our steady customers, or will be a new one.

See Ya Soon!
DAVE

WHERE'S YOUR TIN CUP? . . . Superintendent of Schools J. Hammerin' Hank Hull screams "The ball was high!" and shows Umpire Hod Wood, former president of the Board of Education, where it passed him. But Wood insists the ball was right over the dish and catcher Joe Arnold, of Chicago Bridge and Iron, blows on his fingers after receiving one of the blazing fast balls thrown by "Wily" Willys Blount, Rotary Club fireballer, and City Councilman. The action occurred at the annual Rotary-Kiwanis softball game and picnic held Thursday at Torrance Park. Rotary won the feud 7-6.

El Camino Football Slate

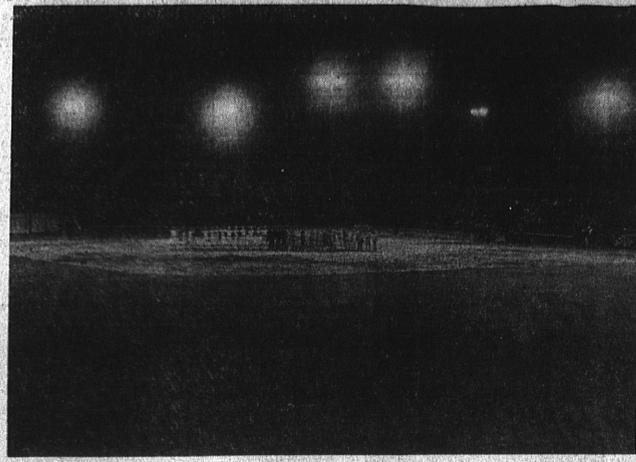
A ten-game grid schedule has been announced by the El Camino College personnel office, with the Alumni-Varsity season kickoff game set for Saturday, Sept. 19, at 7 p.m.

Seven Metropolitan Conference contests are included in what is expected to be one of the hottest junior college races in the history of the Conference. The Warriors, 1952 Metro champs, will play five games at home and five away.

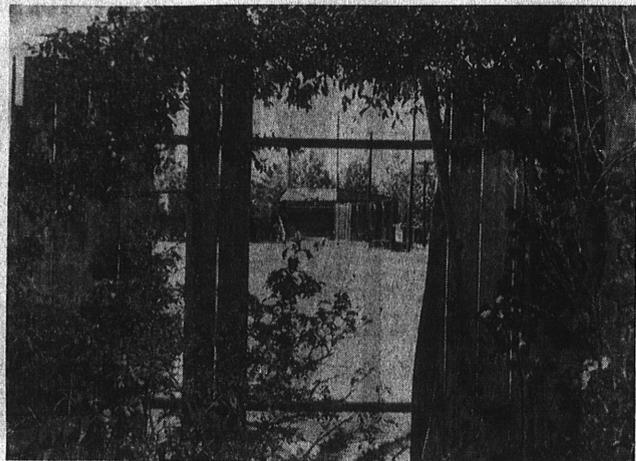
Following is the schedule for the '53-54 season:
Sat., Sept. 19, El Camino vs. Alumni.
Sat., Sept. 26, El Camino at Ventura Junior College.
Friday, Oct. 2, El Camino vs. Muir Tech, at Rose Bowl.
Sat., Oct. 10, El Camino at Bakersfield Junior College.
Sat., Oct. 17, Long Beach Junior College at El Camino.
Thurs., Oct. 22, El Camino at Valley Junior College.
Saturday, Oct. 31, Santa Monica Junior College at El Camino.
Sat., Nov. 7, Bye.
Friday, Nov. 13, El Camino at East Los Angeles Junior College.
Sat., Nov. 21, San Diego Junior College at El Camino.
Thurs., Nov. 26, Harbor Junior College at El Camino.
* Conference game.

IN MEMORIAM: A BALL PARK DIES

1000 Memories Die With Torrance Park



TORRANCE PARK—AS IT USED TO BE
... Park shown after lighting system installed — 1939



... AS IT IS NOW: THROUGH LEFT FIELD FENCE

Noble old Torrance Baseball Park is breathing its last. As the summer city softball season comes to a close, so does the life of one of the city's noblest landmarks. Little by little, it is being torn down.

The stands and bleachers have been removed from the field piece by piece until now only the main section, behind home plate, remains. This main section, wind-ravaged and crumbling, stares gauntly out over the rusted, hole-filled mangle of wire that used to be a backstop fence. One fourth of the fence that used to completely enclose the field remains, but it is not long for this world.

The remaining portion of fence sags disconsolately in left field; its face marred by great gaps, a sad monument to what was once one of the best semi-pro baseball diamonds in Southern California.

The city plans to convert Torrance's baseball field into a picnic grounds and build a bigger and better diamond on what used to be the city dump.

Since City Manager George Stevens is on vacation and not available for a comment, the present disposition of the plans for the new field cannot be officially known until his return.

Those in the city who remember the glory days of Torrance Park, when the famous Torrance Tournament drew top semi-pro baseball nines here from all over the county and fans turned out in droves to watch the festivities; those who remember that time are sad at the field's passing.

Dale Riley, who originated the Tournament in 1939, says "I'm sorry to see Torrance Baseball Park go. This city never has had anything to equal the Torrance Tournament. Torrance missed the boat by letting the tournament get away."

You can't run a tournament without a host team, however, and Torrance merchants showed no interest in sponsoring a home team, thus, the Torney perished and with it one of the greatest promotional activities this city has ever engaged in.

The American Legion, which backed the tournament with man power in the past, is still willing to provide all the work, according to Legion spokesmen, what is needed is money—and one other small detail—a diamond.

But the Glory that was Torrance Baseball Park is no more. The echoes of the shouts that went up when Big Paul Pettit blazed his fast one past the dazzled batters have changed to the low moan of winds howling through deserted bleachers.

The stands are silent now; their great brow is furrowed with wind and rain; their seats, round-edged and unpainted, creaking under the occasional weight they are called upon to bear.

Riley estimates that it would take more money, time and trouble to tear down and rebuild Torrance Baseball Park than it would to build another park. He says that it would take all winter to get the field back into shape to receive baseball cleats again. This, he says, is impractical.

So, in the near future, that great field that once sprung under the feet of fleet outfielders, will surrender to picnickers, tables, waxed paper and banana peels.

That smooth infield, called by Recreation Director Harry Van Belleham "one of the best infields I've ever seen," will soon yield to asphalt and tennis balls. The recreation department is thinking of installing tennis courts and a recreation building where the infield now lies.

Still, where there's life, there's hope, and the old park could still revive from its coma. Many local baseball enthusiasts have kept the spark alive with sporadic attempts to "get a team going on Sundays."

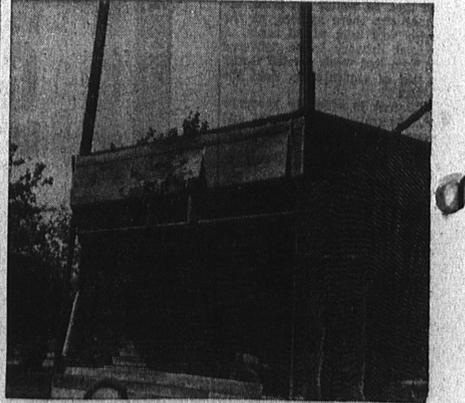
One of these men, Jack French, started a baseball selling campaign to the Torrance Merchants in January. He and his Semi-Pro Baseball Committee went to the merchants, held meetings, tried to get sponsorship—failed because of lack of interest on the Merchants part.

French is still eager to organize a semi-pro nine. He estimates that it would cost the sponsor \$30 per Sunday, minus whatever was collected from the crowd, to defray the expenses of such a team here. The initial cost would be greatly lessened because the largest expense in starting a ball club is uniforms and Torrance already has uniforms.

Locked in a small building out at Torrance Park are more than a complete set of baseball uniforms labelled "Torrance Bluebirds," a team which functioned here two years ago and belonged to the Long Beach Municipal League.

Will they ever be used again, or has the baseball era in Torrance ended forever? This question can only be answered by you, the people.

—MARY HALL



ONCE PROUD, NOW BOWED . . . The mighty roof that once swelled to the cries of fans watching the Torrance Tournament is proud no more. Lack of care has furrowed its brow. Note the lack of a backstop fence on the left. The loudspeakers that once announced the lummance of Paul Pettit, Tom Lovrich, Dick Pedrotti, Ken Bronelli, Nick Buonorigo, and other well-known baseball men, are silent forever. Requested at Pace.

ROD and GUN CHATTER

Torrance Rod and Gun Club

By DONNA BARKDULL

Local sport fishing showed slight improvement towards the end of the week, with random catches of blue-fin tuna being taken off Catalina Island. Actually this season has been the best in years for bull bass, halibut, and jack mackerel, but most anglers want the hard-fighting albacore, so they are waiting for the school of albies in the Mexican waters to move north. Just hope when they do, that they will not be so far out as to make it unprofitable for charter boats. Right now the long-fins are reported to be 50 miles off Ensenada.

This afternoon the final gun will sound ending the fish-off period of the 1953 Yellowtail Derby in San Diego which ended last Sunday. When the smoke clears it will be learned who, among 400 anglers, will drive home the fully equipped, beautiful Special Riviera two-tone Buick awarded as first prize. F. A. Farrent, Al Coast, winner last year; John Clark, Abe Coast; Carl Hanni, C. M. Northrup, Joe Cucci, Anabel Coast and Walt Gilliard are representing Torrance and are doing their best to again bring fame to their hometown. The suspense is killing me!

Last week about 14 anglers fished Newport Bay for stringers. All had fair luck, with John Rows taking the jackpot with a rat-tail going around 70 pounds. The same night Morris Maloy landed a leopard shark, which he didn't weigh, but all estimated it to be between 28 and 30 pounds.

Bob Peckham, Dean Barkdull, Major Sells, Vel Miletich, and Bill Garrity fished off Catalina Island last Thursday, finally sacking a few. Two blue-fins and three barries were taken in Taron Bay, and 35 bull bass from the hole in front of the Casino. Dean boated the blue-fins, one going 11 pounds 8 ounces, and the other 12 pounds even. Bob hoisted in the heaviest bass, three pounds, 14 ozs. Barries were small, going around five pounds.

Speaking of barries, William J. Pasquale did himself proud when he hauled aboard a lunk'er tipping the scales at 18 pounds 6 ounces off San Clemente Island last week. That's really a log! His catch should set some sort of a record for this coast. Haven't heard of any that size around here.

Joe Fanning and Kenny Lockman brought home some nice trout recently. King River yielded Joe's 13½-inch brook trout which he landed on three pound monofilament using worms for bait. Kenny landed his 14½-inch golden trout in the High Sierras on G-B-G-1 lb. tippit fly line.

Paul Rows Jr., member of the Torrance Rod and Gun, has been doing some fancy shooting until Sept. 14.

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