'round the riviera

Driving Rain Fails to Dampen Spirits of Kids at Egg Hunt

By JACK WEBB
FR 5-3051

Driving rain put no damper on the Sportsmen's Club's Easter Egg Hunt, held last Saturday morning at El Retiro park. Official estimates placed the number of Riviera children gathered to hunt eggs at approximately 600.

The crowds started gathering at a little after 9 a.m., despite the announced 10 a.m. starting time for the hunt. Girl Scouts aided the Sportsmen in placing the eggs. The hunt, limited to pre-schoolers and first through third graders, was divided into three sections. The pre-school children's eggs were hidden rather obviously in the rotunda. Kindergarten and first graders' section was south of the rotunda, and second and third graders hunted the section north of the rotunda. Hundreds of eggs were prepared by families of the Sportsmen who each cooked and dyed at least one dozen.

At 9:50 a.m., as hundreds awaited the start of the romping festivities, the rain started drizzling down. Within five minutes, it had turned into a cold, driving rain which should have hampered the proceedings. It didn't. The hunt went off like clockwork, with few if any children dropping out because of inclement weather.

Six big Easter bunny dolls were offered as prizes to those finding the six golden eggs. Sportsmen officials reported five bunnies were claimed. The sixth egg may still be at the park, or some small appetite may have devoured the sixth golden egg, not knowing its importance. Over 200 other prizes were given out by the Sportsmen. Some went to those children who found numbered eggs. The remainder were used as booby prizes and given to children who found no eggs at all.

So successful was the Easter Egg Hunt that Sportsmen are planning tentatively to make this an annual club affair.

* * *

We have additional information to report on the Stephen Stackhouse bike accident. We were unable to contact Stephen's mother until this week and her report brought his condition up to date. She reports that following the examination by Harbor General's doctors, she had him examined by a neuro-physician in Los Angeles. An electro-encephelagram disclosed that Stephen is suffering from a massive brain concussion, she said, in addition to the abrasions and contusions reported last week. She pointed out that the Harbor General doctors only examined the physical wounds of the body, which included among other things, a deep leg cut on which stitches were taken. The doctor has ordered complete quiet for six months and Stephen is still confined to bed. His earlier nausea has disappeared and he can now take solid food, Mrs. Stackhouse concluded. We, along with his many friends, wish Stephen an early and complete recovery.

* * *

"With only 1 per cent of the parents participating in the program, it is obvious that this is the big bottleneck in Little League."

So spoke an official of the Pacific Coast Little League this week in covering the reasons why some 200 Hollywood Riviera boys were excluded from League play this year. The lack of parent participation, together with a huge influx of population caused Little League here to grow "faster than Topsy" and the focal point came when hundreds of boys showed up to try out for the teams during the past few weeks.

The real answer is another League, declared Pacific Coast officials, but this answer is impossible unless the parents do more than drive their boys down to the practice field; Little League is no four-hour baby sitting agency. Playing fields must be found, cultivated, and tended. Grandstands and fences, scoreboards and pop stands must be built and maintained. This takes parent participation in greater measure than is currently evident. League spokesmen said.

The meeting last night at Newton School was as much to obtain parent help as it was to find an immediate solution that would allow the left-over 200 boys to play ball. Truman Adkins, president of the league, tried to point the parents ahead to 1958 and a new league for this area. Work must begin now if we expect to have smooth sailing next year, he said.

To date, 59 new boys have now been added to the Pacific Coast Major Little League. This was done mainly by the addition of two new teams to the League. By increasing the minors to 18 players to a team, another 50 new boys will be able to play ball, although not with the major league. 89 more boys are hold-overs from last year's teams, bringing the grand total of boys on teams to 198. Some 200 more boys are still not on any team. The Little League is batting .500 instead of the 1.000 they need to keep the boys all happy with life. Little League says it's the parents that need to help more; let's go, parents—volunteer your time to put this program over.

* * *

In speaking with the Little League officials, I suggested they give out a blue "E" award at the end of the season. Make it a big deal for the boys to earn one. They'd have to do three things to earn it: attend all the practice games, attend all the games, and have their parents contribute at least 3 hours work at Little League. If Little League boys are like other boys (and I'm sure they are) they'll see to it that their parents turn out to work rather than let "George" do it all.

UP HILL AND DOWN DALE: General Telephone's new switching facility in Hollywood Riviera costs $717,600 they declared at a Plush Horse luncheon last week . . . I make it $717,650 . . . they picked up the lunch tab for our city officials and other VIP's who listened to the speeches . . . or do I sound like the penny pinching telephone stockholder that I am. Most of those 200 gifts for the kids at the Sportsmen's Easter Egg Hunt were donated by Hollywood Riviera Businessmen's Assn. . . . principal Sportsmen busy on the affair were Bob Surber, Ralph Weyant, Mary Kaufmann, Ted McLain, Dale DeSonne, Al Koester, Bob Katherman and the wife of the club's prexy, Mrs. Jack Doyle. Torrance City Council ordered publication of the bids for sewers for district 2 last week . . . work will start in about 40 days they say. Mr. and Mrs. Gene Voorhees are entertaining her mother, Mrs. Florence Bates of Berkeley, during the Easter vacation. Rivieran Mrs. Dean Peck is in Europe vacationing this spring . . . she spent Easter week in Rome . . . after touring Italy, she plans to visit Austria, Germany, and the British Isles, arriving home in June. Hollywood Riviera Homeowners Assn. is one of the supporters of the Town Hall meeting to be staged next Tuesday in Walteria's Fish Shanty . . . reps from various civic organizations will give three minute talks on local problems; councilmen present will have 3 minutes to answer each talk . . . the tab is $2.50 if you eat, free if you don't. The Charles Speakman family, 285 Via Linda Vista is planning a swimming pool for their property . . . cost will be around $2500. Mrs. Jack Kettler co-chairmanned the benefit Easter Hunt staged by Alpha Delta Pi alums in Manhattan Beach last week . . . donations went to the Crippled Children's Guild of Orthopedic hospital.

* * *

Mike Backus, new manager of the Hollywood Riviera Beach Club, reported last week that he plans to spend some $90,000 renovating and redocorating the clubhouse. The outside will be sandblasted and painted, he said, with new landscaping to add to the appearances. The main bar will be redone in pirate motif, with typical decorations. The outside veranda is planned in Polynesian style, with food service for bathers. Backus plans an 80-foot brick wall along the property edge. He plans also a complete redecoration of the main ballroom as well as the swimming pool and patio area. The clubhouse apartments are also scheduled for renovation. Backus hopes to have the restaurant area redone and ready for service within 40 days and will feature family style French dinners.

As you probably know, ownership of the club is held by Huntington Land Co., with every property owner of Hollywood Riviera having an interset in the club. The club was planned originally as a private club for Hollywood Rivierans only and in your deeds and papers you will find that you can be assessed up to $10 per month to support it as a private club. It was built back in the twenties when developers of this area envisioned a movie colony type of resort area here, with the Hollywood Riviera Beach club as their private playhouse. It has been leased out over the past years because residents here were too few to support a private club.

Now, with Riviera about filled in, it looks possible that the original plans for this club could come true. With some 2000 home owners now on the scene, a $5 per month assessment would raise $120,000 per year for operation of a private club. With regular club revenues aiding, the Beach club could be operated on first class scale and Riviera families would have a place for meetings, dances, dinners, swimming and sunning, as well as a dandy spot to host visiting friends and relatives.

As far as the new management's plans, let us say now that we hope all their dreams come true. We'd like to see the Beach club as beautiful and sparkling as they envision. It will be interesting to report the developments.

HELMET STYLE

U. S. marines once wore spiked helmet headgear.

Rivieran Named Director For Area Coro Foundation

Austin M. Woodward, 208 Via Mesa Grande, Hollywood Riviera, has been named Southern California director for Coro Foundation, public affairs research and education organization.

Woodward will head the Coro staff at offices just opened by the foundation at 416 W. Eighth St. in Los Angeles. Coro Foundation's main offices are in San Francisco where the non-partisan organization was established for research and training in government and politics in 1942.

A veteran of World War II service with the 86th Division in Europe and the Philippines, Woodward is a graduate of Claremont Men's College and Coro's "Internship in Public Affairs" program in Northern California.

He is a former managing editor of Lucius Beebe's Territorial Enterprise in Virginia City, Nev., and more recently was supervisor of public relations for Union Oil Company in Los Angeles. Since September of last year he has been on the Coro Foundation staff in San Francisco.

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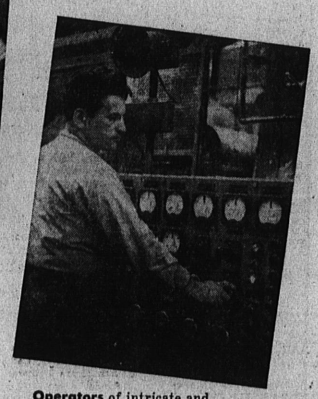

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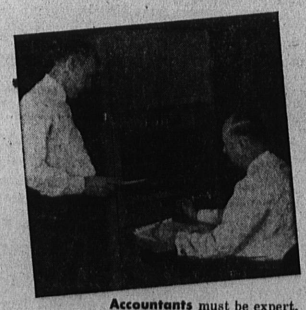

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