

THEY ARE IN THERE "PITCHING"

Play Ball -- "Moms" Support The Teams

By ELEANOR B. GILBERT

Baseball, the great American pastime, never had a more enthusiastic bunch of participants and fans than the Little Leaguers of Torrance and their parents.

In keeping with the importance of the occasion, the mayor and Torrance city officials have been invited to participate in the opening ceremonies of the different leagues.

They say there's always a woman behind every great man, and in this case the women are the Moms behind some pretty great little fellows. Ask any mother.

These mothers operate the concession stands for each of the leagues, including the Babe Ruth League for the "older" fellows, aged 13 to 15. The money raised through this and other fundraising projects held maintain the fields, purchase quantities of expensive equipment which must meet national little league specifications, and generally supply the esprit de corps so necessary, particularly when a guy slides into base but the ball beat him there. Whenever something turns up, these mothers can be counted on.

All this takes nothing away from the dads and the little guys either. To use the old phrase, they're all in there pitching.

The "big brothers" of the little league are the boys who've graduated. Most of them were once little leaguers, the boys from eight to 12. Big brothers in Torrance are the Babe Ruth League teams, ten majors but no minors, there being nothing minor about these boys; some of whom may go into professional ball in the future according to one of the coaches.

The gals behind these guys are president, Mrs. Bert Richardson; vice president, Mrs. Joseph James; Mrs. Joseph Kling, secretary and Mrs. Kenneth Clutter, treasurer. The backfield includes Mmes. Edward Hanson and Robert Moffitt handling things at the concession stand; Orval Golphenee and William Baker, ways and means; and Mrs. Esther Cloward, publicity. Big chief over all is John Kieth, Babe Ruth League president, ably supported by all the other moms and dads. The season opens May 27 at the Babe Ruth field, at Del Amo and Western.

Newly organized this year is the North Torrance Little League auxiliary, with Mrs. Jeff Bell president. A grand parade with police escort and the North High band will get the opening day off to a good start. The six major and four minor teams will ride in colorfully decorated trucks.

Working hard to make this the biggest year ever, North Torrance auxiliary also has the following in their lineup: vice president, Mrs. I. J. Mack; secretary, Mrs. Art Schaefer; and Mrs. Paul Welch, treasurer.

Working along with them are the following chairmen with their committees: Art Charron and Joe Sorenson, ways and means; Herb Fisher and L. L. Smith, concessions; and Gerald Cunerty, publicity. The "boss," president Herb Fisher of the little league, speaking for his bunch, says North Torrance's ball park was selected for the area play-offs last year.

First to get its season underway is the Pacific Coast Little League. They open Sunday, April 28, at Kissel Field, south of 101 Highway. The auxiliary, as such, has never been organized officially and has no officers. Calling the shots this year is Mrs. Truman Adkins, wife of Pacific Coast League's president. She just calls the different women and they all respond gladly.

"It's a miracle," she said, "I've never worked with a group that cooperates so fully, everyone of them." The only woman on the league's board is Mrs. J. E. Dowsing, who's the "publicist."

Sharing the Del Amo field are the National and American leagues, friendly competitors who also are sharing the opening day parade and ceremonies at their field, Saturday, May 4. City dignitaries, celebrities and the Torrance Youth Band will be on hand. American League will play first, followed by the National League team.

Heading National League is Mrs. John Marshall, president; also on the team and not just warming the bench are Mmes. Robert Waters, vice president; Vernon Coil, secretary, and Daniel Sorenson, treasurer. They are backed up by Mmes. Dewey Brown, activity chairman; Pete Wilson, publicity; Melvin Wilson, concessions manager, assisted by Larimer Patrick. Their board of directors is composed of the managers' wives.

National is putting six major teams and 12 minor teams on the field this year. Each team is made up of 15 boys. Six extra minor teams were added for the '57 season so more boys could play. Bob Sonju, president, is guiding his crew very capably into a very promising season.

Gals of the American League will be kept hopping this year trying to man concession stands at two fields. Supervising operations at the minors' field at Seaside is Mrs. Richard Martin. Her counterpart for the majors at Del Amo is Mrs. Earl McKay.

Lending a hand for the proceedings are President Mrs. Richard Kuechler, Vice President Mrs. Jack L. Dunn, and Secretary-Treasurer Mrs. Sydney Larsen. The following mothers are pigeonholed for these slots: Mmes. Leonard Fink, publicity; Sherman Warren, dance committee, with Mrs. Robert McPherson handling arrangements for the May 11 dance at the Riviera Club.

Besides its six major and six minor teams, American is giving 50 to 60 little fellows who failed to make the other teams some baseball experience with a kind of "farm" system. These are mainly 8-year-olds who've had little or no previous experience. Next year they'll be better prepared, said

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WITH PAINT BRUSHES IN HAND... these "moms" of the National Little League shine up the concession stand in preparation for opening the National Little League season down at the Del Amo field. Ceremonies with bands, city officials and celebrities will open the season on May 4. Mothers out there doing their part to make the affair a long remembered event are Mrs. John Marshall, auxiliary president; Mrs. Bob Waters, vice president; Mrs. Dan Sorensen, treasurer, and Mrs. Vern Coil, secretary.



BALLS, BATS AND GLOVES... are of prime importance to these members of the auxiliary to the Torrance Babe Ruth League. In this league are boys from eight to twelve years old, who serve as "big brothers" to the Little Leaguers, having once been little leaguers themselves. Inspecting baseball equipment are these auxiliary mothers, from left, Mrs. Kenneth Clutter, treasurer; Mrs. Joseph James, vice president; Mrs. John Keith, wife of the president of the league, and Mrs. Robert Moffitt, co-chairman of the concession committee.

Lioness Club

Mrs. Albert Isen was hostess to the Lioness Club at her home 1504 Engracia on Tuesday, April 16. Mrs. Frank Jacobowski was co-hostess.

During the business meeting conducted by Mrs. Abe Robinson, president, the club decided to sponsor Intermediate Girl Scout Troop 2077. Mrs. Warren Hamilton is scout leader. Mrs. Robinson also appointed the nominating committee. Mrs. H. J. Osborne will serve as chairman. Others are Mrs. Kenneth Olson and Mrs. Albert Isen.

Mrs. Mott Farrell won the door prize. Refreshments were served by the hostesses.

The next meeting, at which the nominating committee will report, is scheduled for May 7 with the place to be announced later.

Entertains

Roses from her garden decorated the home of Mrs. Parke Montague, 1328 Beech Ave., last Wednesday evening when she entertained her bridge club and two guests.

At the close of the games, the high score count was held by Mrs. R. J. Prout, second by Mrs. J. R. Klink, and low by Mrs. E. E. Clayton.

A salad course was served after the games.

Mrs. Montague's guests were Mmes. Robert Morton, Rod Norris, J. R. Klink, E. E. Clayton, William Patterson, Robert Clayton, J. A. Eisenbrandt and J. J. Prout.

Mrs. Morton will be hostess to the club in two weeks.

WILL PRESIDE

Messiah White Shrine will meet Monday evening in Redondo Beach. Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Arnold, 1561 Post Ave., will preside in the east.



THE SPORTS PAGE... of the hometown newspaper, The Torrance HERALD, holds a fascination with its recordings of the thrills of the American Little League teams. These "moms" of the American Little League, with avid interest scan the news columns on the foats of their future "greats." They are, from left, Mrs. Jack Dunn, vice president; Mrs. Richard Kuechler, president, and Mrs. Sidney Larson, secretary-treasurer.

HOUSEGUESTS

Mrs. J. V. Murray, 1912 Andreo, has as her house guests Mrs. Claire Conway of New York, formerly of Sidney, Nova Scotia, and Miss Kay McAskill of Glace Bay, Nova Scotia.

SOUTHERN TRIP

Mrs. Robert M. Almond and two sons, Danny and David, 21917 Palos Verdes Blvd., returned Wednesday night by plane from a six weeks visit with relatives in Aberdeen, Miss. Mr. Almond went to Mississippi for a two weeks stay during his family's visit.

WEEKEND GUESTS

Easter weekend guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. Jackson on Del Amo were Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Tidwell and Jocelyn of Gorman, Mr. and Mrs. William Hubbard and Mark of Van Nuy, and Mr. and Mrs. John Underwood of Orange.



THE BASEBALL SPIRIT IS CATCHING... and these mothers of the North Torrance Little League don their caps to pose for a picture. This newly organized group is planning a gala parade with police escort and the North High band to open their baseball season. Officers of this enthusiastic group, whose goal is to make this the biggest and best baseball season ever are, from left, Mrs. Jeff W. Bell, president; Mrs. Irvin J. Mack, vice president. Standing, from left, Mrs. Paul J. Walch, treasurer, and Mrs. Herb W. Fisher, concessions chairman.



AN ON THE SCENE SHOT... of auxiliary members of the Pacific Coast Little League which opens its season today at Kissel Field, south of 101 Highway. Not officially organized, this group of mothers are on hand to help when needed. Here are four of them, taking time out to plot and plan activities. They are, rear, Mrs. Truman Adkins, wife of the league president, Mrs. Charles Jones. Front, left, Mrs. William Pettepiece and Mrs. Stanley Fleener.

Enjoy Party In New Home

Miss Marilyn Revell invited a group of friends to enjoy an evening with her in her new home at 16 Eastfield Dr., Rolling Hills last Saturday. The new home is nearing completion and the Revell family will be moving in soon.

The fires in the fireplaces were lighted and the group enjoyed dancing and charades. A buffet supper was then served. Helping to entertain were Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Revell and Miss Joan Revell.

Club Hostess

Hostess for her bridge group on Wednesday, May 1, will be Mrs. H. Werner Sommer, 4538 Greenmeadows St.

Members of the group are Mmes. William Starr, Eugene Lenk, Jack Rice, Robert Kerber, Jack Dean, Chalmers Strayer and Howard Walker. The next meeting of the group will be held in the home of Mrs. Starr.

Folk Artists to Entertain Woman's Club Wednesday

A delightful new note to folk singing with their guitar and Irish harp accompaniment by two folksong artists, Ben and Beth Allen, will be a musical treat for members of the Torrance Woman's Club next Wednesday afternoon at the clubhouse. These two artists have done a great deal

of research in folk music and as a result they bring to their audience not only an exciting listening experience but a traditional folk art with an authority rarely found today. The guests entertainers will be presented by Mrs. Dean Sears, program chairman.

A board meeting will be held at 11:30 a.m. and at 1 p.m. there will be a business meeting conducted by Mrs. Lee McCoy who has requested that all chairmen have their annual reports ready to present at this time.

A pot luck luncheon will be held at noon and the program will be given at 2 p.m.

New club members who will be in attendance at this meeting are Mrs. J. F. Washburn, Mrs. Allen Pyeatt, Mrs. Don Hyde, and Mrs. A. Wendell Hook. They will be introduced by Mrs. Parke Montague, membership chairman. A silver tea will follow the program with Mrs. C. L. Easter week in Palm Springs.

Porter and Mrs. W. B. Hickcox serving as hostesses.



BEN AND BETH ALLEN... To Appear Here

IN PALM SPRINGS Mrs. Frances Clark, 1731 Andreo and her family, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Clark and family of Rolling Hills and Mrs. Persons of Cranbrook Ave. spent the program with Mrs. C. L. Easter week in Palm Springs.