

Insurance Firms Hold Home Loans

California property owners had \$4,540,370,000 of their mortgage financing needs extended to them by the life insurance companies of the country at the start of this year, the Institute of Life Insurance reports. These real estate loans covered 371,810 individual mortgages in the state and represented an increase of \$2,839,313,000 since 1950.

These past seven years saw the greatest construction job on record in this country, contributing to the fact that mortgage debt outstanding more than doubled in the period, the Institute commented. "The life insurance firms of the nation's 100,000,000 policyholders have played an important role in providing the necessary financing for this gigantic housing demand. During

Softball Playoffs on

Boys softball playoffs in the Los Angeles Elementary School playgrounds are now under way with Gulf leading.

Other teams are from Lomita, Harbor City, 759 st., Howard, Fries and 223rd St.

DOCTOR MOVES OFFICE

Dr. A. A. Rauch this week moved his chiropractic offices to 1524 Cravens ave.



HIGH HOPES—Johnny Prophet of Torrance listens to his recording of "Banana," which the young vocalist has just recorded. Prophet hopes that sale of his recording will land him among the top ranks of singers. Press Photo

Young Torrance Singer Hopes 'Banana' Will Launch Musical Career in a Hurry

Johnny Prophet of 4808 Carson st. is a young singer who knows exactly where he's going. His main concern is that he doesn't feel he's getting there fast enough. At the very mature age of 26 years, Johnny's not really worried, but is concerned enough about his career to be doing something about it.

His current RCA Victor recording of "Banana" may well launch Johnny on the famed singing career he's been seeking since he was a youngster in New York.

"Banana" is a novelty tune about a gal the vocalist has named Banana because she never leaves the bunch. And he wants to be alone with her.

What about this young Torrance vocalist, who is he? Where's he been?

Scholarship
Johnny was born March 15, 1932, in Rochester, N.Y. When he was 12 years old and in the 8th grade, his teacher realized he had an unusually good voice for a youngster and arranged an audition for him. As a result he received a scholarship to the Eastman School of Music which had also trained such notables as Jeannette McDonald and Nelson Eddy.

Before he had a chance to begin his career, the service net caught up with him and he spent the years from 1950 to 1952 in the Navy.

He was discharged from the service in San Francisco, and almost immediately got his first job singing in a night club in nearby Redwood City.

On Skelton Show
Most memorable among his TV appearances was the time he was on Red Skelton's Thanksgiving Show playing the role of a hanky-tonk piano player in a bar. On the show, Skelton had just had an argument with his girl friend, and brought a live turkey named Genevieve into the bar. He and the bird plunked themselves down on bar stools and made unusual conversation and requests while drinking. "We rehearsed a week for that one—and I really enjoyed working with Red. He's a great guy," Johnny says with a smile.

Johnny made a few recordings while singing every night in a south Los Angeles night club.

Baseball Fans
Jacobs, his wife Trudy, and their six children, Rick, 15; Mike, 12; Jesse, 10; Rachel, 8; Lewis, 6; and Susan, 4, are all avid baseball fans.

Mike and Jesse play in Little League and both made the All Star team, but Mike broke his elbow just before the All Star game and was unable to play. Rick plays in the Babe Ruth League.

He did a couple of recordings for Dot Records and Ditto Records, including "Evicted From Heaven" and "I Was Born Last Monday." He also recorded the score for Dan Dailey's picture, "The Girl Next Door," for Coral Records and did "Stop the Music" for RCA Victor with Henri Rene's orchestra.

Recent Break

The young singer got his most recent break with RCA through his contact with Al Rinker, one of the former Three Rhythm Boys (the other two were Bing Crosby and Harry Barris). Rinker, a song writer, uses Johnny to make his demonstration records, and during a recent session in New York, RCA officials listening to one of Al's records were so impressed with Johnny's singing that they asked if he were available. Al assured them he was, called Johnny in Torrance and cinched the deal that resulted in the recording of "Banana," current top tune being distributed in Europe as well as throughout the U.S.

Johnny's recording of "Banana" has been the number one tune in Des Moines, Iowa, and among the top 10 in New York City and Miami. It was picked by Variety as the "best bet of the week" and by The Cash Box as "Sleeper of the Week." Cash Box says "Banana" could skyrocket Johnny to stardom.

ON THE SCENE
with **HANK WOLLMAN**

Gardena is famous for many things, which strangely brings to mind the Vegas Club. This happy little bistro on the shores of Vermont avenue is the home of many unusual personalities. There's owner Tony Martello who whips up some "cool" pizzas besides playing the drums... there's Johnny Giangrande a suffering Dodger fan who is actually from Brooklyn (his!)... there's tall Eddie Borgellin who is responsible for "Dirty Dishes" (he says it's a song)... there's Freddy Martello from the Loretta Young Charm School... and there's Bob Martello who flunked out of that school! Add to all these the music of Fifi Baldwin and her pet poodle and you have the one and only Vegas Club!

The fact that prices are going up is no news, but when a sign goes up and up and up, that is news! And that is exactly what is happening at Del's Camino Room. Last week a colorful new sign was added to the building... but too low. It was raised, but not enough. At last report it was still going up. Look out Sputnik!

Along the Great Wide Way of 101 there's good news. Get out those sarongs and beach sandals, there's going to be another big Luau at the Polynesian in Waverly. If by some cruel twist of fate you've missed the previous parties,

then by all means make your reservations early. Besides the traditional colorful dinner and socko tropical drinks, there's the exciting show, the likes of which you haven't seen since Lassie had pups! Remember, the date is August 24.

In case you missed it, that big party at the Plush Horse last Friday was not only to welcome Eddie Baxter on the "Scene" again, but was a testimonial dinner. The democrats were out in full force for Glenn Anderson, candidate for Lt. Governor.

NAMES IN THE NIGHT:
Helen Dell, the charming music ma'am of the Jump 'n' Jack, who forsakes her vacation to return to her fans this week; Beverly McCorkle, the fetchingest Southland interior decorator, who "digs" Tempur (fried shrimp) a la Kyoto; Arne Lund's Alondra Inn where the music is lively on weekends, thanks to the sound of the 3 Notes (a trio, b. George); Leoneo's restaurant on Pacific Coast highway where host Nick has on praise for organ artist Al Kaub; Paul Atkinson, who has the smoothest piano stylings along the Great Wide Way; Robb's; Charles Murchison, pianist extraordinary of the H Barbee on Western, who is currently writing some new tunes for the talents of Dot record, thrush Fran-Palmer.

KNOW YOUR REALTOR



HOWARD M. JACOBS

Born in Alton, Iowa, Howard M. Jacobs, North Torrance realtor, has worked in many fields of industry. His present work has proved most satisfying. He declares himself proud to represent the N. Torrance area which he feels is one of the nicest.

Optimistic about business as a whole in Southern California, he feels that real estate in particular, will show a good year in 1958.

Jacobs early education was in a "little red schoolhouse" in Iowa, after which he attended Northwest Junior College. He majored in pre-law and took photography as a minor subject. This continues to be his hobby.

While there he was elected president of his fraternity, Sigma Mu Theta.

Tris Boxing
It was at this time too, that he started boxing and in time became amateur lightweight champion of northwest Iowa and won a scholarship to Trinity College. Jacobs was called into the army in 1941. Shortly before leaving for service, he married.

While in the army he picked up college credits, and upon his discharge, entered the University of South Dakota.

After working for more than a year for International Harvester, he decided to try his hand at farming. Finally, because of his wife's health, he brought his family to Southern California.

Retail Milk
His first business venture here was to buy a retail milk concern which he later sold. This was followed by three and a half years as field representative for the Auto Club of Southern California. His district was in the North Torrance area and it was during this time that he became interested in real estate.

Two years ago he opened his office at 3707 174th st., where he handles not only real estate, but all forms of insurance. He is a member of the Tor-

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duction, "Naughty New Orleans." They were married shortly thereafter in Las Vegas. Ellen, incidentally, is the cousin of Leona Gage, the controversial gal who gave up the Miss Universe title last year when it was discovered she was married.

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