

# Poor Standards, Equipment Hinder Port Disaster Vigil

BY ROBERT J. GORE  
Times Staff Writer

Exotic chemicals, petroleum products, grain, even hair spray—lidal waves of volatile substances—pass through the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach each year.

Nearly 900 million gallons of dangerous liquids, 2.2 million bushels of grain and occasional shipments of liquefied petroleum gas and radioactive materials are anxiously scrutinized by the Coast Guard, harbor departments and fire fighters.

Prodded by the lingering memory of the 1976 explosion of the tanker Samsinena in Los Angeles, the safety agencies maintain a vigil to protect residential and business communities within one mile of port facilities.

"The harbor has the heaviest concentration of chemicals in the city," said Samuel P. Crisa, battalion chief and head industrial inspector for the Los Angeles Fire Department. "There is a certain risk factor we try to keep to an irreducible minimum," said Crisa, who has worked in

the harbor for 24 years, "but there is no such thing as being 100% risk free."

It is this worry that prompted the California Coastal Commission to order all ports to inventory hazardous materials and formulate disaster plans. Long Beach has completed its count and the Los Angeles tally is under way.

For the first time, the ports will know exactly how much dangerous material passes through and where it is stored. Long Beach counted 336 million gallons and Los Angeles estimates 530 million gallons.

Most of the risky cargoes are petroleum products. Unusual chemicals such as styrene, benzene, caustic acids and the radioactive odd lots are handled by infrequent "drugstore ships."

Port authorities fight slipshod practices by industrial and shipping line operators. Each harbor focuses on its hot spot. Los Angeles must cope with liquefied petroleum gas and Long Beach watches a huge grain elevator.

In Los Angeles, it has been two

years since the mayor's Hazardous Cargoes Task Force recommended that the Building Code include more specific electrical requirements for the harbor's 13 oil terminals. No action has been taken.

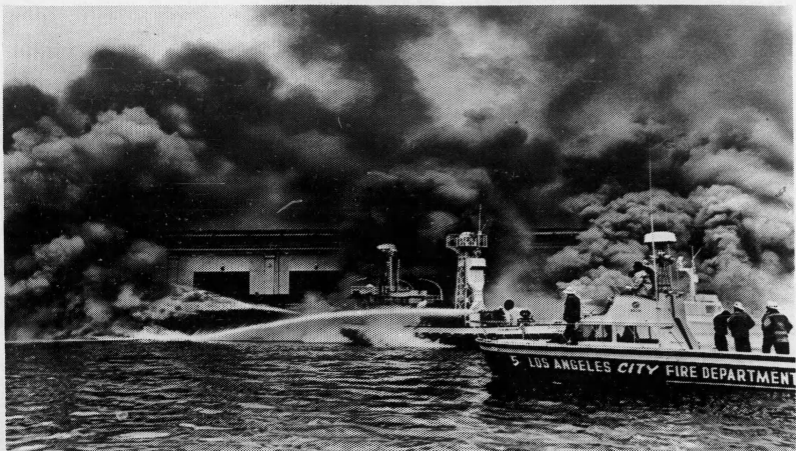
In Long Beach, the harbor's water-borne fire protection consists of two antiquated boats. Fire department executives have criticized harbor managers openly for not buying new boats. They said two fires have broken out in a major grain silo operation this year alone.

Incidents arise like this. A Long Beach fire inspector found a load of caustic acid in metal drums, stung on a dock. He determined that it was unsafe and ordered the acid moved immediately.

The ship's captain refused to allow it to be loaded. The terminal operator finally found a trucker to haul the stuff away, supposedly back to the Midwest factory.

However, the driver found a storage site in the Port of Los Angeles.

Please Turn to Page 4



ON THE LINE—L.A. Harbor uses special boats to fight pier fires like this one in 1967 at Berth 174. Times photos



FIERY REMNANTS—The oil tanker Samsinena was ripped in half by an explosion in 1976. Port

officials dread another such disaster, one of the worst in the Los Angeles Harbor's history.

## Los Angeles Times Centinela South Bay

B PART X  
SUNDAY, AUGUST 19, 1979

### Street Signs Slow Vice Traffic in Inglewood

BY BOB WILLIAMS  
Times Staff Writer

INGLEWOOD—In the battle against prostitution, "No Stopping Anytime" signs posted along busy thoroughfares often have come to mean, "No Hookers Allowed."

The ban on stopping has prevented potential customers (johns) from pulling to the curb to pick up prostitutes. Officials said the prohibition also helps eliminate accidents and near-accidents that may occur when johns make quick decisions to respond to invitations, jamming on their brakes or swerving to the outside lane.

Two years ago Inglewood posted non-stopping signs on Century Blvd., one of the most heavily traveled thoroughfares in the state—and once a hangout for hookers who sought clients among patrons of the Hollywood Park racetrack and the Forum.

Many other customers were drawn from travelers to and from Los Angeles International Airport. But the stopping ban broke the roadside link between the hookers and their johns. Police were ready to ticket any motorist who paused to take on a passenger, according to officials.

Strict traffic enforcement emerged as one of the most successful techniques for controlling street vice, police

Please Turn to Page 3

## Schools' Pay-to-Play Fees Anger Coaches

They Claim Charges Will Cut Football Turnout, Make Sport for 'Elite' Only

BY ALAN DROOZ  
Times Staff Writer

A coaching axiom that athletes who want to succeed have to pay the price has come true in two South Bay school districts; several high schools this year are charging students to play on sports teams.

While administrators see this as an alternative to cutting extracurricular activities after Proposition 13, football coaches are hardly enthusiastic as they prepare for their first formal practices this week.

The fee program prompted Rolling Hills' Mike Witous to quit his football assistant coaching job and to turn down the head coaching position. "I think it stinks. I can't believe this is happening to kids," he said.

Rolling Hills, Palos Verdes and Miraleste high schools are affected by the plan adopted by the Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District. Fees will be charged on an individual

sport basis—\$50 for football to \$20 for cross-country. Soccer, volleyball and softball are in the \$40 range.

The South Bay Union High School District, covering Aviation, Mira Costa and Redondo high schools, set a flat \$67 fee per sport. Both districts made hardship provisions wherein fees can be waived or picked up through booster club or student body funds.

The Las Virgenes School District in the San Fernando Valley instituted a fee program for extracurricular activities last year and reported fair success. Agoura and Calabasas high schools were affected. "People just accepted it due to Proposition 13," Agoura athletic director Gene Werkheiser said.

That was little solace to South Bay football coaches, who fear their programs will deteriorate because of de-

Please Turn to Page 4

## T-Man's Job Is Keeping Dignitaries Safe: 'You Have to Plan for All Possibilities'

BY ROBERT J. ALLAN  
Times Staff Writer

The President of the United States will be in the Los Angeles area to give a speech on the nation's economy during a Democratic fund-raising dinner at the Century Plaza Hotel.

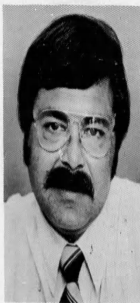
—A hypothetical White House announcement.

MANHATTAN BEACH—Although a planned visit by the President may last only 10 or 12 hours, the preparations to ensure his safety in the area could involve hundreds of man hours, according to Bill Richardson, a U.S. Secret Service agent who lives in this city.

As a nine-year veteran of the service, Richardson has been involved in the preparations for such important events as visits by high-ranking officials.

Preparations range from securing the arrival and departure sites at the airport to arranging a safe trip from the airport to the hotel and back.

Then comes the screening of hotel employees—from the waiter, who



Bill Richardson  
Times photo

would serve the visiting dignitary in his room, and the maid, who would bring in a fresh supply of towels to the elevator operators, who would be

on duty, and the cooks, who would prepare the food.

The physical layout of the hotel, its points of entry and the location of stairways and elevators must be known in case a hurried departure were necessary. Rooms must be found for the dozens of Secret Service agents and other law enforcement members involved in the visit.

If the guest is the President, Richardson said, agents from offices throughout the country would be called in to beef up the Los Angeles Secret Service contingent.

Richardson, who has served as a site supervisor—the agent with the ultimate responsibility for a visit to a specific location—said, in making such preparations, "You plan for all conceivable possibilities."

Before the start of this century, the Secret Service did not protect high-ranking officials; its concerns were money and other negotiable securities issued by the federal government.

The oldest law enforcement agency in the United States, the Secret Ser-

Please Turn to Page 10

## ON THE TRAIL OF LEWIS & CLARK

### Students Test Mettle in Wilderness

BY MARK LANDSBAUM  
Times Staff Writer

Karen Palko arrived at camp without any instruction in the skills of kayaking, unlike the other members of the expedition.

To lighten her anxiety, she was the only member of the group who did not know how to swim. In the river, nose plug in place, she was frightened even of water splashing in her face.

She was part of the Expedition of '79, retracing the Montana portion of the trail of the Lewis and Clark Expedition of 1804-05 to the Pacific Ocean.

Thirteen students had enrolled in the University of La Verne's "When Lewis and Clark Met the Mountains" course, from July 16 to Aug. 11.

A week later, Ms. Palko, 20, slalashed at the choppy waves created by the rocky bottom of the Gallatin River as she struggled to maneuver her kayak through the rapids to avoid a huge boulder cleaving the racing water.

Later she would recall how terrified she was as she avoided the boulder.

With white water churning around her vulnerable kayak, Ms. Palko began to hear singing.

"I thought I was having a religious experience," she recalled.

But as she moved beyond the boulder, she discovered the source of the singing—two other kayakers, singing as they passed the boulder on the other side.

Ms. Palko may have been the expedition's most courageous member.

Of course, 3-year-old Tracy Huignens needed all the courage she could muster as she rode the bouncing rubber raft with her father and others down the treacherous Yellowstone River, where the water moved over even more crazy obstacles, and past much larger boulders.

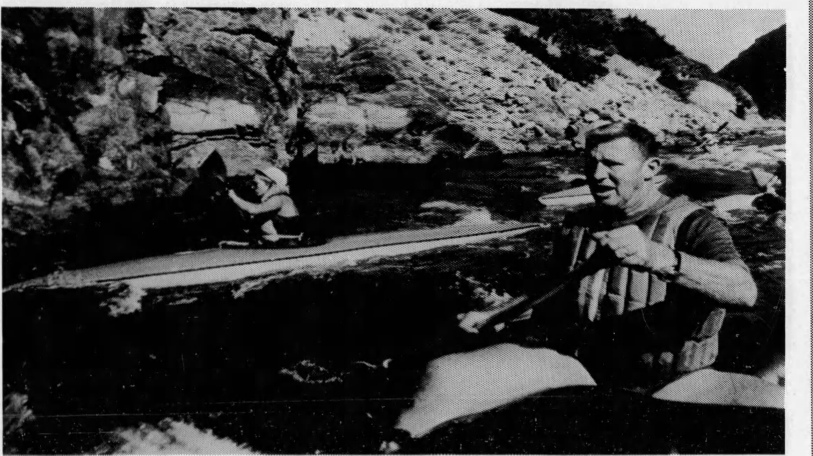
And there was Dan Merritt, a 39-year-old professor of biology, who once in a kayak in the rivers of western Montana, found that it was "the first time I've taught my body anything in 25 years."

But for Kelly Stuart, 18, of El Segundo, who played four years on her high school boys' water polo team, the expedition held different physical challenges, such as excursions into rugged terrain.

"There were bugs and thorny bushes and God knows what else," she wrote in her personal journal. "They all attacked me when I climbed up the hill. I think everyone rises to the challenge."

Ms. Stuart composed poems and songs by campfire, and entertained the group by playing her mandolin. Merritt and his son, Sheridan, 15, were the youngest and oldest kayakers in the expedition.

Please Turn to Page 6



LEADER—Moving down a treacherous stretch of Yankee Jim Canyon on the Yellowstone River is Roland Ortmeier, a veteran of many expeditions along the wild rivers of Montana.

er is Roland Ortmeier, a veteran of many expeditions along the wild rivers of Montana.

Times photo by Joel P. Lugavere

Continued from First Page

lice said, adding that it dramatically reduced open prostitution on Century Blvd.

But hookers began drifting down to the Imperial Hwy. along the southern border of the city. Police followed and, in the latest of a series of sweeps, officers pulled in 47 hookers and 87 johns in 10 days.

When officials tried to use traffic-control techniques as a more permanent deterrent to prostitution on the highway, they encountered stiff resistance from store owners along the street.

No-stopping signs might be effective in keeping johns from making deals with hookers, the business owners said, but they also hindered customers who wanted to visit their stores.

A large delegation of merchants told the City Council last week that the sudden loss of street parking on Imperial had driven off so many customers that several businesses were threatened with bankruptcy.

Officials responded quickly to the distress calls from the city's business taxpayers and came up with a compromise. As soon as the signs can be changed along the city's portion of Imperial, stopping will be prohibited only from 3 p.m. until 8:30 a.m. on the north side of the street and from 3 p.m. to 6 a.m. on the south.

"We hope this change will alleviate the problems of the merchants by allowing street parking during most of their business hours, while at the same time curbing the activities of the prostitutes during the nighttime," said Dep. City Administrator William Farnham.

"If the girls can't work the street during the night, then perhaps they won't find it worthwhile to go out there during the day."

Imperial runs through Inglewood between Van Ness and Prairie Aves. and continues west through Hawthorne. Kenneth Jue, Hawthorne's city manager, said officials there had no immediate plans to change signs along their city's portion of Imperial where parking is permitted except for brief periods in the early morning and late afternoon.

Those restrictions, Jue said, were intended primarily to promote traffic flow during the busiest hours of the day, not to discourage hookers.

"But we will be monitoring Inglewood's experiment closely," he said, "and if the hookers start to migrate over in our direction, we may have to reconsider our stand (on not installing no-stopping-any time signs)."

An Inglewood vice officer said, "It's the old shell game that we all play with the hookers. We find a way to chase them out of town, they move on to another jurisdiction, which tries to push them in another direction, and so on and so on."

"If we put enough effort and money into it, we can control prostitution. But no one from Day One has been able to stop it entirely."

**YAMAHA PIANOS & ORGANS**  
LONG TERM FINANCING AVAILABLE

Also, other Famous Brand Names

**Nikh Music** 2746 PACIFIC COAST HWY. AT CROSBYWAY  
SINCE 1947 NEXT TO HOME SLK SHOP TORRANCE 530-6410

**ANTIQUE SLOT MACHINES**

• PINBALLS • POOL TABLES  
• BUMPER POOL • JUKE BOXES

**EVERYTHING TO FURNISH YOUR GAME ROOM**

LARGE SELECTION THE FUN STORE

**POOL & PATIO**

24449 HAWTHORNE BLVD., TORRANCE  
3 BLOCKS SO. OF PACIFIC COAST HWY.

**WE SELL GOLD FOR LESS**

14K GOLD SERPENTINE BRACELET	\$6.98
SERPENTINE ANKLET	\$12.00
15" SERPENTINE NECKCHAIN	\$15.00
20" SERPENTINE NECKCHAIN	\$18.00
COBRA BRACELET	\$9.98
15" COBRA NECKCHAIN	\$18.00

**SPECIAL OFFER**

**14K Floating Hearts**

Regular \$4.88 **\$2.88**

**14K Gold Key** Regular \$6.88 **\$3.88**

With this coupon/one per customer.

Offer expires 8/25/79

**WESTON JEWELERS**

"THE GOLD STORE"

325 Manhattan Beach Blvd., Manhattan Beach (213) 543-5216

9:30-6 p.m. Monday through Saturday (4 doors East of the Bay 90's Restaurant)

Picture enlarged to show detail

**Trio to Offer Poetry Reading**

HERMOSA BEACH—Authors Barbara Abercrombie, Jeanne Nichols and Norma Alquist will hold a poetry reading at 4:30 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 2, at the Hermosa Beach Community Center on Pier Ave. The free event is sponsored by the Friends of the Arts.

**Library to Present Puppet Show**

LENNOX—The staff of Lennox Library will present a free puppet show at 2 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 30, at the library, 4559 Lennox Blvd. Their folk tales—"The Gingerbread Man," "Monkey and the Crocodile" and "The Gummiwolf"—will be featured.

**Los Angeles Times**

**CENTINELA-SOUTH BAY OFFICE**  
2903 W. 182nd St. Redondo Beach 90278  
Phones: News, 371-5530;  
Display Advertising, 371-7525  
Classified Advertising, 371-6656

**LOS ANGELES OFFICE (toll free):**  
Classified Advertising: 874-8770  
Circulation Department: 674-0611  
or 639-1200  
All others: 674-6266, 639-3131

Arthur M. Berman, Suburban Editor  
Herbert J. Vida, Centinela-South Bay Editor

## Summer Sale

**All Upholstery at substantial Savings**  
**Stanton Cooper Sofas & Loveseats**  
**Exceptional prices for top quality construction**

Sofas start at \$629 — Loveseats \$549

Check these features:

- 8 way hand tied base
- Kiln dried hardwood
- Corner blocked, doweled, glued & screwed
- Arm covers
- Lined skirts & interlined cushions
- Zippered seat & back cushions
- Great selection of styles and fabrics
- All On Sale Now Stock & Special Order

Til Sept. 1st



**van Hemert, Inc.**  
FINE FURNITURE AND INTERIOR DESIGN

TORRANCE 23849 Hawthorne Blvd. (213) 378-1279  
COSTA MESA 1595 Newport Blvd. (714) 642-2050  
LAGUNA BEACH 345 North Coast Hwy. (714) 494-8551

**CLOSED SUNDAYS**

# SUPER SPA SALE

SEE THE LARGEST SELECTION OF WOODEN HOT TUBS IN SO. CALIF.



"WE TAKE THE SHAPE OF YOUR BODY AND MAKE IT THE SHAPE OF OUR SPA."

**BRING IN THIS COUPON FOR YOUR CHOICE OF ...**

**A—CORDLESS PORTABLE TELEPHONE (VALUE \$350.00)**

**B—DIGITAL ELECTRONIC SPA THERMOMETER (VALUE: \$135.00) AND TWO REMOTE AIR SWITCHES (TOTAL VALUE \$305)**

**C—FOUR REMOTE CONTROL SWITCHES (VALUE: \$340.00)**


**D—\$200.00 CASH DISCOUNT ON ANY SPA OR HOT TUB SYSTEM OF YOUR CHOICE.**

\*Offer Expires Sept. 15, 1979. Offer good with purchase of any complete spa or hot tub system excluding portables.

## DAVIS FURNITURE MFG.

**WE GUARANTEE THE LOWEST PRICES**

California Casual Knotty Pine Mix 'n Match  
**ANTIQUE PINE FINISH**



	RETAIL	OUR PRICE
A. 3 Drawer 2 Door Chest	164.95	89.95
Unfinished	184.95	109.95
B. 5 Drawer Chest	149.95	89.95
Unfinished	169.95	99.95
C. 2 Drawer Commode	64.95	38.95
Unfinished	74.95	45.95
D. 7 Drawer Dresser	178.95	107.95
Unfinished	206.95	125.95
E. Desk Mirror	94.95	57.95
Unfinished	106.95	65.95
F. Queen/Full Headboard	52.95	29.95
Unfinished	74.95	39.95

**2" THICK MASSIVE PINE ROLL TOP DESK ANTIQUE PINE FINISH**

Retail \$499.95  
**OUR PRICE \$259.95**

**OAK COMMODE OR DESK BOOKCASE WITH DARK WALNUT FINISH RETAIL \$349.95**

**OUR PRICE \$139.95**

11423 JOANNE PLACE Culver City, Ca. 90230 (213) 398-0400  
Mon.-Fri. 10-8, Sat. 10-7, Sun. 12-6

**HYDRO SPA CENTER**

**YOUR ONE STOP SUPERMARKET OF**  
Top quality, brand name fiberglass spas, wooden hot tubs, & saunas from such leading manufacturers as:

HYDRO SPA Fiberglass spas  
HYMERA Fiberglass spas  
TRADEWINDS Fiberglass spas  
JACUZZI Fiberglass spas  
PRESTIGE Redwood hot tubs

COOPER'S CHOICE Pecky cedar hot tubs  
OLYMPIUS Mahogany hot tubs  
FRANCISCA WOODWORKS Teak hot tubs  
SPA-KING Portable Spas  
METOS Saunas

TELEDYNE LAARS Heaters

10930 Santa Monica Bl. West L.A. Between Westwood & Veteran 370-1193  
Visa & Master Charge Accepted. Installation and financing available. Free classes for do-it-yourselfers.

16301 Hawthorne Blvd. Lawndale One Block So. of San Diego Fwy. 370-5533

20346 Hawthorne Bl. Torrance 1/2 Block South of Old Towne Mall 542-1621