

Council Approves \$32.3 Million Budget, 12.7 Pct. Gas-Rate Hike

By GEORGE WEEKS
The City Council late Tuesday night approved a record annual budget of about \$32,300,000, including a 12.7 per cent gas rate increase and pay raises for all employees.

The property tax rate will remain substantially unchanged from last year's \$1.37 per \$100 assessed valuation. Councilmen ordered salary increases of 4 per cent for all employees then singled out life guards for an extra raise of 5.2 per cent.

ELECTED city officials other than council members themselves, will share in the general raise. One official, City Auditor John R. Mansell,

was given an extra boost to place his salary at \$15,000. It is now \$14,700.

All raises are effective Sept. 1. Their cost for the current fiscal year is estimated at \$685,000.

Councilmen approved the gas-rate increase, both in the budget vote and in an earlier reading of an ordinance amendment. The higher bills also become effective about Sept. 1.

The vote, both on the budget and the gas-rate ordinance, was 8-1. Dissenting was Councilman Andrew Baird.

THIS YEAR'S allotment for capital improvements was set at \$803,740. Councilmen accepted all projects recommended by City Manager Sam E. Vickers, except a proposed \$77,819 appropriation

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for improving the El Dorado Golf Course.

Councilmen performed the difficult feat of giving raises without boosting the tax rate by means of added income which had not been included in original estimates.

They wrapped up the budget assignment at 11:20 p.m., more than 14 hours after they had convened.

IN THE interval, tempers were frizzled repeatedly, as were those of property owner groups and city employee spokesmen.

During the last three hours of the session councilmen and other employees who had missed dinner munched at sandwiches, peanuts and fruit. It was the longest Council meeting in the memory of old City Hall employees.

Early in the meeting, 391 property owners petitioned the council to hold the line on both taxes and gas rates. Harvey E. Miller, president

of the Long Beach Board of Realtors, who presented the petition, asserted that proposed transfer of gas-department surplus to the general fund would not be necessary "if the fat were cut from the budget."

Council members merely received and filed the petition.

"I HAVE devoted all of my waking time for a month to trying to find ways to make cuts," said Vice Mayor Bert Bond. "If we don't raise the gas rate, we will need an extra 20 cents on the tax rate."

During the evening session, spokesmen for three employee groups renewed their earlier pleas for pay raises. None of the employee organizations was fully satisfied although General Manager Paul M. Marcus of the City Employees Assn. said he preferred the 4 per cent general increase to the selective raises recommended by the city manager. Councilmen ultimately ig-

nored the manager's pay proposals.

Firemen won an extra concession in the revision of their budget to provide added pay for employees while working at a higher classification on relief assignment.

Changes in the preliminary budget were so numerous that Finance Department experts had not tabulated an exact total.

The budget ordinance will be adopted officially at a special council meeting set for 4 p.m. Thursday.

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Girl Bandit Flees

LONDON (AP) — A pretty girl tried to hold up a London bank Tuesday. Bank clerk Douglas Webber, 28, looked down the barrel of a gun and said "don't be silly." The girl turned and ran.

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Style Decrees Order of Garter

LONDON (AP) — Garters snapped back into fashion Tuesday.

At a women's show—sponsored by the associated members of the Incorporated Society of London Fashion Designers—garters held a prominent place.

Jeweled and made to wear below the knee, one pair was in blue and white rhinestones, retailing at 10 guineas, (\$29.40).

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BEACH COMBING

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THERE'S always an answer, it seems, for a complaint.

Bill Corwell noticed a story here about a lady who wanted to buy some Capri pants she saw in a window, but couldn't because the clerk wouldn't take them out.

"I haven't seen the lady so can't be sure," said Corwell. "But it's possible the clerk was doing her (and the viewing public) a favor."

Does this suggest a city ordinance or something to establish qualifications for women who want to wear Capri pants?

DRIVING through Lusk, Wyo. on a business trip, Long Beach School District's Ray Peterson found himself in a lot of traffic and with a policeman looking down his neck.

"Where you going?" asked the cop.

Peterson told him he was trying to get out of town.

"Stay right on course but drive slowly," said the officer.

Peterson did, and found himself leading the state American Legion convention parade. He smilingly acknowledged the plaudits of people on the sidewalks who, seeing his California license, probably thought he was Nixon.

THE Harold Osterberg family of L.B. have picked up a spare black cat.

For sometime, they've had one coal-colored kitten, which had a way of riding to work with Osterberg. Without invitation, the feline would sneak into the back seat, and Osterberg would drive him home when he was discovered.

The other day a fellow at the parking lot produced a black cat as Osterberg started home. "Here's your cat," he said. "He must have ridden down with you this morning."

Osterberg drove home with the animal. There waiting for him at the home garage was kitten No. 1.

SOMETHING new in the merchandising field is carried by Bill Harris, the insurance mogul.

It's a "worldwide cash card." It entitles the bearer to pay now and fly later on airplanes. In fact, it is good for anything when accompanied by cash.

Harris says that in a credit card-mad world, the card when presented causes quite a stir. But he hasn't found anybody yet who won't honor it when accompanied by the proper amount of mazoobla.

L.B.'S NEW city councilmen, alas, have found it is easier to talk about tax-cutting in campaigns than to achieve it in office.

The new councilmen and their veteran brothers have been struggling with a city budget plopped into their laps right after election. They sharpened their knives and went after it.

But after all the effort, the budget stands with a few minor changes.

"It's frustrating," said one serious-minded freshman. "I talked \$180,000 out of a departmental budget one day, but before the session was over, that \$180,000 was back in there."

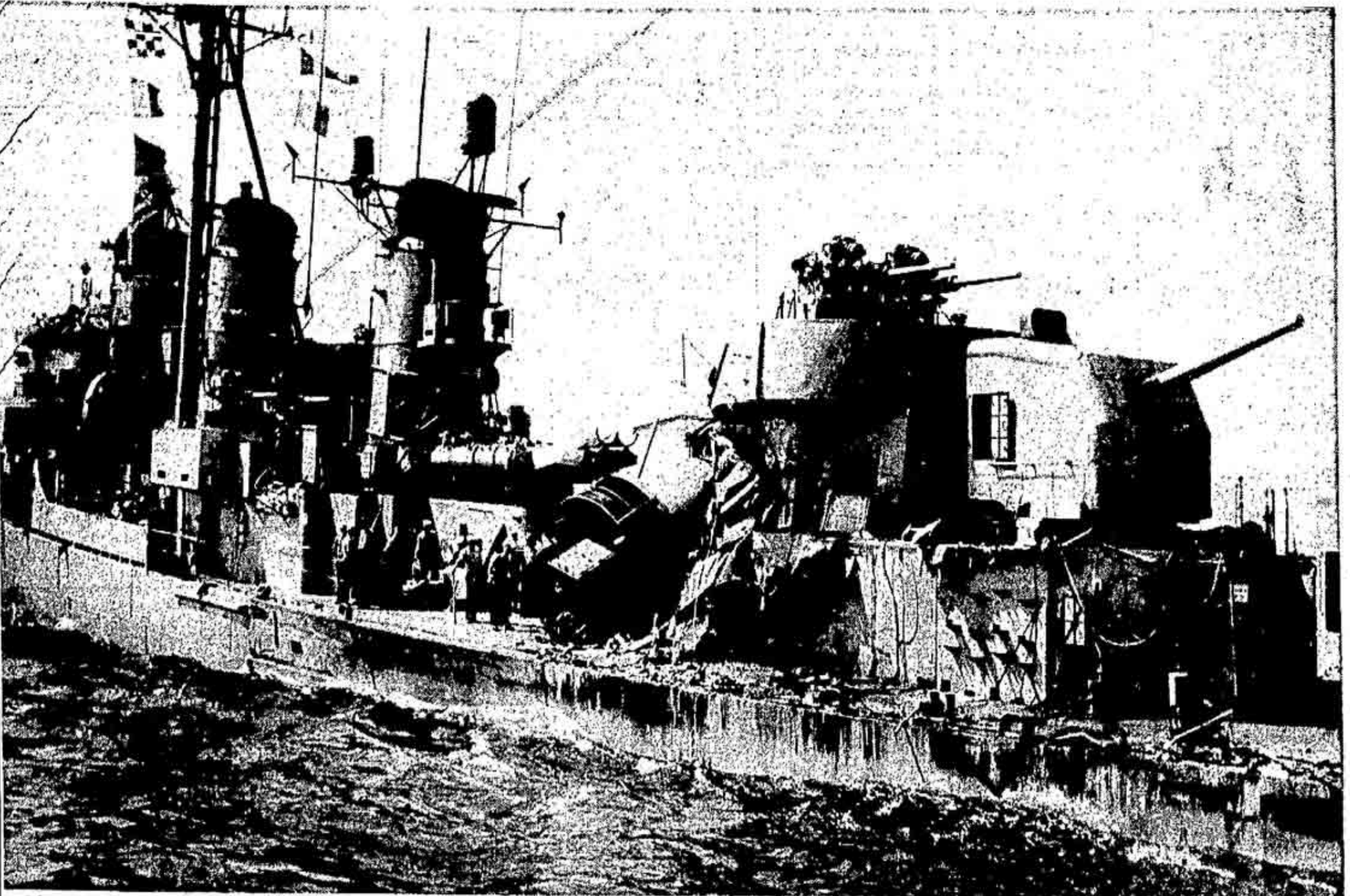
So it goes.

PERSONAL fishing experiences related here are of course modest and unexciting as compared with some reported by the real hot anglers around town. My fishing pals and I make no smash catches—we just have a whale of a time.

Nothing with us like a report from Jack and June Kraber (he's an ex-Long Beach plumber who must have done well with the pipes) who are just now at Lac LaRonge, Saskatchewan. Kraber went out on the lake the other day and came in with his limit of 15- to 18-pound trout and a passel of walleyed pike. An Iowan fishing nearby got a 35-pound trout.

Heck, the 40 trout we got didn't weigh 35 pounds altogether.

This Is Ship on Which 11 Were Killed



USS AMMEN, SHOWING EXTENSIVE DAMAGE WHERE USS COLLETT RAMMED HER PORT QUARTER, IS TOWED INTO LONG BEACH TUESDAY

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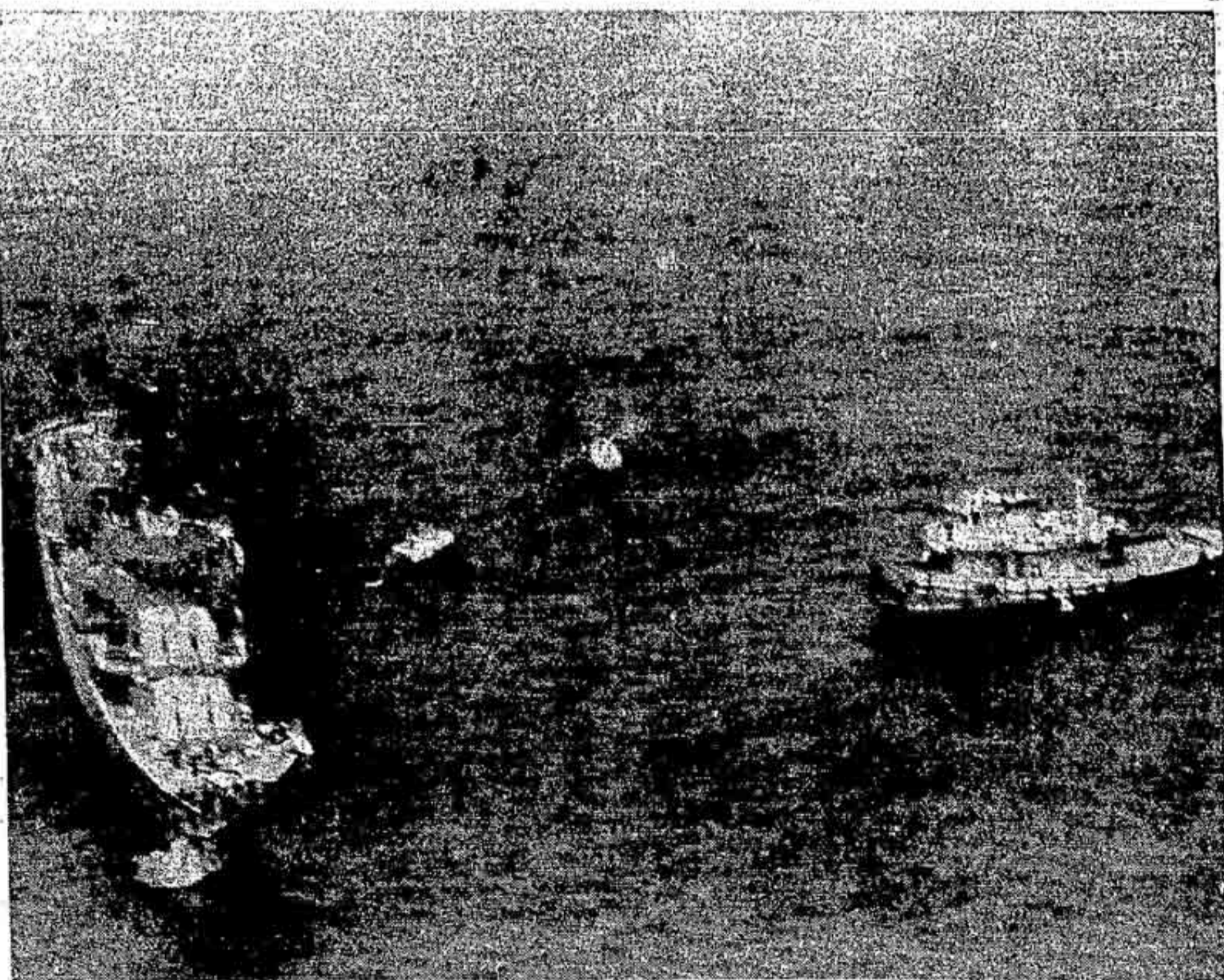
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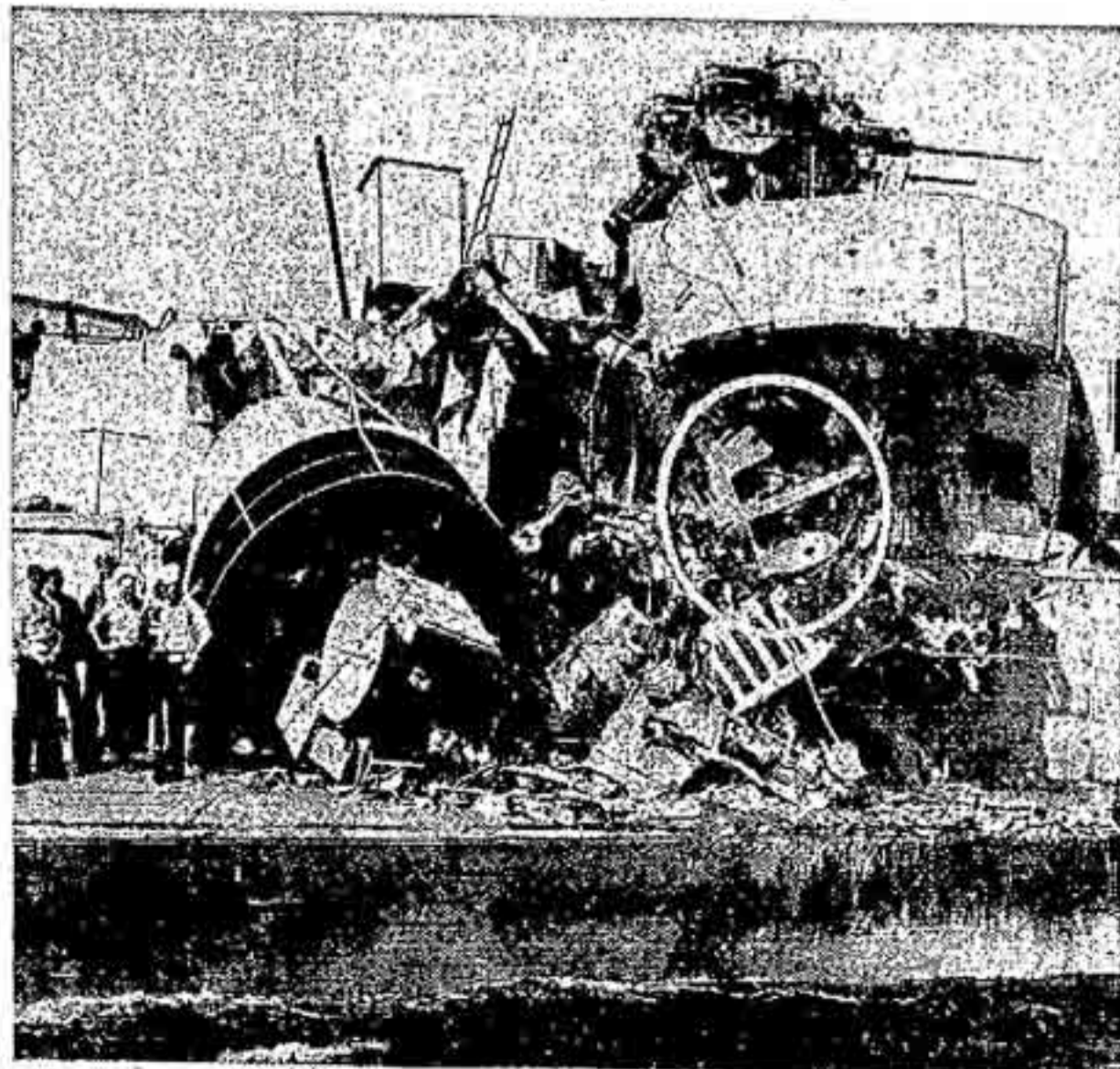


NAVY SURVIVOR

Yeoman Chief Petty Officer Leonard Larson rests aboard hospital ship USS Haven after doctors treated him for a severe scalp wound following collision. Larson, who was aboard USS Ammen, was forced to crawl through a three-foot hole to safety.



USS COLLETT, GAPING HOLE IN HER BOW, LIMPS HOMEWARD AFTER COLLISION WITH OTHER DESTROYER



COLLETT'S ANCHOR EMBEDDED ON AMMEN

The USS Collett's anchor (circled) lies embedded in the port quarter of the USS Ammen as it is towed into Long Beach Harbor following the collision of the ships off Newport Beach Tuesday morning. The anchor was ground into a Mark 56 Director just below a gun turret. Behind the anchor is a supply room where four men were killed. All 11 of the dead men were in this immediate area when the bow of the Collett rammed the Ammen.

Survivor Carried Off Ship



ONE OF FIRST SURVIVORS is shown being brought ashore after rescue teams reached the victims. Stretcher cases from the collision of warships were rushed to Newport's Hoag Memorial Hospital.—(All Staff Photos.)