

# YOU'RE INVITED TO CITY'S "GAY NINETIES" PARTY!

## Women's Styles

1890



Many and variable according to the season and the weather. For summer, a shirtwaist with high tight-fitting collar and lace jabot. Long flowing skirt of blue storm serge or black brocade stuff lined throughout, a crinoline border to make it stand out, and a dust-ruffle to collect souvenirs.

A ribbon belt crossed in front and the ends pinned down, a gracefully drooping leghorn hat with flowers and glass cherries, (one of the favorite gags was "Wouldn't that rattle the cherries on mother's bonnet?"), a pair of lace mitts, a lace bordered handkerchief, a fan, a sunshade, a pair of long black cotton stockings held up by round garters, high buttoned shoes.

This marked the lady. The hoyden of the nineties wore the same costume, but varied it with the high stiff collar and red bow tie sneaked from brother's wardrobe, and a sailor hat perched rakishly atop her Psyche knot displayed her ears and bangs. A little rice powder to keep the nose from shining was de rigueur, but rouge and lipstick—mercy me!



## Styles for Men

1890



Black derby.

Four-inch stand-up collar, barrel cuffs, white dickey. Red bow necktie, or four-in-hand with horseshoe or gold nugget pin.

Striped vest with toothbrush in upper pocket, gold toothpick in lower left; silver watch, heavy gold chain with seal charm.

For evening, black cutaway coat, tight-fitting pantaloons; for every day, blue serge, loose sack coat cut half way to the knees, the pair of trousers you wanted to wear out first.

High shoes with pointed toes, black socks. Congress gaiters for the old and gouty.

Haircut according to the seasons. Moustache luxuriant, and curled at ends. Only doctors, lawyers, congressmen or railroad brakemen wore whiskers.

Overcoats ranged from the light tan covert cloth top coat to the shaggy nondescript fur, grand-daddy of the modern collegiate youth's racoon coat.

## Here's The Prize List!

ONE Hundred Dollars in Cash Prizes is to be distributed during the course of the great neighborhood "Gay Nineties" Christmas Party around the flag pole in the center of the business section of the city, Saturday Night, December 6. Here is how the awards will be made:

For the Most Typical and Authentic "Gay Nineties" Costume.

First Prize, \$25.00 in cash; Second Prize, \$15.00 in cash

For the Funniest "Gay Nineties" Costume, \$10.00 in cash

For the Prize Waltz Couple: \$10.00 in cash

For the Prize Two-Step Couple: \$10.00 in cash.

AND—Bags of Money and Candy to be distributed by Santa Claus to all Children attending the party.

## The City of Torrance Cordially Invites

Mr. and Mrs. John B. Citizen and All the Little Citizens

## To Attend It's "GAY NINETIES"

### Christmas Party

Saturday Night, December Sixth  
From 7 until 10 P. M.

On the Streets Around the Flag Pole  
\$100 in Cash Prizes and Bags of Money and Candy to All the Children

There's YOUR invitation to attend the grand "Gay Nineties" Christmas party that is to officially start a real old-fashioned Christmas season in Torrance this year!

Gents can cut it out and paste it in their derbies—ladies may clip it and come to the party clasping it firmly in their gloved hands—and mothers may shove it in the youngsters' mittens!

You don't need to bring it—just come! Every man, woman and child in Torrance, Lomita and surrounding cities is cordially invited to come to the business section of the city on the evening of December 6 and take part in the fun.

Old Dances on Program  
BUT—You should come in costume.  
A "Gay Nineties" costume—those

"funny" clothes that mother used to wear when she went calling; that impressive outfit that father used to don when attending lodge—those are the togs that are going to win some fine prizes that gala night. Just imagine the fun with everybody all dressed up "fit to kill" in those



scrumptious old hats, dresses, suits, and coats! Remember that loud check suit that So-and-So wore when he went to the county fair in 1893?

There'll be some fine old-fashioned music for those graceful old-fashioned dances that will be the feature of the evening; there'll be lights, color and a spirit of gayety that has seldom been seen in this city of ours for a long, long time. We're going to forget for a while that we are ending the year 1930 and re-live those glorious days of the 1890's—when mother was the "belle of the ball" and father was "one of those fast young men, my dear, who scorch the streets on their bicycles built for two—just think!"

### Here's Your Style Chart

Now that you've received your bid to the city's party and, we hope, accepted it—you must be wondering:

"What shall I wear?"

The answer to that perplexing question is—those old clothes hanging 'way, 'way back in the closet or buried deep in that trunk that you brought to Torrance from back east. Those styles of the '90's—those yards and yards of skirt, that shirtwaist and short coat



—that derby lid, those iron cuffs and tight

pants. Wasp-waists, dickey-shirts, hats that perched on pompadours (there'll be few of those in these days of bobs and permanents!) those big, flowing Ascot ties, bustles, colorful vests—those are the things to wear at the party.

Do you know how to square dance? schottische? Virginia reel? do the real old-fashioned waltz and two-step? Better ask some of those who can tell the figures of those terpsch—oh, well, dance steps. Those dances will be on the program almost to the exclusion of the fox-trot, one-step and what's that latest hop?

Then, when the "Gay Nineties" party is at its height, a salute will be sounded and the cash prizes, totalling \$100 will be distributed to the wearers of the most typical and authentic costumes of the period that will always be remembered for its moustache-cups, be-skirted ladies, handsome gents, buggies and expansive hilarity.

### Let the Children Come

—And don't forget to bring the children! They will have as much fun as the grown-ups. Let them see the way grandpa and grandma made "whoop-pee" in their younger days! And before the party starts, take them on a "window shopping" tour of the business district to see the toys, gifts and colorful array of other Christmas articles that our Torrance merchants have so carefully gathered from the ends of



the earth in order to meet every requirement of gift-purchasers.

Perhaps the best part about the whole celebration will be its utter informality. There will be none of the hurry and bustle

of the great metropolitan centers; none of the false, impersonal "pageantry" of tinsel and milling throngs; no traffic jams and racing motorists—just a good neighborhood party. Your friends will be there, the people you do business with, your doctor, lawyer, dentist, clerk, fellow worker, banker, minister—they will all be out for the fun just like yourself.

### Do You Remember When—

In a way, it will be a "do you remember when—" party. All of us have had some kind of a contact with the "Gay Nineties" period, even the youngest of us because we've heard



dad and mother talk of the soup tureens, the moustache cups, the cruet stands, the portieres and some such like. We'll wager our linotype machine that you'll hear more tales of high-spirited fun and low-down comment on that "Mr. Such-and-Such who had those Prince Albert whiskers and drove his pair of bays down Main street just lickety-cut at midnight, think of it!" than you've ever heard before.

Saturday night, December 6—the date of the party just fits in with the Saturday night bath! Say—do you remember when the old galvanized iron tub was drug out from the back porch and the "reservoir" in the kitchen stove filled to capacity and all the vessels in the house



were called upon to amplify the supply of hot water for the institutional rites that always left one spic and span for church and

Sunday school the next morning?

### Merchants Invite You

The Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring our party December 6 and has made great plans for your entertainment. You owe it to yourself and your family to dress up and sashay out to the frolic. The entertainment will be free—but you'll have to provide your own refreshments. Right here it would be advisable to report that the drug stores will endeavor to take the place, however, non-alcoholic, of the corner saloon of pungent and robust memory. Of course you remember when—but we'll let that go!

Nobody in Torrance and Lomita should stay at home on the night of the party. We urge you to hurry through your dinner, don those old style clothes and get down to the business section of the city. Every merchant will be on duty at his place of business to talk over old times with you and to show you his stock of Christmas treasures. The business men are anxious that you have a good time and want to show you just the things that would be so nice for Aunt Em or Uncle Fred or dad or mother.



### By Us and for Us

Other cities may have their "pageants," "Santa Claus lanes," parades and what not—but Torrance is going to have a real old-fashioned Christmas party, given by neighbor folks for neighbor folks. We're going to dance and sing and be ourselves. We're going to have a regular dyed-in-the-wool celebration at our "Gay Nineties" party!

"Come out from under that derby, Fred—I know yah!"  
"Why, Mary—where on earth did you find that priceless hat?"