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Torrance Herald

TWENTY-SECOND YEAR—NO. 52 SECTION A TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1936 PER COPY 5c

City Seeks Combine on PWA Building Grants

YULE MUSIC PROGRAM IS OPEN TO ALL

Two Presentations Will Be Given Wednesday In Auditorium
AUDIENCE TO SING
 High School Music and Art Groups Join With Pastors

Sponsored jointly by the high school music and art departments and the Torrance Ministerial Union, a Christmas musicale will be presented without charge or collection next Wednesday afternoon and evening in the civic auditorium that will be an event of deep moving significance.

The program will be presented with the high school choir, an alumni antiphonal chorus, four local pastors and the audience. Every resident of Torrance and vicinity is invited to attend this Yuletide observance which will combine Christmas music of the nations with a brief devotional and congregational singing, of old-time carols. The afternoon matinee will begin at 1:30 o'clock for students and adults who cannot attend the evening presentation at 7:30 o'clock. The program will last for one hour.

Enact Christmas Story
 A cathedral stage setting with unusual lighting effects will be used for the scene of the high school students' portion of the program. The student singing groups will be directed by Mrs. Marjorie Elschen, who is also arranging the stage effects with the assistance of the school art department.

Costumed characters representing the various nations of the world will enact a Christmas story in pantomime while the student capella singers present typical Yuletide songs of their countries. The alumni choir of 30 voices is rehearsing some unusual antiphonal numbers to supplement the songs by the school choir.

Opening with a prayer by Rev. E. W. Matz and a "Peace, Good-Will Proclamation" by Rev. George Elder, the musicale will begin with two French carols by the high school choir, "March of the Kings," a traditional air, and "Sleep of the Child Jesus" by Geuart. An Italian hymn, "Adoramus Te" by Palestrina follows and then England's cheerful carol, "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen," will be heard.

Congregational Singing
 Two Russian songs, "Clear and Calm Was That Holy Night" by Nikolsky and the folk tune, "Mother and Son," precede the German offerings, "Beside Thy Cradle" by Bach and the traditional carol, "In Dulci Jubilo." America's contribution to Christmas music, "Go Tell It On the Mountains," a Negro spiritual will close the national presentations. The student and alumni chorus choir will then

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Carrier Boy 'Graduates'

Another Torrance Herald carrier boy "graduated" this week in the business world. He is James Herlett, A-11 student at Torrance high school, who has taken a position with the Torrance National Bank.

Young Herlett, who lives with his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Colburn at 724 Portola avenue, served on the Herald staff for more than a year and was regarded as one of the best carriers this newspaper ever employed.

The Herald wishes him continued success in his bank job.

Ashton Spills to Avoid Hitting Boy

Loses Five Teeth Sunday In Street Swerve
 Swerving his motorcycle to the pavement to avoid striking a small boy, Sergeant Ernest H. Ashton suffered the loss of five upper teeth and numerous cuts and bruises Sunday afternoon. He was treated at Jared Sidney Torrance Memorial hospital and is now recovering at his home.

The motorcycle officer was running down a speeder when the boy darted out across Cabrillo avenue near Gramercy. If the lad had not stopped to recover a bag of candy he dropped in his dash, Ashton would not have been forced into the spill. But the boy suddenly stopped and the police officer was forced to ground his machine.

Ashton picked himself up minus three upper teeth (two more had to be extracted later) and considerably the worse for the accident. The boy was untouched.

Instead of repairing Ashton's motorcycle, the city council decided Tuesday night to purchase a 1937 model machine and have it radio-equipped. An allocation of not to exceed \$495 for this was approved after Mayor W. H. Stanger reported that the motorcycle had covered 75,000 miles and was about due for replacement.

The motor officer patrols Torrance's 19 square miles and with a radio attachment will be able to provide a better patrol when he recovers from his accident, Stanger said. The mayor paid high tribute to Ashton's quick action in averting injuries to the child, preferring instead to suffer a spill.

Lomita Bank Draws Ire of S. P. Union
 If two San Pedro "walking delegates" had not served notice on A. F. Franklin, manager of the Lomita branch of the California bank, late Tuesday afternoon that they would be back with reinforcements, it is likely that the institution now undergoing extensive remodeling at Narbonne avenue and Lomita boulevard would have been the scene of a serious labor disturbance Tuesday night.

Forewarned, Manager Franklin notified the sheriff's office of his visitors' threats and when a group of about 15 San Pedro men appeared to enforce the "delegates' demands that the Los Angeles union plasterers working on the bank's interior be removed from the job, a radio patrol car and two deputies were present.

"Controls" District
 A hurry call brought a riot squad armed with tear gas and riot guns to the Lomita crossroads. The San Pedro group was told to move on and not disturb the workmen on the bank. Franklin said that he had no authority to call off the plasterers sent to remodel the institution preparatory to opening new safe deposit facilities. He stated that the San Pedro men told him that their closed union "controlled" all of this district and would direct the employment of plasterers on jobs as far north as Inglewood.

The California bank has changed the door to its vault from the west side to the north and is adding a safe deposit room. The "cage" will have four windows and new lighting fixtures are being installed. The improvement will be complete in a week or 10 days.

Winnipeg Gets Refinery
 WINNIPEG, Man. (U.P.)—A best sugar refinery, capable of handling from 1,000 to 1,200 tons daily, is being built here.

Veteran Steel Worker and 1300 Others Receive First Pay Boosted Checks Today

Typical Columbia Employee Has Splendid Record

By MICHAEL STRASZER
 John Agapito rates with the big smokestacks as a Columbia Steel landmark.

His sweeping moustache, black cap, toil-worn hands and rotund figure are familiar to every one of the 1,300-odd workers who received their increased paychecks today.

One of the oldest Columbia workers—he has been with the company since 1916—John is a "trouble-shooter" and four whistle blasts bring him trotting to wherever something is wrong. And that means he is on the go every one of his eight hours, which this week and next are from 12 midnight to 8 a. m.

Any Columbia Steel man will tell you that John is "alright" but he's more than that to the company. His 20-year service record is spotless and contains only one lay-off, ten years ago, for three weeks when he underwent an operation, and one vacation—this summer when he enjoyed a one-week holiday with pay under the new company plan.

From 33 to 88
 So John—his middle name is Vincent—Agapito can well stand as the personification of Columbia Steel's workers. He likes his job that started as a three-day hitch when the former Llewellyn Iron Works got a rush order to supply steel to rebuild the blasted Los Angeles Times building in 1911.

"Sure thing, this is good work for good pay," he says. "I got no kick, bosses they treat us fine and this pay raise, believe me, she's welcome."

Trouble-shooting Agapito started in at 33 cents an hour, rose steadily until in the boom years before the 1929 crash he was getting 80 cents. His increase that became effective Nov. 16, was 11 cents an hour—from 77 to 88 cents. The wage boost that swelled steel workers' checks today averages 11 percent for all employees.

Started As Miner
 He likes opera over the radio of the stage; he likes a quiet game of Pedro with his friends and driving his 1929 Oldsmobile; he doesn't take much interest in politics but he cast his first vote this year—

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Shake, Smile and Salary—All Good



—Photos by Haig & Haig
 JOHN VINCENT AGAPITO and friends.

That handclasp being exchanged by "Trouble-Shooter" Agapito and H. T. Lintott, assistant general superintendent of the Columbia Steel plant, is the "real McCoy." Twenty years with Columbia certainly proves a man's worth. Ready to hand this veteran worker his increased paycheck—the boost going to all of Columbia's 1,300-odd workers today for the first time—is Paymaster L. M. Fernley. Below, the Agapito grin, famed thruout the big industrial plant.

Get Your Tickets!

Shoppers Accumulating Gift Ducats For Treasure Hunt Climax, Dec. 23

"—And here are your Treasure Hunt tickets, thank you!"

This phrase is signaling the end of purchases being made these days in 23 Torrance stores. Merchants cooperating with The Herald's Christmas Treasure Hunt, which will close Wednesday night, Dec. 23, report that their patrons are not letting a single purchase go by without claiming their ducats.

As result, The Herald has been forced to keep a printing press in operation to turn out the all-important green pasteboards that go with each 50-cent purchase at a Treasure Hunt store.

POSTED ONE NIGHT
 No tickets will be issued after Monday night, Dec. 21. The stubs should be placed in the placarded boxes after every purchase and all stubs must be in the boxes by

HERALD TROPHY JUDGES STUDY WINDOWS TONIGHT

Long Beach Experts to Inspect Displays; Torrance Residents to Award Interior Prizes

Beginning tonight at 7 o'clock, a committee of outside judges composed of representatives of the Long Beach Advertising club and two prominent merchants from that city, will tour the Torrance business district in search of the best decorated show window. They will decide which Torrance merchant will win The Herald's 17-inch Sun-Gold engraved trophy, given by this newspaper to encourage Christmas window decorations in this city. Merchants are asked to give their displays full illuminations tonight so the decorations may be seen at their best.

The judges have been instructed to award the trophy to the store, regardless of size or window space, whose owner has made the most of his decorating opportunity. While a decision will be made by the visiting inspectors tonight, announcement of the winner and presentation of the beautiful trophy will not be made until a week from tonight, Thursday, Dec. 17.

Heading the representatives

P.O. Will Give Extra Service

Postal Workers Prepare for Yule Rush
 To accommodate senders of Christmas mail here, window service will be available at the post office next Saturday, Dec. 12 and Dec. 19. Postmaster Earl Conner said yesterday.

There will be delivery service on Saturdays, Dec. 19 and 26, to clear the post office of Yuletide mail. Postmaster Conner will start putting extra employees, selected from the civil service list, to work here Saturday and add to the number of postal workers as the Christmas business increases.

All indications point to a record-breaking volume of mail—both outgoing and incoming—Conner said. He called attention to the recent postal bulletin which asks business firms to use long envelopes wherever possible during the holiday rush in order to expedite the transfer of their mail. The long envelopes will distinguish business mail from the avalanche of Christmas greeting mail.

Beginning tonight, nearly all Torrance retail stores except food markets will remain open nightly until Christmas, Alden W. Smith, president of the Torrance Retail Merchants' Association, announced today. Tonight and Friday evening should be big shopping periods here because of the Columbia Steel's payday today when the first checks containing the recent 11 percent average increase were issued.

No formal closing time has been announced by the association, the individual merchants governing that angle of the shopping season according to their own desires. However, the association urges all firms to continue to make their window displays and interior arrangements typical of the splendid Christmas opening when "Silver Star Lane" thru the business district was illuminated for the first time Nov. 27.

All business houses in the city report record-breaking Yuletide sales already and with the big rush expected next week, the Christmas season will undoubtedly prove the biggest in history. The downtown street decorations are credited with a large part of the interest already displayed by residents in the local merchandise offerings.

Council Votes Funds for 3 Yule Events

Financial assistance to the amount of \$235 was given Santa Claus for his annual public appearances in Torrance and Waveria by the city council Tuesday night.

As result of this generous aid, the Torrance fire department, Walteria P. T. A. and Walteria playground and recreation commission are making final plans for the visit of the genial old fellow at community programs.

The council allocated \$185 to the fire department's 14th annual Christmas party for all Torrance youngsters. This will be held Tuesday night, Dec. 22, at the civic auditorium. The fund will be used for the purchase of candy, nuts and apples that will be distributed by Santa Claus in person following the presentation of a Yuletide program arranged by the recreation commission, Mrs. Buck in charge, assisted by Mrs. Wilson.

\$10 Extra This Year
 Sums of \$25 each were awarded by the city to Walteria P. T. A. and the playground commission of that community. Dates for their Christmas festivities have not been announced. (Continued on Page 7-A)

Zumwalt Boy Feared Sinking

Lad Injured 17 Days Ago Losing Strength
 Grave fears are felt at Jared Sidney Torrance Memorial hospital that Jordan Zumwalt, 14, may never emerge from the coma into which he was plunged 17 days ago when he was struck by a truck while pedaling his way to Torrance high school from his home at 23227 South Vermont avenue.

Little change for improvement has been noted in his condition and he is reported to be steadily growing weaker. Injured on the morning of Nov. 24, he has been unconscious and unable to respond to every aid medical science knows to restore his faculties and revive his lagging vitality. He is suffering from a compound skull fracture.

Jordan's mother and father are spending most of their waking hours beside his bedside, hoping, praying that the son they love will come back to them.

Annex to Aud Hall Enlarged

Bigger Administration Building Sought by Council

A change in the plans for the proposed civic administration building to adjoin the civic auditorium on El Prado was noted this week and the city council Tuesday night took steps to combine the recently approved PWA allocation for a new central fire station with the PWA grant for the administration structure.

This transfer of the fire station allocation to enlarge the administration annex has an excellent chance of being approved by the PWA authorities, according to P. A. Eisen, architect, who informed the council in a letter read this week that the federal agency heads in Los Angeles have indicated their endorsement of the combination. The fire station project has been discarded by the city officials.

Under the new plans for the administration building, the storage room at the rear would be enlarged to accommodate lockers, tables, a kitchen and other facilities for the main auditorium. The building, with its offices in front and small assembly room, would be linked with the auditorium by an arched walk.

Pass Resolutions
 No change is contemplated in the architectural details of the front or the width, the increased floor space, from 1,700 square feet to 3,004 square feet, resulting from the extended length of the building, according to City Engineer Frank R. Leonard.

The city council passed two resolutions to speed the work this week. One concerned the acceptance of the PWA grant of \$6,975 for the fire station and the other requested the transfer of this sum to the administration building allocation, to make a total federal grant of \$11,925 for the project which is now estimated to cost a total of \$17,064.

Changes Necessary
 Architect Eisen advised the council that the federal authorities are adverse to increasing the allocation for furniture for the proposed administrative structure because such an increase would reduce the labor ratio.

All plans and specifications are now before the PWA officials for final approval and this is confidently expected within a week or 10 days. A new docket number was assigned the Torrance project, necessitating some changes in the application forms but these have been forwarded to the proper authorities.

Yule School Holiday Near

Following Christmas programs in various rooms and assemblies of the schools here, students will be released next Wednesday afternoon, Dec. 16, for the annual Christmas holidays.

They will return to classes on Monday, Dec. 23, for a four-day session and then be given a New Year's vacation until Monday, Jan. 4.

Teachers will attend the annual institute sessions, beginning Monday, Dec. 21, which last for one week in Los Angeles.

RECORD MONTH
 Biggest construction month this year in Torrance was September when building permits totaled \$49,750.