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TWO SECTIONS
16 PAGES
THIS ISSUE

TWENTY-THIRD YEAR—No. 50. SECTION A TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1937 PER COPY 5c

County, City Officials Meeting Here Tonight

Firemen Hosts to Kids Here Dec. 21

Whether Santa Claus can return to Torrance for the Firemen's annual Christmas party for all Torrance youngsters, next Tuesday night, Dec. 21, at the Civic Auditorium will not be known until the night of the big event itself.

But even if St. Nick cannot get away from his North Pole workshop, the firemen are going to give local boys and girls a grand party and at the end of the entertainment, present them with gifts of candy, nuts and apples.

Every boy and girl in the city is cordially invited to be at the Civic Auditorium next Tuesday night to enjoy the festivities. L. J. Gilmeister, secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, will be master-of-ceremonies introducing the various numbers on the program. These will be:

A march number followed by Christmas selections, played by the Torrance Municipal band. Processional by the Junior capella choir, directed by Mrs. Marjorie Eischen. Selection by the Harmonica band, directed by Miss Hollenbeck; numbers by the Torrance Junior Musicians of America under the direction of R. Leggett.

Dance numbers will be staged by two groups of young entertainers, one through the sponsorship of Dorothy Crandall and the other by the Zabelle Junior Starlets. The municipal band will play while the gifts are presented to the youngsters attending the party by the city firemen.

The Junior Musicians group is making its first appearance on this program as a unit since they staged a brilliant recital last March. The first number will be a snappy march, followed by an arrangement of "Evening Song." A guitar ensemble will play "Silent Night" and the closing number will be a characteristic Spanish composition, "Don Juan."

The director, Leggett, announces that any child musician may join the club and he will be at the Woman's club Mondays and Fridays to give full information about the group.

Fire Chief Issues Annual Warning

Fire Chief A. B. Stevenson issued his annual warning this week regarding the safe use of Christmas lights and decorations. "Trees will soon be in place in our homes and other decorations appropriate to the Christmas season distributed to add their festive notes to the rooms. Stores, churches and schools also bear witness to the approach of the holidays and unless great care is exercised, the added fire hazards which accompany such decorations will cause unnecessary pain and sorrow."

"Don't use cotton batting for decorations on your Christmas trees. Don't use lighted candles for window decorations—electric ones are more satisfactory and safer. Be careful not to overload the electric circuit in your home, store or church. "Remove trees and decorations as soon as possible after Christmas. In the stores which are crowded during the pre-holiday season it is especially important that decorations of an inflammable nature should be avoided and that wiring should be installed by a competent, licensed electrician and inspected."

"Accumulation of holiday packing materials hold dangerous fire possibilities and all scraps should be removed. It is especially hazardous to allow such materials to pile up under counters and on stairways. The fire department asks you to make it a rule to keep all fire exits clear and unobstructed at all times."

CLUB PLANS PARTY
With Rev. Frank Porter as program chairman, members of the Kiwanis club will hold their annual Christmas party at Daniels cafe Monday night.

C. A. PAXMAN, PIONEER CIVIC LEADER, DIES

One of this city's first business men, a civic leader and a man whose loyalty to Torrance was never questioned, Chester A. Paxman, succumbed early Monday morning after a long illness. His passing, was not unexpected because "Pax," as he was familiarly known by hundreds of friends here, had been gravely ill for many months.

"Pax" came to the end of life's trail as he had lived—he was a quiet, friendly counselor, a storekeeper who always had time to contribute his help to any community service. He passed away at his home, 1428 Post avenue, serene in the love and affection of his devoted wife Helen and two sons, Carl and Richard. He was born at Montpelier, Vt., the son of a farmer, on Nov. 20, 1876, and he was more than 61 years of age when he passed away Dec. 13.

Mr. Paxman came to Torrance in 1913 when this city was just emerging from a bean field. He opened a hardware store and soon began to enjoy the confidence and business of early-day residents who recognized in him the attributes of a community-builder which later residents quickly observed. He was a charter member of the Torrance Kiwanis club and a member of the Masonic lodge.

Hundreds at Funeral
When his health failed early this summer, his place at the store was taken by his oldest son Carl. Not a day passed but that Carl had to answer many queries about his father's health and when his death became known, many a Torrance man and woman realized that this city had lost one of its most esteemed citizens.

The funeral service yesterday afternoon at the Stone and Myers' chapel drew an overflow attendance and hundreds of floral offerings were banked around the bier. The local Masonic lodge and Rev. B. H. Linsefelter were in charge of the rites and interment was at Pacific Crest. Katherine and Charles A. Curtiss sang, accompanied by Tom Ulrich.

The pallbearers, all old friends of Mr. Paxman, were Wallace Post, Dr. Norman Leake, G. M. Calder, A. H. Bartlett, Sam Levy and Harry Dolley. Honorary pallbearers were John Holm of Lomita, W. H. Stanger, John Peas, Alfred Gaudier, Jesse Sprout, and Paul Dynes of Redondo Beach.

BOSSSES CHANGE



Captain Fritz Wiedemann, closest personal adviser to Adolf Hitler, is shown above posed under a picture of Hitler in the German Consulate at San Francisco. Captain Wiedemann, now vacationing in this country, once was Hitler's immediate superior in the German World War army.

Lomita Acreage Sold to County for Park Site

A resolution of intention to purchase six acres on Eshelman avenue near Lomita boulevard for a county park in Lomita was approved by the board of supervisors last Thursday. The land will be purchased from the Howard estate thru John W. Welte, Lomita realtor.

Dairymen's Barbecue Menu Surprises Torrance Guests

Anticipating the presence of gallons of sweet milk, butter, milk and ice cream, lavish plates of butter and dishes brimming with cottage cheese on the table, four Torrance men responded to the invitation of the Milk Transport association and attended that organization's annual barbecue at a huge milk depot in Clearwater last Saturday.

"Imagine our surprise when we joined nearly 400 others at the long tables and we couldn't spot a single glass of milk, butter was almost unnoticeable and these wasn't a bite of cheese to be had," Mayor William H. Tolson said on returning. City Councilman James E. Hitchcock, Captain John Stroth and William H. Stanger, superintendent of the municipal water plant, accompanied Tolson to the affair.

Yoder Asks \$15,000 For Injuries; Hit By Falling Plaster

Damages for \$15,000 are sought in a civil suit on file today in Los Angeles superior court for injuries received during the reconstruction of a Torrance business building last January.

The R. Yoder, an employe of the Southern California Edison company, was struck by a large piece of falling plaster as he sat at his desk in the building atop which a second story was being added.

YULE MUSIC PROGRAM IN AUD MONDAY

Christmas music—a part of the beauty of the Yuletide spirit and a part no one wants to miss—will be featured at the annual Christmas program to be presented without charge in the Civic Auditorium next Monday afternoon and evening. The matinee at 1:30 o'clock is for school children aitho adults are welcome to attend. The evening program will begin at 7:30 o'clock.

The high school music and art departments are cooperating with the Torrance Ministerial Union in presenting this Yuletide entertainment. The Madrigal Singers, Junior a capella choir and P. T. A. choir will be heard. Several impressive tableaux are planned by the high school art department, using authentic costumes from the famed Palestine Museum in Los Angeles. The rose motif, carried out in the decorations and words of the early German and Spanish Christmas songs, will be explained by Richard Keith, well-known reader whose fine resonant voice has been enjoyed by many Torrance people. Echo effects from choir to choir will enhance the carols.

Peace Officers Honor Stroth

Capt. John H. Stroth was elected president of the Peace Officers Civil Service Association of California at the annual meeting held Monday night at Culver City. Approximately 42 cities' police and fire departments are members of the association whose retiring president is Harold B. Atkinson of Huntington Park. Stroth will be installed early next month.

'Bookie' Control Law Under Study

A "model ordinance" will probably be the basis of a city law to be passed here in the near future designed to license and regulate what Attorney General U. S. Webb terms "bet forwarding agencies" but what the man-in-the-street knows as "bookie offices." Because the present city license ordinance allows "any other business not otherwise classified" in its sections to operate here for only \$12 a year, members of the city council Tuesday night indicated that speed is necessary to amend this law to provide a much greater revenue from the bookies.

Extended Postal Service Saturday

The parcel post and stamp windows at both the Torrance and Lomita postoffices will be open until 6 o'clock Saturday evening, according to postmasters Earl Conner and Birda Paddock.

Condemnation Suit, Six Years Old, Is Ordered Dropped

A condemnation suit started by the city council back in 1921 when P. G. Briney was city attorney, will probably be effaced from the superior court records because none of the present city officials know anything about the matter. City Attorney C. T. Rippey told the council Tuesday night that the case was coming up Friday before superior court. He was instructed to drop the proceedings.

AUDITORIUM IN GALA DRESS FOR 350 DINNER GUESTS



FRED L. COOK, vice-president



E. E. WASHBURN, treasurer

Two of the best-known city councilmen in Los Angeles, these men will be present at tonight's dinner-meeting of the County League of Municipalities. Cook is from Beverly Hills and Washburn is from South Pasadena.

SPECIAL STREET LIGHT COST SESSION PRECEDES DINNER

An important special meeting of city officials of Los Angeles county concerning proposed street lighting cost reduction will be held by members of the County League of Municipalities in the city hall starting at 6 o'clock tonight.

NEXT EDITION OUT DEC. 22

Next week's issue of The Herald—the "just before Christmas" edition—will be distributed at 1 o'clock, Wednesday afternoon, Dec. 22. It will be full of menu suggestions for the holiday dinner and gift suggestions for all members of the family from local merchants. Herald carrier boys are to report for their papers at 1 o'clock next Wednesday. The last edition for 1937 will be published at the same time the following Wednesday, Dec. 29.

Going to Decorate Your Home Exterior? Then Fill Out Coupon

If you haven't already filled out the coupon published below and given it to Mrs. Lillian Barrington at 2365 Torrance boulevard, Mrs. Lon Ralston at 1667 Gramercy, The Herald office or the Chamber of Commerce—And if you intend to decorate and illuminate some portion of the exterior of your home for Christmas and—

If you would like to try for the \$10 and \$5 prizes offered by the Woman's club for the two best examples of such home exterior Yuletide display—

Do so at once: The Judges, W. E. Harris, florist and decorator of Los Angeles; W. D. Richardson, noted landscape architect and designer of Westwood; Mrs. Wallace Post, Harriet Leech and Mrs. Ralston, chairman, will only judge the displays whose owners fill out this coupon. The inspection trip will be made Thursday night, Dec. 23.

Torrance Out-Door Yule Display Contest

I plan to decorate my home exterior or grounds for Christmas and would like to have my home included in the Torrance Woman's club prize contest:

Do so at once: The Judges, W. E. Harris, florist and decorator of Los Angeles; W. D. Richardson, noted landscape architect and designer of Westwood; Mrs. Wallace Post, Harriet Leech and Mrs. Ralston, chairman, will only judge the displays whose owners fill out this coupon. The inspection trip will be made Thursday night, Dec. 23.

Buildings Flood-Lighted

Boy Scouts are stationed at principal intersections of the city to direct the incoming city officials, their wives and guests to the Auditorium.

Three Hurt in Auto Collision

Three persons were injured, one needing hospital attention, last Friday in an automobile collision at Post avenue and Arlington street. G. P. Paull, 2926 230th street, who was going southeast on Arlington, and Jack Best, 1221 El Prado, who was driving north on Post, were the motorists involved in the crash, according to police reports.

Torrance Greets Visitors With Open Arms

SEE SECTION B
On pages 2-B and 3-B of today's Herald will be found civic information about Torrance which will be of special interest to those attending the County League of Municipalities' dinner and to new Torrance residents.

Framed in a Persian garden setting of unusual charm, the city of Torrance will be host tonight to the Los Angeles County League of Municipalities at a ladies' night dinner meeting followed by stage entertainment and dancing in the Civic Auditorium.

Well aware of the possibilities of using this gathering as a sounding board to broadcast the exceptional

progress made by Torrance during the last few years—especially the development of the civic center buildings—city and Chamber of Commerce officials have cooperated to make the function a memorable occasion for the 350 expected to attend from nearly every city in the county.

Not content with installing elaborate decorations in the Auditorium and commissioning the American Legion Auxiliary to supply a luscious baked ham dinner, local officials have gone steps further to make the visit of the out-of-town guests noteworthy.

All of the civic center structures will be illuminated and open for inspection of the visiting officials and guests tonight.

League Officers Listed
Tall palm trees and billowing canopies of rich colors have been installed in the Auditorium, together with scores of the new large round tables which were used for the first time when the adjoining administration building was dedicated last October. (Continued on Page 2-B)

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