

Kamformick, Cramer Are Honorary Life Members Of Waleria PTA for '52

Eugene Kamformick and Mrs. Carl Cramer received the highest honor a PTA can bestow, honorary life membership, from the Waleria association at last Thursday's Founders' Day meeting, held at the school auditorium.

The awards, given in recognition of service to youth of the community, were presented by Cletus Nestlerode, who also reviewed the history of the project and presented other honorary life members, D. Boone Kirks and Mesdames Kellie Johnson, B. J. Michels, Slonigitzger, Della Armstrong, and Evar Jansson.

Also honored at the fete were past presidents of the association, George Thatcher and Mesdames Eva Kelley, C. S. Murray, Minor, R. J. Deurlo, B. J. Michels, Paul Roetger, and Glen Harcastle. Mesdames C. W. Johnson and Joseph Pene conducted the ceremony honoring these past leaders.

Two other honor guests attending were Mrs. C. H. Turner of Redondo Beach, founder of Waleria PTA, and Mrs. Victor Benard, president of Torrance Council PTA.

Also included on the program were an anniversary acoustic about the founders of PTA, Alice Birney and Phoebe Hearst, presented by fifth and eighth grade girls; and songs by the eighth grade chorus, "Memories," and "Stoodia Pumpa."

The program followed a business session highlighted by the election of a nominating committee and the introduction of Robert Evans, new vice-principal at the school. Nominating committee members are D. Boone Kirks and Mesdames E. B. Pfau, Wesley, Crocheron, D. T. Wands, and Pene.

Similar pamphlets with tailor-made verses, and tips on how-to-build-a-better Valentine, were popular until the early 1800s. Meanwhile, new graphic arts processes had been developed, such as color engraving, lithography and aquatint.

As the 19th century began, English publishers were already selling elegantly printed Valentines. The competition among professional designers was keen, and clever innovations quickly followed.

ACCORDION PLEATS
One unusual Valentine pictured a gaily-colored floral bouquet that opened, like an accordion, into what resembled a "flower cage" or "spider web." Inside this screen a tiny cupid and a dove appeared.

"Mechanical Valentines" were introduced in the 1840s. They featured movable figures, easily animated by a cardboard tongue. Some would picture a tiny cottage or village church, with sides that opened to reveal a happy domestic scene or wedding ceremony.

This was the so-called "Golden Age of Valentines." In frills and fuss, the Valentines of this period, 1830-60, reached a peak of perfection and beauty that has only been equalled in recent years.

"Victorian England exported

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Valentine's History Rivals Cupid's Antics

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They are the romantic heritage of more than 500 years of experimentation by anxious sweethearts and imaginative publishing firms.

In style, purpose and price, however, Valentines have changed from generation to generation. Silhouetted against the background of time, these developments reveal how the Valentine custom has steadily increased in popularity.

FRIENDSHIP TOKENS
The original Valentines, a fact almost forgotten today, were strictly tokens of friendship — for over 1000 years! They were sent to commemorate the kindly spirit of St. Valentine, a young Roman priest executed Feb. 14, 270, A.D., for refusing to renounce Christianity.

Medieval sweethearts began exchanging romantic Valentines around 1400. These early creations were designed with quill pen, pastepot and great expectations.

Cupid's more talented victims peppered their Valentines with amorous scenes neatly drawn in black and white. Later they were made by folding paper and cutting it into very intricate and lacy patterns, which were carefully hand-colored.

SPREADS TO EUROPE
By the 17th century, the Valentine custom had spread throughout Europe. The style shifted to elaborate ornamentation. Rich noblemen bedecked their Valentines with expensive jewels, and hired ghost writers to pen impassioned rhymes.

In the lower income brackets, love-plagued swains spent weary hours decorating Valentines with turtle doves, pressed flowers, silk ribbons and cut-out hearts. England solved verse-writing problems for a scribe by publishing the first "Valentine Writer" in 1640.

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HARBOR Y SPEARHEADS 'GIFTS FOR CAMP' DRIVE WITH '52 MODEL TRUCK

Spearheading a drive through the nine harbor associations to obtain gifts for YWCA Camp Tahquitz Meadows, the Harbor District Y recently purchased a new truck to transport girls and supplies for this summer's camping season.

The new vehicle, a one and one half ton '52 stake body model, will get its first use the first three week-ends in May, when work groups from the harbor area travel to the campsite to paint and renovate the director's cabin and help in general camp clean-up.

Many capital improvements also are needed at the camp. Mrs. Otis Blackstone, publicity chairman, said. These include a new swimming pool, a shower unit, replacement of old electrical wiring, major water supply repairs, and a new dining room, and member associations are at work.

Mrs. Larry Lightner heads the

Reflections
By J. HUGH SHERFEY, JR.
LINCOLN'S BIBLE

A mother of a rebel soldier, to be shot as a spy, addressed Abe Lincoln, the President, "Sir, I come as a mother..."

This great, gaunt man looked back over the years to see Sally, his step-mother, picked up his Bible she had bought with money from the sale of her treasured bureau.

His voice was full of love for the only mother he remembered: "God bless all mothers. Your son shall live."

As the war flared in violence, when leadership was inept and the heavens above were darkened by failure, Abe Lincoln sat with his frayed, thumb-marked Bible, prayed to God Almighty, not for Victory as a military conquest but for a united people. That book had a greater influence over his life than all the other books he studied; his law practice, neighborliness, business, politics and personal affairs were influenced by the Bible his step-mother helped him read, study and understand.

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active group of harbor area women who are devoting their time to the project. Her committee includes Mesdames Kirby Bateman, George Bronaugh, R. Davis, Joseph Evans, Albert Hampel, Loraine Harper, Phelan Foley, Kenneth Lapier, Richard Lippens, and C. S. Sampson. Joining with the Harbor "Y" in the fund-raising campaign are Pasadena, Santa Ana, Long Beach, Metropolitan Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Imperial Valley, Ventura, and Santa Monica associations.

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METHODISTS TO HEAR CHINA TALE TONIGHT

Men and women of the First Methodist Church will have an opportunity to learn more about missionary work in China tonight at the annual general meeting sponsored by all circles of the Women's Society of Christian Service.

The session, to begin at 7:30 o'clock, will feature Dr. C. Bertram Rapps, a retired missionary who spent 40 years in China, as the speaker. He will explain the workings of missions in that country and also will describe the life and people there.

Adult and junior choirs will complete the program with vocal selections.

"This is our yearly night meeting," said Mrs. William S. Hiebert, publicity chairman, "and the only one which both men and women may attend. Child care will be provided during the evening."

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