

# SYRIAN VISITOR JOINS SISTER HERE; FINDS CITY AMAZING



**TWO SISTERS . . .** Sally Lostlen, 1221 El Prado, left, and Samira Abraham of Syria try to guess what's in the package.

"Come look! In America even the babies have automobiles," a Syrian visitor shouted to her sister as she looked down on El Prado Tuesday morning.

Such was the impression of Samira Abraham, sister of Sally Lostlen, as she sat by the window of Apt. 3, 1221, El Prado, and saw a mother pushing her baby in a Taylor-tot.

Sally had to laugh at Samira's unwitting joke, but her laughter was mixed with tears and tenderness, because, after all, she had just met her sister the Tuesday before.

For Samira, a three-year-old when her parents came to America near the turn of the century, was returned to Syria because of ill health. She lived with her grandmother in the little village of Mehta Joyekhat in the hills outside of Damascus, never knowing her American-born sisters, Sally and Martha Moncrief, formerly of Torrance and now of Monrovia.

and her brothers, John and James Abraham of Pennsylvania.

And although they had heard of a sister in the country which is now half of Lebanon, Sally and Martha knew little of her until an uncle sailed for Syria last August to be married.

He found the missing woman and gave her the addresses of her sisters, and a series of letters began, with Sally and Martha hiring a Syrian to translate Samira's notes and write replies.

Finally the visit was arranged, and two excited American women met a scared Syrian visitor at Los Angeles International Airport at 2:30 a. m. Tuesday of last week.

The foreign lady arrived wearing a number of sack-like garments over several petticoats, her long black braids covered with a "small" babushka. She had no luggage, only a bag filled with figs and a number

of wrought baskets which she brought as gifts for her sisters.

Samira, who had never been out of her native village until she emigrated, made the four-day trip without speaking a word, for she knew no English, and no one could speak her language. She ate only an apple during the entire journey, for foods offered her were strange. She was afraid of them—afraid, excited, nervous, and plain scared stiff of everything and everybody.

But when Sally and Martha met her, the terror ended, and there were tears and laughter around the clock that first night as the three sisters gathered at Martha's Monrovia home.

Samira was fascinated when Sally and Martha popped her into a tub of running water, and even more fascinated by the wonder of bubble bath. Her sisters couldn't get her out of the tub until they promised further miracles—scented powder and the feel of silky undies.

Then she had to kneel down and peek under the tub to look for the fire which made the water hot.

Baths in Syria are a lot different, Samira told her sisters. There, one has to carry water for a sponge bath for miles.

The carpeted floors, the windows, the beds also were a source of wonder for the Syrian woman, for she is accustomed to floors of dirt, to abodes without windows, and to beds made of boughs.

Clocks? She doesn't know what they are. "In Syria," she explained to her sisters, "when God wakes up the sun, we know it's time to go to work, and when God puts the sun to sleep, we know it's time for us to go to sleep."

Electric lights? Who ever heard of such a thing? "God made the night to sleep and

the day to work," said Samira.

The electric stove with its big oven and the automatic washing machine delighted her. In Syria, when she wanted to bake bread, she had to carry the dough for miles to a community oven. She carried the washing miles to the river and "did" the clothes by dipping them in the water and beating out the dirt with flat rocks.

The first television show Samira saw, a typical blood and thunder western, nearly drove her into a dither. She begged her sister to make the cowboy stop fighting the rustlers.

But she became a video fan when she saw Roberta Lynn and Lawrence Welk, and spent many of her Monrovia evenings before the set.

Food, too, was a treat, for the Syrian woman had not seen or eaten meat for three years. She had been living on wheat and greens.

When she drove down from Monrovia to Torrance with Sally Monday night, Samira saw a milk tanker. Puzzled, she asked her sister: "Do they put the cows on top and milk them into the tanks?"

During her two days in Torrance she saw even more marvels. She had a chance to feed a neighbor's baby with a bottle and nipple, the first she had seen. Then she changed his diapers, using safety pins for the first time.

Another first for Samira was the party given in her honor by Sally's Harbor General Hospital co-workers at the home of Mrs. Virginia Griffin, 150 W. 232nd Pl., Wilmington, Tuesday night.

Samira donned the best of her new American clothes and sported a new short hair cut for the occasion. With tears in her eyes she received the gifts from Sally's friends and kissed each



**SYRIAN PHOTO . . .** Samira Abraham and her granddaughter pose for a native photographer in their Syrian dress.

(Continued on Page 11)

## U. S. Gives Torrance \$124,000 For Walteria School

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**UPS-DAILY . . .** A half-dozen men put their shoulders to the task of setting Wesley Garnet Johnson's auto upright after he had only moderate success in passing a huge lumber truck on the right Monday afternoon. Johnson, who lives in Huntington Park, was driving north on Hawthorne Ave. between Pacific Coast Hwy. and Lomita Blvd. when he attempted to pass the truck. He hit the soft shoulder, swerved across the roadway and slammed into another truck driven by Leonard McGraw, 52, of 1010 W. 233rd St. Johnson received minor injuries.

### Writer of \$40,000 Bogus Checks

# Handsome Check Passer Wanted 18 Mos. Gives Up

### Forger Surrenders As Trap Snaps Shut

Realizing Torrance detectives were about to close in on him, a handsome 35-year-old trusted employee of a loan company surrendered Tuesday to police who had been looking for him for 18 months for passing at least 128 bad checks totaling nearly \$40,000.

Harassing a score of police and sheriff's departments with his untraceable bad checks was Bernard J. Caliendo of 15615 Falda Ave., who voluntarily surrendered to Inglewood police when he realized the "big up" after a year and a half of high living on forged checks.

Los Angeles police, who have 122 bad checks alleged to have been passed by Caliendo, had assigned a detective, J. R. Jensen to the case for the past year. Caliendo, an investigator and collector for the Are Loan Co. of Los Angeles, where he

## Boy, 7, Needs Miracle To Save Crushed Leg

Only a miracle, it appeared yesterday, would save the foot and ankle of a seven-year-old boy whose leg was crushed Saturday while playing on an oil well pump on 233rd St.

Facing amputation of his right leg between the knee and the ankle is David Ramsey, of 23321 Madison Ave., Walteria.

David was hurt at noon last Saturday while climbing on a rook-horse pump near his grandmother's home—Mrs. C. F. Ramsey of 2622 W. 231st St., a Beverly Hills attorney, Irving H. Green, said he was preparing a lawsuit against the owners of the well, Earl Robinson and C. T. Rippey, for maintaining an attractive nuisance but would withhold naming the amount of the suit until David's condition is fully determined.

The injured boy is the son of Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Ramsey of the Madison Ave. address in Walteria.

The derrick over the well has been felled only recently and workmen were preparing to erect around the pump a guard which has since been installed.

## Polio Victim Enters Fifth Month in Lung

Freddie Diesel, 14-year-old Torrance High School boy, entered his fifth month in an iron lung this week still paralyzed with polio from the neck down.

His mother, Mrs. William Diesel of 1608 Post Ave., says she is encouraged, however, since the boy has been transferred to Rancho Los Amigos at Hondo, where he is about to begin post-polio therapy.

For three minutes each day the polio-stricken lad is allowed out of the iron lung, to breathe on his own without "positive pressure" and without the help of a throat section tube.

"His voice has returned and he is looking forward to seeing some of his school chums," said Mrs. Diesel. She stated the boy may have visitors on Monday and Thursday from 7 to 8 p. m., on Saturday from 2 to 3 p. m., and from 7 to 8 p. m., and on Sunday from 2 to 3:30 p. m. He is in Ward 72.

He was transferred to Rancho Los Amigos last Friday from the Los Angeles County General Hospital, where he was taken on Halloween night as a poliomyelitis victim.

Mrs. Diesel anticipates the therapeutic treatment to "go slow" since only little therapy can be given until the boy is capable of being out of the lung during treatments.

## State Realty President Plans Appearance Here

Members of the Torrance-Lomita Realty Board will get the views of the top man in the California Real Estate Assn. March 11 when President Frank MacBride Jr. will appear at a dinner meeting to be held here.

MacBride will visit this area under the auspices of the South Bay Board of Realtors, according to Howard Percy, president of the Torrance-Lomita Board.

The president of CREA is coming to this area after recent visits in eastern states to confer with realtor leaders who annually survey the real estate market outlook for future months, Percy said.

The March 11 meeting will be held at the Western Ave. Cafe, 15516 S. Western Ave. A semi-formal affair, the dinner-dance will start off with a refreshment hour at 6:30 p. m. Dinner will be served at 7:30.

"We feel extremely fortunate that MacBride is visiting our area early in his heavy schedule of travel to a total of 134 local realty boards throughout California," Percy said.

"We intend to impress upon him the advantages of this area as a center of industrial and home building activity," he said.

## Torrance Board Awards Bids for School Projects

Federal financial aid in the amount of \$124,462 for the construction of a four-classroom unit addition to the Walteria School was assured this week according to Dr. J. H. Hull, superintendent of schools.

The money is part of an allocation intended to relieve the burden on local taxpayers who are forced to pay for schools to house children of parents employed in defense plants filling federal contracts.

Also this week in the school news was the awarding of bids by the Board of Education for the construction of a new school in North Torrance, another near Kettler Knolls, and a four-classroom addition to the Madrona Ave. School. Winning the bids for the Evelyn Carr and Dr. Howard A. Wood elementary schools for \$318,796 and \$233,795 respectively was The Winters Construction Co. of Los Angeles.

The Hudson Construction Co. was awarded the contract for the Madrona addition on their bid of \$58,127.

The Carr School bid went for \$10.26 per square foot and the Wood School for \$10.73 per square foot, while the Madrona bid was \$10.55 per square foot or 60 cents cheaper than the original bid.

## Bag Stumps Post Office

Local post office officials are still checking into the mystery of an empty mail bag found Saturday afternoon by Don Houk at 18504 Falda Ave., on the east side of Greenhway Blvd. between 182nd and 185th Sts.

According to Mrs. Clara A. Conner, postmaster, the bag does not belong to the Torrance office, and officials do not know where it came from, or how it was dropped or placed on Falda Ave. It is believed, the postmaster said, that it may belong to the Los Angeles post office, as they have reported several missing mail bags.

## JayCettes To Plan May Hobby Show

One of the youngest clubs in the city, the JayCettes, will take an active part in one of the most outstanding city-wide events, the annual Hobby, Arts and Flower Show, to be held May 22, 23 and 24 at the Civic Auditorium.

The JayCettes, composed of wives of JayCee members, voted at a special session Tuesday night in the City Hall to sponsor the hobby section of the show.

The group decided to participate in the civic project following reports by Mrs. Leo McMillen, chairman of the hobby section last year, and Mesdames Wilfred Stevens and Carl Hood, president and program chairman, respectively, of the Torrance Terrace Garden Club which cooperates with the Chamber of Commerce in sponsoring the show each year.

Mesdames Ed Karlow, JayCette president; Jack Baldwin and Gordon Jones will be general chairmen of the Hobby Show.

## Father of Cafe Owner Dies in Los Angeles

Funeral services will be conducted at 1 p. m. this afternoon at the Hollywood Cemetery Chapel for Herman Katz, father of Max Katz, owner of Vurp's Cafe.

Mr. Katz passed away early Wednesday morning following a heart attack in his Los Angeles home.



**TO LEAD HOMEOWNERS . . .** New officers of the Hollywood Riviera Homeowners Association discuss plans for the coming year following election Monday evening. Left to right are Ross Dorset, vice-president; W. A. Garbrandt, president; and L. G. Kitch, treasurer. Also elected were Stanley Sutherland, recording secretary, and O. A. Van Bolt, corresponding secretary.

## President Of Roosevelt Cemetery Dies

James Stratfield Winkle, 81, president of Roosevelt Memorial Cemetery for 27 years, was laid to rest there yesterday afternoon following final services conducted by Rev. Fred Ross of San Pedro at Stone and Myers Chapel.

Police reported he died of a self-inflicted shotgun wound in the head.

A native of Dalton, Ga., Mr. Winkle had lived in Torrance for the past two years. He resided at 1414 Cravens Ave., where he died Saturday.

He leaves his widow, Belle; a son, Darron Charles Winkle, of 513 4th St., Manhattan Beach; and a sister, Mrs. W. G. Bagby, of Malibu, Calif.

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