



COMMITTEE AT WORK... This feminine quintet is busy making decorations for the "White Christmas Ball" to be staged by North Torrance Fuchsia Society Saturday night, Dec. 12, at the Hollywood Riviera (Gubhouse). Left to right, Mesdames J. R. Allison and Wendell Towell fix a giant,

jeweled snowball which will suspend from the ceiling; Mesdames Richard Ferrin and Maxine Crosley fix trinkets and candles for refreshment table decor; and Mrs. Gerald Cunerty makes snowflakes to sprinkle throughout the hall. (Herald photo)



KOFFEE KLATCH... Mrs. Lois Gettman of Hollywood Riviera gets ready to pour a cup of coffee from a 250-year-old Norwegian urn to Wilbur Johnson of Redondo Beach. The songstress and accordion artist, both of whom will entertain at the All Nations Christmas Family Festival at the YWCA on Dec. 11, are wearing authentic Swedish costumes. The urn will be featured in the Scandinavian exhibit loaned by Johnson and Olaf Thorstensen, also of Redondo Beach, for the event. Articles from many other foreign lands also will be on display, and the public is invited to attend, according to the chairman, Mrs. Phelan Foley. (Herald photo)

Wednesday Event Moose Club Invites All to Bazaar, Dinner, Card Party

A gala, three-in-one event combining a bazaar, ham dinner, and card party will spark Wednesday's public-invited social slate at the Moose Hall, 1744 W. Carson St.

Installation Planned by Jobie Moms

Installation of officers for 1954 by Mrs. George Crabtree, president, will highlight next Wednesday's meeting of the Jobie Moms, to be held at the 1729 Manuel Ave. home of Mrs. Donald Rice.

Student Ticket Sales for Cinerama Begin Next Tuesday

Torrance school kids will get a special treat during Christmas vacation—a chance to attend a student matinee of "Cinerama" at reduced rates, Mrs. H. E. Carr, Torrance Council PTA president, announced this week.

Yule Plans Keynote First OES Meeting with New Officers

Plans for the annual Christmas party on Dec. 17 featured the agenda Thursday night when Florence and Vincent Velle have conducted their first worthy meeting as the new worthy matron and worthy patron of Torrance Chapter 380, Order of the Eastern Star.

Lomita-San Pedro PTA Units Collect Over \$6000 for Chest

Units comprising the Lomita-San Pedro Council PTA have turned in a total of \$6,972.07 to the Community Chest, Mrs. J. A. Johnson, chairman, reported at Monday's meeting, held at Lomita Elementary School.

PTA to Fete School Staff At Luncheon

Teaching, administrative, and maintenance staffs of North Torrance Elementary School will be honored guests next Wednesday when the PTA board hostesses a luncheon at the 1710 Crenshaw Blvd. home of Mrs. Clark Morris.

Churchwomen Slate Many Holiday Fetes

To carry out the afternoon theme, "Gracious Gifts Are Given," members of the Woman's Society of Christian Service, Methodist Church, will bring Christmas gifts for teen-age girls at the Francis De Paul home when they meet next Thursday, Dec. 10, at the church.

Three Ceremonies Highlight Girl Scout Birthday Fete

Three ceremonies, investiture of new girls, Brownie fly-up and court of awards, marked the first birthday celebration of Girl Scout Troop 936, held Friday night at Torrance Elementary School Auditorium.

Fern-Greenwood Kids to Fill Christmas Baskets for Needy

"Christmas baskets, help fill the baskets," will be the chant of Fern Ave.-Greenwood school children when they begin collections of food and clothing for the needy on Monday, Dec. 14.

Seaside Give Yule Season Full Attention

Christmas parties and programs in individual classrooms, to which parents are invited, will take the place of Seaside PTA's December meeting, Mrs. Paul Ruetger, room mother chairman, announced at last Thursday's executive board session, held at the school.

White Christmas

Miss Jacqueline Pagae, daughter of the Frank Pagacs, 1528 Post Ave., poses as she will appear Friday evening, Dec. 18, at the Three Arts Studio, 2252 W. Carson St., when she dances "White Christmas."

Creative Family Living

By Dorothy L. Law

COUNSELOR,
LECTURER,
INSTRUCTOR IN
FAMILY
LIFE EDUCATION

Father's Role in Family Changing for Better

Most authorities in the field of psychology, sociology, and anthropology agree that the American family is undergoing a very definite evolution. One factor seems to stand out... Father's role in the family is changing.

No longer is there the cold, unfeeling type of father afraid to show love and affection for his children. Today's father is often interested in understanding his family. This means more cooperation for mother, a chance to share his viewpoints about the children at home instead of having to discuss them with neighbors over the back fence.

More fathers are doing things with their children, planning games, outings, and family fun. Father is no longer used as a threat—"you just wait till your father gets home!"

Ever watch a new father sterilizing bottles, measuring formula with the care and precision of a chemist in a laboratory? I have found few fathers who are completely unwilling to change a diaper or give a two o'clock feeding... I have found many who express an interest in learning more about this new bundle of life at their house.

Occasionally I find a father with a hands-off policy who completely ignores his children, or one who really still needs a mother himself; yes, some who resent their children, and some who frighten theirs away from them. Some mothers say: "He never pays any attention to them except to bowl them out." Fathers say: "She's too easy on them, they need someone to clamp down on them once in a while." Mother returns: "Perhaps, but you don't have to lay the law down all at once and then expect me to carry through on it."

Some co-operation between mother and dad is essential to the healthy development of their children, shared viewpoints and common agreements as I mentioned last week. Parents need to back each other up so the child feels some consistency and security in his relationship with them. Not father laying down the law, then mother going easy to make up for it, and father being more strict to make up for her and so on. The child gets caught in a cycle of this kind.

I have found that father is often willing to do his share of "helping out" with the children physically, but that mother seems to feel the need of his understanding them emotionally. A child learns from both his mother and father at all times whether they are taking the time to teach him or not. He learns from what his parents do, not what they say.

What are your children learning about marriage and family living from you?

Let us analyze a few of the feelings and attitudes a child learns from his father.

A little boy learns about being a man from his day-to-day contacts with his father. He begins to form the attitudes he will one day express in his marriage and toward his children. This learning process is a very slow and gradual one. It proceeds in accordance with the natural stages of growth and development. Somewhere between the ages two and four, the boy will take the first steps of identification with his father. Not until the boy is around nine will father really come into his own. As one father expressed it: "Now he's a person, I can talk to him, we seem to get along better."

Why is this? Because the boy has entered into a period of growth in which he will begin to take up the ways of being a man, expressing masculine ideas, yes, even his interpretation of masculine dress (to the extent of robbing father's tie rack).

This period of growth which lasts several years, roughly at about eight through 12, depending upon the rate of development of the individual child, is the beginning of a greater interest in hobbies, sports, and activities which incorporate the "masculine." The boy may withdraw from what he terms "girl stuff" by criticizing, ridiculing, or even condemning. Being strong is important, so he has a greater interest in boxing or wrestling. Being daring is a must, so he has a greater interest in the more adventurous types of reading, movies, or radio or TV programs. The boy of this age resists the word "chicken" or "sissy."

Some boys swing to the casual use of "dad" rather than "daddy." Club cliques and games for "boys only" begin to develop as well as much teasing and annoying of the opposite sex.

This is the time for mother to begin to untie the apron strings, so to speak, although on one hand her son may be critical and resistive to her, and on the other, overly dependent. This is the time for father to influence his son in a very positive fashion, through building a good healthy relationship with him by showing an interest in what he does and says.

These are only a few highlights of this stage of growth. Naturally the opposite is true for the little girl, since she must take up the acceptance of the feminine role. During this period, she will begin to formulate the beginnings of ideas of what a man is like, how a father acts, what to expect from a husband, etc., all of which will influence her choice of a mate and her family life.

Father's role in the family is an important one. It means more than "bringing home the bacon" and the physical care of his children. A father who is aware of the emotional needs of his children and the stages of growth through which they pass on their way to maturity is going to have a greater understanding of his children. Mother and father have a joint responsibility for the formation of their children's attitudes toward life. It's a big job, but a very worthwhile one, and remember, the parent who does his job best is one who is needed less and less.

Brownie troops sponsored by the Association also are busy planning a happy Christmas for others, with caroling, distributing gifts to hospital patients, and collecting presents for needy families on the agenda, Robert Parke, recreation chairman, reported.

A combination farewell party and baby shower honoring Mrs. William Strittmatter, ways and means chairman, who will be moving from the area early in January, concluded the Thursday meet. Joining the board members for the affair were Mesdames E. R. Walker, Palmer McMichael, and Glenn Stewart, who served on Mrs. Strittmatter's committee.