Family of 11 Quits Tent Home in Time for Christmas

By MARV HALL

Nineteen hundred and fifty years ago, when there was such thing as Christmas, a man named Joseph and his wife Mary, heavy with child, were turned away from every inn and hostel in Bethlehem because there was no room.

So, in that icy December, 1954 years ago, the woman Mary was taken by her husband to an unused stable where she gave birth to a son. She named him Jesus and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger.

This December, 1953, the ageless Christmas story was duplicated in Torrance. The names were different, of course, and the place and time—but the problem was the same.

Mrs. Henry Davis is heavy with child and expecting to give birth within a week. She and her husband arrived in Torrance this week from Tulare, Calif., looking for work and a place to stay. They tried all the houses for rent, they tried apartments, hotels and motels, and were refused. They tried Public Housing developments, but were told they'd have to wait for three months.

The reason they were refused was because they have nine children — Carl, 14-months-old; Donald, 2-years-old; Thomas, he's 3; Robert, 4; John, 5; James, 7; Sharon, 8; Virginia, ten-and-a-half; and Jeanette, 12-and-a-half.

And, of course, landlords don't want a bunch of destructive little kids running around inside their property. So the Davises were refused a place to stay. Desperate, they went out to El Nido park—or what will be El Nido Park someday. Now it's just a scooped out place in the earth. The Davises went to El Nido park and pitched a tent, in which they sheltered their nine children and themselves for two days and nights while searching for a place to stay.

Luckily, through the wonderful generosity of some great-hearted Torrance people, the Davises now have a new three-bedroom home, food to eat, and a big, fenced-in back yard in which their children can play.

Gilbert Grossman, a North American worker who lives at 18316 Kingsdale St., across from El Nido Park, first discovered the Davis' plight. He found out that Mrs. Davis was expecting her 10th child within the week, and that Mr. Davis could not look for work because he had to stay in the tent and care for the children.

Grossman called the Herald, and asked our help. We went to see the Davises. We asked questions, and discovered that Mr. Davis is a mechanic by trade and would be working but for the fact that he has to watch over his wife and family and find them a place to stay before he can leave them.

Davis has worked for the International Harvester Co., and can get excellent references from them, he said. He told us emphatically that he does not want charity, that he can work and pay back everyone who helps him. He said that he just needed an even break, to get started again in this new town.

The Davises are getting their break. Back at the Herald office, we set the wheels of generosity and kind heartedness in Torrance in action, and then just watched. Mrs. Margo Lussman, operator of the Guys and Dolls nursery at 2815 Arlington, had a three-bedroom home with large fenced yard advertised for rent in the Herald. We contacted Mrs. Lussman, and within two hours, the Davises were moving into their new home.

The house, being rented from Mrs. Lussman by the Davises, is located at 23316 S. Figueroa. It's practically a new house, and has large bedrooms and closets, but no furniture.

So the Davises now have a ceiling and four walls around them to keep out the rain, but they desperately need furniture—beds, chairs, rugs, etc.

Frank Dominguez, of Frank's Furniture store, donated a kitchen stove, free of charge, to the Davises. So now the children

(Continued on Page 2)

PUBLISHED EVERY SUNDAY AND THURSDAY MORNING —the ONLY Newspaper Published AND PRINTED in Torrance. Established 1914.

"Twice Weekly Is Twice As Well Read"

TORRANCE HERALD

—and Torrance Herald Shoppers Reach 100,000 Buyers

Entered as second class matter Jan. 30, 1914, at postoffice Torrance, California, under Act of March 3, 1879.

10¢ Per Copy

Every Sunday and Thursday Home Delivered by Carrier 30 Cents Per Month (Average 9 Issues Per Month)

39th Year—No. 101 TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1953 PHONE FAirfax 8-4000 12 40 PAGES

GUN-HAPPY GANG TRAPPED IN WRECK, FACE LOCAL CHARGES

RUNNING WATER . . . A little thing like a sink and a water tap in her new home means quite a lot to Mrs. Henry Davis. The only water in El Nido Park, where she and her husband and nine children were camping, was 50 yards away from their campsite and had to be carried back in a bucket. Thanks to the generosity of Mrs. Margo Lussman, the Davises now have a home. Mrs. Lussman rented them her house at 23316 S. Figueroa on a weekly rate until Mr. Davis can begin working again. So now the nine Davis children have a roof over their heads, and a place to play, but their new home has no furniture. Any Torrance resident who has extra furniture that he isn't using and would like to sell is asked to give the Davises first chance to buy it. In the above picture, the Davis children line up to wash up in the kitchen. (Herald photo)

Police Preparing Charges on Four

Torrance police are preparing charges this week against two ex-convicts who allegedly "shot it out" with a North Torrance service station attendant last month.

The two, part of a gang of four now in custody in Venice, were nabbed last Friday evening by a California Highway Patrol officer who responded to a routine accident call on the Pacheco Pass Hwy.

The quartet—one a woman—was arrested by CHP Lt. James A. Bryant after their car skidded off the road and overturned as they were on their way to San Pedro.

Arrested were Jack Williams, 24; Charles Baxter Gay, 59, a parolee from Folsom Prison with a record of burglary and armed robbery dating back to 1952; Vern Schaeffer, 58, paroled from Folsom Prison last April after being sentenced to life as a habitual criminal; and Evelyn Gay, 35, sister-in-law of Charles Gay.

Robbery Admitted

California Highway Patrol officers and Venice police have stated that Williams and Gay have admitted to the robbery attempt here, several in Los Angeles, and many burglaries.

The would-be robbers who have been sought by the Torrance police pulled into the Camino Oil Co. station at Redondo Beach Blvd. and Crenshaw shortly after midnight on Nov. 13.

Jack Hughes, 33-year-old station attendant, gave them the gas and oil they requested, then one of the would-be holdup men pulled a gun on him and told him to walk toward the office, keeping his hands in his pocket.

But Hughes had a .38 caliber gun in his pocket, and as he entered the building, he pulled his own gun, dropped behind a stack of oil cans, and started firing at the bandits in true movieland style.

Bandits and service station attendant banged away at each other, exchanging at least 12 shots before the marauders drove off.

Were Too Hot

Booked at Gilroy jail on suspicion of armed robbery, the two gunmen and their companions were transferred later to a San Jose jail and then to Venice. Bryant quoted the four as saying: "We were too hot in Los Angeles so we were going to San Jose to pull some jobs but found nothing good."

Thinking it was just a routine accident call, Jerry Root, editor of a Hollister newspaper, who was in the patrol office at the time, went along with Bryant in the patrol car.

They found the four cut and bruised from the accident, but not hurt seriously. Bryant said he became suspicious when they insisted they were in a hurry to go back to San Pedro. He radioed back for a check of the license and learned the car had been stolen in Whittier.

Warning Given

After snapping handcuffs on Williams, he ordered the four into a patrol car. Bryant then said Williams whispered to him: "Gay has a gun, and he'll kill Root."

He then ripped a jacket off Gay's lap and found a .22 revolver cocked and loaded.

Taking the gun, Bryant said Gay snapped at him: "You're lucky I didn't kill you."

ONLY SIX TO GO . . . Pert Iris Heavener, of 1309 Crenshaw, points out that there are only six more shopping days until Christmas. And, there is even less time than that if you still have something that hasn't been put in the mail. (Herald photo)

Local Kiwanis Club Used Funds Locally

All funds raised here by the Torrance Kiwanis Club for youth activities have been spent locally, officials of the group said yesterday in regard to the New York inquiry into operating costs of the National Kids Day Foundation.

The statement issued by President Chuck Ragsdale after he met with Joe Doss, Kids Day chairman; Dave Sowle, club publicity chairman; and Dr. Alden Smith, Kids Day publicity chairman, read as follows:

"The local Kids Day and Treasure Hunt sponsored by the Torrance Kiwanis Club is strictly a local project, a combined effort of the merchants and the club. Funds derived from this activity are ALL expended for local youth activity. There are no promotional costs. The Torrance Kiwanis Club has never given money to the National Kids Day Foundation, Inc.

Expenses Listed

"During the years of 1952 and 1953, the receipts from Kids Day were $2,445.23. During the same period, expenditures for Swim Program, Dental Health Program, Boy Scouts, and Little League Baseball alone were over $2700. These projects were in addition to the regular expenditures for Underprivileged Children and Key Club."

President Ragsdale emphasized that in no manner has there been any local connection with the great Eastern controversy which began Monday before a state joint legislative committee in New York.

Sidney Paymer, counsel to the committee, said that the National Kids Day Foundation, Inc., used Bing Crosby's name without permission to raise funds, most of which were expended as fund-raising costs rather than for philanthropy.

Study of the Foundation is part of a committee investigation of charity rackets to determine what happens to money contributed to philanthropic organizations, with a view to planning legislation to curb fund-raising abuses.

Darwin Parrish Named To School Board Post

Darwin Parrish, owner and operator of Parrish Stationers in Torrance, was named to fill the unexpired term of the late Carl D. Steele on the board of education of the Torrance Unified School District.

Selection of Parrish was made by the other members of the board, Judge John A. Shidler, Mrs. Grace Wright, Dr. R. R. Smith, and William H. Tolson, at Tuesday evening's meeting of the board.

The board delayed Tuesday's meeting nearly an hour to interview men who had been suggested for the position and to make their selection. The appointment of Parrish was unanimous.

Among those interviewed Tuesday were LeRoy J. Constance, financial secretary of Steelworkers Local 1414, and Harry Massie, a member of the Steelworkers local. Both had been recommended for consideration by officials of the union to fill the vacancy inasmuch as Mr. Steele had been a member of the union.

Board President Shidler said "about nine persons" were considered for the post.

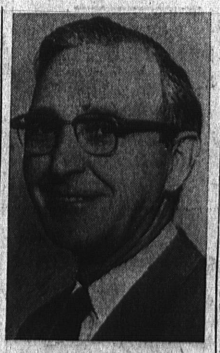
The new board member will serve until the regular school election next May. At that time he must seek re-election or give up the position.

Parrish is on the board of directors of the Chamber of Commerce, the Torrance Kiwanis Club, and is chairman of the city's Recreation Commission. He lives at 405 Via Linda Vista in Hollywood Riviera.

In other action by the board Tuesday evening, the final plans for Hillside Elementary School, to be located south of Pacific Coast Hwy. on Crenshaw Blvd., were approved. Plans call for the construction of a school consisting of an administration building and four classroom wings.

The board also approved preparations of plans for a new lunch patio at the Riviera school similar to the one now nearing completion at Madrona. The patio will be built at the same time a four-classroom wing is added.

Also approved by the board was the recommendation to go ahead with plans to secure a new elementary school site in North Torrance to replace the one on Yukon Ave. which was acquired by the State recently for highway purposes.



DARWIN PARRISH
. . . New Board Member

Rat Pack Terrorizes Young Local Couple

A Torrance man and his young wife, an expectant mother, are thankful today for the timely arrival of the police, which delivered them from a gang of rampaging ratpackers who terrorized them at a San Pedro service station Tuesday—but one of the youthful hoodlums isn't so grateful.

A police patrol car sent the pack of four scurrying after Virgil Prince, 28, and his wife, Dolores, 23, both of 2722 Normalin Dr., had locked themselves in the station office to escape their wrath. Officers later captured one of them, a 17-year-old boy, hiding in the backyard of a home in the 400 block of O'Farrell St., and booked him on suspicion of robbery.

Prince said he was working in the station at 340 N. Pacific Ave. when the hoodlums pulled up in a car and began helping themselves to gasoline. When he asked them to leave the pumps alone, they became abusive and chased him into the office with his wife.

They were kicking and pounding on the door when the patrol car approached, then some drove off in the car and others fled on foot.

"They were wild-eyed and seemed to be 'hopped-up'," Mrs. Prince, who is expecting her fifth child next week, said. "We were terrified, because they didn't seem to know what they were doing."

Coming Events

Thursday, Dec. 17—Youth for Cancer Benefit, Civic Auditorium, 8 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 18—Walteria Business Men's Club Christmas party, Walteria School auditorium, 7 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 21—Community Christmas Sing-Fest, Walteria Recreation Park, 7 to 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 22—Elks Christmas Party, Redondo Lodge 1378, 6 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 26—JayCee Christmas Dance, Club Alondra, 9 p.m.

New Year's Eve—Sportsmen's Dance, Riviera Beach Club.

New Year's Eve—American Legion Dance, Legion Hall, 9 p.m.

Monday, Jan. 4—School resumes, all Torrance schools.

Thursday, Jan. 28—Chamber of Commerce Installation dinner, Civic Auditorium, "Chuck Wagon" dinner.

Two Very Critical In School Bus Crash

Two persons were injured critically, one seriously, and 63 school children were shaken up Monday in Wilmington when three automobiles and a school bus were involved in a collision.

Reported in very critical condition yesterday at Harbor General Hospital was Raymond Nystul, 36, of 1776 Calamar St., Torrance. He suffered a punctured lung, a possible ruptured kidney, and other serious injuries.

Still unconscious was Mrs. Lou Dell Anderson, 31, of Wilmington, who suffered a skull fracture. Her condition also was listed as very critical.

Miss Chijeko Ito, 23, of 24156 Madison St., Walteria, received cuts and bruises.

Police said a car driven by Nystul and one operated by Miss Ito collided in the center of the intersection at Pacific Coast Hwy. and Alameda sending Miss Ito's car careening into the bus. The bus was hit so hard it smashed into another car, but none of the occupants was injured.

Police said the school children were from Mar Vista Elementary School and were enroute to Laguna Beach for a special outing.

City Manager Asks Officials To Study Court

Letters to State and County officials urging consideration of establishing a municipal court here were put in the mail yesterday afternoon by City Manager George Stevens.

In letters to Supervisors Burton Chace and Kenneth Hahn, and Assemblyman Vincent Thomas, Stevens pointed out that the official census of Torrance as of last month was 44,914, which meets at least one requirement for a court.

The inconvenience of having a court in Redondo Beach has been scored by Torrance officials since the local court was closed down the first of the year.

A Gift Guide Christmas Tip

Look for the answer to the Christmas wishes of every member of your family in the Christmas Gift Guide . . . a feature from now until Christmas on the Classified ad pages of your Torrance Herald.

You'll find thoughtful and appropriate gifts for Him—for Her — for the Children—for the Family, and for the Home.

Call FA. 8-4000

Union Agrees To End Strike

Striking North American Aircraft workers ratified an agreement with the aircraft plant by a vote of 80.9 per cent and agreed to go back to work Tuesday.

The announcement was made at a mass meeting of the CIO United Auto Workers Union at Culver City Stadium that lasted six hours.

At the meeting, international and local officers of the union urged acceptance of the agreement reached between company and union representatives last week-end.

North American announced that total payroll loss during the strike was $16,283,803. Union officials said that the government's failure to intervene in the strike proved that the "government is run lock, stock and barrel by big business."