

### War Mothers Like Hope For Soldiers

Although the American War Mothers service chapter is small in membership, its devotion to boys overseas and to those in hospitals is like a steady beam of light and hope.

Mrs. Jeannette King, who now serves as hospital chairman, organized the group in 1950. Although due to ill health she can no longer serve actively, she still solicits gifts for the servicemen by phone or in person. She is a Gold Star mother.

The club is now making a plea to the public for pocket-size books, comics, and cartoon booklets for the U. S. Marine Fleet. Mrs. King asks donors to leave these articles, which will be sent overseas, with Mrs. Cecil Brown, 2086 Middlebrook Rd., in Kettler Knolls. If Mrs. Brown is absent when the gifts call, they are asked to leave the books on the porch.

American War Mothers make a special event of Christmas each year, taking 50 or more gifts, costing on an average of \$3 apiece, to an entire ward in the Long Beach Veterans Hospital. The merchants and the general public help in donating the gifts. Some stores allow containers for gifts to be left at the store entrance.

Help of other mothers is needed by the group in gathering Christmas gifts and in joining the units that visit the hospitals. Any mother of a boy overseas is welcome to join, as well as mothers of boys who, having served their duty abroad, have already returned to this country. Those interested in affiliating may contact Mrs. King at Terminal 4-4998.

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### Catholic Ladies Care for Altar

Nativity Altar Society is one of the oldest organizations active in any church of Torrance. Formed by ladies of the Nativity Catholic Church parish, the society has as its duties the caring for linens, rug flowers, and candles used at the church altar, the priests' vestments, and the cassocks and surplices of the altar boys.

Food sales, rummage sales, and dinners are given during the year to raise money for altar upkeep. Meetings are held monthly in the parish hall under the guidance of Mrs. Frances Cameron.

### YWCA Spans 66 Countries, Affects about 10 Million Lives in Each Generation

An event of global significance in 1885 was the opening of the Niagara Falls suspension bridge linking Canada and the United States.

What seemed an obscure event in London that same year was a meeting of two women who, out of Christian concern for the spiritual needs of younger women in an industrialized society, started the Young Women's Christian Association. This organization, like the bridge, has spanned some 66 countries, created 488 community YWCAs in the United States, besides 1300 local units, and affected the lives of some 10,000,000 in each generation. The YWCA will celebrate its centennial in 1985, the same year the history of the famous bridge will be heralded.

The YWCA is proud of its three-point ideals. The PURPOSE is Christian. The PROGRAM is international. The PEOPLE are women and girls of all occupations, of many religious beliefs, many nationalities and varying interests. Membership is open to all women over 12 years of age.

The Harbor District YWCA with headquarters in San Pedro, was incorporated on Oct. 6, 1920. In 1944, at the request of the women of Wilmington, a program center was opened in that city. This city is continuing to serve Wilmington, Avalon Village and the Dominguez area.

During the war years, community surveys indicated a need for young adult work in Torrance. The Harbor District YWCA was requested to send a staff member to Torrance in September, 1947.

The Torrance association really owes its beginning to the Junior Woman's Club as this group inspired the creation of a unit here and promised to provide a building. The Community Chest paid the first full-time staff director in Torrance, a program for "Y-Teens" started in 1948; the next year plans for the building were made, and the following year ground was

### 'HELP YOUTH' GOAL OF WALTERIA BUSINESSMEN

A half-dozen businessmen of Walteria decided in 1948 to form a club in the interests of the community. Under the leadership of J. Austin Beasley, of Beasley's Feed Store, during 1948-49, by-laws were drawn up by a committee composed of James Whitmer, Thomas Kirk, and Loring Bigelow.

The club's goal has always been to help the youths in the community. Free movies have been given once a week in Walteria Park. The park itself has been improved for juvenile use.

A recreation hall was built to help the youths in the community. Free movies have been given once a week in Walteria Park. The park itself has been improved for juvenile use.

The Walteria Businessmen also sponsor a local troop of Boy Scouts and send several of the youngsters to summer camps. Needy families in the community are helped in holiday seasons. When the police force was short of men, local citizens assisted in night patrols.

James Whitmer, then chief of Smith Bros. Fish Shanty was president in 1949-50. Mr. Whitmer now runs his own cafe — The Whitrow — in Walteria. In

broken. An electoral assembly changed the status of the Torrance YWCA in 1951 from a program center to a branch, and a full-time receptionist clerk was added to the staff. The new building was dedicated in November. The Torrance Junior Woman's Club received the award for outstanding community service as a consequence of their having brought the "Y" to Torrance and providing it with a home.

The present program includes Y-Teen clubs with adult advisors for girls at Torrance and Nar-

bonne high schools; clubs for the seventh and eighth grades at Fern Ave. and Seaside schools, and a Y-wives club composed of women with small children who come to the Y each Friday for volleyball, dancing and exercises to music. Many teen-age dances are held at the Y, and lunches and dinners frequently are served by Y groups.

Club service projects include assisting with the March of Dimes. The "Chocolates for Christmas" project has brought letters from the Philippines, China, Norway, France and England. Last Christmas a Community Festival of Nations planned by the World Fellowship Committee brought to the Y persons in the community who had been born in other countries and featured a member of the Thailand YWCA board as guest speaker. Exchange students from Norway and India were entertained at dinner by Y-Teens. At the annual branch meeting, members met Mrs. Rebecca Mullra from the Uganda East Africa YWCA.

Y-Teens worked energetically in the potato chip sale that featured National Y Week. Every summer new presidents of the Y-Teen clubs are sent to a week's training conference at beautiful Asilomar on the Monterey Peninsula. Girls enjoy summer vacations at Camp Tahquitz Meadows. Some are helped financially by the Kids-to-Camp program.

The Torrance Y is planning evening activities for girls who are employed. Transportation problems of girls living in outlying subdivisions is a problem being tackled by the Torrance Y members on the board of directors.

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