

# Typical Summer Play Program Underway at Walteria

## Fun Schedule At 259th Pl. School Varied

Every sort of activity is offered to children attending the playground of 259th Pl. School this summer. Crafts are scheduled for upper grade students on Tuesday and Thursday and for lower grade students on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, according to Nemo Phillips, playground director. This activity is available from 12:30 to 5:30 p. m. for older students, and 2 p. m. for the younger group.

Free movies will be offered on Friday at 1:45 p. m. in the school auditorium, thanks to the cooperation of Miss Frances Dastarac, school principal. Other days will feature records and story fun, under the direction of Mrs. Geraldine Jenich. Active playground sports will be offered every day.

Girl Scouts in the area are spending summer days attending day camp, and at Lomita Park there are 80 girls. Mrs. J. O. Powers, past president of 259th Pl. PTA, is assisting with activities at the local park. At Torrance Park day camp, two 259th Pl. PTA members are also assisting. Mmes. C. R. Deshermer and C. E. Aspitte.



**YOUNG HELPERS . . .** Bill O'Brien, 10, and his cousin, Kathy O'Brien, 9, have developed into capable young helpers for recreation supervisors at Walteria Park. Above, Bill and Kathy check out play equipment for an afternoon session of games.

## Varied Play Programs Keep Kids Busy During Vacation

From 10 a. m. to 10 p. m. there's always something going on at Walteria Park. The summer recreation program at the park, sponsored by the city, is typical of programs now being conducted on eight school grounds and four park playgrounds in Torrance.

Some 100 Walteria youngsters greet Mickey Van Deventer, recreation supervisor, when she and recreation worker Mark Caldwell open Walteria Park in the morning. A program of games, with Mickey taking the girls and Mark the boys, starts things off, and things are lively until noon and lunch time.

After lunch, Mark goes to the Hollywood Riviera School playground with Marion MacDonald to help conduct the play program there.

**Pair Arrive**  
At the same time, John Sudekum and Mrs. Fannie Beasley arrive at Walteria for the afternoon craft and story-telling and sports programs.

In the evening, Lloyd Harline arrives at the park to supervise the evening softball and slo-pitch games. Slo-pitch is played at the park on Wednesdays and Thursdays and girls' softball on Tuesdays. Boys' League games are held on Monday and Fridays.

Recreation on the school playgrounds starts at 1 p. m.—with a bang. Typical of programs conducted at the eight schools is the one at Seaside, where around 70 boys and girls participate in a crafts program each afternoon.

Supervising the program are Lois Gongwer and Alicia Lorange. Out on the softball diamond, Recreation Director Jeff Olson is mentoring a boys' softball team that will compete with teams from other schools and playgrounds.

**Needs Help**  
He has asked that all parents who can help him transport the boys from game to game, contact him at Seaside any weekday afternoon. When the children let them get away from the crafts program, Misses Gongwer and Lorange supervise singing games and girls' sports during the afternoon.

Each Friday afternoon Louis Bereskin, drama teacher at Torrance High School, helps the two prepare a talent show that is held in the auditorium on the school grounds.

Parents are invited to attend and watch their children display their talents. Swimming classes are scheduled to start Aug. 3 and parents must register their children between July 19 and 27.



**ONCE UPON A TIME . . .** Mickey Van Deventer, member of the City Recreation staff for the summer, holds a large audience of youngsters spellbound each day during the story-telling period. Story telling is just one facet of the varied summer recreation program being put on by the city. Miss Van Deventer helps supervise at Walteria Park, where the program is typical of those being conducted at other city parks and schools.

## Strength Comes With WBC 'Early Growth'

(In Thursday's Herald, the story of the birth of the Walteria Businessmen's Club, taken from a history written by charter member Loring Bigelow, was summarized. In today's issue, the second part of the story, titled "The Early Growth" is told.)

A perfectly balanced set of books was the present given to the second group of officers. The total resources were \$395.95 and liabilities of the club in May of 1949 by outgoing officials. Totalled exactly \$0.00.

A major project undertaken by club members at this time was an attempt to retain Mrs. Joe Vaverka as postmaster in the Walteria Post Office. It was rumored that Mrs. Vaverka was a new postmaster appointed.

Club members wrote letters and sent telegrams to Washington D.C. in her behalf but Washington officials answered that, under postal regulations, it was not possible to retain Mrs. Vaverka and that Walteria was to have a new Postmaster.

Thus it was that ex-GI Robert Sleeth came to the town as Postmaster and began a career of yeoman service to the Club and community.

**Plan Monthly Dance**  
The Board decided to begin a series of monthly dances in the Recreation Hall and the first was held July 15, with three cases of coles and eight dozen doughnuts being devoured.

New members added to the fold included George Powell, Charles Bryan, Robert Rice, Robert Sleeth and Neil Whitney, Fire Department Captain.

A tremendous turnout was reported for the summer movies for kids—gangs of people brought their own chairs and pillows to sit on while watching the films. (Television was still in its infancy then.)

During the fall of 1949, Walteria was ripped up from one end to the other while sewers were being laid and the Club was notified by the City of Torrance that the streets and alleys would be re-surfaced as fast as possible after sewer work was completed. George Powell, then a City Councilman, acted as liaison between Walteria and Torrance and did a magnificent job. Largely through the efforts of

James Martin, Walter Strokos and C. D. Wood joined the membership list during '49 and Tom Moir and Edward Ingram resigned.

The second year ended on a happy note with the second annual Christmas Party for youngsters, held in the Recreation Hall. More than 350 kids received free presents plus candy, nuts, oranges and apples.

**Streets Scored**  
The Club sent demanding letters to City Manager George Stevens regarding the deplorable condition of streets and alleys in Walteria. Immediate repair of the streets had been promised after sewers were installed but nothing had been done and heavy rains had turned the city into a sea of mud.

Stevens answered by outlining, at length, the work that was to be done in Walteria during the fiscal year 1949-50. Most of this work was performed, for which the Club was extremely grateful.

On Feb. 16, the Club celebrated "Greater Torrance Night" and invited all Clubs in Torrance as well as the homeowner groups. A goodly number showed up at the affair, including representatives from the Hollywood Riviera and Seaside Ranches homeowner groups, the Kiwanis, Lions, Optimists, Rotary and Toastmasters' Club and others.

The Club, wanting to do something "big," started to make plans for an Air Show to be held at the Torrance Municipal Airport and Ard Stagner was placed in charge. During February and March, progress began to be weighted down by obstacles and the project was eventually dropped because it was becoming too big for the Club to handle successfully.

As one of many worthy donations made by the club at this

time, Mrs. Fannie Beasley, senior recreation leader and craft director at Walteria Park, gives advice to Susan O'Brien, 12, of 24065 Hawthorne Blvd., during a crafts period at the park, held each afternoon. About 60 youngsters take part in the crafts program and 30 to 50 participate in coloring and cutout exercises each day as part of the summer program of the City Recreation Department.



**INSTRUCTION . . .** Mrs. Fannie Beasley, senior recreation leader and craft director at Walteria Park, gives advice to Susan O'Brien, 12, of 24065 Hawthorne Blvd., during a crafts period at the park, held each afternoon. About 60 youngsters take part in the crafts program and 30 to 50 participate in coloring and cutout exercises each day as part of the summer program of the City Recreation Department.

## Walteria, Pacific Hills

## Stork Invades Danaha Street

By Betty Mitchell DA 6-4138

The stork is taking no summer vacation—at least not from our fair town. This week he made two visits—both to Danaha St. His first stop was for Mr. and Mrs. Schatte of Danaha St. who are proud parents of a brand new baby girl. Born at 4 o'clock in the morning on June 22, she tipped the scales at five lbs., seven oz., and was immediately popped into an incubator for the first two days of life. She put in her appearance at the Harbor General Hospital. Grandparents are Mrs. Edna Schatte of Petaluma, Calif., and Mrs. Grace Haskins of Bakersfield.

The stork's second stop was for Mr. and Mrs. George Stark of Danaha St. This time his bundle turned out to be a bouncing baby boy weighing six lbs., eight oz. He will answer to the name of Stephen Douglas. Time of his arrival was 3:40 a. m., Friday, June 25, at the San Pedro Community Hospital. This is the first child for the Starks, and needless to say, daddy almost popped all the buttons off his vest with pride. Oh yes, proud grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Les Smith and Mrs. Agnes Stark, all of Lomita.

Three former members of the San Francisco Coast Guard baseball team of 1944 were reunited recently when Mr. and Mrs. Jack French and son, Steven, of 3345 Winlock Rd., hosted at a backyard barbecue party. Featured guest was Tommy Glaviano, former St. Louis Cardinal player who is now with the Sacramento Solons. Other members of the ball playing trio of '44 were Eddie Gibb and French, all of Lomita.

Also attending were Russell French, Sr., and Russell French, Jr., father and brother of the host.

The father and son banquet held at the Walden Methodist Church on Newton St. was attended by well over 100 hungry dads and sons. A luscious meal of baked ham, peas, hot rolls, candied yams, homemade pie and coffee was served to satisfy said hunger. After the meal a travelogue talk was given by the Rev. McFarland of Long Beach and a quartet presented a musical selection.

Mrs. Milton Langum and children of Newton St. enjoyed a midweek visit last week when they went to visit with Mrs.

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