

Happy New Year...



SO THIS IS NEW YEAR'S... and Matthew shoves his hat back and looks at brother Mark, who is weighed down under his frivolous New Year hat while he gropes for the noise-maker. It's a first New Year's Day for these twin sons of Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Irons, 2107 W. 27th St. They will be two months old day after tomorrow. They first saw the light of day at the Torrance Hospital. Initiating them in their first New Year's celebration are four brothers and two sisters, Bill, Ricky, Jim, Phil, Dorothy and Paula. (Herald Photo)

Today is the Day to Practice Good Luck Superstitions—A Happy New Year to All

By MILDRED HUNT

Quaint and sometimes comical customs known for ages as folk lore, are followed on the first day of the New Year. Many of the customs originated centuries ago and have been handed down from family to family to assure good health, wealth and happiness during the coming year. In the deep south, it is customary to eat a heaping serving of black-eyed peas, cooked with hog jowls, to insure happiness during the coming twelve months of the year. So widely is this followed that even hotels and restaurants serve this combination on New Year's day beyond the Mason-Dixon line.

The more common custom which has survived the glaring disapproval of modern living, is to cook cabbage with a piece of money in it such as a dime or quarter. This is supposed to assure a steady supply of money during the coming year.

Perhaps these customs got their incentive when it was the old world custom for families and old friends to visit each other's homes bringing with them gifts or cards which they presented as a token of good luck for the coming year. In many countries today, the first day of the New Year is celebrated with festivals and parties much in the same manner as Christmas is marked in this country.

In France, it is a day set aside for family reunions and rejoicing with old and trusted friends. Wine glasses tinkle with the sounds of numerous toasts offered by gracious hosts.

Scotland is the land where the New Year is a day when the ma'am of the house gets out her dust rags, mops and brooms

and scours the inside of the house from floor to ceiling. As she sweeps, straws from her broom which loosen from the strenuous sweeping, are gathered up and tied with ribbon. These are kept until the next New Year's day and are considered lucky to have during the year. After the cleaning is over, friends and neighbors are expected to call. The first to step across the threshold is supposed to relate the fortune for the coming year. If the guests bring wine, ale or a holiday dainty that is indicated a good year will be enjoyed. If no present is brought and the caller does not come bearing good wishes for the New Year, that is an indication of an unhappy year, according to Scottish custom.

In Germany, the custom is for each person to wear something new, and carry in his pocket a piece of money for good luck. The Greeks call the first day of the year St. Basil's Day and begin the day with special masses and religious ceremony. The remainder of the day is spent in festivals and the wearing of bright and colorful garb. The people of England follow the custom of baking a New Year's cake with a coin in it. The head of the house cuts the cake and takes the first piece. The other members of the family are then served and whoever gets the piece with the coin, is supposed to enjoy wealth and happiness for the coming year.

Australia has a quaint custom of telling the weather for the coming twelve months ahead. Twelve layers of onion are covered with salt and let stand until the next morning. The layers holding the most moisture are supposed to be the months of the year when abundant rain is to be expected. Whatever may be the custom followed on this New Year's day, it still remains the time to wish one and all a happy New Year.



REWARDS OF A FULL AND HAPPY LIFE... were enjoyed by Mrs. Annice Christensen, 1310 Madrid, when she observed her 80th birthday, surrounded by her twelve children and their families. The celebration for the birthday, which is Wednesday, Jan. 4, was held in Huntington Park last Wednesday. Paying tribute were over 200 friends and relatives, twelve children, 57 grandchildren and 54 great-grandchildren. Pictured are Mrs. Christensen and three daughters, left, Mrs. Hazel Nelson, center, Mrs. Von Bergen, both of Torrance, and at the right, Mrs. Myrtle Blair, of Ogden, Utah. (Herald Photo)

the SOCIAL World

EDNA CLOYD, Editor

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Tea and Program By Woman's Club Wednesday Honors Past Presidents

At their first meeting of the New Year, the Torrance Senior Woman's Club will honor its past presidents at a silver tea and program to be staged Wednesday, Jan. 4, at the clubhouse. Mrs. H. L. Mitchell, president, will conduct a business meeting at 1 p. m., after which Mrs. L. A. McCoy, program chairman, will present the world-famous Lloyd's Puppets.

This show which has been called the Follies Bergere of Marionettes will be presented by Daniel Lloyd who has made numerous motion picture appearances, transcontinental broadcasts, television engagements and has staged concerts with puppets on famous stages in the United States and Europe. There are three completely different revues for adults from the puppet orchestra rendering the overture, to bubbles and mink clad chorus girls and Balinese ceremonials in this outstanding entertainment which has been described as "the most spectacular piece of virtuosity on the concert stage."

Past presidents who will be honored at the tea are Meses Charles Stock, John Young, J. M. Fitzhugh, J. S. Lancaster, A. W. Johnson, M. J. Beale, H. C. Barrington, A. H. Silligo, E. A. Miles, C. B. Mitchell, George Morgan, E. R. Smith, Chris Jones, W. I. Laughon, S. V. Rauss, D. L. Sears, B. T. Whitney, B. W. Roberts, A. F. E. Ewalt, Grover C. Van Deventer, and R. J. Rogers. Mrs. H. K. Burchfield is chairman for the tea and Mrs. C. M. Crook is serving as co-chairman.

Progressive Yule Party By Friends

For the second consecutive year, a group of friends, staged a progressive Christmas party. At 5 p. m., the group gathered at the home of Mr. and Mrs. B. H. Smith, on Cabrillo, for cocktails. From there they went to the Gramercy Ave. home of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Smith, and on to the home of Mr. and Mrs. A. Watson, on Border Ave.

Other stops were made at the homes of Mr. and Mrs. Wait Gillard, on Crenshaw, and Mr. and Mrs. Jim Hill, on Teri. The party then traveled to the El Dorado Ave. home of Mr. and Mrs. R. D. Barkdull, for a buffet supper and dancing. In the group of friends, other than the hosts, were: Messrs. and Meses B. Coast, Roy Smith, Al St. Onge, William Albie, Carl Hanni, Richard Bowman, Clyde Anderson, William Darling, Joe Fanning, Harry Seeman, Harwell Guttenfelder, Mrs. Ray Hawks and Bud Anderson.

Club to Hear Lecturer

A nationally known lecturer and flower arrangement teacher, Mrs. Marion Stockton, will be the guest speaker at the meeting of the Torrance Terrace Garden Club on Jan. 25, at 1:30 p. m., at the YWCA. A tea will follow the program.

Bridge Series

A series of bridge lessons will begin at the Torrance YWCA on Jan. 12 at 7:30 p. m. Tickets for the series may be picked up at the door on the night of the opening class.

HALLORAN FAMILY

Dr. and Mrs. Phillip Halloran, 1640 Beech Ave., entertained as their holiday dinner guests, Dr. Halloran's mother, Mrs. P. M. Halloran, of Westwood; his sister and family, Mr. and Mrs. T. Kinsella, and children, Patrick and Maria, of Santa Monica; and Mrs. Nora Berg, of Long Beach.

COLORADO GUESTS

Friends from Denver, Colorado, their former home, were entertained by Dr. and Mrs. J. H. Hull, 1730 Hickory Ave., last Thursday. They were Mr. and Mrs. Wilfred Miller, of Denver. The group had lunch at Marine-land and visited the Oceanarium.

Arrives from So. America

Mrs. O. M. Hulsey, of Columbia, South America, arrived in Torrance to spend Christmas here with her sister, Mrs. C. P. Van Deventer, 2203 Carson St. Mrs. Hulsey will visit for the next three months with her sister here and other relatives. In March she will be joined by her husband, who will arrive for a visit in the United States.

Next week another sister of Mrs. Van Deventer, Mrs. A. E. Goetz, will arrive for a visit here. Mrs. Goetz is now in San Francisco, having arrived from Japan shortly before Christmas.

At home to enjoy the holidays with her parents and her aunt, is Mickey Van Deventer, student at Redlands University. Christmas dinner guests at the Van Deventer home were Mr. and Mrs. M. M. Schwab, of Torrance; and Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Goetz, of North Hollywood.

Mrs. Annice Christensen is Honored on 80th Birthday by Twelve Children and Families

Mrs. Annice Christensen, 1310 Madrid, who will observe her eightieth birthday Wednesday, was the honoree at a beautiful reception and family dinner last Wednesday given in the lounge of the Latter Day Saints Church in Huntington Park. With her on this memorable occasion,

she had her six sons, six daughters, 57 grandchildren and 54 great-grandchildren. Mrs. Christensen, who was born in Payson, Utah, in 1876, has made her home here for the past several years with a daughter, Mrs. Hazel Nielsen. She is a member of the Torrance Latter Day Saints church. She entertains with guitar numbers and added to program accompanying several of her grandchildren as they sang. She enjoys life to the fullest and last summer made a plane trip to Hawaii.

Over 200 guests including friends and relatives from throughout the southland, called during the reception hours. The refreshment table held an arrangement of white and gold chrysanthemums, a crystal punch bowl and a four tiered cake representing a rose parade float. Under a pink canopy sat the "rose queen." From her throne down the four tiers was a pink and gold path which led to a miniature fountain. On either side of the cake were the words "Mother Christensen" in gold lettering.

A string quartet furnished a musical background as the large number of guests congratulated the octogenarian. At 6:30, a family dinner was held and after the dinner the grandchildren staged the program consisting of songs and skits. Outstanding was the rendition of their own composition "These Things We Remember."

Here for the event with their families were the six sons, L. E. Christensen, of Provo, Utah; Clifford, of Manila, Utah; Earl, of San Diego; Marvin, of Salt Lake City; Bart, of Mar Vista; and Harry, of Westminster. The six daughters, with their fami-

lies, were: Mrs. Leo A. Blair, of Ogden, Utah; Mrs. Ashby Stringham, West Covina; Mrs. Raymond S. Grow, Downey; Mrs. Harold Murphy, West Covina; Mrs. Von M. Bergen, and Mrs. Hazel Nielsen, both of Torrance.

Mrs. Christensen's youngest son, Don, was killed in action in Europe, during World War II. A large number of Torrance friends attended the reception,

including Bishop and Mrs. Elbert Steele, of the Latter Day Saints church. The honor guest received a number of telegrams of solicitations, among them a greeting from Mrs. Anna Lee, mother of the governor of Utah, and a girlhood friend of Mrs. Christensen; and a greeting from her niece, Rhonda Fleming, motion picture actress, who has just returned from Europe.



MISS CONNIE REE ... Joins Brides-Elect

Connie Ree Promises to Wed Edward Kurtenback Next June

A Christmas engagement and June wedding announcement shared honors with Christmas Eve festivities at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Adolph Ree, of 2803 W. 167th St. Their daughter, Connie, became engaged to Edward Kurtenback, of Lancaster, and revealed their plans for a June wedding.

Bride-elect is a graduate of Manual Arts High School of Los Angeles and is now serving as secretary at American Insurance Co., of Los Angeles. The benedict, who is a native of Nebraska, is with Civil Service at Camp Edwards in Lancaster.

Victor Aldea and Fiancee Here from Kansas University

Home for the holidays with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. George T. Graham, 17115 Glenburn, is their son, Victor Aldea, who was accompanied to California by his fiancee, Miss Dona Benschmidt of Hutchinson, Kans. Both of the young people are attending the University of Kansas, and will be graduated from there next June. Their wedding will take place on June 6, in Hutchinson.

The future bridegroom was graduated from Manual Arts High School and attended El Camino before going to the Kansas University. He is majoring in mechanical engineering. The bride-elect, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. N. H. Benschmidt, of Hutchinson, is a business major at the university. She is a member of Sigma Kappa sorority. Immediately following the wedding, the couple will return to California to make their home.

Carolyn Has Birthday

The fourth birthday of little Carolyn Davis provided an incentive for a party at the Happy Home Nursery School, 803 Anapola, last Thursday. Carolyn's mother, Mrs. Nona Mader, 927 Arlington, brought a merry go round birthday cake and ice cream to the school for Carolyn and her playmates.

Children enjoying the party were: Danny Ruud, Steve Butz, Debra Schramm, Vickie Hoglin, Karen Hines, Sandy Dubé, Darcy Miller, Jan Miller, Melissa Smart, Lisa Lovelady, and Bobby Jones.

Barbara Calvey's Troth to Frank Tyrrell Is Announced

At a Christmas Eve party given at the home of the future bride's grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. A. Glasser of Rivera, the engagement of Miss Barbara Mae Calvey to Frank E. Tyrrell was announced.

The bride-elect is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Calvey, 17213 Atkinson Ave., and parents of the bridegroom-to-be are Mr. and Mrs. C. P. Tyrrell, of Detroit, Mich. A June wedding is being planned by the young couple. The bride-elect was a member of the 1955 graduation class at Torrance High School and is now attending UCLA. The benedict-elect attended the University of Detroit.

Barbara Mae Calvey Sets June Date

Barbara Mae Calvey, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Calvey, 17213 Atkinson Ave., has set June 6 as the date for her wedding to Frank E. Tyrrell, son of Mr. and Mrs. C. P. Tyrrell, of Detroit, Mich. The wedding will be held at the home of the bride's grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. A. Glasser, 17115 Glenburn, Torrance. The bride-elect is a member of the 1955 graduation class at Torrance High School and is now attending UCLA. The benedict-elect attended the University of Detroit.

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