

Torrance Mother Works Out Debt Of Gratitude By Helping Chest

A Torrance mother has been working out a debt of gratitude to the Community Chest — a debt which she feels she can best repay by giving her spare time to raise funds in the annual residential drive.

She is Mrs. Wiley Duncan, of 4643 Halison Ave., who was a division chairman in the North Torrance residential unit.

Mrs. Duncan has had more than her share of personal heartbreak over the years. In and out of the hospital for 54 operations to remedy a speech defect, commencing when she was a few months old and continuing until she was 17, she has managed despite this to retain her naturally cheerful outlook and vivacious personality.

When her daughter Joni was born two and a half years ago without her left arm the shock was enough to have driven anyone with less character to the point of despair. But character is a commodity in ample supply at the Duncan household.

FACING UP to the future with courage and intelligence, Kay Duncan and her husband Wiley, a route salesman, resolved that their new baby would have the blessings of a happy life in a happy home and that the inevitable adjustments would be made in an atmosphere of complete normalcy.

In this their three older daughters, Janice (now 13), Judy (10), and Joyce (7) would

be a great help. But first the problem of finance would have to be tackled. An artificial limb from birth would be beyond the limit of their modest resources.

A new arm would have to be fitted every year of young Joni's life until she reached maturity. The child would have to be taught how to use the arm by skilled therapists, not just over a period of a few months, but year in and year out. Where was the money to come from?

AT THIS POINT new hope came to the Duncans. Orthopaedic Hospital, Los Angeles, a Community Chest-sponsored hospital, would, they were told, give every help to their baby, regardless of the parents' capacity to pay. Need, not income, was the yardstick at Orthopaedic Hospital.

That is how it turned out. At the age of 15 months Joni was taken to Orthopaedic Hospital for the first fitting of her artificial arm. This is a normal practice. Children who need artificial limbs from birth are normally fitted when they first show signs of wanting to walk — usually from nine to 15 months old.

Ever since, Kay Duncan has been taking her little girl back to the hospital for the regular sessions at which the child is taught by resident therapists how to use the limb by using her shoulder muscles.

GRADUALLY, thanks to the skill and patience of the therapists and the love and encouragement of her parents and her three big sisters, Joni has become adept in the use of her arm, adjusting normally to the additional problem of gait and balance.

Her parents, too, have had the benefit of expert counseling by staff members. Advised to refer to the arm device as a "toy," all the Duncans keep up the game with the child. To Joni the arm is the most useful "toy" of an impressive collection, and when her father fitted a special ring on her tricycle to help her to steer properly — using the artificial limb — the toddler made the most rapid progress of her young life.

AT THE PRESENT moment Joni is having to get along without her "toy." She outgrew her last one a few months ago and the replacement has not yet been delivered.

Most people would probably agree that Kay Duncan has had more than her quota of life's ups and downs, but Mrs. Duncan herself is not one of them. She counts her blessings: a good husband, a happy home, a loving family; and constantly looks about her to see what contribution she can make to life in her community.

"People have been good to me," she says simply. "I just want to be able to do something in return."

THAT IS WHY Mrs. Duncan became involved in her third Community Chest campaign, and why she has her own pet project afoot to raise money for a sewing machine which she hopes to donate to the Rehabilitation Department at Orthopaedic Hospital.

To people who, by putting more into life than they take out, create a bank for the rest of us to draw on, enrich themselves as they enrich society. Kay Duncan is one of those people.

"Give Till It Hurts" is not an empty slogan with her. It is the creed she lives by.



THE DUNCANS AT HOME . . . Wiley and Kay Duncan are shown here with Joni, and Judy, 10, at their Torrance home. Two other daughters, Janice and Joyce, complete the family.

TORRANCE HERALD CLASSIFIED FA 8-4000

Teachers Have Mixed Reaction To School TV

Teacher reaction to educational television programs has been mixed, Torrance Assistant Superintendent Albert Posner reported to the Board of Education Tuesday.

This is the first year that TV has been tried in Torrance classrooms, with six TV sets purchased to test the value of

the program. A final report will not be made until the end of the year, with mixed reactions reported now.

Nearly all teachers ques-

tioned felt that educational TV has some value, but felt that considerable improvement is needed in certain aspects of the programming.

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Brownie Troop 2461

Brownie Troop 2461 and their mothers have really had a busy and profitable month of December.

The Mother's Club had a very nice Christmas party at the home of Margaret Dossey 22203 Halldale on Dec. 14th. There were 17 present with the absent two being ill.

This troop is sponsored by the Women of the Moose and are sure to show their appreciation to the unit. On Dec. 16th the Brownie Troop went to the Moose hall accompanied by the two leaders, Virginia Olson and her co-leader, Pauline Marshall, and sang carols for the women of the Chapter No. 44. They were warmly greeted by all who attended.

On Dec. 21 in the afternoon the girls met at the home of their leader and celebrated the birthday of Becky Gull who was presented a lovely doll dressed in a Brownie uniform. A sewing session followed with the girls finishing up the Christmas presents they were making for their parents. After an hour of sewing the girls themselves had a lovely Christmas party, all but two of the 23 girls attending.

THE GIRLS WERE invited to come back to the Moose Hall on Dec. 20 and sing for the children's annual Christmas party. Santa Claus was there and led the girls caroling with the help of the two leaders. All the parents of the Brownies were there and they were served coffee and cake with the girls each receiving a gift from that famous man.

With the New Year here, the girls are looking forward to the many coming events. They were lined up as follows: Jan. 9, they will go skating. Feb. 11 will start their annual cookie sale. Feb. 2 will find the girls going with their parents to the Helms' Bakery. Then on March 19, the girls will have a cook-out this being the date most of the girls can hardly wait for.



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