

# Santa Claus Not Always Jolly, Wife Says

## Being Santa's Mate Keeps Her Very Occupied

What is it like to be Mrs. Santa Claus?

Mrs. Angus Wagner, of 20529 Raymond Ave., but officially the North Pole, whose husband is the Santa Claus of Torrance, finds it hectic but fun.

Leo Wagner began representing "Jolly St. Nick" in 1953, after Mrs. Wagner urged him to take a Santa Claus course given by the Gardena Recreation Department.

"I had my first taste of what being Santa's wife means right away," she says. Provided with a bundle of red flannel and very few instructions, she set out to make his first costume. "I got just so far when I realized that either Santa was awfully small or the suit wasn't large enough to have legs."

With the hurried purchase of few more yards of flannel the suit was finished and Mrs. Wagner became Santa's wife.

Being Santa's better half involves the handling of details her husband just doesn't have time for.

With a lot on his mind, and so many children to see, a forgetful Santa is more than a possibility. Mrs. Claus serves as a double check on where her spouse is to appear next and acts as a chauffeur to the waiting plane or reindeer.

Bundled up as he is in furred costume, and with all the goodies to fit in his pack, he needs a little last minute check list so that nothing is forgotten.

A smugged and spotted Santa would never do. Keeping his three suits cleaned and pressed is a must. Damp weather spells trouble of another kind. Santa's beard turns limp after a bout with the fog and Mrs. Wagner stays on



NOT AS NOTED as Santa, but with just as important part to play, Mrs. Santa Claus, Mrs. Leo Wagner of 20529 Raymond St. stands by her husband, the official Santa of Torrance, as he dresses to take part in the holiday festivities.

hand to keep it curled and combed.

"Ours really is Santa's house when the holidays approach," says Mrs. Wagner. There is a clutter of suckers and toys about and the whole family, including daughter, Nadine, 15, act as helpers.

As Santa's wife Mrs. Wagner proves an expert in the letter department. "We receive mail addressed to Santa from as far away as Texas," she notes. Some of the letters are mere scribbles, others addressed to the North Pole may even lack postage.

With his wife's help, Santa answers them all. When one requires special attention it

is turned over to an appropriate agency.

Wagner takes his vacation in December to devote as much time as possible as Santa, even so, the schedule is pretty strenuous. "By the end of the season," says Mrs. Wagner, "Santa is all out of sorts. He is so cranky and tired, he isn't himself for another month," she adds.

The fact that Santa eats and sleeps doesn't occur to most people. Without Mrs. Claus to keep things running smoothly, Santa just wouldn't exist.

Don't force other drivers to slow up for you, especially on slippery roads, warns the All-state Safety Crusade.

## Betsy Ross Club to Hold Meeting in January

Betsy Ross, the ways and means committee of Torrance Eastern Star, will not meet in December because of the holidays.

The first meeting of 1959 will be held Jan. 21 when the new officers will take over.

At the last meeting the new officers were elected and installed: they are Mrs. Carolyn Pennington, president; Freda Shaffer, first vice president; Jean Moscher, second vice president; Charlotte Dolan, secretary; treasurer.

## Homeowners to Sponsor Dance And Outdoor Decoration Contest

The Southwood Homeowners Association will sponsor an outdoor Christmas decoration contest and a Christmas-New Years dance this month. The decoration contest will be judged on Dec. 22, for originality, workmanship and artistic appearance by judges: Mayor Albert Isen, Dick Fitzgerald, Chamber of Commerce manager; and Cliff Nichols of Southwood Drugs.

All residents living within the area (bordered on the north by Torrance Blvd., on the south by Sepulveda, on the east by Ocean Ave., and on the west by the city limits) are eligible.

Notices will be distributed door-to-door with an attached application blank, or residents may

come to the Homeowners' Dec. 10 meeting, 8 p.m., at the Anza School.

Registration is free and both trophies and merchandise will be awarded to the winners.

The New Years-Christmas Dance will be held on Dec. 26, at the Elks Hall in Redondo Beach and the planning com-

## ATTEND CONFAB

Five Torrance teachers attended a conference of industrial education curriculum Friday in Compton. They included Mike Curtis, Newton; John Olson, Carr; Don Norton, Casimir; Frank Volt, Flavian; and Carl Wahl, Greenwood.

mittee reports that a floor show will include a can-can dance by a chorus of six men, prominent in Southwood activities.

Planning the dance are Mrs. Charles Eichler, chairman; Gordon Stephens, Paul Visher, Carolyn Wrench and Bobbie Falconer.

For further information call Mrs. Charles Eichler, secretary, at FR 9-9507.

## Breakfast Date Set for Men of Church

There will be a Brotherhood Pancake Breakfast for the men of the First Baptist Church, Lomita, Dec. 13 at 7:30 a.m.

According to the pastor, J. W. Hardin, blueprints have been received from the Architectural Department of Nashville for the first unit of the new building. It will be a two-story educational building 42 x 80.

Broadway Bonds are now being sold to make possible the starting of construction on the building. The master plans call for the converting of their present auditorium into a two-story Educational Building and the construction of a new Sanctuary 52 x 90 feet facing Western Ave.

Last week the ladies of the Church joined other prayer groups in Southern Baptist Churches across the nation in the special Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions. The programs each morning were under the direction of Mrs. Rachel Kosoff, Prayer Chairman.

According to the Associate Pastor and Youth Director, Peter McLeod the new Youth Center was opened with a special fellowship Dec. 4.

Many recreational facilities are in the process of being procured. Recently a television set was given for the Youth Center and a station wagon to aid in transporting youth groups.

Blind children from all over Southern California are taught cooking, dancing, ham radio, boxing and wrestling, among other skills, at the non-profit Foundation for the Junior Blind in Los Angeles.

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