

Pastor Begins Sermon Series

The Rev. Arthur Nagel of the First Methodist Church, 1551 El Prado, will begin a new series of sermons on "The Life We Find in Christ" today at the 9:30 and 11 a.m. services.

Square Dance Classes Set At Local YWCA

Square dance classes for beginners will begin at the Torrance YWCA, 2320 W. Carson St., Friday evening at 8 o'clock.

Hollywood Reporter

By Mike Connolly

Dear Mike: How ill is Nat "King" Cole? Please tell my favorite singer of all time that I am remembering him in my prayers every day.

cause Nat was suspicious and insisted on knowing. He had quit smoking cigarettes about a year ago, after reading an anti-smoking article in a magazine. It scared him, he said. He started smoking a pipe. But several months ago he got back on the cigarettes.

HIS HOSPITAL room is being flooded with thousands of get-well telegrams, letters, gifts and calls.

Dear June: Nat's condition is grave but his spirit is dauntless. "I hope nobody's pessimistic about me, because I'm not," he told his wife, Maria. "After all, Arthur Godfrey had the same thing and he's doing fine."

Nat, despite the legend, was not "a child of poverty." He once told me that his mother "always kept a nice house with lots of things in it — she enjoyed good cooking, and good music." He said, "Mothers are weavers of families, and my good living today is something I got straight from my folks."

Dr. Robert Kositchek does not allow Nat to have visitors at St. John's Hospital. Charlotte Ellington, Maria's sister, tells me that Maria leaves the Coles' luxurious Muirfield Drive home at 10 every morning and spend all day with her husband at the hospital.

Part of each day is spent moving Nat in an ambulance from St. John's to nearby Santa Monica Hospital, where he undergoes cobalt treatments. The reports that Nat might be home for Christmas and New Year's were erroneous, according to Charlotte.

She explains the daily ambulance trips are necessary "because Santa Monica has better equipment for treating malignancies than St. John's."

"Good living" is right. Nat is a multi-millionaire. The six-foot-one jazz buff (his weight has never changed from 170 pounds over the years, although it is down somewhat now) who first came to my old home town of Chicago from Montgomery in the '30s to carve a career in show business, had to start at the bottom in Hollywood, even after his success in Chicago and other eastern cities.

I ASKED WHAT I could do to help, aside from sending funny cards and letters, which he loves to receive — and the funnier the better. "Nothing, thank you, except to pray along with the rest of us," Charlotte said.

HE NOW MAKES "around \$1,000,000 a year" from his nightclub work in Las Vegas and Lake Tahoe, movies, TV, recording royalties, music publishing companies and the ownership of a Dixie Cup factory in Jamaica.

I told her I would, and also light a candle for him at Blessed Sacrament Church. "Nat will like that," she said. "We have another Catholic friend who told him she would pray for him. Nat said, 'That's good. As a weekkneep Episcopalian, it's good to know we've got the Catholics on our side.'"

"I live like a king," he grinned the last time I interviewed him, "but on an invisible soap box."

Frank Sinatra was the last celebrity who got to see Nat at St. John's, according to publicity man, Ben Irwin.

I have always known Nat to be a man of exquisite and varied taste. He is interested not only in show business but art, politics and sports. His home is a showplace that is included on tours for Los Angeles clubwomen interested in interior decorating. The proceeds from these tours, which take place on designated days when Nat and his family are on tour, go to charity. He is a registered Democrat and a champion of Civil Rights. He claims to be the Los Angeles Dodgers' No. 1 fan, with a regular season box in the Dodgers' Stadium, and nobody has challenged that claim.

THE CANCER was spreading fast and was at first believed inoperable, another intimate said, adding: "But Nat is making progress and is expected to go home from St. John's shortly. He will then return to the hospital regularly, not to stay but for more examinations and treatments. His condition is grave and he knows it but he has as good a chance as Arthur Godfrey, who had a lung removed. It is difficult to tell exactly how good Nat's chances are until after the cobalt treatments are completed. He is in excellent spirits. He is talking about the projects he has on tap for the spring. He is set to open at the Sands Hotel in Las Vegas in March. He says if he isn't well enough for that, he is determined to fill an April engagement in Tokyo that is now being set up by his agent, Henry Miller of General Artists Corporation."

Maria Ellington is his second wife. He was divorced from Nadine Robinson in 1947 after a 10-year marriage. He married Maria on March 28, 1948. Their daughters are Carol ("Cookie"), born 1945, and Natalie ("Sweetie"), born 1950. They also have adopted twin daughters, Timolin and Casey, born 1961, and son, Nat, "Kelly" Cole, born 1959.

Maria is in excellent spirits, after that first shock, Irwin said. She'd known about the seriousness of Nat's condition from the time her husband went into St. John's on Dec. 9. Nat didn't know — because she insisted on keeping it from him — until Dec. 16.

I received my favorite Christmas card from the Coles this year. On the front it says "Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year," over a Kodakrome print of the smiling Timolin, Casey, and Kelly. Inside, it says "Here are three of the five reasons the Nat King Coles have for believing in: "First, God; second, Christmas; and third, "Love."

Why did they tell him Be-

SOLUTION



(Mike Connolly will try to answer your questions in his column. He gives no personal replies by mail.)

Troop 65 Party Held

Boy Scout Troop 65 held its December court of honor at Hickory School as part of a special Christmas party.

were made by George Ogawa, committee chairman, and Elmer Davis, cubmaster. Regional representative Josef Ruzek also participated. During the court of honor, Larry Peabody was advanced to second class.

VanCamp Acquires Business

The Gilbert C. Van Camp Insurance Agency, Inc., has acquired the fire and casualty business of Southern Cross Insurance Agency Inc., of San Diego and Escondido, according to William E. Brady, vice-president.

Libraries Get Board Agendas

Complete agendas for meetings of the Board of Education will be available before the meetings in the five libraries in Torrance, following action by the Board of Education Monday evening.

Spalding

(Continued from Page 1) agement Association and was treasurer of the advisory board of the Little Company of Mary Hospital.

Surviving Mr. Spalding are his wife, Juliette, two daughters, Mrs. T. Michael Banta and Mrs. Harold J. Cashin, and a son, Dr. John A. Spalding. Also surviving are six grandchildren.

Rosary was said Friday evening at St. John's Church. Burial was in Holy Cross Cemetery with McCormack Mortuary of Inglewood in charge of arrangements.

Road Work Set

Improvements along Palos Verdes Drive West will begin soon, according to Supervisor Burton W. Chace.

Chace said the Board of Supervisors had authorized \$3,400 for the work. The project includes resurfacing of roadway between Via Lorado and Berry Hill Drive.

Van Camp, one of Southern California's largest insurance agencies, will retain the services of Edward B. Gross, who established Southern Cross in 1959, as consultant on general insurance lines. He will direct Southern Cross Agency's specialized efforts on life insurance and disability needs.

Founded in San Pedro in 1924, the Van Camp Insurance Agency, has offices in Torrance, Los Angeles, Santa Ana, San Pedro and San Diego.

Van Camp, which launched a vigorous acquisition program from its San Pedro headquarters during the past year, provides all forms of insurance, including group and individual employe policies, life, accident, auto, health, union trust funds, fire, marine, and special risk policies.

The trustees asked Harold Umberger, librarian for the city, to keep tabs on the use of the agendas and make a report to the board. The agendas will permit interested citizens to examine those items which the board will discuss prior to the meetings.

In 1899, the USS New York and the USS Massachusetts were the first Navy ships to use Marconi's wireless telegraph.



VOLUNTEER . . . Ken G. Park of Gardena was one of many blood donors to participate in the end-of-the-year bloodmobile sponsored by the Latter Day Saints Church, 2000 W. Artesia. Judy Gilliland, center, of North High, and Pat Griffith, of Bishop Montgomery High, were among the Junior Red Cross volunteers who assisted adult workers in the annual Mormon drive to collect blood when the need is most critical.

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Annual 'Twelfth Night Masque' Scheduled by Civic Symphony

Annual presentation of the Twelfth Night Masque by the South Bay Civic Symphony has been scheduled for Tuesday evening by Director Elyse Aehle.

The traditional Christmas program will be presented in the Mira Costa High School Auditorium beginning at 8 p.m. Admission is free.

The "Masque," originated 11 years ago by the South Bay Symphony under the sponsorship of area Cham-

bers of Commerce and cities, is intended as an expression of the real meaning of Christmas, and is patterned after early "Masques" given in England. It features living reproductions of masterpieces of art and music, with various city groups presenting the picture reproductions.

ONE OF THE most colorful pictures of the Tuesday evening "Masque" will be the "Epiphany Ceremonial Dance" produced by full-blooded California Indians. The young Braves, students at Redondo High School, made their own costumes, down to the last bead.

Beth Adams, Miss Redondo Beach title holder, will represent the city posing as the "Sistine Madonna," one of this year's most striking pictures.

Members of the Boy Scouts will present "Shepherds" and "Polish Carolers."

"DREAM" from "Hansel and Gretel" will be presented by The Artists; "Star of Bethlehem" (Burne-Jones) by the Redondo Beach Public Library; and "Minstrel School" by the Crusaders. The "Minstrel School" is taken from a 14th Century miniature from the Manasa Codex in the Heidelberg University library.

A dress rehearsal has been scheduled for 3 p.m. today and Director Aehle has suggested that it might be a good time for children to attend the program. Adults will be admitted to rehearsal only if accompanied by children, she emphasized.

THE MUSICAL presentations on the program are made possible, in part, through the sponsorship of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, the County Music Commission, and through a grant from the trustees of the Recording Industries Performance Trust Funds handled through Local 47 of the American Federation of Musicians, Miss Aehle said.

Many local sponsors also assist with the work and financing of such an undertaking, she added.



PLANNING MASQUE . . . Members of the South Bay Symphony group around Elyse Aehle, director, as they prepare for the annual "Twelfth Night Masque" to be presented Tuesday evening at Mira Costa High School. Musicians (from left) include Paula Gwinn, violinist and assistant concertmaster; Irma Lou Cordon, cymbalist; and George Hiltz, who plays the seldom heard bass trombone. (Press-Herald Photo)

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