

The Yules of Other Lands Theme for AFS Party



THE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS

Selda Ustertunali from Turkey is a Moslam, a religion in which Christmas is not celebrated, so in the midst of all the party preparations, Selda, left, gets the true story of Christmas from Leo de Bever of Holland, who uses the wiseman figurine to explain Christmas.



TREE TRIMMING FOR THE PARTY

Everybody gets in the act for the American Field Service Christmas party to be held tonight at the YWCA. Here, Daniel Darre from Argentina, who is attending Torrance High, assists his foster brother, Mike Belzer, trim a tree. Not to be outdone, Mrs. Jan Ebe lends her talents in helping Elizabeth McClery of Scotland, trim another tree.

Walteria Business Women To Celebrate Yuletide

Walteria Business Women's Club, will take time out from their busy schedule of youth activities on Wednesday, Dec. 14, to enjoy a group Christmas Party with their leader, Mrs. Frank Burk. This too, will be the time of the annual election of officers for the coming year.

During the year of 1966 the women have successfully donated time and finances to the following causes: Walteria Library, Educational books for High School students, \$100; South High School, Scholarships, \$250, for deserving girl student; Southwest Retarded Children, Inc., financial as-

sistance and used clothing for a rummage sale, \$25. As a special project for 1966, the Walteria Business Women's Club "adopted" a crippled child, Fermin Verdugo. They have supplied him with clothes, special schooling, and sent him on a trip by air to visit his family in Mexico.



SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO TOWN TODAY

Torrance Junior Woman's Club members, their husbands and children will gather at the clubhouse this afternoon for a Christmas party and visit from Santa. Mrs. Robert Morris will put on a puppet show and there will be group caroling. Santa will arrive with a toy for each child. Mrs. John Arnold and her committee will serve punch and cookies. Excited about the party are two children Karen Canzone, one-year old, being told about Santa by Mrs. Tony Borges as Tina Borges 5, decorates the tree.

Four American Field Service students, who will be experiencing their first Christmas in America, will describe Christmas in their homelands for members and guests attending the annual Christmas Party to be given by the Torrance Chapter, American Field Service, this evening at the Torrance YWCA, 2320 W. Carson at 7 p.m.

The traditional American Christmas with the brilliantly lighted and decorated Christmas tree, the singing of carols and the serving of holiday treats will make up the party scene.

"The Christmas in Other Lands" program will be staged by Daniel Darre of Argentina, student at Torrance High; Leo de Bever from the Netherlands, attending South High; Elizabeth McClery from Scotland, a senior at North High; and Selda Ustertunali from Turkey, attending West High.

In preparing for the program, Daniel Darre said that in Argentina, on Christmas Eve at 12 midnight, all members of each household must be at the table together for the individual family meal. On Christmas Day the relatives from the father's family gather at the grandfather's home for Christmas dinner and on New Year's Day, the mother's family gathers at her home for a family feast. In Argentina, gifts are not exchanged on Christmas but gifts are received from the Three Kings, or the Magi, on Epiphany, Jan. 6. All little boys write letters to the kings requesting gifts and on the night of Jan. 5 they prepare grass and water for the kings' camels, put their shoes at the side of the bed, and go to sleep with hearts full of hope.

A Christmas in Scotland, as described by Elizabeth McClery is much the same as in the United States. Her brothers, who are in the Youth Fellowship, participate in the Nativity play at the church on Christmas eve. At midnight, the lights are dimmed and the church bells ring out. On Christmas morning, gifts are exchanged around a decorated Christmas tree. A

family dinner of turkey or goose is served at 2 p.m. and friends call throughout the day, "making this, the birthday of Jesus, essentially a family observance."

In Scotland, New Year's is celebrated by the older family members and is known as "hogmanay." The family awaits the New Year, which is greeted with embraces and toasts. After the midnight hour, friends start to call. The first person, who should be a handsome dark-haired male, arrives after midnight and is known as the "First Foot." He must bring something to drink and eat and a piece of coal, signifying "food, drink and warmth" for the coming year. Parties usually continue until 6 or 7 a.m.

A Dutch Christmas does not include a gift exchange, according to Leo de Bever. Gifts are exchanged on Dec. 5, the eve of the birthday of St. Nicolas, who rides his white horse over the Dutch roofs throwing gifts into the chimneys of good behaving children. Santa's helper is Black Peter, from the Spanish Moor tradition. Christmas dinner is always a feast including several traditional bakery products such as kerstkrans.

Christmas is not observed in Turkey since all Turks are Moslems, stated Selda Ustertunali. In the Moslam religion, bayrams, similar to Christmas, are held. The Turks fast one month, known as Ramadan. In Ramadan, the Turk does not eat or drink during the daytime. At the end of Ramadan, a bayram is held, when new dresses are put on, friends and relatives are visited and foods are served. The time of Ramadan changes each year since the holiday is celebrated in moon year.

Santa Claus is the symbol of New Year's in Turkey. Customs taken from the western world include a turkey dinner and gift exchange.

Arrangements for the Christmas program have been coordinated by Fred Fleming. Coffee and Christmas cookies will conclude the evening.



CREATING DECORATIONS

Preparing for an American Christmas party, Elizabeth McClery from Scotland shows Selda Ustertunali of Turkey how to make a paper Christmas decoration. In the background, Leo de Bever from Holland helps Leslie Erving, Selda's foster sister string holly.

(Photos by Hal Fisher)

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Future Bride



BONNETTE JONES

Jones - Wood

Mr. and Mrs. Ben D. Jones of Torrance announce the engagement of their daughter, Bonnette Marie, to Ray Kendall Wood of Belmont Shores.

The future bride is a 1965 graduate of Torrance High School; completed a course in dental assisting in Long Beach and is now employed at the Kaiser Hospital in Harbor City.

Her fiancé is attending Long Beach City College and is employed by General Telephone Co. in Westminster.

The couple plan to be married in early April.

Couples to Hold Annual Dinner Party

Annual Progressive Dinner of the Couples Club of the Lutheran Church of the Resurrection will be held on Saturday, Dec. 17. At 7 p.m. appetizers will be served at the home of Mike and Deena Bals, 101 Paseo de Suenos, Redondo Beach. Host couples will be Clinton and Virginia Callahan and Don and Lois Vanuorsdall.

The group will then proceed to the church parish hall for dinner at 8 p.m. The hosts for the dinner hour will be Doug and Betty Reese, Pastor Marvin and Norma Rygh, and Pastor Bob and Marlys Newcomb.

At 9:30 p.m. dessert will be served at the home of Chuck and Lois Dripps at 5507 Calle De Ricardo, Torrance. Hosts serving dessert will be Pat and Leonard Farrell and Marvin and Shirley Patterson.

Reservations may be made by calling one of the following committee members, the Callahans, the Reeses, or the Farrells.



HO HO HO AND A MERRY CHRISTMAS

Children of the Jaycees and Jaycettes are eagerly awaiting their Christmas Party and the arrival of Santa Claus to take place on Saturday Dec. 17 from noon until 3 p.m. at the Torrance YWCA. A magician will perform. Cookies and Christmas punch will be served, according to Mrs. Gurjip Saran, social chairman. Highlight will be the visit of Santa Claus seen here listening to a number of Jaycee children.

(Press-Herald Photo)