

Santa Finds Officers on Christmas 'Duty'

Torrance

Press-Herald

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CHIEF PLAYS SANTA . . . Chief of Police Walter R. Koenig (second from right) played Santa Claus on Christmas Day during surprise ceremonies marking the promotion of three Torrance police officers. The three were summoned to the station to work and were surprised with new badges. The officers are (from left) Robert Armstrong, promoted to sergeant; Darrell Lanham, raised from sergeant to lieutenant, and Robert Hammond, elevated from lieutenant to captain.

POLICE CHIEF IS SANTA

Officers Promoted On Christmas Day

He wore neither the traditional red suit nor the long white beard, but to three members of the Torrance Police Department, Chief Walter R. Koenig was, indeed, Santa Claus. Chief Koenig had issued an order that three officers — all who had previously been given Christmas Day off — would have to work.

But when the grumpy trio arrived, a surprise ceremony was held and all three were promoted.

Armstrong was promoted to the rank of sergeant. As head of the Investigative Bureau, Capt. Hammond will be in charge of the detective and juvenile divisions, formerly a part of the Field Services Bureau. The new captain was born in Los Angeles and was graduated from Belmont High School. He attended Los Angeles City College and El Camino College and holds an associate in arts degree in police science. Capt. Hammond is attending a special course at the University of Southern California which is designed for top level police administrators. He was employed by the Torrance Police Department in 1954 and has served as a field officer, watch sergeant, and watch commander.

He has served in the traffic, juvenile, and detective divisions and has commanded both the personnel and training and the patrol divisions. Promoted to the rank of sergeant in 1962, he was elevated to the rank of lieutenant in 1964. Capt. Hammond is an Air Force veteran. He and his wife are the parents of two girls. Lt. Lanham, a native Californian, became a member of the Torrance Police Department in November, 1957. He holds an associate in arts degree from El Camino College and presently is studying for a bachelor's degree at Loyola University. He has served in the patrol, traffic, and detective divisions and is a member of the (See OFFICERS on A-2)

Three Area Residents Die in Holiday Traffic

Willett Elected Presiding Judge

Judge Otto B. Willett has been elected presiding judge of the South Bay Municipal Court for 1967. Judge Willett will continue to sit in Division 3 of the court, located in Torrance.

First elected to the South Bay Municipal Court in 1952, Judge Willett was re-elected to office in 1958 and 1964.

A native of Effingham, Ill., the 54-year-old jurist received a bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Illinois in 1933. He earned his law degree at the University of Southern California School of Law in 1936.

From 1942 until his election to the South Bay Municipal Court, he served as Torrance city judge, as city attorney for Torrance, and in various courts throughout the county on assignment from the Chief Justice of the State Supreme Court.

Judge Willett and his wife, Glenna Rae, are parents of two sons, Steven, a graduate student at the University of Oregon, and William. The family lives at 221 Via Los Altos.

Judge Willett said no changes would be made in the current assignments for the South Bay Municipal Court. Judge Donald Armstrong will continue to sit in Division 1 and handle the criminal calendar, while Judge Raymond Choate will preside in Division 2 and handle the civil calendar. Divisions 1 and 2 current-



OTTO B. WILLETT
Presiding Judge

ly are located at 1231 N. Pacific Ave. in Redondo Beach. Judge George Perkovich, recently appointed to Division 4 of the court, will join Judge Willett at the Torrance facility.

Ferraro to Give His '67 Forecast

City Manager Edward J. Ferraro will speak on the topic, "Looking Ahead at '67" when he addresses the January membership luncheon of the Chamber of Commerce. Chairman Charles T. Cederlof said the luncheon was being scheduled for Jan. 19. Retired Fire Chief J. J. Benner will be honored at the affair.

Freeway Crashes Blamed

The long Christmas weekend traffic slaughter which left 13 dead in Los Angeles County, including one from Gardena and two from San Pedro, spared Torrance area motorists, a check of city traffic records show.

An elderly Gardena woman was killed Monday in a crash on the Harbor Freeway at the Santa Monica interchange and a San Pedro couple was killed when their car crashed on the San Gabriel Freeway early Christmas morning.

THE NATION'S Christmas weekend traffic death toll fell far below the all-time high mark set a year ago and was the first time in nine years that a new mark was not recorded. The three-day celebration claimed 570 on the nation's highways, far short of the National Safety Council estimate that up to 750 may be killed.

The Safety Council estimate for the coming New Year's weekend, running from 6 p.m. Friday to Midnight Monday, has been pegged at between 460 and 540 fatalities.

ONLY MINOR traffic accidents were reported in the city during the long weekend. Two persons sustained minor injuries Christmas Day when they were involved in a four-car rear end collision (See TRAFFIC on A-2)

Caller Tells Police He Did Wrong

A Torrance man confessed by telephone yesterday to driving under the influence of alcohol after his car apparently cut a utility pole in half about 2 a.m.

The man called the Torrance Police Department about 4:45 a.m. yesterday and reportedly told officers he knew he had done wrong and was waiting for police to pick him up and put him in jail.

The caller told officers he was the driver of a car which sheered off a telephone pole on Crenshaw Boulevard some 200 feet south of 190th Street.

Witnesses to the crash, which occurred about 2 a.m. told police they saw a speeding car strike the pole after making a left turn onto Crenshaw Boulevard from the westbound lanes on 190th Street. The witnesses also said they saw the driver and a passenger get out of the vehicle and leave the scene.

Officers called to the crash scene said the driver had left the area. The caller and his passenger apparently escaped unhurt. The car, however, was a total loss, according to police.



ROGER W. BABSON
Looks Ahead to '67

Babson's Forecast Here Soon

Roger W. Babson's authoritative forecast for 1967 will be published in the Press-Herald on Sunday, Jan. 1.

The highly respected Babson predictions made in the annual Business and Financial Forecast held to its high scoring during the current year when 85 per cent of the predictions came to pass.

In the 1967 report to be published here Sunday, the Babson Forecast will contain predictions on the chances of a sudden peace or bigger war; deflation in the midst of inflation; the coming tax squeeze; looting in the war on poverty; price and wage controls; the home building crisis; soaring living costs, and the stalemate in Congress.

During the past two decades, the Babson forecasts scored an accuracy percentage as high as 93 and only twice in those years has it dipped as low as 80 per cent correct in its predictions.

The specific predictions on half a hundred items are clearly presented and can be helpful to the budget planners, both at home and in the business community.

Read Babson's Forecast for 1967 in the Sunday Press-Herald.

To Ride Float

Susan Foster, reigning Miss Torrance, will ride the Occidental Life Insurance Co. of California float, "Spectacular South America," in the Tournament of Roses Parade next Monday. Three former Rose queens will ride with Miss Foster.

Couple Fatally Wounded

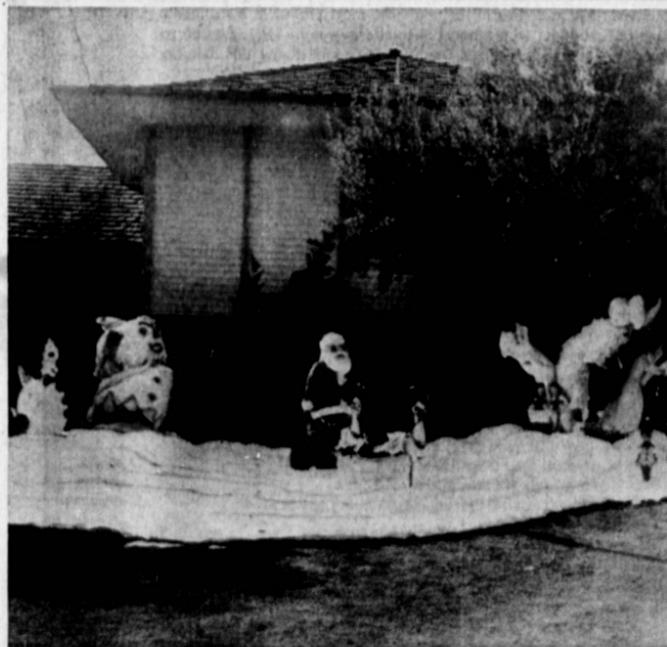
Deputies from the Lennox Sheriff's Station found a Lomita woman and her estranged husband fatally wounded Sunday at the woman's home. Dead are Wallace George Jelinek, 39, of 2165 Palmview Drive, and Yvonne Barbara Jelinek, also 39, of 2450 W. 248th St. Deputies said they went to the woman's home following reports of a gunshot and found Jelinek dead. He reportedly had a .32-calibre pistol in his hand. Mrs. Jelinek died a short time later at Harbor General Hospital.

School Bond Bids Asked

County supervisors have called for bids in the sale of \$1 million of Torrance Unified School District Bonds, Supervisors Burton W. Chace said today. The action was taken Tuesday at the request of Torrance school officials. The \$1 is part of the \$9 million in bonds approved at the Nov. 8 election and will be used for the construction and furnishing of classroom facilities. None can be used for salaries or operating costs.

Mild Earthquake Reported

A mild earthquake described as a minor quake shook the Santa Monica Bay and South Bay areas Monday afternoon but apparently caused no damage. Residents of the Santa Monica area reported sharp quakes which knocked decorations from Christmas trees and Redondo Beach residents reported sharp quakes. Dr. Charles Richter, seismologist at Cal Tech assigned a 3.5 reading on the Richter scale and said the quake center was about 20 miles from Pasadena. The 2:59 p.m. temblor was felt as far south as Orange County.



NOVELTY WINNER . . . This Santa scene set up by Mr. and Mrs. Ben Bukewich at their home at 2890 W. 232nd St. was judged first place winner in the novelty division of the Junior Chamber of Commerce home decoration contest this year. The winners will be guests of the Jaycees in January and receive their trophies. Mr. and Mrs. Aaron Smith, 1103 Teri Ave. were awarded second place in this division.



RELIGIOUS WINNER . . . The Magi and reproduction of the Scriptural account of Christ's birth as recorded by St. Luke was judged first place winner in the religious category of the Junior Chamber of Commerce home decoration contest. Mr. and Mrs. Walter Miller Sr. of 18319 Mansel, were winners. Mr. and Mrs. Stanley V. Muraski of 24835 Winlock, were judged second. (Press-Herald Photos by Mike Eggers)