

Merry Christmas

Torrance

Press-Herald

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NOVELTY WINNER . . . This scene at the home of Walter D. Crance, 20011 Bellemare, was selected for first prize in the annual Christmas decorations contest sponsored by the Torrance Junior Chamber of

Commerce. The display is lighted each night between 5:15 and 10:30. It required three weeks to complete, Crance told the Press-Herald.

(Press-Herald Photo)

Christmas Contest Winners Selected

Four Win Jaycee Awards

Four Torrance families were named winners in the annual Christmas decorations contest sponsored by the Torrance Junior Chamber of Commerce.

Winners were announced yesterday by John Dunbar, chairman of the contest.

Top winner in the novelty division was Walter D. Crance, 20011 Bellemare. The display depicts Santa Claus arriving at a home in his sleigh.

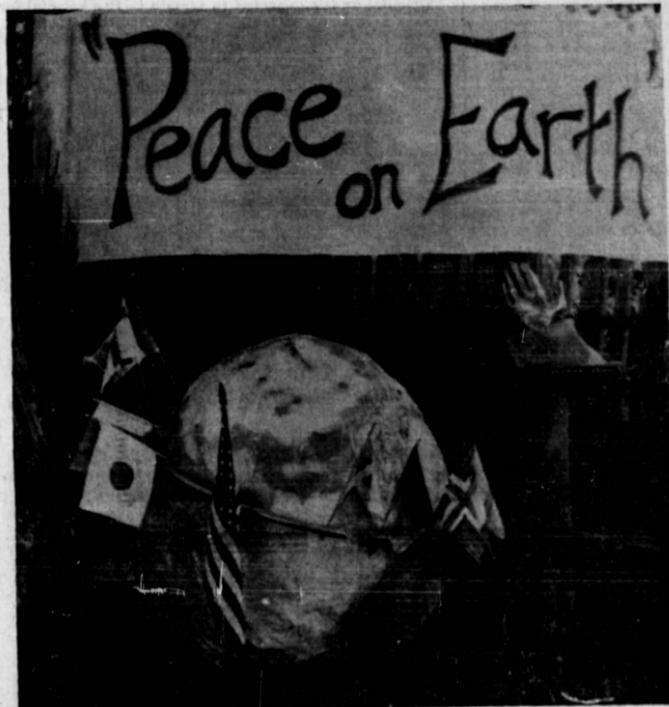
Gladys Kurkrall, 22129 Neptune St., in the Carson area, won second place in the novelty division.

MR. AND MRS. Walter Miller Sr., 18319 Mansel Ave., won the top prize in the religious division, Dunbar said. The Miller's display, built in two parts, features a nativity scene in one section and a large, flag-decorated globe under a sign which reads, "Peace on Earth." A pair of praying hands is mounted on a pedestal as part of the display.

Second place in the religious division was awarded to Paul H. LaFrentz, 21119 S. Doble Ave.

ALL FOUR families will be guests of the Jaycees at a special dinner meeting next month. In addition, each winner will receive a plaque.

Crance said his display is lighted each night between 5:15 and 10:30, while the Miller display is lighted between 4:30 p.m. and midnight.



PEACE ON EARTH . . . This display, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Miller Sr., 18319 Mansel Ave., was awarded first place in the religious division of the Jaycees annual Christmas decorations contest. The two-part display also includes a manger scene. The display is lighted each evening between 4:30 and midnight. Mrs. Miller made the flags which were used in the display. (Press-Herald Photo)

HIGHWAY PATROLMAN

Officer Killed; Suspect Arrested

An electronics worker, captured in Lomita Wednesday after he allegedly shot and killed a Highway Patrol officer, is reported in good condition at the prison ward of Los Angeles County General Hospital.

Twenty-eight-year-old Thomas Eugene Spychala was arrested at R&B Drugs, 2171

E. Pacific Coast Hwy., after an intensive manhunt. He is suspected of shooting Patrolman Merle Lee Andrews, 39, a few hours earlier in Rolling Hills Estates.

Spychala, described by a clergyman as mentally ill, took refuge in the drugstore and ordered the clerk to give him rat poison. The suspect ingested the arsenic shortly before arresting officers arrived.

Spychala had stolen a car from a neighbor early Wednesday

and armed himself with several guns. A South Gate minister who had counseled Spychala, said the suspect "had this thing about getting shot by the police."

Spychala had told the minister he intended to break traffic rules until stopped by a policeman. He warned that he would then shoot the officer.

New Member Named to Board

County supervisors, on the motion of Burton W. Chace, have appointed Gerald R. Witt to the South Bay Hospital District Board of Directors.

The appointment was ratified last Tuesday. Witt succeeds Auten F. Bush, who resigned from the board following his appointment as a South Bay Municipal Court Judge.

Workman Injured; Power Cut

A 47-year-old workman sustained severe burns about his face and hands Friday morning when he accidentally grounded a 16,000 volt conductor in a Southern California Edison Co. substation.

Thomas Coleman, of Hawthorne, was taken to South Bay Hospital following the accident, which occurred at the Edison Co. substation at Pacific Coast Highway and Beryl Street. He was in satisfactory condition.

The accident, which occurred about 10:15 a.m., plant officials said, knocked out electrical service in Redondo Beach and parts of west Torrance. Power was restored 25 minutes later.

A second man, Dan Forbes, 20, of 2214-A Harriman Lane, was injured. He was treated and released.

Lomita Man Killed in Auto Crash

Thirty-year-old John M. Melhuish, of 2432 Pacific Coast Hwy., Lomita died Friday when the car he was driving collided with a second vehicle near Lancaster.

Melhuish was driving about eight miles north of Lancaster when the crash occurred, California Highway Patrol officers reported.

Officers identified the driver of the second car as James Nork, 18, stationed at the Miramar Naval Air Station. Nork and two other persons, including a woman, were injured in the crash.



FUN AT CHRISTMAS . . . Five-year-old Patricia Johnson of Torrance was one of many lucky youngsters who shook hands with Santa Claus at the Crippled Children's Society Christmas party. Guest star Nanette Fabray was also on hand to give the children a merrier Christmas. Held at the Society's regional center in Woodland Hills, the party drew more than 2,000 handicapped children from throughout Los Angeles County.

Adoption Decrees Issued To Three Area Families

Three Torrance families will celebrate Christmas this year with newly adopted children.

Final adoption decrees were granted the three families last Wednesday by Superior Court Judge A. A. Scott.

The families are Mr. and

Mrs. Carl Bennett, of 2736 Artesia Blvd.; Mr. and Mrs. Terry Cox, of 4402 Highgrove St.; and Mr. and Mrs. Harry Gibbons of 21010 Annruta.

The Bennetts, who are parents of two girls, adopted a 10½-month-old boy, Michael. His sisters are Christina, 5, and Debra, 4.

Mr. and Mrs. Cox adopted their first child, Trent, who is 1 year old.

Patricia Gibbons joins five other children. Her sister, 3-year-old Sandra, also is adopted. The Gibbons family also includes four boys: Steve, 17; Jeff, 12; Scott, 10; and Don, 6.

Police Officer Shot in Hand as Gun Discharges

Torrance Police Officer Brad Parsons was accidentally shot in the hand with his own gun early Friday morning while apprehending two suspected car burglars.

Officer Parsons and his partner had responded to a burglar call at Vel's Ford, 20900 S. Hawthorne Blvd. During the arrest, Parson's gun fell out of its holster and discharged when it hit the ground.

The officer was taken to Little Company of Mary Hospital where he was reported in satisfactory condition after surgery.

Booked for burglary of an automobile were John E. McClure, 20, of 1829 Cota Ave., and Michael A. Rios, 17, of 1730 Greenwood. An off-duty policeman driving home

on Hawthorne Boulevard at 3 a.m. spotted the boys prowling around the car lot and called the police station for assistance.

Trailer Breaks Loose; Slams Into Automobile

A run-away trailer collided with a car at 5 p.m. Friday near the corner of Crenshaw and 190th Street. The driver of the car, Charles Brodowy of 22807 Eriel, told police he was north bound on Crenshaw when the trailer slammed into his car, causing major damage to both vehicles.

The trailer broke loose from a car driven by Elwood G. Golding, 2609 W. 223rd St. Golding was cited for using an insufficient tow chain and an improper coupling.

AIRPORT MEETING

Members of the city's Airport Commission will meet Thursday at 8 p.m.

Refinery Fire Burns On - - -

A fire at the Standard Oil Co. refinery in El Segundo, set by lightning about 9 a.m. last Tuesday morning, continued to burn yesterday as firefighters considered dumping sand into the seven-acre reservoir in order to extinguish the blaze. More than 33 million gallons of fuel oil were in the reservoir, according to Standard Oil Co. officials. Smoke from the hot fire has covered most of the area, drifting up to 40 miles inland, during the past four days. Firemen said a test in a small area of the reservoir indicated sand may be effective, but officials said they would make several more tests before attempting to extinguish the blaze. The fuel oil was valued at more than \$1 million.

Council Meeting Cancelled - - -

Torrance councilmen have cancelled a meeting scheduled for Tuesday because of the holiday season. The next meeting of the council will be held Tuesday, Jan. 2, at 5:30 p.m. Sessions are held at the city hall, 3031 Torrance Blvd.

Trash Collection Delayed - - -

Normal collection of trash throughout the city will be one day late for the next two weeks, Walter M. Nollac, director of public works, has announced. Nollac said city crews would observe both Christmas Day and New Year's Day. As a result, collections normally made on Monday will be made Tuesday, with crews working Saturday each week to complete collections. Normal schedules will be resumed Monday, Jan. 8.