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Torrance Herald

TWENTY-SECOND YEAR—No. 54. SECTION A TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1936 PER COPY 5c

Greatest Party Ever Held Here



—Photo by Haig & Haig.

Average estimate of the crowd, a portion of which is shown above, attending the Columbia Steelworkers' Christmas party Saturday night was approximately 4,000 persons—half of whom were children. The attendance far surpassed the hosts' expectations. The above picture was taken as Santa Claus was digging

into his packs and boxes for the gifts he brought on a "special train" direct to the big courtyard between the changing house and the steel plant buildings, standing 30 feet high, the elaborately decorated tree was the background for an array of local talent who performed on the platform until Santa arrived.

Post Gain Breaks All Records

\$10,000-Mark Nearing for Quarter as Big Mail Rush Is On

One of the best barometers of Christmas economics is the chart of postal receipts for the past five years as compared to this depression-routng year.

The Torrance postal business thus fairly indicates financial gains made by individuals and firms in this community. Yesterday Postmaster Earl Conner took a careful survey of his record of postal receipts, past and present, and joyfully announced:

"We're having the biggest Christmas business in the history of the postoffice, we're ending the greatest quarter on record and we're going to top any previous year by a good, big percentage!"

Late Figure Given

While hundreds of Torrance residents thronged the new postal headquarters on Marcelina avenue, laden with packages and bearing cards for friends near and far, Conner figured up Uncle Sam's business in Torrance for this quarter—October, November and December—and declared:

"Total receipts to and including Monday have been \$9,606.64 as compared with \$9,800.94 for the entire final quarter of 1935. That means we'll go over the \$10,000 mark for the first time as the year closes.

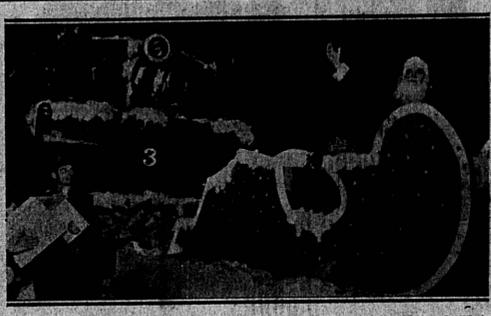
Other final quarters have been: 1934, \$7,170.15; 1933, \$6,120.35; 1931, \$6,692.27, and for 1930, \$8,279.15."

The rising line on the community's business barometer having been graphically pointed out, the postmaster turned his attention to postal service matters for the final big Christmas rush that began Monday.

Seven Extra Workers That day was the biggest single business period at the local postoffice, carrying out the custom (Continued on Page 6-A)

2,000 Youngsters Joyously Mob Santa at Steel Plant

THE MAN OF THE WEEK



—Photo by Haig & Haig.

A few seconds after the above visual proof that there is a Santa Claus was taken at the Columbia Steel courtyard Saturday night, the honored visitor was rapidly depleting his stock of toys, candy and fruit as thousands of youngsters clamored for their gifts. Santa prevailed upon his steelworker aides to rush an extra supply of presents and they put in an anxious hour obtaining the additional stock.

SPIRIT OF GOODWILL PERVADES TORRANCE INDUSTRIAL PLANTS

Celebration of Christmas joys is not entirely confined to home-gatherings. In a number of industrial plants, stores and offices the coming of the great day Friday will be observed this week by employees and their superiors as they gather in their respective work shops to exchange greetings and received merited gifts.

Final '36 Edition Next Wednesday

In presenting this Christmas edition, the Torrance Herald staff wishes all readers a joyful Christmas and announces that the next issue—the final one for the year—will be published Wednesday morning, Dec. 30, for delivery shortly after lunch.

The Herald office will be closed all day Christmas and Saturday, Dec. 26. Pastors of local churches are requested to bring in their announcements not later than Monday morning, Dec. 28.

C.C.M.O. has Chimes, Lights

A Christmas feature which has attracted wide attention at the C. C. M. O. community here since 1929 will have an additional attraction this Yuletide, according to Sherwood McIntyre, superintendent.

This will be nightly chiming of Christmas carols by a hand-made carillon installed at the head of the main street whose trees and shrubbery will be illuminated. The chimes will be heard for the first time Tuesday night when the lights are turned on and they will be played every evening through New Year's night.

By utilizing various lengths of six steel pump tubes and linking them with a synchronous revolving power contact, Superintendent McIntyre and his co-workers rigged up what is probably the most unusual carillon in the world for the C. C. M. O. The music and the decorated 25 trees and shrubbery which line the street is expected to draw many visitors to the unique "community within a community" during the next nine days.

SUSPECT POLICE DOG
 "A big police dog is suspected," police records showed Sunday of having killed eight hens and a rabbit in Cecil Smith's pens on Hickory street. Police are watching for the suspect.

He'll be Back for Firemen's Party Tuesday Night

Into the din (wild pipings from at least 2,000 childish throats) and glare (powerful searchlights, a blazing Christmas tree 40 feet high and photographers' flash bombs) rode Santa Claus Saturday at the Columbia Steel workers' gala celebration.

He came, all smiles and white whiskers, comfortably seated in a sleigh but his reindeer were replaced by a donkey-engine that puffed and snorted under its decorations of "snow" and greenery. Santa's appearance at the Columbia courtyard was the climax of a variety program that ranged from the singing of Christmas hymns by the Methodist choir to some snappy tap-dancing and "hot" instrumental numbers.

Santa almost missed connections while the hundreds and hundreds of children shrilled their disappointment as he disappeared from sight on a side-track. A few seconds later these youngsters almost mobbed him as his train pushed his sleigh, mounted on a flat-car, up to the platform and the old fellow climbed out to distribute his gifts of toys, candy and nuts to every child present.

City Party Tuesday Night
 This was his first major appearance here this season. The second will be Tuesday night, Dec. 22, at the civic auditorium where the Torrance fire department will hold its annual children's party beginning at 7:30 o'clock.

All members of the fire department gathered at the central station Monday night and put in three hours work filling some 1,500 colorful boxes with 700 pounds of fresh candy and 200 pounds of walnuts in preparation for the annual community party Tuesday night.

To these boxes will be added an equal number of oranges and apples for distribution to the youngsters who will through the civic auditorium long before the Christmas fete begins at 7:30 o'clock.

Dance Follows Fete
 Fire Chief A. B. Stevens has received the brand-new "Chief" pushmobile and big Stanley Temple doll from the Torrance Retail Merchants' Association for presentation to a lucky boy and girl at the party. Numbered tickets will be issued at the door and a drawing held for these major gifts.

Proceeding the gift distribution, an interesting vaudeville program will be given by recreation workers and the municipal band will play an outdoor concert. After the children leave (Continued on Page 2-A)

Caesarian Baby is Pre-Yule Arrival

Operation Delivers Seven-Pound Girl

A fine seven-pound, seven and one-half-ounce baby girl was born to Mr. and Mrs. George Hough, of 853 Ninth street, Manhattan Beach, with the assistance of a Caesarian operation performed at Jared Sidney Torrance Memorial hospital Monday morning. Both mother and daughter are reported making splendid progress.

The new arrival is the second child for the Houghs. Father Hough is connected with the Associated Telephone Company at Manhattan Beach. The second pre-Yuletide baby arrived at 9:31 o'clock Monday night when a son was born to Mr. and Mrs. William Ostermeier, 1168 Eighth street, Hermosa Beach. He was their first child. Ostermeier is a textile printer at the beach city.

A Herald Reporter Asks . . . "WHAT WAS YOUR BEST CHRISTMAS?" . . . And Get a Big Earful

"What do you mean 'best Christmas'—mentally, morally, financially or socially?" queried one early prospect for this revelation of outstanding Yuletides by Torrance residents. On being assured that he could take the question: What was your best Christmas? anyway but financially and that the personal angle was much desired, the subject broke down and admitted that:

"Without a doubt the best Christmas I ever had was when my mother-in-law left us just before the holidays one year and I could smoke in the house!"

But this frank statement was followed by the vigorous demand that his name not be given. So, he is the only anonymous contributor to this symposium of past Christmases which was compiled this week with the idea that readers would search their memories and enjoy the recollection of their "best Christmases."

That Red Wheelbarrow
 Stopped in their daily tasks in homes, stores and offices, these Torrance residents held these Yuletides in highest esteem:

Mayor W. H. Stanger: "My best Christmas was in 1920. I just got out of the navy and my wife surprised me with my first Dodge car. It took me clear off my feet. I've had many fine holidays but that was the best of all."

Emma Quaglin, housewife: "Oh, I get a wallop out of them all but the best one . . . let me see . . . Oh, yes, it was in 1928—our first Christmas with our own baby, Doris Lee."

W. E. Bowen, Torrance Mutual Building and Loan: "The most interesting one was when our Brotherhood ran the Toy Hospital here about five years ago. But the best one to me personally was when I was five in Nevada City. I received a red wheelbarrow that I'd been wanting for months. It was piled high with assorted nuts. What a great day that was!"

Fun in Hospital
 Mrs. Lorene Ulrich, housewife: "It was in 1933 when we moved into our new home at 1626 Acacia avenue and knew that we would stay in California."

Police Chief G. M. Calder: "They're mostly the same as (Continued on Page 8-A)

Marion Sears is Chosen for Float

Will Represent City New Year's

To Miss Marion Sears, 17-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dean Sears of 2372 Torrance boulevard, goes the honor of representing the city of Torrance on the symbolic Metropolitan Water District's float in the Pasadena Tournament of Roses parade New Year's Day.

Announcement that she had been selected as this city's honoree was made by the M. W. D. float committee in Los Angeles Sunday. She was chosen from a group of eight Torrance high school senior girls after all were photographed and their scholastic records studied.

Miss Sears will be costumed in a modified Grecian robe with silver ties. Each of the 13 girls representing the cities in the District will wear similar gowns of different pastel hues on the great flower-decorated float.

No "Queens," No Contest
 Judge C. T. Rippey, Torrance's M. W. D. representative on the board of directors, and Principal Thomas Elson of the high school, assisted by L. J. Gilmeister, secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, arranged for the selection of the Torrance girl to ride on the float.

Those who qualified for the final choice were Margaret Batovskiy, 18, 1324 East Carson; Analee Harrison, 18, 1824 Cabrillo; Eileen Babecek, 17, 2008 Gramerey; Mary Hickey, 17, 1838 Arlington; June Stover, 17, 202 El Prado apartments; Donna Toler, 17, 2303 Cabrillo; Phyllis Haefell, 17, 815 Amapola, and Miss Sears.

M. W. D. officials in charge of the selection of city girl representatives on the float emphasized that this was in no sense a contest, nor are the girls to be known as "queens" of their various communities.—The 13 who were chosen met at Glen (Continued on Page 2-A)

Treasure Hunters! Your Directory for 84 Gifts is on Page 6-B

Promptly at 6 o'clock Wednesday night, Dec. 23, the greatest Christmas Treasure Hunt ever to be held in Torrance will start. For three hours 28 merchants will stand ready to present 84 valuable gifts to holders of winning Treasure Hunt numbers.

Turn now to Page 6-A and review the list of cooperating stores and what each is offering as gifts. Then clip out that announcement so that you won't miss a single opportunity to check your Treasure Hunt tickets with the three winning numbers that will be prominently displayed at Treasure Hunt stores.

Good hunting to you Wednesday night!

Weston Ranch Oil Well Being Revived

400 Acres Said Under Lease in Waleria Area

Another oil exploration is under way 1,400 feet southerly of the Weston Ranch off Roosevelt highway in the Waleria area. This is on the site of a well which was drilled 25 years ago and abandoned after a short period of production.

E. C. McClaren of 20 Bonita street, Long Beach, took out the building permit for erection of a standard 84-foot derrick to cost \$5,000 on the property. It is understood that McClaren and his associates have about 400 acres of oil leases in the vicinity of their first bore, which is located south of Roosevelt highway. This well was drilled in 1911 and stood at about 3,400 feet when it was abandoned, according to McClaren, who says he is in possession of its original log book.

McClaren states that a recent examination has shown promising quantities of oil and gas in the hole. Drilling will be continued until it is determined if the well is a paying proposition. (Continued on Page 7-A)