

Christmas Greetings to All

Sub-Freezing Temperatures Strike; More Frost on Way

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MR. AND MRS. JACK BUTLER
... For Them Christmas Is More Like a Birthday

'Dead' Flyer Marks Re-Birthday With Yule Celebration

For Jack Butler Christmas this year has a double meaning. Besides the normal celebration he will be observing the first anniversary of his death.

December 26 a year ago the former sailor and a student airplane pilot was severely injured in a crash at the Compton airport. The smash-up killed Frank L'onroe, the pilot, and sent Butler to the hospital with a badly crushed skull, a broken leg, a fractured pelvis and multiple internal injuries.

Dr. John Beeman and Dr. A. Vogel of Los Angeles operated on the youthful Civil Air Patrol pilot at the Torrance Memorial Hospital and removed 350 bone fragments from his brain. After eleven days he was transferred to the Long Beach Naval Hospital, placed on the critical list and given little chance to survive.

Then one night several days

after he arrived, he began to wane. An emergency call went out for his wife, Mrs. Christine Butler. But before she arrived, Butler died.

His heart stopped beating. A quick-thinking, fast-acting Navy doctor jabbed a needle directly into the heart of the stilled airplane. Artificial respiration and oxygen were administered.

Five minutes after Jack Butler's heart had stopped, five minutes after doctors said he was dead, Butler was alive again.

Today, almost a year later, (Continued on Page 8)

No Flowers This Christmas

When No News Is Good News

As it is with most folks, the Yuletide season is a happy one for editors. Well-wishers drop in to exchange greetings, to thank us for publicity we have given them during the year, and to forgive us for misspelling their names. It is a time when we write of many happy occasions; the church cantatas, the decorations gracing the front yards of folks celebrating a custom nearly two thousand years old, and of families reunited for the first time in perhaps many years. The community's flower shops enjoy 'Christmas season' for as they fill the many requests for bouquets, corsages, and Christmas wreaths they know that people are forgetting themselves for the moment and thinking of someone else. They know that these people, though they may find it awkward to express in words what they would like to say, turn to the blossoms and blooms of the field to help extend a kindly Christmas greeting. But as it is with the florist so it is with the editor that not all Christmas time activities are pleasant ones. We are certain that there is no florist anywhere who would not prefer to fashion a Christmas wreath tied in a shimmering red satin ribbon rather than drape a funeral wreath in somber black streamers. Though news is the editor's stock in trade, the story of tragedy at Christmas time especially, is an item that no editor enjoys unwrapping to show his readers. This 'Christmas as you travel to visit with your family or motor to the home of a friend, think of the florist, think of us and drive safely—won't you?

\$15 Million For New Homes Slated in '50

Little Change Expected for Holiday Weather

Slight change is predicted from the bright and brittle weather which yesterday morning sent the mercury tumbling down to below the freezing mark here.

Slightly warmer—but still cold—with clear, cloudless skies is the bill of fare for today, tomorrow and the Christmas weekend, according to U. S. Weather Bureau predictions made yesterday. Torrance went scurrying for its long woollies yesterday after midnight cold put a layer of frost over gardens and rooftops and pushed the mercury down to 31 degrees—the lowest mark of the season.

Although the frost struck suddenly few cases of frost-injured damages were reported. Nursery people warned, however that continued cold will nip many types of plants. Covering plants and avocado trees was recommended.

Calendar-wise, the year's lowest temperature mark could not have come at a more appropriate time. Yesterday was the first day of winter—and the shortest day of the year.

Long-sought rains brought .91 inches of moisture here over the weekend, according to reports compiled by the Torrance Fire Department. Total to date is 2.39 inches, as compared with 3.69 inches of rainfall at this time last year.

'Phone Theft Wave Reported

A wave of telephone thefts was reported to Torrance police Monday by an agent of the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph company.

According to reports at police headquarters, most recent victim is the telephone booth in a store at 1801 Cabrillo avenue. Missing with the phone is \$25 in change.

The telephone company representative declared that seven other phones were ripped from their mountings last Saturday night.

County Orders Hog Ranchers 'To Clean-up'

Following a recent crack-down by county health officers, three hog ranches in Torrance and two in Redondo Beach have been ordered to "clean up," according to David W. Colfelt, local county health authority for this area. He said that the ranchers must remove manure piles weekly, adopt a more rigid anti-fly campaign of spraying and improve drainage on their ranches to eliminate fly and mosquito breeding puddles.

SURVEY SHOWS 2426 NEW HOUSES PLANNED

\$15,000,000 will be spent during 1950 to construct 2426 more homes in Torrance during the coming year.

Such was revealed to members of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce in the organization's publication "News" which was received today by the local organization's membership.

The facts are based on a survey of 12 of the known tract developers now building new homes in Torrance. In personal interviews with actual builders, Mrs. Bertha Hedberg, assistant-secretary of the local chamber, reported that 11 builders had plans for new homes to be built in 1950 which amounted to twice the number built here this year. The builders said they had built 1216 homes in Torrance during 1949.

The new homes will bring to Torrance approximately 7278 new residents. Based upon a factor of three persons per house, (a figure used by the County Regional Planning commission) the jump in population will result in approximately a 25 per cent increase in Torrance's fast growing population.

Chamber President Charles Ver Jones, urged local merchants to prepare now to be able to meet the demands that these new builders and subsequent new residents will be making of local merchants, He said:

"The builders of these new homes are going to need 2426 sink stoppers, 2426 water heaters, and thousands upon thousands of other articles. The new residents will want modernly

Tomorrow's program is being sponsored by the Seaside 'Ranchos' Homeowners Association. The hero-pilot's friends at North American Aircraft Company have made a plaque in honor of Conover which will be presented along with the tree. Twenty-five carolers will sing.

About 300 residents of the area are expected to attend the event.



PILED HIGH . . . Nearly a thousand discarded toys were collected by the Torrance Optometrist Club yesterday afternoon at the organization's annual free movie and show for kids at the Torrance Theater. Harry Watkins, program chairman, collects the ticket-toys as an eager group crowds through the doors.



DOING DOUBLE DUTY . . . Be-Bop the Clown finds entertaining Pat and Mike, twin sons of Mr. and Mrs. Gil Derouin, 1625 Beech avenue is only half a chore. The famous clown will be bringing smiles to the 2500 kids who are expected to attend the Lions Club Christmas Party today at 2 p.m. in the Civic Auditorium.

Local Court Observes 'Boys Day'

It was "boy's day" in Judge Otto B. Willett's court yesterday afternoon.

Four boys were officially reprimanded for allegedly shooting their BB guns at cars on Amapola and Sierra streets; three fourteen-year-old youths were certified to juvenile court on charges of breaking into a local school; two 13-year-old boys were put on the juvenile court list charged with the recent theft of a car from the parking lot at Doak Aircraft Company.

CONTRACT AWARDED

A contract for 300 folding chairs for the Seaside School was awarded to the Welch Company Tuesday night by the Torrance Board of Education.

Lions Club to Host 2500 Children at Christmas Party

Enough candy and Christmas goodies to fill 2500 sweet teeth has been sacked by local firemen to be handed out today at 2 p.m. at the Lions Club Annual Kid's Christmas Party in the Civic Auditorium.

There will be fruit and candy for everyone at the celebration which will be highlighted by the appearance of Santa Claus himself.

"Be-Bop," the white-faced clown will be on hand to joke with the youngsters.

The two-hour show, according to Al Ewalt, general party chairman, will include free movies—cartoons and comedies.

Also on the program will be the 12-year-old singing and accordion star, Buddy Noonan, according to the program arranged by L. Milton Isbell, chairman. George Zavislan, high school music instructor, will lead the kids in a sing song.

Assisting local police will be members of the recently organized Torrance Auxiliary Police.

The sacking of the candy and fruit was accomplished by the cooperative efforts of members of the Torrance Fire Department. George Colburn, local market owner, was in charge of supplying the material to be given away.

Breakfast Meet Of Democratic Club Planned

Torrance Democrats, Inc., newly formed democratic organization of the area, will hold a breakfast meeting in the V.F.W. Hall on January 8, it was announced this week by C. Ed. Jones, temporary chairman of the new group.

All persons interested in democratic affairs are invited to attend the 10 a.m. meeting, according to Delbert Vaughn, press chairman. A score of local residents attended the organization's first meeting held in the V.F.W. Hall recently and signed an application for a charter and incorporation papers.

Those wishing to attend the breakfast may make reservations by phoning Mrs. Jess Dean—Torrance 1050, or Mrs. Elsie Smith—Torrance 1550R.

Chairman Jones and Mrs. Jones, both active in local, state, and national Democratic affairs were recent hosts at a reception honoring Cecil R. King, Democratic Congressman from this district.

Young Cyclist in Bike-Car Mishap Hurt Slightly

Robert Hanks, 12-year-old cyclist, received minor injuries when he was struck by an auto at Hawthorne and Lomita boulevards last Saturday morning.

Driver of the car involved, according to the Torrance Police Department, was W. E. Christian, 1020 Amapola avenue.

Young Hanks lives at 909 Sartori avenue.

Two Men Held on Morals Charges

Two men, both local, are in the Los Angeles County jail awaiting trial on charges of child molestation.

To be arraigned Tuesday in the Superior Court of Long Beach is Lester Frank Valenzuela, a Pueblo resident, who faces a charge of molesting a nine-year-old girl.

Being held under \$5000 bond is Michael Jove, 23, of 2410 Arlington avenue, on four counts of molesting a girl under 14 years of age.

Both men were held to answer to the charges by City Judge Otto B. Willett.

License Exams

Examination for driver's licenses are conducted the first and third Monday of each month in the council chambers in the Torrance City Hall.