

Torrance Terrace Garden Clubbers Encouraged to Beautify Home Grounds

Members of the Torrance Terrace Garden Club are not encouraged to exercise their enthusiasm merely by envy of the neighbors' garden just over the fence but are to be diligent and industrious in cultivating lovely growing things of their own. In this way, the grounds of every home become beautified to enhance the city as a whole.

This improvement group club, started in June of 1946, and the first members were Mesdames R. A. Olson, Edwin Cooley, C. L. McArthur, E. Bristol, Fred Andrews, T. F. Ruble, Kenneth Fritz and Arthur Fritz.

The first project was planting magnolia trees in the parkways of the 1400, 1500 and 1600 blocks on 214th St. in Nov., 1946. In the summer of 1947, this club and the Junior and Senior Woman's Clubs of Torrance combined efforts in entering a model garden at Mrs. Stevens' home.

The Long Beach Flower Show, this garden received the second place Gold Trophy.

The first annual flower show was held in Torrance in May, 1947, at the Woman's Clubhouse with 200 entries. These were laid out in the shape of a wheel with Roy Metcalf's shade plants used in the center of the hub.

The sweepstakes prize was won by Mrs. William Scholl and Mrs. K. Colley with a miniature Chinese garden.

In the years 1946 and 47, Mrs. Arthur Fritz was president; Mrs. R. A. Olson, vice president; Mrs. T. F. Ruble, secretary. Mrs. M. F. Rugg, treasurer and Mrs. William Scholl, program chairman.

During 1947 and 48 Mrs. A. F. R. Ewalt was president; Mrs. Scholl, vice president; Mrs. John Hoffman, secretary; Mrs. Kenneth Fritz, treasurer and Mrs. Arthur Fritz, program chairman.

The first annual outdoor Christmas decorating contest took place in 1947. At the second annual flower show, held in the Torrance High School Gymnasium in 1947, the sweepstakes was won with an arrangement of Dainty Bess Roses entered by Mrs. M. E. Cornbleth, president of the South Bay Branch of the National Fuschia Society of America.

The club entered the Factory

Co-operation Between Parents, Faculty Success Secret of North Torrance Elementary PTA

With "Opportunities Unlimited" as its theme, the officers and chairman of North Torrance Elementary PTA hope to make 1953-54 a bigger and better year. Complete cooperation between the parents and the school faculty has been, and will be, the secret of the success of this particular PTA.

Organized in September 1950 with a charter membership of 282, the figure reached 996 for the year 1952-53. An average of 150 attended the monthly meetings for the past 3 years.

A news magazine, called the North Torrance PTA, published by the association, is a source of information to the members telling of achievements attained and announcing coming events.

Since its inception, the association has participated in numerous welfare and civic activities which include Community Chest, March of Dimes, and the Torrance Dental Health Association. A carnival was held in May, 1951, with the entire proceeds

going to the Dental Health program. A second carnival was held in October of the same year to help meet the budget.

The association made the Honor Roll for two successive years for adequate subscription to the California Parents and Teachers magazine. In addition, awards were received for well-planned yearly programs.

Officers this year are Mrs. Francis Stoelke, president; Mrs. Mary West, vice-president; Mrs. Charles Denmark, recording secretary; Mrs. William Wilson, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Leon Blumfield, treasurer; Mrs. Lloyd Van de Vort, auditor; Mrs. Dan Walker, historian; Mrs. Harry Van Bellehem, parliamentarian; Mrs. Ralph McBee, community relations; Mrs. Joe Tardagula, dental health; Mrs. Curtis Johnson, finance and budget; Mrs. Walter Buffington, assistant finance and budget; Mrs. Robert Clark, hospitality and publicity; Mrs. Clark Harris, assistant hospitality and publicity; Mrs. Duane Sherwood, honorary life membership; Mrs. Kenny Odell, magazine and emblems; Mrs. Robert Payne, membership; Mrs. J. B. Baldwin, assistant membership; Mrs. M. A. Anderson, music; Mrs. Kenneth Schirmer, assistant music; Mrs. Lydia Willis, Newswette; Mrs. Ott Fagnano, parent education; Mrs. Robert Richter, publicity and record book; Mrs. Tone Rogers, room representative; Mrs. Charles Stauffer, assistant; Mrs. Mike Perello and Joe Brandon, safety; and Mrs. W. J. McCausland, student welfare.

Two past presidents are claimed by this organization. Mrs. Ralph McBee served for a two year term, 1950-52, and Mrs. Robert Jackson for a one year term 1952-53.

Recipients of life memberships in the association are Mrs. Harry Van Bellehem, Mrs. Ralph McBee, Mrs. Harold Massey, and Donald Robinson.

OES Aid Aim Of Betsy Ross

Started in 1928 as a ways and means committee to aid Torrance Chapter 380, Order of the Eastern Star, Betsy Ross Club has set \$1000 per year as its financial goal.

During 1952, club money-raising projects exceeded this amount. Bringing silver and currency into the treasury were food sales, merchants' lunches and breakfasts, and a variety sales program featuring

blankets, electrical appliances for the home, hosiery, and many other items. Biggest fund-raiser each year is a fall bazaar, held this year in September at the Masonic Temple. Here the group sold Christmas cards, articles made by the sewing club, a grab bag, food, and host of other items. Climaxing the event was a dinner.

Officers of Betsy Ross for this year are Dorothy Moore, president; Nelle Payne, first vice president; Alethea Smith, second vice president; and Dorothy Schuchman, secretary and treasurer. The club meets the second Tuesday of each month, either at private homes or the Masonic Temple. Potluck dinners or luncheons highlight each session.

VFW Supports Mutual Business Problems

Twenty-seven charter members under the leadership of Commander Lee Balaam comprised the first group of Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 3251, in Torrance.

Gerald Moreland recently has been elected active commander, and other past commanders are Vern Coll, Jess Dean and Arthur Moore.

The Torrance Post works with the Auxiliary at Wadsworth Hospital in Savelle and also helps support the Veterans Orphans Home at Eaton Rapids, Mich. All Veterans of Foreign Wars organizations in the United States combine to maintain the home at Eaton Rapids, which is a city of attractive, comfortable, individual cottages, schools and private bus lines. Each cottage has a house mother, many of these being widows and mothers of children cared for there.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars is the only veterans organization in the United States which maintains an orphanage for youngsters who have lost their fathers in service.

Torrance Post welcomes as a member any service man who has had foreign duty and is a citizen of the United States.

Mutual Business Problems Are Spur Behind Present Day Local Realty Board

From a small group of real estate operators, including such pioneer realtors as Edith Smith of Lomita and Bronson C. Buxton of Torrance, who used to meet to discuss mutual business problems some years ago, the Torrance-Lomita Realty Board was organized about five years ago into an active and influential group of 125 members from 40 offices.

The California Real Estate Association presents each local group with a gold seal certificate if it exceeds its membership for the previous year. The local realty board has exceeded its membership every year for the past five years, and thus has regularly won this gold seal award. The 40 offices of the association benefit the multiple listing plan to promote fast, fair and more efficient selling of properties. An educational program has been held for the past two years at El Camino College to help train prospective salesmen. Course material includes economics, techniques of selling, and the real estate code of ethics in dealing fairly with the public.

The board meets, usually at the Chamber of Commerce building the second Friday of each month. All members meet in the Council Chambers at the City Hall the last Friday of each month.

Both the California and National Real Estate Associations are meeting in Los Angeles this year, so most local real estate men will attend the state meetings Nov. 6 and 7 at the Statler Hotel and the national sessions Nov. 8 to 13 at the Biltmore Hotel.

Presidents of the Torrance-Lomita Realty Board are elected for one year, but through tradition, leaders have served two-year terms. Howard Percy is the current president, succeeding C. J. "Raddy" Ryan. W. E. Bowen and Jim Schmitt also have headed the organization.

Nine members of the board of directors are elected for two-year terms. Five are chosen one year and four the next. Current serving are Elmer Epperson, Ryan, Edith Smith, Harry Bowker, Gretchen Earle, and Percy Connett, who also acts as secretary-treasurer.



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RESOURCES

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Overdrafts . . . 1,283.58

U.S. Government Bonds . . . 3,127,944.64

Stock, Federal Reserve Bank . . . 7,500.00

Banking House . . . 75,141.83

Other Assets . . . 2,891.86

Cash and Due from Banks . . . 1,790,174.26

TOTAL . . . \$7,062,149.50

LIABILITIES

Capital Stock - Common . . . \$ 100,000.00

Surplus . . . 150,000.00

Reserves and Undivided Profits 71,688.52

Total Capital 321,688.52

REDISCOUNTS None

BILLS PAYABLE None

Deposits . . . 6,740,460.98

TOTAL . . . \$7,062,149.50

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