

# Los Cancioneros, Originated For Love of Singing, Achieve Distinction in Choral Field

"This shall be for music; these songs for love of singing." Early in the spring of 1949, a small group of Hollywood Riviera neighbors organized Los Cancioneros, a mixed chorus, with the purpose of the group's origin closely paralleling the one above.

It obviously was a good purpose, as since that time the "Cancioneros" has progressed from 10 or 12 men and women interested in singing for their own pleasure and enjoyment to one of the most well-known mixed choruses in the Southland. The group today is an amateur musical organization unique in that it is entirely self-governing and self-sustaining.

Although an embryo group, however, it was not so financially stable, and it is recorded that the charter members used their personal funds, other than dues, to buy music and generally get the chorus on its feet.

Although it began as a "hobby group" of Los Verdes Women's Club, "Los Cancioneros" members decided that the group would remain independent of sponsorship from this or any other organization, thus setting it apart from most like amateur groups.

The choosing of a name, a highly controversial subject, resulted in the selection of "Los Cancioneros" (Spanish for "The Singers") in keeping with other Spanish names in the area.

The chorus soon began to receive offers for public appearances, the first coming from the Riviera-Seaside PTA on Nov. 3, 1949. As a result of most gratifying comments on their performance, recognition grew, and they were asked to sing for many community activities.

At that time, the chorus held rehearsals only twice a month, meeting in various members' homes. Weekly rehearsals soon became a necessity as the demand for their music increased. Progress of "Los Cancioneros" is measured by a yardstick of hard work, strict attendance rules, and intense training, all with a sincere devotion to choral presentation yet maintaining a light-hearted zest for singing.

In accordance with the chorus's success, due credit must go to the gifted direction of Barbara Mabin, a resident of Hollywood Riviera. Mrs. Mabin is a perfectionist and an excellent musician whose enthusiasm and ability win her the respect of every member of her group. She was educated at Occidental College, where she graduated as a music major. From there she entered the U. S. Navy, during which time she was instrumental in organizing the Basé Chapel Choir at Camp Parks.

It was there she met her husband, Tom Mabin, who was a tenor in the choir and who has with Los Cancioneros since its origin. Mrs. Mabin is now attending the University of Southern California in preparation for her M.A. in sacred music and is on leave of absence as minister of music at the Pales Verdes Neighborhood Church.

In the fall of 1950, Los Cancioneros wished to show appreciation to their many loyal friends who had supported the group with constant encouragement. The result was the first "Sing for Your Supper," an evening of dinner and light entertainment. So well-received was the event that the group decided to make it an annual occasion. This year's "Sing for Your Supper" will be held Nov. 7, featuring a Swedish smorgasbord. During the holiday season, the chorus is always busy and has each year elected to do Christmas caroling and one benefit performance. Soon after this season, in February, 1951, the group was invited to participate with all Southland choruses in the Venice Choral Festival.

The outcome exceeded their greatest expectations and proved to be their first competitive achievement in the choral field. Los Cancioneros was adjudged the best mixed chorus, sweepstakes winner, and Mrs. Mabin was awarded the distinction of best director. Through this victory, she was named a summer session at Fred Ward's "War Camp" in North California.

In the spring of 1951, Los Cancioneros presented its first annual concert at the Redondo Beach Women's Club. The concert format established then has been used in each following year, with the chorus featured in traditional concert choral presentation during the first half and the latter half devoted to a light musical drama.

The performance proved a distinct success, according to S. C. Stewart of a Redondo paper, who said, "They are just plain good to listen to."

The following year was a busy one for the chorus with engagements in and out of the community. Included among these were Torrance Kiwanis Benefit, Rotary Benefit at Redondo Beach, San Pedro Choral Festival, Immanuel Presbyterian Church in Los Angeles, and in the Venice Choral Festival, in which the group repeated its previous success.

The annual concert of 1952 was held at Redondo Union High School, with "Down in the Valley" by Kurt Weill, presented at the musical drama, Robert Farnsworth of Hampton Players directed the drama.

The never-relaxing enthusiasm of Los Cancioneros brought them a busy year's program in the fall of 1952, including performances for the Pales Verdes Art Association, North American Management Club, Redondo May Festival of the Arts, and St. Cross Episcopal Church in Hermosa Beach, climaxed by the Third Annual Community Concert in June of this year.

Of the latter event, Stewart said of the group, "They proved again that in singing for fun they have attained a peak of excellence which should be the envy of many a professional group."



Mrs. Bennett

# 100 Local Gals Are 'Jobless' Group 26 Years Old Now

One hundred girls belong to the Torrance group of Job's Daughters, known locally by this international organization as Bethel 50. In order to join, a girl must be unmarried and sponsored by someone in the Masonic Order or a relative who is a Mason. Ages of members range from 12 to 20 years, and in Torrance the majority of the girls are between 12 and 15.

Mrs. Iva Owens of El Monte is grand guardian of Job's Daughters for all California this year. Each year a new grand guardian is chosen and she determines some active project for each group.

The Torrance members meet every first and third Tuesday evening at the Masonic Temple. At these meetings, they wear the robes of the Order and follow a definite ritual.

To raise funds for the organization, Job's Daughters gave a luncheon and fashion show on Aug. 26 at the Masonic Temple.

On Sept. 1 Mrs. Esther E. Whitman, deputy grand guardian of District 50 which includes Torrance, called on the local chapter and the members went through initiation procedure for her approval. She in turn reported to Mrs. Owen, her superior.

Saturday, Sept. 8, the entire group of girls went to Crestline for a week of swimming, riding and outdoor sports. On Sept. 15 Job's Daughters celebrated the 26th year since the formation of the local chapter, entertaining all former officers.

Carol Campbell is now honored queen of Torrance Bethel. At her right hand as senior and junior princess, respectively, are Janie Moffatt and Janice Crabtree. Carol Maloy, as guide, conducts initiations.

Other line officers include Sally Speck, marshal; Glenda Wells, chaplain; Joy Pearman, treasurer; Linda Lane, recorder; and Linda Thayne, assistant recorder.

Mrs. Pearl Thayne, mother of Linda Thayne, is guardian of the Torrance "Jobless," acting as sponsor of the group and as chaperone on trips. Leonard Kane is associate guardian.



Miss Campbell

# Fuchsia Club Organized in Keystone in '47

Bernard L. Wood organized the Keystone Branch of the California Fuchsia Society in July, 1947, and became its first president.

Club members now headed by Mrs. Lucille Edwards, president; J. H. Parker, vice-president; E. V. Everson, treasurer; Bessie Alsop, membership secretary; and Freda Horn, secretary, have as their primary interest the learning about soils and plants to improve their own home gardens.

Expert speakers on plant life attend the meetings, held each month at Keystone Woman's Clubhouse, 245 E. 220th St. These sessions are open to the public.

The local branch won an honorable ribbon for the best booth at the National Fuchsia Society Flower Show at Knott's Berry Farm in Buena Park last June and plans to participate in the show again in 1954.



Mrs. Edwards

# Rotary Club Oldest Service Group Here

Distinction of being the first service club in Torrance belongs to the Rotary Club. Chartered Nov. 6, 1924, the local chapter is affiliated with Rotary International, the oldest service club in the United States, which has branches in all major cities of this country and in nearly all foreign lands.

Not dominated by the USSR, "Service Above Self" is the motto of the Rotarians, who meet every Thursday evening at 5:30 o'clock in the Torrance Woman's Clubhouse, 1422 Engracia Ave. Some of the community activities to which they have given financial support are the YMCA, YWCA, Community Chest, and Red Cross. They also provided a motion picture projector, equipment and films for Harbor General Hospital; furnished a room at Torrance Memorial Hospital; provided scholarships for college students; and given support to



J. Dabbs

Seventy active members and two-honorary members, Jacob Koeh and Jerry Farrar, student body president at Torrance High School, are on the club roster. Included on the active list are three charter members, Charles V. Jones, Sam Levy, and F. L. Parks, all past presidents.

Present officers are Jack Dabbs, president; Carl S. Warner, vice-president; Don H. Hyde, secretary; Robert Leech, treasurer; Charles H. Titus, governor of Rotary International, District 160-A; and Raymond A. Larson, public information chairman.

Dabbs and Warner head the board of directors, which is composed of William A. Zoeller, A. E. Thompson, John A. Shidler, George W. Post, Rev. Cecil J. England, John A. Embinghouse, and Donald Armstrong.

# Aid in Disaster, Blood Recruitment Main Work Of Red Cross Volunteers

The Torrance Branch of the American Red Cross is located at 1754 Torrance Blvd. The duties of the chairman of this branch, W. A. Felker, are numerous, as he must see that the overall activities of Red Cross are accomplished by volunteers in the area. In case of any disaster, he is contacted and sends aid immediately to the disaster area, working jointly with the local Civil Defense office. He must supervise the work at the local office where volunteers take care of the many home service cases that ask advice and help.

The Red Cross budget for Torrance is limited, according to Robert Delinger, treasurer, as all money derived from the fund campaign goes directly to the Los Angeles chapter.

In case instruction in Standard First Aid or Advanced First Aid is needed, George Powell is called upon to arrange classes and find instructors. Certificates are given each person finishing these courses.

Mrs. Gordon Jones is blood recruitment chairman. Three times a year a bloodmobile comes to the Torrance Civic Auditorium, and a sincere attempt is made to fulfill the quota of 250 pints. Mrs. Jones and her assistants contact each blood donor personally and visit small industries for recruits.

The blood recruitment committee also goes to the many large industries in Torrance, such as National Supply, General Petroleum, Columbia Steel, Douglas Aircraft, and American Standard Chemical, American Standard

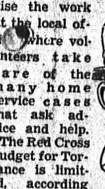
and many others. The plants are visited sometimes as often as three times in a year. Canteen service is provided at every blood bank, with every day serving coffee, cookies and orange juice. Dinner is also prepared for volunteers when the blood bank is at the Civic Auditorium. Mrs. John Stodard is canteen chairman.

Mrs. Leo McMillen is staff aid chairman and recruits staff workers for the local office which is open from 10 a.m. to 12 noon and from 2 to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. These workers talk to the families who wish home service and refer them to the Los Angeles office. They also assist in telephoning and typing.

Mrs. Jones is public information chairman and handles all publicity for local newspapers. She is assisted by Robert Owens, who finds speakers to address clubs on all phases of Red Cross work.

In the spring of every year, beginning the latter part of February, an immense corps of volunteers goes from door to door to raise money for the quota of 250 pints. Mrs. J. Hugh Sharkey handles this fund campaign.

In case of floods, fires, war, or any disaster, money is allocated to the stricken area to care for everyone. Each Red Cross branch participates in the raising of funds once a year during the period designated for the Douglas Aircraft, President She



W. Felker

# War Disrupts JayCee Organization Here

War duty and the necessity of young men being called into service disrupted the early history of the Torrance Junior Chamber of Commerce. Even before Pearl Harbor, a group of young men made an early effort to start such an organization, but the armed forces called men in their age group and so the idea came to nothing.

After the war, in 1948 another group of young men tried again to form a Junior Chamber, and the following year asked the San Pedro Juniors to help them in forming their society. Finally, due to the splendid work of Dr. Philip R. H. a m e s of Long Beach, state president of the Junior Chambers of Commerce, and Phil Molen of Glendale, a national director, the Torrance men received a national and state charter. Initialiation was held in October at the Hollywood Riviera Country Club, with Goodwin Knight, the new Governor of California, as guest speaker.

Young men of Torrance between the ages of 21 and 35 are urged to join the Junior Chamber of Commerce. This organization has no connection with the existing Chamber of Commerce, but aims to cooperate with this group as well as with all service, fraternal and social organizations in Torrance to better the community.

Howard Percy, the first president, was assisted by Harry O. Abramson, vice-president; Lela Franz, secretary; Edwin Karlow, treasurer, and W. E. Beckman, sergeant-at-arms. Charles Schultz, Robert Lawellen and John Phillips were made members of the board. A dinner was held that year at the Alhambra Country Club in honor of Cliff Cooper, national president of the Junior Chambers. Philip Molen, national Junior director; Jim Grubb of the State of California group, and Bill Peacock of the San Pedro Junior group were guest speakers.

One of the first activities of the Junior Chamber was to provide adequate recreation facilities for the teen-agers of Torrance. The Veterans of Foreign Wars donated their hall each Thursday for the use of the youngsters. At Christmastime, Santa Claus arrived in a helicopter to the delight of 3000 Torrance kiddies and their parents.

Other programs included a campaign to induce people to get out and vote, and another aimed to cut wasteful taxes and urge economy in government. Money was raised at the first public event given at Higgins Brickyard patio, where an evening was devoted to dancing, winning prizes and other activities.

In later years, the Junior Chamber of Commerce has boosted the plan for night football games. Members have sponsored the mobile X-ray visits to the city, been active in Fire Prevention Week, home drives, and "clean up our city" week.

Ed Karlow was president in 1950-51, assisted by Dwight Eubank, first vice-president; Harvey Abramson, second vice-president; James Moorehead, secre-



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