

(ESTABLISHED JAN. 1, 1914)

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1956

Have Cool Yule, Firemen Urge Torrance Residents

Have a cool Yule. That's the advice that the Torrance Fire Dept. has to give to local residents who are getting ready to put up their Christmas decorations and they aren't referring to a white Christmas.

The trees, candles, spangles, and bangles may be pretty, the firefighters warn, but they also could furnish a hot time in a lot of houses if improperly installed.

That the pretty decorations can mean no Christmas at all for some residents is proved by the fact that last year, throughout the nation, 23 persons, 13 of them children, died in fires last Christmas Eve. For them, there was no Santa Claus nor Christmas stocking.

Three Fires Here

In Torrance last year, there were three fires which started in Christmas decorations. Although no lives were lost, there was considerable property damage.

A spotlight shining on a Christmas tree set the branches afire at a Beech Ave. home, causing \$515 damage.

A short-circuited string of ornamental lights at a Kornblum Ave. residence caused \$54 damage.

Burning the remainder of the Christmas tree in the fireplace at a Cerise Ave. home cost the family \$130.

Candles burning by a statuette of the Virgin Mary six years ago, on Dec. 18, 1950, cast a family on 203rd St. their home, which was totally destroyed by flames.

What to Do?

What, then, can Torrance residents do to safeguard their homes, while making it attractive for the Yule season?

Nearly everybody has a Christmas tree, which is filled with pitch and resin and is one of the most combustible substances known. Fire Chief J. J. Benner offered these suggestions for safeguarding the gay, green reminders of the holidays:

1. Choose a small tree, which is less dangerous than a large one.
2. Don't set it up until shortly before Christmas. Keep it outside, which will keep it moist and fresh.
3. Put it in the coolest part

of the house, away from fire places and radiators and don't let it block an exit.

4. Stand it in water.

Use Treated Cotton

5. Don't use untreated cotton or untreated paper for decorations or around the tree.

6. Don't put electric trains under the tree.

7. Use only electric lights, never candles, and be sure that the wires are not frayed. Be sure that the wiring sets bear the marks of a recognized testing laboratory.

8. Provide a switch away from the tree for turning lights on and off. Don't plug or unplug them beneath the tree.

9. Don't leave the lights burning when no one is home.

10. Throw away all gift wrapping as soon as presents are opened.

11. If needles near the lights turn brown, move the lights.

12. If needles start to fall, take down the tree.

Many Fire Hazards

Other decorations, too, may furnish a fire hazard. The little plastic figures of reindeer, Santa Claus, or the Holy family may be attractive, but they may burn like tissue paper.

Firemen warned that the figures come in two types of material—one of which is highly flammable and one of which burns slowly.

The nitro-cellulose decora-

tions which burn easily are generally of extra thick material which bends at a touch of the fingers. Avoid this, say firemen, and buy the thicker type, which are hard to set afire.

Blocks of foamy material used as decorations are hard to set afire, but burn in the twinkling of an eye once lit, the firemen cautioned. Never use these foam blocks as candle holders or place them near lights or other hot objects, they warned.

Spray Inflammable

The snow spray or foam which is used to decorate windows is highly inflammable while it is being put on, as is even the flame-retarding substances put on Christmas trees, firemen said.

While putting up Christmas decorations, curb that urge for a cigarette, the firefighters urged. And, if there is a package or can of decorations, be sure that the directions are followed exactly, because much of it is highly inflammable.

In short, the firemen warned, use the proper precautions or:

1. You may not see Christmas at all.
2. You may have no home.
3. You may have no presents.
4. You may have nothing to show for Christmas, but a bunch of bills for fire damage.



(Herald Photo)

MERRY CHRISTMAS . . . Torrance Fire Inspector Ed Polston is getting in the Christmas spirit by putting up some festive figures—of the paper-thin plastic variety. In so doing, he violates two important safety rules—don't smoke while putting up decorations, and don't leave matches lying nearby.



(Herald Photo)

WHAT HAPPENED? . . . Polston's cigarette caught the tiny figures afire and five seconds later they blaze merrily. He ignored another safety precaution—that of buying the heavier, hard-to-light plastic Christmas figures instead of the thin, easily combustible variety that he did purchase.



(Herald Photo)

NO MORE DECORATIONS . . . To his sorrow, Polston discovers that all his Christmas decorations have burned to ashes. He's only glad that the little figures weren't sitting in his house, or he might have had no house. He urged residents to buy the figures carefully. If they bend easily, don't buy them, he said.

Santa Calls Start Monday

Santa and his helpers will be sitting by the telephone for the next two weeks, listening to the small wishes of Torrance small fry through the courtesy of the Torrance Junior Chamber of Commerce.

Starting Monday, the Jaycee will begin a "Phone Santa" project, with Saint Nick avail-

Spectacular Crash Hurts One Driver

A spectacular Sunday crash resulted in possibly serious injury for George E. McKinley, 53, of 24442 Park St., according to police.

Officers said McKinley's auto was involved in collisions with cars driven by Seeland Lynch, 45, of 3521 Newton St., and Robert Scheible, 32, of Mountain View. Then the McKinley car veered over a curb, through a wire fence and into a ditch.

The mishap took place along Pacific Coast Hwy., east of Crenshaw Blvd. McKinley was taken to Torrance Emergency Hospital by Wright's Ambulance. The other drivers were not hurt.

Minor injuries were suffered by two motorists when their autos collided during a heavy fog Monday.

The mishap along Hawthorne Ave., near Carson St., resulted in cuts and bruises for Robert A. Pugley, 26, of 505 Harbor Hills, Lomita, and Mrs. Grace Nichols, 37, of Palos Verdes Estates.

SEEING-EYE DOG FOUND BY WOMAN

Concern that a dog that strayed to her home may belong to some blind person was expressed to police Monday by Mrs. Paul Highfill of 1659 W. 208th St.

She said he is a German police dog, of the type used for seeing-eye work, and has a reinforced leather halter.

Board Awards South High Bid

A \$1,552,000 bid by the Crown Construction Co., Los Angeles, for the first unit of the new South High School at Calle Mayor and Pacific Coast Hwy. was accepted Monday night by the Torrance Board of Education.

Officials expect the third Torrance high school to be ready in time for the opening of school next September, when an expected 882 students will be enrolled.

Facilities Planned

The first unit of construction will include 12 classrooms, an administration building, facilities for general arts, science, industrial arts and music, library and student activities unit. Although a gymnasium was not included in the first bid, bids for this were expected to be let shortly. Other athletic facilities also will be included in a later bid.

A second additional unit will add a number of classrooms to the school. Principal of the school will be Bruce Wagner, now principal at Torrance High School.

Two Classes Set

For the first year, only ninth and 10th grade students—463 freshmen and 399 sophomores—will attend the school. The following year, another grade will be added and in 1959-60, it will become a full four-year high school.

Many of the children from this area now are attending North High School, although some are attending Torrance High. Tentative boundaries for

Airborne Santa To Arrive Here This Saturday

An airborne Santa will arrive in Torrance at 9:30 p.m. Saturday morning to distribute the traditional goodies to all the boys and girls.

Santa, accompanied by pilot Lee Baxter, will drop from the skies at the city's parking lot, located at Craven Ave. and El Prado, across from the jolly old gent's Santaland headquarters in El Prado Park. For a half-hour after he lands, Santa will hand out candies and other Christmas treats to good little boys and girls.

Charles Dushek, of the International Helicopter Co., Torrance, will furnish Santa's transportation.

the school have been designated as generally south of Torrance Blvd. and west of Hawthorne.

Within five years, officials expect an enrollment of 2500 at both North and South High Schools and 1500 at Torrance High School, which has no room to expand. Present high school enrollment is 1739 at North High and 1499 at THS.

Hours, Stations Added for Yule By Post Office

Anticipating the heavy bundles of Christmas mail which they soon will be collecting, sorting, and delivering, Santa's helpers (the Torrance Post Office) Monday announced expansion both in the number of stations and in hours.

Public window service for purchase of money orders, stamps, and mailings of parcel post will be available during the Christmas season at the downtown Post Office, 1433 Marcelina Ave.; the North Torrance station, 17415 Crenshaw Blvd.; the Walters Station, 4110 Pacific Coast Hwy.; and Ruth's Variety Store, 23433 Western Ave.

Stamp and parcel post mailing services only will be available also at the Post Annex, 3611 Torrance Blvd., effective tomorrow, and the National Guard Armory, 2505 Cabrillo Ave., effective Monday.

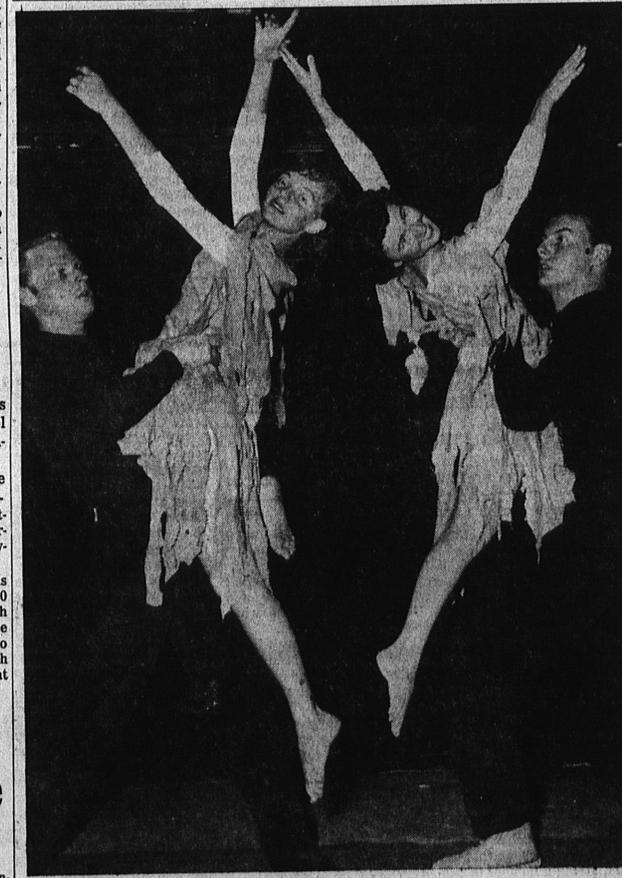
Tentative hours for all of these post offices, except Ruth's Variety Store, will be:

Through Friday, Dec. 14—8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 15—8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 16—2 p.m. to 5 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 17 through Saturday, Dec. 22—8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

At Ruth's Variety Store, the hours will be from 9:15 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily.



HOMELESS . . . Twenty-five pre-school members of the Torrance Cooperative Nursery are looking for a new home since the First Methodist Church, where they have been meeting, is being remodeled. Shown at a nursery session with teacher Gloria Champion are Diane McLean, Jan Sieloff, Eli Boxer, Kimmie Richhart, Vince Agapito, and Craig Williams. Mrs. Herbert Bramson (FR 5-5818) is heading the committee to find a new meeting place with suitable meeting and play space.



"DARK OF THE MOON" . . . Full houses have caused the extension of the run of "Dark of the Moon," Chapel Players production now showing at 1613 Gould Ave., MacLattan Beach until the week-end of Dec. 13, 14, and 15. Reservations for this week end are sold out. In this scene local residents Ridge Walker, Barbara Joyce, Charline French, and Paul Shelley perform a witch dance. Reservations may be made at FR 2-8290.

El Camino to Give 10th Annual Christmas Concert

El Camino College will present its 10th annual Christmas Concert in two performances Sunday in the Campus Theater. The first show will open at 3 p.m.; the evening performance starts at 8 p.m.

Featuring Mozart's "Missa Brevis" the program will observe the 200th anniversary of Mozart's birth.

This year's concert will be divided into two sections with the first half devoted to serious works and the latter running on the lighter side.

Each Month Honored

Twelve women will feature songs representative of each month of the year with some months highlighted by dance routines.

R. Neil Hill, in charge of the over-all program, will direct the a cappella choir, the combined choir and the college community choir.

Hamilton Maddaford will direct the 25-piece college com-

munity orchestra, while Calvin Greer handles the 10-piece brass choir.

Soloist Named

Featured songs throughout the program include, "Winter Wonderland," "My Hero," "Flowers that Bloom in Spring," "Mother McCree," "On the Boardwalk of Atlantic City," "Autumn Leaves," "The Wassil Song," and "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen."

Concert soloists are Stella Herman and Ruth Van Beber, sopranos; Sally Bridgman and Lynn Rupert, altos; Irving Byrne and Bruce Steiner, bass, and Carlson Mengert, tenor.

Paul Reinke, ECC sophomore, is scoring some of the music for the program.

This is the first year that the program will be held in the Campus Theater. Complimentary tickets may be obtained at the Campus book store and the public is invited admission free.

Thief Takes Money As Lady Bathes

An elderly woman pensioner was victimized by a thief Sunday who made off with the money she was planning to use for Christmas.

Mrs. Myrtle McManus, 85, of 931 Arlington Ave., said she was bathing at her home when the thief apparently crept into her home through an unlocked door and made off with \$83 from a wallet in a purse in the living room.

She told officers that the loot represented most of her monthly pension check, which she had cashed a few hours before.

The thief apparently prowled through the house, investigators said, since the wallet was found in a bedroom adjoining the living room.

HUB CAPS COPPED

Someone stole four hubcaps from his car as it was parked Phillip Steinberg, 425 Via La Soledad, told sheriff's deputies