FOR HOSPITAL DRIVE

Volunteer Army to Be Recruited To Make Door-to-Door Drive

The Torrance general gifts drive for the Little Company of Mary Hospital campaign took another step forward yesterday with the announcement by General Gifts Director George W. Post of the almost 500-strong volunteer army which will be recruited to bring the hospital story into every home.

To be organized into 16 divisions, with each division comprising five solicitation teams, the Torrance corps will be composed of women volunteers, who will be led by two Torrance general gifts co-chairmen, Post disclosed. Appointment of these co-chairmen is expected soon.

Objective of the home-to-home solicitation is to secure gifts in form of pledges, making it convenient for donors to budget their contributions over three years. Memorials will be available for all persons donating to the proposed 125-bed hospital, which will be located in Torrance near the intersection of Hawthorne and Torrance Blvds.

"Every gift, even as low as 25 cents a week, will be recognized by an honorary or memorial designation in the memorial hall of the new hospital," Post said. "Pledges will afford to every citizen of Torrance an opportunity to participate in this humanitarian effort to help create hospital beds for the sick and injured."

Meanwhile, work is underway to assure that sufficient women volunteers will be on hand for the big drive. Pastors of all churches in the area met this week to formulate plans whereby women's church organizations might form the nucleus for the 500-strong Torrance general gifts corps.

Swallows Go to Capistrano; Whales to Baja California

With the uncanny timing of nature that urges the salmon upstream and brings the swallows back to Capistrano, also sends the California Gray Whales to their annual rendezvous in the warm lagoons of Baja California.

Each winter the giant sea animals find their way from feeding grounds of the Arctic seas, down the coast to the warm water bays to give birth to their young. From the high promontories at Marineland of the Pacific, on the Palos Verdes peninsula, hundreds of the mammals have been seen jumping and "blowing" their way southward.

During this march of whales, Kenneth Norris, curator of the Oceanarium, has the project of observing how the beasts navigate between Alaska and Mexico. It is believed that the whales take soundings from the ocean floor and this is a possible explanation of why they usually stay close to the shore. Where the water is too deep for sounding, the whales must use another method and it is supposed that they jump out of the water to take bearings from the shoreline. Whale watchers call this "spy-hopping."

To check this theory, Norris hopes to spy on the "spy-hoppers" as they pass over the submarine canyons near Marineland.

Large Babies

At birth the largest living creatures of the sea measure about 14 to 17 feet in length and reach a maximum growth of 35 to 45 feet. The mother whales nurse her young almost immediately after it is born and remain inside the warm lagoons for a few weeks while the young ones gain strength for the long trip to Alaska and rich plankton feeding grounds. During this waiting period the mating takes place for next year's increase of whale population.

The California Gray Whale was once the object of great hunting expeditions and the 19th Century whalers made a colorful episode in the history of the Portuguese Bend. Whalers operating in the waters off the Palos Verdes peninsula set up whale rendering stations in the nearby coves. To save the species from extinction, the whaling industry was curtailed and the Gray Whale has been under the protection of an international treaty for over 50 years.

Smaller Herds

Although the herds have not reached their former abundance, well over 3000 animals now make the yearly migration. This may be compared with the 70,000 whales estimated in a single migration by a whaling captain in San Diego in 1851. Before the harbors of the Southern California coast were crowded with shipping, the great mammals entered local bays to breed. So many whales filled the San Diego Bay during the early days of shipping, it was reported, that it was dangerous to go into the bay in a small boat during the breeding season.

Occasionally to this day a giant whale instinctively returns to a haunt of his ancestors and tangles himself in a maze of ship lines and propellers.

To Head Dental Week Activities

Dr. Stanley Challis has been selected to coordinate activities in Torrance during observance of Dental Health Week, March 4 to 9, it was announced yesterday by the Los Angeles County Dental Society.

Purpose of the week is to stress the fundamental fact that dental disease can be prevented. Its mission is education and its special targets are parents, teachers, and children, Dr. Robert C. Read, Dental Health Week chairman for the county, stated.

Residents Hear Of Improvement On Strip Streets

First of an expected dozen street improvement contracts in the Shoestring area for 1957, has been awarded, according to Los Angeles City Council President John S. Gibson.

Denker St. from 221st to 222nd St. will be paved under the award. Griffith Construction Co. submitted the lowest of several bids and drew the award on a tender of $7,458. Work is expected to begin in about three weeks.

In his annual report to his Shoestring advisory committee Tuesday evening, Gibson predicted work would start on eight assessment act jobs and several public fund improvements by September. The report also revealed that 10 jobs, costing $159,952 were completed during 1956.

One of the most important projects of the entire district, the 212th St. flood control drain, is scheduled for contract in February, the councilman said.

Bids also will be called in February for the construction of a sanitary sewer line on 208th St. between Harvard and Denker St. and for the paving of that section when the sewer is complete.

Final protest hearing for the paving of the north half of 208th St. from Harvard to Western will be held today by the City Council.

Tax Lectures Slated Here

Four lectures on federal and state income tax problems will be presented at Torrance Evening High School by Philip Lisman.

This series of lectures is designed to enable taxpayers who normally seek individual assistance from the Internal Revenue Service and Franchise Tax Board to complete their own individual tax returns correctly. Ample opportunity for class discussion and questions will be given.

Lectures will be held Monday, Feb. 11; Thursday, Feb. 14; Monday, Feb. 18; and Thursday, Feb. 21.

Registration for this series of lectures will be in Room 104, Torrance High School, 2200 W. Carson St., the first night of attendance. The time is from 7 to 10 p.m.

For further information telephone FA 8-2272.

Mercantile Clerks Get Salary Increases

Some 1200 mercantile clerks in the Harbor area received cost-of-living increases of about five cents per hour, according to Ben Scott, secretary of Retail Clerks Union 905.

Clerks working under a six-year contract signed last year will receive automatic raises of $1.50 to $3 per week, he said.

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