

Live In
Torrance

The Torrance Herald

Buy In
Torrance

Twelfth Year—No. 51

Published Weekly

TORRANCE, CALIF., THURSDAY, DEC. 23, 1926

Every Thursday

5c per Copy

HUNDREDS AT CHRISTMAS PARTY

Three Nearby Cities Planning to Consolidate

2000 SEE NATIVITY SCENES

Good Nature of Big Throng Overcomes Lack of Preparation
CHILDREN GET PRESENTS
Rev. Zeller Gets Credit for Part of Program that Went Off Well

With a whole-hearted Christmas good-nature that surmounted such obstacles as inadequate facilities and preparation for handling the crowd of 2000 Torrance men, women and children, enjoyed the annual Torrance Christmas tree program at the city hall last night. The ceremony exemplified the true significance of Christmas. Two tableaux scenes were presented— one showing the shepherds at the manger and one the arrival of the three Wise Men.

To music furnished by sailors of the band of the U. S. S. Oklahoma the assembly sang Christmas carols. At the conclusion of the pageant Santa Claus arrived and toy balloons, candy, apples and horns were given to the children.

Rev. F. A. Zeller was the driving force that made the tableaux possible. Had it not been for his determination to overcome apathy and his will to celebrate Christmas in Torrance in the true spirit of the occasion there probably would have been no program at all. Rev. Zeller worked with indefatigable zeal and for the part of the program that was best handled to him goes due credit.

Apparently a larger crowd arrived than was anticipated, for facilities for giving out the presents to the children were lacking and in the shuffle, due to the size of the crowd and lack of preparation for handling it, many children became separated from their parents with considerable weeping. Nobody is to blame for the disorganization and the crowd took it all good-naturedly—but it is to be hoped that a lesson has been learned for next year.

In the emergencies of jostling that arose the Torrance Volunteer Firemen did good work, but the lack of pre-planned organization was commented upon on all sides.

First Plans of Great Parkway Are Completed

Proceedings in Hollywood-Palos Verdes Project Advance Another Step

Directors and members of the advisory committee of the Southwest Organization inspected preliminary plans for the great 225-foot Hollywood-Palos Verdes parkway at a meeting at the Torrance Chamber of Commerce office Monday night. Sketches for the landscaping of the parkway were also shown. It is expected that detailed plans of the project will be completed in about four months, after which bids will be sought and contracts let for the construction of the big improvement.

C-C. M. O. Men Get Masonic 3d Degree

The third degree was conferred on four employees of the Chaslor-Camfield Midway Oil Company at the Masonic Temple in Torrance Saturday. One hundred attended the ceremony, many being present from Fullerton, Taft, and Brea. A chicken dinner served by the members of the Eastern Star was enjoyed by 145. The four men receiving the third degree were Messrs. William Giles, Harry O. Perry, McIntyre, and Boyd.

Tot Buries Letter To Santa Claus Torrance Man Finds It and Then— Well, You Had Better Read This

Santa Claus has been mighty busy this year—so busy, in fact, that he hasn't had time to hunt around in all the out-of-the-way places where children might deposit letters for him. But just the same the little girl who put her letter in a hole in the ground in Torrance is not going to be disappointed.

Rufus Page was showing a man a lot the other day and he kicked a piece of wood that lay on the ground.

Well, under the wood was a hole, and in the hole was a letter—to Santa Claus, asking him to put a toy in the hole.

Just why this Torrance little girl put that letter in the hole Mr. Page couldn't understand—for old Santa Claus and do magic things way beyond the understanding of poor ignorant humans.

But anyway Mr. Page took the letter, and Tuesday he told the director of the Chamber of Commerce that he was going to send a message to Santa Claus about the letter in the hole.

Well sir the 50-cent piece just showed on the table and \$2, the cost of sending a radio to Santa, was provided quicker than you could say Jack Robinson.

Now—Santa will certainly put something in the hole when he gets the message. Don't you think so?

And—How do you suppose it happened that Mr. Page kicked that piece of wood and found the letter? Old Scrooge would say it was just an accident.

But—Sometimes the fairies work for Santa Claus and do magic things way beyond the understanding of poor ignorant humans.

There will be toys in the hole!

Amapola Avenue Property Owners Protest on Shacks

R. C. Young, representing property owners on the west side of Amapola avenue in the 1500 block, made formal complaint to the Board of Trustees Tuesday night against the location of two two-room shacks facing Madrid avenue west of Amapola.

Permits to move the buildings on the property were given by the city with the understanding that each building would represent an investment of \$2000.

The matter was referred to the city attorney and city engineer.

Deeds to lots facing Madrid carry building restriction clauses demanding \$2000 houses.

250 Persons See Vonderahe House; Open Again Sunday

That there are scores of people seeking homes in Torrance was the conclusion of Charles Vonderahe, designer and builder of the new dwelling at 2414 Redondo boulevard, which was inspected by 250 persons last Sunday.

"At least 20 people from out of town wanted the house if they could dispose of homes elsewhere," said Mr. Vonderahe. "That proved that Torrance is growing in popularity as a home city."

The house will be open for inspection again Sunday. It may be sold by that time, but will be open anyway.

Two Men Hurt as Automobiles Crash

E. B. Oakley, 2020 Arlington avenue, and R. T. Stapp, were injured Monday night when the car in which they were riding was struck by another machine at Harbor boulevard and Carson street. Both men were treated at the Lomita emergency hospital. Stapp received cuts on the head, and Oakley's hands were badly cut. The owner of the car in the accident was injured, and was taken to Long Beach. The Oakley machine was wrecked.

Eastern Star Will Seat Officers at Ceremony Dec. 30

Mrs. Ida Heath, past district deputy, will assist Worthy Matron Persia Fess and Worthy Patron Perry G. Briney when, with open ceremonies, they install the new officers of Torrance Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star, next Thursday evening, Dec. 30.

Rebekah Lodge To Confer Degree

The initiatory degree will be conferred at the meeting of Trio Rebekah Lodge next Wednesday evening, Dec. 29.

Refreshments will be served during the social hour which will follow the business session.

Use Duro-cote for that leaky roof. Consolidated Lumber Co.—Adv.

SEEK LINK OF BEACH CITIES

Redondo, Hermosa and Manhattan Consider Joining Into One Corporation

CONFERENCE IS CALLED

Committees of Three Cities Will Meet Soon to Discuss Project

At the suggestion of the Redondo Chamber of Commerce, Collamer A. Bridge, president of the Hermosa Beach Chamber of Commerce, has appointed a committee to meet with a committee from Redondo Beach and one from Manhattan Beach to discuss the question of merging the three South Bay cities into one city. No definite time has been set for the meeting of the three committees, but it will be called in the near future.

The committee appointed by President Bridge consists of Grange Thatcher, chairman; T. C. Prouty, G. V. Learned, Capt. C. H. Salinas, and David Young.

The Redondo Beach chamber has appointed a committee which is composed of R. R. Freeman, George H. Anderson, C. A. Mills, C. B. Robertson, and Secretary Bradbury.

Manhattan Beach has no chamber of commerce, and it is expected that the committee from that city will be appointed by the Lions Club.

Japanese Child Dies as Result Of Auto Crash

Two Torrance Women Injured in Smashup on Western Ave.

One Japanese child was killed and three persons were severely shaken up last Sunday night when Y. Wada of Lomita, driving a car occupied by himself and four children, struck a machine driven by Mrs. J. E. Haggard, 1369 Cota avenue, on Western avenue. Mrs. Haggard and Mrs. C. M. Howard, who were in the Haggard car, were severely bruised.

The accident occurred when Wada cut in ahead of the Haggard car. He struck the other machine, and both cars turned over.

The child who died later of injuries was a Japanese nephew of Wada.

Wada sustained a severe cut on the head and some bruises. Three children were unharmed. The driver of the other machine, who pleaded guilty to drunkenness, for which he paid a fine of \$100. His cousin, father of the child who died, did not wish to press charges against Wada.

A coroner's jury Tuesday returned a verdict stating that the child lost its life as the result of an accident.

At the inquest there was no testimony to the effect that Wada was intoxicated.

Los Angeles Times Sends Santa Here With His Reindeer

Santa Claus was mighty good to Torrance this year.

Last Saturday he came to Torrance at the behest of the Chamber of Commerce and to the delight of hundreds of children in the downtown district. And he was around town Monday and Tuesday nights, too.

He bustled into town Tuesday morning with his reindeer on a big truck for an engagement with Torrance tots made through the courtesy of the Los Angeles Times.

Santa made a nice talk to the children and told them that he brought the reindeer merely to prove to them that he still has them.

"I don't need them down here in Southern California," he said, "but I need them up north, and I brought them along just to show you."

Sam Harris Is Loud in Praise Of Herald, News

"Newspapers are the best advertising mediums, and The Torrance Herald and News get the best readership of any papers I have ever advertised in."

This was the unsolicited comment of Sam Harris, who has just sold out his shoe business on Sartori avenue.

Mr. Harris is a wide-awake merchant who has conducted stores in many cities.

"My ads in your papers," continued Mr. Harris, "brought wonderful results—results that were directly traceable to the ads. Newspapers with strong readership are the best advertising mediums. I found the readership of The Herald and News unusually strong. I think that is what makes the advertising so productive of results."

MR. STEVENS BACK

Joseph Stevens, Torrance postman, has returned from a visit with his mother, Mrs. Jennie Stevens, who has been ill. Mr. Stevens is back at his stand and learns that his mother is greatly improved.

Long Beach Man Buys Shoe Store

J. H. Buckler of Long Beach has purchased the stock and fixtures of the shoe store on Sartori avenue formerly owned by Sam Harris. Mr. Buckler, who is a shoe man of long experience, will conduct the business henceforth. A large stock has been ordered, but Mr. Buckler announces that the sale now on will be continued. A full line of styles and sizes will arrive about January 1. Mr. Buckler is planning to move to Torrance as soon as he disposes of his home in Long Beach.

Observations

Christmas and the Necessity of Writing Something—A Masonic Editorial—No "White Christmas" in Bethlehem—Merry Christmas to You

By W. HAROLD KINGSLEY

HOW anyone who has ever read Dickens' "Christmas Carol" could ever have the temerity to sit down and write a Christmas editorial is more than yours humbly can understand.

And yet—when this Christmas spirit seeps into your very soul and the paper you write for is going to be published two days before Christmas you feel that you ought to do something about it.

And yet again—in the face of literary gems that have been written about Christmas you don't feel up to the job.

So you are quite willing to leave it to the Scottish Rite News Bulletin of the Masonic Order, the clip sheet of which organization helps you out considerable and seems to have done the job pretty well.

The following editorial is furnished for use of all and sundry by the Scottish Rite News Bureau:

THE many features associated with the holiday season are at hand, and there is apparent the usual bustling activity as the anniversary of the Nazarene's natal day approaches.

The good old saint, whose jolly little round figure has been firmly wedged in more than one narrow chimney, is preparing to leave his workshop in the frozen North, and has already started packing his generous bag with gayly colored toys, mechanical devices, bright ornaments, and whatnot.

In connection with this august event a decided change is being manifested in the deportment of many little boys and girls. A beauteous influence appears to be near, and not a few critical childish incoherencies near perfection, and the dimensions of the fireplace glances have been directed at the dimensions of the fireplace. Mothers and fathers are preparing reports of juvenile conduct for the files of St. Nicholas, who, however very kindly disposed toward youth, is nevertheless regarded as a martinet.

"Christmas has associated with it a peculiar reverent atmosphere. To the Christian it again brings with poignant sweetness the oft-told story of the manger where the Christ-Child received the adoration of the Wise Men who were led thither by the bright star of Bethlehem, who has been designated 'The Man of Sorrows,' and whose humble appearance in a world that sorely needed His gentle ministrations. Even though his life may not be studied and Nazarene to be the 'Son of God,' His many life may be studied and emulated with profit.

AT this happy season there is much good work being accomplished among the unfortunate. Those who are in poverty will be provided for; orphans will be well supplied with the things that make the child's heart happy; hospital wards will be resound with laughter at the antics of those kindly members of the theatrical profession who give much of their time and effort for the benefit of shut-ins; and the hitherto drab interiors of penal institutions will be beautified by the myriad vari-colored lights. Thus all aglitter and gleaming with the joyousness of the Christmas season, the heart of the prisoner, the Christmas season reflects, to a degree the least, the works of the Way-Shower. His presence, the kind and loving deeds of those who remember the unfortunate and who unselfishly contribute to the happiness of others, especially at this season.

AS a fitting reward for this worthy work, a reward that more than compensates the cheerful giver, these significant words of the Master are just as potent now as when uttered and recorded in Holy Writ:

"Inasmuch as ye have done it unto the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

AND after that comes the Union Pacific System advertising representative with an angle on Christmas that should bring satisfaction to those who bemoan the fact that California has no snow on Dec. 25.

"Spend Christmas in California" is the slogan suggested for eastern broadcast by Union Pacific officials.

There are innumerable advantages to this suggestion, according to R. E. Robertson, assistant traffic manager of the Union Pacific System, with headquarters in Los Angeles, as well as personal comfort. It has true traditional elements as well as personal comfort inducements that can hardly be surpassed, he says.

"The first Christmas was not a 'White Christmas,'" Robertson explains. "The climate around Bethlehem was much like that of California, so 'Christmas in California' is, after all, the ideal Christmas."

PROBABLY nothing brings more enjoyment at Christmas time than the renewal of warm old friendships through the interchange of greetings.

There are no friends like old friends, and with so much that is dreary in life it is warming to the heart when one gets a word of cheer and love from someone whose acquaintance he holds dear.

If it is too bad that someone doesn't invent a way to bottle up this wonderful thing called Christmas spirit so that it could be used a little bit during the year. The most wonderful thing in all at this time of the year is about the most wonderful thing in all the world. Intangible, it is none the less more valuable than goods or property. When you let your imagination run out of the window so that it encompasses all of Christendom and finds that millions on millions of people, young and aged, have cast aside their petty hatreds and worries and are refreshing their souls and hearts with the spirit of Christmas, you will know that of all things in the world most valuable the brotherly love and kindly feelings at this time of the year are most valuable.

With a sincerity that is unmatched at any other time of the year, I wish you a very merry Christmas.

Theatre Announces Continuous Shows Dec. 25 and Jan. 1

Continuous performances will be held at the Torrance Theatre on Christmas and New Year's days, the management announced today.

Herald Office To Be Closed Friday

The Torrance Herald office will be closed all day Friday and Saturday.

Next week's issue of The Herald will be published on Thursday, as usual.

Trustees Move to Protect Trees in Residence Area

The Board of Trustees Tuesday night took action to make it difficult for anyone to receive a permit to cut down a tree in the residence district.

The policy was contained in a resolution introduced by Trustee Willis Brooks setting forth that permits for removing trees must be made by the whole board at a regular meeting.

Most of the trees that line residential streets in Torrance are city property, and none can be removed without permission.

HALE OUTLINES REAL STATUS OF COLORADO RIVER DEVELOPMENT

President of California State Body Hits at Personal Politics That Delay Legislation on Boulder Dam Project

TWO OFFICIAL STEPS WOULD END CONTROVERSY

Act of Congress at Present Session Would Pave Way for Quick Ironing Out of Differences, Says Authority

By R. B. HALE
President California Development Association

After some 60 conferences and 27 executive sessions the Colorado River Compact was created on November 24, 1922, with Herbert Hoover as chairman of the commission. It was drawn by a commission representing each of the seven states in the Colorado basin. It provides for two geographical divisions, designated as the upper basin, including the states of Colorado, Utah and Wyoming, and the lower basin, including Arizona, California and Nevada, and allots 7,500,000 acre feet of water annually to each basin for consumptive use.

In addition to the above allotment the lower basin is given the right to increase its beneficial consumptive use of water from the Colorado River by 1,000,000 acre feet per annum. The compact also provides for the settlement of disputes should they arise, and recites that present perfected rights to the use of water shall remain unimpaired. This compact is to be binding when approved by the legislatures of all the states and by the congress of the United States. The legislatures of five states—Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, New Mexico, and Nevada—have approved this legislative enactment. However, California, has not.

The sixth California legislature approved with a reservation which makes her adherence binding if and when the congress of the United States passes an appropriation for the building of a dam sufficient in size to store 20,000,000 acre feet of water. Arizona withholds her approval to bargain for greater benefits in water and power than California can equitably grant. It is significant that none of the seven states object to the text or provisions of the Colorado compact. This was the first really constructive step taken.

Next Great Step

All interested parties appear to agree that the next great step is the construction of a dam somewhere between the upper and lower basins in the main stream of the Colorado River. The amended Swing-Johnson bill provides for the building of such a dam, at Boulder Canyon, out of the financial set-up, covers the sale of water for generating power or the building of a power plant. The power may be sold to distributing agencies. It determines the general character of a dam sufficient in capacity to meet the needs of 20,000,000 acre feet. It also recites that water shall not proceed in accordance with the provisions of the Colorado River compact, and then only after the adherence of at least six of the seven states. In its present form it gives to the upper basin states what they want, namely, protection against the establishment of priority rights to the use of an excessive amount of water by the lower basin states—water which the upper basin states may require for irrigation and for their development program in the immediate future. It gives the lower basin states water for irrigation and domestic use and power, and protection against floods and silt deposit. It is estimated that the sale of the power will pay all interest charges and build a fund for the amortization of the bonds issued to raise money for construction.

The Mexican Angle

All Colorado River water now used in the Imperial Valley flows in canals which run into Mexico and back into the United States. There is now an international agreement whereby each nation reserves the right to the use of 50 percent of the water flowing into Mexico. It seems unfair for this proposed dam to prevail if the proposed dam is constructed without the building of an all-American canal in the event that Mexico refuses to amend her agreement with the United States under which she now enjoys one-half of all water flowing through her territory. The amended Swing-Johnson bill therefore is the second great forward step in the solution of the Colorado River problem. The terms of the Colorado River compact meet the approval of six of the seven states and will become binding upon all

six immediately after the passage of the Swing-Johnson bill. Arizona may join at her pleasure and thereby secure her fair share of all of the benefits, privileges and protection enjoyed by each of the other states parties to the compact. The upper basin states have not as yet met for the purpose of apportioning their 7,500,000 acre feet of water awarded to them by the compact.

Three States Confer

The lower basin states attempted to perfect a tri-state agreement in December, 1925. Up to date they have been unable to arrive at a satisfactory distribution. It would seem, however, that this should not delay the passage of the Swing-Johnson bill, since \$200,000,000 of property in the delta region of Arizona and California is endangered by flood each recurring summer and each community is expending great sums of money annually for temporary protection. Under the present system, without storage control, during the dry season there is not enough water for needed irrigation, and crops suffer accordingly. During flood periods the flow is increased from 2000 second feet to as high as 200,000 second feet. Levees must be increased in height continually to keep pace with the silt deposit which is constantly raising the bed of the river channels.

Floods Threaten

Every year recurrent floods threaten destruction. The Imperial Valley, lying from sea level to 250 feet below sea level, will be permanently flooded for generations to come if the Colorado should seriously break through the protection levees. With the construction provided under the Swing-Johnson bill there would be a regulated flow which would relieve the great menace of flood and shortage and provide water for irrigation and domestic use. The great and difficult problems of the Colorado have been solved, but not put into execution. It remains for a few representatives of Arizona and California to sit down together in friendly conference to apportion fairly and equitably their joint share of the waters of and the power developed under the provisions of the Colorado River compact. Unfortunately petty political considerations have entered into this problem. Criminations and recriminations have clouded the main issues. When analyzed these personal attacks and counter-attacks are shown to have no substantial bearing upon the problems of the Colorado. It is to be hoped that they appear in their proper perspective. They are entirely unnecessary and many of them are not founded upon fact. Dealings in personalities therefore should be relegated to their proper place in the discard.

Only One Objection

It has taken a tremendous amount of time and labor to iron out the contentions of interested parties in the various states. At the recent regional conference of the National Chamber of Commerce in Colorado Springs only one objection was raised to the amended Swing-Johnson bill; it referred to the right of the secretary of the interior to make a common carrier of transmission lines installed by private interests. Except for this foregoing objection and the differences between Arizona and California (Continued on Last Page)

RETAIL STORES OPEN LATE ON CHRISTMAS EVE

The "Buy in Torrance" spirit has prevailed here during the Christmas shopping rush, according to local merchants, who report the largest volume of Christmas business in the history of the city.

The merchants believe that the large stocks on hand, giving wide choice to buyers, is largely responsible for the increased patronage in local stores.

Retail stores in Torrance will be open tonight and will remain open late Friday night to accommodate last minute shoppers.