

EXTRA

Torrance Herald

TWENTY-THIRD YEAR—No. 47.

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 1937

\$2.00 PER YEAR — SINGLE COPY, 5c

SANTA SIGHTED ON WAY! WILL OPEN 2nd BIG TREASURE HUNT!

THE 'KID' AND HIS BRIDE



Jackie Coogan, a millionaire now at the age of 23, but only 4 years old when he first rose to fame as the orphaned archer in Charlie Chaplin's famous silent picture, "The Kid," is shown at left outside St. Brendan's Catholic Church in Hollywood with his new bride, Betty Grable. She is 20 years old and the much-published "America's Ideal Girl." The Coogans were married Saturday but were back at work today after a weekend honeymoon.

IS THERE A SANTA CLAUS?



One blustery November day in 1897 a strange little letter came to the editorial desk of the New York Sun. It was from a little girl who was greatly troubled because her playmates had tried to shake her faith in Santa Claus and who wanted the question of whether or not there was such a person settled for once and all.

The editorial reply to that letter has become a newspaper classic. No other newspaper article has been reprinted so many times and in so many different places as "Is There a Santa Claus?" The Herald well knows that many of its friends have read it before. But this week there came the annual request: "Will you please print that letter to the little girl answering her fears about the existence of Santa Claus?"

Will we? No power on earth can stop us! So here's to all the little Virginia O'Hanlons in Torrance—may they realize more than ever this coming Yuletide that there IS a Santa Claus!

(New York Sun, Sept. 21, 1897)

SHOP TALK

By RAY BROOKS

MR. CLAUS COMES TO TOWN

All primed and loaded are the merchants of Torrance and the Torrance Herald today to welcome Old Man Santa Claus to town. He'll be a-comin' round the mountain tonight at promptly 7:20 and he'll not be drivin' two white horses nor a spanking span of reindeer. Out in the modern manner he'll be a-ridin' in a big silver airplane. The light of five billion (I said Billion) candles concentrated in the beam of a powerful searchlight will sweep the skies for the old gent's plane, which, my good fellow, will show mighty pretty in the heavens.

After waving to kids from the plane he will land and come boom-in' (and I mean BOOMIN') into town with a fanfare of trumpets, lights and all the halloo of a first night in Hollywood. After collecting his mail and chatting with the kids, he'll scam back to the icy Arctic, there to whip together the toys, etc., etc. so ordered by the Tiny Tots.

Kiddies to Give Operetta Here

"The Princess Has a Birthday," a colorful operetta is to be presented by a group of the famed Meglin Kiddies at the Civic Auditorium Friday evening, Dec. 3, on the benefit program sponsored by the Torrance Relief Society. All proceeds from show will be used to fill Christmas baskets with food for local needy families.

The entertainment will be in the nature of a "try-out" for the Meglin Kiddies' troupe because the operetta is to be given in the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles the following week with Eddie Cantor playing a leading role. Tickets for the local showing will go on sale shortly.

AUD USE GRANTED

Permission was given the high school and Torrance Ministerial Union by the city council Tuesday night to use the Civic Auditorium on the night of Dec. 20 for the annual Christmas program. The high school was also granted use of the Auditorium Jan. 30, 1938, for winter graduation exercises.

Read The Herald Weekly

We take pleasure in answering at once and thus promptly the communication below, expressing at the same time our great gratification that its faithful author is numbered among the friends of the Sun:

"Dear Editor—I am eight years old. Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus. Papa says, 'If you see it in the Sun it's so!' Please tell me the truth, is there a Santa Claus?"

Virginia O'Hanlon,
115 West 91st Street."

Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except what they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's are little. In this great universe of ours man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole truth and knowledge.

Most Real Things Invisible. Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus! It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in the sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus? You might as well not believe in fairies! You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus but that is no sign that

there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but there's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in this world.

You tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived could tear apart. Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. It is all real. As, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

No Santa Claus! Thank God! he lives, and he lives forever. A thousand years from now Virginia, nay, ten times ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

Rippy Believes Colorado Water Will Cut Rate Here

Officials of the Metropolitan Water District were in Torrance this week making inquiries as to the estimated amount of water this city is likely to use when the Colorado River aqueduct is finished in 1940, according to City Attorney C. T. Rippy, who is this city's director on the M.W.D. board.

Rippy told the city council Tuesday night that Torrance's allotment is 8,500 acre feet or 15 second feet—many times the present water production from the two wells being pumped by the Torrance Municipal Water district.

"I estimated that if we could interest the Columbia Steel, General Petroleum corporation and other industrial concerns who are now pumping from their own wells in obtaining water from the city that we would have a total consumption here of only 4,500 acre feet in 1940," Rippy said.

There are many things we'll have to work out when the time comes for Colorado river water to start flowing thru our mains and I am anticipating a big reduction in water costs to our consumers," Rippy concluded.

Aid War Victims



Screen Actress Luisa Rainer is shown above with Anna Enters, famous danseuse, whom she entertained at a cocktail party in Hollywood prior to a recital by Miss Enters for the aid of wounded Loyalists in Spain. Miss Enters currently is appearing in a number of recitals throughout the Western states.

RELIEF MEET IS NOV. 30

Henry Lintott, president of the Torrance Community Service association, has called an important meeting for next Tuesday, Nov. 30, (erroneously announced for last Tuesday in Tuesday's Herald).

Directors of the association, Mayor William H. Tolson, presidents and welfare chairmen of the Torrance R. T. A. units and the Torrance Relief Society have been invited to attend. The session will be held at 7:30 o'clock in the Chamber of Commerce.

Storm Drain for City Said Needed by Engineer

This city must soon begin study of a storm drain system to serve North Torrance on Illinois street and the area where the Doherty Stone Drill company is located, City Engineer Frank R. Leonard informed the city council Tuesday night.

Herald Ads Save You Money

RUSHES HERE FOR MAIL; TO LAUNCH TREASURE HUNT!

Late reports on the progress of Santa Claus' special flight to Torrance tonight to collect his mail and announce the start of the Second annual Christmas Treasure Hunt indicated that the old fellow is certain to arrive here shortly after 7 o'clock!

Wireless messages received from him a few hours ago reported that he would circle his plane in the full glare of the five-billion candle-power beam directed skyward from the triangular park at Marcelina and Sartori avenues and then land for a triumphal entry and parade thru the business district of Torrance.

All arrangements are complete to give Santa Claus a royal welcome when he lands and is rushed to the city to greet boys and girls of all ages!—whom he has not seen for a full year. At 7 o'clock tonight all eyes should be trained on the sky above Torrance to watch the great searchlight hunt for Santa's silver plane and keep it in full view of the crowd downtown while the North Pole visitor waves his first greetings to the city.

Band to Lead Santa to Town

Just how Santa will be escorted into the city is a mystery only The Herald knows. That newspaper has assumed full charge of his appearance here and has made special secret arrangements to provide him with unusual means of conveyance after he steps out of his plane on Torrance soil.

However, the Torrance Municipal band has agreed to provide a musical salute to the honored guest tonight and the musicians will lead the parade, which will start from Sartori avenue and Torrance boulevard.

The minute Santa Claus starts to lead the procession thru the business district the Christmas lights bordering streets and the decorated Christmas tree at the Marcelina-Sartori park will be turned on for the first time. From that moment on thru to January 1, 1938, the vari-colored lights will continue to send out their cheery reminder that

"IT'S CHRISTMAS TIME IN TORRANCE!"

All merchants have been asked to keep their stores open tonight, their windows illuminated and stand-by to exchange greetings on the occasion of the start of the Yuletide season in this city.

To Proclaim Treasure Hunt

When the parade winds up at the Marcelina-Sartori park, in front of the big searchlight, Santa will make a short talk of genuine interest to every man, woman and child in Torrance.

He will proclaim the start of the Second Annual Christmas Treasure Hunt—that event which proved so successful last Yuletide when hundreds of shoppers-in-Torrance were well rewarded for their support of home-town merchants by being presented with valuable prizes.

Santa Claus will then collect his mail from his own mailbox that was located in the little central park a few days ago just to receive letters from youngsters who don't want him to miss them on Dec. 25. He wants to take these letters back with him to the North Pole for study and to check up on the signers to see if they've been good little boys and girls all this year. If they have been, then he'll inscribe their names in his Big Book for Gifts.

Mayor William H. Tolson is ready to turn on the Christmas lights bordering the streets and on the large municipal tree in the triangular park where Santa will make his one and only stop in Torrance on this special pre-view trip.

Certain to Get Great Welcome

City firemen have devoted many hours of their free periods to the decoration of the big tree in the center park. This is one of their annual gestures of good will to the residents of Torrance. The other one is the fire department's Christmas party for all youngsters which will be held in the Civic Auditorium on Dec. 21.

But tonight the symbol of childhood's greatest joy—Santa Claus, himself in person, is to be in Torrance just to let everyone know that he's on the job again and looking forward to his world tour on Christmas Eve.

It's a great privilege to entertain him and Torrance children of all ages are certain to accord him the biggest welcome ever given a distinguished visitor to this city.

Giant All-American Canal Completed



Ending threats of appalling summer droughts in the Imperial Valley and equally disastrous Colorado River floods, the All-American Canal from Yuma, Ariz., to Calexico, Cal., has just been completed. This aerial view shows a United Air Lines plane, which has a wing spread of 56 feet, flying over a section of the canal. To give an idea of its size, the plane could land in the canal with plenty of room to spare on either side.

Masons to Burn Mortgage On Temple Tuesday Night

Fifteen years ago a group of Torrance men, members of Lodge No. 447, F. & A. M., re-organized a building association for the construction of a Masonic temple here. John Paul Beall was master of the lodge then and R. R. Smith was named president of the building group. A year later they had incurred a debt of some \$38,000—but they had a splendid, well-equipped Norman-Gothic building on Sartori avenue.

Since 1923 the Masonic Building association has been whittling that debt down until the last payment was made last

month. But the event that all members of the association have been anticipating for 15 years will not take place until next Tuesday night.

Then the mortgage on the Torrance Masonic temple will be ceremoniously burned at the close of a gala lodge meeting, according to announcement made yesterday by Willie Brooks, worshipful master of the lodge.

The Masonic Building association is still functioning, Brooks said. It is a chartered corporation and recently under the direction of its officers the banquet room was repaired.