

ALL ADVERTISEMENTS

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TWO SECTIONS
16 PAGES
THIS ISSUE

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SECTION A

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1937

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City Host to 300 at Gala Dinner



—Photos courtesy Long Beach Press-Telegram.

Top, left to right: A. I. Stewart, vice-president of the County League of Municipalities; Supervisor Leland Ford, Hal Kennedy, deputy county counsel and principal speaker; Mrs. Kennedy, Glenn Chapman, secretary of the league; Mrs. Chapman and E. E. Washburn, treasurer of the league. Inset at left: Supervisor Ford and State League President Charles Mann of Anaheim confer on gas tax problem. Below, left to right: Mrs. Charles Mann, Mrs. L. J. Gilmeister, Mrs. Tolson, Mayor William H. Tolson and L. J. Gilmeister, who was master-of-ceremonies at the dinner-meeting.

VISITING CITY OFFICIALS PRAISE TORRANCE AT LEAGUE AFFAIR

This city's civic ears burned as scores of its officials and residents unobtrusively heard Torrance praised by speakers and out-of-town visitors last Thursday night when the Los Angeles County League of Municipalities was royally entertained at a dinner-meeting and dance in the Civic Auditorium. If all of the "nice things" said about Torrance progressiveness by the nearly 300 guests that night were published they would fill this entire edition of The Herald.

That the compliments were deserved no local resident would deny. Everything possible had been done by city officials here to make the League's first meeting in Torrance an outstanding event. Boy Scouts directed traffic to the colorfully floodlighted Auditorium; city workers assisted the guests to parking spaces; each woman entering the Auditorium was presented with an attractive carnation corsage; hostesses were there to seat the guests at the round tables; the Auditorium itself was transformed into a colorful Persian garden setting.

Kennedy Defends 'Yardstick'
Copies of The Herald containing factual and pictorial information about Torrance were presented to the diners and at each table was a representative local citizen ready and only too willing to answer questions about his or her home town. The dinner, prepared and served by the American Legion Auxiliary assisted by Post members, was excellent and the service was prompt and efficient. Lighted candles, surrounded by seasonal

Poultry Thieves Raid 5 Yards

A dog and a pair of poultry thieves, believed to have been a large man and a woman, invaded five chicken yards and a garage Sunday and Monday nights to kill six hens, make off with eight turkeys, 73 hens, two roosters and six rabbits—all valued at about \$136, according to police reports.

In each of the chicken yard foray reports, the victims said that they heard noises coming from their coops but neglected to go out and see what was causing the commotion.

Police believe that the theft of both license plates and keys to Conrad Benz's car and house at 2815 Andros avenue was committed by the same persons who raided four chicken pens early Monday morning. The lock to Benz's garage was broken but only the license plates and key ring was taken.

Dog Slays Six Hens
A dog which figured in the list of poultry pilferings belonged to a neighbor of J. Polson of 23823 Park street, Waverly, who said the animal killed six young hens valued at \$12. The South Bay Humane Society was notified to check on the dog to see if it had a city license and to inform the owner to keep the animal tied up.

First to report poultry loss was Mrs. Camille Dumont of 2781 Arlington avenue. She said she heard a dog barking about (Continued on Page 8A)

Two 'Marys' Are Kidnapped From School Crossings

Anybody who knows the whereabouts of two "little Marys" who were kidnapped from their stations at 218th and 22nd and Martina where they formerly stood as warnings of school crossings will relieve local police of a lot of anxiety if they'll call Torrance 400 and report.

The signs, which look like little girls holding "slow" placards, were removed from the crossings about two weeks ago but as yet police have been unable to locate them. Captain John H. Stroh points out that they are worthless for anything but their sole duty—to safeguard children crossing streets to and from the elementary school.

CITY ASKS \$1,800 FEE OF BOOKIES

"BOOKIES" BANNED
Probably the efforts of the city to "regulate" by licensing "bookies," such as was started here this week by the city council, will be dropped in view of the decision of the State Supreme Court of Appeals yesterday. This decision, affecting the east of an Arcadia "bookie" taking bets for the Torrance races, held that bets may be placed only within the betting enclosure of any track and outside book-making establishments are illegal.

This city's 300th ordinance had its first reading Monday afternoon. The law is designed to regulate race track betting or "bookie" establishments in the city and carries provision for collection of the highest business license—\$1,800 per year—ever ordained here.

First reading of the ordinance followed a detailed explanation of its contents by City Attorney C. T. Rippey and his report that the California League of Municipalities has refused to take action "one way or the other" on what is the best municipal method for controlling such establishments. The League feels, Rippey said, that the "subject is too controversial."

It is this controversy that has prompted Gov. Frank Merriam to mention race track betting as one of the problems to come before the special session of the state legislature shortly after the first of the year. Rippey also reported on the license fees other Southland cities are charging "bookies" or intend to charge them.

Ballyhoo Is Banned
Bunk, he said, has fixed the fee at \$1,800; Inglewood's is tentatively \$1,000 and may be \$2,000; Monrovia's is \$1,200; Compton's is \$1,200; Riverside (Continued on Page 8A)

Yule Musical at Auditorium Scores Big Hit

Based on the age-old rose theme of Christmas-tide, the colorful program presented Monday afternoon and evening in the Civic Auditorium by the high school, Torrance Ministerial Union and P.T.A. choir roused latent Christmas spirit and sent everyone attending away with a deeper appreciation of the music of Yuletide.

Never has an audience in Torrance sung Christmas carols with such freedom as the packed Auditorium crowd sang under the capable direction of Mrs. Marjorie Eischen. To her Madrigal Singers, Junior A Capella and P.T.A. choirs deservedly goop signal credit for the excellent presentation. Mrs. Eischen even tried harmony community singing and the result was exceptionally fine.

With the three choral groups rendering traditional Christmas airs, a series of tableaux, with the student-participants garbed in typical eastern costumes from the Palestine Museum in Los Angeles, were revealed on the stage. Richard Keith, reader, explained the meaning of the rose motif and various pastors offered the prayers and Scripture readings appropriate to the occasion.

Gift Package Awaits Trio At Postoffice

If "Maxine," "Eulah" or "Morris"—all of the same family—will call at the postoffice and properly identify themselves they'll receive some Christmas presents that otherwise may have to be sent to the "dead letter" department. The label on the package has been lost so it can't be delivered.

There is no return address on it but a postmark identifies where it came from but not who or for whom. Postmaster Earl Conner in desperation opened it and found presents addressed to "Maxine," "Eulah" and "Morris." He hopes the family will see the story and claim its gifts. None of the mail carriers here know a family with these given names.

Christmas Treasure Hunt Starts Thursday at Noon!

Local Boy Rates High in Annapolis Exam

If appearance and ambition count, then Hans Sommer, 16-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. O. R. Sommer of 2122 Gramercy avenue, is well on the way toward becoming a United States Naval officer. Hans is a well set-up youth who is lengthening out to nearly six feet and he admits a keen desire to enter naval service.

Last Saturday he learned that he had placed second in a group of nearly 40 other young men who took the civil service competitive examination at San Pedro last week for the right to try for the three appointments Congressman Charles J. Cadden will make for the United States Naval Academy.

The next step before Hans is "lots of study" and the all-important entrance examination which will be given those in the top brackets next April. The three highest in that rigorous test will be named by Congressman Cadden for the Annapolis honors and the next three will be certified as alternates. It is Hans Sommer's intention to be among the first three.

Graduates Next Spring
He was born at Kassel, Germany, and came to this country with his mother when he was five. Father Sommer, a well-known real estate dealer here, was already in this country and since then the entire family have become citizens. Hans went to grammar school in San Pedro and Lomita and attended, Junior high school here. He will graduate with the class of 1938 next spring from high school. He will be 17 then.

The Sommers have another son, Werner, who is 10 years old and the family has lived here for the past five years. Young Hans likes his books. But he also goes out for track and last spring he won third place in the Marine league 1-320-yard run event. He is also a member of the Model Yacht club at high school and last year won a first prize with his craft.

FALL DOWN MINE SHAFT KILLS MAN

A search by three Columbia Steel 12-inch mill workers in the vicinity of an old gasfurnace mine near Atlanta, beyond San Bernardino, last Friday ended in tragedy when Ralph C. Shaw, 47, of this city plunged 110 feet to his death at the bottom of an abandoned mine well shaft. Mr. Shaw roomed on 241st street but his home was in Altadena with his wife and 17-year-old daughter. He was a hot-bed man at the 12-inch mill, where he had been employed since 1934.

His companions, Earl Robinette of 1015 Acacia avenue, and Tom Ashton of Gardena, who also work at the 12-inch mill here, barely escaped with their lives.

The trio were working an old tungsten mine in the desert north and east of San Bernardino. They needed water and were searching in the abandoned pump house for the opening to the well shaft. This had been boarded over and the sand had drifted on top of the boards to conceal them from sight.

Inquest is held.
Mr. Shaw happened to be standing right on top of the old boards. Their rotten structure gave way, dropping him to the bottom. He struck some scaffolding on the way down. Robinette and Ashton managed to hang on to the sides of the shaft and escaped.

Altho Robinette and Ashton were severely bruised, they managed to collect a rescue man who recovered Mr. Shaw's body. Robinette reached home about 4 o'clock Saturday morning and, despite his injuries, almost immediately returned to work.

(Continued on Page 8A)

Gift-Numbers To Be Displayed In 27 Stores

Bringing a successful holiday merchandising season to a climax, the Second Annual Christmas Treasure Hunt will be held tomorrow (Thursday) afternoon and evening here.

The Hunt for the valuable 81 gifts prepared by the 27 merchants and firms participating in this special community event will start promptly at 12 o'clock noon and will continue until all of the awards have been made or closing time tomorrow night.

Thursday morning competent, impartial judges will draw the winning Hunt numbers from the mass of ticket stubs deposited by local shoppers in the Treasure Hunt boxes at the 27 stores and shops. These numbers will be allocated to the participating firms, each getting three, which will be posted on special placards.

These signs will be rushed to the stores and placed on public display, either in the windows or in the forefront of the local stores.

Gifts will be listed in one, two, three, or four. The better prizes will be given to Treasure Hunters first exhibiting a corresponding number to any one of the three displayed. Most of the gifts are of the same quality and desirability, however, in some cases better prizes will be awarded to the first-comers with winning numbers.

The list of participating firms and what they are offering as prizes is published on page 7-B of today's Herald. Clip that announcement for reference when you start your Hunt tomorrow noon and visit each of the firms to check their gift-numbers with the stubs that you've collected from your purchases since Nov. 26.

Remember—there are three numbers worth valuable gifts in each of the 27 stores or shops; that the gifts are to be awarded on the basis of first claimant gets first choice; that the Treasure Hunt starts promptly at 12 o'clock noon tomorrow (Thursday), and that it will end at closing time for the participating stores tomorrow night.

C. C. M. O. Chimes Start Thursday

For the eighth consecutive Christmas season, the hand-made electrical chimes will be used at the C.C.M.O. suburban development starting tomorrow night when the first carols will be played at dusk. The chimes, which are automatically operated, will be played until 11 o'clock each night until after Jan. 1.

The street at the C.C.M.O. location has been decorated with colored lights and presents a festive appearance. The shop foremen are planning a gala Christmas party for all residents, the date of which has not been publicly announced.

'Queer' \$20 Bills Being Circulated

Local merchants should be on the lookout for counterfeit \$20 bills during these last few days of the holiday shopping rush. Redondo police informed local officers last Friday that a woman had been "showing" such "queer" money in the beach city. She was described as being 35 years old, 5 feet 2 inches in height, weight about 105, auburn haired and wearing glasses.

Seeks Naval Career



HANS SOMMER
... lots of study ahead

1,500 Kids Jam Firemen's Party

It was a great night for youngsters of all ages.

About 1,500 of them, alone and with their parents, packed the Civic Auditorium last night to enjoy the festive Christmas program staged by the Torrance Fire department and afterwards received gifts of candy, nuts and oranges.

About 1,200 children under 12 years of age were given the presents. The firemen had prepared some 1,400 boxes of candy and nuts and had stacked up eight boxes of oranges. One hundred of the candy containers were sent to Pueblo and 40 given to the Toy Loan Library for its Yule party tomorrow.

The candy boxes contained 840 pounds of sweets and 200 pounds of walnuts. With L. J. Gilmeister introducing the numbers, the program included selections by the Torrance Municipal band, a Junior Harmonica band, Junior Musicians' orchestra, and dancing and songs by talented youngsters enrolled with the Zabelle Junior Starlets and Virginia Crandall's dancing classes.

Santa Claus made a somewhat furtive appearance before the program started, wandered rather disconsolately about the stage and finally ducked into the wings. However, he aided the firemen in passing out the gifts to the mob of youngsters as they left the Auditorium.

Service Stations Close Christmas After 1 o'clock

All service station owners within the city limits have agreed to remain closed all Christmas Day next Saturday. They have also signed a "gentlemen's agreement" to observe New Year's Day—the following Saturday by closing at 1 o'clock that afternoon.

JUDGE DISPLAYS TONITE

Judges will inspect the outdoor Christmas illuminations here tonight, inspecting the displays which have been entered by way of coupons published during the past month in The Herald. Prizes of \$10 and \$5 are to be awarded by the Woman's club.

Herald Out Next Wednesday; Is Final One for Old 1937

Your next Herald—the last one for 1937—will come to you on Wednesday afternoon, Dec. 29. Carrier boys have been instructed to start deliveries on their routes shortly after 1 o'clock. As usual, the edition will be full of interesting menu suggestions for the New Year's Day dinner and other merchandising information designed to make the holiday and beginning of the new year 1938 more enjoyable.

Community Calendar of Local Holiday Attractions

TOMORROW—Second Annual Christmas Treasure Hunt starts at 12 o'clock noon and continues until 9 p. m. Rotary club entertains its Boy Scout troop at a Christmas dinner party, 6:30 p. m., in Legion clubhouse.

Judges for Woman's club outdoor Christmas decorations prize contest make their evening rounds of all homes entered in event.

Christmas programs for children at the Methodist, Baptist, Central Evangelical and Nazarene churches.

FRIDAY, DEC. 24—Special service at St. Andrew's Episcopal church starting at 11 p. m.

CHRISTMAS DAY, DEC. 25—Services in Catholic Church of the Nativity and First Lutheran church.

TUESDAY, DEC. 28—Regular city council meeting; hearing on proposed North Torrance water district at 7:45 p. m.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 29—Herald issues last edition for 1937 at 1 p. m.