

Yule Decoration Judges Named

Because only a few residents have entered the Christmas outdoor decoration and illumination contest, sponsored by the Torrance National Business and Professional Women, it was deemed advisable to ask local people to serve as judges instead of having outsiders come any long

distance to make the inspection. Consequently, Mrs. Harriett Leech, acting for the sponsoring club, has obtained Mesdames Margaret Gutfenfelder, Gertrude Ralston and Lillian Barrington to study the decorations of homes entered in the contest. Cash awards of \$10 and \$5 are to be made for the two best examples of Christmas exterior decoration. Mrs. Bettina Miller, president of the Business and Professional Women, announces that the en-

tries for the contest will close tomorrow (Friday) night. Those desiring to enter should call her at 524-M to get their names on the list of places to be visited by the judges within the next few nights.

Mayor Speaks 17 Tongues
CROYDON, Eng. (U.P.)—E. C. Stuart-Baker, who has just been elected Mayor of Croydon for the second year in succession, can call his council to order in 17 languages.



GET 'EM AT POSTOFFICE . . . "I just hope that everybody's purchase of Christmas Seals this year will be as big as big can be," muses Jane Withers, popular juvenile motion picture star, as she affixes a huge Christmas Seal on her letter to help in the campaign of protecting the home and young people against tuberculosis, as conducted in Torrance by the Los Angeles County Tuberculosis and Health association.

State Employment Service Is No Santa Claus, Manager Insists

"The California State Employment Service seems to have been confused with Santa Claus," Edwin A. Bird, manager of the local office said yesterday. "An employer read our slogan, 'no charge to employer or employee,' and concluded that he wouldn't have to pay the people he hired through us. It is true we charge no fee to either party—but that doesn't mean that employees hired through us work gratis, of course."

"Strangely, every now and then someone is under this misapprehension and exclaims, on finding that their new workers expect to be paid for their labors, 'Why I thought this was a free employment agency!'"

The California State Employment Service is one of the two divisions of the State Department of Employment, the other being the job insurance, or unemployment compensation, division. Neither division is con-

nected with welfare or relief organizations. Nor does the state employment service set the wages employers are to pay; that is entirely up to the employer, Bird declares. "Of course we do not accept job orders when the pay is less than the local minimum, but otherwise we do not tell employers what to pay," he adds, explaining:

"While we aren't Santa Claus, we do believe that one of the best ways to help Santa Claus is to give a job for Christmas. We will do our part in helping select the most capable applicant for the job. We make no charge—but the worker does!"

LOCAL STORES SHOW GAIN

Torrance independent retail stores showed a gain of 28.5 percent in dollar volume for the month of November as compared to the same month a year ago, according to a state-wide checkup.

The state as a whole showed virtually no change, although stores in areas of less than 2,500 population reported a loss of 4.2 percent. November sales were six percent above those for October. Ingewood had the greatest yearly increase with 36.1 percent.

A survey of lines of business showed that automobile accessories, tires and batteries led with a 23 percent increase, followed by lumber and building materials with 14. Others showing a gain were heating and plumbing, 10.5; automobile, 4.3; family clothing, 3.3; drug, 1.3; bottled beer and liquor, 1.1; men's and boys' clothing, 0.5 and department stores, 0.3. The average for the state was a loss of -0.3 percent.

Justice in High Gear
GAINSVILLE, Mo. (U.P.)—Ozark justice moved swiftly here when Henry Duncan, 56-year-old farmer, was sentenced to life imprisonment 24 hours after he shot his bride. Duncan pleaded guilty.



Merry Christmas

Happy are we in the knowledge that the past year has brought many new, fine homes in Torrance . . . homes that house happy families and make men better citizens.

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