Vacation is Dull Time at Toy Library

Row on row they stand, sit, loll and lie—dolls waiting for some little girl to play with them.

Row on row, their wheels touching and their bright shining paint gathering dust—toys of every shape, size, kind and use are resting until they are again requested by some little boy or girl.

The room in which the playthings are displayed is strangely quiet and the door opens only every now and then to admit some bright-eyed youngster.

And Mrs. Ona Ralls is catching up with her bookkeeping.

One of 39 Branches

Summer-time has come to the Torrance Toy Loan library on Post avenue and patrons are few and far between because boys and girls are finding other pleasures—at the beach, in the mountains or just playing around the house.

From a peak of 1,288 toys issued during May, the circulation at the local branch has dropped to less than 500, Mrs. Ralls, who is the toyrarian, revealed this week. But she is not worried because she knows that when school resumes in September, her young patrons will start flocking back to claim the free playthings.

The local Toy Loan library is one of 39 branches in the county. They are scattered from Santa Monica to Pomona and any child between the ages of two and 16 may become a member by merely requesting an application card and having it filled by his parent. Then a borrower's card is made out in the name of the child.

Doll Adoption Plan

Toys may be borrowed for seven or 14-day periods. Special cards are issued to schools and churches, giving one person the right to take out several toys for a group of children for one month.

Dolls are the one exception to the rules of toy loan. Since almost every every little girl becomes attached to a doll and wants it for her own, even tho she may never have owned one before, to have to return it might cause sorrow.

So any little girl who has a "perfect record" at the toy library may choose a doll and take it home with her on probation. At the end of each two-week period for six weeks she returns to the branch with her doll. If it has been properly cared for during this time, the child becomes the "legal guardian" of the doll and receives adoption papers similar to those given by a court when a child is adopted.

The library cards are graded according to how boy and girl patrons live up to the "honor system" of "truthfulness, promptness, neatness, courtesy, cooperation, carefulness and cleanliness." All toys are cleaned and disinfected after being returned and are issued in reasonably good condition. Donations of used playthings are gratefully accepted at the toy library.

Only Two Building Permits Issued

Only two building permits have been issued from the city engineer's office so far this week. Orrin E. Stadden of 1912 Carson street is building a five-room wood frame house and double garage at 1618 Beech street for $3,500.

John E. Miller is adding a seven-foot extension to the kitchen at his residence, 2019 Andreo, for $175.

Sake Spoils Angelenos' Fish Fry

Mr. and Mrs. H. D. Pierson of Los Angeles started out last Sunday afternoon to join friends in a fish fry at Redondo Beach.

They ended in the city jail where Pierson, 56-year-old glazier, was detained over night and Monday morning was fined $100 for driving while intoxicated.

Enroute to the beach, the Piersons purchased a half-gallon of sake and that was their trouble. Somehow they got to the 1000 block on Arlington where they staged a fight and Pierson left his spouse after tossing her out of the car.

She refused to sign a complaint against him and next the police learned that Pierson had plowed into a parked car owned by Cliff Henderson at 1008 Arlington.

Reconciled, the Piersons appeared together before City Judge Robert Lessing Monday. A friend paid Pierson's penalty.

Aqueduct's Last Link Being Bored

Working in a deep trench carved into the western flank of towering Mt. San Jacinto, construction crews of The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California today were completing a 400-foot section of the Casa Loma siphon, last link on the gigantic Colorado River Aqueduct.

This comparatively tiny segment of the world's largest water supply system is the last aqueduct section to be completed. When it is finished within the next few weeks the main aqueduct will be ready for service all the way from the Colorado River to the Cajalco Reservoir on the Coastal plain, a distance of 242 miles.

County Crews Burning Weeds In Lomita Area

Weed-burning crews from the county's rehabilitation department entered Lomita early this week to burn weeds from all vacant lots not already cleared by owners. Notices had been posted on lots since the first of June informing owners to clear the properties of weeds. Disregard of notices is now resulting in lots being cleared by the county crews with the cost to be charged to the lot-owner's tax bill.

Annual cleaning of vacant properties by owners or county weed-burning crews aids materially in reducing fire hazard, Capt. Frank Laski of the Lomita fire department, said. If lot owners burn weeds, however, permits must be obtained from the county fire station in the community.

Lomitan Dies After Crash

Rushed to San Diego naval hospital Saturday when complications set in over injuries suffered Thursday night in the crash of his car on North Gaffey street in San Pedro, Harry C. Biggins, 38, of 2344 West 247th street, Lomita, died there Saturday midnight. An autopsy was performed Monday to determine cause of death which relatives said apparently was from internal injuries as well as shock from a crushed arm.

Mr. Biggins was survived by his wife, Marie, and two children, LaVerne, nine, and Harry Lee, two and one-half, and a step-mother living in Louisiana. The funeral service was held yesterday afternoon in San Pedro. Interment was at Pacific Crest mausoleum.

The Lomitan's car left the road for some unexplained reason and sideswiped a telephone pole. A former navy man, who was removed from a San Pedro navy receiving hospital to San Diego when his condition became serious.

On Tour to Mexico With C. C. Party

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur J. Hodge of 2554 Roosevelt highway, Lomita, left Sunday for a two-weeks' trip to Mexico City as members of a Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce excursion party. They plan to study Mexican pottery along the route. Sightseeing tours to the floating gardens built by Montezuma at Xochimilco, the pyramids at Cuicuilco and catacombs at Guanajuato are planned for the party in Mexico City.

Last Rain Season Said Nearly Normal

Valley areas of Los Angeles received approximately 82 percent of the normal yearly rainfall during the 1938-39 "rainy" season, according to data compiled by the county flood control district and compared with the records of the past 66 years.

Three of the district's reservoirs showed an increase, eight a decrease and three no change in amount of storage at the end of May over what was impounded as of April 30.

Motorist Smashes Ornamental Pole

An ornamental light standard, which will cost $138 to replace, was smashed into a hundred pieces early Friday morning at the intersection of Carson and Martina when it was struck by a Ford coupe driven by Ellery Waugh of Kingsburg, Calif.

Waugh was ordered by police to make arrangements with the city engineer in regard to replacement of the standard.

Secret Smokers Set Fire to Garage Here

Young boys who broke into a garage in the rear of 2216 Maricopa street for secret puffs on forbidden cigarettes nearly caused destruction of the building by fire Tuesday, according to police reports.

The resident noticed the smoke from the garage and extinguished the blaze before much damage had been done. Identity of the boys was not learned.

Plans Prepared for Enlargement of County Building

Estimates on the cost of enlarging the Hall of Justice building in Los Angeles by a 14-story addition extending 80 feet east from the present structure's east wall to the North Spring street sidewalk line, are being prepared by the county mechanical engineer's office, Supervisor John Anson Ford announced today.

Such an addition, to be built on land already owned by the county, might solve the pressing courtroom and office space problem of the county, Ford suggested, at a much lower cost to the taxpayers than would be involved in all other civic center building proposals, all of which involve the purchase of land.

'Cap' Moses Joins Harvel's Station Staff

C. E. "Cap" Moses, experienced tire "trouble-shooter" and lubrication engineer, joined Harvel Guttenfelder's staff this week at the latter's super-service station, corner of Marcelina and Cravens. He comes here from Inglewood, highly recommended for experience. This includes a year as instructor for Union Oil's wholesale department and management of a large retail unit for the same company for two years when he specialized in lubrication engineering.

Moses is married and is now living in Whittier but intends to move to Torrance in the near future. He will serve as chief assistant to Harvel and is anxious to make friends with Torrance townspeople. A graduate of Inglewood Union high school, he has worked in this area for the past 14 years.

Grunion Gallop Scheduled for Midnight

Last of a four-night grunion run on Southland beaches is scheduled to begin at midnight tonight and last for 30 minutes, according to the State Fish and Game commission's headquarters at Terminal Island.

Highest tides of the month were registered Saturday and Sunday when the tide was 6.9 feet.

Brother of Local Resident Killed

Earl C. Scott, brother of Mrs. Tom McGuire of 1411 Beech avenue, was killed in an automobile accident at Valparaiso, Indiana, last week. Scott, former athletic coach at the University in Valparaiso and a grocer, has visited in the Southland many times and had a number of friends here. Mr. and Mrs. John Key Scott of Inglewood, his parents, left for the eastern city to attend the funeral.

The site of the proposed addition now is used by the sheriff's office as a parking lot.

Young Democrats to Organize Here

First meeting of the Torrance Young Democrats will be held Thursday, July 27, at 1006 Sartori avenue, apartment 303 at 7:30 p. m.

Anyone is eligible for membership in the club, but only those between the ages of 18 and 38 can hold office. Election of officers will be the main business of this first meeting. The public is invited.