

Opening of Christmas Week Marked by Yule Pageantry



GOOD WILLERS . . . Pictured is one of the Torrance High School Choral groups which will sing in tonight's "Good Will" Cantata to be presented at the high school. Director George Zavislan (lower left) is shown rehearsing the choir. Pictured are (left to right, front row) Dorothy Haynes, Doris Mae

Forth, Jean Adams, Beverly Murdock, Luana Johnson, Shirley Thompson, and Elaine Rehbold. (Second row) Harold Dunn, instrumental director, Ray Parrish, Leon Pounders, Jack Garland, and Chuck Vorhis. —Herald photo.

Three-Hour Free Movie Show Set For Local Kids

A chance for the kids in the area to make room in the old toy box for new toys and a free movie to boot are in the offing next week.

On Wednesday at 1:30 p.m. the Torrance Optimist Club will hold their Second Annual Christmas show and party for kids in the Torrance Theater, with the cooperation of Jack Dabbs, general manager of the Milstein and Melnicoff Theaters.

Only price of admission to the show will be a discarded toy, claimed Harry Watkins, chairman of the Optimist Christmas Party Committee.

A western movie, comedies, and cartoons will be featured on the mid-vacation show, Watkins said.

City Attorney's Labor Ruling Hit By Union Leader

Claiming that City Attorney C. Douglass Smith was attempting to reinstate a "labor be damned" policy, John C. McTernan, attorney for the United Public Workers Union (UPWU) challenged the city attorney's opinion Tuesday night that union dues may not be deducted from city employees' wages.

The attorney made his remarks before a meeting of the City Council and stated that although there was no law providing for payroll deduction of union dues from the checks of city employees there was likewise no law prohibiting the deductions.

He said he violently disagreed with the city attorney's opinion that the city clerk could not legally deduct such dues.

Sam Berland, international representative of the UPWU, urged the council to consider that Los Angeles City and County governments—and 16 other public employers—were deducting union dues. He did not argue the legality of the deductions, however.

The legal battle was touched off by a request from City Clerk A. H. Bartlett who asked the council what his course of action should be in the matter.

He said that a previous council authorized the deductions but in view of Smith's ruling he felt he should have a clarification on the matter.

Meanwhile Smith remained silent on the issue except to advise the council that if the dues

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High School Music Groups Offer Goodwill Festival



MRS. CLARA CONNER
... Will Grand Marshal the 1950 March of Dimes

Mrs. C. A. Conner Named to Lead 1950 Torrance March of Dimes

Appointment of Mrs. Clara A. Conner, 1108 Cravens avenue, as chairman of the 1950 Torrance March of Dimes was announced this week by Sheriff Eugene Biscailuz, general county chairman for the annual polo fund appeal.

Mrs. Conner is the widow of C. Earl Conner, Torrance postmaster, who at the time of his sudden death in February of this year, had headed the infantile paralysis fund campaign.

Her appointment came as final plans were being prepared by firemen in the bay area for a March of Dimes Dance to be held at the Redondo Barn on January 19.

Like her late husband, who was hailed as "Torrance's leading citizen," Mrs. Conner has been active in local civic and service groups.

"Only an overwhelming response by local citizens will enable the March of Dimes to con-

tinue its help for needy victims during this coming year. We cannot permit our children to be crippled through lack of funds for their care," Sheriff Biscailuz declared.

He pointed out that 80 percent of all county polo victims need and received March of Dimes financial assistance here to date. "This has amounted to nearly \$1,500,000, most of which was received from the organization's national epidemic emergency relief funds," he said.

The mercy drive will be held January 16 through 31.

License Collector Hired by Council

James Moorehead, who headed a list of candidates for the position of City License Collector, was authorized to begin serving his probationary period on January 3, 1950, by the Torrance City Council Tuesday night.

This evening, Thursday, December 15, at 8:15 p.m. the Torrance High School music organizations will present the Third Annual Goodwill Christmas Festival. To orchestra accompaniment, directed by Harold Dunn, the students will carol through the High School Auditorium with lighted candles singing the processional hymn "Angels We Have Heard on High." This is to be followed by separate group performances.

The cantata, "Music of Bethlehem" will be part two of the program. High school students from both the vocal and instrumental departments will take part. This year the audience will be given a libretto program form so that they too may participate in this cantata by actually singing with the choir groups.

Two special requests are asked of the people who plan to attend: Come early in order to get a seat and be sure to bring a White Christmas gift of canned goods or other food. It is a tradition with the Torrance High School Choral group to gather food for the community to be distributed to the needy during the holidays.

STREET SIGNS MANDATORY

Making it necessary for subdividers of new tracts to install conforming street signs was the main issue of an ordinance passed Tuesday night by the City Council.

\$250,000 Swim Pool Bond Issue Suggested

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Voting Change Sought

That the April ballot may contain several hot political issues was indicated at the meeting of the City Council Tuesday night.

The fireworks were touched off by City Clerk A. H. Bartlett who suggested the City Attorney take the necessary steps to amend the charter to change the method of electing councilmen. The clerk suggested the city be divided into five councilmanic districts or wards.

A bond issue of \$250,000 for a swimming pool was suggested by Councilman Nick Draie. City Attorney C. Douglass Smith asked that the charter be amended to allow the city court to hear limited civil action.

Smith said that if the city court handled other than criminal cases the city attorney would be able to prosecute many of the minor local issues here instead of in the Long Beach Courts.

Final outcome of the discussion resulted in the council taking under advisement all three issues.

Bartlett maintains that if the city were divided into five districts of nearly equal population, the residents of the city would have better representation in the city government.

Draie maintained that the much discussed swimming pool issue should be brought before the people for vote. His figure of \$250,000 was based on an estimate by members of the Swimming Pool Committee headed by Charley Gotts.

Gas Station Ordinance Held Over

Stating that an ordinance designed to regulate self-service gasoline stations was so severe it prohibited them, Attorney C. T. Rippey asked the City Council Tuesday night that action on the matter be deferred until the next meeting.

Rippey said he represented Paul Moulton, owner of a nearly completed self-service station at 22855 Narbonne avenue.

The council granted Rippey's request so that he might confer with City Attorney C. Douglass Smith on the matter.

Vallejo Air Crash Takes Mother, Son



MRS. GEORGE BATCHELOR

... Plane Crash Takes Wife of Airline Owner

Sacramento Rites Held For Victims

Double funeral services for airline crash victims Mrs. George Batchelor and her five-year-old son, Pat, former residents of Seaside, Calif., were held Monday in Sacramento.

Mrs. Batchelor and her child, wife and son of George Batchelor, owner of Arrow Airways, were among the nine victims killed when one of the DC-3's of her husband's non-scheduled airline crashed into the side of a hill near Vallejo, California, last Thursday.

The Batchelors lived at 5464 Sharynne Lane until last August when the airline owner moved his base operations from the Torrance Municipal Airport to the Burbank Airport.

Interment in East Lawn Cemetery in Sacramento, home of Mrs. Batchelor's parents, followed the services, an airline spokesman said Tuesday evening.

Pilot of the ill-fated craft was James S. Garnett of Redondo Beach.

The list of dead including three children were:

- Mrs. Batchelor;
- Her son, Pat;
- Pilot Garnett;
- Co-pilot Meade Dillon;
- Stewardess Susan Devore, Los Angeles;
- Vincent N. Figley, Laguna Beach;
- Mrs. Leland Kinball and her two infant sons Leland III, 18 months, and John Scoley, six months, Pasadena.

Batchelor, himself a war-experienced pilot, took off immediately for Martinez, Calif., to probe the cause of the crash along with Civil Aeronautics Authorities.

The plane crashed into a 1000-foot hill approximately six minutes after the pilot radioed he was at 4000 feet and proceeding toward Sacramento.

Cause of the crash was undetermined although the CAA was continuing with the investigation, a company spokesman said.

More Cold, Rain on Way

The current cold snap, which Monday and Tuesday nights sent the mercury down to the freezing level here, will continue, the U. S. Weather Bureau said yesterday.

The weatherman declared that temperature today will be cooler than yesterday. However, afternoon and evening rains preclude the possibility of another frost, it was reported.

Not a Plane Not a Bird, —A Theodolite

It wasn't a bird. It wasn't a plane. It was just a little ole' theodolite viewing mechanism.

So learned Ambrose Bernard who Monday night viewed with alarm a streak of light which zoomed from the sky and imbedded itself in his front lawn at 17335 Arlington avenue. He called the police, after digging up a strange light bulb and battery.

Weather Bureau officials said the device probably dropped from a weather balloon where it is used as a target for a theodolite wind calculating instrument.

Paving Job Slated

Residents of Roslyn street in North Torrance this week will be encouraged by the start of a repaving job on their street.

Santa's Aides Bag 2500 Sacks of Candy for Lions Club Party

Local firemen, answering Santa's plea for volunteer help, began sacking 2500 bags of candy this week to be given away at the Lions Club party in the Civic Auditorium Thursday afternoon December 22.

Al Ewalt, general chairman of the Annual Lions Club Christmas Party, said that this year's affair promised to top all previous attempts. On hand for the party, said Ewalt, will be Santa himself, Be-Bop The Clown, and 12-year-old singing and accordion-playing star Buddy Noonan.

Also slated for the afternoon according to L. Milton Isbell, program chairman, are several

cartoon movies, a sing song led by George Zavislan, and several stunts with prizes for the winners.

Members of the TAP's will usher and aid local police.

George Colburn is in charge of arrangements for the free gifts for the party.



WASSAMATTA, BABY? . . . The time-old formula of lost child, crooning police officer, and ice cream cone still works wonders. Frances Ann Lichtenberg, 3, one of many found lost and crying in the Torrance shopping district this week was comforted by Sgt. Alexander S. Thompson and Police Matron Lucille Stroh who furnished the ice cream. —Herald photo.