

Lioness Club Heralds Holiday



MERRY CHRISTMAS . . . says Mrs. C. B. Walls, Lioness Club president, left, as she hands a Christmas stocking to Mrs. Frank Jakubowski, chairman of the Yule festivities held last Tuesday night at the Walls home, 2806 Pacific Coast Hwy. Assisting her were Mesdames Lowell Spring, Don Mosher, and A. F. R. Ewalt.

Lioness Club members got their Christmas stockings early this year. At last Tuesday night's turkey dinner held at the Pacific Coast Hwy. home of the president, Mrs. C. B. Walls, each member took a gay stocking filled with goodies from the fireplace, then filled her plate with Yule delicacies from a buffet table covered with an old-fashioned Battenberg. Following the dinner, guests gathered around the illuminated Christmas tree to exchange gifts. Charades with a Christmas theme completed the evening fun. Prior to the festivities at the Walls' residence, Miss Frances Dimitri opened her home at 1101 Cravens Ave. for a cocktail hour. Committee in charge of arrangements for the gathering included Mesdames A. F. R. Ewalt, Frank Jakubowski, Lowell Spring, and Don C. Mosher. Others attending were Mesdames Hugh Bowman, W. B. Hickeox, Fred Boren, George Powell, John Ritchie, Ike McTee, Alisen, H. J. Osborne and Roy Patterson.

'ROUND THE WORLD TRIP SHOWS MANY YULE TRADITIONS

For almost 2000 years Christmas has been the most celebrated holiday of every year. It's celebrated by all kinds of people in all parts of the world—people whose taste in living and eating differ, but whose feeling about Christmas is the same.

To everybody, Christmas means shining lights and shining eyes, gaiety, laughter, peace and joy, as well as prayerful thanksgiving. Christmas means good cheer—and good food. Christmas is a wassail bowl, magi cakes of Lebkuchen, depending on where you come from and what your inherited traditions are.

"SAXON FESTIVAL"
In the time of the Saxons, the festive Christmas board was spread with its "bord-cloth" and guests waited for a special dish that marked Christmas—the boar's head.

Legend has it that the boar's head was served to commemorate the brave English student who was attacked by a wild boar while he studied Aristotle in the woods. As the beast bore down upon him, the intrepid young man crammed the philosopher down the throat of the savage. Hence, the head of the boar was always served with a large apple stuffed in its mouth.

The English Christmas feast of that era always ended with a dish unknown to modern times.

It was called "frumenty" and consisted of wheat boiled till the grains burst. When the mixture was cool, it was strained and boiled again with broth or milk and yolks of eggs. As the years passed, more imaginative cooks added other things—raisins, prunes, mace.

PLUM PUDDING
By 1670 some enterprising culinary artist had revised the recipe further and chopped in some suet, to produce the first plum pudding. Today that dish is as traditional in American Christmas feasting as it is in English.

For centuries, English housewives have been reminded to start making their plum pudding by the Book of Common Prayer for the Church of England. The prayer for the last Sunday before Advent starts: "Stir up . . ."

In Scandinavia, the festive "bord cloth" becomes "smorgasbord" which, literally translated, means sandwich table.

This, however, is a meager description of the untold varieties of delicacies which adorn the Christmas table of Swedish, Norwegian, and Danish people, and their descendants in this country.

Here are found cold roast pork with currant jelly, veal with mustard sauce, jellied calf tongue, smoked whitefish with caper, pickled herring in dill

sauce, assorted fruit and vegetable molds to create color contrast, brown beans cooked in molasses, half a dozen kinds of spiced breads, cheeses, and endless varieties of many other foods.

TREE TRINKETS
Christmas in all countries has always called for special decorations. The use of trinkets on the tree dates from the early Roman days, when masks of Bacchus were hung on trees to impart fertility to those who gazed upon them.

To accept a bunch of edelweiss on Christmas in Switzerland is also to accept the man who proffered it. In Denmark, some of the bread baked at the Yule season is mixed with the seed at sowing time to insure an abundant harvest.

GERMAN COOKIES
Everybody who has German ancestry or German friends knows the typical Christmas cookies, Lebkuchen. It takes days to make this children's delight, but the general consensus of opinion among people who have sampled Lebkuchen is that they are worth the time and effort. The melting pot that is America has borrowed its Christmas customs and cookery from countries in every part of the world. And has added some that are typically our own.

The egg nog is as American as Mickey Mouse, the apple pie that crowns the Christmas turkey meal is not traditionally served at holiday time in any other country; and the hot rum punch and old-fashioned are ours alone.

'Stork Story' FROM TORRANCE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

A first child, Jerrie Lynn, was born Dec. 16 at 8:08 p.m. to Mr. and Mrs. James S. Morris, 721 1/2 Sartori Ave. Father of the 7 lb. 6 oz. baby girl is employed at Douglas Aircraft. Mr. and Mrs. Clay N. Jones and J. E. Morris, Wetumka, Okla., are grandparents.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert J. Stember of Hermosa Beach are announcing to their many friends in Torrance the arrival of their first child, 7 lb. 12 oz. Marianne. The infant was born Dec. 16 at 3:29 a.m.



PLAY SANTA CLAUS . . . Assaying the contents of a gift box set up at Strum's Department Store to receive presents donated by townspeople for hospitalized veterans are, left to right, Mesdames Jeannette E. King, Joseph E. Alvarez, president; and Cecil Brown, gift collection committee of the American War Mothers. The "moms" will distribute the gifts Christmas Eve morning to a ward at Veterans Administration Hospital in Long Beach. Also on the committee is Mrs. John A. Frederick.

War Mothers Carry Xmas Spirit to Vets

American War Mothers of Magnolia Chapter will carry the Christmas spirit to hospitalized veterans at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Long Beach today as they participate in a tea at which 200 men will be honor guests.

They will continue dispensing holiday merriment on the morning of Christmas-Eve as they present gifts to one of the hospital wards.

Mrs. Jeannette E. King of Wilmington, chairman of the philanthropic projects, is being assisted by Mesdames Cecil Brown and John A. Frederick of Torrance, and Joseph Alvarez of Lomita.

Bimbo, Santa To Entertain JayCee Kids

Bimbo the Clown and Santa Claus will be at the Red Cross building this afternoon from 2 to 4 o'clock, bringing fun and presents to the small fry of JayCee members and their guests.

Affair is the annual children's Yule party sponsored by the JayCettes.

Also included on the entertainment bill for the afternoon will be several dances presented by the children.

Susan Smart and Larry Lee Grasinger will give a performance of "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer," and Johnny Powers will do a Santa Claus dance.

Final plans for the party were made at last Tuesday night's JayCette meeting, held at the Chamber of Commerce building. Plans also were made for the annual membership luncheon, to be held in January. Mrs. Howard Percy was appointed chairman for the event.

School Kids Entertain 186th PTA

School children were in the spotlight last Thursday afternoon when the 186th St. PTA held a Christmas party.

Children at the elementary level sang carols and recited gayer verses in keeping with the holiday spirit and students of Gardena High School presented a discussion of the Bill of Rights.

Following the business session, refreshments of home-made cookies and coffee were served by Mrs. Floyd Beech, hostess chairman, and her committee.

Members of Mesdames Laura Busch and Helen Morton won prizes for having the greatest parent attendance at the affair.

J. W. Venables Celebrate 50th Wedding Anniversary

Fifty-year residents of Waleria, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Venable, 24225 Ward St., celebrated 50 years of wedded happiness last Tuesday night at a surprise dinner party given in their honor at the Fireside Inn in San Pedro by Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Wise of Lomita.

The Venables moved to Waleria shortly after their marriage in 1902.

Following the dinner, guests adjourned to the Venable home to present them with an anniversary gift, a floor lamp.

Friends and relatives invited to join the festivities were Messrs. and Mesdames Tom Alexander, Bob Doyle, Arthur Leversage, Allen Brown, William Krimmel, John McMillan, Oster Sanders, and John Struck, and Mesdames Mary Kilham, Lou Gangler, Grayce Kelly, Cecile Scargant, Effie Anderson, Cora Hume, Fanny Pitts, Bernice Venable, Mamie Beerup, Ida B. Heath, Marie Walters, and Bessie McGee.



MANY YEARS AGO . . . This photo was taken in 1902, when Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Venable, who celebrated their golden wedding anniversary last Tuesday evening, were first married. The couple, residents of Waleria for the past 50 years, were honor guests Tuesday at a surprise dinner party held at the Fireside Inn in San Pedro.

GOLD STAR MOMS NAME LOCAL WOMEN LEADERS

Three Torrance women will have a share in conducting the 1953 activities of the local chapter of Gold Star Mothers of America.

Mrs. Martha Evans was elected second vice-president at last Tuesday night's meeting, held at the American Legion Hall in Redondo Beach, and Mesdames Regina Cunningham and Helen Smith were appointed color bearers.

New president of the chapter is Mrs. Ethel Andrews of Gardena.

Others elected to assist her were Mesdames Ruth Dobson of Gardena, first vice president; Phyllis Hamilton of Lomita, secretary; and Gertrude Lawrence, treasurer; Orpha Wilson, chaplain; Ann Held, color guard; and Ruby Ashcraft, sergeant-at-

arms, all of Redondo Beach. New leaders will be installed Jan. 20 with Mrs. Esther Burgard, director of the National Gold Star Mothers Chorus, conducting the rites. An installing team composed of members of the Long Beach chapter also will participate in the ceremonies.

Following election of officers at the Tuesday meet, Mr. and Mrs. O. B. Hamilton were hosts at a Christmas social hour which featured a gift exchange

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"YOU KISSA-ME" . . . Eight-year-old Jimmie Palumbo, 1762 Calamar St., takes advantage of the mistletoe to give four-year-old Christine Bigson, 2830 Onrado St., a little kiss. It is to the English that we owe the origin of the mistletoe kiss. The Druid priests of old England went out into the woods at Christmas time and cut mistletoe from the boughs. They blessed the branches and gave them to the young men to carry to the homes of the people. It was the duty of the populace to accept the mistletoe and to show their appreciation for the blessing by offering alms to the young men. The mistletoe was then hung over the doorposts of the homes, and it was thought that only happiness could pass under the branch. While it is not known when the rite was carried one step further to include a touch of romance, kissing under the mistletoe is now one of the happiest highlights of the American holiday.