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- Each additional gift . . . 8.50
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# The Social World

AGNES BOLTER, Editor



**DOGGIES ON THE WINDOW SHELF** . . . Blown up to maximum size for this print are the favors Grace (Mrs. H. J.) Osborne chose for Lioness Club members when she entertained them at a Yule party in her 3026 Torrance Blvd. home Tuesday night. The little doggies each bore a tag which read, "Pull my tongue for a tape measure, use my body for a pin cushion," and each member had to get hers from the window cornice while standing on the floor. Here one of the "shorties" in the crowd, Hazel (Mrs. J. H.) Ritchie, attempts to lasso her favor with a bit of Christmas ribbon. Watching her efforts are, left to right, Eileen (Mrs. G. H.) Moulton; Ruby (Mrs. Hugh) Bowman; Florence (Mrs. W. B.) Hickcox; Ruth (Mrs. Roy) Peterson; and Mrs. Osborne. (Herald Photo)

## OES Leaders For '51 Fete Vivian Cook

Appointed officers of Torrance Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star, who served during 1951 honored their worthy matron for that year, Vivian Cook, with a belated birthday party at the home of Earl and Letha Wells Friday night last week. When all the women guests were assembled, they presented the honoree with a nylon blouse as a birthday gift and enjoyed reminiscing about the year 1951. Men from the Masonic Lodge joined them later for a midnight supper. Joining in the festivities were the honored guest and her husband, Frederick Cook, Helen Carpenter, Frank and Ross Schmidt, Ray and Lois Lougee, Floyd and Fern Mead, Mattie Meyer, John and Jennie Delaigne, Joe and Ruth Hardin, and the host and hostess.

The group has planned another get-together at the Redondo Beach home of Roy and Helen Carpenter on Saturday, Jan. 5. Mrs. Cook will officially end her term as president of the Lois Blodgett Tamba Association, which is composed of 1951 worthy matrons of Eastern Star throughout the Los Angeles area, when Margaret Arnold is installed as the new leader on Jan. 9.

New officers of the group were elected Saturday of last week when members met at the Carolina Place luncheon. Attending from this district were Mrs. Cook, Ione Smale, and Mary Beerp.

Silver-sprayed magnolia leaves and pine boughs, and bright Christmas tree ornaments centered Christmas lighted tapers, angels, and small Christmas carol books with a cheery Santa Claus on the cover were used for additional color.

## 'Stork Story' FROM TORRANCE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

David Eugene, year-old son of the Ernest Mongeons, 5411 Reese Rd., now has a new baby brother, Michael Bruce. The little boy arrived at 4:17 p.m. Dec. 11 from the Los Angeles Children's Hospital. His father is in the Air Force; grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Shackelford of the Reese Rd. address.

Air Force Lt. and Mrs. Cecil Crabb, 308 Calle de Andalucia, have named their new son, Steven Duane. The 8 lb. 6 oz. boy was born at 10:38 a.m. Dec. 13 and joins one brother, 20-month-old Thomas Roderick. The Paul Howays of the Calle de Andalucia address and Mrs. Margaret Seman of Indianapolis, Ind., are grandparents.

Announcing the arrival of their first child, whom they have named James Ray, are Mr. and Mrs. James W. Thomas, 4819 W. 182nd St. Father of the 8 lb. 1 1/2 oz. boy, who was born at 10:38 a.m. Dec. 12, is employed at American Latex Co.; grandparents are Messrs. and Mesdames Homer B. Thomas of Los Angeles and George W. Jordan of Laytonville, Calif.

The C. A. Thompsons, 718 Santa Monica Blvd., are announcing the arrival of a first child this week. Born at 12:50 a.m. Dec. 14, the new addition to the family weighed 6 lbs. 15 oz. She has been named Shery Colleen. Father is an electrician with the Southern Electric; Mrs. C. A. Hoover of Arroyo, Okla. and Mr. and Mrs. John Marlon are grandparents.

Roy Foster, custodian for the Torrance School District, and his wife, who make their home at 21136 Denker Ave., became parents of their first daughter this week when Linda Margaret was born at 5 p.m. Dec. 14. The 7 lb. 2 1/2 oz. girl has two brothers, 11-year-old George Kenneth and six-year-old Douglas James. Grandparents are Mesdames V. Popham and M. E. Foster, both of Winnipeg, Manitoba, Can.

## 60 Attend Legion Tom, Jerry Party

About 60 Legionnaires and their ladies gathered at the Legion Hall on Border Ave. Tuesday night for a combination potluck dinner and Tom 'n' Jerry party. Members of the Auxiliary, headed by Mrs. Mary Babcock, acting president, prepared and served the dinner at tables made festive with colorful Christmas-motif cloths. Humorous gifts, piled high under a gaily decorated tree during dinner, were exchanged during the latter half of the evening. Guests joined in card play, then danced to juke box recordings.

## Creative Family Living

By Dorothy L. Law



COUNSELOR,  
LECTURER,  
INSTRUCTOR IN  
FAMILY  
LIFE EDUCATION

## Buy Gifts to Fill Child's Needs; Don't Use Santa Claus as Threat

Most of us have children on our gift lists. Let us try to meet their needs, not ours! One psychologist observed that most adults buy for their children toys that themselves missed having in their own childhood. I wonder . . . One father I know, not blessed with a boy child, said with a wistful, forlorn look in his eyes: "Gee, I wish my little girl wanted a train for Christmas!"

It is a joy to see some of the otherwise very sedate types of fathers loosen up at Christmas time. Christmas Eve seems to be the time for dad to try the gifts out to see that everything is shipshape.

I recall one Christmas several years ago, I was in the kitchen chopping bread for stuffing, when what to my wondering eyes should appear . . . In my neighbor's driveway . . . but one of those contraptions, I think you call it a glider. (Looks like a sled on wheels, has a handle like a kiddie car, has a pump handle, and a pump handle, like a glider.) Perched atop this vehicle was a usually dignified business executive, weighing in at 200-plus, who lived across the way.

I had no more recovered from this sight when Mr. Law whizzed down the driveway on his daughter's new two-wheeler!

One year we had invited neighbors in for coffee late Christmas Eve. The women arrived on schedule, but no husbands! We discovered them down the street "trying out" the new electric train one youngster was receiving the next day.

### DIFFERENT NEEDS AS CHILD GROWS

But seriously, do try to consider the child's needs and find his preferences, if you can, of course. There have been so many articles about this I'll just leave a few ideas on the subject. From six months to a year, the child is, among other things, developing dexterity with his fingers and hands and beginning to move about more. He likes to take things out and put them back; everything goes into the mouth.

He needs large toys . . . lots of colorful and harmless objects. He likes toys he can rattle, shake, or pull . . . the louder the better . . . soft, cuddly, stuffed animals. Rounded toys are better for the crawlers and toddlers.

One to two-year-olds enjoy toys they can push ahead of them or pull behind them. The hoigate or playstock toys are excellent, and many toys are age-graded for easy selection. Two to four-year-olds love large dump trucks they can load and unload, small trucks (complete with doll of course), items for playing house, which are endless. They love to pack, stack, and pile . . . like wind-up toys, blocks,inker toys, table and chairs, etc.

### WHEELS FOR 4 TO 6 AGE LEVEL

Four to six-year-olds are happiest with wheel goods, scooters, bikes, wagons, cars . . . enjoy paints, colors, puzzles, picture books. Six to eight-year-olds are interested in making things . . . a tool chest (with some detailed construction kits, and larger wheel goods, skates, guns, cowboy paraphernalia are high on the list.

Eight to ten-year-olds are still more specialized and are by this time collecting or have begun a hobby or special interest. They enjoy hobby kits, leather, woodburning, shells, head sets, etc. They especially want and enjoy balls—footballs, baseballs, basketballs . . . and like table games.

Ten to twelve-year-olds rather enjoy a gift of wearing apparel (especially girls), appreciate books (especially mystery and adventure), and table games such as scramble, monopoly . . . love games of skill and chance. A child of this age also likes something for his room and some of the more detailed hobby and construction sets, crystal sets, chemical sets, and the like.

### GIVE SPIRIT OF SANTA

Most of us enjoy Santa Claus as much as the children. In several instances I have found mama more concerned about how junior would react to the "truth" about Santa Claus than the situation warranted. Usually if mama or papa was greatly disappointed in their young child, both feel that their child will feel the same way.

I find that to tell or not to tell is something each parent needs to work-out-for-himself. Use this rule . . . it is never wise to give a concept to a child as truth that you will only have to tell him is not truth . . . whatever he. Children believe things we tell them; we're pretty important people in their young lives. It seems to me the spirit of joy and giving we spread through the concept of Santa Claus is a good thing for any youngster to catch, but without too much later disillusionment, Christmas wouldn't be right without old St. Nick.

A last word on over-excitement at the holiday season. Little ones are especially susceptible. Remember, your child's concept of time is vastly different than yours. Two weeks is a long time, a month is an eternity at four or five. After seven, the child's sense of time is becoming more as yours. I have known three and four-year-olds who were in a state of near frenzy by the time Christmas Eve arrived because the adults about them over-stimulated them. They receive enough of this from sources you cannot control . . . by the way, don't expect your pre-schooler to keep any secrets; eight-year-olds, however, love secrets and keep them well.

### DON'T USE SANTA AS THREAT

I have found a good policy is to allow the children to open several gifts on Christmas Eve . . . it takes the edge off excitement and reduces tension. Please don't send your children off to bed glassy-eyed with anxiety and doubt. None of this "if you're not good, Santa won't leave you anything" or "well . . . I don't know if you've been good enough," etc. Far better: "I wonder what he will leave." It's bad enough to wonder what he is going to get without worrying about not getting anything at all! At any rate, I've never worked with anyone so far who had any serious traumatic effects from too much Santa or Christmas tension, but play fair and square. What would you want to hear if you were in the child's place? . . . And remember, they believe you! Have a Merry Christmas.

## THIS DANCE DRAWS 175

Torrance High School teeners numbering nearly 175 danced in winter wonderland at the WYCA Saturday night last week when the student council sponsored its annual Christmas formal. Snowflakes studied the win-

## Local Gals Head Committee For Today's Marymount Dance

Torrance students of Marymount of Palos Verdes head up two of the committees which have arranged details of the sophomore-junior semi-formal dance to be held today from 3 to 7 p. m. at the school auditorium. Carol Armstrong, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. LeRoy Armstrong, 1638 Juniper St., is chairman of the decorations committee, while Nancy Viefhaus, 1605 Acacia St., is chairman of the food committee. General chairman is Lyndell Moore, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Moore, 3909 via Pico. Palos Verdes Estates, while Carolee Glenny, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Glenny, 5 colors and the Christmas sea-

## PTA Leaders Tour San Pedro Health Center

Leaders of PTA units in Lomita-San Pedro Council toured the Parent Teacher Health Center in San Pedro last week, giving special attention to new equipment in the eye clinic. Mrs. James Triffon, Council press chairman, reported this week. The center, Mrs. Triffon said, serves underprivileged children in this area, with all bills paid by the 10th District PTA. Following the tour, Mrs. E. R. Brucker, supervisor at the center, served fruit cake and coffee to the 10 women making the tour, including Mmes. William Russell, president of Lomita-San Pedro Council.

## Lionesses Enjoy Yule Fun At Olson, Osborne Homes

Preceding the gala gathering with a cocktail hour at the 2849 Sonoma St. home of Jean (Mrs. Ken) Olson, members of the Lioness Club enjoyed a turkey dinner and holiday games at the 3026 Torrance Blvd. home of Grace (Mrs. H. J.) Osborne Tuesday night.

Gay Christmas lights nestled in a bush marked off the Osborne residence, and the hostess committee greeted arriving guests with stiffy starched white organdy aprons, applied with green Christmas trees, over their holiday costumes.

Tiny snowmen and tinsel pinned on drapes turned the dining room into a winter wonderland, and a miniature house made of sugar cubes, with Santa standing in front, carried

## Neighbors See Old-fashioned Christmas Play

An old-fashioned Christmas play presented by several of the members headlined the program Thursday evening when 71 women of Torrance Camp, Royal Neighbors of America, joined in Yule festivities at the Woman's Clubhouse, 1422 Englewood Ave.

Appearing in the cast were Mary Baker, Lucille Meyers, Cordie McDermott, Marie Bankston, Stella Norris, Lucille Sloan, and Marie Koshak.

Community singing of Christmas carols, to piano accompaniment played by Susie Walker, and a gift exchange also highlighted the evening.

Turkey dinner, at tables transformed into a winter wonderland preceded the program. Reindeer grazed among pine twigs swirled with paraffin; Santa, his sleigh, and several snowmen raced across icy mirror lakes; and white styrofoam trees were studied with stars for additional color.



**WAITING FOR SANTA** . . . Seated around the Christmas tree, expectantly awaiting the arrival of Santa Claus, are, left to right, Allen Creighton, Wesley Brown, George Darden, Susan Andrus, Donna Kaufman, and Barry Love. The youthful sextet are patients at Harbor General Hospital, where a Christmas party was staged in their honor by the hospital staff Wednesday afternoon. Approximately 35 kids joined in the fun. (Herald Photo)