

Child Health, Welfare Are Major Aims of Waleria PTA

From 1925 to 1947 Waleria PTA was under the Los Angeles School System but in 1947 joined the Torrance School System and joined PTA.

Giving of honorary life memberships started that year, with Mrs. Eva Kelley receiving the first award. Other winners are D. Kirks and Eugene Kammer.

Mrs. Bessie Bloncker, Johnings to select candidates for the regular membership meetings. Everyone in the community is considered, not just for his or her work in PTA, but for contribution to general community welfare.

Child health and welfare is perhaps the most active project of Waleria PTA. The group also pays for dental work for needy children, milk and extra clothing is provided, and baskets at Christmas.

Paper drives are held every three months to raise money for the eighth grade graduating party, welfare work and pleasures of the little ones in Waleria Elementary School. Members cooperate with other organizations in such philanthropic projects as the March of Dimes, Red Cross, Community Chest, and Cancer drives. Waleria

PTA also sponsors Brownies, Cubs and Girl Scout Groups. At the beginning of every school year the association gives a potluck luncheon in honor of the faculty so that friendly visits may precede the fall work ahead.

Every Halloween a carnival is held to provide a happy evening for children and keep them off the streets.

A few additional accomplishments of last year were purchase of crowns for the flag standards; provision for longer hours at the local library; installation of more stop signs at main intersections to protect the children; a donation of \$25 for "Quarters for Headquarters," and purchase of Christmas trees for each room. The kindergarten tots benefited by the annual PTA Spring Roundup.

Waleria school has a faculty of 27 teachers, a principal, vice-principal, clerk and nurse. The new principal is Dr. Vernon Sheblak and the vice-principal, in office last year, is Mr. Robert Evans.

Waleria PTA has had 23 past presidents. The first was Mrs. Armstrong, who still lives in Waleria and attends Founders Day programs. Mrs. Dixie Sexton was the second president, followed by Mesdames C. S. Edmundson, L. D. Cooper, B. Hamilton, now of Lomita, Kelley, Hettie Milton, C. S. Murray, Oscar Butterfield, now of South Gate; John Minor; R. J. Deurloo; Wilbert Gouker; Roy Palmer; Elbert Lund, now of Bishop; Don Rae, now of San Pedro; B. J. Michels; and the only man president in Waleria PTA history, George Thatcher, who now resides in San Marino but never misses the Founders Day event.

Mrs. Robert Ziske, now of Anaheim, served in 1949 and '50. Her successors were Mrs. R. T. McNulty, now of Pomona; Mrs. Glen Harcastle, and Mrs. Bruce Howey. Mrs. Carl Cramer serves as president this year.

Little League Baseball Teaches Boys Fair Play, Discipline, Team Work

Little League Baseball, a national organization, forms new leagues in cities of over 16,000 population, and so Torrance Little League Baseball came into being in October 1952. Now there are about 90 boys from 8 to 12 years of age in the regular league and about 200 juveniles in the minor or farm league.

Six of the Torrance teams in squads of 15 each are fully uniformed. The farm leagues, while not fully uniformed as yet, are slowly collecting hats, baseballs, uniforms and other equipment.

Any boy, regardless of race, creed or color, may join Little League baseball, as the social or economic position of the parents has no bearing on this competitive sport. The whole object of Little League is to build good citizens and good Americans and teach each boy the lessons of fair play, discipline, and team work. This spirit spreads from the boys to their families and thus to the whole community.

While some good ball players eventually may come from the ranks of Little League, this is not part of the main objective. Little League is never used for personal profit or advancement. Any attempt of a sponsor to capitalize on Little League is not wanted. This does not mean a sponsor cannot have his name on uniforms, but it means he must limit his sponsorship or aid to what can be gained in friendly feeling of the public toward him because he is a good citizen in backing the boys and making Little League possible.

Little League baseball is Big League baseball adapted to the mental and physical capacities of boys 12 years of age and under. It is regulation baseball with several exceptions, necessary in order that the strength of the young players will not be overtaxed. The exceptions include the size of the field, distance of pitcher's box from home plate, number of innings, distance to bases, and equipment.

Interest in Little League has been generated in Torrance by use of a city-wide meeting tele-

which boys and their dads were invited. Nearly 200 fathers and sons attended. Each Thursday a group of dads have been meeting to "keep the ball rolling." From June 21 to Aug. 9 the boys played every day and were coached by dads or volunteers.

Managers are chosen for baseball knowledge and also on the basis of character, as they are dealing with boys in their most impressionable years. The dads aid in checking prices and quality of baseball equipment to be purchased. Torrance is particularly anxious to own its own field, or have one donated to the clubs.

Little League requires the support of the whole community and the workers see results for their efforts in the form of youngsters who are developing into real Americans. As Ford Frick, high commissioner of baseball and one of the directors of Little League Baseball says, "Properly conducted in local communities, Little League is one of the finest things that ever happened in this country."

A number of Torrance men's clubs have been most generous in their sponsorship of the team. The Lions, another, the Elks a third, the Torrance Police department a fourth, Harvey Machine a fifth, and Torrance Builders, an association of small contractors, has helped equip a sixth team.

Douglas Moir is president of Torrance Little League Baseball. Norman Hawkins is vice president; Tom Colman, secretary; Alfred Gates, treasurer; and Mrs. Edward Hansen handles publicity.

The Barbershop quartettes of the harbor district gave a benefit for the boys on July 25 at the Civic Auditorium and raised money to be used for a future clubhouse. A benefit dance at the Hollywood Riviera Clubhouse to raise money for the teams. An awards picnic for the best players and winning teams was an October event.



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Youth Education One of WCTU's Primary Aims

About two years ago, a group of prominent church people in this rapidly growing city realized the need for the work of the Women's Christian Temperance Union. Upon the request of this group, three prominent state officials came to Torrance in March, 1952, to organize the work here. Torrance is a part of the Long Beach Federation of WCTU, and here the program is basically one of prevention of alcoholism through the education of youth. Meetings are held in 10 different churches, and the WCTU has the whole-hearted support of ministers, law enforcement officers, the City Council and the superintendent of schools. Dr. J. H. Hull arranged to have Henry B. Hall, executive secretary of the Narcotic Education Foundation of America, show his moving pictures and give a lecture on narcotics prevention to the high school assembly. The students accepted Dr. Hall with profound interest and deep appreciation.

These pictures were also presented by Dr. Hall to the general public that same evening in the Civic Auditorium. Mr. and Mrs. Louis Allen, Torrance WCTU members, gave \$125 to buy another film to be shown at other churches and civic organizations. The WCTU, in cooperation with several missionary organizations, bought another film to be shown in schools and churches to warn children of the dangers of narcotics and alcohol.

Junior and senior speech contests were held this year to stress total abstinence for young people. Ruth Ann Holton and Linda Harrington won the silver medals in the junior contests, while Mrs. Boone Kirks won the silver medal in the senior division.

Last June, Mrs. Maud R. Obarr, secretary of the Torrance organization went to the World WCTU convention held in Vancouver, British Columbia. Representatives of 70 nations, the largest group of women ever assembled on the North American continent, attended this convention. Mrs. Obarr also was a delegate to the United States Convention held in Seattle.

In July, Mrs. Adean Miller, president of the Torrance chapter, attended the California State Workshop held on the campus of the University of Redlands. The outstanding fact brought out in this workshop was the tremendous expense to the state and taxpayers, in both lives and money, incurred by the use of alcohol and narcotics. In August, Mrs. Miller helped to conduct a youth camp at Barton Flats in the San Bernardino Mountains, a Southern California Youth Camp. Mrs. Miller was a youth counselor and a teacher at the camp. Two local girls, Ruth Ann Holton and Mary Margaret Colclasure, accompanied her.

A new membership drive recently held in Torrance brought in 46 new members and officers. Members are greatly encouraged in their work by the excellent cooperation in publicity given us by the Torrance Herald, Mrs. Miller said.

Officers of the local WCTU, in addition to Mrs. Miller and Mrs. Obarr, are Mesdames Vera Colclasure, recording secretary; Merrill Allen, treasurer; Martha Bell, secretary of youth work; and Kirks, publicity.

Department directors are Mesdames Pearl Baker, child welfare; Grace Hooper, Christian citizenship; Miller, drama and pageantry; Fern Uken, flower mission and relief; Dora Moshe, health and medical temperance; Obarr, institutes; Kathryn Burfield, in the junior relations for peace; Mrs. Brunson, legislation; Margaret Ecker, literature.

Lena Pisel, music; Agnes Ambill, narcotic education; Nora Moor, natural fruit beverages; Leona Eads, parliamentary law; Laura Pisel, radio and television; Mrs. C. Miles Northrup, Christian life; and Colclasure, temperance and missions.

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