

CHRISTMAS COMES TO TORRANCE

Big Parade, Dance, Auto Show Planned Here Tomorrow Night

Torrance will officially welcome in the Christmas season tomorrow night, as Santa turns on the Yule lights, and a parade, large street dance, and auto show are held in the downtown section.

Santa will arrive at the Torrance Airport at 5:30 p.m. and will turn on the lights in downtown Torrance and in Santaland. A parade of equestrians and floats entered by local organizations will march through downtown streets immediately afterward. Floats will pass by a reviewing stand in front of Santaland at the corner of Cravens and El Prado Avenues.

Immediately after the parade, local auto dealers will show their 1956 models—Buicks, Chevrolets, DeSotos, Fords, Lincolns, Mercurys, and Plymouths—at a parking lot next to the HERALD Building at 1619 Gramercy Ave.

A large street dance, to the music of Slim Evans and his Melody Music Boys, will be held immediately after the parade at the corner of Cravens and Marcelina Avenues.

The parade, with Buffalo Bill, Jr., (Dick Jones) as grand marshal, will travel down Cabrillo Ave., to Post Ave., to Cravens Ave., and will stop in front of Santaland at El Prado and Cravens Ave.

Seven floats—entered by the VFW, North Torrance Civic Improvement Assn., Soroptomists, Centinela Valley Barbershop Quartets, Torrance Accordionettes, American Legion, and Shaw's Kiddie Park—will be in the parade.

All types of equestrians—about 90 single and group entries—will march in the parade, which has a western theme. Also present will be the Huntington Park Elks' Motorcycle Group.

Santa's float will be the last in the parade.

Saturday, Santa will be in his workshop all day to discuss the Christmas wishes of local small fry and will give lollipops to them from 2 to 6 p.m.

The auto show will be open from 9 to 6 p.m., on Saturday, and from 12 noon to 6 p.m., on Sunday.

At Santaland, the Melody Music Studio will present a group of numbers at 11 a.m., Saturday, and at 2 p.m., the Melvin Kaiser Dance Studio, of Lomita, will present a group of numbers.

A committee of the Retail Merchants' Assn., headed by Mary Pagac, has been readying Santaland this week, including Santa's workshop, a sleigh full of presents, eight reindeer, and a platform to house the various Christmas-time programs.

Festivities will continue throughout the pre-Christmas weeks, with a religious program scheduled the final week.

Carl Duncan, president of the Retail Merchant's Assn., urged all citizens to attend the Christmas festivities.

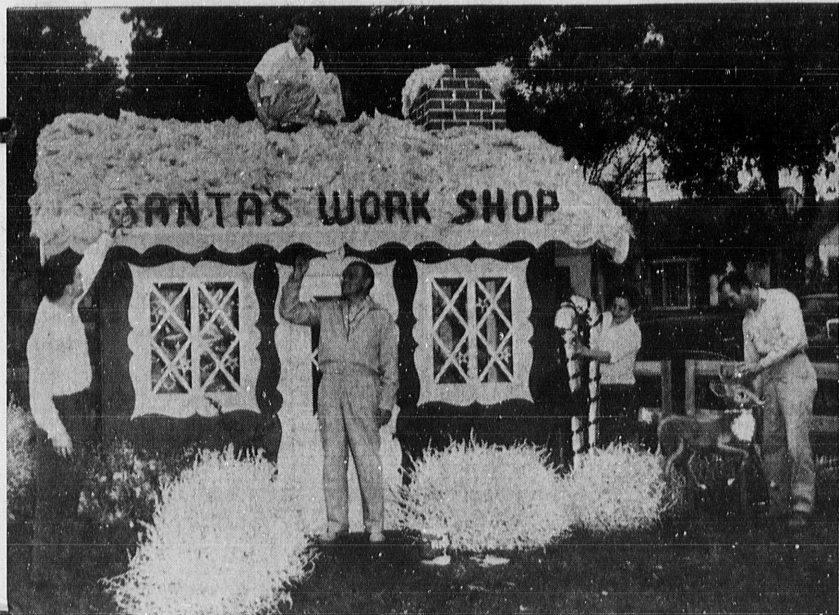
"This is the first time such a program has been carried out here," he said. "This is strictly a Torrance affair and we have tried to make it on a non-commercial basis."

Tim Moore headed the Christmas committee, assisted by Mary Pagac, Cy Frank, Harry Seeman, Charlie Gotts, and J. H. Paget. Assisting with the erection of the Santaland were the Optimists, Lions, and Kiwanis Clubs and Darrel Strand, Lorry Voien, George Bradford, Warren Hamilton, and Johnny Schwartz.



YOUNGSTERS AND FRIEND . . . Cindy and Riekie Watson made an early trip to visit Santa Claus this year. The jolly old gent will appear in the Christmas parade tomorrow night, turning on the Christmas lights, and will listen to the Christmas wants of local youngsters in his head-

quarters in Santaland, Cravens and El Prado Aves., from now until Christmas. He will be available Saturday from 2 to 6 p.m., with lollipops for the bright-eyed children.



SANTA'S HELPERS . . . Putting the finishing touches on Santa's workshop in preparation for the Christmas holidays are John Schwartz, of the merchants, Lorry Voien, of the Kiwanis Club; George Colburn, of the Lions Club; Mary

Pagac, chairman; and Bert Scott, of the Optimists Club. Small fry will whisper the Christmas wishes in Santa's ear within these walls.



A PRESENT FOR STEVIE . . . Members of the Retail Merchant's Christmas committee show Stevie Vander Linden one of the pretty presents in the sleigh, parked before Santa's workshop in Santaland, El Prado and Cravens Ave.

Shown are Mary Pagac, Cy Frank, and Tim Moore, chairman. Other members of the committee were J. H. Paget, Harry Seemann, and Charlie Gotts.



FESTIVE TORRANCE STREETS . . . Christmas decorations, consisting of silver strands and red bells and stars, hang over the downtown Torrance streets, heralding the fact that Christmas is almost here. Shown here is Sartori

Ave., taken from the corner of Engracla Ave. Torrance's giant Christmas parade will march down these streets tomorrow night to officially open the Yule Season.

(Herald Photo)