

# Five Outstanding Women of the Year

SOCIAL AND PHILANTHROPIC

## Virginia Stoddard Brings Joy, Love to Children at Hospital

Two years ago, Mrs. John (Virginia) Stoddard had an idea, an idea that has grown and developed into the Volunteers for Children Inc., at the Harbor General hospital. A successful children's program been set up, and it is due to her untiring and unselfish work at the hospital that lead to her nomination and selection as "Outstanding Woman of the Year" in the social and philanthropic division.

**Love and Devotion**  
Her story is one of love and devotion to a cause that has brought many a child out of the depths of despair and loneliness in the 2 children's wards of the hospital.

After she read an article in the "Saturday Evening Post" concerning the work of a Women's organization at Bellevue Hospital, New York, she conceived the idea of going out to help the children who were away from home without a mother's loving touch and care. Today she contributes countless hours, mostly in the evening, cheering up the children and bringing to them "Tender Loving Care," the organization's motto.

Groups had tried before and failed to set up such a program and the picture was not an encouraging one. She never stopped trying, however, and her group includes now over 100 volunteers who give a minimum of 4 hours a month in the wards. Her esteem has been shown by the Volunteers who recently re-elected her president for a second year and by the hospital authorities who presented her a citation in appreciation for her efforts.

**Urgent Call**  
Many a night she has answered an urgent call from the hospital—"We need a special type of blood right away," or "Wesley needs you, come out, please. There is no more grape juice for him," or "Karen just lost a tooth and expects the good fairy to come during the night."

Her explanation is that she loves her work so much, that if "nothing ever came of it except that I got to stay with the children, I'd be happy."

Even her own two children John, 13, and Kathleen 8, go out to the hospital with her sometimes because to them it



*Tender Loving Care*

Mrs. Virginia Stoddard, 3209 Antonio st., organized the Volunteers for Children, Inc., and donates many hours of "Tender Loving Care" to the children at Harbor General hospital.

is "interesting and they enjoy watching her make the rounds as they stand in the corridor and peer into the wards."

Both the Kiwanis club of Torrance and the Volunteers for Children nominated Virginia for the award because of her dedication and love to her work with no thought "of reward or credit."

Although Mrs. Stoddard spearheaded and conceived the idea for the program, she says that it would never have been realized without all the "wonderful help of the Volunteers, the pediatric staff at the hospital, and the hospital

authorities."

**TV, Radios**  
Through the efforts of Virginia, the Volunteers, the Kiwanis club and various donations by unions, clubs, associations, and individuals, the children have television sets, radios, and a completely stocked toy cabinet at the hospital.

Every month, they have a party to celebrate birthdays, a special holiday, or just "anything is a good enough excuse to have a party," according to Virginia. The big project underway now is obtaining film

Turn to page 29

Business and Professional

## DR. E. Z. THILL TEACHES, PRACTICES OPTOMETRY

Dr. Eleanore Z. Thill, a graduate of the Los Angeles College of Optometry in 1952, has assumed a responsible position in the business and professional world as an optometrist at 3810 Pacific Coast highway. In recognition of her hard work, study and personal service to the community she was nominated as the "Outstanding Woman of the Year" by the WALTERIA Business and Professional Women's club.

**Teacher, Too**  
Not only has she obtained a measurable amount of success in her chosen field, but she was recently honored by being asked to teach twice a week at her alma mater.

Originally she had intended to become an engineer, but when she realized what an excellent opportunity there was for women in optometry plus the fact that her future husband was in that field, she switched her major. The only

woman in her class, she graduated with honors and today belongs to numerous honorary optometric organizations.

Dr. Thill is a member of the American Optometric Assn., California Optometric Assn., and the Los Angeles County Optometric Assn. She attends conventions regularly to learn more about visual care and in turn shares her knowledge of the subject with her fellow doctors.

**100 Women in Field**  
In a field where women are in a definite minority, Dr. Thill has more than proved

her ability as an optometrist. Out of approximately 20,000 optometrists in the country, only about 100 of those are women which, according to Dr. Thill, should not be a discouraging factor but should encourage women to take advantage of the many opportunities for women in the field of optometry.

Her educational background includes a working knowledge of mathematics, physics, physiology, psychology, and other fundamental sciences plus a desire to help and work with others.

As an optometrist, Dr. Thill concentrates on eye examination, prescription and fitting and is continually studying and learning how best to carry out her duties in this public service profession. She has been a practicing optometrist for the past five years.

Her husband, Dr. Roger Thill, is presently studying to become a medical doctor as well as a doctor of optometry and is a junior at the College of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons, Los Angeles.

**Sponsor Student**  
Although being a doctor and maintaining a home are usually two separate careers, Dr. Thill has managed to combine both successfully. The Thills have been married 15 years and have two children, Susan, 9, and Kevin, 7. In August of 1954 they brought a Greek student, Paul Cotroff, to this country to study agriculture, and has been with them for the past three years at their home in WALTERIA, 3310 Primm way.

Aside from the many hours spent in her office, teaching, and studying, she is an active member of the WALTERIA Business and Professional Women's club, the Torrance Educational Advisory committee and the WALTERIA Elementary school PTA.

In summary, through many

Turn to page 29



*Doctor Honored*

Optometrist Dr. E. Z. Thill peers from behind the optical equipment in her WALTERIA office after learning she had been chosen as the Outstanding Woman of the Year in the Business and Professional field.—Press Photo

## Women...

Club News      Society News

DURFEE PARKINS, Women's Editor

CIVIC AND CULTURAL

## Mrs. Herma Tillim Takes Pride, Pleasure in Her Work

Mrs. Herma Tillim, who has lived in Torrance only since 1951, "fell in love with the town almost at once," and over the past few years has contributed greatly to the civic and cultural growth of the community.

It is for her community interest and civic pride that the Pilot Club nominated her for the "Outstanding Woman of the Year" in the Civic and Cultural division.

**Knows What Is Needed**  
All of her work is in addition to the time spent operating an employment agency in Torrance at 1628 Grammercy. "Everything comes through my office," she said, and "I find out what has to be done." However, it wasn't until she ran for the City Council in 1954 that needs of the community were really brought to her attention and stimulated her to carry on numerous active campaigns.

Herma instigated the idea of a special election for bonds to finance the new swimming pool and civic center and was co-chairman of the campaign. The bond issue failed when it was first brought before the voters so she immediately began to get it put back on the ballot.

She and her daughter, Mrs. Pat Reed, of Downey, solicited 500 petition signatures themselves in one day which led to the passing of the issue in the fall of '54.

She is serving her second term as a member of the Parks and Recreation commission and is chairman at the present time. She was instrumental in securing the professional survey of parks and recreation facilities which was presented to the City Council last month for approval. The survey was made only after a series of meetings, public hearings, etc. to determine what was needed and where.

**Conference, Lands**  
For the past three years she has attended the State Park and Recreation conference, and recently she was instrumental in acquiring a donation of land for a seven and one-half acre park site for the City.

When Torrance received the honor of being named one of the 11 "All-America Cities" by Look magazine last fall, she



*Conducts Successful Campaign*

Mrs. Herma Tillim, who poses by the Swimming pool at the Civic Center, was instrumental in making the pool and Civic Center a reality as co-chairman of the campaign.—Press Photo.

served as chairman of the decorations committee for the banquet. And as this issue goes to press she is busy decorating for the Chamber of Commerce banquet tonight.

She spearheaded the idea of celebrating the 35th anniversary of the founding of the city and served on the committee in charge of arrangements. Club Member Mrs. Tillim is also very active.

Turn to page 29

## Contest Stimulates City-Wide Interest

For the past two months a search for outstanding women has been conducted in Torrance by the Torrance Press in order to recognize and honor those women who have contributed something to their community in five fields—Business and Professional, PTA, Social and Philanthropic, Civic and Cultural, and Church activity.

Last week a board of women judges, all outstanding personalities themselves, reviewed the entries and selected those women who are featured in today's issue of the Press.

All winners and guests will be presented trophies at an invitational luncheon today. Jack Dabbs, one of the members of the board of directors of the Torrance Press, will make the presentations on behalf of William Zappas, publisher.

We want to take this opportunity to thank all who participated in the contest and congratulate those women on being named "Outstanding Women of the Year." It was an inspiration for all of us to read the entries and learn of the many contributions that have been made to the community by a number of deserving women. Since the search is to be an annual thing, those who failed to win this year, will be eligible again for nomination next year. All entries will remain on file at the Torrance Press and may be re-activated next year.

Honorable mention in this first annual "Women of the Year" contest goes to the following women: Mmes. Virginia Jones, Dale Harter, Lee Dutton, Vickie Feldon, T. R. Jackson, Walter West, Lee A. McCoy, Mildred Barnes, A. B. Cowie, Frances Kirkpatrick, C. E. Aspitte, Marguerite McAllister, Marjorie Cuner-ty, Vera C. Wright, and W. W. Johnson.



*Outstanding Church Leader*

Mrs. J. B. Mosley is pictured in front of her church, the First Christian church of Torrance, where she has been a member for the past 10 years.—Press Photo

## MRS. J. P. MOSLEY

### Dedicated Church Worker Honored

Mrs. J. P. Mosley, 23846 Ward st., WALTERIA, has served her community and the First Christian church faithfully for many years as shown by three separate nominations for "Outstanding Woman of the Year in the Church division. She was nominated by Rev. H. M. Sippel of the First Christian church, Torrance; by the United Council of Church women; and by the Christian Women's Fellowship.

**Broadening Experience**  
Her most "broadening experience" has been working with the United Church women where she has become acquainted with women of many churches and worked closely with them. Last year she was elected president of the organization.

In the local church she is immediate past president of the Christian Women's Fellowship, an organization composed of all the ladies in the church; sponsor of the WICKS, an organization for all the girls in the church; a member of the church stewardship and finance department, and a member of the church social committee.

She was recently selected to attend the Christian Women's Fellowship Quadrennial assembly at Purdue University this summer. Over 4000 representatives from the Christian church will attend the four-day conference. Mrs. Mosley will

Turn to page 29

Parent-Teacher Association

## MRS. McVEY IS ACTIVE IN MANY PHASES OF PTA

Mrs. Kenneth (Naomi) McVey began working in the Parent Teacher organization 10 years ago, which was a year before her oldest son David, 14, started to school. This fact alone bears out her sincerity and dedication and prompted two units in Torrance to nominate her for the "Outstanding Woman of the Year" award - Perry School and Crenshaw Elementary.

**Many Positions**  
She has held many offices and chairmanships on the unit and council levels in Tucson, Ariz., and most recently here in Torrance which point to a long and distinguished record of PTA activity.

According to Mrs. McVey, the most gratifying phase of her activity this year was working in the Torrance PTA council as Parent-Education chairman - an office she has held for two years.

"A study group in every unit" has been the motto adopted to encourage parents to participate and learn more about the schools, the teaching methods, and any subject that is of interest at the time. Under Mrs. McVey's guidance, there are now over 14 such parent-information groups.

**Family Night**  
She also organized the first "family night" series at Perry school, sponsored by the PTA. It has not only been successful from a PTA standpoint, but the families who participate have learned to work together at various craft projects, arts and making teacher's aids for the classrooms. Mrs. McVey submitted a written report to the school principal who presented it at a principal's meeting so that other units could benefit from it.

In 1956 she received an honorary life membership, the highest honor PTA bestows on any one member, for her work with children in many different fields of endeavor.

In addition to child welfare in PTA, she received the award for being a Den Mother for two years in Cub Scouts, president of the Mother's club of Boy Scout Troop 753, vice-president and program chairman of the Mother's club of Girl Scout Troop 867, and a Girl Scout Committee member.

While in Tucson, she was president of the University Heights school, 1950-51, and

worked closely with the schools and parents in a desegregation program by giving lectures and counseling on the focal points of integration. She also helped formulate plans for a dental, physical and mental health program for indigent children in the Tucson Unified schools.

In 1954 she was president of the Perry School PTA and in the same year represented Perry on the committee to help the city recreation department sponsor a series of teen-

age dances at McMaster Park. For the past three years she has written and directed skits for the Perry PTA Founder's Day program and one of her plays was used by the El Nido PTA for its Founder's Day program.

**Numerous Offices**  
She has held numerous offices on all levels of PTA work which include vice-president in charge of programs at North High school, 1956-57; director of public affairs in the

Turn to page 29



*PTA Leader at Home*

Mrs. Kenneth McVey relaxes at her home, 3825 176th st., where she believes harmony is such an important factor if she is to work extensively with the PTA. She and her husband have three children, David, 14, Julienne, 12, and Cherylynne, 2.—Press Photo