

Tireless Naomi McVey Gives Credit to Others

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and all matters that the people of a foreign city might have in common with us. The guiding principle was always that we might do a great deal of good in promoting friendship for the United States by extending the hand of friendship to the people of a city similar to ours," she explained. "Finally it was the city of Konya, Turkey that won our hearts and our vote."

What does this program mean to the average resident of Torrance?
The answer came with characteristic clarity and enthusiasm. "The facts are fabulous. I wish I could arouse the whole community to its value . . . and to the part everyone could play in it," "Everyone," insisted Mrs. McVey, "man, woman and child, could become part of a great force for friendship and peace."

"People can talk to each other, even across the seas and in different languages on the simplest basis," she continued. "This is more than two days of entertaining dignitaries."

"Right now our projects include an exchange of letters, exchange of recipes, exchange of scouting ideas for both girls and boys. How many Americans even realize that there is a strong scouting movement in Turkey?" She spoke glowingly of the scrapbooks being compiled by members of the Junior Women's Club which will be sent to the Woman's Club of Konya. These will be handsomely done compilations of typical pictures of American life.

"This is the kind of thing we hope every member of every club in Torrance will ask her group to do," said the tireless chairman. "Each organization can pick its own all year Konya activity . . . on homemaking, sewing, local history. The fact that we were a Spanish land grant area for instance is quite fascinating to students of a far-away land."

Why does a woman who has been identified with local civic organizations devote so much of her time and energy to so unique a project?
Again the answer was typical of Naomi McVey.

"I thought this was something I could really get into wholeheartedly . . . without selfish motives or thought of promotion. I could widen my own horizons. I could learn about other people . . . and even in a small way be a part of something great."

Has this affected her own life?
"Yes," she confided. "I've met so many fine people from Turkey who have heard about our program and come to Torrance to meet those who are active in it. This happens all year round, not just during our hectic Konya Days. These people are so delighted that an American city would want to know and help a Turkish city. I've learned to stop taking for granted so many things about our life here."

Again, typical of a woman who has been a leader in countless organizations, Mrs. McVey declined to take credit for the smooth workings of the two-day welcome to the Konya mayor which will be covered by network television and radio.

"These events," she insisted, "are a wonderful example of the cooperation that exists in Torrance between the city administration and the citizens. It's the most exciting thing I've ever seen."

"The planning committee has been working since September," she said, "with someone delegated to be in charge of each event for the two days. The Torrance School District is playing a vital part . . . another proof of the unusually fine relationship between the city fathers and the schools."

"This is especially important, because we always hear, 'tell us more about your schools' from our foreign visitors. The tour of our schools is being done for the first time this year . . . and the PTA is hosting a coffee hour for our visitors."

Mrs. McVey named other groups which are playing a major role in this week's celebrations. Decorations for the banquet to be held Saturday night at the Jump 'N Jack Restaurant will be done entirely by the Torrance Garden Club, the Torrance Garden Club and the North Torrance Fuchsia Club. The Women's Pilot Club is in charge of reservations and seating, the JayCettes are in charge of the reception and the Junior Women's Club will guide the tours through four Torrance homes for the Mayor of Konya and his wife.

"Torrance is unique," smiled Mrs. McVey. "Such cooperation is so gratifying that you don't mind volunteering to do something. You know that 10 others will volunteer with you. Everyone helps so you don't mind working."

"Please give credit," she urged, "to everyone who has been working on Konya Days. Lots of times I get credit for lots of things that without lots of people couldn't be done." Her charming smile and earnest manner testified to the fact that people probably find it a joy to work with Naomi McVey.

Konya Days
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motorcycle officers made the trip from Torrance and back. Police Chief Percy G. Bennett commanded the entourage along with M. H. Porter, assistant chief.

Drivers were Capt. John Maestri, the Bilgins' official escort during their stay, the captain's aide for this assignment, Detective Sgt. Don Hamilton, and Hamilton's alternate, Traffic Lt. Don Nash.

The Konya couple were speeded along Pacific Coast Highway to the Driftwood Motel, where relaxation and a well-stocked larder awaited them. But for the foresight of Beasley, there wouldn't have been a drop of Scotch in the place.

A member of the delegation who promises to leave an indelible memory with those who see and hear her is tall and glamorous Carolyn Graham of the Turkish Information Service in San Francisco.

Miss Graham, as interpreter and companion for the Bilgins this week, appears quite as articulate in Turkish as in English, as became apparent with the visitors' appearance at the City Council meeting Tuesday night.

A scroll creating Mayor Bilgin an honorary citizen of Torrance was read and presented by Councilman Nick Draie and translated for the honor guest by Miss Graham, who relayed the response to the council and audience.

After a half-hour of listening to routine city matters, the delegation begged off to get some rest in preparation for a grueling schedule to tours to Disneyland, Marineland, Wayfarer's Chapel, Knott's Berry Farm, motion picture studios, breakfasts, conferences, dinners, lunches, and greetings which well may thoroughly exhaust them before the principal festivity starts tomorrow morning.

Judge Armstrong Testimonial a Near-Sellout

A sellout is assured for the testimonial luncheon honoring Judge Donald Armstrong Monday at the Plush Horse.

Chairman Fred W. Mill said a few tickets remain and are available at the Torrance Chamber of Commerce office.

Armstrong has just completed a term as presiding judge of the South Bay Judicial District. The testimonial is sponsored by Armstrong's friends as a tribute to his "integrity and leadership" over many years in this area.

Boris Woolley, immediate past president of the South Bay Bar Association, will be master of ceremonies.

Jack Casotti Winner in French Co. Contest
Jack Leo Casotti, a salesman for The R. T. French Co., has won a runner-up prize in a recent sales promotion contest sponsored by his firm. He will be awarded a merchandise prize. Casotti lives at 16919 Yukon Ave.

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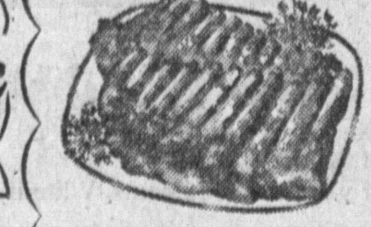


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