

# Russian Refugee Finds Peace As Lutheran Church Pastor

By Red Lockwood

The Russian revolution spread terror and death in its path as it carried on a relentless war to wipe a belief in God out of the minds of the people to destroy the divine right of kings, but in the process it also sent disciples of love to all the rest of the world to journey into the lives of others.

One such disciple is William John Roleder, pastor of the First Lutheran Church, at Flower and Carson Streets, here in Torrance.

"Your life is not your own once it is spared," says Rev. Roleder. "You have been blessed and, in turn, you must carry blessings to others."

## 13 YEARS IN MINISTRY

As a pastor, Rev. Roleder has been carrying blessings to others for 13 years, since he graduated from Wartburg Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa, in 1950.

He described his decision to enter the clergy as "a natural one, my father was a clergyman." The father's influence also was felt by Rev. Roleder's two brothers, who are pastors.

"I made my decision in high school, because I believe that being a clergyman is a good way to serve humanity," said Rev. Roleder. "However, that decision made in high school is not mature, and I have to re-affirm it and re-assess myself each year."

Rev. Roleder said that when he attended the seminary that decision was not a final one, either. "I would ask myself, 'Have I the basic qualifications to become a good pastor?'" said Rev. Roleder.

"As you take theology, you come face to face with the difficulties and the realities of life," he continued, "and in the ministry each

day you continuously confirm your faith and your decision to serve humanity through your service in the church."

## FACE ESSENTIAL TRUTHS

Rev. Roleder paused, then added: "In the ministry, you are dealing with essential truths and you can't play around with them. Your inner conviction must be an outward expression."



W. J. ROLEDER  
... Lutheran Pastor

He pointed out that a pastor has the same problems and the same struggles that are experienced by laymen. "It is, in a sense, a lonely life. We must fight these things out in private," said Rev. Roleder.

"To do this," he added, "a clergyman must be honest with himself and with others. A pastor is in the same crucible of life that holds everyone else."

The terrible crucible of life, and death, experienced by the parents of Rev. Roleder in their flight from terror, undoubtedly has

strengthened the son in his faith, in his beliefs, and in his understanding of what he so aptly calls the "essential truths."

The father was a parochial school teacher in Europe when the storm broke across the land and saw others being "liquidated" and knew that if he remained that death, too, must be the eventual fate of his family.

## FAMILY FLEES

In 1928, when William John was only two, the family fled to a sanctuary in Saskatchewan, Canada. The father found a job in a lumberyard where alone he won the struggle to master a new language.

And then the father entered the ministry, motivated by the same force that founds its way through him into the minds of his sons: "Your life is not your own once it is spared. You have been blessed and, in turn, you must carry blessings to others."

The conviction of their blessings deepened as the Roleders, looking back across the ocean from their haven in Canada, saw those relatives who remained behind lose their lives, one by one, until all were gone.

The conviction has remained to mellow and to enrich the lives of the elder Roleder and his sons as they all carry blessings to others through their ministry in the church. The father now is a pastor in Palm City, California, an experimental pilot project, a mission in a "retirement city."

## MOVES TO U.S.

Twenty-five years ago, the Roleder family came to the United States from Canada, to settle in Lodi, California, where, during the summers, William John Roleder picked grapes to help pay for his education which led to the ministry.

After graduating from Wartburg in 1950, Rev. Roleder recalls, with humor, that he rejected the advice of others to return to Lodi to begin his ministry.

"You know the saying, 'a prophet is not without honor or save in his own country,'" he laughed. "That is what was given to me as advice against coming home to get my start."

Rev. Roleder became the pastor of a mission of the Lutheran Church in Lodi and remained with the new church for five years. While there, he married Donna Jean and they are now the parents of Joy, 2, and Jonathan, a year old, both born in Torrance.

Leaving Lodi, the Roleders journeyed north to Coquille, Oregon, on the coast where the weather was damp and the main industry was lumber, not grapes.

"It was quite rugged, a real experience," says Rev. Roleder.

## ARRIVES HERE

Then, in 1958, the Roleders journeyed south again, this time to Torrance. "It was a real change again, coming to Torrance," says Rev. Roleder. "It is a real challenge here with the astounding growth, the young families," he said.

Rev. Roleder commented that people coming to California are trying to get adjusted and come to the church for help. "They come on their own, they have no family to send them, and are more serious about their faith. Our congregations here are all alert."

Rev. Roleder, looking back on the 13 years of his ministry, says, "It has been an adventurous life." Looking ahead, he believes that even more adventure lies in the future.

"We are living in a time of crisis," he said, "there is much to be done, and much is being done, by the church."

## RE-EXAMINES SELF

Rev. Roleder believes that there is more research and aggressive thinking being done by the church today than in the past. "The church is re-examining itself," he says. "Our congregations need to be stimulated. We need to cast off old patterns and adopt new ones without losing the essential truths."

Perhaps with the knowledge of the experience of his father in the upheaval in Europe in mind, Rev. Roleder observed: "That which comes too easy without pain too often is taken for granted. It is hard to be demanding of people without losing sight of what we want to do."

What Rev. Roleder wants to do, perhaps, can be summed up in his answer to the re-evaluation of the church, his answer to the question: "What is the purpose of the church?"

As he puts it, "The purpose of the church is to bring to the community a complete sense of conviction and dedication," which might also be said to be the essence of life.

It may be a paradox, or it may not be, but the abrasive wheel of hate seems to send off sparks of love. One found its way to the First Lutheran Church in Torrance.

Howard Dean, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Edmondson of 18410 Glenburn, born May 2.

Grant Richard, son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard J. Gaseley of 22006 Ocean Ave., born May 6.

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LUTHERAN CHURCH  
... interior view

## PTA News

### POTLUCK SERVED

Twenty-three members of the Arlington PTA executive board enjoyed an evening potluck dinner in the school's cafeteria preceding the May meeting. Mrs. William Bauer, outgoing president, presided, and gave the inspirational for the evening, in the absence of Mrs. Anthony Mueller, inspirational chairman.

Mrs. Wilbuer Harmon, Mrs. Robert Biener, and Mrs. Robert Jones were appointed as a committee to approve the minutes of the meeting.

A letter of thanks, for cooperation on the school bond election, from Superintendent J. H. Hull was read by Mrs. Allen Richardson, corresponding secretary pro tem.

The treasurer's report was read by Mrs. Kenneth Lemke, budget and finance chairman.

Reports were heard from six chairmen and three committee chairmen.

It was voted to send Mrs. Robert Jones and Mrs. Philip Aurit as Arlington's representatives to the first regional community health symposium at the Plush Horse Restaurant, Wednesday, May 8.

Mrs. Donald Woodis, hospitality chairman, presented gifts in silver to three "new mother" board members, and to Mrs. William Bauer, president, in behalf of the board.

It was announced by the president that the May association meeting was set for Thursday, May 16, at 7:30 p.m. in the school cafeteria.

### TREASURE CHEST

"Anza — Our Treasure Chest on Display" will be topic of Anza PTA meeting to be held Thursday at 7:30 p.m. in the school cafeteria.

Inspirational will be given by Mrs. William Roseberry. Reports will be given by the historian and record the historian and Record book chairmen, Mrs. Richard Walton and Mrs. Marvin Sullivan.

There will be a presentation of service awards, including tribute to the room representative.

Hostesses serving refreshments will be sixth and seventh grade mothers.

### POTS AND PANS

Ven Deene Ave. PTA held installation Tuesday with "Pots and Pans" as theme. Mrs. C. M. Larson, past president, was installing officer. She presented officers with miniature utensils and the president with a gardenia corsage.

New officers are Mrs. Paul Maust, president; Laurent Savard, first vice president; William Haney, second vice president; Donald Plentge, third vice president; Donald McKenna, sec-

retary; Dan McGrew, treasurer; Robert Hainline, auditor; Robert Giles, historian, and Richard Harris, parliamentarian. Mrs. Plentge presented Mrs. Maust with the president's pin and she in turn received the past president's pin.

Kindergarten mothers who gave the PTA two tablecloths, candle holders, candy dishes, coffee pot, tea pot, and cream and sugar set, were Mmes. Ayala, Bolyantz, Cruz, Fredricks, Graves, Green, Henson, Holmes, Inglis, Kato, Kepler, King, Krant, Kuhlman, Law, Privita, Quinn, Rankin, Salvatore, Schneider, Speir, and Woldhuis.

William Walton, principal, thanked the parents and the PTA for fine cooperation this past year and reminded parents of the school bond election to be held May 28. The school chorus, under the direction of Miss Mary Hof, sang several selections. Mrs. William Haney, record book chairman, presented the record book to Mrs. Plentge.

Mrs. Laurent Savard, historian, gave her report on past events and accomplishments.

A pot luck luncheon will be held for the entire school staff on the last day of school with Mrs. William Haney as chairman.

Room count was won by Mrs. Doris Bar, room 23, and Mrs. Jean Felkins, room 20. Kindergarten mothers were hostesses for the social hour.

### FASHION SHOW SET

Columbia PTA will meet Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. in the school cafeteria. The 1963-64 officers will be installed. Mrs. Vernon Terry will be installing officer.

Featured chairman for the evening will be record book. Historian's report will be read.

Students in the home-making class, under the supervision of Mrs. Mildred Singleton, will stage a fashion show, modeling skirts.

### BAND PLAYS

Jefferson PTA held its final meeting for the current school year on Wednesday in the school cafeteria. A program of music was presented by the school band under the direction of John R. Ducar.

Members of the PTA board were presented with their symbol of office. Installed at the April 15 meeting were: Mmes. Raymond Weiler, president; Kenneth Veldheer, first vice president; Paul Mowery, second vice president; Charles O'Hara, third vice president; Joe Chastka, recording secretary; William Morrow, corresponding secretary; Steve Haston, treasurer; Robert Soladay, auditor and parliamentarian; and Mrs. Gus Cochrane, historian.

Committee chairmen appointed by Mrs. Weiler,

were: Mmes. Henry Carlson, founders aid and honorary life; J. A. Smith, hospitality; Pete Sandowick, inspiration; L. A. Ensminger, library; Jack Diamond, music; Earl Paly, newsette; Stephen Sampson, parent education; Mario Falcons, publications and emblems; Milton C. Makoski, publicity; Robert Brown and Ernest Foote, recreation; Ervin Finlayson, record book; James Kelley and Al Russell, room representative; Rod Twedell, safety and Gus Cochrane was named youth coordinator.

A bicycle rodeo was held at Jefferson Elementary school at 9:30 a.m. May 7. It was put on through the cooperation of the Torrance Police Department, Torrance Fire Department and the Jefferson PTA.

Mrs. Rod Twedell, safety chairman, planned and coordinated the day's activities. Object of the rodeo was to test students' skill in the use of bicycles and to give helpful advice and corrections by the proper authorities.

There were 283 children participating. Each child received a reflector, a safety

club card and a reflector sticker for use on his bike.

A bicycle safety poster contest climaxed the same day with the judging of the posters being done by members of the Police and Fire Departments. First and second place ribbons were given for each grade level. Winners are as follows: Mureen Parnell, first grade, first place; Kathy Galloway, first grade, second place; Diane Wilson, second grade, first place; Charlene Messer, second grade, second place; Karen Chastka, third grade, first place; Pamela Siodin, third grade, second place; Jane Davidson, fourth grade, first place; Melanie DeFoe, fourth grade, second place; Patty Bynon, fifth grade, first place; Sherry Minor and Rhea Krueger, fifth grade, second place.

Billy Roberts, sixth grade, first place; Lori Bandura, sixth grade, second place; Vicki Davis, seventh grade, first place; Jim DeFussi, seventh grade, second place; Eileen Waller, eighth grade, first place, and Diane Vanstane, eighth grade, second place.

**Senior Citizens Art & Hobby Show**  
at  
**SPRING MANOR**  
Residence for the Retired Torrance  
20900 Earl St.  
Open to South Bay Residents of 50 Years of Age or Over.  
**Entries Will Be Accepted Through May 23**  
Art Media—Oil, Watercolor, Pen and Ink, Clay and Wood Sculpturing — Hobbies — All Inclusive — Also Paint by Number Sets  
Exhibits Open to the Public May 25 and 26 — 1 to 5 p.m.  
**Presentation of Awards May 26**  
For Further Information Phone FRontier 0-3594

**WORSHIP AT THE CHURCH OF YOUR CHOICE**  
MORE THINGS ARE WROUGHT BY PRAYER THAN THIS WORLD DREAMS OF

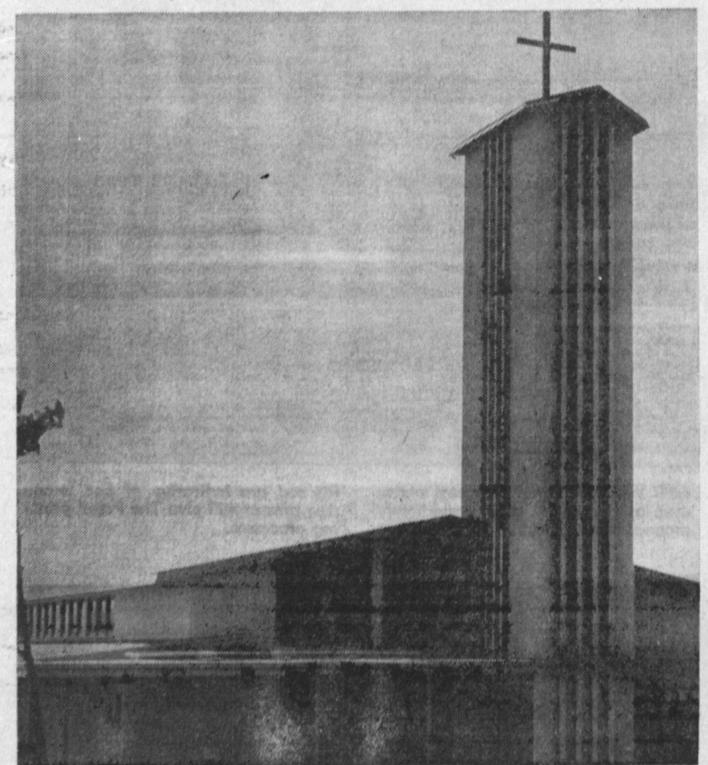
**BAPTIST**  
CARSON BAPTIST CHURCH (Southern)—22130 Lucerne Street (Between Wilmington Avenue and Avalon—Just off 223rd), Torrance. Sunday School 10 A.M.—Morning Worship 11 A.M.—Training Union 6:30—Evening Worship 7:30. Wednesday Prayer Service 7:30. Pastor: Kenneth Crisis. Phone TE 5-3585.  
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH—Carson at Manuel. Rev. Robert Dohm, Church phone, FA 8-5030; 9:15 and 10:45, morning worship; 9:15, nursery through 5th grade; 10:45, Jr. High through Adult Sunday School; 6:30 p.m. Training Union; 7:30 p.m. Evangelistic service; Wednesday, 7:00 p.m., mid-week service. Nursery care for every service.  
NARBONNE AVENUE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH—24730 Narbonne Ave., Lomita, DA 4-6029. Church 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m.; Sunday School 9:45 a.m., ST. CATHERINE LABOURE CHURCH—3846 Recondo Beach Blvd., Torrance. DAVIS 3-8900 Sunday Masses: 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12. Weekday Masses 6:30 and 8:15 Confessions Saturday: 4:00 to 5:30, 7:30 to 9:00.

**CATHOLIC**  
ST. LAWRENCE CATHOLIC CHURCH—1900 Tullita Ave., Redondo Beach. Pastor: Daniel P. Collins. Mass 7, 8, 9, 10, 11:15, 12:15. FR 5-4037.

**CHURCH OF GOD**  
SOUTH BAY CHURCH OF GOD—17661 Yukon Ave. Phone 323-3978. Rev. C. L. Tierney, 17615 Yukon. Services: First morning service 8:30 a.m.; Sunday school, 9:40 a.m.; second morning service, 11:10 a.m.; Sunday night service, 7:30 p.m. Mid-week services: Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.

**FOURSQUARE CHURCH**  
FOURSQUARE CHURCH—Corner of Arlington and Sepulveda. Telephone, DA 4-2073. Rev. and Mrs. James P. Lowen, pastors. Sunday school, 9:30 a.m.; morning worship, 10:45 a.m.; group services, 6:50 a.m.; Y.P. Cafeteria (Defenders); Evangelistic, 7:15 p.m. Mid-week, Wednesday Bible study at 7:15 p.m. Public invited.

**LUTHERAN**  
FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH—Located on Carson St. and Flower Ave. in Torrance. Wm. J. Roleder, pastor. Residence, 1623 Flower Ave. Phone FA 8-3249. Church office, 1723 Flower Ave. FA 0-4181. First Church worship 8 a.m.; Sunday School 8:45 a.m. and 9:45 a.m.; second morning worship, 10:45 a.m.



LUTHERAN CHURCH  
... exterior view

## Beta Sigma Phi To Hold Meet Wednesday

Regular meeting of Xi Gamma Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi will be held at 8 p.m. Wednesday, at the Melrose Nursery School, 8306 Melrose Ave., Los Angeles. President is Velma Bartley. Committees are as follows: Edna Lockwood, parliamentarian, junior past president; Virginia Grumbett, yearbook; Theo Martin and Doris Porter, program; Helen Pondella, civil defense; Ella Smith, and Ruth Phelps, social; Eleanor Morales, publicity.

Program for the evening will be given by Martin Searle on Ethiopia, Eritrea and the Somalilands and Theo Martin on Kenya, Tanganyika, Uganda and Zanzibar. Hostesses for the evening will be Marian Searle and Helen Pondella.

Attending from this area will be Edna Lockwood, Martha Oehlerking, Rhea Joy Luckey, Doris Porter and Ruth Phelps.

## I'M NEW HERE

New citizens of Torrance who made their appearances recently at local hospitals include:

David Charles, son of Mr. and Mrs. Conrad Howard of 22317 Marjorie Ave., born April 29.

Theresa Lynn, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gary Portrey of 609 Meyer Lane, Redondo Beach, born April 29.

Maria Michelle, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Pedro of 16413 Goergia St., Paramount, born April 29.

Neil Lance, son of Capt. and Mrs. Chauncey D. Smith, Jr. of 1020 Elm Ave., born April 26.

William Scott, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ted Moore of 18320 Yukon Ave., born April 28.

David Orin, son of Mr. and Mrs. Donald C. Appel of 2301 W. 184th St., born April 28.

David Bruce, son of Mr. and Mrs. David L. Newman of 903 Firmona Ave., Redondo Beach, born April 30.

Cynthia Louise, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Roger W. Paine of 1155 W. 160th St., Gardena, born May 1.

David Wayne, son of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Sherer of 20616 1/2 S. Western Ave., born May 1.

Robert Ray, son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul W. Mackey of 22623 Greenwood, born May 1.

Laurie Lynn, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David K. Ladigo of 20623 S. Raymond Ave., born May 6.

Leanie Judith, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jack H. Swope of 1728 Gramercy Ave., born April 28.

John Ransom, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. John R. Grigsby of 1427 W. 180th St., Gardena, born May 5.

Leslit Victoria, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William L. Wright of 3524 C Garnet St., born May 4.

Rebekah Jane, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond L. Butts of 2023 Pacific Coast Highway, Hermosa Beach, born May 5.

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