

20 Years as Girl Friday

Secretary Leaves Post

One of the most well-known secretaries in California school circles will leave her post next week after putting in nearly 20 years as girl Friday to the assistant superintendent of business of the Torrance Unified School District.

Mrs. Irene Smith, who was active in formation of a Torrance chapter of the California School Employees Association, and who has been with the Torrance Unified School District since its inception, relinquishes the position of secretary to assistant superintendent Frank L. Mattox, March 1.



MRS. IRENE SMITH Retiring

A charter member of the Torrance Chapter 19, CSEA, Mrs. Smith served two terms as chapter secretary and was on the membership and insurance committees for a number of years.

Prior to being employed by the Torrance school district, Mrs. Smith worked as a receptionist in an optometry office and as a secretary at Warner Brothers studios. She was one-time secretary to Sigmund Romberg and Arthur Hammerstein II.

With the exception of Dr. J. H. Hull, superintendent of schools, Mrs. Smith has been with the Torrance school district longer than any other employee.

She began her career with Torrance schools on July 1, 1947, in temporary headquarters located in a duplex office building on Torrance Boulevard. "The school district consisted of three tiny rooms and a hallway," Mrs. Smith recalls, "and the staff of five took turns sweeping up with our solitary piece of cleaning equipment — a broom."

The "staff of five" which spent that summer getting ready for the 2,000 students that were to enroll that fall was comprised of the superintendent, assistant superintendent, two secretaries, and a clerk, she explained. "Occasionally," she reminisces, "Mr. Ingram, the assistant superintendent in charge of business, brought his vacuum cleaner and all hands got busy cleaning up the offices — after hours. During the regular business day we were swamped with the work of buying pencils, paper, desks, chairs, and everything else a new district needed to equip four elementary schools and 40 teachers."

One of her earliest memories is that of preparing for board of education meetings. "Even in those days," she remembers, "the board

met the first and third Monday of every month. But in the early years, getting the agenda together was a major project for the five of us. The board members always met at 8 p.m., and the five of us frequently finished stapling the last batch of papers together and depositing them on the little table in the corner of the superintendent's tiny office at five minutes to eight."



TEACHER HONORED

Haldale PTA selected Mrs. Pauline Shearer, first grade teacher at the school, to receive its highest honor, an honorary life membership, in recognition of outstanding work with youth. At the presentation last Tuesday afternoon at the school are, from left, Mmes. David Hagthorpe, Mrs. Stella Baker, Mrs. Shearer accepting the award from Mrs. D. J. Chojnacki, honorary life membership chairman. Mrs. Hagthorpe is the daughter of Mrs. Shearer and Mrs. Baker is her mother.

Auxiliary Plans Past Prexy Tea

Final plans for their annual Past Presidents' Tea held Saturday at the home of Mrs. Carl R. Marshall, 24508 Falena, were made at the regular business meeting of Auxiliary to the Torrance Fire Dept. This meeting was held at the home of Mrs. R. E. Moffitt, 2724 Arlington Ave. with Mrs. Edward Siminich, president, in charge.

Mrs. Mark Anderson, ways and means chairman, announced that potluck dinners, field trips, a fashion show, card parties, Easter Egg Hunt, Fall Dance and other activities had been planned for each month of the year.

During the social hour refreshments were served to Mmes. Mark Anderson, John Blain, Don Lamb, Carl Marshall, J. L. Oetting, Charles Richardson, Edward Siminich, Bill Sloneker, Bruce Smith.

Also, Mmes. John Spaan, Ronald Wiener, and Silas Whitman, a guest.

Next meeting for the Auxiliary is slated for March 6 at the home of Mrs. Teddy Drake, 5016 MacAfee Rd., Torrance.

Camp Fire Girls on Busy Agenda

WaKaTa Camp Fire Girls of Arnold school elected new officers at their meeting last week at the school. Mrs. William C. Fisher is guardian of the group and Mrs. Joe Crabtree, assistant guardian.

New officers elected were Jilyn Huddleston, president; Dawn Gust, vice president; Kathi Fisher, secretary; Valerie Riggiano, treasurer. Retiring officers were Jodi Wolfinger, secretary, and Debbie Crabtree, treasurer.

Other members of the WaKaTa Camp Fire girls are Kathy Conway, Kathy Cummings, Marn Ann Czausz, Julia Horvath, Sheree Hooks, Brigitte Sicuro and Anne Willoughby.

The girls entered the Youngster's Art Exhibit sponsored by the Lawndale Monday Eves. Anne Willoughby won the first place award in the 9-year-old class. Honorable mention went to Kristi Fisher and Valerie Riggiano. The art exhibit was held at Alondra Park.

The Wakata Camp Fire Girls held their first Ceremonial on Thursday, Feb. 2 at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church in Redondo Beach. Parents were special guests when the girls received honor beads for their activities for the past four months.

Betsy Ross Club

Betsy Ross Club will meet Tuesday, Feb. 21, at the Spencer Carpet Cleaners, 20625 Hawthorne Blvd., for a tour of the plant. The group will then go to the Torrance Masonic Temple for a business meeting and luncheon. Guests are welcome. Each person will bring a sandwich.

Slates Lenten Fish Dinner

Mothers of freshman students at Serra High School will serve the annual Lenten Fish Dinner in the school cafeteria on Friday, Feb. 24, from 5:30 to 8 p.m. The campus is located at 14830 S. Van Ness Ave., in Gardena.

The general chairman for this event is Mrs. Harry Sweet. Assisting is Mrs. Albert Complan, decorations chairman, and Mrs. John Shields, kitchen chairman. Delicious Icelandic Cod will be served with special prices for children under 12.

Las Vegas Trip

Mr. and Mrs. Paul DeCuir, 3210 Merrill Dr., accompanied by their son and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Darryl DeCuir of Los Angeles, spent from Friday until Monday evening in Las Vegas. They were guests at the Riviera Hotel and attended many shows.

League Will Meet Feb. 23

Nutrition and weaning the nursing child will be the main topic of discussion at the monthly meeting of the Redondo Beach Chapter of La Leche League.

The meeting will be held at 5207 Lee St., Torrance, beginning at 8 p.m. on Feb. 23.

La Leche League, an international organization, is open to all women with a special invitation to those nursing or pregnant. One of the goals of La Leche is to help foster good mothering through breastfeeding.

Square Dance Class to Open

Swing'n Whirl Dance Club will sponsor a class for beginners every Thursday evening from 8:30 until 10:30 p.m. at 1953 1/2 W. Carson beginning Feb. 23. This class will be open for all new dancers until Feb. 23.



PATRIOTIC PROGRAM

"Voyage of the U.S.S. Constitution" is the theme of the Seaside PTA meeting set for Tuesday, Feb. 21. Speeches by five eighth grade students, costumed as past presidents; patriotic songs, the school band, and a fifty member sixth grade chorus will be featured. In the "Spirit of '76" scene are, from left, Tony Tumble, with drum; John Wilner, fife; Rocky Farquhar, flag; Dana Marks as President Lincoln and Jack Lanier as President Washington. Mrs. Pery Baker, PTA Council president, will be guest speaker. (Press-Herald Photo)

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