

**The Riviera**

**HOMEOWNERS NEWSLETTER**

DECEMBER 1972

37th EDITION



RIVIERA HOMEOWNER'S  
**CHRISTMAS PARTY**  
MONDAY DECEMBER 11  
7:00 P.M.  
PARKWAY CAFETORIUM

**JIM GAMBLE**  
AND HIS  
**PUPPETS**  
WILL ENTERTAIN  
YOUNG AND OLD.

**SANTA CLAUS SAYS  
"I'LL BE THERE TOO!"**

The party is planned specially for children up to 11 years old. Please be sure all children are accompanied by an adult.

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

### Goals Statement for the Torrance Municipal Airport Master Plan

Torrance is in the final phases of establishing goals to be utilized in the preparation of a master plan for Torrance Airport. The final goals, which should be established by the City Council in the very near future, will have a very significant impact on our community in the years to come.

A staff report which is under review by the Council Transportation committee (consisting of three of the seven members of the City Council) summarizes the position of the Planning Commission, Airport Commission and the Citizens' Advisory Committee as to what the goals should be. There is no question, after reviewing the staff report, that two opposite concepts must be resolved by the council. One concept calls for maximum economic development of the Airport as a prime objective -- the other calls for maximizing social/cultural/recreational benefits. Everyone expresses a concern regarding the environmental impact.

Your homeowners association has been following this matter very closely. RHA representatives have testified before the Airport Commission and have followed and testified before the City Council at large and the Council Transportation Committee. The primary concern expressed by RHA representatives before these groups is the probable resultant noise pollution, air pollution and safety impact on the Riviera. To date, those in favor of more air traffic have not been able to show how you can have more air traffic without degrading environmental considerations (noise pollution in particular). Therefore, the RHA is against those portions of the proposed plan which will result in additional air traffic. The Torrance Airport is already among the 15 busiest in the United States in landings and takeoffs --- we don't want to become number one.

The Torrance City Council, being an elected body, is very receptive to voter's attitudes. The RHA is representing you on this matter, but it is also very important that you make your feelings known by writing to the Mayor or Council and by attending any future public meetings on Airport Goals. Those business and other interests who want to (for whatever reason) increase air traffic are well organized and well represented. It is therefore imperative that we are the same.

Bud Skolich

### NEW RHA BOARD MEMBER

Hennig Wendt, who lives on Calle de Madrid, has joined the RHA executive board. He fills the vacancy created by the resignation of Gladys Meade earlier in the year. Welcome, Hennig, and many happy board meeting hours!

## SOUTH HIGH BAND WILL SERENADE RIVIERA

A booster club has been formed to help South High's outstanding band raise money to replace its 10 year-old worn-out uniforms. From booster club coordinator Hal Lewin in a letter to RHA - "It has been proven many times over that a community which has a school band that looks sharp, acts sharp, and plays great, unifies school and community spirit. We are soliciting your support to look sharp -- the rest we've got."

On the evenings of December 7 and December 14 from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m., band members will be touring the area to entertain residents with music of the Christmas season. Booster Club and band members will accompany the musicians soliciting donations for the band uniform fund.



An additional fund-raiser, a theater party, is scheduled for the Chapel Theater at 3 p.m., Sunday, December 10. Tickets for the play, "The Mousetrap" by Agatha Christie, can be obtained by telephoning Wilma Coy (375-7342) or Charlotte Lewin (378-6192).

## NOTES OF INTEREST TO RIVIERANS

A conditional use permit for the construction of 180 condominium apartment units to replace the Palos Verdes apartments has been approved by the Torrance Planning Commission. Though there are only 156 units on the site at present, the code would have allowed 240 units under existing zoning. The new buildings will be no higher than the present ones and there will be two parking spaces for each unit plus 31 guest parking spaces provided within the project. The commission has requested that the developers retain existing trees and shrubs wherever possible.

RHA board members who were asked by the developer to review the plans before they were presented to the city expressed general approval. RHA appreciates the cooperative spirit of the developer in maintaining the present height limit.

Last month we neglected to mention honorably Betty Elder who responded to a newsletter plea for recycling center volunteers. Thank you, Betty. Anyone else?

Watch for Torrance Rose Float Association booths at Fashion Square Mall this month. Tickets will be available for the Rose Palace bus tour, so you can see the Torrance Float being decorated, the Tournament of Roses Parade bus and reserved seat sale, and Woodsy Owl (float theme for Torrance '73 entry) promotion items will be on sale.

# An Adventure In Puppetry

To watch a performance of Jim Gamble's puppets is to enjoy one of the most charming puppet experiences in America. He has devoted over 20 years to developing his talent-hobby into the highly skilled and totally absorbing routine it is today – to the delight of audiences in Europe, Asia, the Middle East, North and South America.

But Master Puppeteer Jim Gamble is more than a popular entertainer, he is also a talented engineer-artist who has designed and built the puppets for Disneyland's Christmas "Fantasy on Parade." His puppets have been on display at National Puppetry Festivals and in 1969 were exhibited at the Smithsonian Institute, Washington D.C.

Gamble came to California in 1966 following a four year European assignment as officer and pilot with the U.S. Air Force. During his off-duty time he frequently performed for American military as well as local national audiences. Jim also appeared as guest performer on English and German television shows and in 1966 won first prize in the all Europe USAF Talent Contest. Jim is now an airline pilot flying Continental Airlines' Boeing 727's.

Gamble has a Bachelor's Degree in Aerospace Engineering and earned his Master's Degree in Aerospace Management from USC. During his college years, in order to finance his education, Jim gave frequent personal and television appearances. In 1959 he performed for his largest single audience – 75,000 football fans on the 50-yard line of the Cotton Bowl in Dallas. During the summers from 1956 to 1960 Jim entertained over a million tourists at Santa's Workshop, Colorado. During his 2000 performances there, he became well-known to countless youngsters as "Santa's Puppet Master."

In 1958, Gamble interrupted the Colorado shows to do a summer tour, under the auspices of the Methodist Church, in Bolivia and other South American countries. In addition to his shows which he gave in Spanish, he taught English and crafts in the mission schools. In 1969 Gamble was a delegate to the International Puppetry Festival in Prague, Czechoslovakia where he also performed on television. Much of the charm of Jim Gamble's marionette show results from his skillful manipulation and the spontaneous response from the audience. "Each audience is different and to create an emotional response through audience involvement is one of the highest forms of artistry," says Jim.

Jim works hard at creating a fast paced show with subtle and surprising gimmicks. He is in frequent demand throughout the Southland, performing for recreational departments, schools, fund raising events, birthday parties, and at Disneyland.

