

Former Real Estate Agent Becomes School Principal

A former real estate man will view education from a new angle this fall — as principal of Torrance's Riviera Elementary School.

Roy J. Adamson, who has viewed education as a taxpayer, parent, school board member, student, and teacher, will move up to the top spot at the Hollywood Riviera school, which has about 900 students.

A FORMER banker, aircraft employee, and real estate broker, Adamson decided about five years ago that he was "so busy trying to make money that I don't really take time to live."

For a number of years, he and his brother were associated in Adamson Realty. He was active in civic affairs, being appointed to the Hawthorne

School Board in 1951. As a result of his service on the board, he became quite interested in education and decided to become a teacher. Incidentally, he has twice been elected to the board and is still a member. He is a former president of the Centinela Valley Trustees and Administrative Council.

After graduating from Manual Arts High School in Los Angeles, he attended USC briefly but had to go to work to support his family. He returned to USC in 1955 and within 26 months had obtained a degree and the right to teach.

HE WENT to work at Torrance's Madrona School, where he taught for three years.

While teaching there, he used the knowledge he gained in business to illustrate important points in class.

Two years ago, he and his students bought a share of stock in Kaiser Aluminum, following an extensive study of the stock market. At a meeting last May, the youngsters, who are now in high school, met again for a stockholders' meeting and voted to keep their stock. The group plans to hold quarterly meetings, to discuss their project.

LAST YEAR'S class "bought" a house and studied the various transactions required to complete the deal. The house actually was owned by a parent who sells real estate, but he made all the papers available to the class.

"I think the youngsters gained a lot of practical knowledge

from studies of these things," he said. "They certainly gained an understanding of the problems and learned how to figure their mathematical problems."

Adamson said he has never regretted the transition from the business world to education.

"THEY ARE quite different worlds," he notes. "When I decided to leave the business world, I was surprised at the number of people who told me that they always had wanted to do something else than they were then working at. I was surprised how many people would rather be in another business."

Adamson lives with his wife at 210 Manor Dr., Hawthorne. They have two daughters, an eighth grader and a second grader.



TOWERS BOSS . . . The new Towers Elementary School will open its doors for the first time this fall and Roy J. Adamson will assume the duties of principal. About 475 students are expected for the first year of operation at the new school.



AT RIVIERA . . . Richard Groshong has been named principal at Riviera Elementary. Already on the job, Groshong will greet almost 900 students when school opens Sept. 14.



MOVES TO ANZA . . . Philip Korman, summer school principal at Lincoln School, will move to Anza Elementary for the new school term. Korman was one of three new principals named by the district recently.



FILLS VACANCY . . . Donald K. Duncan, former principal at Riviera Elementary, becomes District Curriculum Coordinator this fall. He fills a vacancy created by the death of Dr. W. Craig Thomas.

State Law Requires History and Government Courses in Schools

By CHARLES E. CHAPEL
46th Assembly District

A requirement for the teaching of courses in the principles of state and local government, and American ideals, in addition to American history and other essential subjects was enacted as the result of the introduction of my Assembly Bill No. 3240, which became Chapter 383, Statutes of 1951, and is currently found in Sections 10051, 10052, and 10053, of the Education Code of California. At the request of many teachers and parents I quote the law, which is simply worded and easy to understand as follows:

"SECTION 1. Section 10051 of the Education Code is amended to read:

"10051. In all public and private schools located within the State there shall be given regular courses of instruction in the Constitution of the United States and in American history, including the study of American institutions and ideals and of the principles of state and local government established under the Constitution of this State.

"SEC. 2. Section 10052 of the Education Code is amended to read:

"10052. Instruction in the courses required by Section 10051 shall begin not later than the opening of the eighth grade and shall continue in the high school course and in courses in state colleges, the universities, and educational departments of state, municipal, and private institutions, to an extent to be determined by the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

"SEC. 3. Section 10053 of the Education Code is amended to read:

"10053. No pupil shall receive a certificate of graduation from any school described in Section 10052 unless he has satisfactorily passed an examination on the courses required by Section 10051.

"A student of a college or university who after having completed a course of instruction prescribed by this article and successfully passed an examination on the courses required by Section 10051, transfers to another college or university shall not be required to complete another such course or pass an examination as a condition precedent to his graduation from the college or university."

ACTUALLY, the above law which I authored and supported until signed by the Governor, was written at the suggestion of a lady who is a member of the California Teachers Assn., the Affiliated Teacher Organization of Los Angeles, and the PTA. Since the law went into effect, many parents and teachers have complained to me that we should have specified how many hours should be spent on each subject because in some schools only a few hours are devoted to compliance with the law, whereas schools having conscientious teachers, principals, and superintendents devote many

hours to the subjects enumerated.

Those who think that "teeth" should be put into the law, specifying the hours to be devoted to each subject, are invited to write to me at P. O. Box 777, Inglewood 5, setting forth the exact amendments which they want me to introduce during the next general session of the Legislature which begins in January, 1961. The names and addresses of those writing to me will be treated as confidential and not quoted or published unless my correspondents specifically request that they be quoted. The reason for this is that anyone who takes a strong stand on any subject, regardless of its merit, immediately invites attack by two groups of people, those who sincerely agree or disagree and those who merely want to see their names in the newspaper.

IN READING the above quoted law, it should be observed that it applies to all schools in California, public or private. Some of the private schools are run for profit and are not denominational, but many of them are conducted by churches. Before I introduced the bill which became a law nearly 10 years ago, I contacted all private schools, both non-denominational and church schools. I was happy to learn that they enthusiastically supported the bill. This is the American form of government in action. When people learn to work together and understand the problems of the laws.

Breakfast Reservations Available

Advance reservations indicate that in spite of summer vacations, the "Salute to Security First National Bank" August membership breakfast of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce will be well attended, according to co-chairmen Joe Doss and Fred Hansen. The meeting will be held on Tuesday at the Masonic Lodge. Serving starts at 7:20 a.m.

Featured speaker will be Conrad C. Jameson, vice president of the Security First National Bank. Jameson, rated as one of the area's top speakers, is manager of the research department and editor of the bank's "Monthly Summary of Business Conditions in Southern California."

Torrance area businessmen were urged by Chamber President R. S. "Dick" Pyle to phone FA 8-2814 for reservations.

Gig Young to Star in Shirley Temple Show

Gig Young, whose only TV appearances have been on prestige network shows, will next star in the hour-long classic, "Prince and the Pauper," on NBC-TV's new fall series, The Shirley Temple Storybook. Show is scheduled for network airing Nov. 27.



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