

Fairs and Education Must Go Hand in Hand in State

Expectant Parents Course Offered by Red Cross Here

A Red Cross course on baby care will be offered to expectant parents at the South Bay Red Cross office, 109 Emerald St., Redondo Beach. The class will begin instruction Dec. 2. Seven classes, meeting from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., will be given on consecutive Mondays and Wednesdays by a specially trained registered nurse. Expectant parents who wish to enroll in the course should call the Red Cross at FR 2-5858. The course should be taken about two months before the baby is due, report Red Cross officials.

By VINCENT THOMAS, Assemblyman, 68th District. We Americans are learning the hard way that education is a never-ending process. From the day one of us first opens his eyes on this world to that when he last closes them, he is being educated. But too many of us still think of education as something which ought to be confined to the formative years of childhood and youth. How much this restricted view needs to be expanded was well expressed at the meeting of the Joint Legislative Committee on Fairs Allocation and Classification recently held in San Francisco. Prominent educators, experienced in fair matters, told the committee that education is the primary function of all California fairs, including the 71 maintained by districts and counties, but that they should be helped to broaden this function for the benefit of all residents.

Our California agriculture has grown until it is a \$3 billion giant, which tops the nation in physical volume and dollar value. Yet this success has been achieved in the face of a persistent decline in the number of farm workers and the acreage devoted to crops or livestock. One expert in vocational education told the meeting, "No-

where in the world is there an agricultural industry more productive—and nowhere in the world is there a system of Fairs as we have in our State." He pointed out that the job of meeting the demands for ever greater skill in all lines is a tough one, and that if we do not do it properly, our whole economy will falter.

"AS EDUCATIONAL institutions, our Fairs should join in a sustained effort to contribute to other occupations the steady, constructive learning that have been as beneficial to agriculture" he continued.

The educators were unanimous in cautioning that needed expansion of fair educational functions in the fields of industry, business and science should not be provided at the expense of agricultural training. To do so would threaten our farm pre-eminence, they warned. Instead, it was recommended that fairs make it a primary function to carry the full story of agriculture to urban centers, to tell city-dwellers how dependent they are on its well-being, and how much it benefits everybody.

THE COMMITTEE received a preliminary staff report on efforts to enlist greater business and industrial participation in the educational functions of fairs. Much interest is evident, and there is apparently a considerable wealth of informational material which could be made available, but many practical problems are foreseen, which must be carefully worked out. The advisability of setting up a statewide committee of business leaders to spearhead a suitable program was suggested.

Fair spokesmen said that some individual fairs had met with some success in attracting industrial exhibits of an educational type, but it was agreed that a strong, effective statewide program is probably necessary to benefit even just the larger fairs. Only one fair, the Los Angeles Museum of Science and Industry, has been successful in attracting major exhibits, but the Museum might be able to help other fairs.

In closing the meeting, the committee adopted a nine-point study program for its report to the 1965 session.

Harbor Office Aids Donors In Placement

The Harbor branch of the Christmas Clearing Bureau, located in the San Pedro city hall, is now open, according to Fred W. Wong, member of the board of commissioners of the Department of Social Service, Los Angeles. "The Christmas Clearing Bureau is a service provided by the department to assist in providing the widest possible spread of Christmas cheer during the holiday season," Wong said. "The bureau does not itself provide gifts; but it operates as a clearing house, checking to help donors choose families not previously selected to receive Christmas food or gifts."

Last year the bureau processed 10,810 applications for clearance. Approximately 45,155 persons were aided by this giving.

Individuals and groups can cooperate with the bureau by obtaining the proper forms from Room 203, San Pedro city hall. The service continues until noon, Dec. 24.

Library to Open, Close Hour Later

The Victoria Park Library, 18419 S. Avalon Blvd., will adjust its opening and closing schedules beginning tomorrow.

The library will open one hour later, at 2 p.m. Mondays through Fridays, and remain open an additional hour, until 9 p.m.

The adjustment was made at the request of PTA groups in the library's service area, reports county librarian William S. Geller.

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