

Pupils Discover What Makes a Man Great

By RALPH R. GOMPERTZ
When youngsters start out thinking that Elvis Presley is great but end up rejecting him and preferring Albert Einstein, something has happened. That something is called "critical thinking."
It all started when Mrs. Mary S. Long, Seaside elementary grader, "What makes a man school teacher, asked her sixth grader?"

This simple question led to an exciting study of great men to find out what qualities they possessed to make them great.

Youngsters used the following standard as their Geiger counter of greatness: has this man contributed something that will enable most or a large part of mankind to live a richer, happier life?

The study took youngsters in to every field of endeavor — science, politics, literature, music, art.

Scientific Approach
Mrs. Long calls this approach the "laboratory method of teaching" because it starts with a problem which is concrete and meaningful for every child, arousing his natural curiosity, challenging him to the fullest.

It is this personal approach which sustains the youngster's interest as he pursues the problem through the complex maze of subjects, learning as he goes along.

Pupils approached the problem like a scientific experiment, listing what they knew and then stating what they wanted to know.

They knew that there are many famous people and that there are a few great people, among them being Washington, Lincoln, Beethoven, and Salk.

They wanted to know what other great people the world has known, how greatness should be judged, what part education plays in the life of a great man, what nationality has to do with greatness, how important a person's financial background is.

Method
Then they decided on a method of approach, including, reading books, corresponding with experts in different fields, interviews, TV, motion pictures, magazines, and newspapers.

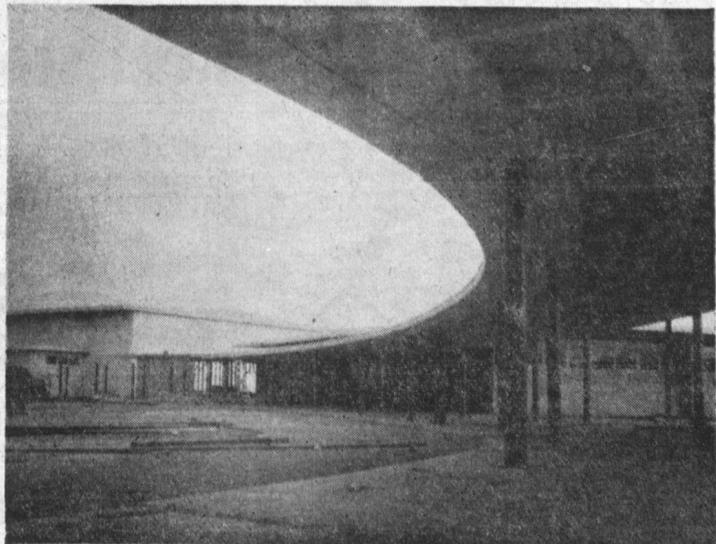
At the end of their study, Mrs. Long's pupils came up with an imposing list, representing

much individual research. In fact, the names represent pretty much the roll call of the world's great men: Chopin, Bach, Liszt, Einstein, Pasteur, Schweitzer, Salk, Shakespeare, Mark Twain, Edgar Allen Poe, Joan of Arc, Robert E. Lee, Washington.

As a result, youngsters not only learned a great deal of the world about them, but they also arrived at some significant conclusions which, Mrs. Long feels, will stand them in good stead in evaluating others and themselves from now on.

This is what they decided:

1. Great people have great thoughts — they are inspired.
2. Great people not only think great things, but they do something about or with their thoughts. They have a goal.
3. They have a love of mankind, although they do not always show it outwardly.
4. They have infinite patience and persistence.
5. They have a lot of will power.
6. They acquire knowledge.
7. They can be of any nationality.
8. They do not always have a great deal of formal schooling but it helps.
9. Many great people are not known to the world, for example, mothers, fathers, brave soldiers, teachers, etc.
10. Great people known to the world have been able to carry on with their work in spite of public criticism. This takes a special kind of greatness.
11. Great people come from all walks of life — rich, poor, average.
12. Greatness is in all men in various degrees.
13. We can all aim for greatness.



September Opening for Narbonne Hi

Official opening in September of the new Narbonne high school and the Alexander Fleming Junior high school. Grades 7, 8, and 9 will remain at this location while grades 10, 11, and 12 will move over to the brand new \$5,000,000 plant at 24300 South Western ave., Harbor City—the site of the new senior high school.

at the request of Superintendent of Schools Ellis A. Jarvis and will be effective with the opening of the fall semester on September 16.
As a result the present Narbonne high school at 25425 Walnut st. in Lomita will become the Alexander Fleming Junior high school. Grades 7, 8, and 9 will remain at this location while grades 10, 11, and 12 will move over to the brand new \$5,000,000 plant at 24300 South Western ave., Harbor City—the site of the new senior high school.

Schools Plan Open House

Public Schools Week will be observed here and throughout the nation April 29 through May 3. Local schools are planning open house as follows:

Anza Elementary, May 1, 7:30 to 9:00 p.m., Arlington Elementary, May 2, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., Carr Elementary, April 30, 7:00 to 9:15 p.m., Casimir Elementary, April 10, 7:30 to 9:15 p.m., Cranshaw Elementary, May 1, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., Edison Elementary, April 30, 7:00 p.m., El Nido Elementary, May 2, 7:30 to 8:30 p.m., Fern-Greenwood Elementary, May 2, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., Flavian Elementary, April 30, 7:30 to 9:00 p.m., Hillside Elementary, May 2, 7:30 p.m., Meadow Park Elementary, May 1, 7:30 p.m., Madrona Elementary, May 1, 7:30 to 8:30 p.m., Newton Elementary, May 2, during school day, Perry Elementary, April 25, 7:00 p.m., Riviera Elementary, May 1, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., Seaside Elementary, April 30, 7:30 to 8:30 p.m., Sepulveda Elementary, April 11, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., Steele Elementary, May 2, 7:30 to 9:00 p.m., Torrance Elementary, April 24, 7:30 to 8:30 p.m., Walteria Elementary, April 30, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m., Wood Elementary, May 2, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., Torrance High, April 9, 7:15 to 9:30 p.m.

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Provisions Made For Handicapped Students

School districts have always been concerned with the problem of educating children with physical and mental handicaps. Special classes mean special equipment, material and personnel.

The number of children per teacher may vary from 3 to 18, depending on the nature and severity of the handicap. Most individual school districts find it financially impossible to provide special classrooms for each type of handicap. Nor would there be enough school children and specially trained teachers in an individual district to warrant a class for each type of handicap: cerebral palsy, blind, partially sighted, deaf, hard of hearing, orthopaedic and delicate, the severely mentally retarded.

During the school year 1955-56 the Torrance Unified School District joined the Centinela Valley School Districts Cooperative Special Education Program at which time the name was changed to the Southwest School Districts Cooperative

Special Education Program.

This group includes Hawthorne, Inglewood, Lawndale, Lennox, Wiseburn, Torrance and the Centinela Valley Union High School District. In order to acquaint the community with the educational needs of the handicapped child a Lay Advisory Committee on Special Education was organized in 1948. This committee is composed of both lay and professional members from each district who meet monthly to discuss and evaluate the special programs.

At the present time there are approximately 57 Torrance children attending classes in the elementary and secondary cooperative special education program. Special classes located in Torrance include the Partially Sighted Class for elementary age children at Perry Elementary school, the Partially Sighted and Blind Class at North High school and the two classes

Open House at Fire Stations

Open house will be held at the various Torrance fire stations Saturday May 4 which has been proclaimed as "Fire Service Day." Stations will be open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Receives Public Relations Post

The Los Angeles Division of North American Aviation, Inc., announced the appointment of South Bay resident Richard Barton to its Public Relations staff.



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Dabbs Seeks Re-Election to EC Board

Jack Dabbs, Torrance resident since 1938, will seek re-election, unopposed, to El Camino college's board of trustees in the May 17 election.

Dabbs, who was elected to the board July 1, 1954, has served as its president since July 1, 1955.

He was the only candidate filing for the office at closing time last Wednesday, according to County Superintendent of Schools.

In private life Dabbs is general manager of M&M Theaters, which include the Stadium and Torrance theaters here. He is also owner of the Jack N. Dabbs Insurance Co.

Dabbs and his wife, Margaret, are the parents of three children, Janice, 15; Stephen, 11, and Marilyn, 8.

Included on the May ballot will be a measure to continue the present 20-cent override tax to permit the continuation of the college's pay-as-you-go building program.

The override is for five-year period and will permit the construction of new classrooms, a men's gym, additions to the library and book store, shops and laboratories.

El Camino has no bonded indebtedness.

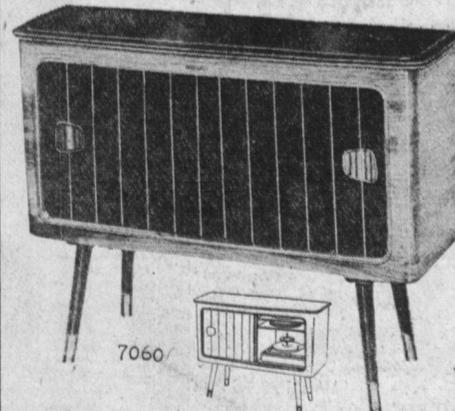
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