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Education Draws Former Realtor

Education from a new angle will encounter Roy J. Adamson, former real estate man, who will head Torrance's Riviera Elementary School as principal this year.

Adamson has viewed education as a taxpayer, parent, school board member, student and teacher, and now will take the top-notch view of Riviera, which has approximately 900 students enrolled.

A former banker, aircraft firm employee, and real estate broker, Adamson decided about five years ago that he was "so busy trying to make money that I didn'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 was twice been re-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 teacher's credential.



TOAST TO FREEDOM—Members of the Burkhardt family, escapees from East Germany, (l. to r.) Mr. and Mrs. Kurt and Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Burkhardt, upon attainment of their goal, a Bit of Germany in America, drink to freedom. The family, escapees from East Germany, has set up a restaurant at 1304 1/2 S. Pacific Coast Highway.

German Family Settles Here Following Escape

"A Bit of Germany" in a free country was the dream of Elmer Burkhardt, 31, escapee from Communist East Germany, who fled from the country in 1953 to bring a touch of his homeland to America.

Burkhardt, who owns the Bit of Germany restaurant, 1304 1/2 S. Pacific Coast Hwy., left Germany despite the fact that his restaurant was doing well behind the Iron Curtain.

Kurt Burkhardt, father of the young Burkhardt, who came with him to America, once owned a large restaurant in Saxony, East Germany.

In a drive to "set out for freedom," the Burkhardts, after deciding they could no longer stand the conditions in Germany, went to East Berlin and sneaked across the border to West Berlin, from where they were flown out by the allied powers.

The young Burkhardt worked in a West Germany coal mine for one year to save money to come to America.

After coming to the South Bay area, which was recommended to the family by a fellow passenger, Burkhardt worked for five years to get enough money to open his restaurant.

The establishment, "my dream come true," is decorated in authentic German decor.

Burkhardt, who has a wife and two daughters, smiled, "now we have our own place in a free country."

Local SARC Chapter Sponsors Candidate
The Southwest Association for Retarded Children will hold its meeting Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. in the Alondra Park Recreation building on Manhattan Beach Blvd.

Miss Wendy Moore of Torrance, SARC's candidate for Queen of the Lawndale Fiesta Days, will be a guest at the meeting.

Mrs. A. Gileck, chairman of the teenage activities program, held an outdoor potluck dinner Aug. 25 in the Lennox Recreation Center. After the meal, children and parents participated in games.

The SARC plans to man two booths at the Lawndale Fiesta Days.

Conducting a "Get Out and Vote" drive, members of Torrance Democrats Incorporated have opened their local headquarters from noon to 9 p.m., with a full-time registrar working therein.

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He went to work at Torrance's Madrona School, where he has taught for the past three years.

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 now are 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 in real estate who 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 doing. I was surprised how many people would rather be in another business."

Democrats Slate 'Go Vote' Drive

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