

School District Uses Summer to 'Clean House'

Summer is to a school district what Springtime is to a housewife — time to clean house. In the Torrance district that means picking up after 30,000 youngsters.

To LeRoy Aldershof, director of operations, August is the time to scrape the floors, scrub down the walls, and wash the windows.

Assisting Aldershof in the year-round job of maintaining the grounds and buildings at 37 schools are 42 groundsmen, 37 maintenance men and 179 custodians. Not only do they keep the schools and playgrounds in shape, but they keep the equipment

used by students and staff in running order.

Included in the operations crew are gardeners, carpenters, electricians, painters, plumbers, locksmiths, glaziers, and repair men. Their duties range from seeding lawns to building benches. Among their activities are such things as filling fire extinguishers, constructing cabinets, painting signs and fixing everything from typewriters to coffee pots.

LAST YEAR members of the grounds and maintenance crew mowed enough lawns to fill 6,000 back yards, waxed

enough floors to take care of every kitchen in Torrance, (and used 4,440 gallons of wax to do the job), and laid enough blacktop to form a path from Torrance to San Francisco. If all the lines striped on that blacktop were laid end to end, it would reach to Cedar City, Utah.

When the children leave the classroom, the maintenance men move in. Come summertime, they change the rusty water in restroom pipes, check the gas lines, give the heaters their annual once-over, and fertilize the lawns.

They clean every room

from ceiling to floor — literally. Light fixtures get washed, floor wax is removed, and windows get shined. Summer is the time to recharge fire extinguishers, sand down weather-beaten lunch tables, oil the adding machines, projectors and record-players that will go back into classroom use come September.

THIS SUMMER the maintenance men are painting signs for new bleachers at South High and adding mailboxes for additional teachers at Torrance High as well.

In the course of a year

anywhere from 18,000 to 20,000 work orders pass through Aldershof's hands. With the district six years, Aldershof has been involved in construction work all his life. Prior to coming to Torrance, he traveled for the government from the North Pole to South America. He was involved in every form of heavy construction from building airports to building construction. For 11½ months he was on the ice caps of Greenland building an Air Force base.

Housed in two warehouses on Plaza del Amo, the maintenance department is com-

prised of several shops and storerooms. There is a carpentry shop, a glass shop, an electrical repair shop, a plumbing shop and a paint shop.

Soon heavy housecleaning will be done and children will be back in school. And as in any household, Aldershof and his men can settle down to the day-by-day routine of keeping up with the children. And since the family is a growing one, there will be a few more faces around — 2,000 more to be exact. The "routine" will merely be a matter of picking up after 32,000 youngsters.



MAINTENANCE CREW . . . August was the busiest month of the year for members of the maintenance crew of the Torrance Unified School District. The crew must get every classroom in the district ready for use this month. In addition to the crew pictured here, the district has custodians, groundsmen, and other maintenance people at the individual schools. The crews are responsible for the repair of nearly all property owned by the district, from broken projectors to broken chairs and desks.

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Principals To Attend Workshops

Torrance principals will attend a series of reading workshops this fall to familiarize them with latest thinking of top educators on remedial reading techniques and programs.

Four of the workshops will feature presentations by experts in the field. One will deal with screening children for reading ability, and one will preview tape recordings used at a recent UCLA summer workshop.

Meetings are tentatively set for 3 p.m. Oct. 6, Oct. 27, Nov. 24, Dec. 8, Jan. 26 and Feb. 23.

Guest speakers will include: Dr. Charles M. Brown, director of the reading center at the University of Southern California; Dr. Marianna Frostig, director of the Frostig School of Education Therapy; Dr. Jo Stanchfield of the department of education at Occidental College; and Mrs. Madeline Hunter, principal of the University Elementary School, UCLA.

Added emphasis will be given to remedial reading in Torrance schools this fall with the opening of eight remedial reading centers for children who are two or more years behind in reading.

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