



MERIT AWARD . . . Newly elected Los Angeles County Branch, American Cancer Society board members, Richard J. Lescoe, M.D. of Torrance, left, and Mrs. Porter B. Marsh, right, congratulate Mrs. H. G. Vernon, center, on receiving the American Cancer Society National Certificate of Merit as office volunteer, at the 1964 annual meeting held at the Beverly Hills Hotel.

Concert Season Opens

Civic Symphony Thrills 'First Night' Audience

The Civic Symphony opened the 1964-65 musical season at Torrance High School.

The audience greeted conductor, Elyse Aehle, the orchestra, and the soloists with hearty and well-deserved enthusiasm.

It is amazing to find such a large orchestra, made up of musicians of the highest caliber, outside of the metropolitan district. This orchestra is the type one might expect to hear only in Philharmonic centers.

After the concert, a mother was heard to remark, "Now my children can go home and play the records of these numbers and remember how they sound and appeared done by 'live' musicians. This orchestra sounds as good as the greatest symphonies which we hear on records."

THE NEW WORLD Symphony was given a brilliant and emotionally compelling reading by the conductor, Elyse Aehle. She showed herself to be a master, thoroughly familiar with Dvorak's intentions, and possessed of the

power to inspire her musicians to produce a great performance. In "Show Boat" and "Mardi Gras" she was equally at home, displaying her familiarity with the lilting melody of the Mississippi River.

The artistry of Florence Lahmeyer in "Granadina" brought the program to a high point of achievement beyond the audience's expectation. They were loath to let her stop even after she encored with Le Cyne by St. Saens.

A DARK Spanish beauty playing the flute furnished another high spot on the program.

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Yolanda Hansen of Torrance produces one of the most beautiful of tones, a quality of which was ideally suited to Debussy's "Syrinx" which she played very well indeed. Both the soloists are members of the Civic Symphony.

The last and most charming offering on this excellent program was "The Girifolk," a group of high school girls who sang three very amusing and interesting folk songs in a surprisingly professional manner. The audience loved them. They had been trained by Carol McDougal who also accompanied them. — VERA MILLS

New Language Teaching Program Begins in City

A group of Torrance sixth-grade students will study Spanish this year from programmed textbooks and tape recordings as part of a state-wide pilot program on ways to teach Spanish.

Participating in the research project together with students from 24 other California schools will be students

of Mrs. Bonnie Cook and R. V. Freeman at Steele Elementary School. The district was invited to take part in the program by the State Department of Education.

Purpose of the project is to determine effectiveness of the method and programmed materials. Materials were developed by Encyclopedia Bri-

tannica, according to Mrs. Margaret Collin, curriculum consultant.

Each student will be issued programmed textbooks, a tape recorder, and a set of 42 tapes. He will receive his instructions from his book and tapes, and will learn at his own pace.

Included in the state research project will be field

tests of two other teaching methods.

The pilot program at Steele School is expected to get underway this month.

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