

PRESS-HERALD—PRESS-JOURNAL & HARBOR MAIL

REAL ESTATE

AND

Home Improvement NEWS

Pioneer Newspaper Plant Now Being Reconstructed

The reconstruction of the Columbia Gazette, pioneer newspaper started during California's Gold Rush, is scheduled for completion in May.

The completion date was announced by state officials when they gathered with representatives of the California Newspaper Publishers Association at Columbia State Park in Tuolumne County for a ground breaking ceremony to start the project earlier this month.

Reconstruction of the two-story structure is a joint project of the two groups. In a statewide fund campaign directed by James A. Wood, assistant general manager of Peninsula Newspapers, Inc., CNPA raised \$12,500 to match a state appropriation. The state has since added another \$8,000 to make a total of \$33,000 available for the project.

THE TRADITIONAL turning of the first soil took place on a site between two other reconstructed landmarks in the living Gold Rush community — The Fallon House Theatre and the Eagle Cottage.

Representing CNPA was its president, Jack Craemer, of the San Rafael Independent Journal, Fund Drive Chairman Wood, Harvey C. McGee, publisher of the nearby Sonora Daily Union Democrat, and Harold I. Segerstrom, of Sonora, credited with first proposing the reconstruction effort as a CNPA project.

Representing the state were Fred Jones, director, California Department of Parks and Recreation; State Senator Stephen Teale, of West Point; Orvel Johnson, reconstruction expert with the division of architecture; Buck Nelson, division of architecture, supervisor at Columbia; Clyde Newlin, of Stockton, district supervisor for benches and parks, and Neal Power, Columbia Park Superintendent.

AT THE ceremony, Craemer stressed the project's importance as recognition of California's colorful newspaper history and read a message from Kenneth M. Castro of Murphys, vice president of the Calaveras County Society of California Pioneers, which said:

"This reconstruction and the historic materials the building will house, will add to the heritage of our state and to the Gold Rush towns as it stood when pioneers were coming in."

Wood said that completion of the building would be marked by a dedication ceremony.

Plans call for a two-story structure with the upper floor — at street level — housing the pioneer newspaper plant, authentic in design, equipment, and furnishings. Antique printing equipment will be displayed in a museum on the lower floor.

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Are Taxes On Homes Too High?

I have owned and sold millions of dollars worth of real property in the last several years. Every day I become more confused over the white, red, and black invoice called a tax bill which I receive around Nov. 2 of each year. I have made an honest effort to understand assessed valuation, tax rates, and the mechanics necessary to compute a tax bill. I usually do pretty well until I begin comparing it with other property which is comparable. At this point I give up for fear if I pursue it, I'll surely end up in the bug house.



FRED L. FREDERICKS

hope someone does before it's too late. The power to tax is the power to destroy.

Astronomy Class Set At School

WE CAN ALL appreciate the complex job of the County Assessor and make allowances for errors which are sure to happen, but why so many? Or are there really so many? I couldn't count the times I have seen gross inequities in the tax bill. I recall one situation where we sold a building for \$23,500 and were lucky to get that; the taxes were \$645 per year.

We recently sold a tract of new homes in North Torrance for approximately \$40,000. We estimated the taxes high at \$800. The first tax bill was \$1,250 — can you imagine, over \$100 per month for taxes?

Adults who enroll in an evening class in astronomy, to be offered during the spring semester at Torrance Evening High School, will be able to augment classroom experiences with direct observation of the skies.

Charles Pillet, instructor for the class, said the class will spend some time around the newly installed telescope at Torrance High. The class is designed for laymen.

In addition to using the telescope, students will hear speakers on meteorology, geology, and astronomy, take field trips, and view slides and films.

The class, which began Monday, will meet each Monday and Wednesday from 7 to 9:30 p.m. Sessions will be held at Torrance High School, 2200 W. Carson St.

YWCA Ski Club Slates Dance Friday Night

LIKE MOST PEOPLE, when I received all those nice yellow envelopes this year, I didn't even bother to see where my money was going. It would put me in a bad mood and I couldn't do anything about it anyway.

I think this is where the trouble lies. The apathy toward serious problems. Home ownership is one of the most important assets of our country. We had better protect it, for if we don't we are sure to lose it. Property taxes are dangerously high.

I AM AMUSED when we occasionally hear from our politicians regarding taxes. The latest suggestion was to put a 2 per cent ceiling on property taxes. This would not reduce taxes, but would allow an increase when needed. Let's talk about reducing taxes, not putting a ceiling on them.

Taxes are certainly necessary; however I cannot help thinking there must be a better way. The money from property taxes benefits everyone in a community, not just the property owners. I don't have the answer but let's

The Torrance YWCA Ski Club will sponsor a dance for sixth, seventh, and eighth graders Friday from 7 to 11 p.m.

The dance will be held at the YWCA building, 2320 W. Carson St.

Admission is 75 cents per person.

DISEASES NOTED

One case each of gonorrhea, scarlet fever, and tuberculosis were reported in Torrance for the week ending Jan. 15, the Los Angeles County Health Department has announced.

Mobil Oil to Consolidate Western Producing Regions

Mobil Oil Company today announced it will consolidate its Los Angeles, Houston, Midland, and Denver, Exploration and Producing Divisions into three new regions, with

headquarters at Los Angeles, Houston and Denver.

The company's 28 exploration or producing district offices in the United States will be consolidated into six new divisions with headquarters at Midland and Corpus Christi, Texas; New Orleans and Shreveport, La.; Oklahoma City, Okla., and Casper Wyo.

Each new division will be headed by a general manager who will be responsible for both exploration and producing. There will be no districts within the divisions.

The announcement was made locally by L. C. Stevens, presently vice president in charge of the Los Angeles Exploration and Producing Division. Stevens has been named vice president of the new West Coast Region at Los Angeles.

The change will become effective April 1, according to J. D. Moody, a Mobil executive vice president and head of the company's Exploration and Producing Department.

Moody said the consolidation is being made to improve Mobil's competitive position for the future.

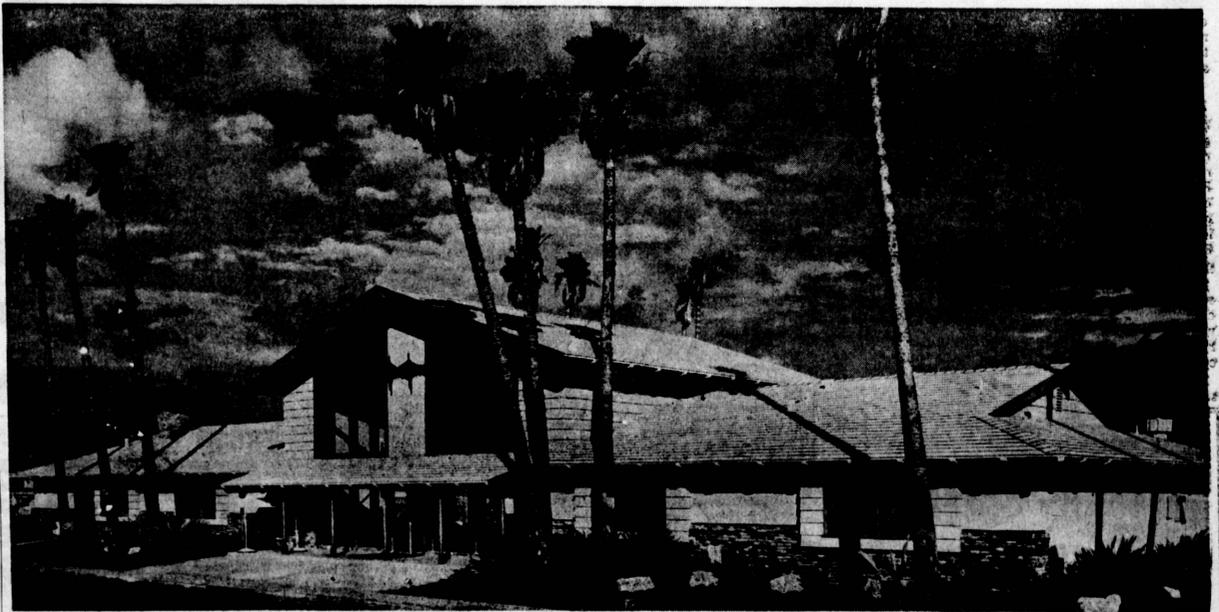
Class Set In Public Speaking

A class in public speaking is being offered for adults by the Torrance Evening High School this spring, Raymond Collins, principal, has announced.

The class, which began this week, will meet from 7 to 9 p.m. each Monday. Sessions will be held in room 205 at Torrance High School.

Instructor Gary Mitchell will emphasize the fundamentals of effective public speaking, including development of the voice, vocabulary, diction and poise, and organization and delivery of material.

Students may register at the first meeting tomorrow.



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