

OPENING OF SCHOOLS

# Principals Talk About Problems of First Day

What goes into the opening of a school? With the opening of 36 elementary and five high schools in Torrance just completed, this question was probed by an elementary and high school principal at the first fall meeting of the Educational Council of Torrance.

The luncheon, which was attended by 150 community leaders, took place at the Torrance Recreation Center.

FEATURED speakers were Edward Richardson, principal of Parkway Elementary School, and Dr. Richard Guengerich, principal of North High School.

Comparing the opening of a school to the introduction of new car models, Richardson said planning involves

both short-term and long-term aspects.

Long-term planning, which involves such things as introducing Spanish to sixth graders or a new approach to teaching English, begins far in advance of the date it is actually put into practice, Richardson said.

EVEN SHORT-TERM planning starts as early as the January preceding the fall semester, he stated. Early in the year it is necessary to have some idea of how many children will be attending school the following year so that the school administration will know how many classrooms will be needed and how many teachers it will need to hire.

Of special importance, he stated, is Spring Round-up

when parents of new Kindergarten students pre-register their youngsters. At this time, not only does the principal learn how many new students to anticipate, but the youngsters and their parents form their first impression of school.

Once the principal has hired his teachers and decided which grade levels to assign them, he begins work on the hundred and one items that make the school wheels go round, Richardson said.

HE MAKES OUT schedules, assigns pupils to classes, establishes lunch hours, orders supplies and equipment and sees to it that they get to where they are needed; he inventories his textbooks, and gets things ready for his auxiliary personnel — the speech teacher, the nurse, the psychologist, the counselor, the music teachers, the teacher aides, the teacher assistants, and the custodians.

Finally, Richardson stated, the preparation process involves orienting the staff to the philosophy of the school district.

At the high school level, Dr. Guengerich stated, the opening of school is a problem of logistics. This year at North High, he said, logistics involved preparation for 2,750 youngsters with a staff of 17 custodians, 12 cafeteria workers, 15 clerical personnel, and 135 teachers and administrators.

with each freshman and his parents to discuss his overall four-year academic and vocational goals.

FOR THE principal, the weeks of pre-programming involve preparing a master schedule of classes which reflect every type of curriculum innovation or activity that will be featured during the school year and which meets the individual needs of every student.

Included in this program are 600 sections on four grade levels offered by the 15 different instructional departments. These must be scheduled between 7:30 a.m. and 3:45 p.m. five days a week. The result at North High this year, Dr. Guengerich stated, was 16 pages of offerings with teacher names, courses, room numbers, and enrollment figures for each class.

To help new teachers become part of the school, the principal writes a personal letter to each new teacher about a month before his arrival. When the teacher ar-

rives, he is given a teacher handbook outlining the necessary legal and "house-keeping" details, and he is familiarized with the school at informal meetings, campus tours, and a buffet luncheon served by the clerical staff.

BY THE TIME the freshmen arrive, the faculty and student service organizations have received their assignments for freshman orientation day. On this day the ninth graders have the school to themselves. They are issued textbooks, lockers, and class schedules, and are told what to expect of high school life.

The months of preparation culminate on the first day of school, Dr. Guengerich said.

What does the start of school signify to the principal and his staff?

"We look forward to that first day of school," Dr. Guengerich said. "It's a new school year! There are new problems to solve! And the satisfaction of seeing youth absorb knowledge, gain new insights, and mature into fine young men and women with a quest for conquering the unknown is a benefit we obtain daily — something the average adult may never obtain at his work."

## ARMED FORCES

Seaman David L. Craig, through high school. Today there are more than 500 children attending high school with financial assistance from the operation.

The contribution from the Terrell County will pay for complete high school education for two children and assist a third.

Airman S.G. Robert W. Lee, son of Mr. and Mrs. Cleo R. Lee of 213 S. Irena, Redondo Beach, has received the Air Medal at Kelly AFB, Tex. for air action in Southeast Asia.

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## Excursion Train Run To Fiesta Scheduled

A special train will run from Los Angeles to San Pedro Sunday, Oct. 15, over Santa Fe Railway's freight-only Harbor Branch Line, reaching the port by way of

Pack 211-C Names New Cubmaster

Steve Skromeda has been elected cubmaster of Cub Scout Pack 211-C of Torrance. His assistant will be Dick Inman, while Paul Tokashiki will serve as Webelos cubmaster.

Other new officers include Bill Dobbert, chairman; Ray Stewart, secretary; Bill Steinleitner, treasurer; Bale Kerkstressor, neighborhood commissioner; and Mrs. Richard Walsh, membership chairman.

The pack held a picnic at Cubland during its September meeting and plans a Halloween party at the Howard Wood School during the October meeting.

The pack is composed of boys who live in the Howard Wood School area.

Inglewood, Torrance, and Wilmington.

The train will carry an open-door baggage car, snack car, lounge car, and open-platform observation car. Passengers will have reserved seats in lightweight, streamlined coaches.

At San Pedro excursionists will visit the Ports of Call and Whaler's Wharf, an interesting area of unique shops and eating places. A feature of the day will be an opportunity to view the colorful spectacle of the harbor's annual Fishermen's Fiesta, highlighted by a procession of fishing boats, gaily decorated for this event.

The train leaves Los Angeles Union Station at 9 a.m. and is scheduled to return in late afternoon. Roundtrip fares are announced at \$8.45 for adults and children's tickets cost \$4.75. For further information contact any Santa Fe ticket office.

Reduce Prices

Fansteel Metallurgical Corp., headquartered in Chicago, Ill., has announced a 6 per cent reduction in the price of refractory metal alloy used extensively in aerospace and missile fabrications.

TO PREPARE the physical plant for the opening of school, summer is a time of thorough housecleaning, he said. Not only are walls scrubbed, floors waxed, and windows cleaned; but lighting fixtures must be taken down and washed, furniture must be reconditioned, and a great deal of furniture must be moved.

Months before all this takes place however, Dr. Guengerich pointed out, preparations for the fall semester began with the counseling of returning students on their tentative program of classes for fall, and initial group meetings with freshman students and their parents.

During the summer months, individual meetings are held

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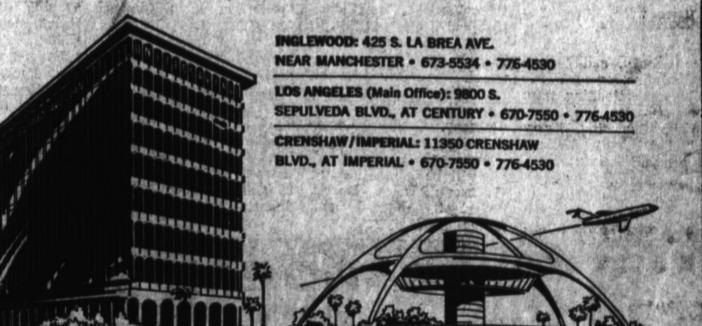
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