

PTA Lends Hand to Area Head-Start Program



NAUTICAL ADVENTURE

It's a ship's crow's nest and you have to climb a chain ladder to get there. It's a trip into fantasyland for these pre-schoolers who are enjoying the adventure. They are, in the crow's nest, Cathy McGuigan, 4, and Lorna Boychock, 3½, ducking from the photographer. Mrs. Hazel Mayhorn, Adams PTA member, is captain.



USING CREATIVE TALENTS

Creativity in the pre-schooler is an important phase in the program for the Head Start youngster and clay, crayons, pencils and other craft items have been supplied by the PTA. Working the clay into "something fabulous" is four-year-old Cheryl Lewis.

Parent cooperation became a major factor in the expansion and development of the Head Start Program in the South Bay area when the Torrance Parent and Teacher Association decided to put its shoulder to the wheel to assist pre-school children with preparations for their school days.

The first Project Head Start meeting was called Oct. 19, 1966 and was attended by representatives from 10 PTA units. Present at this meeting to plot the adoption of sites and to outline material assistance for the sites, since financial help is forbidden by the PTA policy, were Mes. Gene Voorhees, pre-school chairman for the Torrance PTA Council; Mary Michel, community co-ordinator for the Los Angeles Federation of Settlements and Neighborhood Centers; Perry Baker, president of Torrance

PTA Council; and Stuart Angus, director of education, Torrance Council.

The type and quantity of materials and method of collecting and delivery were worked out by individual PTAs and Head Start teachers. The adopting PTA agreed to publicize the need for adult help in Head Start classrooms, also to try to furnish transportation for occasional field trips and picnics for the head start children.

Mrs. Voorhees also put out a plea for units to cooperate in stocking the Cheer Centers with clothing, furniture, household items, canned food and staples. She also asked for volunteers to work at the Cheer Center and her pleas were met with overwhelming enthusiasm.

PTA units and their sites chosen were Adams, St. Martin's Site; Anza, Northeast

Wilmington; Calle Mayor, Keystone; Carr, Toberman Settlement House and two classes at the First Methodist Church, Hawthorne; Hamilton, Hammerton Tract; Jefferson, Mormont Terrace; Madrona, Mt. Sinai; Riviera, Harbor Hills;

Others were Parkway, Avalon Village; Victor, Mona House on the St. Martin's site; and Hickory, New Testament, Mormont Terrace.

The eleven PTA units adopting sites were given a certificate of recognition by the Los Angeles Area Federation of Settlement and Neighborhood Centers, at the May Brunch.

The PTA units collected and delivered items according to the needs of their sites, some greater than others.

Accomplishments recorded during the past year were Christmas and Valentine parties by Adams PTA; Halloween costumes, a party,

and a Santa Claus at Christmas by the Anza PTA unit.

Calle Mayor PTA furnished a Christmas party with toys, books and a stove and provided two volunteers, two days a week while the Carr PTA, with two sites, furnished 15 dolls, doll clothing, cribs for a doll corner, an electric Emony hand organ, three phonographs, toys and dress-up clothes. At Easter, the Carr students made 30 baskets for Toberman, and 15 baskets for Hawthorne; PTA mothers made doll clothes and collected books.

Hamilton PTA staged drives for records, books, toys, Christmas candy and fruit. At the end of the school year, each child was presented with a gift-wrapped book.

A sewing machine for the Mothers' Class at the Mt. Sinai site was provided by

Madrona PTA, who also supplied crayons, paper, paints, fish bowl, rug, doll cradles, books, office table, Christmas tree and 25 large dolls, which were dressed by 30 PTA members. Harbor Hills was the recipient of toys, games, blankets, clothing, books, canned goods and live mice given by the Riviera PTA and the Avalon Village project received Christmas stockings, stuffed animals, toys, IBM cards, felt, games, books, clothing and a bookcase from Parkway PTA.

Victor and Hickory PTA gathered games, clothes, jewelry, books and toys for the Mona House and the New Testament site on Norment Terrace.

Approximately 400 pre-school children have been helped directly by the units of the Torrance Council Parent-Teacher Association.



POPULAR DOLL CORNER

All little girls love dolls and with this in mind, the Evelyn Carr PTA collected 15 dolls for the school's Doll Corner. Doll clothes and cribs were also donated. Having a happy time in Doll Corner are Mrs. Wilford Wilcox, a member of the Evelyn Carr PTA, with Susan Garrity and Tany Hill, both 4 years old.

Photos by Hal Fisher

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SPACE AGE INTRIGUE

This space age rocket, one of many toys, games and other items supplied by Victor and Hickory PTAs, holds the attention of several youngsters. Hearing the "rocket story" as told by Mrs. Ronald Piccirillo, Hickory PTA, right, and Mrs. Herbert Heher, Victor PTA, are four-year-olds Cheryl Lewis and Ernie Jaurez.



EDUCATIONAL PLAYTIME

Coordination is taught the pre-schooler in the game department where he spends his time building. Patrick Shey, 4, shows Mrs. Robert Olson of Hamilton PTA how he can build with blocks, while Mrs. C. W. Martin, also of Hamilton, plays tinkertoys with Susan Garrity.



IN SESSION WITH THE TEACHER

Looking over the files of past accomplishments and outlining needs of the future are, from left, Mrs. Elroy Wittrock, director of education, Torrance Council PTA, chatting with Mrs. Sue Cotter, head teacher at the Hawthorne Methodist Church Head Start Program, in the background, Mrs. Gene Voorhees, who served as Council pre-school program chairman last year, talking over the activities with Mrs. Gus Cochrane, her successor.