

COUNTY REPORT

Construction Projects Attract the Pre-Teens

By BURTON W. CHACE
County Supervisor

Summer time is fun time for youngsters, but it can also be "danger time."
Most parents think of beaches and swimming pools as the danger area for youngsters, and this is so if they haven't been taught to swim. But there's another danger area which attracts youngsters during the idle summer months, particularly children in the pre-teenage bracket — hazardous construction projects.

Because of the heavy building activity in public and private building programs, construction projects pose an attractive nuisance in most neighborhoods.

LOS ANGELES County and most private builders do everything reasonably possible to protect youngsters from construction hazards. The county fences in most jobs and regularly patrols others and advises our contractors to do the same.

But a fence cannot be built high enough to keep determined youngsters away from equipment, dangerous excavations and so on. Only their parents can do this.

Parents can take advantage of work schedule announcements which the county engineer distributes in neighborhoods where county construction is scheduled. Notices are distributed just prior to the start of work.

This practice is unusual, however, and parents should take it upon themselves to learn schedules of private construction in their neighborhoods so they can better protect their children.

COUNTY supervisors, on my motion, have endorsed a bill pending before the State Legislature which would create a Southern California Beach Study Commission.

The commission would help to preserve and enhance the state's shoreline, one of its finest assets.

The concept of a beach committee is an excellent one and has been brought into sharp focus by the recent threat of oil-slick damage to our precious shoreline.

THE IDEA underscores the county's position in creating a Department of Beaches to protect and improve our beaches. Everything possible must be done to preserve them for the best use by the public.

A state commission would provide a coordinated approach in dealing with the

problem of beach protection. The Assembly bill, if approved, would require the commission to complete its report in January, 1971.

The group would be comprised of nine members. Appointments to the commission would be by the Senate Rules Committee, two members; Assembly Speaker, two members; Governor, three members; Senate, one member; and Assembly, one member.

COMPOSER-conductor Lalo Schifrin will be the guest conductor in Hollywood Bowl during the final judging event of the county's 10th annual Battle of the Bands June 27.

Schifrin will conduct teenage musicians through a medley of his compositions and lead them in accompanying vocalists and vocal groups. The musical competition is sponsored by the County Department of Parks and Recreation.

Music and singing will commence at 8:30 p.m. when more than 150 top-scoring finalists in five divisions — dance band, school dance band, combo, vocal soloist, and vocal group — will compete for trophies.

Ticket information may be obtained by phoning the County Parks and Recreation Battle of the Bands Unit at the Hollywood Bowl, 463-2326. General admission is \$1.50, with reserved seats for \$3.

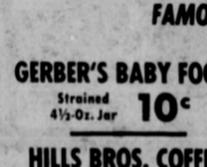


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