

All-Youth Symphony Issues Call for Young Musicians

Twenty-one years ago, on Jan. 22nd, 1937, a group of four youngsters under the leadership of Conductor Ernst H. Katz met for the first time to found a musical aggregation of national repute—The California All-Youth Symphony Orchestra.

To mark this noteworthy event Founder-Conductor Katz has just announced that the annual try-outs for membership in the California All-Youth Symphony for all greater Torrance area teenage musicians will be held beginning today and will continue for seven days through Feb. 12th.

Boys and girls, between the ages of 12 and 19, residing in this area and playing violin, viola, cello, bass, flute, oboe, clarinet, alto sax, bassoon,

trumpet, trombone, French horn, tuba, drums, tympani, or piano are invited to call WEBster 8-0048 and an audition will be set.

Wide-Influence

The California All-Youth Symphony Orchestra, whose slogan is "Give Youth a Chance To Be Heard," is a non-commercial civic youth organization with personnel drawn from over 30 communities in Southern California from Santa Barbara to San Diego. There is no audition fee or membership charge for joining this outstanding musical youth group.

A new concertmaster for the symphony will also be chosen during these current auditions. This most coveted post in the orchestra will be won by some outstanding young violinist capable of performing solos and concerti and will be judged by three of the country's foremost concertmasters. Honored Often

The 100-piece California All-Youth Symphony has been the recipient of many national and international citations of merit and holds 10 special commendations from the Los Angeles County board of supervisors.

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PICKING OUT BOOKS . . . Looking over a selection of books in the Seaside PTA's lending library, oldest in the city, are (front) Daise Lawson and Melvin Soliday, (rear) Randy Whyte, Mrs. Alex Rosin, Genevie Rosin, and Mrs. John Whyte. At Seaside, children in the fourth through eighth grades have a chance to check out books, although in some other schools it is handled differently. (Herald Photo)

Parents Help Schools Help Junior Enjoy His Reading

How and what Junior and Susie read is a big concern to their fathers and mothers, these days, and PTA parents in Torrance are helping the schools to help their children enjoy reading.

Parents have cooperated with local educators at 17 of the Torrance Unified School District's 22 elementary schools, to set up PTA-sponsored libraries filled with books for recreational reading.

Since the school district does not have central libraries for each elementary school, PTA libraries give the children a chance to browse through books of the non-textbook variety, according to Mrs. Nicholas Fedoruk, Torrance PTA Council library chairman.

Many Books

The libraries are filled with books that kiddies like—animal stories, mysteries, and the current race, space stories and science fiction. There are sports stories for the boys and romances for the girls. Non-fiction of various types also well-read, according to Mrs. Fedoruk.

The project started in 1949 at Seaside School, where a group of parents decided that their children needed more recreational reading. Schoolbooks in the district could not be checked out at that time, due to a limited supply, and the city libraries were not located close by, according to Mrs. J. W. Whyte, who helped set up the Seaside library and has helped several other schools to set up similar facilities.

Idea Spread

The idea spread rapidly until today all but five schools have PTA libraries. They range in size from small collections at some of the city's newer schools to 1600 books and 390 magazines at Casimir School.

Most of the PTA libraries charge the youngsters for overdue books, on the theory that it teaches children good library habits. Some of the libraries received books from the county library, to supplement their own collection.

In most cases, the volumes were obtained through book drives at the school and aided by purchases with funds allotted in the PTA budget. Some mothers have become quite "in seeking out places where bargains may be found."

Many Methods

Different methods are used for book check-outs at the various schools, depending on conditions. At some, mothers come every day; while at others, check-outs are available only one or two days.

Seaside School has tried several different methods in the nine years of its existence. At first, Mrs. Whyte and other mothers pushed the books from room to room on a cart, which was built in the school shop. Even in designing the cart there had to be experimentation, because she found that the books bounced off the cart as it rolled.

This method of room-to-room distribution was used for several years, but was changed later to provide for a central library, where children came to check out their books. This method had to be changed this year, because of lack of space. Now, books are left in the rooms, with the teachers handling the check-outs. The books are rotated between rooms periodically by the PTA mothers, headed by Mrs. Alex Rosin, current chairman.

The Seaside collection now numbers over 1000 volumes.

Schedules Vary

The story is much the same at other libraries throughout the city, although different methods of distribution may be used according to the facilities and class schedules.

Seaside limits its library facilities to children in the fourth through eighth grades, on the theory that these are

the children most able to appreciate the books. Other schools check out books to younger children, however.

Although the program requires a lot of work, it is quite rewarding, according to Mrs. Fedoruk, who believes that a child's TV diet should be balanced with a good dose of reading.

"It is wonderful to see a child start out with very simple books and move on to more advanced ones," she declared. "We like to feel that we are doing something to help the children read and enjoy it."

'Crash Program' Money Will Not Solve All of American Problems

By CHARLES E. CHAPEL

Member of the Assembly

The President of the United States has indicated that he wants the Congress of the United States to appropriate about one billion dollars for education over a four-year period, at the end of which time it is hoped that the States and local governments can carry forward the program constructed on a foundation of several propositions or policies.

These are: (1) scholarship and fellowship grants; (2) State grants for testing, guidance and improvement of teaching; (3) financing of centers for teaching foreign languages; and (4) scientific research.

Aid Sought

This new program of federal aid to education was started when the Russians sent their Sputnik into the air and it was found that the United States has failed to develop, or at least has failed to fire successfully, a satellite, or an intercontinental ballistic missile.

Now the question is: Is money the answer to this problem?

We can re-phrase the question by asking: Has the lack of money held back our progress in this phase of scientific research and development and put us in a place second to that of Russia?

You know and I know that the lack of money in itself is not the problem, that the real problem is the lack of trained mathematicians, physicists, and other scientists to do the work. The United States already has many scientists outstanding in medicine, physics, chemistry, nuclear physics, and the social and life sciences.

Not Money Alone

These scientists were not produced by a "crash" program of spending money but by finding and encouraging young men and women who devoted long, hard years of their lives to education and research. Now we are encouraged to believe that money alone will bring forth more dedicated young people to become teachers of science, research specialists, and production experts. This is a purely materialistic approach. Money alone will not produce the hearts and minds that America needs so badly.

Enrollment Grows

Census figures show that between 1952 and 1957 the enrollment of colleges and professional institutions increased 1,200,000 and in 1958 is more

than 3,000,000. California has a State scholarship program. Many foundations and institutions, including factories, have provided generous scholarships for young people.

The point we are making here is that scholarships and fellowships are not enough, and money is not enough, if we do not obtain the results we are seeking.

A scholarship or fellowship, no matter how generous, in itself will not produce a great teacher, a great scientist, or a great statesman. Such great people are the result of the correct selection of his courses of study, the ideals which motivate him, and the soul which is formed within his body.

Our contention is that when the United States spends money in a program of federal aid to education, it should not be spent merely for the sake of spending it in a "crash program." It should be spent wisely.

Perhaps one billion dollars (\$1,000,000,000) isn't enough but it is too much if it is wasted through the careless selection of recipients of scholarships, a selection of silly courses which do not lead to the desired end, and a failure to inspire young men and women to dedicate their lives to the United States of America.

Another problem is which colleges and universities are to be favored in the award of scholarships and fellowships. It can be argued that only state institutions, such as the University of California at Berkeley and Los Angeles, should receive federally assisted students, but what about California Institute of Technology, Leland Stanford University, the University of Southern California, Loyola University, and other colleges and universities which already have faculties, laboratories, and classrooms especially organized for teaching mathematics and science? Then we have the state colleges and the state junior colleges to consider.

Who Gets Gravy? In a "crash program" of one billion dollars, which comes out of your pocket and mine, let us hope that we do fall into the error of fighting about "who gets the gravy." Let us remember that our final and complete objective is the maintenance of our way of life, that we want results and should not quarrel about the means of attaining our grand objective.

If you agree with me, it is not necessary to tell me so, but you should write to Congressman Cecil R. King, House Office Bldg., Washington, D. C.; to Sen. William F. Knowland, Senate Office Bldg., Washington, D. C.; and Sen. Thomas H. Kuchel, Senate Office Bldg., Washington, D. C. If you do not agree with me, or disagree in part, write to me at Post Office Box 777, Inglewood 5.

Street Improvements in Strip Hit New High in 1957—Gibson

Street improvement in the Los Angeles City "Strip" section of the Torrance area hit a new high during 1957, Councilman John S. Gibson declared in his annual report to his advisory committee.

Contracts were awarded during the year for 12 jobs, costing \$396,828. Three of these were public fund expenditures which totaled \$296,838, with the nine assessment act jobs costing \$100,988, which will be paid by property owners in the benefiting area, Gibson said.

End To Lkz Seen

Construction of the county flood control storm drain along 212th St. from Western to Normandie Ave. was listed as the most important project of the year. When lateral drains, which are under contract, are completed, it should be an end to the "lake" which long has been a source of complaint.

Streets which have been improved under the 1957 contracts (as listed by the councilman) include two blocks on Denker from 221st to 223rd; three blocks on Harvard Ave. from 222nd to 226th; two block on 208th St. from Denker to Western; one block on Plaza del Amo from Harvard to Western; one block on Denker from 212th to 213rd and five blocks on W. Normandie Rd. from Carson to 223rd St. The two projects last named have not been completed but

are under construction and will be finished as weather permits.

Assessment Jobs

Five assessment jobs are in various stages of processing at present time, the Councilman said, adding "that we can reasonably expect four of these will be completed during 1958."

Councilman Gibson also announced the installation of more than 25 additional street lights during the past year, and said that others would be recommended when the need is disclosed.

The councilman also reported that an engineering survey for drainage facilities had been conducted in the 226th and Normandie area and recommendation had been made to include this project in a proposed county-wide flood control program.

Offices Named

All officers of the advisory committee serving last year were unanimously re-elected. Herman Eisenbeiss is chairman.

"One of the chief reasons so much work is being done in the 'Strip' area, is the interest shown by residents," the councilman said, in expressing his appreciation for attendance at the monthly meeting. He said the Strip attendance was equal or better to any of the other five committees in the district.

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