

Statute Seeks to Protect Farm Lands, Food Supply

By VINCENT THOMAS
 Assemblyman, 68th District
 The battle to maintain California's pre-eminence as the nation's most important agricultural state is still being waged on several fronts. One of the most serious problems confronting the Legislature in recent years has been how to slow down the steady loss of hundreds of thousands of acres of prime agricultural land to subdivisions and industrial use.

lands be reserved for agriculture." The core of this problem is the hard economic fact that when farm land is located near a metropolitan area, it becomes worth more for subdivision or industry than for agriculture. Its assessed valuation must reflect this new value, but its owner cannot long pay his higher taxes, and survive.

SOME 20 TO 25 California counties have adopted ordinances under which farm land may be zoned as agricultural, but their value as protection for such land is limited, because they cannot control assessment practices, or compel continued use of the land only for agriculture. A proposed constitutional amendment to enable partial control of assessments on

farm land was defeated by the voters in 1962. A new amendment having the same basic purpose was defeated in the Assembly at our recent general session. Prior to this second defeat, the Assembly Committee on Agriculture had a year-long study of the problem made by an advisory committee, and as a result, came up with an unusual statutory ap-

proach to the problem. The bill containing this program, together with two supplementary measures, passed during the general session. The major one has been given the Governor's approval, and will become effective Sept. 17. The essential features of this new law are ingenious in balancing the many factors involved, and give promise of real help in protecting prime

farm land. Under them, counties and cities are now authorized to create "agricultural preserves" to include both prime and non-prime agricultural lands. Land within these preserves would be restricted to agriculture and other uses not incompatible with it. . . . COUNTIES AND cities are authorized to enter into 10-

year contracts with owners of prime agricultural land in preserving for the purpose of limiting use of such land to farming. Contracts would be renewable annually by mutual consent, so that active contracts would always have a full 10-year period. Contracts will be transferred from the original to any succeeding land owner, and from the contracting county to any successor city. In exchange for guarantee-

While our state has been regarded as being in the lead in developing protective law, the threat to our food supply is still so great that comprehensive and practical legislation is needed now to save our basic agricultural resource, prime farm land. As a recent Assembly report stated, "The simple facts are that while it is not imperative for industry and subdivisions to occupy the best farmland, it is imperative that these

Principal Named at New School

Mrs. Syble Wilkinson of Hawthorne today was named principal of the new Hawthorne Christian School, according to Rev. Carl Pike, founder and president of the school.

The school, located in the center of the Palo del Amo Woods development, will open its doors to students for the fall semester, Rev. Pike said. Its private enrollment will be limited to 400 pupils.

Mrs. Wilkinson has been on the staff of the Hawthorne Christian Schools for the past 20 years. Her broad experience both as a teacher and in administrative capacities eminently qualifies her for the new responsibility.

A FULL curriculum in the basic subjects is offered in kindergarten through eighth grade classes. In addition, science is taught in all grades along with music, a foreign language, and Bible reading. Its location in the new Palo del Amo Woods development, just south of Sepulveda and west of the Harbor freeway, makes it convenient for children not now served by any private school of comparable scholastic excellence, Rev. Pike added.

Enrollments are being accepted now at Hawthorne Christian Schools headquarters, 13600 S. Prairie Ave., Hawthorne. Telephone is OS 9-2591.

Noah's Ark Junior Pet Show Slated

The annual "Noah's Ark" junior pet show will be held at Peck Park Aug. 20 at 1:30 p.m.

The theme of the show this year will be "Hobo Day." Awards will be presented to the boys and girls and their pets who look most like a hobo.

The show is divided into five categories: dogs, cats, birds, aquatics, and miscellaneous.

Rules of the pet show are:

- All types of pets handled by juniors are accepted.
 - Pets must be on leash or in cages in designated areas.
 - Water must be provided for pets.
 - Participants must stay in designated areas with pet until called to the ring.
 - Handler must be capable of controlling pet.
 - Pets must be registered at time of the show.
- Marty Lehr will conduct the show which is being sponsored by the Los Angeles City Parks and Recreation Department.



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