

# San Pedro Building May Get Circular Courtrooms

By **BURTON W. CHACE**  
 County Supervisor

A new concept in courtroom design may make its debut in this area at the San Pedro County Building, now under construction.

Supervisors have instructed the building architect to adapt plans for the facility so the "Frenzo-type" courtroom plan can be incorporated — if economically feasible.

The "Frenzo-type" courtroom is a concept made famous in Fresno County, where courts were built in a circular design. In effect, all the parties in the courtroom face each other, rather than everyone facing the judge.

**THE SAN PEDRO** County Building — which will house three municipal courts serving the Harbor area—is 35 per cent complete, but it is not too late to incorporate the circular style into plans.

The architect is more than halfway through with the adaptations, and only the courtroom interior plans must be revised. Other phases of the building, such as the Marshal's and Court Clerk's offices, remain the same.

When the revised plans are complete, Supervisors will determine if the cost of the adjustments is feasible. If the efficiency provided by the circular concept outweighs the cost of revising the courtroom construction, work will proceed.

**NO MATTER** what the decision is, the San Pedro building is expected to be completed by late summer or early fall. It is being built under a \$1.3 million construction contract on a 1 1/2-acre site at 505 S. Center St.

Although the circular court design will increase building costs, it is very likely that the new concept will mean a

savings in efficiency over the long haul. Many times, it is wiser to spend a little more to construct a facility so that the county reaps the dividends of long-range efficiency.

The new concept also promises to serve the needs of the courts better than the present design, and this is a major factor to consider.

New concept or old, however, the San Pedro County Building will be a welcome addition to the harbor community.

**PROPERTY** owners whose land is crossed by a stream or some type of drainage channel soon will be required to keep it clear of obstructions.

Supervisors recently instructed the County Counsel to prepare an ordinance to this effect, making persons holding legal title to such waterways responsible for its upkeep.

The flow of water across property is not to be impeded by vegetation, rubbish, or other obstructions, in the opinion of the board.

Obstructed waterways create ponds which allow mosquitoes to breed and are attractive nuisances to children, not to mention a source of annoying odors.

**A RECENT** Senior Citizen Health Screening Day in Torrance has been credited with uncovering many instances where glaucoma, diabetes, hypertension, and respiratory problems may be present.

Out of more than 200 senior citizens checked, more than 20 patients were told that further glaucoma testing was advisable. Approximately 60 per cent needed follow-up care in one of the four categories.

## Technical Meeting on Route 47 Freeway Set

Routing for the southern portion of the proposed north-south Route 47 Freeway will

come one step closer to reality when a second and final technical staff meeting is held tomorrow.

This last staff meeting is preliminary to a general public hearing which will be called in about two months and which will be widely publicized to insure maximum attendance on the part of the public.

At the technical staff meeting state highway engineers, county and city officials, and representatives of other interested groups will meet to discuss studies just completed by the California Division of Highway concerning that portion of the freeway extending from Artesia Boulevard to just north of Terminal Island.

The meeting will provide Wilmington-Carson area agencies an opportunity to discuss local problems involved in determining the freeway route.

The Route 47 Freeway will be located between the Harbor and Long Beach Freeways and will eventually extend from Santa Monica Freeway southerly across Terminal Island and the Vincent Thomas Bridge to a connection with the Harbor Freeway in San Pedro. Actual construction of the Route 47 Freeway is about 10 years away.

## TRW Tour Slated For Students

Thirty-eight Narbonne High School students will be treated to a field trip through a TRW plant.

Those selected for the outing are Jasmine Aseka, Richard Barrantes, Kenneth Begbie, Frederick Benson, Dana Berry, Virginia Buchanan, Jody Burley, Ginger Doetsch, Robert Durden, Janette Dye, and Ken Fisher.

Others are Pier Frank, Keith Gibson, Michael Gustin, Ronald Hanni, Burt Hellerud, Valentin Hernandez, Joy Humble, Nadia Ignart, Deidre Krasna, Tim McDuffie, Vikki Mihojevich, and Wayne Mitchell.

Also selected were Sharon Miyamoto, Rob Murakami, Susan Nelson, David Newman, Danette Peck, Harry Perkinson, Pat Phipps, Robert Rashid, Nancy Richardson, Bill Ross, Dale Sulzen, Marilyn Walker, Dennis Webb, Chenny Wong, and Allen Yowell.

These young people were honored today at a luncheon given by the Lomita Kiwanis Club.

## Stops Tormenting Rectal Itch

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New York, N.Y. (Special): One of the most tormenting afflictions is the burning itch caused by piles. It's most embarrassing during the day and especially aggravating at night. "Scratching" only makes the condition worse. No matter what you've tried without results—here's good news.

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# Tax Relief Sought Through Sales Tax

SACRAMENTO — Governor Ronald Reagan has proposed that property tax relief be granted to local taxpayers by giving back one-half cent of the state sales tax to county government.

The legislation, to be introduced this week, would specify the formula under which the one-half cent in the state tax would be allocated to the counties. It also would provide the counties would give up certain small subventions now being paid to them by the state.

Details on the formula and on which subventions the counties would forego were not known but were expected to be announced following discussions with the County Supervisors Association of California.

**REAGAN SAID** the net result of his plan would be to give the counties about \$155 million more a year in revenues, to be used to reduce property taxes. Legislation adopted in 1967 requires the legislature to provide \$155

million a year in property tax relief, or else the sales tax will revert automatically from 4 cents to 3 1/2 cents.

The cities and counties already have a 1-cent sales tax—making the total levy 5 cents.

**"THIS PLAN** provides for a very significant way to give property tax relief to our citizens," Reagan said, "because it funnels the money into the counties which, in turn, pass these benefits on to their taxpayers."

**MEANWHILE,** the Demo-

cratic caucus, which has 42 members in the assembly, laid down six guidelines which must be met before the Democrats would vote for any tax program. One of the conditions set by the Democrats was that a tax reform would have to include a plan for payroll withholding of state income tax, or an acceptable substitute for it.

Other guidelines set by the Democrats included:

- The tax reform must not be another tax increase.
- The tax reform must

crack down on tax dodgers. "The governor has declared his opposition to the withholding of state income taxes," the caucus statement said. "If the administration maintains this position, then it must offer other practical means of catching tax dodgers."

• The governor's proposal must include a fair distribution of tax burden. The caucus report said the 1967 tax increase had spread an unfair share of the tax burden on the middle-income group.

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