



FOR BETTER BUSES . . . Jerry Armstrong, 16, (left) and Garth (Buz) Belknap, 19, are earning pocket money this summer by sprucing up the city's money-losing municipal bus line. The youths were hired by the City of Torrance to improve the looks of bus stops in coordination with the city's intensive program to save the bus system. Repainting curbs, repairing benches, and removing weeds are primary duties. More students will be hired this summer to survey city transit needs and help make the buses more attractive.

Teenagers Hired For Bus Facelift

Two Torrance teenagers donned city uniforms this week in the first phase of a program designed to im-



ROBERT F. SPALTY
... Upgraded

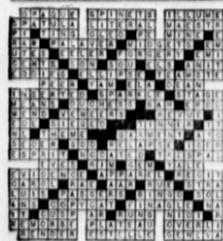
Spalty Promoted To Chief

Robert F. Spalty of Torrance has been promoted to the rank of battalion chief in the County of Los Angeles Fire Department, according to County Fire Chief Keith E. Klinger.

Spalty has been assigned command of Battalion 9, which serves the cities of Lakewood, Signal Hill, Paramount, Artesia, Hawaiian Gardens, Cerritos and Bellflower.

Chief Spalty joined the County Fire Department on March 1, 1957, and has worked his way through the ranks. He was very active in Lawndale civic affairs while commanding Station 21 in that city, and was presented with a scroll of appreciation by Lawndale City Councilmen when he was transferred. He has been active in the Lawndale Optimist Club.

Chief Spalty instructs classes in fire science at Los Angeles Harbor College on his off-duty time.



prove community bus service.

In their summer jobs, the youths will paint curbs at some 350 city bus stops, repair defective benches—even chop weeds at some locations.

It is all part of the massive program launched two months ago to put "oomph" in the twenty-year-old city bus system and, hopefully, increase revenues.

The youths, Jerry Armstrong and Buz Belknap, are the forerunners of a crew of high school and junior college students who will be hired part-time this summer to implement the project.

Others will survey the transit needs of current bus passengers, seek opinions from non-passengers on service they might use, and join regular city workers in a variety of chores that ultimately will make bus riding more convenient and attractive.

Other teenagers interested in part-time summer jobs have been invited to submit applications to the City Personnel Department.

Dorothy Digs

If you are planning to grow your own fall-planting plants from seed, now is the time to start the seed in seed flats. Favorites in this category are the stock, snapdragon, delphinium, primula, pansy and viola.

The next six or eight weeks will show up lawns which have been properly cared for and those which have been neglected. Soil insects, fungus diseases and outcrops will surely take their toll where a program of proper maintenance has not been followed.

Regular feeding and irrigating of course are the first two "musts." Feed regularly about once every six weeks and if you want to give your lawn a real boost, try an all fish oil liquid fertilizer. In irrigating, always do so during the early part of the day so that the surface of the lawn will have dried off before sunset. Late afternoon watering will include fungus.

The sod webworm is perhaps the greatest culprit with lawns and you can prevent this pest.

Aids Integration

\$8 Billion Spent On Medicare

In its first two years of operation, Medicare has paid \$8.4 billion toward the hospital and doctor bills of the nation's elderly people. Taking note of the anniversary of the comprehensive program of health insurance for the aged, which

began July 1, 1963, President Johnson stated that the program has meant new hope and renewed health that light up thousands of lives in every community in this land. "Medicare has paid the expenses incurred in 10.6 mil-

lion hospital stays and 45 million medical bills," he said, "and more than one million elderly persons have received post-hospital care in nursing homes and in their own homes."

"Because of Medicare," he said, "many thousands of older people, who might have deferred or gone without care—and possibly died—have been able to afford treatment. Millions have the security of knowing that serious illness is no longer the financial threat that it was in the past."

members of minority groups in many communities now have access to quality care for the first time.

By paying for care outside the hospital, Commissioner Ball noted, Medicare has made it possible for physicians to choose the level of care most appropriate to the older patient's condition and has pointed the way to new patterns of health care.

SINCE JAN. 1, 1967, for example, there have been 640,000 admissions of older people to extended care facilities for post-hospital care, and 485,000 home health care plans have been set up for older people to receive visits from visiting nurses, physical therapists, and other health care specialists. Bills have been paid for 1.4 million visits of older people to the hospital for outpatient diagnostic services.

New Swimming Program Is 'Splashing Success'

"Operation Big Dip" is a splashing success! Supervisor Kenneth Hahn, who initiated the free swim instruction program at county pools, reports total attendance through the fifth week of operation exceeded 85,953.

In the week of July 15 through 19 alone, a record total of 21,609 attended 30 county pools for lessons.

Hahn invited all youngsters to participate in the

program whether they are good swimmers or just beginning.

"Trained swimming instructors will teach the beginners safety in the water, and those who already know how to swim can study advanced techniques such as lifesaving," Hahn said.

The new pool at Victoria County Park in Carson continued to record the highest attendance with 1,848 last week.

PAYMENTS under the hospital insurance program totaled \$6.3 billion for the two-year period and a total of \$2.1 billion was paid out under the supplementary medical insurance program.

According to Robert M. Ball, commissioner of Social Security, nearly all of the nation's 19.7 million people 65 and over, are now covered under the basic hospital insurance part of Medicare, and 18.6 million of them, or 95 per cent, have enrolled in the voluntary medical insurance part that helps pay doctor bills and a wide variety of other medical expenses in an out of the hospital.

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