

Construction to Begin Soon on New San Pedro Courts Facility



NEW COURT FACILITY . . . Artists' rendering shows what the new San Pedro County Courts Building, to be located at 505 S. Center St., will look like when completed. Construction of the two-story facility at a cost of \$1,162,000 will begin shortly, according to Supervisor Burton W. Chace. Retirement Board funds will be used to finance the building, which will house three municipal courts and related facilities.

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Groundbreaking for the \$1.16 million San Pedro County Courts Building is scheduled for 11:30 a.m. Friday, Supervisor Burton W. Chace has announced.

Chace, along with city and community officials from the San Pedro area, will participate in the ceremonies. A luncheon will follow in the Pacific Trade Building.

Construction of the building, which will house three municipal courts, will start soon after the groundbreaking. Award of the construction contract is scheduled Wednesday.

"THE GROUNDBREAKING will mark a red-letter day for the San Pedro community," Chace said. "We have been working toward this day for many years."

Construction will be completed by next summer, barring bad weather, Chace said.

The building will be constructed with funds provided by the County Board of Retirement. The lease-purchase arrangement provides that

the County will buy the facility from the Retirement Board over a 30-year period.

THE LOW bidder on the job was Coastate-Beswick, Inc., of Long Beach.

The courts building will be at 505 South Center St. Included in plans for the two-story structure will be one master calendar and two jury trial courts, plus offices for the District Attorney, Public Defender, Sheriff, Probation Department and Municipal Court Clerk.

Rooms will be constructed for court reporters, jury deliberations, witnesses and attorney-client conferences.

THE COURTHOUSE will be constructed of reinforced concrete. The first story will feature an entrance lobby, office and equipment areas and inside parking for 39 cars. There will be parking space outside for 70 additional cars.

The courtrooms are scheduled for the second floor.

The court is a branch of the Los Angeles Municipal Court and will replace the Hall.

Volunteers Needed to Donate 'Gift of Life'

Did you have a safe July 4th? Some people didn't! Their emergency need for several pints of blood to save their lives has depleted the supply of blood; that presently low level must be raised to keep enough blood on hand for other emergencies.

The high accident rate during the summer vacation months, coupled with the fact that people neglect to donate before leaving on vacation, creates a great need for blood donors, a spokesman for the Red Cross said.

Monday employees of Del Amo Square and area residents from 18 through 59 years of age will be able to do their parts to refill the blood bank and to build their own blood savings—in either a group or personal account—from which to draw in time of injury, surgery, or other sickness, the spokesman reported.

The July 10 bloodmobile will be at the Sears Del Amo Center store cafeteria and meeting room. It will be open from 12 to 4:30 p.m. To give blood, an individual must weigh at least 110 pounds and minors 18 to 21 years old must have the written permission of their parents or guardians.

In addition, for persons who cannot come to the above bloodmobiles, a bloodmobile visits the Red Cross Service Center every Wednesday and Thursday at First Street and Western Avenue, San Pedro, from 3 to 6:30 p.m.

Gas Company Starts on Second 100 Years Here

Time capsule and plaque placement ceremonies were held to mark the 100th anniversary of the Southern California Gas Co.

While a gay mariachi band played, government and civic officials gathered for the ceremony at historical Olvera Street just across from the old Plaza in downtown Los Angeles where the Southland

gas industry was born in 1867 with 25 gas street lighting customers.

On hand to commend the gas company for its 100 years of service, state, county and city officials watched as Universal Pictures' Susanne Benton placed important documents from the gas company's first 100 years into the

time capsule, which was then put into the ground. The plaque, which calls attention to the founding of the gas company in the Plaza area, was then placed over the capsule.

Following the Olvera Street dedication, a special gas company birthday luncheon was scheduled at the Statler-Hilton Hotel for more than 1,000

government and civic leaders from throughout the gas company's service territory.

Dr. Kenneth McFarland, nationally known educator, author and lecturer, was the featured speaker for the luncheon.

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