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Work on Carson Street School Nearly Finished

Completion of nearly \$70,000 worth of structural reinforcement at Carson Street School necessitated by the 1941 earthquake, is expected within a month. Dr. Frank Evans, board of education school housing director, has announced.

Removal of the 11 bungalows used for classrooms during work already has been authorized, Evans reported, and likely will be started within the next two weeks.

The housing director stated that the bungalows are seriously needed at other over-crowded harbor area schools, such as Rocha st., and Hawaiian ave.

The Carson Street P. T. A. however, has asked that the buildings be left on the grounds, asserting removal will necessitate double sessions at the school and force use of the auditorium and cafeteria as classrooms.

P. T. A. officials and Helen Zilgitt, principal, will meet at 7:30 p. m. Friday at the school

Trails for Hikers And Riders Plan For Postwar Era

The tentative draft of a legislative bill providing for a statewide system of trails for riders and hikers was announced today by John M. Diggs of Sacramento, chairman of a project committee of the State Reconstruction and Reemployment Commission. This draft fills in skeleton measures, Senate Bill No. 630, introduced by Senator Tenney, and Assembly Bill No. 1140, by Assemblymen Burkhalter, Stephenson, Thompson and Carey.

The bill proposes the creation of a "California Riding and Hiking Trails Advisory Committee" operating under the supervision of the State Park Commission.

with Warren Conrad, southern district superintendent to discuss the issue.

Although authorization of the reconstruction work was given shortly after the earthquake, lack of materials held up the project until August, 1944. Several of the walls have been torn down and rebuilt with concrete and steel.

Increased Number of Elderly Wage Earners Secure Insured Status

War-time industries in the Long Beach area have enabled an increased number of elderly wage earners to secure an insured status under the Old-Age and Survivors' Benefit provisions of the Social Security Act, advised J. G. Bretherton, manager of the Long Beach office of the Social Security Board, in his review of Field Office operations.

"During the past year we have seen our weekly claims receipts increase over two hundred percent. We now have a total of 5,730 beneficiaries in our area entitled to receive a total of \$11,785.18 each month," Bretherton explained. "The claimants are made up in part by workers aged 65 and over who have retired and are now receiving their monthly benefit checks, which will continue for the rest of their lives. The wives of these workers who have also attained 65 may also be entitled to receive an additional check equal to one half of their husband's benefit check."

"As of the first of this year there were, in the Long Beach area 2543 retired wage earners entitled to receive a monthly total of \$61,730.67 and 750 wives entitled to \$9,547.21 each month. In addition there were 308 widows aged 65 or over, who have qualified for monthly checks equal to three fourths of what their husbands would receive, which totaled \$6,133.80 each month."

"There are 1440 children of wage earners entitled to receive \$19,127.40; and to 672 widows under 65 who are remaining home to care for the children an additional \$15,011.42 is being sent each month. An additional number of parents aged 65 or over, who were wholly dependent upon deceased wage earners, have qualified to receive monthly benefits."

"Since the first of 1940 the Long Beach Field Office has also handled an additional 2,872 lump sum death claims which have resulted in the payment of a total of \$337,539.67. Many of the widows who are claimants for death benefits will be eligible for monthly benefit checks upon attaining age 65."

"The greatly increased industrial development in the Long Beach area has been reflected in the rapid growth in the work load of the Long Beach office."

"We appreciate that we are but one of 400 field offices of the Social Security Board throughout the United States established to serve the wage ear-

ners who are covered by the Social Security Act. Well over one million checks are now being mailed out monthly to beneficiaries of all types throughout the country, who are protected by the Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Program," added Bretherton.

"The importance of the Social Security Number Card, which represents an Insurance Policy Number with the Federal Government, is becoming more apparent every day. For this reason we ask that workers take care of their cards so that they can show it to their employers on each new job. The failure to furnish the correct account number to the employer may cause the wage earner to lose his wage credits, which are the basis for paying insurance benefits."

Bretherton also stated that wage earners who were receiving monthly benefits and who have returned to covered employment at higher wages, and have increased their average monthly wage, may have their benefits recomputed to include any additional amount they would be entitled to. Every wage earner who desires to learn more about his rights under the Old-Age and Survivors provisions of the Social Security Act, and particularly those who are considering retiring, is invited to get in touch with the nearest Field Office. The Long Beach Field Office, which serves Los Angeles County south of Rosecrans ave., and all of Orange county, is located at 423 Jergins Trust Bldg., 100 East Ocean Blvd., Long Beach 2. Telephone 697-41.

No Increase in Gasoline Rations For Californians

Motorists in Southern California can expect no more than the current ration of gasoline for some time to come despite current production increases, Frank S. Balthis, Jr. OPA Los Angeles district director, said today.

Military and lend-lease uses are being allocated the increased production by the Petroleum Administration for War. "No change" will still sum up the civilian gas allocation situation after the end of the war in Europe because of the step-up in Pacific military operations, according to present information, Balthis said.

WAC Publicity Meeting Held In Palos Verdes

Mrs. Donald Armstrong, regional chairman for the Civilian Advisory Committee to the Women's Army Corps for Long Beach, Redondo, Hermosa, Manhattan Beach, Torrance, Wilmington, San Pedro, Palos Verdes Estates, and El Segundo entertained her publicity chairman at a meeting Monday morning, Feb. 19, in her home at Palos Verdes Estates.

Wac First Lt. Eileen Knowler and Wac First Lt. Mary Ann Hughes, explained the part women play in the medical department of the United States Army as well as the new recruitment method of enlisting Wacs to serve at specially named Army General hospitals on the basis of one officer and a company of 100 enlisted women to each 1,000 beds.

Each company will be organized as a separate unit with specific grades and ratings, in platoons of 15 women enlisted for the same hospital.

All such platoons will be shipped to Fort Oglethorpe for six weeks basic training, and medical and surgical technicians will receive five weeks training in a medical department enlisted technician school for Wacs. After completion of this training and one month on the job training in a general hospital, qualified women will be sent for duty as medical and surgical technicians, or commensurate administrators, with an automatic promotion to corporal.

Further Cuts In Civilian Paper Quotas

Lending emphasis to "Paper Holiday" campaigns now under way in most Southern California communities, the War Production Board today announced that production shortages in materials for paper bags and boxes have made it necessary to make further cuts in civilian quotas.

Zack J. Farmer, WPB general salvage chief, said the cut had been deferred as long as possible, but that had weather in the south during January, plus manpower shortages, curtailed production sulphate pulp to a point where the only recourse was to cut back on amounts already allocated for the first quarter of 1945.



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