



GENTLE KITTEN—Homer Snow, famous wild animal trainer, shows tiger skin to four youthful members of the Gra-Y Club who won photographs of wild animals for their correct answers to a nature study quiz at a recent club meeting in the Fern Avenue Community building. Left to right: Zybby Kaiser, Danny Clarson, Jimmy Ady, Homer Snow, and Charlie Johnson. (Herald Photo).

What to Do?

School May Be Too Tiny Even Before Its Doors Are Opened

Indications that the new Seaside Ranchos Elementary School may be too small to serve the growing number of children in its area even before it opens its doors were seen today by school officials planning construction of new schools.

Total school enrollment in the city now is crowding the 3200-mark, with the actual total to date 3141, it was disclosed. This already is a gain or around 200 since the opening of school last September.

Indications now are that the size of the \$1,000,000 apartment house project on Hollywood Parkway may be doubled before the end of the year. Construction on the first 156 units, involving 22 buildings, now is being rushed to completion by the Republic Construction Company.

Children from this project may attend the new Seaside Ranchos school, possibly on double sessions, until such time as the proposed Hollywood Riviera school is built on the site the district now is trying to obtain south of Pacific Coast Highway. More than six months now have elapsed since the school bonds were voted, but their sale was delayed beyond control of the district until September, so that the board of education was powerless to pay the architects to begin final drawings once preliminary plans were approved.

Already the enrollment from the city's newest subdivision, Crenshaw Crest, is being felt. Suppl. J. H. Hull said. More than 20 students from there have enrolled in Perry Elementary School, and 54 students from WALTERIA ELEMENTARY still are being transported back and forth daily to Torrance elementary to attend classes.

School enrollment now stands as follows:

Fern Avenue Elem.	464
Perry Elementary	297
Torrance Elementary	859
Walteria Elementary	354
Junior High	474
High School	693
Total	3141

It Has Been Said . . . The man who likes his mother-in-law is speaking relatively.

Don't Prune, Growers Say

(Continued from Page 1)

and allowed to ripen off the trees, the nurserymen said.

In line with this reasoning L. L. Bigelow, owner of the Neweast Nursery, 3000 Newton street, WALTERIA said:

"Little is to be lost by picking what fruit is of size for harvesting at this time. If avocados and oranges are allowed to remain on the trees they will be damaged when they fall—not necessarily by the frost. It is a gamble—one with odds on picking the fruit now and allowing it to ripen on the kitchen window sill."

Metcalf said that the oil in avocados was a natural protection against freezing temperatures since they lowered the freezing point of the fruit to a considerable degree below 32 degrees.

Damaged oranges can be detected by slicing into one of the fruits. If a crystal appearance is noted the fruit probably is mortally hurt. The same holds true for grapefruit and tangerines.

Lemons which have been destroyed by cold can be detected by a "milky" juice. A clear juice denotes a healthy fruit, Bigelow said. Although the temperature dropped to 25 degrees in WALTERIA he said he noted little damage to his own lemon trees.

To protect trees from future frosts the nurserymen suggested that burlap sacks or old sheets or blankets be thrown over trees. A lighted lantern placed under a covered tree would help, provided the tree was not damaged by the direct heat of the flame.

Although Metcalf reported that all of his fuchsias were damaged by the frost he doubted that any were destroyed beyond recovery with the advent of warmer weather.

Ward reported he lost none of his fuchsias but he had noted extensive damage to hibiscus and bougainvillea and some damage to geraniums.

He anticipated all would recover. Among the shade plants which seem to have suffered from the frost are begonias, cineraria, perimula, and violets.

Fruit trees which are dormant during the winter and those plants that lose their leaves such as peach, pear, fig, apple, plum, nectarines and berry bushes should be pruned at this time. Roses also should be pruned now.

The nurserymen warned against the use of fertilizers at this time—especially "hot" commercial type plant food of high nitrate content. The use of fertilizers before a warm weather arrives and before plants get "hungry" as they start to grow would be largely a waste of money and effort.

Rains and watering would wash away the fertilizers before the plants started to absorb them, the nurserymen said. Fertilizing of lawns at present also

Postal Growth 75,000 Letters in Month Here

Gain of nearly 75,000 letters for December, 1948, over December, 1947 was reported this week by Postmaster C. E. Conner after completing an analysis of the Christmas business at the Torrance postoffice.

For the first 30 days of December, a total of 568,928 pieces of letter mail passed through the local office, plus between 2000 and 2500 pieces of metered mail a day, Conner said.

For the similar period of 1947 498,908 pieces were posted, or a difference of 74,930.

During the peak of the rush period from Dec. 6 to Dec. 30 a total of 26,685 parcels were dispatched in 1947 sacks. Comparable figures for 1947 were not available.

Heaviest single day this year was Dec. 20, when 66,702 letters were cancelled, as compared with Dec. 18 of a year ago when 41,833 letters were cancelled on the heaviest day, a gain of 24,869 for 1948, Conner's books show.

The insurance department at the local post office also did a good business. This year 8331 parcels were insured, 4801 for more than \$10 and 3530 for amounts under \$5.

was advised against. Wait at least another month, was the suggestion offered.

Citrus trees of the five-year-old size should be watered at least once a month, according to Ward. He said that the regular watering schedule of citrus trees should be adhered to even though they appear to be damaged by the recent cold snap.

James Yeltema, owner of the Torrance Flower Shop, reported that the frost which destroyed most of the outside cut flower crop had caused wholesale cut flowers to jump 400 per cent. He said that growers expected it would be at least six weeks to two months before a normal supply of cut flowers could be expected to return to the market.

He reported that hot-house flowers such as gardenias, roses and orchids still were obtainable although exceedingly high demands have been made for these blooms because of the severe shortage of other cut flowers. Potted plants also were in this category, Yeltema said.

Summing up the frost damage and what to do about it seems to lead to the conclusion that this is apparently one time when the thing to do is: Do nothing!

ABALONE SEASON ENDS

California's 10-month abalone fishing season came to an end one hour after sunset Friday, Jan. 14, reports the Division of Fish and Game.

Coastal rock climbers will be able to take after the shellfish again during the open season which begins March 16. A recent legislative act requires possession of a fishing license for taking abalone and all other mollusks.

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