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## Backgrounds of Top North Hi Students Studied by Schools

What kind of teenager makes the best student? Intrigued by the fact that 23 North High students—an unusually large number from one school—ranked in the top 10 per cent of students taking national merit scholarship tests last spring, Torrance school of-

ficials looked into the backgrounds of these students. Many of them may be in line for top scholarships as the result of the tests.

Although the results indicated that the students come from a variety of backgrounds, there were certain things they held in common. The average student was six to 10 months younger than his average classmate; had fathers employed in industry or construction; had mothers who were not working; came from median-income homes; had held a part-time job; was active in school clubs; and planned to go to college.

were only children. Six had one brother or sister; 13 had two; and one had six.

All of the 23 students hope to go to college, but 10 of them said they would not be able unless they had a scholarship or part-time job. Three plan to work their way through school.

Seven want to be teachers. Two each want to go into research physics, nuclear physics, science, and math research. Other jobs listed were lab technician, automotive engineer, librarian, doctor, engineer, and pilot. One is undecided.

Eighteen of the 23 have held some part-time job while attending high school. The most common of these includes grocery store box boy, paper boy, retail selling, gardening, and baby sitting.

Twenty took part in some extra-curricular activity and 15 participated in three or more. Interests of the group included outdoor activities, reading, music, hobbies; cars, and writing.

Eighteen of the students had four years of math; nine had four years of science; and six had three years of a foreign language.

All but one student had at least three years of math; 16 had at least three years of science; 19 had at least two years of foreign language.

## Episcopalians To Hear Parts Of 'The Messiah'

The fourth annual performance of the Christmas portion of Handel's "The Messiah" will be given at St. Francis Episcopal Church, Palos Verdes Estates, today at 4 p.m.

Dr. Richard F. McClure, a local resident, inaugurated this traditional performance four years ago and he will once again direct the chorus and soloists from his place at the organ.

The choral group is formed about the St. Francis church choir which is augmented by additional voices from local churches and professional singers.

**SOPRANO SOLOIST** this year is Mrs. Marilyn Niska, a former prize winner at the San Francisco opera auditions. Alfred Jensen, also an opera audition winner, will sing the tenor role. Jensen has been soloist at the Hollywood Bowl, the Los Angeles Music Festival, and the Ojai Music Festival.

Donald Ogren, a resident of Torrance, is well known to followers of the Messiah, having been a leading interpreter of the bass role for many years. Ogren has also sung at the Museum concerts and at St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral.

Miss Patricia Pettefer, the contralto soloist, comes from Long Beach where she has earned a fine reputation as a church soloist and at the Long Beach Municipal concerts. It is anticipated that the coming performance will surpass all previous presentations of the Messiah by this group. The public is invited to enjoy what promises to be an outstanding musical event.

Their IQ's ranged from 114 (above average) to 144 (high). The grade average of the whole group was about "A minus", and only three had less than a "B" average.

Seven fathers and seven mothers are college graduates, with three fathers holding masters degrees. Seven fathers and three mothers did not graduate from high school.

All but one father, a retail produce clerk, work either in industry or construction. Eight are engineers; two are supervisors; two are mechanics; 17 of the mothers do not work. Four of the six mothers who do work are elementary school teachers.

The average family income for the group was between \$6000 and \$7000. None was either very high or very low.

ONLY THREE of the group

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