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READING LESSONS . . . Studying words as part of their reading lesson at Hillside School summer sessions are these second and third graders. While the teacher, Mrs. Glenda Laptrip, points to the word, members of the class discuss its meaning and derivation. Children are (left to right) Greg Barker, John Hoyt, Mike Lewis, Debra Murphy, and Shirley Hughes.

4600 Youngsters Use Summer Sessions to Further Studies

Summertime isn't play time for some 4600 students in the Torrance Unified School District who are attending summer school sessions.

Things are a little different in summer school, however, because most of the children are there because they want to be—or because their parents want them to be.

Summer school isn't the "dumbbell school" it used to be, according to Roland K. Petrat, director of Torrance summer sessions. It offers a chance for top students to learn more in a number of fields and offers children who need help in certain subjects to get it. The intelligence range in summer classes is the same as those in regular classes, he said.

Classes follow a planned pattern of instruction, with more than 50 per cent of the time devoted to basic skills—reading, writing, and arithmetic. Social studies, science, music, art, and other regular courses also are included in the program.

There is time set aside, however, for special projects in which members of a particular class may be interested.

Parents and teachers of the children are asked for advice on subjects in which children need help. Summer teachers try to give special attention to these areas.

Designed for Interest

"The program is designed to be interesting to the children," Petrat said. "Children don't have to attend and can drop out at any time. We have found through experience that when there is a good instructional program, children come. When there is too much recreation, they drop out."

For the first time this year, the district started a high school program for students who will enter as freshmen this fall. Courses in beginning algebra, general science, and English are offered to ten students for credit. Those who complete the classes may be placed in more advanced courses this fall. About 300 students are enrolled under this plan.

Other high school courses in typing, reading, general math, English, music, and speech also are featured.

Reports to Parents

Reports of the child's progress will be sent home to parents, if the youngsters have completed three weeks or 15 days of school.

The summer school program in Torrance began in 1948, with 120 students at Fern School. It has grown since and today, some 4600 elementary

Initiative Issues Sometimes Pose Heavy Problems

By Vincent Thomas, Assemblyman

In our California state constitution, the voters have specifically reserved to themselves the legislative powers of the initiative and the referendum. In so doing, they have carried out the principle stated earlier in that document, that "all political power is inherent in the people."

California voters have freely exercised the powers they retained for themselves, and our constitution and statutes bear abundant witness to their carrying out of their own laws. Sometimes, we legislators are confronted by some knotty problems raised by initiative proposals, but under the constitution we must follow the will of the people as expressed at the polls.

Our interim committees are of great help in enabling us to study initiative proposals in advance of their being voted on, so that we can determine whether any serious problems demanding legislative action might result from their adoption. The joint interim committee on tax problems has recently held hearings on an initiative which, from the evidence presented, promises to be hotly controverted before the election in November.

Tax Problem

The measure is one which proposes a three way change in our state revenue law. First, it proposes to reduce the state sales tax from its present three percent to two percent. Second, it would cut the state income tax rate on individuals having a net taxable income of \$5000 or less per year, and on married couples having such income of \$10,000 or less per year, in half, from the present one percent to one-half percent. Third, it proposes to increase the tax rates on all taxable incomes over \$25,000 per year, the maximum being jumped from six to forty-two percent.

Proponents of the initiative measure who appeared before the committee argued that its approval by the voters would establish "a long required democratic base for tax planning in California." They said it would revise the present tax rates which "favor the wealthy at the expense of the low income millions."

Two state elective officials were among those who appeared in opposition to the measure. One said that its approval by the voters would mean an annual loss in revenue to the state of at least \$50 million, and warned that this reduction would seriously affect the state's ability to help maintain the public school system, as well as many vital state services, unless it were made up by revenue from other sources. The other claimed that it would affect the selling of California state bonds.



MANY TALENTS . . . Matt Dennis, a performer of many talents, has opened his first musical engagement at Marineland Restaurant in Palos Verdes, playing the piano and singing his own songs in the Porphyrio Room. His engagement is for three weeks only.

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