

Dates Announced for Net Championships

The 43rd annual Los Angeles Metropolitan Tennis Championships will get underway Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 7-8, on the Griffith Playground Tennis Center and Vermont Canyon Courts, and will continue every weekend through Jan. 28-29, it was announced yesterday by the City Recreation and Park Department and the Municipal Tennis Association, co-sponsors of the mid-winter classic.

Singles entries must be in the hands of the tournament committee by 5 p.m. Friday, Dec. 30.

Proposal to Add \$17 Million to Mental Health Program Submitted

By VINCENT THOMAS
Assemblyman, 68th District

More millions for mental health is a matter which will concern both us legislators and California taxpayers at our coming session. Proposals for an expanded program estimated to cost \$17 million annually were submitted to a subcommittee of the Assembly yesterday and means group at its recent meeting in San Francisco.

Using "conservation of human resources" as the basis for

its plea, the state mental health association urged that the state supported system of local mental health clinics be expanded and improved until it can service all parts of the state. It was also suggested that a law be passed requiring all county jails to provide mental health care for inmates.

A SPOKESMAN for trustees of the state mental hospitals strongly recommended that salaries be upped for psychiatric technicians and trainees.

The subcommittee was informed that over the most recent three year period, 6900 out of 10,000 such hospital employees had quit their jobs. It was pointed out that a typist can demand and get from \$325 to \$375 per month, so it is almost impossible to recruit qualified hospital employees at \$268 per month.

One hospital reportedly hires cotton pickers for such positions, who promptly take off for the fields when cotton season opens. A representative of

the state personnel board said a five per cent raise is being recommended for some of these positions, but not for the trainee class.

STATE MENTAL hospitals came in for a considerable share of sharp criticism, but

were defended by spokesmen for the mental hygiene department. One institution, much in the headlines because of frequent patient escapes, has set up every safeguard against more "mass escapes," it was said.

Attacks on the use of tranquilizers on patients were replied to with the statement that their use is still experimental and results, while en-

couraging so far, are not yet conclusive.

ALLEGED USE of narcotics by hospital personnel, and immoral relationships between personnel and patients, were also reported as coming from good authority. Spokesmen for the department said investigation had developed no foundation for such charges, but the committee was told that further inquiry into them might be asked.

In connection with the proposals for expanded programs, the group was cautioned that we legislators will be confronted with demands for new services which will cost many millions of dollars. If many such requests are granted, it might be again necessary to raise taxes by another \$200 million per year.

A TAXPAYER spokesman added his voice to this warning note. Various groups which are sponsoring their own special interest proposals will endeavor to convince the Legislature that they should be passed, he said. He estimated the cost of all such new service demands at more than \$300 million per year.

Our California mental health program is regarded as one of the best and most progressive in the Nation. It has a record for keeping abreast of new developments in treatment, and has expanded as required to meet the needs of our soaring population.

As legislators, it will be our hope and intention to keep it at that level of quality. But we must still keep in mind the needs for support of all the multifarious functions of state government, everything from agriculture through education to veterans affairs.



EARLY CHRISTMAS . . . Santa came early for 8-year-old Debbie Alyea, of 21228 Royal Blvd., when she received a new bicycle Tuesday from Jim Cox, sales manager of DeVon Plymouth Center, 1600 Cabrillo Ave. Debbie was one of hundreds of area youngsters who visited Santa at the downtown Torrance showroom Sunday, and was declared the winner of the bicycle offered as a prize by the agency. (Herald Photo)

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Forecast for	% Accurate	Forecast for	% Accurate
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1959	84	1949	80
1958	86	1948	91
1957	88	1947	93
1956	85	1946	95
1955	84	1945	87
1954	86	1944	91
1953	84	1943	94
1952	88	1942	86
1951	86	1941	78

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