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El Camino Club Plans Charter Party Tomorrow

The Circle K Club, a group of 22 El Camino students sponsored by the El Camino Kiwanis, will gather for its charter party tomorrow at 7:30 p.m.

The event will be held at the Club Alondra, 16411 S. Prairie Ave., Lawndale.

The group, known as the Mayans, has elected Rell James president and Larry Ybarra secretary. It is planning to carry out projects for betterment of the college and community.

Four committees have been

Insurance Man to Take Course

William Clement, 19207 Ronald Ave., Torrance, division manager for the Robert C. Maas agency of Prudential Insurance Co., will attend a management-training school at the company's western home office in Los Angeles next week, it was announced by Robert C. Maas, manager.

Clement will receive instruction in recruiting, supervision, and training agents during a five-day session.

formed: public relations, social activities, membership, and project.

County Water Aide to Talk at Lomita Parley

A representative of County Water District 13 will discuss the water situation in Lomita at a meeting Monday night.

The gathering, which will be public, is scheduled at Lomita Elementary School auditorium and is being sponsored by the Lomita Property Owners and Registered Voters Inc.

Data will be given on a proposed annexation of the Crenshaw-Lomita-Pennsylvania area to Torrance.

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Red Schoolhouse Is Success, Advisory Committee Told

The "little red schoolhouse" multigrade program, pioneered in Torrance five years ago, has proved to be a successful way to provide for needs of bright, slow, and average children.

The Torrance Educational Advisory Committee was told this Monday noon by a six-member panel that discussed aspects of the program.

The schoolhouse began in 1955 at Walteria School as an experiment. It has proved successful enough to spread to a number of other schools in Torrance and in other districts.

It entails placing children from

three grades (1-2-3 and 4-5-6) in one classroom.

"A grade level is an administrative device, which made its first appearance in 1849," Lloyd Jones, curriculum consultant and former Seaside School principal said. "It does not allow for the fact that a child may be six years old, but be capable of doing as well as the average eight or nine-year-old. However, he may be able to do only as well as the average four-year-old."

He cited two eighth-grade classes at one Torrance school which have 14 students working

at grade level, 40 students doing better than grade level, and 12 working below grade level.

"The curriculum sometimes has a tendency to become only an average designed for the average child," he noted. "The brighter children get bored and the slower children are frustrated because they can't understand it. We must try to challenge children, taking them where they are in their learning and taking them as far as they can go."

A child's knowledge and capabilities are determined both by tests and by teacher observation, he said.

A multigrade class helps a teacher individualize instruction, Don Mullaney, Wood, principal and former head of the Walteria program said.

"We must work with each child," he said, to avoid the tendency to mediocrity or leveling.

The Walteria program, starting with seven multigrade classes, was a dynamic approach to the problem, he said. Nine different tests, given repeatedly, indicated greater growth for multigrade children. One important aspect, he noted was that each parent had to ask that his child be enrolled in the program.

Walteria teacher Shirley Cullum, now teaching a multigrade for the fourth year, cited these advantages:

1. Multigrades are easier to teach because they have more even distribution of students working on all levels, rather than merely one or two bright or slow students.

2. When school starts in the fall, the multigrade teacher knows about two-thirds of her children from the previous year.

3. Social growth comes from interaction of older and younger children. Children help one another and learn from one another.

Both Mrs. Cullum and R. A. Phelps, Steele teacher, agreed they try to individualize instruction by several methods—grouping, by ability in various areas, giving individual assignments, giving individual projects.

Before he came to Torrance, Phelps said, he was "a dedicated textbook instructor trained to teach only subject matter. After five years, I was bored with the subject matter and so were the students."

The multigrade program helped him individualize the program he said. It has to be designed to interest each child at his ability level and to make the information meaningful, he declared.

Periodic parent-opinion survey at Steele indicate an overwhelming majority of multigrade parents are pleased, R. K. Petrat, principal, said.

Of parents surveyed, 86% wanted the multigrades continued; 83% felt their children were more interested in school; 87% liked the idea of having the same teacher three years; and 83% felt that both bright and slow children did better.

Charles R. Bryan on Exercise in Germany

Army PFC Charles R. Bryan, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles R. Bryan, 24423 Park St., is participating with the 40th Transportation Company in Exercise Winter Shield at the Grafenwohr-Hohenfels training area in southern Germany.

Winter Shield, an annual winter maneuver involving 60,000 troops, is designed to determine the combat readiness of Seventh Army troops.

Bryan, a truck driver in the company in Mannheim, entered the army in January, 1959, and arrived overseas in June.

He attended North High School.

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