

## Airman Exams Set Wednesday

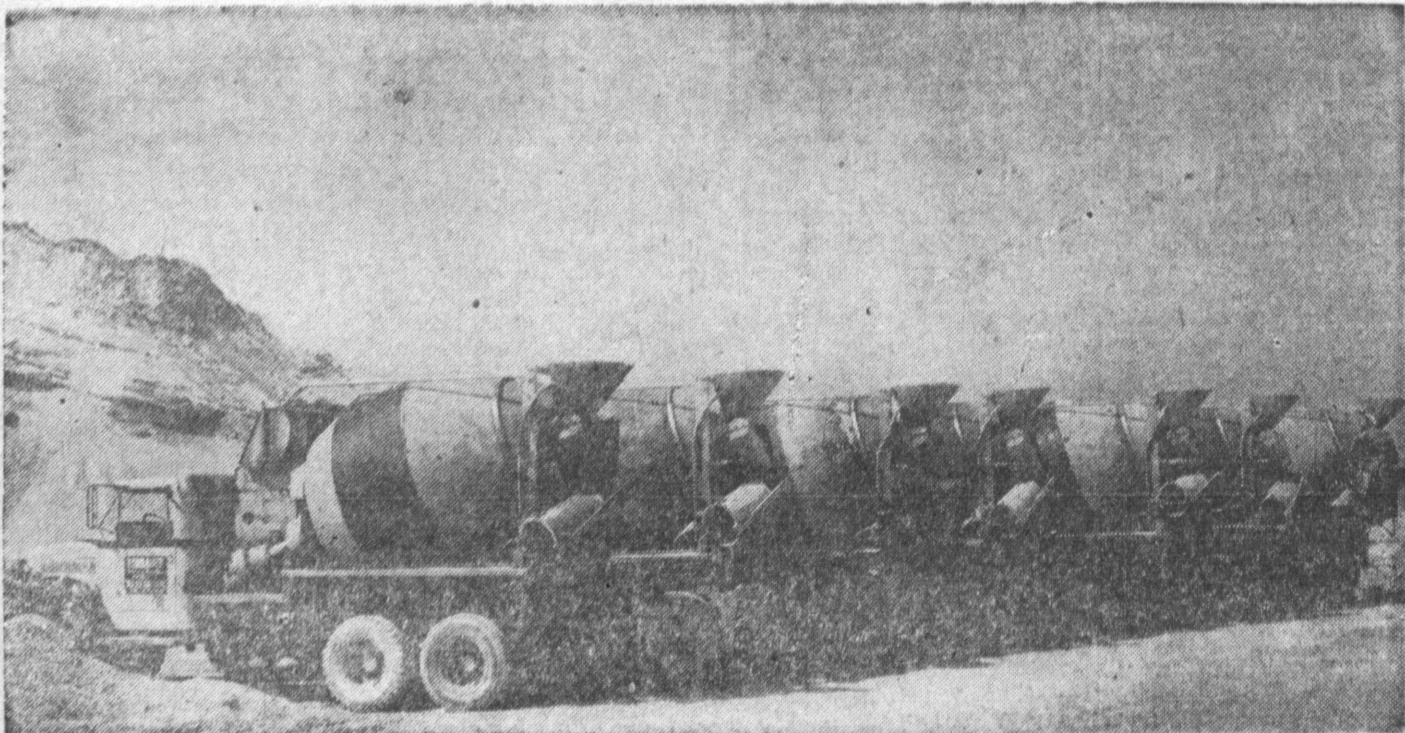
Airman qualifying examinations will be held for Air Force recruits at the Air Force Recruiting Office, 1319½ St. Louis St., Torrance, according to Tech. Sgt. Duane K. Hetler of U.S. Air Force Recruiting Service.

Force Recruiting Service.

Young men and women who wish to take the tests may contact Hetler for scheduling. Tests are administered to de-

termine the fields an applicant is eligible to train for: electronics, jet-engine mechanics, air traffic control, weather forecasting, and many other specialties.

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# 250,000 Take Part in City's Recreation

Participation in programs offered by the Torrance Recreation Department continued to increase during 1959 according to Harry Van Bellehem, director.

Three-quarters of a million persons attended programs carried on at six parks, 21 schools, Victor E. Benstead Plunge, adult center, golf course, municipal auditorium, and the arts and crafts center.

Many additional thousands crowded in the parks for picnics and family fun sessions.

"We do not count participants not actively engaged in programs offered by the department. Loss of the Arts and Crafts Center and the Civic Auditorium resulted in a drop in total attendance during the year in these areas. Adjustments were made late in the year to continue many of the activities previously carried on in the Auditorium at the Victor E. Benstead Plunge building. The Arts and Crafts Center was moved to Sea-Aire Park and at the end of the year attendance equalled that at the old downtown center," said Van Bellehem.

Benstead Plunge celebrated its fourth anniversary with an all-time high of 90,759 paid admissions while 2893 children and adults were enrolled in swimming, life-saving, and diving classes at the pool.

Free Saturday swims were given to 2795 children from the playgrounds. The total attendance at the pool for the summer was 93,554, or approximately 1000 persons a day. The annual aquacade was especially well attended with standing room only at all performances.

More than 360 boys and girls learned outdoor camping skills in the day-camp programs conducted during the summer. Of this number 45 attended a week-long mountain camp at Big Bear Lake, in which they learned more camping skills.

Approximately 300 boys and girls enrolled in the Fun-Through-Music program, participating in concerts at several of the parks and in parades throughout the Southland.

Sea-Aire Teen-age Golf Club, with an enrollment of 132 teen-agers, walked off with three medals in the first Southern California Teen-age Golf Tournament in Arcadia.

The top teen-age golfer for Southern California was a Torrance boy. Nearly 50% of the participants at Sea-Aire Golf

course during the year were teen-agers.

El Nido Park primitive area which provides overnight camping for organized youth groups was jammed from early June to late September. More than 10,000 Boy Scouts, Camp Fire Girls, and Girl Scouts, were hosted in Torrance during the summer of 1959.

A list of outstanding programs offered by the department also included arts-and-crafts classes, musical concerts, puppet making, drama, softball, football, baseball, modern dance classes, ski school, bowling classes, volleyball, golf lessons and club activities and field trips.

Increased use of school playgrounds and gymnasium facilities made possible the increase in attendance Van Bellehem emphasized. Saturday programs during the winter months on school grounds were heavily attended, particularly those conducted in the three high school gymnasiums. During the summer months, programs were operated five days a week on 16 school playgrounds.

Outstanding special events of the year included the pop concert by the South Bay Civic Symphony Orchestra, Easter Egg hunt sponsored by the Downtown Torrance Retail Merchants and the Torrance Adult Club, Mother and Daughter Tea, aquacade, annual open-house program, modern-dance concert, annual Talent show, and annual circus.

For the first time in the history of the recreation department it became necessary to use the facilities of the Los Angeles City Recreation and Parks Department and the Los Angeles City School District in meeting the demand for softball and basketball. The Torrance church softball league played on a ball park in Wilmington and the Industrial Basketball League played at Narbonne High School gymnasium. The three Torrance high school gymnasiums were used all nights and Saturdays they were available, as were the three night softball diamonds in the city. Yet many teams had to be turned away because sufficient facilities were not available to handle them.

The department's experience with the El Retiro Park tennis courts pointed up the need for more facilities. With more than 200 tennis players, plus an additional 200 occasional players, the

two tennis courts at El Retiro Park were constantly overloaded. A nationally recognized rule states that a tennis court should serve a maximum of 40 persons. The El Retiro tennis courts service demand exceeds 200 persons per court. Because of the exceedingly heavy use on these courts, the Recreation Department and its sponsored Torrance-Riviera Tennis Club were forced to curtail tennis lessons for youth.

Although no new park sites were acquired during the year, development of a children's playground area was completed at Sea-Aire Park through efforts of the Torrance Rotary Club.

McMaster Park also enjoyed some development with help from the McMaster Park Mothers Club, and the Torrance Adult

Center was provided with shades for the shuffleboard courts through contributions from the Torrance Adult Club.

One of the year's most noteworthy achievements was the contributions from the South Torrance Lions Club, the Riviera Garden Club, and Las Colinas Garden Club, toward development of a master plan for Los Arboles Park.

In addition to the master plan, the South Torrance Lions Club raised money for construction of walks, which are being installed. Also, the two garden clubs have raised over \$400 for purchase of shrubs and trees for the park.

During the year the city installed lawns and sprinkling systems at Paradise, Los Arboles, and La Romeria Parks.

## Population Booms; Shopping Centers to Be Largest Here

Torrance's population of 101,558 as of Jan. 1, 1960, will jump to 125,000 in the next two years, and the Del Amo shopping center will exceed the Lakewood shopping center in valuation due to the expansion program bound to come at the Torrance facility, according to Lee Schlenns, Torrance superintendent of buildings.

He said the current mushroom growth will continue, as he foresees 150,000 in five years. He said:

"The vacancy rate is lower than in neighborhood cities, which gives some idea of the progressive spirit that pervades the city of Torrance."

To substantiate his prediction, he pointed to construction of 600 homes scheduled for the subdivision in Waveria Lake, the latter part of this year. At present there are 150 homes being constructed at Sepulveda and Crenshaw Blvds.

Schlenns said the flood-control project will be the last large subdivision to be converted into homes.

Surpassing the multimillion-dollar shopping center at Lakewood will not be as difficult as it seems, Schlenns remarked.

Building potential at Torrance

is greater because of the larger areas to draw from on the north, Schlenns said.

"With the new plants to open in Torrance, which means more persons employed in gainful occupation, one cannot be too optimistic about the future of Torrance."

When the saturation point is reached in single dwellings, then thinking of apartment structures will be entertained, Schlenns said.

## OFFICIALS SWAP JOBS AT SCHOOLS

Three vice principals in Torrance elementary schools will switch posts as part of the district's policy of giving administrators experience in different areas.

At Steele School, John M. Kasser, now at Wood, will replace B. J. Vassar, who will become vice principal at Meadow Park.

Philip Korman, Meadow Park, will take over at Fern Greenwood from Ralph E. Wilson, who will become Adams principal.



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