

EMB Services Library Needs Of Torrance School District

BY RONNIE SAUNDERS
Woman's Editor

(Editor's Note: The following article, which deals with the Educational Materials Building, is fourth in a series concerned with what is being taught in Torrance schools).

Perhaps the most widely-known aspect of the Torrance Unified School District is the Educational Materials Building.

A unique answer to the problem of housing individual libraries within each school of the district, the Educational Materials Building, known as the EMB, is a centralized library which services the 34 elementary and four high schools of Torrance.

Begun as ten shelves in a coat closet of an old bungalow in 1959, EMB today covers 18,000 square feet and is designed to eventually serve 40 elementary schools and four high schools. With minor change it could serve 50 elementary schools and five high schools.

In addition to containing 180,000 library books and supplementary texts, EMB houses 900 films, 6000 filmstrips, 8000 records and 600 study prints.

Each week the green trucks that deliver daily supplies from the central facility on Plaza Del Amo to 38 schools in every corner of the city transport 5000 books. During one peak period, 30,000 books went out in a single week.

Built in 1958 with school bond funds, the EMB has served a dual purpose. Not only has it managed to pare expenses by avoiding duplication of space and personnel, but it has enabled teachers to have a much larger supply of material at their disposal than they would under ordinary circumstances.

Specifically each teacher is offered ten times the amount of books she could get from an individual library and 20 times the amount of audio-visual equipment.

Spacewise, the district has done in 18,000 square feet what it would take 40,000 square feet to do, if libraries were provided at each school.

From a personnel point of view, only 14 employees are required where 40 would be needed if each school had its own library.

In addition, the central facility is able to offer extras such as preview booths for films and records, a curriculum laboratory where the teachers may construct instructional materials for their classrooms, and a professional library for teachers.

Result of the centralized system is that tax dollars are able to go for materials to be used in the classroom rather than on operation of the system itself.

Teachers are encouraged to visit the EMB after school to personally select books geared towards individual students as well as audio-visual material for units in which they are working. They may also order by mail.

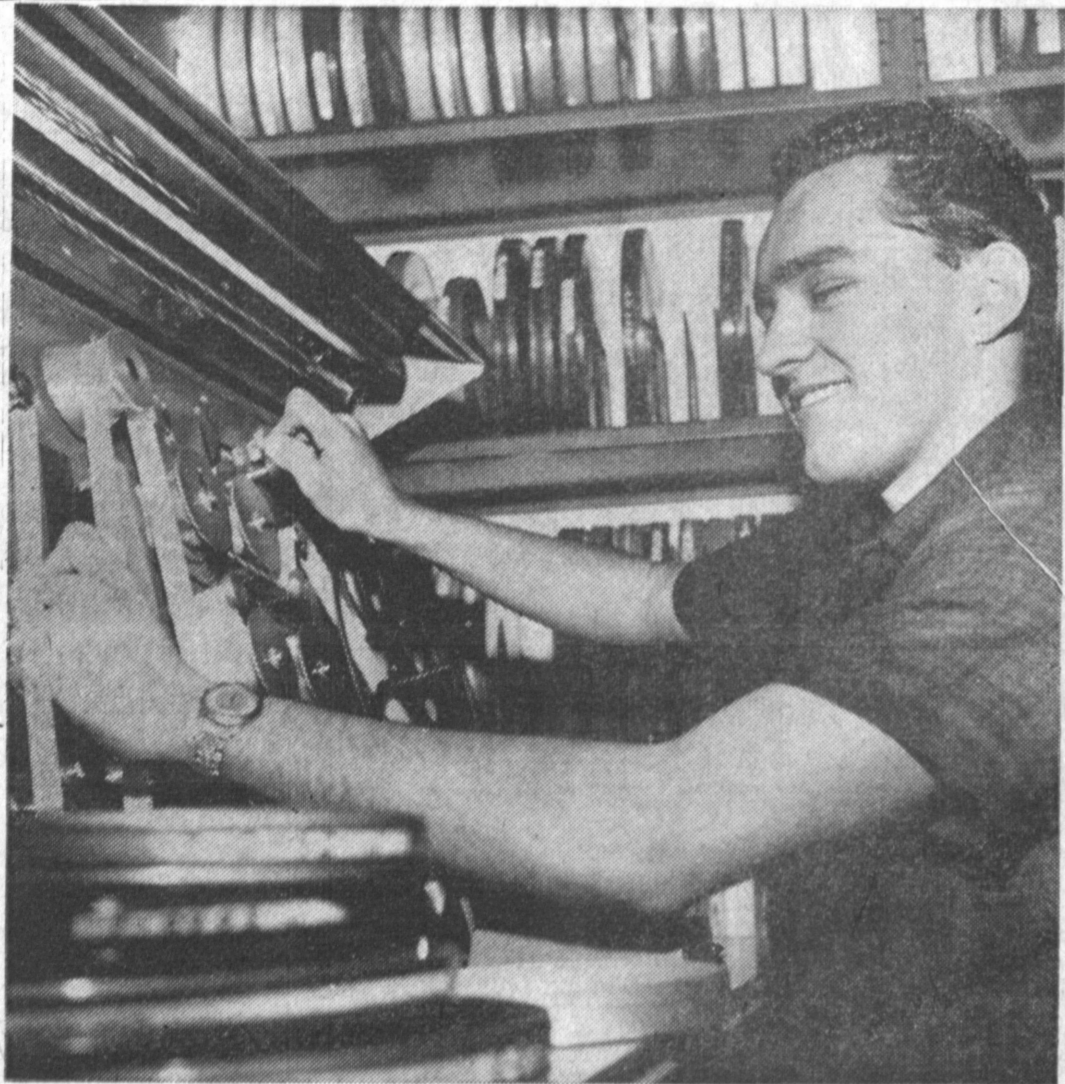
With emphasis in the district being on students' individual differences, teachers' orders run the gamut grade - level - wise. Each teacher orders according to her children's needs rather than on the basis of their particular grade.

To aid the teacher in making her rounds of shelves, shopping carts similar to those used in supermarkets are provided. Conveyor belts at the checkout counter take the books to an automatic book-tying machine and to distribution bins.

After being sorted by school and put into bins, the books are moved automatically to the loading dock for delivery to the schools.

GROUND HOG PARTY

Square Links Square Dance Club will sponsor a ground hog party from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. today at the Harbor City Retail Clerks Hall, 25049 Belle Porte Ave., Harbor City. The public has been invited.



INSPECTING FILM for breaks and defects is Ronald Myrens, film clerk. As each film is returned, it is inspected within 24 hours to insure that film will be in perfect condition when it

is sent out again. Machine automatically cleans, splices, unwinds and re-winds. It can handle hundreds of film at one time.

—PRESS photos by William Schell Jr.



MOUNTING PICTURES which aid in visual demonstrations is Mrs. Clyde Beck, supervisory clerk. Educational Materials Building does in 18,000 square feet what it would take indi-

vidual libraries 40,000 square feet to do. Result is greater economy and a larger diversity of material for teachers to use in the classroom.



THREADING TAPE into high-speed recorder which produces two tapes at one time is Mrs. Clyde Beck, supervisory clerk of audio-visual processing department. By reproducing tapes in pairs, machine enables district to sup-

ply material to schols in half the time. Tapes are used to record outstanding speakers, aid in instructing foreign languages and poetry and in teaching of the blind.



PLACING PUFFER FISH on shelf is Robert Treadway, reception clerk. Behind glass doors to display cases are items loaned to the Torrance Unified School District by Los Angeles County Museum. Articles ranging from stuffed birds to study prints are used by teachers to demonstrate science lessons. In addition to containing 180,000 books, EMB houses 900 filmstrips, 8000 records and 600 study prints.



EXAMINING BRAILLE BOOK are members of the Torrance Provisional League of Women Voters who recently toured the EMB. Tours are conducted for educational groups by high school seniors. Braille texts are for use of partially sighted students

at North High School. Pictured are (l-r) Terry Sullivan, South High senior, and Mmes. William Geisert, Warren Shallis, Robert Katherman, Kenneth Watts, and Albert Nadel, league president.



BAGGED, BOUND, AND BINNED. Teachers' orders for day are placed in chute by Harold Findely, clerk, to be picked up and delivered by truck which makes daily deliveries to 34

elementary schools in district. Trucks deliver 5000 books a week. During peak period 30,000 books went out in a single week.