

**BASIC SKILLS CLASSES**

**Students Learn Through Individual Experiences**

Bud is commissioner of athletics at his school, and Tony plays on the football team.

Ann is a cheerleader. Gloria is active in the Girls Athletic Association. Phyllis is a member of the student council.

All five students have two things in common. They obviously are active in the social life of their school, but less obvious is the fact that they are special students.

These five students are enrolled in special classes in the Torrance schools—classes tailored to fit the needs of boys and girls whose natural limitations make the competition of an ordinary classroom an unsurmountable hurdle. Unlike the ordinary class, these special classes are designed to give special students a place to achieve a sense of accomplishment and to gain confidence in their own abilities.

KNOWN AS basic skills classes, these classes are geared to help youngsters prepare themselves to earn wages and assume the duties and obligations of citizenship. There are 14 such classes in Torrance elementary schools and 10 more in the city's high schools.

Emphasis in the basic skills program is on concrete applications of knowledge. Where ordinary students solve problems on the basis of certain assumptions, the basic skills students take nothing for granted. They must work out what others will assume.

Because the basic skills of learning are difficult for these students to understand, teachers must spend their time in activities which can give the students an opportunity to experience, with their own eyes and hands, those things others read on the printed page. Through these activities, the students learn to tell left from right, up and down, and front and back. In this way, the students learn the difference between a "b" and a "d" or a "g" and "p".

ANOTHER OF the concepts which these students must learn is that of self. "Before he can reach out and know the world around him," says one basic skills teacher, "he must know himself. Once he knows himself, he is ready for in and out, up and down, in front of, behind, on top of, and below."

In the same way—experience and practice—the students learn to draw basic shapes—circles, triangles, square, and rectangles. Until these shapes can be drawn, the student can not really learn to read.

After three or four years in the basic class, these students will progress to an intermediate class where they will spend another two or three years. Here, they concentrate on the concrete applications of their knowledge.

A lesson in cooking will give them an opportunity to apply their lessons in reading, and arithmetic in a way that will put meaning into their learning.

TEACHING THESE students some of the more abstract ideas, government or history, for example, is more difficult. Teachers must emphasize the individual's role in government, not the structure of government. "These students understand the direct experience," says one basic skills teacher.

In high school classes, the emphasis continues to be put on the concrete applications of skills. In these classes, students may learn to work in a shop, to cook, and about safety and health. At this level, the basic skills students are trained to hold jobs, and they frequently hold jobs during these years. One recent graduate worked as a truck driver, while others may do clerical work or mend books for the school district. Employers rate these students as top-notch employees.

BUT WHERE does the school's responsibility end and the parent's job begin? From the moment a child is selected for the basic skills program, parent and teacher, school principal, and the district's psychologists are in

constant communication. Individual conferences are scheduled whenever parent or teacher feels the need is there. Psychological and health examinations are given, and a curriculum is established to meet the child's individual needs.

This fall, a group of parents carried the communication one step farther. Parents of the basic skills students are meeting to pool their knowledge, to discuss their common problems, and to plan ways to apply school lessons at home. The group will meet about once every six weeks.

The new vice president is Walter Rensen. He will preside over the West High House of Representatives, a group composed of representatives from each social studies class at the school.

OTHER NEW student council members include: Mary Lu Lahon, secretary of rec-

**West High Names New President**

Senior Dan Thomas has been elected student body president in heavy balloting at West High. Thomas, son of Mr. and Mrs. Evert Thomas of 5047 Halison St., was student body vice president last semester.

He will work with Donald Brink, vice president; Barbara Packard, secretary, and Janice Field, treasurer.

THE SOPHOMORE class named Rex McNay its new president. Other sophomores winning office were Ronald Heidman, vice president; Gayla White, secretary, and Thomas Somerset, treasurer.

Peter Dunhaver will hold the gavel as freshman class president. Richard Schwanbeck is the new vice president, Deborah Speaks, secretary, and Lucille Pereyre, treasurer.

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**Women Bandits Hit Area Liquor Stores for \$440**

Two women, both dressed in articles of men's clothing, held up three liquor stores within two hours Sunday evening. The pair escaped with about \$440.

One of the women was described as about 30, weighing 180 pounds. The other woman weighs between 115-130 pounds and is in her 20s, victims told police.

The young woman, acting alone, escaped with \$190 after holding up Ranch Market Liquors at 1010 W. Anaheim St. shortly before 8 p.m. She

asked for cigarettes, then produced a gun and said, "I want your money and I want all of it."

About 9:20 p.m. the pair robbed the R&L Liquor Store, 12714 S. Western Ave., Gardena, of \$109. Again, the younger woman asked for cigarettes then produced her gun.

Just before 10 p.m. the pair struck at Grogans Liquor Store, 2206 E. Artesis Blvd. This time, they escaped with \$60.

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**SPRINGFIELD MAYONNAISE**  
MADE WITH FRESH EGGS SAVE 14c  
**29c** LARGE 24-OZ. BTL.

**DUTCH CLEANSER**  
IN THE NEW RUST-PROOF PLASTIC CAN 2c off label  
**10c** TALL 14-OZ. CAN

**PURE BLEACH**  
1 1/2 GALLONS OF BLEACH AT A LOW, LOW PRICE  
**4** SAVE 30c 7c off label JUMBO 5-QT. PLASTIC BOTTLE

**GOLDEN CREME IMITATION ICE MILK**  
CHOOSE FROM ALL FLAVORS. GREAT FOR WEIGHT WATCHERS  
**4** HALF GALLON CARTONS SAVE 56c

**BANQUET DINNERS**  
YOUR CHOICE OF ALL VARIETIES SAVE 47c  
**3** FOR \$1

**DEL MONTE SODA POP**  
NO DEPOSIT NO RETURN 4-OZ. MORE THAN IN CANS  
**16** REG. OR LOW CAL HALF QUART BOTTLES

**KOTEX** ..... 3 12-CT. BOXES \$1  
YOUR POCH WILL LOVE YOU FOR SERVING HIM  
**SKIPPY DOG FOOD** .. 2 LARGE 26-OZ. CANS 33c  
SAVE 8c ON DELICIOUS  
**XLNT TAMALES** ..... 4 15-OZ. CANS \$1  
TREAT YOUR DOG AS A FRIEND  
**FRISKIES MIX** ..... 25 LB. SACK \$3.29  
IT'S FRISKIES FROM CARNATION FINE DOG FOOD  
**MIX or CUBES** ..... 5 LB. PKG. 79c

**PORK 'n BEANS**  
SPRINGFIELD OF COURSE  
LARGE NO. 2 1/2 CAN  
SAVE 8c  
**15c**

**PICTSWEET Frozen Foods**  
Leaf & Chopped Spinach  
Peas Peas & Carrots  
Butter Beans Cut Corn  
Turnip Greens  
**6** REG. PKGS. \$1

**WONG'S**  
SAVE 10c  
Chicken Chop Suey  
Pork Chop Suey  
Fried Rice  
Shrimp Chow Mein  
**39c** PKG.

**TROPICANA ORANGE JUICE DRINK**  
LOW CAL SAVE 10c  
**49c**

**POTATOES**  
U.S. NO. 1 IDAHO RUSSET  
**5** 1/2 LB. BAG 39c

**DELICIOUS APPLES**  
STARKING \* RED  
EXTRA FANCY  
**2** LBS. 29c

**TOMATOES**  
FIRM/RIFE/SLICING  
**2** LBS. 25c

**CABBAGE**  
FRESH, SOLID GREEN HEADS  
LB. 3c

**GLORIETTA APRICOTS**  
SAVE 6c No. 303 CAN  
**25c**

**GLORIETTA ELBERTA FREESTONE PEACHES**  
SAVE 6c No. 303 CAN  
**25c**

**BEER**  
GOLDEN GATE BEER  
ONLY AT PRAIRIE & REDONDO STORE  
CASE OF 24 \$3.79 + tax  
**6** 1/2 QT. CANS 98c

**IMPORTED SCOTCH**  
ANCIENT CASTLE, 50 PROOF  
Apple Blackberry Concord Loganberry Boonaa Farm  
**3** \$3.88  
**69c**

**FRUIT WINES** ..... 6th

**BANQUET FROZEN MEAT PIES**.....4 for 89c  
**BANQUET FROZEN FRUIT PIES**.....3 for \$1  
**PUREX BEADS 'O BLEACH** Reg.....49c  
**C&H Powdered Brown SUGAR** 2 lbs. 35c  
**CUT-RITE WAXED PAPER**, 125-Ft. Roll 27c  
**ZEE TOILET TISSUE** ..... 4 pak 39c

**CHICKEN OF THE SEA TUNA**, Light Chunk, No. 1/2 Cans.....3 for \$1  
**DOLE PINEAPPLE CHUNKS**, No. 2 Can 39c  
**DOLE PINEAPPLE JUICE**, 46-oz. Can.....37c  
**FOUR FISHERMEN FISHSTICKS**, 14-oz. 69c  
**GERBER BABY CEREALS**, 8-oz.....2 for 39c

**HEINZ BABY FOOD**, Strained.....3 jars 35c  
**KERN'S GRAPE JELLY**, 12-oz. Jar.....29c  
**LA CHOY BEAN SPROUTS**, 303 Can 17c  
**LYSOL SPRAY DISINFECTANT**, 7-oz.....98c  
**LIBBY'S PURPLE PLUMS**, No. 303 Can.....25c  
**LIBBY'S TOMATO JUICE**, 46-oz. Can.....31c

**LIBBY'S CORNED BEEF** 12-oz. Can.....59c  
**MORTON'S CASSEROLES**, Macaroni & Cheese, 8-oz.....4 for \$1  
**MODESS SANITARY NAPKINS**, 24 Ct. 87c  
**NEWS DETERGENT**, Large Pkgs. 2 for 49c  
**ORE-IDA POTATOES**, Crinkle Cut, 16-oz.

**STAR KISS ORCHID N. POMPEIAN RENUZIT C. SNOW'S C. SWIFT BAB**

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