

Youngsters Get Chance To Take Trip to Mars

An astronomy spectacular, "A Trip to Mars," is now showing at Griffith Park Observatory's planetarium theater, the Los Angeles City Recreation and Parks Department reported yesterday.

Beginning last week and running through April 13, "A Trip to Mars" draws attention to an event that occurs only once every two years, according to Observatory Director Dr. Clarence H. Clemenshaw. About once every two years, Earth overtakes Mars in their race around the sun. This year the earth passes the "warlike" planet tomorrow at a point when they are "only" 62 million miles apart.

Dr. Clemenshaw said that because of the nearness of the planet, it will appear the brightest "star" in its part of the sky. During the time Mars and Earth are passing each other, the planet will rise in the east about sunset.

According to Dr. Clemenshaw, "A Trip to Mars" will begin with an examination of the planet during several

Harbor Baptist Group To Convene Saturday

The Harbor Baptist Association will hold its 29th annual meeting Saturday afternoon at the First Baptist Church of Torrance, 2118 W. Carson St. The Rev. Robert Dehn, pastor of First Baptist Church, is moderator of the association. Business meetings will begin at 2:30, to be followed "months" of accelerated planetarium time.

Admission is 75 cents for adults and 30 cents for students under 18 years of age. Children under 5 are not admitted to the theater.

Seminars will begin at 4:30 at the church. Miss Edythe Coke will lead discussions on "Parent-Child Relationship," while Miss Margaret Lloyd will lead a discussion on the "Visual Aid Library." Other seminars will include a panel discussion of "Lay Evangelism," "Church Music" led by Mrs. Ron Mullins, Maynard Meador, and Howard Whittaker. Donna Wilson will head a group discussing "Sunday School and the Mentally Retarded."

DURING THE evening sessions, three missionaries now on furlough will discuss missions. The Rev. Ted Livingstone from Japan, the Rev. Gerald Weaver from the Congo, and Miss Beatrice Ericson, a missionary to India, will participate.

The Chapel Choir of the First Baptist Church will sing special music featuring soloist Ted Carrington. The association banquet will begin at 5:45.

Nursery service is available and the general public is invited to both the afternoon and evening sessions.

High School Journalism Called 'Academic Slum'

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is not the first of two articles on journalism in America's high schools. Charging that high school journalism in too many California school districts is an "academic slum" resembling the state of journalism teaching in California high schools, Paul S. Swenson, executive director of the Newspaper Fund and former managing editor of The Minneapolis Star, his full-time director of The Wall Street Journal, declared in a recent interview that:

Too few young people are considering careers in journalism and the quality of these people, while improving, is not impressive. High school people responsible for "tending the seedbed" of journalism are far too often poorly prepared, inadequately compensated, and overworked.

SWENSON, who was formerly managing editor of The Minneapolis Star, said his studies on the state of journalism in California—as well as in the rest of the country—have revealed that high school journalism has almost no connection with the daily or weekly newspaper in most communities; that high school journalism is a "marvelous way to share school news with the community," but this rarely happens, that high school journalism classes fail their first assignment—to teach students to write—because the teachers are usually untrained in this basic part of English.

Eleven of the 16 California colleges and universities which report journalism enrollments, Swenson said, graduated in 1964 a total of 187 men and women with B.A. degrees and 27 more with masters degrees in journalism. "But the number who actually went to work was not 214, for we have not deducted those claimed by Uncle Sam or Dan Cupid."

ACTUALLY, he continued, there was not one new reporter from this principal source of supply for each of the 124 daily newspapers in California.

"Freshman Journalism enrollment was up last September in 7 of 10 California schools; in only one school did freshman boys outnumber the girls; six of the deans and department chairmen reported the quality of students 'better or much better.'"

Swenson said more good students would be attracted to journalism if more high school journalism teachers were really competent to handle their assignment. "Unfortunately," he said, "only a small percentage of journalism teachers are really qualified. Forty per cent of the journalism teachers who received study grants from a national foundation in 1962 had never taken a single journalism course and 70 per cent had fewer than nine credits in journalism."

CALIFORNIA journalism teachers, Swenson said, list seven major blights besetting high school journalism:

Lack of time to do proper job of teaching journalism or of putting out student publications. Some report from 50 to 100 hours a month in uncompensated overtime.

Journalism classes and newspaper staffs are weak in quality, short in numbers and the boys are conspicuously absent.

Many school newspapers are published so infrequently that they contain no news and fail badly as a teaching tool. Principals and superintendents often are unsympathetic or indifferent to these problems.

FACILITIES ARE inadequate. Typewriters, bulletin boards and even staff rooms are in very short supply. In some cases they are missing.

Teaching materials, such as stylebooks, courses of study, journalism curriculum guides, exercises in writing and editing, are unavailable or in short supply.

Financing the school newspaper, whether by advertising, subscription fees, or a variety of money-raising efforts such as dances and candy sales, is a genuine headache for large numbers of teachers.

Swenson said the Newspaper Fund was established in 1959 to assist high school journalism teachers to do a better job and to encourage career interest in journalism among students. More than \$1,250,000 has been disbursed in grants to send 3,000 high school journalism teachers and publications advisers to summer school.

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