

PAR Workshops Plans Open House Friday

PAR Workshops Southwest, which provides occupational training for mentally retarded adults in the Southwest area, will observe an open house Friday from 8 a.m. until 9 p.m.

The workshop, a joint project of the Southwest Association for Retarded Children (SARC) and the Exceptional Children's Foundation of Los Angeles, is located at 1725 W. 180th St., Gardena.

Four Girls Win Talent Semi-Final

Four girls from Torrance First Church of the Nazarene have been selected to compete in the zone finals of a teen talent contest sponsored by the Nazarene Young People's Society.

They are Norma Sue Patton, teen speech; Linda Foster, teen instrumental; Debbie Jilbert, junior instrumental; and Sharon Cooney, junior vocal. They are among 15 semi-finalists selected Sunday during semi-final judging.

Zone finalists will be selected at 7:30 p.m. March 30 at the Long Beach First Church of the Nazarene. Finalists will compete May 13 and 14 during the annual district convention of the Nazarene Young People's Society in San Diego.

Miss Patton is the daughter of Mrs. Jewell Patton of Long Beach. Miss Foster is the daughter of Mrs. Jewell Patton of Long Beach. Miss Jilbert is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Foster of 22927 Broadwell Ave., Torrance.

Parents of Miss Jilbert are Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Jilbert of 5419 Konya Drive. Mr. and Mrs. Richard Cooney of 5905 Birchmont, Palos Verdes Peninsula, are parents of Miss Cooney.

The four girls are competing for trophies and a \$100 scholarship to Pasadena College.

Grace Rokey Promoted

Grace D. Rokey of 3344 Redondo Beach Blvd., has been promoted to assistant cashier on the Bank of America's area administration service staff.

Miss Rokey previously served in the lending departments at all branches in the Los Angeles area and has been on the area administration service staff for the past year.

provide meaningful employment, continued training, and some degree of independence. Retardates working the workshops are paid according to the work performed.

SPECIAL GUESTS will include Robert Shushan, executive director of the Exceptional Children's Foundation of Los Angeles; Mrs. Everette Small, president of the foundation; William King, chairman of the Industrial Committee of Gardena, and N. E. Acree, executive secretary, division of research grants and demonstrations, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.

George Thomas, supervisor of PAR Workshop, and William Savage, manager of the PAR Workshops Southwest, also will be present. The public is invited to visit the workshop and observe the work. A regular work day for about 20 retardates will be observed so visitors may see and understand the purpose of the workshop.

PAR WORKSHOPS Southwest (production and rehabilitation) was organized by the Exceptional Children's Foundation and SARC in December under a three-year federal grant. Funds are being used for a feasibility study of ways and means of operating sheltered workshops begun by independent parent organizations.

The study also is attempting to find a way to establish workshops in a metropolitan area which can use the guidance, counseling, and consultant services of a central professional staff.

The workshop secures work for its employees through subcontracts from local industries.

TRAINEES perform such work as replacing ear pieces, disinfecting and repackaging ear sets for in-flight entertainment aboard airliners, packaging a variety of small objects, collating, wrapping, stamping and labeling, and mailing.

Purpose of the sheltered workshop program, according to Harry Raech, chairman of the SARC habilitation committee, is to provide both occupational training and continuing education for retarded persons 18 years of age and older.

Mentally retarded children usually enjoy adequate public schooling in California until they are 18, Raech explains. When retarded children are no longer eligible for public schooling, they must remain at home or be institutionalized. The workshop program is designed to

SARC IS especially interested in acquainting local industry with the facilities of the PAR Workshops Southwest. At present, the shop is equipped to perform a variety of small jobs, including bench assemblies, wrapping, heat sealing, inspection and classification, mechanical assemblies, sorting, stapling, and reclamation and salvage.

The shop also is in need of additional tools, including sorted workbench tools, vacuum packing machine, time clock, and a mimeographing machine. SARC must provide independent support for the workshop.

"We do not seek work out of sympathy to our cause," Raech says. "We know that the workshop can perform a real service to industry. All we ask is an equal opportunity to obtain work for our handicapped adults as competitive prices."

When the grant expires, SARC must provide independent support for the workshop.

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