

## Robertson to Confer with Park Board

Simi Valley Parks and Recreation District Committee will hold their regular meeting on Wednesday, January 24, in the Educational Materials Building on Deodora Street, in Simi Community Center, at 8 p.m. At this time, Alan Robertson of the County Planning Commission, will help the committee set up an administrative ordinance.

Ferdinand Barr, recreation specialist from Los Angeles, visited Simi Valley last Wednesday, to study the area's needs. He will start his field study on January 29.

Ventura county supervisors this week approved a \$5,000 loan to the Simi Valley park district to carry it until it starts collecting tax revenue. The loan draws 3 3/4 per cent interest.

# Simi Board Endorses New Park Ordinance

Simi Valley Parks and Recreation District board passed a resolution favoring Ventura County Ordinance 1116, when they held their last meeting on January 24, at the Educational Materials Building, in Simi Community Center.

The resolution reads: "Resolved that, in order to encourage the provision by developers and subdividers, of recreational and park facilities, through the use of Ventura County Ordinance 1116, the Simi Valley Park and Recreation District endorses planning of residential lots within its jurisdiction at no less than 8000 square feet."

Two special meetings, both open to the public, will be held by the committee. The first will be held on February 1, 7:30 p.m. at the Educational Materials Building, Ferdanand Bahr will tell of his field study of the area, which will be started January 31. On February 7, at the same time and place, the '62-'63 budget will be discussed and approved.

# Recreation Master Plan, Budget Are Aired Here

The governing boards of the Simi Valley Unified School District and the Simi Valley Recreation and Parks District heard a plan for the Valley's recreational development and viewed a proposed recreation budget at a joint meeting Monday night.

The meeting continued the process of transferring the responsibility for the Valley's recreational needs from the school district to

the recently organized recreation district.

A plan, prepared at the request of the two districts by the Division of Recreation, State Department of Parks and Recreation, was presented by Ferdinand A. Bahr, recreation specialist on the Division staff.

Advised for the Valley were 10 neighborhood parks adjacent to elementary schools, two large

community recreation centers adjacent to the proposed two new high schools, a "green belt" of picnic areas and bridle and bike trails along the banks of the arroyos, and several scenic and historic areas.

The two large centers would include Olympic-sized swim pools and such other facilities as the high school did not offer. Also, the recreation district would pay

for lighting so that school athletic facilities might be used by the community at night.

Bahr stressed the trend toward combining school and recreation areas to allow sharing maintenance and operation costs and avoiding duplication of facilities.

Because of the terrific competition for land in Simi Valley, he said it is important that park sites be acquired as soon as possible.

Financing methods suggested were a 15 cent additional tax to partially finance capital improvements; general obligation bonds which would spread the financing over a longer period so that present residents will not have the burden of providing for future residents' needs; establishing a priority list so that important features will be provided for; negotiating with developers for provision of sites; encouraging gifts of land and property, and securing federal grants to aid in site purchases.

Bahr deplored the condition of the Valley's two county parks and said that pressure should be brought to bear on the county to prevent their further deterioration. For example, allowing extensive parking at Oak Park is causing the earth to be so hard packed as to peril the park's many beautiful oaks, he said.

## BUDGET FEATURES

A proposed budget of approximately \$15,000, providing for a somewhat expanded recreation program, was presented by Robert Pitman, recreation director for the school district.

School superintendent Dr. David H. Paynter explained this will be the last year the school district will prepare the budget; in the future the preparation would be in the hands of the recreation district and the school will merely contribute its proportionate share of financing.

However, since the general manager to be hired by the recreation board will not be on the scene until some time in May and since the recreation district will be without funds until the beginning of the fiscal year, the school district is proceeding with the plan so as not to delay the summer recreation program.

It is expected that Pitman and the new general manager will work together until the latter gradually takes over the leadership.

One additional school will be in the summer playground program, the soon-to-open new Vista Elementary School, and approximately 1000 more youngsters than last year are expected to be in the Valley to participate.

The program will extend for 10 weeks, one more than last year, and will this year include Saturday activities.

Planned for this year are more bus transportation, weekly tournaments at each school with an inter-playground tournament each Friday, two night softball leagues for men and tennis instruction for adults, as well as an enlargement and improvement of many standing programs.

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# *Rec Manager Selection In Progress*

A committee of five on Monday screened 36 applications for the first general manager for the Simi Valley Recreation and Parks District.

Applicants selected will have personal interviews April 28 before another screening committee composed of Dr. George Willot of Los Angeles State College, Dr. David H. Paynter, superintendent of schools of the Simi Valley Unified School District, and Mrs. John Weil, secretary of the Recreation and Parks District board.

Monday's screening group included Frank Setser and Al Haas of the recreation board, Dr. David H. Paynter and trustee Roy Heath of the school district, and Chamber of Commerce president William Goff, representing the community.

All applicants but the top three will be eliminated on April 28 and the recreation board will make a final choice from the trio at a special meeting on April 30. It is hoped that manager chosen will be on the job here by June 1 at the latest.

# Screening Starts for Man to Manage Simi Park District

Thirty two applications for the position of general manager for the Simi Valley Recreation and Park District had been received by John Weil, by April 15, application deadline time. On April 16, the screening committee began the task of narrowing the selection to about 7 candidates. Those on the screening committee are: Frank Setser, Alfred H a a s, both representing the recreation district board; Dr. David Paynter, school district representative; William Goff, president of the Simi Valley Chamber of Com-

merce; and Roy Heath, school board representative.

Interviews will be conducted on April 23, by a committee which will include: Mrs. John Weil, Dr. Paynter, and George Willett, head of recreation at Los Angeles City College.

## Master Plan

A master plan for the development of Simi Valley was presented to the Recreation and Park District Board and the Simi Unified School District Board at a joint meeting on Monday, April 9. The plan was prepared by the California Division of Recreation, and was given by Ferdinand A. Bahr, recreation specialist on the Division staff. The Recreation and Park District covers an area of 132 square miles, with a population of 19,200. The population, which had a growth of 3½ times that of the county rate, is expected to increase at an even greater pace in the next 5 years.

According to Division summary of findings, Simi Valley is deficient in parks, recreation facilities and areas, with only two parks in the district, Susana Knolls Park at the east end, and Oak Park located between Simi and Moor park. Neighborhood parks are nonexistent. Until the Park District was formed, the school district was the only agency concerned with recreational facilities.

## Plan Neighborhood Parks

With the new program, three kinds of development is called for: neighborhood parks, mainly for elementary and pre-school children, community parks to serve groups of neighborhoods, and special districtwide areas to include natural areas and trails, parkways, historical sites, community recreation buildings, swimming pools, outdoor sports center, theme park, picnic and barbecue areas.

It was proposed to locate neighborhood parks on property adjacent to elementary school sites, between 3 and 5 acres in size. Two community recreation parks could be placed next to the two new high schools to be built in the near future. An expanded sports and athletic program for children of all age groups, including teenagers, with skilled part-time employees, skilled in recreation leadership, and volunteer help, was suggested.

## To Encourage Gifts

Various suggestions were proposed for the development of a long term financial plan for capital improvements. These include earmarking a portion of the total tax levy; establishing a priority list of improvements; negotiating with home developers for recreation areas in new subdivisions; encouragement of land gifts, and financing through obligation bonds. The Recreation District and Unified School District would each contribute a proportionate share of the costs.

Robert Pitman, school district recreation director, presented a proposed budget of approximately \$15,000, for an expanded summer recreation program. Dr. David H. Paynter, school superintendent, said this will be the last year that the school district would prepare the budget. In the future, the recreation district would draw up the budget, with the school district contributing its share of financing.

# Recreation Job Field is Reduced to 3

Choice of the new director for the Simi Valley Parks and Recreation district has been narrowed down to three applicants, it was learned this week.

The screening committee plans to do further checking in the localities where the three finalists are now engaged in recreation activities. The screening committee consisting of Dr. George Willots of Los Angeles State, a leader in the recreation field, Mrs. Elsie Weil and Dr. David Paynter, Simi district superintendent of schools, served on the screening committee which cut the field from five to three last Saturday.

It is planned to have the new director on the job June 5.

# New Manager Chosen By Recreation Board

Leslie G. Reed of New Cuyama will be the first general manager



**LESLIE G. REED**

of the Simi Valley Recreation and Parks District, it was announced yesterday.

Final choice of Reed was made by the district board after screening by other groups. There were 36 applicants.

Born in Glendale on February 28, 1928, Reed formerly taught in the Los Angeles City schools. Most recently he has been executive director of the New Cuyama Valley Recreation District; prior to that he was district supervisor in the Pasadena City Schools Recreation District. During his army career he lectured to officers and enlisted men on world affairs.

The new general manager attended Glendale City College and received his BA in Education at the University of California at Santa Barbara. He did graduate work in Recreation Administration at Los Angeles State College.

The local recreation board is tentatively planning an open house in the new offices the district shares with the Simi Valley Chamber of Commerce to coincide with Reed's arrival. The office at 1734 Los Angeles avenue opened last week.

# *Recreation Open House On June 9*

An open house at the new, first office of the Recreation and Parks District was planned at last week's meeting of the district board for June 9.

There to meet interested members of the community will be the district's new, first general manager, Leslie G. Reed of New Cuyama Valley. Reed will be officially on the job on June 11.

Hours of the open house in the quarters shared with the Simi Valley Chamber of Commerce at 1734 Los Angeles avenue will be from 2 to 4 p.m.

A possibility that the Chamber of Commerce will share also in the open house is being explored by both groups.



# Park Site Donated By Developer Here

Simi Valley's long-felt need for a parks and recreational centers this week came closer to realization following an announcement by Frank G. Spain, vice president of Simi Valley Development Co., that the Diversa, Inc. subsidiary is donating a 15-acre site to the Simi Valley Recreation and Parks District.

The gift offer was accepted by David Strathearn Jr., chairman of the newly-formed Recreation District which covers precisely the same area as the Simi Valley Unified School District.

The 15 acre site is located in the northeast section of the val-

ley, northeast of the Tapo-Alamo street intersection and adjacent to the proposed new championship golf course, which will soon be built by the development company. The park and playgrounds will provide facilities for adults as well as children. Two Boys Baseball diamonds are already located on the property.

This is the first property to be acquired by the recreation district. While it is conveniently located to serve people in all areas of the valley it is but the first of several projects that will be provided for citizens of the rapidly-growing valley.

# Homeowners Ask For Rec Schedule

By R. JAKUBOWSKI

At our last general meeting of the Simi Valley Homeowners Association many things were discussed of importance to residents of our valley. One of these were our Parks and Recreation District.

Al Thiebault wanted to know if anybody knew what the Parks and Recreation District was planning in the form of summer recreation for our children since school was out. It was learned that many residents of the valley from various tracts were greatly concerned with this problem.

Thiebault stated that he has been watching the local papers for some kind of schedule, but as yet hasn't seen one.

Many other things were discussed but the most important one was a study to be made of establishing some means of presenting to the people of our valley, the pro and con facts of the many important issues concerning the residents of our valley. Our local newspapers are only presenting one side, while every story has two (2) sides.

(Editor's note: Our lead story on April 11 gave facts on the local Recreation Master Plan and touched on features of the expanded recreation schedule for this year, which the local school district prepared in order to have the program ready for the new first recreation general manager to take over.

May we point out that the Recreation and Parks District Board meets every fourth Wednesday evening of each month and the public is encouraged to attend and ask questions and make suggestions? A brochure giving the schedule is available, also, at the recreation office.)

# Planners Eye Park Gift Law

A study of the ordinance requiring contributions of land for parks purposes from subdividers for lot size reductions is being conducted by the county planning commission.

Alan Robertson, Simi Valley commissioner, said the commission will consider if present requirements of the ordinance may be more strict than necessary. As it stands now, subdividers must donate 100 square feet of land for every frontage foot by which lots are reduced below 8,000 square feet.

This could produce more area than recreation and parks districts are able financially to handle. Also, trends toward combining school and recreation facilities are reducing the acreage needed for park sites.

A possible new ratio could be 250 square feet for every five feet of frontage, Robertson stated, adding that, naturally, subdividers are interested in an arrangement even more in their favor.

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# Parks and Rec Board To Meet

The Simi Valley Recreation and Park District board of directors will held its regular session on Thursday, July 26, at 8 p.m. at the District office, 1734 Los Angeles avenue, Simi. The public is always welcome to attend.

On the agenda will be Investigation of available retirement systems, report of Planning Commission action; secretarial placement; report on assessed valuation of the District; Board committee schedules and discussion regarding the coming board member election.