

Part of improvement plan

# Fair's carnival area shown

Kern County Fair's new \$50,000 carnival site was unveiled yesterday during a full-dress lighting rehearsal.

"This is the first really visible evidence that we are embarked on a major modernization of our facilities and fair programs," said fair board president Jimmie Icardo.

Icardo said \$105,000 have been earmarked for total fairgrounds improvements and "house cleaning" this year.

Throwing the switch was fair director Lou Ann Thurston, chairman of the buildings and grounds committee.

Don Johnston, fair director, said the project enables the fair board to continue "its service to the community with confidence that the people are receiving the best programming possible for the entire fair."

Lighting of the new area was constructed by Gene Gash Electric of Bakersfield at a cost of \$26,000. Nearly 1,000 feet of fencing and gating cost \$17,000.

As part of the carnival relocation, major improvements of the South P Street and Belle Terrace parking lots have begun but, according to Icardo, "Our parking lot improvement is a long-range project which will take several years to complete."

The fair board earlier this year increased parking fees at the fair to \$1 and authorized a \$15,000 annual parking lot improvement fund to finance upgrading the facilities.

The carnival relocation was ordered by the fair board last year to take the carnival from the central fair area but still have it within easy access of fair patrons who want to attend the carnival.

"An expected result of the relocation was to develop a prime section of the fairgrounds for off-season use," commented fair manager Joseph Brosmer, who noted that a major circus will use the carnival grounds for three days in November.

"This brings increased revenue into the community and to the fair, so that we can continue enhancing the fairgrounds for the benefit of the community," Icardo said.

More than 200,000 people use the fair's facilities during the off-season each year, about equal to fair attendance.

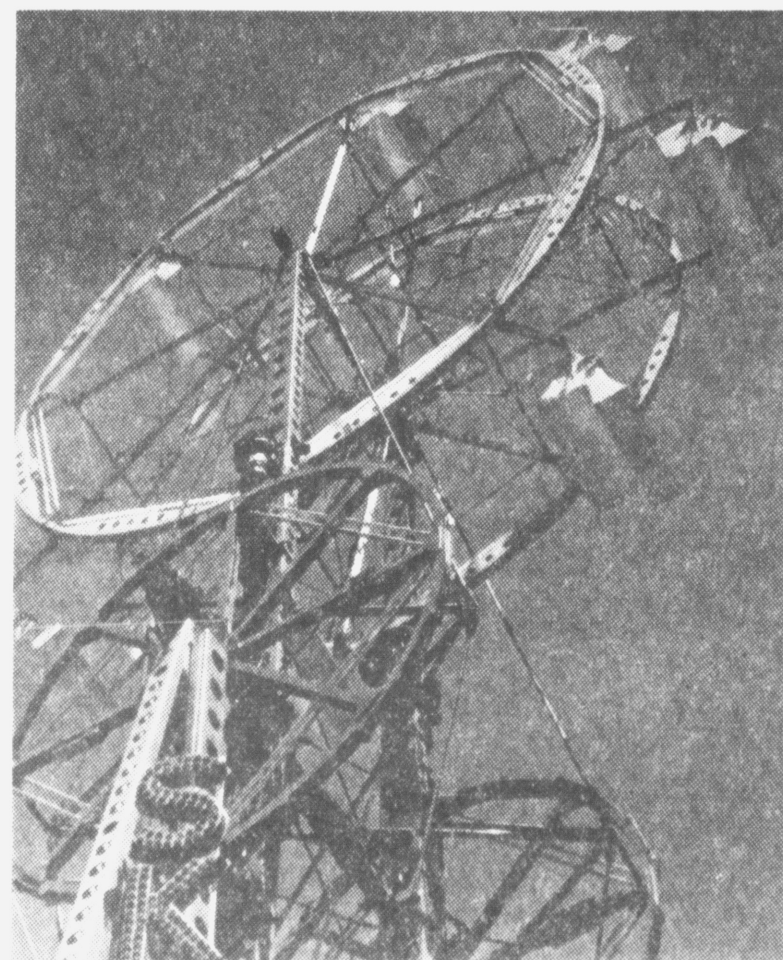
Icardo said relocation of the carnival also opens "a large area of the fairgrounds for other uses." He mentioned that one use this year will be as a playing field for 18 teams competing in the fair's soccer games exhibition during the nine-day fair.

"We are exceptionally pleased with the move. Our carnival operator, Foley and Burke, has indicated their pleasure by signing a three-year contract with staged increases in their contract price," Brosmer added.

Entrance to the carnival area will be by way of gates off South P Street and the Belle Terrace Parking lot. A central corridor linking the carnival with the main fair area will permit fairgoers to move back and forth from the carnival to the fair on their single admission price.

Sewage lines and a water line were constructed as a joint venture by the carnival operator and the fair.

Fire lanes between the fencing and the rides will permit rapid ingress and exiting in the event of an emergency, and gates on all four sides of the area will permit entrance from the main streets.



Rides such as Foley and Burke Sky Wheel built at new location on Kern County Fairgrounds were unveiled yesterday.

## Kern wins top honors at Pomona

Kern County captured the California Sweepstakes Award for the outstanding county feature exhibit in the Los Angeles County Fair at Pomona, the Kern County Board of Trade reported today.

The exhibit won top honors in the "world's largest" county exhibit for "demonstrating the highest degree of over-all attractiveness," in the opinion of the judges.

Featuring the theme, "Kern County - A Yankee Doodle Dandy," the exhibit also won second-place honors in the bicentennial feature class at the fair.

The two major awards brought Kern County a total cash premium return of \$1,500. Board of Trade manager James Radoumis said. In addition, Kern's Displays of cotton, grapes, minerals and other products are expected to win more cash premiums for the county.

The exhibit's Los Angeles County Fair winnings, coupled with awards won at the California State Fair, will net Kern County a cash return from the two fairs of about \$3,000. Radoumis said.

Board of Trade President Joseph M. Gannon lauded county agricultural commissioner James Stockton, growers, industries and others whose cooperation made possible the award-winning exhibit.

## Panama gets \$1.7 million for school

Panama School District has been granted \$1.7 million in state loan funds to build a new elementary school at Kroll Way and Montalvo Street in Stockdale Estates, it was announced today.

School officials said the new building will alleviate crowded conditions at the newly completed Charles H. Castle School and Stine School.

Assistant Superintendent Katie Van Horne said the state loan funds would not have to be repaid by the district if its bonding capacity stays at the 40 cents per \$100 assessed valuation limit. The funds were awarded last night. The district was among several being considered for the loans, including Clovis, Alta Loma, Irvine and San Juan Capistrano, which was granted \$1.4 million.

The new school, for which bids will be called on Oct. 21, will use Castle School plans drawn up for Bakersfield architect Robert F. Stuhr, with minor modifications. Completion is expected in August. The school will house 300 students in kindergarten through sixth grade.

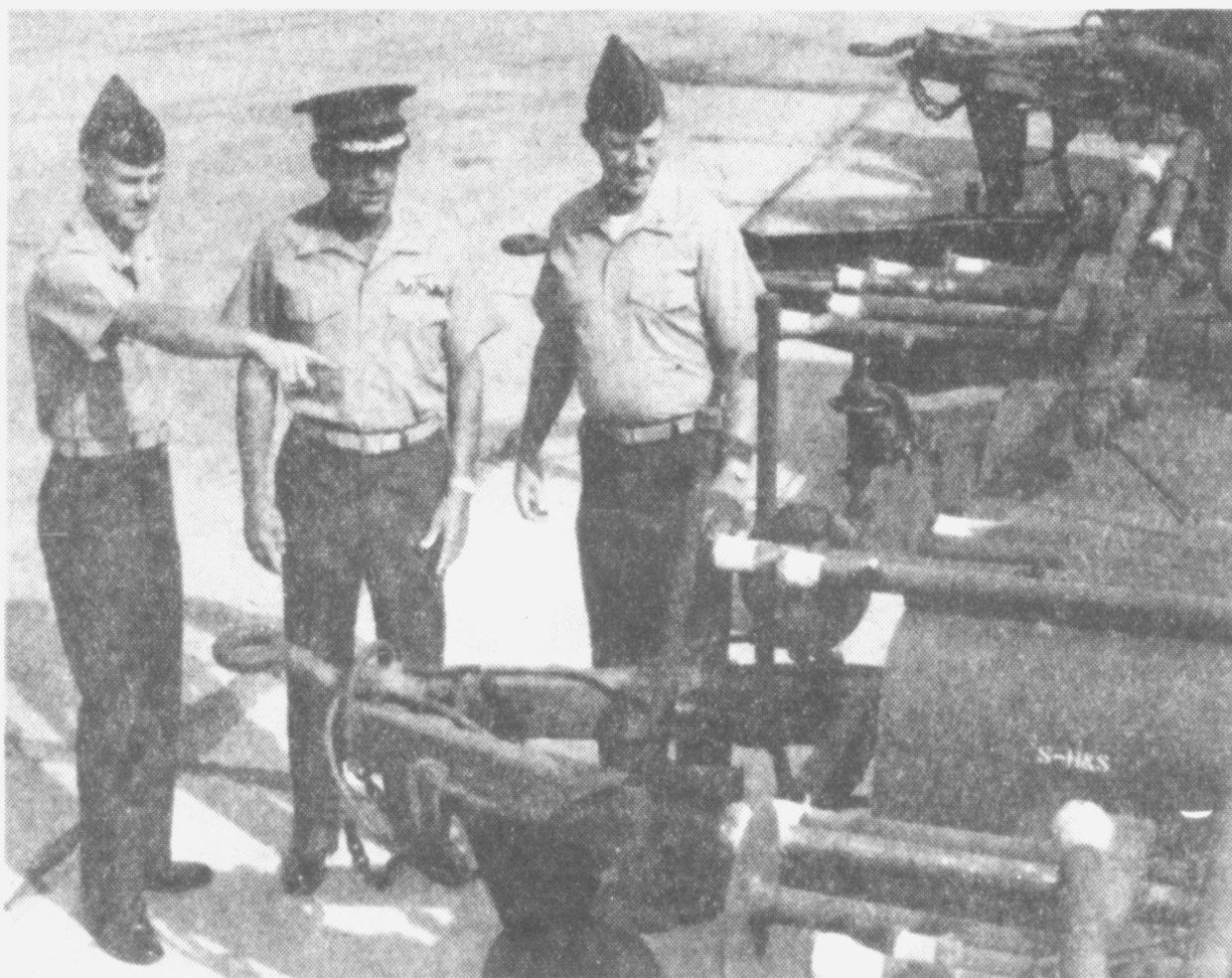
Future new school plans for the district include a junior high school to alleviate overcrowding at Thompson Junior High School and two more elementary schools at Acres Road between Planz Road and White Lane and Ming Avenue and Ash Road.

The district experienced an enrollment increase of 240 students between the close of school in June and the beginning of the new school year this month, according to Mrs. Van Horne. The district's ability to borrow from the state, with the possibility of no repayment plan, was approved by the voters in 1961.

A similar measure, which would allow the district to borrow an additional \$10.2 million will be voted on by district residents Nov. 2.

# The Bakersfield Californian

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Capt. Fred Smith, commander of Marine Corps Reserve unit, assisted Lt. Gen. Leslie Brown during a tour of facilities and briefing by the Marine's chief of staff yesterday at 4201 Chester Avenue. With them is executive officer, Lt. John Rambousek. — (Californian Photo)

## Marine chief of staff visits reserve unit, outlines goals

There was almost enough brass to sink a battleship, or to keep the crew polishing for weeks, when Lt. Gen. Leslie Brown, Marine Corps chief of staff, showed up at the USMC reserve training center at 4201 Chester Avenue yesterday.

With at least a score of officers and an almost equal number of noncoms flanking or trailing, Gen. Brown told The Californian his visit was one of many to California Marine Reserve installations to meet with personnel not

normally "meeting with people from Washington."

The visit is part of a program to re-emphasize the reserves' readiness and a newly complete reorganization of the reserve program that includes relocating the reserve ground program with the reserve air arm in New Orleans.

That's a reflection of the Marine Corps policy that both regular and reserve Marines' requirements are

equal, and an effort to locate the reserve ground and air units in the same area as have been the regulars.

For both reserve and regular, he emphasized, "quality and readiness."

Marine Corps goals, are to be maintained, he told The Californian. Primary goals are individual, physical, combat and equipment readiness. Those are the standards of the reserve as well as the regular Marine Corps.

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## Council ponders Fresno 4 case

Bakersfield City Council will take a week to determine if it will officially support the right of the Fresno Bee Four not to reveal a news source.

The attempt by Councilman J. M. Christensen to get his colleagues to endorse a resolution supporting the four Fresno newsmen was stalled for a week when several councilmen last night said they needed more time to study the case.

They were freed Friday after 15 days in jail when they still refused to reveal their confidential news source.

During a day-long hearing the four and other newsmen convinced Fresno County Presiding Superior Court Judge Hollis G. Best that a newsman won't reveal a source once a guarantee of confidentiality has been given.

Christensen sought support of this concept. But Councilman Donald Rogers and Michael Sceales said they thought Christensen's proposal was "premature."

Rogers, by making a substitute motion, won support from all councilmen including Christensen, that a resolution be prepared in writing and circulated to the city fathers prior to next Monday night's meeting.

Rogers indicated if the resolution met with approval of the council it should be placed on the agenda for consideration.

Christensen said he believes in freedom of the press and a reporter's right to protect his sources.

"The main reason I raised this issue is because there may be some councilmen who still believe government should tell the press what to do. I just want to see how my colleagues stand on this issue," Christensen told The Californian after the meeting.

The Fresno Four are Joe Rosato and William K. Patterson, reporters; ombudsman James H. Bort Jr. and managing editor George Gruner.

They were sent to jail in a 21-month legal battle based on guarantees in the U.S. and California constitutions and in California's newsmen's shield law that reporters don't have to reveal confidential news sources.

The courts held that the guarantees weren't applicable to the Fresno Four. Judge Best found the four in contempt of court and imposed a five-day punitive sentence. However, he gave them credit for time already served and freed them.

The four said they would retain the confidentiality of news sources despite the threat of a coercive open-ended jail sentence for contempt of court.

But Judge Best said Friday the evidence showed the newsmen "have an established, articulated moral principle."

Christensen, in proposing his resolution referred

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## East Kern County muni court district arguments heard

Bulk of the testimony presented to the Board of Supervisors yesterday was in favor of establishing a municipal court district in eastern Kern County. A second and final hearing is scheduled Monday.

As the result of recent action of supervisors and Assembly Bill 3144, by Assemblyman Bill Thomas, two municipal court districts are provided for the county. The West Kern Municipal Court District will begin operating Jan. 2. The purpose of yesterday's hearing was to determine whether an East Kern Municipal Court District should be formed.

Thomas' bill was cosponsored by Assemblymen Larry Chimbole and Gordon Duffy, who represent portions of Kern County, and state Sen. Walter Stiern.

State law calls for hearings. So the board decided two such were in order. Yesterday's session triggered voluminous testimony, mostly in favor of the eastern county municipal district. So much was said, the board doesn't expect much testimony at the final hearing.

Ruth E. Cooper, practicing attorney in Ridgecrest, spoke at length in opposition to consolidating Indian Wells and Tehachapi-Mojave Judicial "at this time."

Among those favoring consolidation and creation of a municipal court district were Judges Charles Porter, Indian Wells, and John Stanton, Tehachapi-Mojave.

Costs, fair representation for eastern county residents, jury service, the number of employes needed — these were among points raised during the discussion.

The proposed consolidation and creation of a municipal court will not give the people a more efficient judicial service than they have, Mrs. Cooper said, because jurisdiction of the justice and municipal courts is so nearly the same.

It has been stated the municipal court is needed to cut down travel time for the Ridgecrest police department. That is not true. The primary reason for travel "has been lack of jail facilities in the Ridgecrest area," Mrs. Cooper said. Jail facilities will be provided in the county-city justice building under construction.

She cited cost comparisons. The 1975-76 salaries in Indian Wells and Mojave-Tehachapi justice courts amounted to \$171,742. The proposed municipal court district would cost in salaries \$259,836, she said, based on figures from the county auditor's office. These figures are for salaries alone and do not include such costs as increases in service and supplies, telephone, transportation, and so on.

According to Mary Mueller, county administrative analyst, researching the proposal, additional costs associated with formation of a municipal court are a result of increased salary costs for two judges and a slight cost increase for two deputy sheriffs to replace the constables.

A municipal court would cost about \$275,000 overall including bailiffs but not court reporter salary, she said. Projected revenues this year would be \$427,000.

The analyst found east Kern is entitled to the same level of judicial service as west Kern, and a convenience and cost savings will be the result of those users of courts traveling to Bakersfield.

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## State money needed for freeway ramps

Construction of on and off ramps on the west side of Mt. Vernon Avenue at Freeway 178 hinges on the state allocating up to \$270,000 to help pay for the project.

Work could begin within one year if the state Highway Commission approves the money at its November meeting in Sacramento. Total project cost is estimated at \$370,000, according to Councilman Donald Rogers.

The City Council last night unanimously approved placing \$100,000 in the city's fiscal 1977-78 fiscal year capital improvements budget. The new fiscal year begins July 1.

Kenneth Vetter, former councilman and member of the highway commission, is supporting the financing efforts.

Vetter's term on the commission expires in December. City officials said Vetter has been working with the city on the project for several years.

"The city has been led to believe the state has funds available to upgrade existing freeway systems," Rogers said. "The ramps under consideration at Mt. Vernon would fit into that type of program."

Asked if money could be set aside in next year's capital improvements budget, D. L. Haynes, city finance director, said

"Since the earliest the project can begin is in 1977 I see no problem in coming up with the \$100,000."

Rogers said the project is timely because of the anticipated growth in the northeast.

"Almost everyone will make use of the Mt. Vernon ramps to attend functions at Bakersfield College and to get to commercial areas," Rogers said.

Motorists now must use either the

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NOVEMBER						
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TUES. NOV. 2, ELECTION DAY						
ONLY 13 MORE DAYS TIL VOTER REGIS. DEADLINE						