

New Burbank Junior High

Shown is the original artist's rendering of the new Burbank Junior High School building, due to be opened in the summer of 1977 on the site of the old structure. The school board Monday night awarded contract for construction of the

building to Nick Pokrajac Inc. on a bid of \$4.8 million. The structure will consist of three buildings in all, an administration building, classroom structure and multipurposer room, connected by an exterior arcade.

Progress closes doors of school

Only echoes can be heard today in the halls of Luther Burbank Junior High School. A new — and terminal — sound will fill the air this summer as a demolition crew moves on campus to raze the 47 year old school plant which is being replaced because it fails to meet earthquake safety provisions of the Field Act.

The new school is expected to cost in the neighborhood of \$4.8 million, including demolition costs and ground preparation. The original school was built at a cost of \$500,000.

Construction began in October of 1926 and the school opened Sept. 12, 1927. Original cost was estimated at \$30,000 but in December of 1926 the school board approved additional funds to construct a shops building, which offered classes in printing, electrical mechanics, automobile, wood working and mechanical drawing.

900 STUDENTS

Some 900 students were welcomed by principal Sydney V. Good on that first day of school 47 years ago. It was noted in the Sept. 9, 1927 issue of the Highland Park News-Herald that a "grand march" of students would officially open the new school. Boys lined up on the east or Annandale (now Figueroa St.) end of the arcade and boys lined up on the west or Kirby St. side. Both groups then marched to the auditorium where they were met by Principal Good who cautioned the students to come to school each day "with a well-sharpened pencil."

Junior high school was a new experience for students in 1927. It was a new concept and only a few such transitional schools dotted the school district. Burbank Junior High was one of the first in Northeast Los Angeles.

Principal Good called junior high school "an educational environment for the controlled expansion of early adolescence. It has an enriched curriculum. It has directed study under the supervision of the teacher of

The end for Burbank

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the subject. It makes provision for individual differences. It provides for pre-vocational exploration by the pupils. In short, it is the school of gradual transition between the elementary school and the senior high."

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Burbank Junior High drew students from Aldama, Annandale, Buchanan, Garvanza, Monte Vista, San Pascual and Yorkdale elementary schools which provided instruction through the eighth grade. Students then attended high school in the ninth through twelfth grades.

Burbank Junior High has been served by only five principals. Sydney Good was followed by Earl Rosenberry, Meldrin Burrill, Carl Handy and Dale Trowbridge, the current principal who is

retiring at the end of this month.

Robert Good, son of the first principal, taught science at Burbank Junior High for several years and retired four years ago.

The school's enrollment grew quickly in the early years and 11 temporary bungalows were erected. During the first assembly in the auditorium, students sat on the floor because seats hadn't yet been installed.

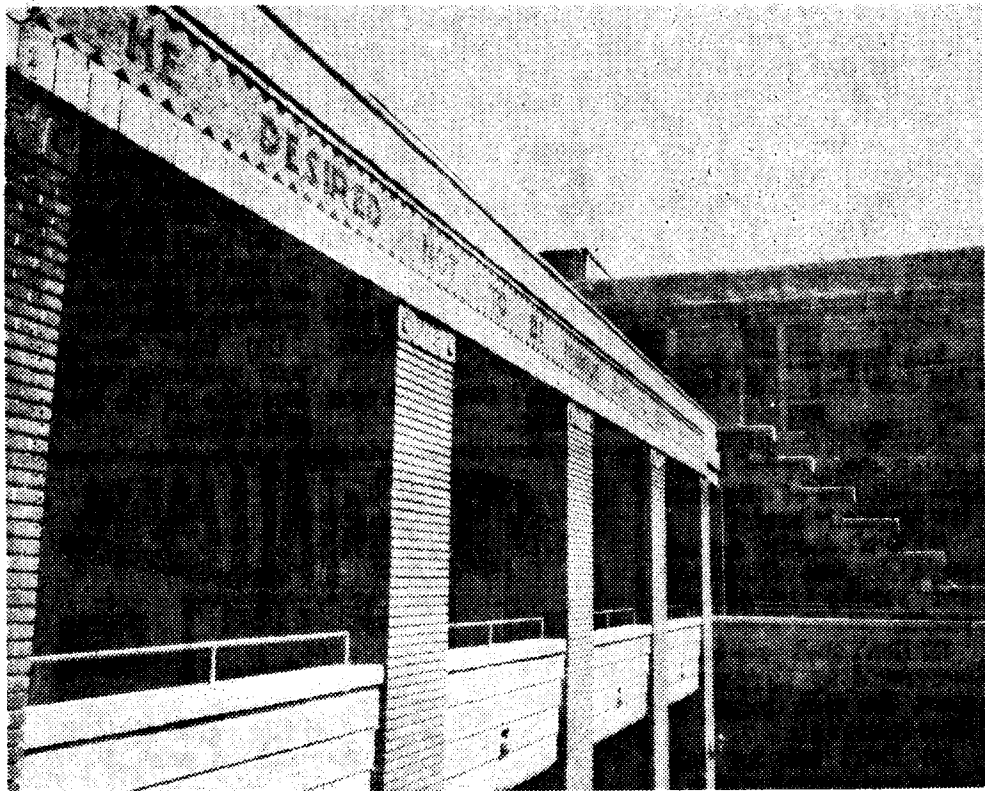
Later, an annex building and gym building were constructed.

While expansion was necessary, some neighbors objected. They later gave in after school gardens surrounded their property.

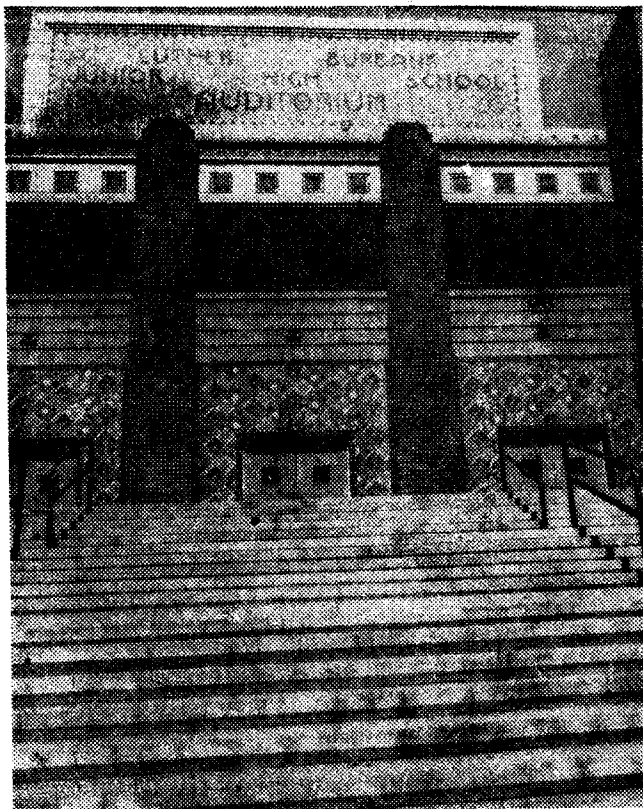
Among graduates of the school are former Olympic diving champion Dr. Sammy Lee and school board member Richard Ferraro, who also taught there for several years.

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Last days of Burbank



LANDMARK TO GO—The Burbank Junior High School auditorium, shown in a side view with the inscription to namesake Luther Burbank, will be torn down this summer along with the main school building. It will be replaced with a multi-purpose room.



Burbank building contract awarded

\$4.8 million bid passed by board

The school board Monday night voted to award a \$4.8 million contract to construct a new main building and subsidiary buildings at Burbank Junior High School to Nick Pokrajac Inc.

Seven bids were received on the contract, ranging upward to \$4.96 million. The structure was designed by Gianni and Associates.

Plans call for construction of a two-story main building, a multipurpose room and a structure containing 11 classrooms. All three structures will be connected by an arcade.

The main structure will be built over a parking area which will contain space for about 80 cars.

On the first floor of the main building, there will be administrative offices, library and media center, five general classrooms and an oral arts room, a small assembly area with a platform and seating space for 125 people.

SECOND FLOOR

The second floor will be all classrooms — 11 general classrooms, five for science, and one each for art, art crafts and ceramics.

Replacing the auditorium, which was closed following the 1971 earthquake, will be a multipurpose room with a stage and seating capacity for 750. Two choral music rooms and one instrumental music room will be part of the multi-purpose facility.

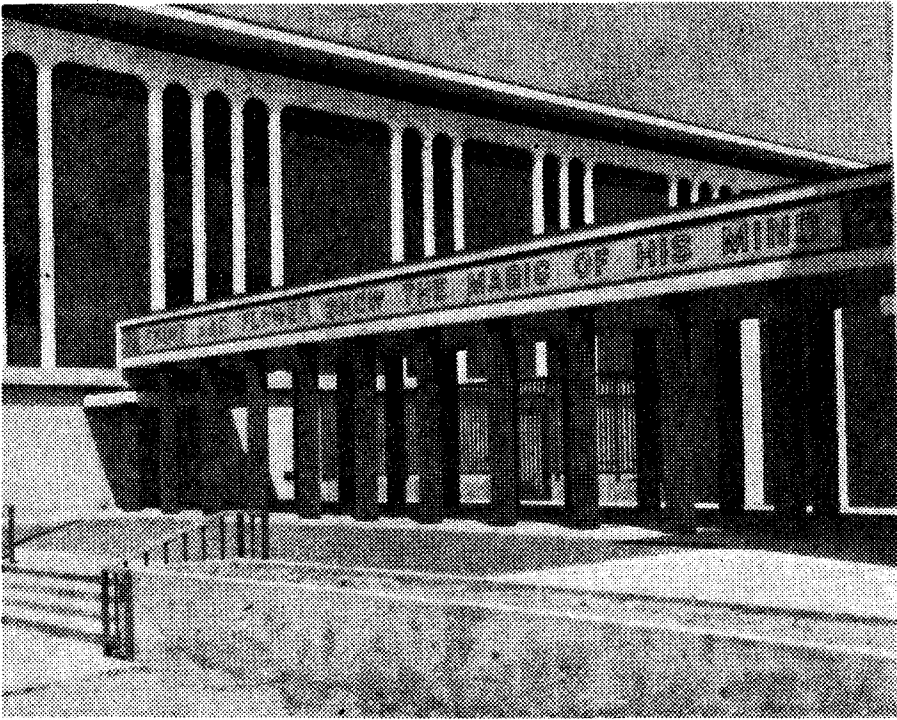
An outdoor stage for school assemblies and programs and an agriculture classroom are also included in the project. The contract calls for 600 calendar days on the project, which would indicate completion by summer of 1977.

At an earlier meeting, the board voted to apply to the state for an increase in the apportionment for the project.

Originally set aside for the entire project was \$5.12 million and the board is asking that this be increased to \$6.44 million.

In addition to the construction cost of the project, the funding asked covers demolition of the old building and site improvements, along with the acquisition of 15 homes on three acres of land to expand the size of the school site to 11.4 acres.

Students have been attending classes in bungalows on campus while the old building was being demolished, a project which turned into a summer-long epic watched with interest by local residents.



NEW BURBANK OPENS—After a trial run in summer school, the new Burbank Junior High School will be opening next Tuesday for regular classes, 50 years and one week after the original school opened for the first time in the Highland Park community.



THE OLD SCHOOL—After more than 45 years of serving the Highland Park community, the familiar old brick structure was declared earthquake unsafe and demolished by the school district. Only surviving element in the new structure is the inscription honoring Luther Burbank, "Fruit and flower show the magic of his mind."