

Happy's Landing

By FELICIA MAHOOD

WE ADMIRE greatly the men and women in any community who have the desire and ability to provide needed and wanted facilities for the youth of the community. We have great respect also for those who dig into their pockets to make a contribution, no matter how small, to projects that provide a center where kids can have fun at both meetings and just parties.



WHAT WE are getting at is just this—again it is time for the Marshall P. Riddick Youth Center, located at Overland and Ashby Aves. to ask for support from the community. The youth center was named in honor of young Riddick who was killed in World War II. He was an Eagle Scout and son of a well-known family in Cheviot Hills. Through the sustained efforts of Harry Stolley, who lived here many years and who was an active Boy Scout worker, the cooperation of Subdivider Ben Sheldon; Mrs. Edna S. Van Dyke, former principal at Overland; George Olsen, and Mrs. Mildred Reeder, to mention only a few, the Riddick Youth Center was incorporated in May of 1945 as a non-profit organization. Purpose of the corporation is to raise money to defray operating cost of the building that runs night and day as a meeting place for the youth of the Rancho Park community.

THERE ARE other youth house groups in the West Area such as the Riddick board, namely, Fairburn, Richland, and Brentwood, all doing the same thing—providing a place where boys and girls can meet for constructive work and supervised play. Organized youth groups would be limited in their endeavors without such youth houses.

RIDDICK BOARD of directors now headed by Mrs. Dorothy Fullerton also includes Mrs. Glenn E. Tanner, Selwyn Douglas, Mrs. Patricia Kell, Mrs. James B. Manoff, J. W. Alvord, J. C. Poole, Alfred Rosen, Mrs. Edward Margadan, Mrs. A. I. Graf and Dan Dibble. Since the youth house opened in 1945 it has grown considerably. The center now is used for meetings by Boy Scout Troops 76, 80 and 876; Girl Scout Troop 145, 1356, 391, and 617; Brownie Troop 229, 982, and 579; two Woodcraft Ranger troops, Bluebird groups including Give and Take, Dingling Daogling, Happy Hilloppers, Happy Hours, Happy Helpers, and Jelly Jills; and Camp Fire Girls troops Can-teaswa, and We-aki.

BECAUSE THE community has been generous in its support of this project by financial contributions, the center operates without charging youth groups for meeting time. Volunteer help also provides for maintenance and improvements such as painting of the building by the Rancho Park Lions Club which also refinished the floors. Boy Scout Troop 76 also has helped with improvements.

THE CENTER operates on a budget of about \$1,500 a year or about \$3 for each boy and girl using the facilities as a member of a youth group.

AT THE present time the board of directors are asking for contribution from civic minded citizens and businessmen in the area bounded by Pico Blvd., Military Ave., Motor Ave., National Blvd., Country Club, and Rose Ave. The "Dollar a Year" drive is on.