EDITORIALS

A Note of Thanks

As the nation observes Thanksgiving it has one paramount cause to be genuinely thankful. Despite the unsatisfactory world situation, the Eisenhower administration at least has been successful in stopping, and forestalling bloodshed of American youth.

In the turmoil of the last election, people generally failed to take note of this blessing, but it cannot be denied that this Administration has given us the hope for a peaceful holiday season, one in which no American boys are shedding blood on foreign battlegrounds.

For this every American should give thanks.

Tomorrow's Home

Torrance has enjoyed one of the most phenomenal growths recorded by a Southern California community during the past half decade, and thousands of new families have come to call Torrance their home during that time.

A large number of these families—indeed a vast majority are young couples, many of them junior executives, engineers, and businessmen who are beginning their careers.

This gives Torrance a virile young population—but it is a population that will not stay young. And, it is a population made up of persons who will be improving their positions in their careers and in a few years will be demanding better homes than they now have.

If the present Torrance building trend is continued ,most of them will not find those homes in Torrance, but will be forced to look elsewhere for their better homes of tomorrow Torrance will be losing those people it should be most interested in retaining—the ones who have shown an ability to succeed in their careers. These persons are the ones who will assume roles of leadership in the communities in which they live.

With this in mind, we feel that Torrance officials and planners should consider seriously tomorrow's demand for homes before it is too late.

One starting point in such consideration would be the raising of present building minimums to put an end to the construction of "cracker box" homes in Torrance. The demand for such homes here has been met amply. Now some thought should be given to providing residential areas comparable to those of other cities of 100,000—which is Torrance's estimated 1960 population.

Golden Gleams

There is no greater grief than, in misery, to recall happier times.—Dante.

Each substance of a grief hath twenty shadows.—Shakespeare.

Mighty griefs are dumb. — Samuel Daniel

Never grieve for that you cannot help.—John Clarke.

All griefs with bread are less—George Herbert.

There is a solemn luxury in grief.—William Mason.

These U.Ski. Thanks Day

Reading Habits of Children Set By Parents, Librarian Reports

Like father, like son.

That may be a hackneyed expression, but it is a fairly accurate description of the reading habits of Torrance youngsters according to Frances Bandel, who is in charge of the children's section of Torrance Library.

"Reading youngsters generally come from reading families" she said.

"Parents who come into the library to pick up a book for themselves often pick up books for their children at the same time. Much less common are the budding Abraham Lincolns who come from families which read but little.

Books Designed for Kids

Since about one-third of Torrance Library's borrowers are children, the library has a large collection of books designed for youngsters.

Many youngsters who read comic books never come into the library, so Miss Bandel said she didn't know what effect they had on reading. Many people feel that comic book readers probably would not read books anyhow.

A recent survey made by a Riviera School class showed that comic book reading was much more popular than book reading.

TV usually has an effect on reading when it is new in an area, she said, but youngsters become more selective in reading after a time.

Biographies Popular

Among children in higher grades, simple biographies about popular American frontier heroes and statesmen gain many readers. Indian stories are also popular.

Various phases of science—space flight, airplanes, radio cars—gain wide readership.

Although children tend to read the same things in their earlier years, in later grades, the interests tend to become different.

Girls begin reading books about vocations and female heroes, such as the Sue Barton series. High school girls like fiction about girls a little older.

Boys Like Sports

Boys enjoy sports stories, war stories, vocational books, and works by famous military figures, such as General Eisenhower or Mark Clark.

Historical works have less interest than they used to, she said.

Mrs. Dorothy Jamieson, head librarian, said she noted many more parents coming in to get books to help their children with remedial reading.

Old standbys, such as "Pinocchio," "Alice in Wonderland," "Lassie," "King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table," "Robin Hood," "Tom Sawyer," and the Louisa May Alcott series are probably as avidly read by youngsters as they ever were she said.

Animal stories, quaint old books, and stories about children of their own age interest children as much as ever, she added.

Better Books Needed

Although children's books are much better illustrated than they used to be, there is still a great need for more and better books, she opined.

All books are screened by county librarians, with help from branch librarians, before they are put on the shelves.

A special section is arranged for teen-agers, with books which might be of interest to them, although these often overlap with adult books.

"It is amazing how children can read way beyond their age level if they are interested in the material" Miss Bandel said. "We get all sorts of youthful requests for books in various specialized fields."

She emphasized that it is hard to say that children like any certain type of book, since interests vary widely, especially as they grow older.

The SQUIRREL CAGE

By REID BUNDY

In the jargon of newspaperdom, the first paragraph of a story is referred to as the lead. According to our old first year journalism instructor at (you should pardon the expression) USC, the lead should tell the whole story—all other paragraphs are merely explanatory.

By the time the budding journalists reached the second year of reporting, however, it became evident that there are other kinds of leads for newspaper stories. In the event that anyone gives a hoot, that's what we intend to discuss today. We collect leads like other people collect stamps.

First, just like the professor said, there is the lead which wraps up the whole she-bang in one package. Such a lead was the wire story on the death of Andrei Vishinsky in New York this week. It read:

"Andrei Yanuarievitch Vishinsky, the once obscure Russian lawyer who became a foremost mouthpiece for the Soviet Union, died today."

That's the whole story. All the rest is explanatory.

However, that is not the type of lead we delight in collecting.

We prefer the one in the Torrance HERALD several years ago when everyone was concerned with housing—private, public, and otherwise. This lead read:

"Here is a story about housing that is strictly for the birds."

It was a how-to-do-it story about building bird houses.

Another lead we always liked—and we've seen it several times—was the one which headed up a story of a minor traffic mishap.

"Mrs. John Jones, who says she is just learning to drive, took a turn for the worse yesterday. She turned her auto off the road and into a telephone pole."

The lead is the show window for the story. It is designed to attract the reader's attention and, with just a few words, tell him what the story is about and create in him a desire to read more. There was one in a Long Beach paper Monday evening which certainly did that. The story was out of Louisville, Ky., and started out:

"They'll never forget the day the Phillip Memorial Colored Methodist Episcopal Church was dedicated. Services lasted 20 hours."

We'll wager that most people who read that much, went on to read more about the 20-hour dedication. We did.

Take a look at the lead paragraphs on news stories you read—it may prove an interesting diversion some long evening when the television picture tube is on the fritz.

* * *

We've heard it said that you can stand on any business intersection in America and see the familiar red and white Coca-Cola sign somewhere —and we believe it's true. We have spent several lazy lunch hours here and there trying to find a corner in the downtown area where the sign isn't visible — we haven't found it yet. Should be some kind of a moral there on the value of advertising. How many people do you know who never heard of Coca-Cola?

AFTER HOURS

By JOHN MORLEY

In the shadow of the 84th Congress, the Senate of the 83rd is now in its second week of debate on the censure of Senator Joseph McCarthy. From the looks of things it appears that the senator's prediction that he will be censured is a foregone conclusion. McCarthy's opponents are notoriously absent from the hearings, giving advance indication of their indifference to the arguments of pro and con on the case. In several sessions during the hearings only six Democrat senators were present. It brings to mind an old political slogan: "My mind is made up . . . don't confuse me with facts."

Censure or no censure, the McCarthy story, which has preoccupied us for some four years, appears to be drawing to a close. For all practical purposes the McCarthy halo has dropped to the neck to become a noose. McCarthy's opponents in both parties were successful in clipping his wings. The Gallup poll reveals that some 47 per cent of the nation is in favor of censure, some 32 per cent against it, and the balance of 21 per cent undecided. With McCarthy on the sidelines, the big question in the minds of audiences in my forums across the nation on the subject of McCarthy is not only the censure, but also who promoted Major Peress and honorably discharged him from the Army.

McCarthy-Stevens Correspondence

On Oct. 25, 1954, Senator McCarthy wrote to Secretary of the Army Robert Stevens for certain information on Major Peress which was promised by the secretary during the McCarthy-Army hearings. The questions were: 1. "Did you order the inspector general to make an investigation to determine who ordered the promotion and honorable discharge of Peress, knowing that he was a Fifth Amendment Communist and a graduate of a Communist leadership school?"

Secretary Stevens' reply, dated Nov. 3, 1954, stated: ". . . in answer to your No. 1 question, I refer you to my letter of June 23, 1954, to Senator Mundt, which stated in part . . . 'I have recently studied the thorough investigation made by the Inspector General of the Army and no evidence of any subversive conduct with respect to personal actions involving Major Peress'." This is not what McCarthy asked.

Senator McCarthy's question No. 3: ". . . Was the inspector general successful in getting this information for you?"

Secretary Stevens: ". . . the inspector general's investigation did reveal several instances of improper administrative handling of papers resulted in unwarranted delays in processing actions concerning Major Peress." This is not what McCarthy asked.

Senator McCarthy's question No. 3: ". . . If the inspector general was able to secure the names of those who promoted Peress, will you make this information available to our investigating committee?"

Secretary Stevens: ". . . publication of such report would go far to diminish the future effectiveness of the Inspector General corps . . ."

Senator McCarthy's question No. 4: ". . . If you feel that some presidential blackout order prevents the Congress from obtaining this information, will you at least tell us what, if any, action was taken against who ordered the promotion and the honorable discharge of the Fifth Amendment Communist and whether they still hold the same or higher positions than they held at that time?"

Secretary Stevens: "Major Peress' commanding officer, both at the time of the reassignment of rank and also when he was honorably discharged, was as you know Brigadier General Ralph Zwicker. No action has been taken against General Zwicker, because in the opinion of the Army, no acts performed by him and others manifested the slightest indication of Communist sympathy, nor any other derelictions of duty. All the officers involved in the Peress case hold the same rank as before . . . two officers were reprimanded for administrative delays in processing of papers involved in the Peress matter. One other officer who administratively handled some of the Peress papers has since been discharged for a totally unrelated reason." Who were the officers?

This is the gist of the most recent correspondence between Senator McCarthy and Secretary Stevens on the subject of "who promoted Peress." The balance of the voluminous correspondence this reporter read revealed nothing more than the deliberate refusal of the Army to make the name or names of those who approved, signed or passed on the promotion and the honorable discharge of Major Peress.

The American people may or may never get the answer to the question of "who promoted Peress," which was the cause of the controversial McCarthy hearings, for which the American taxpayers put up over $145,000 . . . and the Zwicker issue, one of the two charges for censure of McCarthy for which the entire Senate has been called in this unprecedented special session which probably will cost the taxpayers another $500,000 if it lasts three weeks.

The Gallup poll also revealed that the McCarthy censure on the subject of mistreating General Zwicker was opposed by 41 per cent, as against 40 per cent in favor.

THE MAIL BOX

(The Torrance Herald welcomes expressions from its readers which can be published on this page. The editors retain the right to edit the copy for matters of libel and good taste. Letters should be kept brief and must be signed. The writer's name will be withheld if requested. Opinions expressed in letters here published represent those of the writer and not necessarily those of The Torrance Herald.

Nix Annexation

Editor,
Torrance Herald:

In regards to the recent proposal by an engineering firm to have the City of Torrance annex a portion of Rolling Hills, I hope the city fathers take into consideration exactly what the addition of this territory would cost US.

The territory now under consideration is zoned for residential use only, I understand. This property will be strictly for housing, and will not yield sufficient tax revenue to pay for the services which must be extended—fire, police, health, road—to all areas within the city.

It is a known fact that Torrance now is the ideal "tax" town because of the industry located here. We all know that our extremely low tax rate is possible only as long as major industry is on the increase in proportion to the population rise.

The more people we have inside the city limits the more services must be extended, and home taxes do not yield sufficient revenue to cover the cost of these activities.

I can only see increased taxes or poorer protection for the present 19 square miles of Torrance if we must spread our services over a larger area without the addition of more policemen and firemen.

Most of us want to see Torrance grow into a big city, but let's not overdo it and become property-poor when we haven't begun to touch many areas within the present city area.

R. A. JACKSON
Torrance

Smoke or Smog?

It's about time the smog experts got together with the fire department. The city has passed a law changing the burning hours to 4 p.m., while the firemen says this is the most dangerous time of day to have an open fire.

What is it to be—do we choke to death on smog, or burn to death from fires started by careless people burning on windy afternoons?

MRS. J. B. CLAUUSSON
Torrance

(Ed. note: Los Angeles City changed burning hours to the afternoon, but residents of Torrance still can burn only in the mornings, the fire department says).

New Barricade?

Editor,
Torrance Herald:

I have been reading about the barricades in Palos Verdes for some time, but didn't think much of them until last week when a resident in the area wrote that they were needed because they enabled the children to play in the street with safety.

I have suddenly become interested in barricades.

I live on Torrance Blvd. and have three children small enough to enjoy sneaking into the street. Do you think the Torrance City Council would barricade Torrance Blvd. if I and some of my neighbors asked them to?

ANXIOUS

A Word of Thanks

Editor,
Torrance Herald:

At this time I think that we should be thankful to God for His blessings of peace, health, happiness, our families and our friends. If ever there has been a time in America's history that we should be thankful for our blessings, it is in the year 1954.

SUPERVISOR
KENNETH HAHN
Los Angeles County

Very Frustrating

Editor,
Torrance Herald:

If these same minority groups who are in favor of retaining the Palos Verdes-Hollywood Riviera barricades were faced with a nation-wide problem of trying to travel through other communities with similar iron curtains, it would prove very frustrating, expensive in gas mileage, and time consuming.

In a civil defense measure for Hollywood Riviera residents, would they also favor these barricades?

Certainly every community has its share of children to be considered, but perhaps most mothers have better control over them.

H. R. RESIDENT

They Say

"Mr. X, former convict, on panel with St. Louis crime officials:

"Prison is a 'college of crime,' where I learned to 'crack a safe'."

Don A. Walter, managing editor of the children's Encyclopedia Britannica Junior:

"People always have underestimated the intelligence of children."

Earl Montgomery, Deputy Supreme Commander of the Allied Powers in Europe:

"Western powers should maintain their ability to start a tremendous nuclear bombardment of the East the moment they are attacked."

Dr. Grayson Kirk, president, Columbia University:

"When we come to expounding man's right to knowledge, his freedom to use it and his responsibility for using it well, literature is indispensable."

ESTABLISHED JAN. 1, 1914

Torrance Herald

Published Semi-Weekly at Torrance California, Thursday and Monday. Entered as second class matter Jan. 30, 1914, at Post Office, Torrance, California, under act of March 3 1879.

1619 Gramercy Ave.
FA 8-4000

KING WILLIAMS, Publisher
GLENN W. PFEIL, General Manager
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Adjudicated a legal Newspaper by Superior Court, Los Angeles County, Adjudicated Decree No. 210470, March 23, 1927.

MEMBER CALIFORNIA NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION

MEMBER NATIONAL EDITORIAL ASSOCIATION

Subscription Rates: By Carrier 30c a Month, Mail Subscriptions $3.60 per year. Circulation office FAirfax 8-4004.