

# EDITORIALS

## Poker Threatened?

The death knell of the legalized poker palaces in near-by Gardena may or may not be sounded by Governor Knight's announcement he would sign any bill the Assembly might pass outlawing the games. It is sufficient to suspect, however, that things generally aren't as calm and secure as they seemed to be a few months ago.

The prosperous looking establishments operate around the clock under protection of a peculiar quirk in ancient California law that the right to play draw poker was as inalienable to a California citizen as his enjoyment of the sunshine. Only a handful of incorporated areas ever operated under the old law and usually those officials who tried it soon found themselves face-to-face with elements within their communities that made up with crusading fervor what they lacked in numbers and economic strength.

Gambling in any form gets the legal nod from few states in the Union other than Nevada. It is a truism that legalizing of gambling rarely if ever avoids the fatal consequence of hoodlum and undesirable elements gaining an upper hand. Corruption of law enforcement officers and general breakdown of government usually results.

## We Play Three Roles

All signs point to continued and even expanded prosperity in 1955. Since we enjoy the highest standard of living in the world, all of us want to make certain that any changes which are made in our business system improve it, not decrease it.

In addition, we want to be sure that whatever changes are made will benefit us in the three roles most of us play—1. As producers: in working for a living, each of us helps to produce a product or a service. 2. As customers: we all buy products and services produced by others. 3. As savers: most of us put something aside in bank accounts, insurance policies, bonds, or in business enterprises.

As producers we want to earn all we can. But as customers we want lower prices, more for our money. And as savers we want as high return as we can get on our savings and investments.

## A Helping Hand

The acceptance of the task of heading up the annual Red Cross fund campaign by Councilman Albert Isen, who already is busy with private business and with business of the City Council, marks him as a man interested in the welfare of his community.

Heading fund campaigns is not a glory job—it requires hours and days of work, and is for the most part a thankless task.

The Red Cross campaign, which will open here about March 1, is one of the annual campaigns to raise funds to meet emergency and disaster needs for which funds can not be obtained elsewhere.

Support of the drive financially and by assisting with the organization and operation of the drive can offer one a sense of accomplishment and at the same time assure help for some one in a distress situation who might not otherwise be helped.

## Study Period Opens

After weeks of talk and pleasant conversation, the City Council and representatives of Palos Verdes land owners who are seeking to annex 10 square miles of the hill area to Torrance got down to the meat of the situation this week.

For the first time since the proposal was first voiced to annex the area to Torrance, the city has in its possession some facts and figures on the proposed development which can be used in arriving at a decision. The Council and school officials rightly have been cautious about the venture.

Now, with the plan submitted by the land owners, city and school officials, businessmen, civic leaders, the Chamber of Commerce, Tax Industries Committee, and others have something to indicate what can be expected if the area is brought into the city.

The real study period has just begun, and no decision on the proposal can or should be expected until all the facts have been weighed.

## IT'S A FACT

By JERRY CAHILL



ALTHOUGH UNRELATED—WILLIAM KRUGER NO CHARGES REMOVED WERE BOTH THE SAME DAY FINISHED SCHOOL THE SAME DAY GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY DEPARTMENT THE SAME DAY AND LICENSE WILLIAM KRUGER AND JOHN NYZABENSKI

NEXT ISSUE GEORGE WASHINGTON'S LIFE!

WORLD'S GREATEST KNOWN SHIRT! A PREHISTORIC CLAY 8 1/2 BY 2 FEET FOUND IN A CAVE IN SPAIN—ESTIMATED AGE: 20,000 YEARS!

## Whose Show is This?



## Members of School Board Watch Homes Rise, Eat Another Aspirin

By TOM RISCHÉ

Whenever a new group of homes is built in Torrance, there are five people who get new headaches, but they can't say they didn't ask for it.

The quintet—Mrs. Grace Wright, housewife; Dr. Rollin R. Smith, veterinarian; Darwin Parrish, stationer; Dr. Joseph P. Bay, optometrist; and Charlton A. Mewborn, attorney—are elected members of the Torrance Board of Education.

Since every 20 new homes which are built mean an average of 14 new grade school students and three high school students, the board has the rather thankless task of trying to provide enough new schools for them.

The city now has more than 12,000 children in school, while in 1947 it had only about 1800. With building records in the city reaching astronomical proportions, the group finds aspirin a necessity at the board meetings, held the first and third Tuesday of each month.

They must consider the protests of parents who object to having their children on double sessions, but can only nod sympathetically. The children of Mrs. Wright, Dr. Smith, and Mewborn, and Parrish's grandchildren all attend the local schools, while Dr. Bay's children will soon enter school. With the aid and advice of Superintendent J. H. Hull, Assistant Superintendents Emmet W. Ingram and Albert M. Posner, and other administrators, the board has the following duties:

1. It may hire and fire teachers and other employees, as well as contract for necessary goods and services. They must make arrangements for the construction of new schools and additions to existing facilities after determining the need for them.

Since 1947, when the district was created, the number of teachers in the district has quadrupled, while the budget—now at a record \$3,987,912—has grown nine times. During that same time, the school population grew nearly seven times.

When the district was created, the board had to worry about four elementary schools and one high school. Since then, ten grade schools and an administrative unit have been built, while three more elementary schools and a high school are in the process of construction and several more are planned. Ten additions which have been made to existing facilities.

2. It may call elections on additional bonds, tax increases, or boundary decisions, as well as provide for its own election.

Since it was founded, more than \$9,500,000 in bonds have been provided, with an election set for \$5,000,000 more to set next May 19. A recent case involving a boundary decision was the annexation of part of the school district—El Nido by Redondo Beach. This has led to long negotiations between the two boards of education.

3. It may levy taxes for the support of the district.

Under the law, the board may levy 90 cents taxes for elementary schools and 75 cents for high schools. Additionally, it may determine the methods of procedure.

4. It may determine what courses will be included in the educational program, and what textbooks will be used.

State law requires that certain courses be taught in California schools, but beyond that, local boards are free to decide what kind and how much of such things as home-making or football may be taught.

5. It may condemn needed lands to build new schools. 6. It may determine its own methods of procedure. This includes time and place of the meeting and methods of selecting new members.

7. It may review its own actions, program, or anything which it has established.

8. Its members are liable, both individually and as a group, for injuries to students or others using school property.

Special insurance for board members provides for such cases, even when an irate parent decides to punch a board member in the nose.

All meetings of the Board of Education are open to the public, except when personnel matters are being discussed. The meetings usually are attended by a few teachers, PTA leaders, and a HERALD reporter.

Dean of the present board

is its president, Mrs. Grace Wright, who was one of the original members of the committee which successfully worked to separate Torrance schools from Los Angeles jurisdiction in 1947.

Active in the area's school affairs, she has served as president of the South Bay School Trustees, as a member of the executive board of the Los Angeles County School Trustees Assn., and as a member of several state educational committees.

Dr. Smith joined the board in 1950, while Parrish became a member in 1953, and Dr. Bay and Mewborn were elected in 1954. Board members are elected for four-year terms.

Although school board members are unpaid members feel there are many compensations for their service.

Mrs. Wright summed it up, saying: "I believe that local control of a school system is much better than state control. I have enjoyed helping to build the Torrance School System. It has many headaches, but it is a wonderful experience."

## The SQUIRREL CAGE

By REID BUNDY

A note on civilization, African style, was given by Athore's Esther Warner of Costa Mesa last week when she told members of the County Library staff that Liberian husbands regularly beat their wives. Many just pick up a handy stick and flail away, she reported. However, more thoughtful and tender husbands use beautifully decorated leather whips to do the job. And we brag about our state of civilization.

A wonder drug announced today, will make the mortals sing. Instead of helping aches and pains, it doesn't cure a thing.

When a San Pedro police officer stopped a Torrance resident to write a ticket the other day, he got more than he bargained for. Stopped was a seaman who lives at 1787 Calamar St. His name is Kaupakaukaanaa Kelukulu.

Our remark earlier this week that many of Torrance streets were named after women prompted some anonymous writer, presumably male, to drop off a list of streets which perpetuate the more masculine names. According to our friend's list there are such streets as Adolph, Barry, Corwin, Dalton, Dennis, Elliott, Francisco, Hamilton, Hendrick, Huber, Jefferson, Knox, Lawrence, Leonardo, Lincoln, Manuel, Meyer, Milton, Mullin, Newton, Reese, Reynolds, Roberts, Samuel, Taylor, Ward, Weston, Wilkie, and Woodard. (Alphabetical, yet).

In case you are still interested in streets, Harbor City has a President, Governor, and Senator as street names.

As for street names, I like the way earlier Torrance subdivisions laid out streets west of the downtown section. Starting with Acacia, the streets are named after the trees planted along the parkway and are in alphabetical order. There are Acacia, Beech, Cedar (now Crenshaw) Date, Elm, Fern, Greenwood, Hickory, Lira, Juniper, Along Sepulveda Blvd, streets take on the names of fruits. There are such streets in that area as Olive, Orange, Plum, Apple, etc.

Most of them never heard the word democracy, or dignity of the human soul.

Most of them never saw an automobile, a radio, or pushed a button to throw on a light.

Most of them mistrust the white man for sound or unsound reasons.

Most of them believe that capitalism is synonymous with exploitation.

Most of them show amazement at magazine pictures of life in the West.

Most of them are becoming bewildered at their plight and will follow the devil himself if he promises even a small allotment of food. This is one vacuum that Communism has been filling quietly on the level of the individual, while we have poured billions on the level of government and top industry in the non-colonial areas.

Among these billion colonial people there exist a few thousand of educated colonials, with legal degrees from Oxford and Columbia, who have seen automobiles and TV and who, for selfish or unselfish reasons, want self-rule for their people and a chance to take their place in the family of nations of the world.

## AFTER HOURS

By JOHN MORLEY

In each of some fourteen trips to the hot spots of the Near East and Asia colonial areas, I returned to the United States with at least one consistent report: That Colonialism is finished as a policy of any government for all time. It is very likely that 1955-1956 will see the end of most colonial power, wherever it is not wanted, especially in areas adjacent to those where self-government is today a reality. The unfortunate thing about it all is that Communism is receiving the most credit for forcing the issue. At least that's what colonial peoples tell you at the spot.

The present unmistakable crusade for freedom of colonial peoples is not Communist inspired. Communism simply recognized the vacuum and moved in to fill it, while the Colonial powers fought for dear life to hold on to empire at any cost. One by one they lost and they are losing today in every colonial area of the world. This is not to suggest that colonialism has been all failure. On the contrary, Western powers brought much progress in centuries of civilization. But progress suggests betterment and what greater betterment can be achieved by any people than freedom and self-determination, at the point where faith, education, will and know-how can join hands to assume the responsibility of self-government. The Christian missionaries for generations have been leading the flocks of colonials to the present crossroad of their destiny.

The Hungry Colonial Millions

On our annual trips around the globe, the world we see in the colonial areas of a billion people, is a sharp contrast of luxury and appalling hunger and misery. The few Americans who penetrate the backward areas see things which are not apparent to the tourist sightseeing in Delhi, Karachi, Cairo, Bangkok, Saigon and Singapore.

It is an incredible fact of our time that:

Most people in the Near East, Africa, Asia will go to bed hungry tonight.

Most of them never saw a doctor, or a nurse, or a hospital.

Most of them can't read or write.

Most of them have no conception of freedom or liberty.

Most of them live in appalling poverty—illiterate starvation.

Most of them never heard the word democracy, or dignity of the human soul.

Most of them never saw an automobile, a radio, or pushed a button to throw on a light.

Most of them mistrust the white man for sound or unsound reasons.

Most of them believe that capitalism is synonymous with exploitation.

Most of them show amazement at magazine pictures of life in the West.

Most of them are becoming bewildered at their plight and will follow the devil himself if he promises even a small allotment of food. This is one vacuum that Communism has been filling quietly on the level of the individual, while we have poured billions on the level of government and top industry in the non-colonial areas.

Among these billion colonial people there exist a few thousand of educated colonials, with legal degrees from Oxford and Columbia, who have seen automobiles and TV and who, for selfish or unselfish reasons, want self-rule for their people and a chance to take their place in the family of nations of the world.

They point out to the West that the alternative is Communism and that time is running out.

Colonial Showdown in 1955

In a recent decision at Jakarta the Colombo powers—Pakistan, India, Ceylon, Burma, Indonesia... agreed to call an Asia-Africa conference next April, on some 30 Asia and Africa nations, to "solidify mutual interests."

Among those invited are: Red China, Japan, Thailand, Philippines, North and South Viet-Nam, Laos, Cambodia, Liberia, Nepal, Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Egypt, Turkey, Iran, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, the Sudan, Central African Federation (Southern and Northern Rhodesia and Nyassaland) Yemen, the Gold Coast countries, notably excluded from the list are Formosa, Australia, New Zealand, North and South Korea, Israel and Russia. It appears that the "colonial powers" were purposely excluded... and former or present colonies included.

What makes this Asia-African conference in April significant is that it is the first one in history which excludes Western powers. It is in reality an Asia-bloc... a neutral bloc between Communism and Capitalism, between the United States and Russia... which is convinced that co-existence is the better alternative to atomic war. The subjects of the Asia-African conference in April reveal the whole purpose and reason of the meeting: "To discuss problems affecting national sovereignty, racialism, colonialism..."

"U. S. intentions in Formosa, Korea..."

"French intentions in South Viet-Nam and North Africa..."

"Dutch intentions in New Guinea..."

"British intentions in Cyprus..."

and practically the intentions of all colonial powers toward the future of their colonies No mention is made of any discussions of Russian or Red Chinese imperialist intentions.

Within a short time I will tour again these hot spots around the world for my annual close-up of events. It would be no pre-judgment on my part to suggest that I can see the handwriting on the wall all the way from here... that colonial peoples are surging out of colonialism into a world power, for better or for worse, for the first time in history.

Established JAN. 1, 1914

Torrance Herald

Published Semi-Weekly at Torrance, Superior Court, Los Angeles County. Adjudicated Tuesday and Monday, March 23, 1927.

MEMBER CALIFORNIA NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION

MEMBER NATIONAL EDITORIAL ASSOCIATION

Subscription Rates: By Carrier, 30c a Month. Mail Subscriptions \$3.00 per year. Circulation office Fair fax 8-4004.

NATIONAL EDITORIAL ASSOCIATION AFFILIATE MEMBER

1619 Gramercy Ave. FA 8-4000

KING WILLIAMS, Publisher

GLENN W. PFEIL, General Mgr.

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Adjudicated a legal Newspaper by Superior Court, Los Angeles County. Adjudicated Tuesday and Monday, March 23, 1927.

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NATIONAL EDITORIAL ASSOCIATION AFFILIATE MEMBER

## LAW IN ACTION

### THE FIRST NEGOTIABLE INSTRUMENT

Once upon a time we traded by barter. Then we used shells, beads, salt, tobacco. Later, we used coins backed by some well-known prince or state. Coins gave us values in terms of price. But carrying coins around was risky. Robbers, you know.

But in the Middle Ages Italian merchants found out how to transfer money values without moving coins. Their idea spread in Europe, and we now use their invention in the forms of checks, drafts, bonds, mortgages and the like.

The Italian merchants had invented negotiable instruments—slips of paper—orders or promises to pay on sight or later.

Traders then could outwit robbers. A story told of Robin Hood shows how: A London merchant, they say, was robbed each time he sent his messenger through Sherwood Forest with money on the way to Scotland.

The merchant owed money to a Glasgow shoemaker. He also had a friend there who owed him the same amount

as he owed the shoemaker.

One day the merchant got an idea: he sent another messenger. Again, Robin Hood held him up. But this time, no money. The messenger had only a slip of paper. So Robin Hood let him through.

What did the paper say? It told the merchant's friend to pay the shoemaker the merchant's bill, for which the merchant would cancel his friend's debt. The shoemaker got his paper, showed it to the merchant's friend, signed his name on the back, and got his money.

The paper was a negotiable instrument—an order to pay. No money passed through Sherwood Forest. Yet three men had exchanged its value! Two debts were paid. And only goods and paper passed between London and Glasgow.

To make such deals safe a new body of law grew up. New courts arose to enforce the terms on the pieces of paper.

NOTE: The State Bar of California offers this column for your information so that you may know more about how to act under our laws.

# AUTO LOANS

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CHOOSE YOUR OWN INSURANCE AGENT  
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## California Bank

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