

EDITORIALS

Public Schools Week

The best answer to criticism of public education in California is a calm look at the facts. It seems that the fairest way to judge the efficiency of any institution is by an impartial, independent evaluation of results achieved.

The United States Armed Forces Institute made comprehensive tests of 35,432 public high school graduates from 814 schools in 48 states. Comparisons made between California graduates and those of other states indicated that Californians were in the upper achievement levels in practically every classification.

The official army tests rate California graduates as first in the nation in ability to read with understanding. In English grammar, spelling and diction, Californians were within one point of the top group with 59 per cent above the national average. Graduates of California's public schools ranked higher than those of any other state in knowledge of history, government, and economics. They stood above the national average in physiology, health, and biology tests.

California is first in percentage of persons 25 and older with four or more years of college; first in percentage of children of school age who are in school, and also leads the nation in adult education and in junior college enrollments.

Yes, these are facts. And it is pretty hard to argue with a fact. No wonder Californians are proud of their public schools. We have good, solid reason to be proud of our schools and of the students in our schools.

That is why the people of California have never once failed to support overwhelmingly measures on the ballot calling for needed increases in financial support of schools. That is why the voters of Los Angeles recently passed with an emphatic "yes" the public school bond propositions submitted to them at the last election.

This week is Public Schools Week. Schools will keep "open house," extend cordial invitations to all parents and friends of the students to call and see for themselves what our schools are doing.

This is also the Centennial of Los Angeles public schools. In 1855 the first public school opened in Los Angeles. The crude, meager beginning of a century ago developed into the great city school system that today ranks among the finest in the nation.

Be proud, California. These are your schools and it is you who have helped to make them what they are.

The Freelancer

By TOM HISCHE, Herald Staff Writer

Unless the Navy can convince its men that hamburgers, like wine or whiskey, grow better with age, it looks like there will be some mighty unhappy sailors in the year 2014. Looking into charges that there is considerable waste in Armed Forces buying, the commission found that the Navy has a 10-year supply of canned hamburgers on hand. Investigators hit the government's inventory system, and estimated that some \$10 to \$25 billion worth of supplies now in stock really weren't necessary.

Anxious to avoid getting involved in a feud between the services, the commission looked a little further and discovered that either the Air Force wasn't producing enough heroes or its buyers were purchasing too many medals.

The Air Force, they discovered, had so many sterling silver medals on hand that many of them were recently sold at public auction as surplus brass.

life of a battery is less than a year. This has confirmed what many people have been saying for a long time—that the government's left hand doesn't know what the right hand is doing.

In view of the findings, Washington looks like a good place for an enterprising young salesman to start his career. It would be a good idea for him to study the Hoover Commission reports first, however, to find out what the government does not have surpluses in.

There must be something, although many a congressman has claimed that the government has an oversupply of everything it needs and plenty of things it doesn't need.

The government publishing houses have long been under fire for the assortment of pamphlets they put out, and probably glad to see somebody else getting the finger pointed at them for extravagance.

For years, the government has been putting out pamphlets telling the American public how to do things ranging from breeding hinks to caring for the new addition to the family.

Now they can put out one telling government bureaucrats how to economize.

IT'S A FACT

by JERRY CAHILL

WILLIAM B. WALKER... WHO BUILT THE WORLD'S FIRST SUCCESSFUL WIND TUNNEL?

CAPT. LEWIS EDWARD NOLAN... WHO CARRIED THE FATAL ORDER THAT STARTED THE FAMOUS CHARGE OF THE LIGHT BRIGADE.

... WAS THE FIRST MAN KILLED IN THE CHARGE... IN AN ATTEMPT TO DIVERT IT.

... HE DIED EARLY DURING THE MORNING BRIGADE AND WAS STRUCK BY THE FIRST RUSSIAN SHOT.

... (800 MEN RODE INTO THE "VALLEY OF DEATH"—NOT 600)

... "SIX-WHEELER" CARS... WITH 8-FOOT WHEELS... ARE USED ON BUDDY BROTHERHOOD ROADS.

Ants In His Lance



The SQUIRREL CAGE

By REID BUNDY

When it comes to moving pianos, I'm sure nobody's fool; I'm the first guy on my feet, And the first to reach the stool.

Industrial research has developed an adhesive so strong that, it's claimed, a thin smear of it the size of a quarter would support three automobiles hanging from the ceiling. Maybe so, but not from my ceiling, they don't.

D'ja hear about the baby sardine that was frightened by a submarine and went crying to its mother. "There, there, dear," mother soothed. "Don't be upset, it's only a can of people."

An industrial magazine reports that drug stores are going in for a greater variety of stock. Gad! We thought the only thing they were missing now was a real estate department.

We got this one straight from a reporter that was there. When an English cruise ship docked in the harbor last week, a nattily dressed, Bernard Shaw-type citizen, complete with beard, was standing dockside waving a placard saying "WELCOME S. O. B."

Turns out that he wasn't an anarchist at all—just a former member of the British Society of Bookkeepers welcoming some old old friends to town who were aboard the ship.

Here's something the Chamber of Commerce manager, Tom V. Watson might look into. On page 878 of the California Blue Book—official catalog of state officers, departments, cities, population centers, retail centers, manufacturing center, etc.—is a listing of manufacturing in cities of Los Angeles County for the years 1939-1947.

Torrance isn't even on the list! However, Redondo Beach with 16 industries Bell with 30, Whittier with 33, and others are listed. It's our opinion that somebody goofed (no names, please). The book is printed by the state printer under provisions of Section 13806 of the Government Code. In case it makes any difference.

A couple of Torrance chicken ranchers have a flock of spring pullets which are rushing the season. James W. Moore and Del Pellitter, whose ranch is at 28349 Woodward Ave., have their spring crop of New Hampshire pullets which are now about 4 1/2 months old. That's not unusual, Moore says. Spring pullets should be about that age now.

These pullets, however, get in the news because the whole she-bang has started laying eggs. And, you can take it from Moore, eggs at 4 1/2 months is pretty cotton-pickin' early. Most chickens lay around six months before they get into the serious business of laying eggs. Just goes to show the All Year club is right when it says everything is better in California.

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.)

Unemployment Report

Editor, Torrance Herald:

For the past two years, the subject of unemployment insurance administration and the problem of unemployment insurance fraud have been recognized as major problems in California.

Since the beginning of our administration on Nov. 15, 1953, we have welcomed the investigations of the Department conducted by Assembly investigating committees for the past two years. We have asked for support by the public and press of critically needed improvements in the unemployment insurance program—and we have received that support, with a few inevitable exceptions.

We have worked diligently with committees of labor and management to find solutions for the fraud problem and other difficulties in a program that had bumbled along without much scrutiny for 17 years.

Because the newspapers of the state have shown great interest in this subject and have given our efforts to improve administration a program of support, we are pleased to report the following:

1. LEGISLATION Last December, the Department presented numerous proposals to the Assembly Interim Committee on Finance and Insurance. These were designed to continue improvements in administration and to aid our program to combat fraud.

AB 1870, as amended April 11, 1954, in the opinion of the Department is a good bill and

it deserves support. It will give us additional tools with which to operate a fair and humane program.

Following is a summary of provisions in the bill:

AB 1370 increases maximum weekly benefits from \$30 to \$33; raises the amount required to qualify for benefits from \$300 to \$600 spread over four calendar quarters; increases the disqualifications on claimants who refuse suitable work or make false statements to obtain benefits from the present five weeks to 10 weeks; and provides that claimants who are convicted in court for making false statements shall forfeit any rights to benefits for a period of 82 weeks, commencing with the week in which the false statement occurred.

The important point is that representatives of management and labor agreed to these provisions, which adjust problems affecting their interests. The measure will liberalize benefit payments in California and at the same time tighten up certain areas of disqualification which have been in need of change. These tools, if finally enacted by the Legislature, will materially assist the Department in good administration of the Unemployment Insurance Code.

2. REDUCTION OF FRAUD Current fraud figures contain what may be encouraging news concerning the problem of fraud. The percentage of fraudulent claims for unemployment insurance dropped 15 per cent during the quarter from November 25,

Special Note: John Morley's "sentence philosophies" under his copyrighted title, "I Believe," first appeared in the Rotarian magazine and newspapers around the world. H. L. Mencken, contracted for their use in his book, "A New Dictionary of Quotations," published by Alfred A. Knopf, New York. They also appear in the Saturday Evening Post, Readers Digest, Ladies Home Journal, etc., and in John Morley's book, "I Believe," retired after its 21st printing in 1947. A new edition of "I Believe" is now scheduled for 1955-56, upon Mr. Morley's return from his trip around the world.

I believe no man can be a Communist until he has nothing to lose. I believe most of us had some part of creating the conditions we have today and the conditions we will have tomorrow. Hoover, Roosevelt, Truman, Eisenhower, all had lots of help from the people.

I believe Democracy is like a business... when it's going good, it pays to advertise. When it's bad, you've got to advertise.

I believe nations lose their liberty more by action than by Communist explosion. I believe unity, without uniformity, is what the Constitution means.

I believe the difference between understanding and diplomacy in world affairs is that understanding may prevent annihilation.

I believe peace is only possible between equals. I believe it's impossible to prevent the birds of intolerance from flying over our head but you can prevent their building nests on your brain.

I believe some of the outspoken defenders of liberty are as helpless in defending it as they are defining it. I believe there are too many politicians in the world who are ready to have you die for their country.

I believe a preacher, a priest or a rabbi has no business trying to be anything else but a preacher, a priest or a rabbi. I believe our thoughts are supreme. They brought us where we are today.

I believe there are many advantages in using love instead of the stick on youngsters. Your control doesn't stop when you get arthritis. I believe most of us are in a quandry whether marriage makes men tough, or only the tough get married.

I believe my admiration for my wife increases when I attempt to do her job. I believe the best way to know a person is to listen to his dislikes. I believe ignorance costs a thousand times more than all that's invested in a good education.

I believe the Lord forgives us for our sins... but our nervous system usually takes longer. I believe children's 'comic-books' today are like weeds growing among the flowers of literature and choking the rich foliage of future generations.

I believe that parents who buy or permit some of today's 'comic-books' for their children are more guilty than the children. I believe stomach ulcers don't come from what you eat... but from what's eating you.

I believe another name for Easy street is Blind alley. I believe luck is where preparation meets opportunity. I believe real education starts when you have forgotten everything you learned in school and start all over again on your own.

I believe a woman's best friend will always be a man's imagination.

AFTER HOURS

By JOHN MORLEY

I believe some of our troubles could originate out of the Democrats playing up to the blue-collars... and the Republicans to the white ones. I believe the atom bomb has taken the word "isolation" right out of the dictionary. I believe if you are forced to do your duty, it's no longer your duty that you're performing.

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I believe the height of diplomacy is two women trying to win the same man... and the height of stupidity is two men trying to win the same woman.

I believe a wise man tells a woman he understands her... a stupid one tries to prove it. I believe the determination of life insurance salesmen to succeed has made life pretty soft for many widows.

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