

EDITORIALS

A Safety Reminder

Concern for the safety of the more than 15,000 pupils who will be returning to school in Torrance next week has been expressed by School Superintendent J. Hull. He pointed out that a major change in the routine of children or adults tends to make them accident prone, and that the beginning of a school year frequently brings about an increased number of accidents.

Speaking to the principals of Torrance schools, Dr. Hull emphasized the need for teachers to stress the need for care in walking to and from school, in the proper use of crossing guards, on regulations governing bicycles, and other phases of safety for school children.

At the same time, he emphasized the need for care on the part of adults when driving on city streets which are used by school children.

His remarks should be well heeded at this time of the year when more than 15,000 Torrance children will be on the streets each day. The injury to one child is a price too great to pay for a moment of carelessness.

The World is Thirsty

What may prove to be one of the most dramatic discoveries in modern times is foreshadowed by the announcement last week that the federal government is vigorously developing its project to find a practicable method of converting salt water of the ocean into potable water suitable for drinking, industrial uses and irrigation.

This is of momentous concern to the West and particularly to Southern California. Our underground water reserves are rapidly diminishing. The continued population growth of our southwestern region cannot be sustained unless provision is made for an ample future water supply. If the present water reserves are not effectively replaced, the time will soon come when our fertile subtropical valleys will revert to the desert, and our hopes for future progress will be blown over the horizon in a swirl of shifting sand dunes. We will become like the shipwrecked mariner who cries: "Water, water everywhere, but not a drop to drink."

Conversion of sea water to salt-free water may also have implications of a new era for man on earth. Sufficient cheap water will make the barren regions of this planet bloom into gardens of resurrected lushness. The people of the world will no longer need to go hungry. With enough water, the soil will provide food like a gigantic Eden encircling the globe.

The world is thirsty. And it is getting thirstier. This new adventure of science brings a new hope to mankind. In our time, we may see the scourge of war defeated by the elimination of one of its major causes: lack of food.

Surprise Witness

"Any person who hasn't got anything to fear can answer anything. A man or woman in the United States has nothing to fear except guilt."

With those words, Bernard M. Baruch—85-year-old park bench statesman and advisor to Presidents—has expressed succinctly a fundamental American feeling about an individual's rights and responsibilities. Mr. Baruch made his statement when he appeared as a surprise, and unofficial, witness at a Congressional inquiry into Communist influence in the entertainment business. He added the words that all Americans also know to be true—that in this country people will get a fair hearing.

The Baruch words were an indirect slap at nine actors and actresses who had steadfastly refused to answer questions concerning their Communist connections, if any, and who had accused the Congressional committee of an illegal invasion of their individual rights and privacy.

Like all previous Fifth Amendment pleaders, they did not explain just how membership in, or support of, an organization dedicated to the forceful overthrow of their liberties and their form of government could possibly be a matter of purely private concern.

As is true with all people in public life, the actor of necessity builds public attention, approval, and confidence. His material success depends upon public opinion. Along with the rewards of public acclaim he must accept the responsibilities.

Patriotism and loyalty are personal things, certainly—but not private. They are the proud essence of our relationship with our countrymen. They are to be displayed, not hidden under a false mask of fear.

IT'S A FACT

by JERRY CAHILL

AMBROISE PRE- (1840-1940) FRENCH FIGHTER PLANE IN THE FIELD OF AMBITION. HE WAS THE FIRST TO BE FIRED THROUGH HIS NOSE IN THE AIR-TANK BOMBING.

THE BELL AIRACOBRA... THE AIRACOBRA IS ONE OF THE WORLD'S FASTEST AIRCRAFT.

WHAT NAVAL STRATEGISTS SAW A VICTORY WITH GARGAGE? "ARGUMENT" NEXT ISSUE

THE FIRST AMERICAN PRODUCTION GRAND... SACRED ENVIRONMENT WAS GERSHWIN'S (SONY AND BESS). PRODUCED LAST YEAR.



Glazed Glances

By BARNEY GLAZER

We're all looking forward to new miracles in our 1956 automobiles. One gadget we'd welcome is a push-button system to change a flat tire. If we can't get that, we'll settle for a new type of shift—one that will automatically shift the blame when an accident occurs. Hear about the bride-to-be who phoned her hometown society editor and talked for 30 minutes about her approaching wedding? She gave every detail—the names, addresses and birthplaces of her bridesmaids, the quantity and cost of all the little frills, the exact yardage and every little stitch in her bridal gown, the importance of all the visiting relatives and when she had finished, the breathless bride gasped: "Well, I guess that's everything. That ought to make a wonderful story!" "That's right," admitted the society editor, "except for one minor detail—what's the bridegroom's name?"

Newspaper headline: "Train Hits Woman Driver. Escapes with Life." Which makes me wonder: Is it mere coincidence that hurricanes are being named after women? Ask any young lad the morning after his first night in Uncle Sam's service and he'll tell you that he slept on the famous straw that broke the camel's back. The class had been asked to name nine most famous Americans. One frustrated little boy handed in only eight names because he couldn't make up his mind about the pitcher... a slightly tipsy gentleman stepped into an open elevator shaft and plummeted three stories. Picking himself up angrily, he dusted off his trousers and yelled: "Wise guy! I said up!"

A professional halloo box stuffer is one who votes for himself three times but when the returns are in he's told he didn't get a single vote... Sign on a small town gas station: "Ring three times for night service. Then keep your shirt on while I get my pants on."

I had my plumbing at home pulled apart and I started out looking for a hardware store.

Fire time is the season when you must admit you owe most of your success to America... We know a gentleman in his eighties who refuses to use an airplane. He says: "I've been saving time for years and years. Now, I intend to take a train and use some of that time."

Just learned that one of my good women friends has been arguing with her husband so much she's been losing weight consistently. Says she's going to leave him as soon as she's down to 110... Ever notice that they keep improving everything in the modern automobile but they've never been able to add any glory to the clutch?

Sign on a fruit stand—picture of a gorgeous bathing beauty with the warning: "Don't squeeze me until you take me home"... Local husband found a cute way to point out to his wife she was dusting the way she ought to be went around fingering the words: "I Love You" in the dust. She took the hint and loved him for it... Any married couple celebrating their Golden Wedding Anniversary will tell you that during their long married life they never once considered divorce—but murder? many times.

The Freelancer

By TOM RISCHÉ, Herald Staff Writer

California prides itself on being the newest and most modern in everything, but the place where I spent the Labor Day week and enjoys being the oldest and quaintest city in the country. Santa Fe, N. Mex., is the land of the pueblo, the Indian, and historical monuments. In fact, you can't travel 10 miles along the highway without observing the spot where Coronado rested his horse, where the first well in America was dug, or some other such historical tidbit. Santa Fe is old and likes it that way. City regulations prohibit the building of any structure which doesn't conform with the old Spanish, territorial, or Indian architecture. It boasts the oldest church, house, and well in the country.

Where California prides itself on shiny newness, Santa Fe delights in dingy antiquity. The best restaurants there sport chairs which would be used for kindling wood in Torrance, and dirty, married store fronts which would make the local Chamber of Commerce recoil in horror are both the oldest and newest fashions in old Santa Fe. Labor Day is fiesta time in Santa Fe, and gaily costumed Indians, cowboys, and other assorted characters roam the streets, hawking jewelry, pottery, blankets, shawls, paintings, and miscellaneous goods. Fiesta time starts with the burning of a giant effigy of "Old Man Gloom" and for the remainder of the holiday, there are parades, dances, and all types of festivities. It has a certain charm that

can't be matched, in streamlined Los Angeles. Life there is slow and easy and relaxing that the tourist wants to sleep all the time. New Mexico's Gov. John Simms, trying to crack down on the speeders, got himself arrested last week. One of his safety campaign gimmicks backfired on him. According to an irate motorist, a patrolman was using the governor's limousine which was not only not marked as a police car, but carried Montana license plates. Pinched for following too close, the motorist screamed that using out-of-state license plates was illegal and had warrants sworn out for the governor's and the patrolman's arrests. He case hadn't been settled at last report, but the governor was claiming that the motorist was a fugitive from a psychiatrist. At least some New Mexicans aren't very impressed with California and Californians. A comic post card, boasting the glories of New Mexico, which would make the area as the "land of the great smog." California itself is called "Death Valley State." Some of the New Mexico TV announcers referred to Californians as crybabies as a result of the laments which followed Swaps' loss in his well-publicized race with Nashua last week. Seems at least some of the announcers think that Californians sports writers are too naive to talk about their horses' football, baseball, and other sports. Put up or shut up, one announcer warned Californians.

The SQUIRREL CAGE

By REID BUNDY

The pikies are at work this week—everybody has been sending cards to me telling of their wonderful vacations from cool, cool climes of various vacation spots around the country.

From Baxter and Polly Omohundro, who live in Pacific Hills, comes a card that says merely, "Having Fun." It shows a beautiful blue-sky draped seashore with billowing white clouds overhead—looks positively chilly.

John Crain of North Torrance postcards from the redwood country to tell me I had better hurry up there before commercialization spoils it. Said he wished he could stay because "fishing is better in September." He has the nerve to date his card at 2 p.m. Thursday (when it was about 110 here) and say he was sitting along side the swimming pool.

And Mrs. John Klug, who formerly kept an eye on the parties, birthdays, and picnics in the Allied Gardens area for us, tells me that the head ranger at Sequoia Park has the only television set there. She swears that he was observed parked in front of the TV one evening catching his favorite program and that a bear was sitting right behind him, watching the thing with fascination. This could be the beginning of a series of shaggy bear stories.

Would your organization like to have a flag that has been flown on the pole over the Capitol's west entrance in Washington, D. C.? Well, it is fairly simple to obtain one. Just write to your Senator or Congressman and enclose a check to pay for it. (\$3.50 for a 3x5 foot flag or \$4.50 for a 5x8 the most popular size.) If the Congressman approves, he'll send the check on to the Keeper of Stationery who has the flags, and at the same time, drop a note to David Lynn, Capitol architect, who is in charge of the thing with and flown for a few minutes. An accompanying letter with the flag will attest to the fact that it has been flown above the Capitol building.

"Adolescence is when a boy stops collecting stamps and starts playing postoffice." —Bob Olin. "Most women find it impossible to be brief about anything except a bathing suit." —Max Rainville.

Publisher Explains Thrill of Jet Flight

By KING WILLIAMS HERALD Publisher

Jet rides for the layman are a novelty and one still rare enough to get a free ride feels a responsibility to pass along his experience to anyone who wants to listen.

This writer had such an experience recently when seven T-33 jet trainers were brought down from Hamilton AFB as part of the open house festivities at Long Beach and Norton base headquarters for units of the Air Force Reserve. Into them were bundled a like number of newspaper publishers from the Los Angeles area in full regalia including crash helmet, oxygen mask and parachute.

Those of the publishers with pilot experience were given the added thrill of taking over the controls, myself among them. My pilot mentor was Capt. Frank Jowdy, Air Force regular with years of service as a combat and routine military pilot.

Briefing for the trip covered for the most part the procedures to be followed in the event of an emergency. The neophytes learned that the excitement of getting out of a jet entails somewhat more than merely triggering an ejector. There are pins to be pulled at just the right time and a series of operations that make the old-fashioned procedure of simply releasing the safety belt, jumping head first and pulling the rip cord seem like alighting from an MG.

A hurried check of the instrument panel revealed such old friends as the altimeter, air speed indicator and the like. But some strange faces turned out to be almost more important, including percentage of thrust and tail pipe temperature. These, we soon learned, can read like life and death thermometers to the jet pilot. Then there is another—the oxygen reader that blinks yellow and green with each breath taken. At high altitudes, easily reached in "breath-taking" time, that little blinker means and awful lot.

My own experience was highlighted by an emergency offered by the plane that had cleared just ahead. We were all lined up ready for takeoff when an alert was sounded to clear all runways. Into the earphones came the calm but startling information from the pilot in trouble that he had a "100 per cent flameout" and that he was returning for a landing.

Greatest thrill came in descent from comparatively high altitudes. The dive bomber was applied with telling effect and it was a matter of seconds before the plane was down to 3000 feet after a shuddering descent that wound the altimeter and raked up four and one half "Gs" on the accelerometer. Otherwise the entire flight was smooth and amazingly quiet.

Jet flight may be old stuff to commercial air passengers; some day, in the meantime, though, it is thrilling and not without the added attraction of being a little different from the 100 hours in conventional type airplanes.



LAW IN ACTION

WITNESSES

Strange, but people in the Middle Ages put little stock in sworn testimony.

1. Trial by battle: A suit against some wrong doer: He could clear himself by beating you in a fight—or even getting his hired fighters to beat you or your men.

2. Trial by ordeal: An accused could clear himself by going unharmed through some ordeal, say, a stroll through hot coals or a dip in a stream while tied up.

3. Trial by Oaths: Sometimes he could clear himself by getting several men—oath-helpers—to swear that he told the truth.

This was about as near as people came to our court system where we try to get the facts under rules of evidence from sworn witnesses. If a witness lies, the court may punish him for perjury.

So important are witnesses that the accused or the prosecutor can get the court to force a person to come to court and testify. If the judge thinks the witness may skip out, he can make him put up surety; or lacking that, he may hold him in jail.

The court may hear evidence before the trial if a witness is sick, unable to get to court, or may die.

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