

# EDITORIALS

## On Offstreet Parking

The vigorous new approach to community problems by the regenerated Torrance Chamber of Commerce again was demonstrated Tuesday morning when the September breakfast meeting was given over to a forum on the city's downtown shopping district parking situation.

Every city in the United States probably has a parking problem. City planning a quarter century ago just did not comprehend the automobile and its heavy impact on the life of the American family. The two-car family seemed as farfetched as a trip to the moon and the idea of a retail store paying more for a parking lot than the cost of its housing was fantastic indeed.

Torrance has a parking problem and the Chamber of Commerce inherits a situation that might well have been solved less expensively and more effectively ten years ago. This does not intimate that nothing ever was done about it. There have been farsighted individuals within the community working earnestly for years, notably the parking committee appointed by the city council.

The idea of an assessment district to provide offstreet parking lots is not new and seems to be the only solution to the local problem. It will be costly—some \$200,000 for lots not particularly well located in this age when shoppers want to walk a few steps only—but it appears to be the only way out.

Improvements made in the physical aspects of downtown buildings are a phase of an overall program to make Torrance more attractive as a shopping center.

## Bastions of Democracy

An educated people is the foundation of democracy. Dictatorships and police-states flourish in the soil of ignorance. Universal, compulsory education was the greatest step in the implementation of democratic government.

Another school year opens with realization of the tremendous progress made by the schools of California. Like all human institutions, they are not perfect, but a vast army of devoted teachers and administrators are constantly trying to make them better. They deserve the undivided support of the people.

Development of modern business and industry has dramatically spotlighted the importance of education in the individual. Formal education, at least through high school level, is now a prerequisite to most of the better jobs.

Here in our own community, thousands of citizens who, for various reasons, were compelled to quit school prematurely, are now trying to make up their deficiencies by enrolling in adult classes provided without charge for tuition by the public school system.

These people know that learning continues throughout the years and that their chances for happiness and satisfying living are enhanced by the advantages of an expanding education.

Every schoolroom is a bastion of our democracy.

## Long Live Ike!

The entire nation and the civilized world hopes and prays for the early and complete recovery of President Eisenhower. Afflictions such as his are common among men above 50 who have led strenuous lives and recovery without permanent damage is as commonplace.

The administration in Washington is to be commended for the manner in which the President's condition has been reported to the world in detail. There has been no evidence of any attempt to withhold or delude even at the risk of unduly alarming the layman.

It would be ridiculous to underestimate the seriousness of losing the services of this great man even for a few weeks or months. Nevertheless, the very greatness that has marked his conduct of the most important and influential office in the world, has also comprehended just such an emergency. Never before has a vice president been given so many important duties, or been kept in such close contact with the affairs of government, as Vice President Nixon. Young, to be sure, he still is old in the ways of government and experienced through travel as an authority on international affairs.

All men of good will pray earnestly and sincerely for the President. Some political jackals already have reared their ugly heads. But, their inability to restrain themselves can only lead to embarrassment or downfall.

Long live President Eisenhower!

## The Freelancer

By TOM RISCHÉ, Herald Staff Writer

American this week were listening anxiously to the latest reports on the condition of their stricken chief executive, who suffered a heart attack Saturday.

Newspapers were filled with accounts of every aspect of President Eisenhower's illness, including everything from what he ate for breakfast (oatmeal, orange juice, and milk) to illustrated diagrams on what causes heart trouble.

Ordinarily, hardly any aspect of the president's life or that of his family is sacred. It is doubly public in this case, because the history of the world may well be altered by what happens or does not happen in that Denver hotel room.

The stock market took its biggest drop in 26 years Monday, as businessmen showed their apprehension over the president's condition.

Seldom, if ever, since Washington's day has any president received more respect than has President Eisenhower. Even the Democrats hesitate to criticize him bitterly, but instead point their accusing fingers at other members of his administration.

Eisenhower has never received the amount of person-

al abuse that was hurled at his predecessors, Harry Truman, Franklin Roosevelt, or Herbert Hoover.

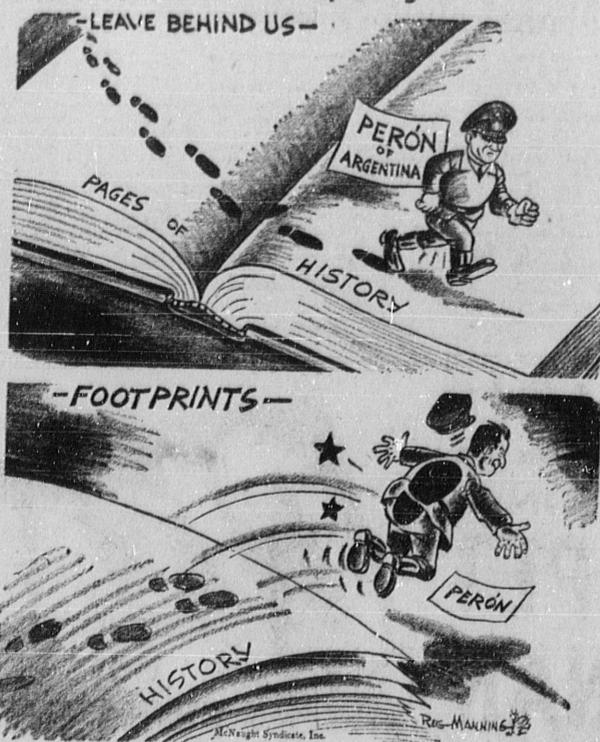
As president, he has succeeded in erecting a dignity about the office which it did not previously have. Democrats, who cring at the thought of picking a candidate to run against him, perked up when it appeared he might not run.

Where Vice President Nixon has been the subject of all kinds of distorted political cartoons and violent attacks, the president has missed them. Neither has he been the butt of the type of backroom jokes that were told about Truman, Roosevelt, and even such sacred American heroes as Abraham Lincoln, who was one of the most bitterly vilified men of his day.

It is no wonder that Americans of all political beliefs are joining in prayers for his recovery.

With him, the president brought a new era and new ideas about the presidency. Historians in future years will judge his work as president, but whatever their verdict, they will undoubtedly write that he was one of the most revered chief executives.

## And Departing



## Glazed Glances

By BARNEY GLAZER

Love Art Ryan's comment that he had a terrible nightmare in which his wife and Marilyn Monroe were fighting over him, and his wife was winning.

Robert Mochanic of West L. A. lives on Stillson St., and if that doesn't have sufficient ironic power to wrench your back, just listen to this: he works at the Hughes Tool Company!

Married couples, who plan to have their children early so they can still be young while their children are teenagers, ought to be enlightened that it won't work because teenagers will only make them old overnight.

Boyd Correll tells the tale about the horse owner who bought a martini, poured them into a bucket, and let his horse drink the whole thing. When the astonished bartender offered the man one on the house, the horse owner politely rejected the courtesy and explained: "I never drink while I'm driving."

Apparently, I have a well-trained reader who never misses this column. She is Mrs. Gwendolyn Seal, first trained Seal I've had, too.

Just having gulped down a huge chocolate malted milk, a small boy turned to the waitress and asked: "Whatcha got for dessert?"

Trouble with most of today's so-called religious folks is that they think the church is staging a convention every week end and it's all right to send along one family delegate.

Gentleman friend of this pillar has a novel way of busting up a long-winded phone conversation while at home. He always tells the other party excitedly: "Oops! Gotta go! I have a cake in the oven and I can smell it!"

A lady reader tells me that she and her husband own an automobile of questionable vintage. Every week end, they courageously take a long trip and the vehicle groans and bumps along as if

this surely is its last roundup. Miraculously, they somehow manage to reach home without mishap or delay and invariably her husband leans over, pats her on the knee, and chuckles: "Good old gal. Made it again." Only trouble being that she keeps wondering if he means the car or her.

So help me, this is the truth. A local veterinarian has a dog owner customer who insists that her dog can talk. On a recent visit to the vet, the lady claimed that while she was driving to the office, her dog suddenly said hello to the folks driving alongside her. The folks looked at her and apologized: "Sorry, lady, but we don't recognize you." Smilingly, the dog owner told the veterinarian: "They didn't know it was my dog speaking to them." Then, she added: "Listen, I'll make him speak for you now." There followed a long series of commands, requests and then pleas but the canny canine refused to utter a word.

The isn't feeling well today while the vet hastily turned on his garbage disposal to regain his composure.

Today's shaggy dog story comes from Art Loel, Warner Brothers' art director. It seems that a young man took his dog to the movie one night and the canine sat so quietly, paid attention so thoroughly, and applauded so appreciatively that a man in the row behind couldn't contain himself any longer. Leaning over, he tapped the owner on the shoulder and whispered: "Say, this is the most amazing sight I've ever seen!" "Isn't it though," agreed the owner, "especially when you stop to realize that he didn't like the book at all."

A local sports fan had this to say about the Los Angeles Rams' professional football team: "They may not be winning all their games but they're darned good losers!" To which another fan added: "Good losers my eye! They're perfect!"

We like this bit of dialogue



# 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 those expressed in letters here published represent those of the writer and not necessarily those of The Torrance Herald.)

## Number Please?

Editor, Torrance HERALD:

After thinking over the events that lead up to the passing of a compulsory law in Torrance and going over and over again, the actual minutes of the meeting, I feel it is necessary, that the people of Torrance, who could not, for one reason or another, attend the council meeting, be alerted to the way it is possible to pass a compulsory law.

Whether you are pro or con on the "rabies" question, it has now gone beyond that.

The ordinance was unanimously voted to be put on the ballot, but on the basis of petitions, not only of Torrance voters, but of people from other cities, to bring this measure before the council again. It was taken from the vote of the people, and "railroaded" through our Council meeting on Sept. 13, 1952.

Councilman Drale: "Mr. Chairman, any time a new ordinance has been proposed or given to the Council, it has always been a policy and a gentleman's agreement that the Council have time to study it, and I would like to recommend that the same policy be followed here, and that the Council have at least two weeks to study this ordinance."

Mayor Isen: "You have had it since Friday, Mr. Drale, to study it."

Councilman Drale: "I want you to understand that we have adopted a new policy now, and that any other ordinance proposed by any member of the Council will be acted on without a delay."

(At this point the ordinance was a new ordinance and to quote Mr. Drale: "I think you were the only man who recommended those changes, Mr. Mayor. I don't think there's been a voice of the Council to recommend the changes. But it then becomes an old ordinance.")

Mayor Isen: "Mr. Drale, let's call a spade a spade; you've had this ordinance before you for four months now, and you could read those changes in five minutes."

Councilman Schwab: "Your Honor—in connection with what Mr. Drale has said, I was thinking as you did, that it is not a new ordinance, however, I respect Mr. Drale's thinking on it."

Councilman Drale: "Mr. Schwab, if I may say something now, if this is the same ordinance, we've already voted on it, and the Council recommended unanimously that this be put on the ballot for the people to vote on. Now I don't know who is instrumental in bringing it back to this Council again, if it's the same ordinance, then we shouldn't have it here, because we've already taken action on it."

Councilman Schwab: Mr. Isen, I don't want to set any precedent here, and we are doing something that is contrary to what the Council has done in the past. If Councilman Drale wants this held over, I am willing to withdraw my vote on that, so that Councilman Drale can hold it over for further study. I don't want to rush into anything, and then remarked: "That's funny. My wife can."

Puppy love sign on a store building wall scribbled in the apparent crude handwriting of a youngster and complete with heart, piercing arrow, and anguished dripping blood: "Richard Loves Hot Dogs."

According to Gordon N. Freeman, publisher, a football fan leaned over and asked the man in front: "Mister, will you kindly take off your hat, you know I can't see through you." The gent in front smiled, removed his fedora obligingly, and then remarked: "That's funny. My wife can."

Mayor Isen: Well, we've had it for months. My thought was that the matter had been demanding reconsideration. We have had a number of petitions here and there was enough to indicate that the majority of the Council wanted reconsideration."

(After checking the petitions, we find the City of Los Angeles, Gardena, Harbor City, Redondo Beach, Wilmington, Garden Grove, Lomita, Palos Verdes and Manhattan Beach, etc., are well represented in wanting our city to reconsider this ordinance.)

Mayor Isen: "We were just going to give it a number, MAY WE HAVE A NUMBER, MR. BARTLETT?"

City Clerk Bartlett: "776, for its first reading."

(Now Mr. Isen has made it. Even though Mr. Schwab withdrew his vote not to put the Ordinance over for further study.)

Councilman Benstead: "I move to dispense with further reading of the Ordinance." (We now have a number, so we shall go further, we will dispense with further reading, although the people wanted to know what was in the Ordinance that was to blind the people of Torrance.)

Councilman Blount: "Now before we railroad this through—"

Mayor Isen: "Watch that word—"

Councilman Blount: "May I make a statement?"

Mayor Isen: "You're out of order!"

(The Mayor did not get a second of Mr. Benstead's motion, so Mr. Isen seconded the motion.)

Then Mr. Drale was permitted to speak.

Mayor Isen: "The roll call on dispensing with the reading of the ordinance, please. (The motion lost. Mr. Blount had left his chair for just a moment and did not vote. Mr. Isen asked City Attorney Hall at this time if the vote had been unanimous to dispense with the reading, or if 4/5 vote was enough. Councilman Blount said that his vote had been "NO," and so the ordinance should be read.)

Councilman Benstead: Moved for the adoption of Ordinance No. 776.

(Mayor Isen seconded the motion.)

Councilman Benstead: "Mr. Mayor, we have been over this matter a number of times, and I think we've been very patient."

(Patient with whom? The people who wanted this ordinance and who had no limitations put on their time. Dr. Thines, a registered lobbyist, was before the Torrance Council on two occasions and had no limit set on his time, because, as our Mayor said, he has come from a long distance, Pasadena, to be exact. But when the people who opposed this compulsory law, or any compulsory law, came they were allotted so much time, three minutes, in the Council Chamber along with the residents of Torrance. We had neither time in the Chamber nor any space in the newspapers of Torrance.)

(Not only were the people of Torrance not permitted to ask questions at this council meeting, but the members of the Council were called out of order.)

Quote: Councilman Blount: "I think anyone who wants to ask a question should be allowed to."

Mayor Isen: "Do you have any you want to ask?"

Councilman Blount: "Yes. Does anybody want to ask a question?"

Mayor Isen: "Your question is out of order."

Councilman Blount: "Put that in the record, please."

Mayor Isen: "The chair is regulating the procedure."

Councilman Blount: "The chair sure is."

To quote Mr. Drale: "I realize that, (Mr. Isen said it wasn't an easy job to regulate the procedure) but still, let's be patient. After all, we have a job to do and the Chair guides and conducts the meetings the best way that he knows how."

All this took place in the Chamber of the Torrance Council, and what per cent of the people of Torrance knew that a bill could be put through by such measures in our County, let alone in our City?

Quoting from Bertrand Russell's book "The Impact of Science on Society," published in 1953, "Fichte laid it down that education should aim at destroying free will, so that after pupils have left school, they shall be incapable—throughout the rest of their lives, of thinking or acting otherwise than as their schoolmasters would have wished. But in this day this was an unattainable idea; what he regarded as the best system in existence produced Karl Marx. In future such failures are more likely to occur where there is dictatorship. Diet, injections and injunctions will combine from a very early age to produce the sort of character and the sort of beliefs that the authorities consider desirable, and any serious criticism of the powers that be will become themselves psychologically impossible. Even if all are miserable, all will believe themselves happy, because the government will tell them that they are so."

Will you give that ordinance a number, please Mr. Bartlett, and we have another compulsory ordinance. This time on our dogs, but maybe next time on our children.

MRS. ROBERT GOETZ, 5029 Milne Dr.

Mental Health

Editor, Torrance HERALD, I recently forwarded to you a copy of A.B. 3300 together with articles from Republicans Unlimited Legislative Committee.

At the time I questioned you on the editorial entitled "We Sometimes Wonder," which appeared in the Torrance HERALD on July 21, 1952, and you requested I mail you a brief letter pertaining to the subject of mental health in California. I did not feel that a letter from me could possibly cover such a broad program as is suggested in A.B. 3300. However, by now you have had a sufficient opportunity to digest the material forwarded previously, and I feel that I can speak to you without seeming unduly alarmed.

There are two deeply significant suggestions in the mental health field released recently. One is the announcement that a "Mental Health Commission" may be appointed by the politicians for the study of the mental health of the nation. The second is that the Ford Foundation has allotted fifteen million dollars for the same purpose.

Since Fulton Lewis Jr. has currently revealed the left-wing activities of the tax free off-spring of the Ford Foundation—the Fund for the Republic—no more need be mentioned as to whether this latest fifteen million for mental health will be used for the public's general welfare.

There is no doubt that this is an important subject, and one which deserves thorough research at the hands of ethical

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