

EDITORIALS

Unreal Estate

If California's population continues to balloon at its present rate, the day may not be far off when we'll have to call in Mr. Robert Coles, of New York.

Mr. Coles, a retired astronomer, is now selling one-acre plots on the moon. Convinced by his celestial observations that space travel is an imminent certainty, and confident that his brilliant satellite will be the first stop in interstellar exploration, Mr. Coles has registered his tongue-in-cheek claim to a portion of Copernicus crater. Already he has disposed of 4,500 plots at a buck a throw.

From what we hear from some of our commuting friends in large cities here and in other states, a mere 216,420-mile space ship jaunt would be but nothing, so Mr. Coles' success is not too surprising. After all, man has been reaching for the moon for a long time.

More Action and Less Talk

No one would object when our state and local officials take junkets at the taxpayer's expense to learn how public business may be conducted more efficiently, if they brought back some practical ideas and did something to implement them.

In the case of our traffic and freeway problems, even the casual tourist cannot fail to notice the practical measures adopted by some of our eastern states to help reduce highway deaths.

When it is a question of emergency telephones, crash signal systems, or safe highway dividers, the authorities in other states promptly install them instead of spending years talking about it and then doing nothing.

Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Rhode Island are equipping their freeways with "rumble strips." This is a new type of center lane marker with a luminous ribbed concrete strip that creates a hum or whine when a tire touches it, warning the driver he is veering out of line or heading into the wrong lane.

In Massachusetts and New York, engineers are installing electronic-controlled traffic lights with huge lenses a foot in diameter and 111-watt bulbs instead of the common 60-watt bulbs. Lights on overhead structures give a motorist warning about 1,000 feet in advance as to what the traffic signal will be when his car reaches the intersection.

Such intelligent planning and efficient engineering saves lives. What California needs is more action and less talk. And fewer traffic victims laid out in the morgues.

LAW IN ACTION

DOUBLE OR NOTHING

When the past and present are alike, experience embedded in our laws does well, but now and then you cannot go by the past.

We used to think the person who caused a worker to get hurt on the job should pay him damages; the employer or a fellow worker if he had not taken proper care, or had caused the injury on purpose. Yet the injured person himself could not get compensation if he had caused or helped cause the accident.

But "blame" or "fault" did not work out well; industry got too complex to fix the blame with ease. Shouldn't society, which gained by modern industry, foot the bill through insurance? Injured workers were becoming a charge on the public purse anyway.

So in 1911 and 1918 California imposed, in effect, an insurance charge upon industry for the injuries it caused—regardless of "fault of any party."

The U. S. Supreme Court soon found these Workmen's Compensation laws within the power of states to pass. And we have had to add to them since then.

For example, in 1941 one

poor fellow hired out in Oregon to work across the line in California. When he got hurt, Oregon could not pay him since he worked here; nor could California laws allow an Oregon worker to recover here.

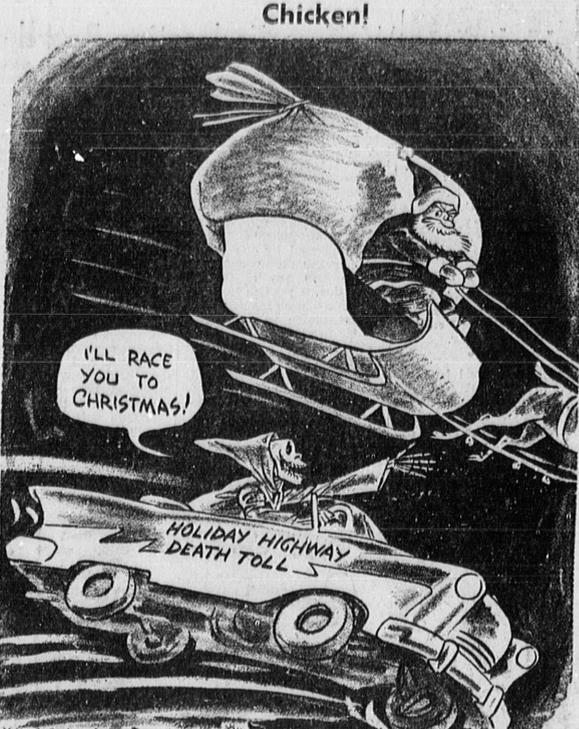
But in some states, the law calls for payment where the worker is injured which opens the door to double compensation, at home and across the line at work. No compensation or double are both bad. What with airplane pilots, truck drivers, work crews, salesmen, and business men criss-crossing state lines, we had to make a more workable law.

So last September, California put a reciprocal law on the books. California will look after workers hired here and hurt elsewhere, if the other states with reciprocal laws do the same for workers hired there and hurt here. Such states must not permit actions in the states where the men are at work against California employers. In time, this law may save much in interstate law suits.

Note: The State Bar of California offers this column for you to know more about our laws.

By JERRY CAHILL

IT'S A FACT... THE GRAND UNION FLAG... SENATOR ROBERT A. TAFT... Includes a portrait of Senator Taft and text about his political career.



Glazed Glances

Jones dropped into his neighbor's house and asked if he might read one of his books. "Sure thing," replied the neighbor, "but I've made it a rule that you'll have to read it right here in my own library." Weeks later, the neighbor dropped over to Jones' house and asked for the loan of his lawnmower. "Sure thing," Jones replied, "but, like you, I also have a rule. You'll have to use it right here on my lawn." (And just to prove that I'm no lesser James, this was not an original. It was first written by Mark Twain.)

The Freelancer

I wandered on, getting an elbow in the stomach from a portly woman with her arms full of packages. Just then a little girl with long golden curls wormed her way through the crowds. In her hand was a piggy bank. She looked this way and that, then turned to me. "Do you know where they sell the little frilly aprons she piped anxiously, "I can't find them anywhere." "No, I don't," I answered. "Where's your mommy?" "Oh, she's at home. I wanted to buy this for her. She's always wanted one. The one she has is all ragged. I earned the money myself and I want to surprise her. I don't live very far away, so I came here myself. But there are so many people pushing me that I can't find anything."

Crossword puzzle with clues and answers. Includes a small photo of a man in a hat.

The SQUIRREL CAGE AFTER HOURS

By REID BUNDY... If the investigators want to know where some of the nation's defense money is going, we might suggest that they check the postage metering machines at some of the Southland aircraft plants (names on request). We received an ordinary, three-cent stamp-type letter Saturday with a 10-cent stamp on it. It still took two days to make the hazardous journey here from Los Angeles.

Speaking of the mail, Reggie asked me what ever happened to the letter box at Gramercy and Cabrillo. Had to tell him "nothin'." It's his experience, and ours, that if you want to mail a letter there, you should take a letter there to help open the lid—it's tricky.

Reggie has another question too—indicating that he may be on the verge of opening a running battle with the Post Office Department, Torrance division. He wants to know when Torrance is going to start getting the red, white, and blue letter boxes like the rest of the cities around us. "Torrance is bigger than Hawthorne and we don't have 'em and they do," Reggie says. "Can you tell me why?" We couldn't.

This is the time of the year when you start reading that leaves are being canceled for Highway Patrolmen, police officers, and sheriff's deputies as a move to cope with the holiday drunk drivers. Which, by my way of thinking, is an admission that somebody goofed, but good. Any traffic chief who has read the statistics about accidents during Christmas week must be on Cloud Seven to schedule any leaves during such a holiday period.

Which brings to mind a holiday safety slogan we thought up between phone calls last week: THROTTLE THE BOTTLE. BOTTLE THE THROTTLE. Okay, so it's no good. We should get some credit for trying, however.

We ran across "Just the gift" for a last minute gift idea the other day. Toothpaste flavored in Scotch; Bourbon or Rye. Can't you just imagine brushing the choppers with a Bourbon flavored go? Ugh!

The big, big stores in New York are going all out for Christmas this year—making up little trees of pearls, diamonds, rubies, etc. Some of them are designed to sell for as little as \$150,000, too. Just the item for someone you're trying to insult.

I like the Christmas card idea a couple of Hollywood comedians are sending out this year. A very solemn looking number, it wishes the recipient a Merry Christmas and says, "A gift in your name has been sent to... You open the card and inside it says: 'KING FAROUK.'"

Do you have your Christmas shopping all done? If you'll recall I told you I was going to do my shopping this week and I warned you to get what you wanted and get out of my way. I've got a long list of stuff to pick up in the next few days and I hate to be held up.

"Instance, I've got to get a couple of tickets to that popular movie, 'To Catch a Thief,' for Detective Captain Ernie Ashton; and while I'm there, I plan to see about getting a couple of passes to 'Rebel Without a Cause' for Gov. Griffin of Georgia.

I don't know what I'm going to get Mayor Izen now. I was all set to get him a Mouseketeers hat but someone beat me to it.

HOLIDAY MONEY... HOLIDAY CASH REQUEST... Model Finance Company OF CALIFORNIA... 1620 Cravens Ave., Torrance - FA 8-7781