

EDITORIALS

Fire Danger Everywhere

The almost unprecedented dry spell has created a hazard in our nearby hillside communities that is every bit as dangerous as that existing before the Malibu coast disaster. Any act of carelessness or incendiarism can bring destruction to a number of nearby areas and to sections of this city itself.

The losses in any catastrophic fire, like that now raging near Malibu, cannot be measured in dollars and cents. Watersheds in California represent an intrinsic value of almost inestimable worth both to flood control and to the all important water table.

The tragic consequences to the homeowner also cannot be appraised accurately. In most instances homes left standing in a burned over area have become almost unusable because the vegetation is destroyed and the landscape scarred for years to come. And all because someone was careless or criminally minded.

Fire is an ever-present threat in Southern California. As man continues to beautify his surroundings with trees and shrubs, the menace will increase unless the program of education and enforcement shows more results than it has to date.

Let us hope that the smoke above the Malibu funeral pyre leaves a deeply etched picture on the mind of every Southern Californian.

Mr. Creeger Retires

The retirement of Henry W. Creeger as plant manager of American-Standard, one of Torrance's finest industries, becomes effective with this new year. In addition to having been one of the community's most effective spokesmen for industry, Mr. Creeger has been most active in civic affairs as a long-time director of the Chamber of Commerce and as a board member and current president of the Torrance Memorial hospital.

Mr. Creeger already has indicated that he will continue to give of his unique executive talents to the hospital board; this is good news for the thousands in the community who appreciate the importance of this great institution. It is to be hoped, also, that he will at least keep in touch with his other interests, all of which are vital to the welfare of Torrance.

The HERALD extends congratulations to Mr. Creeger and the appreciation of the community for his many services.

Short Takes...

Gas City (Ind.) Marion Observer: "The wages of American workers are at an all-time high—measured both by the total national payroll and by the average paycheck. American workers get more of the good things of life, in return for less labor, than do the workers of any other country. . . . Never in history and nowhere else on earth have the financial fruits of enterprise been so widely or so fairly shared as in this country. And the capitalist system has done it."

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.)

YWCA Grateful

Editor, Torrance Herald,
On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Harbor Area YWCA I am taking this opportunity to commend the Torrance Herald for the excellent coverage of harbor area activities.

We appreciate the helpfulness of your staff and feel that this attitude is the evidence of the fine community service the paper renders.

Again we thank the Torrance Herald for helping to promote activities for the good of the community.

Very truly yours,
Mrs. E. C. Spires,
President
Harbor Area Board of Directors

School Thanks

Editor, Torrance Herald,
At the end of the year we look back on the coverage which our clippings of the Torrance Herald show us and we are convinced that a letter of thanks is due you and your newspaper staff for the excellent coverage and cooperation you have given the school district and all its problems.

These services to the community, staff, and children of Torrance have been very much appreciated, and numerous comments have been made during the year expressing how fortunate we are in Torrance to have a paper of the quality of the Torrance Herald.

Yours very truly,
J. H. Hull
Superintendent of Schools

El Camino Bouquet

Editor, Torrance Herald,
Although I have prepared releases for the Herald for the past four years it was only a month or two ago that I began to see the paper regularly. Congratulations on the modern, readable newspaper which you are offering your community! It is a pleasure to read the Herald; its typography is excellent.

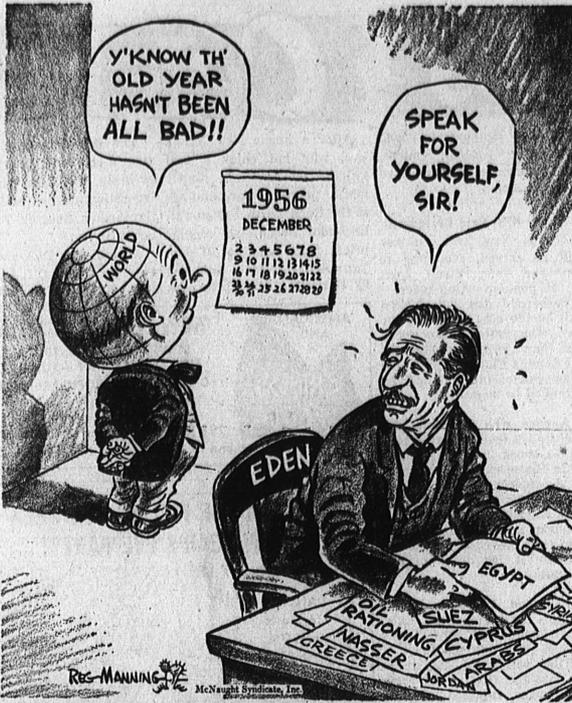
While taking a pre-New Year inventory, let me also express my appreciation for the cooperation which you have given to El Camino College during 1956 and past years. Located in the thriving Torrance area, you are in a strategic position to assist many newcomers to Southern California in knowing about the opportunities offered in the junior college program. At the same time, you are serving a large percentage of our family of more than 8500 students and employees of El Camino by presenting information regarding the campus program.

We appreciate all that you do to assist the college and the community in this regard. Should we be able to assist you in any way or should you have questions concerning any phase of our program, please do not hesitate to call at any time. We seem to have difficulties in making contact; I hope that you will find time in your busy schedule to pay the campus a visit in the near future.

Best wishes to you and your staff—and may 1957 be your most pleasant and profitable New Year!

Cordially,
W. A. Kamrath
Coordinator of Public Relations
El Camino College

Point Of View



YOUR PROBLEMS

By ANN LANDERS

Dear Ann Landers: My husband has been asked to say a few words at the annual banquet of his fraternal organization. As chairman of a major committee he's to outline the accomplishments and thank the members for their cooperation.

I keep telling him to plan a speech and make some notes. He's a poor public speaker and I'm afraid he'll make a fool of himself. But he insists he gives an excellent talk and thinks he's very funny, too. He claims the best speakers never prepare in advance.

His plan is to get up and ad lib. "Informality," he says, "is the sure way to reach an audience." Frankly, I'm worried. He won't listen to me, maybe he'll listen to you. — DEMOSTHENES' WIFE

Over-confidence in public speaking is fatal. Any one who accepts the responsibility to say "a few words" has an obligation to select words that are worth listening to.

The "ad-libber" who confuses lack of preparation with "informality" is sometimes surprised to find that before he reaches the audience, the audience has reached the exits.

Dear Ann: How can I get rid of a tramp my son married while in the service overseas? I'm a business woman and no simple-minded person. All I want is for this girl to leave me alone.

I've heard her discuss in my own living room, the wonderful lovers she had in her own country until I could scream. She says American men don't know anything about romance. My son could crawl under the carpet when she gets on this subject—which is often.

The girl is vulgar, cheap and ignorant. I don't know what he was thinking about when he married this gutter-snipe. All I want is to be left alone. Please help me. — MRS. A. R.

Dear Mrs. A. R.: If you will be as blunt with her as you were with me, I can guarantee you'll be left alone—permanently.

Dear Ann: My boy friend (not steady but Number One) was injured a few weeks ago in a football game. He fractured an ankle and had to be carried from the field. (It was awful!) He's been on crutches ever since and some kids say he's over-playing the hero role.

A few days ago he walked me to the bus-stop about 4:30. It wasn't broad daylight but not dark either. He wanted to kiss me right then and there. When I refused, he (half kidding) shoved me with his crutch and I banged my head on a post. I was furious and got on the bus without saying goodbye.

He's been trying hard to make up but I've been very cool. He claims it was an accident and that he "lost his balance." What shall I do? I like him more than I care to admit. — SICK CHICK

Penalize the football hero two dates for unnecessary roughness. Kissing on the street is cheap and you had every right to refuse. Your reputation should take precedence over the boy friend's impulse of the moment. Maybe after he's been benched for a couple of dates he'll learn to "keep his balance."

Dear Ann: A friend who considers herself well-bred and refined caused me to be so embarrassed I can't hold up my head. My husband says to laugh it off but I fail to see any humor in the situation. I'd like your opinion on what to do, Ann.

I had a sit-down dinner for 12 in my home. It was a candle-light affair and most of

the guests were new friends. This woman let loose a piercing shriek when her salad was served. She was in such a state of shock I could scarcely get a word out of her. It seems there was a worm on the lettuce leaf.

I had the salad removed at once but the woman refused to eat anything. She made everyone uncomfortable . . . particularly me. What should my attitude toward her be? Please advise. THE RED-FACED HOSTESS

Shower her with indifference. This woman was extremely rude to put the worm on display for all to see. The sight of the lowly creature didn't warrant an outburst of hysterics. A woman who must enlist the aid of a worm to grab the spotlight should be dropped from your guest list— pronto.

(Ann Landers will be glad to help you with your problems. Send them to her in care of this newspaper.) (C) 1956, Field Enterprises, Inc.

GLAZED BITS

By BARNEY GLAZER

If the night is weak, and the customers are measured by the handful, Billy will look around remorsefully, shake his head wearily, and wail: "Well, SOMEONE has to open the canal."

Gray lives well and boasts about it. "I have two yachts," he admits. "My front yacht and my back yacht."

He comments briefly on the local situation. "Why do I wear a vest?" he repeats, while he purses his lips and wrinkles his brow in that famous expression of bewilderment. "I wear a vest to keep the smog from burning my chest."

Who remembers the good old days when you used to kiss your girl without worrying about the parlor sofa crashing into four other sofas on the freeway?

Russ Morgan to his orchestra members following a recent show: "Okeh, boys, you did real well. Now straighten out your underwear."

Leo Guild tells the story. Packages of the tonic Geritol announced they wanted an emcee for their TV show. When young-appearing Sonny Fox applied, they told him: "You're too young." Sonny replied: I'm really 60 but I look young because I drink Geritol."

Mr. Guild also tells Bishop Sheen's favorite story. The postoffice received a letter addressed to God Almighty and sent it to the Bishop. It was a request for \$50. Graciously, the Bishop sent the man \$25, rather than have him lose faith. Back came another letter. Same man. He wrote: "Dear Lord: Thank you for the money. Would

you send me another \$50 but this time please send it through Cardinal Spellman. Last week, Bishop Sheen held out \$25."

Walter Mendenthal news-graphs the one about the little boy who was asked by his mother why he kicked his boy friend in the stomach. "Couldn't help it," explained the little fellow. "He turned around" . . . Ray Erwin, of Editor and Publisher, calls our attention to the fact that in spelling bees the word "misspell" is the word "misspell."

Have you noticed it, too, that the popular tune, "My True Love" and the veteran melody "Santa Lucia" are sound-alikes? . . . "I finished eighth in my class," said the proud youngster to his uncle. "Wonderful!" exclaimed the elated uncle, "and how many were in your class?" "Eight," said the lad.

News item: "Thief Steals TV Set from store window." So that's what all those people are doing while they're watching television from the sidewalk. They're making plans how to steal the set!

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The Freelancer

By TOM RISCHÉ

Since New Year's is the traditional time for dusting off the old crystal ball to make predictions for the coming year, I searched our closets to find mine.

Somewhere in the shuffle of moving, however, I found that I had lost mine and the best I could come up with was a burned-out light bulb, which wasn't very illuminating. Criswell, Drew Pearson, and the astrologers all feel duty-bound to make predictions, and so do I.

Here's the inside story on what's going to happen:

1. Billions of 1956 calendars will hit the ash cans Tuesday and will be replaced by other billions of 1957 calendars featuring pictures of subjects ranging from scantily clad cuties to Mike, the old Irish setter. Millions of the girls who adorned the 1956 timekeepers will be saved, however, and be placed in garages, dens, and other male hideouts.

2. Billions of resolutions will be made by 165,000,000 Americans. Of these, about 99 per cent of the resolutions will be broken by about 99 per cent of the population who will continue to eat too much, drink too much, smoke too much and save too little money.

3. The long march down the aisle will be made by 3,200,000 hesitant young men and the same number of smilingly triumphant young women. At the same time, some 400,000 couples who once marched down the aisle will march into a divorce

court to call the whole thing off.

4. Nearly 4,000,000 excited fathers will hand out cigars to their friends, proclaiming the arrival of a new addition to the family. Some 38,000 new daddies will discover that they are the proud fathers of twins and an additional 3,000 will learn that they have three new mouths to feed. About seven papas will discover that they have four more tax exemptions and four more little headaches.

5. As it must to all men, death will come to some 1,500,000 people during 1957. Many of these will die needlessly, because they drove too fast or because somebody else drove too fast.

6. About 1,600,000 men and 200,000 women will be arrested for some 200,000 crimes during 1957 and will have their freedom taken away from them temporarily at least.

7. Millions of couples will sit down among a flood of bills and decide that "we just must economize somewhere."

8. Millions of couples will spend money foolishly during 1957, despite their good intentions.

These are only a few of the things which will happen in the coming year and I defy anyone to contradict them. They are 100 per cent accurate, unlike other sets of prognostications.

Although we say "Happy New Year" at the beginning of 1957, we may regret our words later.

Happy New Year, anyway.



LAW IN ACTION

Mystery books found with plotters and with accessories—before and after the fact.

California, like most other states, has done away with accessories (helpers) before the fact.

If somebody helps to commit a crime (but isn't there on the job when the others do it) he's just as guilty as the ones who do the deed. In California law he is a principal and not an accessory. And this can and has been

For example, a couple of safe crackers case a store and plan to rob it. Their "fence" helps them with a get-away car and tells them where to hide after the crime.

If the fence has anything to do with the deed, the law will hold him also as a robber even if he's hundreds of miles away. And if by chance or on purpose the safe crackers happen to kill a watchman, the law will hold the fence just as guilty of murder no matter who pulled the trigger.

Suppose somebody—a sweetheart or a pal—hides the robbers (or murderers) out. Then the hider-outer would be an accessory after the fact. And this is a crime, too.

Sometimes people will plan (that is, conspire) to do a crime, but may be caught before they do it. Or the plan will misfire. That should offer no comfort at all to the conspirators; for to plan is exactly the same as to do it.

For example, to plan a robbery (which is a felony) will subject a person to the

same punishment as if he carried out his plan.

The law frowns upon those who use young people in crimes. The law adds an extra penalty for "contributing to the delinquency of a minor." Long before Dickens' Oliver Twist and Fagan the world had shown its indignation against those who would use young people to aid them in crime.

Note: California lawyers offer this column for you to know about our laws.

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