

EDITORIALS

Another February Birthday

During February, America observes the birthdays of several of its illustrious sons—Washington, Lincoln, and Thomas Edison. Another birthday celebration of national proportions in which all America can properly join is that of the Boy Scouts of America.

Scouting in the United States reaches its 47th anniversary during Boy Scout Week, Feb. 6 to 12. It is difficult to recall when our nation did not have this character-building, leisure time program for its boys and young men.

Since Feb. 8, 1910, more than 26,000,000 American boys and men have been influenced by the Scout Oath and Law. They have had the benefits of Scouting training, fellowship, handicraft skills, and high adventure.

America is all the richer for it. Many men in high places in American affairs today proudly credit Scouting's influence in their lives.

Today over 4,500,000 boys and men are actively enrolled in 540 local councils with a membership of 111,000 units. Fortunate indeed are communities where Scouting flourishes.

American adults of good character give generously of their time in giving leadership. Others help by raising funds, or in serving as members of local Boy Scout councils which in turn provide: training for leaders, camp facilities, worth-while year-round activities, personal advancement, and opportunities for Scouts to render community service.

This summer there will be a "mountain peak" experience for more than 50,000 Boy Scouts, Explorers, and their leaders when they gather at historic Valley Forge in Pennsylvania for their Fourth National Jamboree. We earnestly hope our community will be well represented when Scouts from all over the nation camp together.

It will be a gathering of youth who will be among the nation's top leaders a few decades hence.

Mail Those Dimes

January, traditional March of Dimes month, has ended, but you can be assured that the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis can still use any dimes you may have forgotten to send in to aid in the fight against polio. If you still have a March of Dimes envelope laying around the house with a few dimes in it, seal it up and mail to the postmaster today—or tomorrow, for sure. The money is needed badly.



LAW IN ACTION

ATTRACTIVE NUISANCES

You owe children a duty to protect them from themselves.

For example, suppose a grown-up climbs your fence and goes to a lot of trouble to sneak a swim in your pool while you are away. Should he drown, no court is likely to hold you liable for damages. The man brought on or contributed to his own death. But not so a child: You are duty bound to think carefully of the safety of children who may wander in and get hurt or killed playing with it.

Courts have held many things to be attractive nuisances—deep holes, especially water-filled ones, crumbling walls, lumber piles that could fall on a child, uncovered wells, bare electric wires, unlocked sheds containing tools, blasting powder, rusty gates, open cellar doors, unrailed cliffs, etc.

Nor do you have to wait until some child gets hurt before you can put an end to such nuisances. If there is such an "attractive nuisance" in your neighborhood, call it to the owner's attention and ask him to make it safe. Most of them will be grateful. But if the owner won't act, you can bring an action to "abate the nuisance" in court, and get an order making him act.

Some things have been such death traps for children that our law makers have put them under a criminal ban. For example, many children have smothered to death at play behind the doors of old abandoned ice boxes or refrigerators. So California law makers have made it a misdemeanor punishable by a fine to discard such things without making them harmless—by taking off the doors, hinges or latches.

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

The Red Doctrine



YOUR PROBLEMS

By ANN LANDERS

Dear Ann: The letter signed "Jerome" was the end. So this gink believes that marriage is only for women? Men should be free to roam and frolic, eh?

I have news for him. With views like this it's better that he remain single. Life with such an egomaniac would be intolerable.

Every now and then some bubble-head like Jerome comes to the front, points to the Adam and Eve rib story and declares with a perfectly straight face "Woman was made for man. It says so right here."

Jerome and his brothers who run their legs off chasing females (for the fun of it) wake up one day and find they didn't have to run after all. No one really cared.

—Patient and Prudent.

Dear Ann: Just read what "Jerome" had to say on Love and Marriage. I wonder if he thinks this idea is original with him.

A pretty bright guy named Benjamin Disraeli (1808-1881) in "Lothair" said, "I have always thought that every woman should marry and no man should."

You may think Jerome is a jerk, Annie, but history indicates Disraeli was pretty sharp.

—Ray.

Dear Ann: I'm 13 and very fond of a boy in my room at school. He is bashful and hardly ever pays any attention to me. I am sure he has an inferiority complex brought on by a domineering mother.

Do you think if I could get him to talk over his problem with me it would remove his guilt feelings and he'd be more friendly and take me to a movie?—Want to Help.

Dear Miss Freud: Boys at this age are often shy. Don't meddle with his complexes or he may identify you with a symbol of a pest and YOU could wind up with a problem.

Dear Ann: I'm up against a situation that may seem trifling at first glance but it's shattering my nerves.

I'm not a crabby person and can take a lot before I blow my stack. I married into a large family. Most of the children are well behaved and welcome in our home any time. However, my brother's children are a pair of obnoxious brats.

Nothing is safe from their destructive hands. They deliberately mark up the walls, put aspirins in the fish bowl, over-wind the clocks and tear pages out of new magazines. Their parents have never corrected them even when they broke the springs in our sofa by jumping up and down.

Lately I've considered hiding in the closet when I see them coming, but this would make me feel cheap. I hate to start a family fight. What can I do?—Help Wanted.

When you've got to hide in your own home to escape the wake of a couple of junior tornadoes it's pretty sad. But please put the blame where it belongs—squarely on the shoulders of the parents. How pathetic that children should grow up disliked and unwelcome because they weren't taught to conduct themselves properly!

The next time the wrecking crew makes an appearance, don't duck. Simply acquaint them with the rules of behavior that you'd set up for your own children. Have toys and games on hand to occupy them. Explain they can stay as long as they behave. And if they begin to devalue the property ask their parents to take them home at once.

Unhappy Man—Tell her to save the moisture for the dry season. If she "feels so terrible" she can take her sister's children for a few weeks and let their mother have a well-earned vacation.

Confidentially: Ancient Dater—Your dad should stick to his original agreement. Your aunt's behavior has nothing to do with you. High school girls should be permitted to date fellows who've passed parental inspection.

A Constant Reader—Of course you're right, but say nothing to your husband about this unhappy incident. The daughter-in-law sounds like a nervous girl who needs a doctor. Ask your son to suggest this.

Unhappy Man—Tell her to save the moisture for the dry season. If she "feels so terrible" she can take her sister's children for a few weeks and let their mother have a well-earned vacation.

GLAZED BITS

By BARNEY GLAZER

There is very little difference between a man and a woman. Where the male worries about what the future has in store, the female worries about what the store will have in the future.

I'm getting sick and tired of hearing all this talk about honor among thieves. Don't you believe it. Criminals are just as bad as the rest of us.

Many of our young men are enthusiastically entering the field of repairing home television sets. The first thing they learn is fundamental; big sets are heavier than little ones.

Friend of this gallery got himself a good taste of inflation when he asked his mechanic the cost of removing an annoying squeak in his automobile. He was quoted \$25 and drove off. The following week, the mechanic asked: "Is that squeak still bothering you?" and my friend replied: "Do you know that ever since you quoted me \$25 to remove it, I don't hear it any more?"

Neighbor of mine has an exceptionally clever dog who brings him in the paper every single morning without fail. He finds it much cheaper than subscribing.

"Honey," called out the husband; "Oh Shut Up wants to talk to you." "Whatever in the world are you talking about?" asked his puzzled wife, hurrying to the phone. "Well, when the phone rang," said the husband, "I started kidding this woman and when I asked what her name is she said: 'Oh Shut Up.'"

After visiting Hollywood briefly, a prominent Englishman hurried back to his home and told his friends: "Hollywood is filled with snobs and phonies. The girls are homely on close inspection and stupid even at a distance."

Local store is conducting a huge sale. They call it a Sellastration.

Add to freeway conditions: Today you can leave your house at 7 a.m. and arrive at your office at exactly 7:15 a.m.—the next day.

One of my readers writes that he's starting a Do-It-Yourself-Suicide-Club. Come again?

The SQUIRREL CAGE

By REID BUNDY

Henry Shapiro, head of the United Press bureau in Moscow, brought Southland newsmen up to date on the latest jokes circulating behind the Iron Curtain when he spoke to members of Sigma Delta Chi at the Ambassador last week. His stories probably illustrate as well as the official dispatches just what is going on behind that nearly impenetrable barrier between east and west.

A recent issue of one of the better known Communist Party newspapers, for example, carried the conclusions of one of the Russians who had been permitted to visit America during last fall's elections to see how American democracy works. Commenting on his visit to the Los Angeles area, the Russian traveler pitied the poor American workers, saying they were "forced to buy autos to get to work" because they had to live so far away from the factories that they couldn't walk like the Russians.

Another tongue-in-cheek story told by Shapiro was about a plot to sneak four H-bombs into the capitals of the four major western countries and blow the cities to smithereens.

The plan was to send four agents out from Moscow, each carrying a suitcase in which a compact H-bomb had been planted.

It was finally concluded that the plan could not be carried out, however.

"Oh, sure, we can get four such H-bombs," a top comrade explained. "But where are we going to get four suitcases?"

Probably the most believable story making the rounds behind the Iron Curtain these days concerns the ever-present fear of the knock on the door in the middle of the night—meaning the police had come for some member of the family.

Such a family had lived in dread of the midnight knock for many years until finally one night it came.

"But everything turned out wonderful," a member of the family was telling friends the following day.

"It was just somebody to tell us the house was on fire."

And what concerns Americans while all of this is going on?

Well, up in Sacramento the Legislators have been faced with deciding the merits of a bill which would name the dog-faced butterfly as the official California insect. It was one of the 7400 bills introduced before the Solons adjourned last Friday night.

Right here at home, according to Mayor Isen, problems arise to vex the populace.

In fact, the mayor reported at the victory banquet last week that he had been hearing some new complaints since the city was awarded the All-America rating:

"How can Torrance be an All-America city when there is a chuck-hole in the street in front of my house?" one caller asked the mayor. Others complained that there were not enough buses on the Torrance-Long Beach run, and still another asked how Torrance could win when the street light on the corner near his house didn't work.



The Freelancer

By TOM RISCHÉ

Milady is getting rather tired of having her skirts pulled up and down.

That really isn't as indecent as it sounds, because the skirts in question are the ones designed by Christian Dior and some of his cohorts in the fashion industry. Dior, in case some of the men don't know, designed what women call the "new look," but what men know as the "no look."

Right now, Dior and the other fashion designers are having a tug-of-war over milady's skirt length. Dior wants them longer, while the other designers want them shorter. It looks as if Dior is winning in his battle to show as little of the female leg as possible, which might lead to speculation over what his wife's underpinnings look like.

"Who does that guy, Dior, think he is?" one irate female declared when she heard of the tussle of her skirt. "My skirt is going to stay right where it is."

Husbands, who have to shell out the green stuff that pays for new longer skirts, will be glad to know that at least some women are resisting. A change in skirt length could mean a whole new wardrobe and what that does to the family budget is unprintable.

"I always get a dress with an extra long hem," one female bragged. "That way, my dresses last. If the length goes up, I take in the hem. If it goes down, I let it out."

Dress designers, however, are aware of this little trick and outfox such shrewd ladies by changing the skirt of waist style. One year, the skirt looks like an umbrella, but the next, it becomes straight as the umbrella handle.

The waist also is a changeable thing. Disregarding the obvious biological facts, designers like to improve on nature, moving the waist from the middle of the stom-

ach to the hips if it suits their whim.

Designers also seek to go nature one better by regulating the style of the bosom. An amply endowed lady may find herself right in style one year, only to discover that she is unstylish by decree the next. Ladies who were further back in line when nature bestowed her gifts may find it easier to adjust to the changing patterns.

"I always save all my old dresses," one lovely declared. "See this that I've got on? It's eight years old and I saved it. I knew that sooner or later it would be back in style."

There are some women, however, who would almost as soon be seen nude than to be caught in a dress that wasn't of the latest style.

Husbands, a long-suffering lot, can do little but stand idly by and watch the passing parade while Dior decrees and Milady follows.

The poor husband is the loser all around. While he is shelling out the greenbacks for his wife's new, longer costume, he can note that more and more of the other ladies is being covered up.

Let her run the risk of assassination, however, Dior did throw in a scrap of consolation—necklines also will be a little lower.

How low can he get?

My Neighbors



... and the reason I'm mad is that we're paying more for taxes than we are for food!

Out Of The Past

From the Files of The Torrance HERALD

5 YEARS AGO

February, 1952

Douglas Aircraft Co. took an option to lease the former Alcoa plant at 190th and Normandie. A "back-to-work" move started among the 1250 steelworkers at Columbia Steel after a 24-day strike.

Thugs waylaid Ernest S. Cloward, Safeway clerk, forced him to reveal the safe combination, took an undetermined amount of money, and left him gagged and tied in a swampy field.

10 YEARS AGO

February, 1947

Gov. Earl Warren signed a measure allowing the transfer of 75 acres of Alondra Park to El Camino College. Nominating petitions for members of the first Torrance Board of Education were being circulated for Mrs. Grace Wright, Mrs. Evelyn Carr, James L. Lynch and Carl Steele. Principal Raymond J. Casey was transferred from Torrance High School to Belmont High School. Local voters OK'd union with the Redondo School District for one year only.

15 YEARS AGO

February, 1942

The war-caused shortage of steel was halting repair of many local buildings damaged during a recent earthquake. The January building totals zoomed to \$112,590, a new record. Due to the shortage of gas, service stations announced they would be open only from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

20 YEARS AGO

February, 1937

Columbia Steel Workers were planning a benefit play for victims of a tremendous flood in the Mississippi Valley. The Woman's Club was planning the third annual Hospital Ball.

25 YEARS AGO

February, 1932

The depression caused the City Council to cut all city

employees' wages by 20 per cent

Plans were being made to pave Sepulveda Blvd. from Hawthorne Ave. to the Redondo Beach city limit. Emil Kettler, son of the developer of the Kettler Ranch, was injured as he was cranking his car to get it started. He suffered a skull fracture.

30 YEARS AGO

February, 1927

George Proctor, first mayor of Torrance and first president of the Chamber of Commerce, was named employment director at the Union Tool Co. (now National Supply). A former Lomita Chamber of Commerce secretary committed suicide.

35 YEARS AGO

February, 1922

A Big Town Meeting was planned to let the citizens of Torrance know what the future of their town was to be. After a brief report, the Torrance Window Glass Works were operating again. The Chamber adopted a \$6000 budget.

TORRANCE HERALD

1619 Gramercy Ave.

FA 9-4000

Established Jan. 1, 1914



Published Semi-Weekly at Torrance, California, Thursday and Sunday. Entered as second class matter January 20, 1914, at Post Office Torrance, California, under act of March 3, 1879.

KING WILLIAMS, Publisher
GLENN PEREL, General Manager
REID L. BUNDY, Managing Editor
Adjudicated a legal Newspaper by Superior Court, Los Angeles County, Adjudicated Decree No. 21470, March 20, 1927.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: By carrier, \$5 a month. Mail subscriptions \$4.00 a year. Circulation office FA 9-4000.

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