

# EDITORIALS

## That Ill Wind

It seems to take a santana wind to make Torrance residents realize there is such a thing as smog existing outside newspaper headlines and TV weather reports. Occasionally, a northeast wind comes up and blows the foul air over Torrance and some of the resulting conditions endured by millions of our Southern California neighbors are brought home with eye-watering force.

Smog is still the Number 1 problem in the Los Angeles area and there seem to be few who can see any improvement in the situation. If automobile exhausts are the prime contributors to smog, then continued mounting registrations of cars don't offer much hope for relief.

By and large, Torrance industries are complying with regulations on air pollution. They are doing this at great expense and with a great sense of responsibility to their neighbors to the north and east.

In the meantime, Torrance residents should be happy with the good fortune that gives them almost completely pure air the year around. This is a scarce commodity in the so-called Los Angeles basin and, we suspect, is one of the prime reasons for the continuing rapid growth of this city.

## Good News

Announcement this week that the drive for funds for the Little Company of Mary hospital has gone over the top, represents important and good news for the Torrance area. Now we have assurance that the area will soon come within sight of providing sufficient hospital facilities of the kind needed to help make this a well rounded community.

The Little Company of Mary group are experts in the establishment and operation of hospitals and it would have been tragic had the community failed to respond to the appeal for matching funds.

While the immediate goal has been reached it must not be assumed that there is no need for further giving. Hundreds of individuals, who will some day be needing hospital services, have as yet given nothing either to or fine Torrance Memorial hospital or to the new establishment. Voluntary subscriptions still are welcome and needed.

The community should be grateful to the many volunteers who helped make the Little Company of Mary campaign a success. To those who gave so liberally that others might benefit, thousands should be eternally thankful.

## Fitzgerald Honored

Torrance indirectly received recognition in one of the special resolutions passed by the California Assembly in which Harold S. Fitzgerald was congratulated for his outstanding achievements as president of the California State Junior Chamber of Commerce during 1955-56. Fitzgerald is, of course, manager of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce.

The Assembly resolution was introduced by Charles Chapel of Inglewood and was passed unanimously, to be permanently recorded in the Assembly Journal. Among other laudatory comments the resolution stated:

"His untiring efforts and limitless energy were expended in these important positions to the immeasurable benefits of the young men of California."

During the comparatively short time he has taken over management of the Torrance Chamber, Dick Fitzgerald has given plenty of evidence why the Junior leaders of California saw fit to entrust him with their highest offices. His vigor and enthusiasm have been of untold benefit to the local organization and to the community at large it so faithfully tries to serve.

## Headless Horsepower by O. Soglow



233,000 pedestrians were killed and injured in 1956



"I'm PARKY, the tidy kangaroo, and I've got a problem. My job is to pick up the litter some people throw along our highways and leave in our picnic grounds. And frankly, people leave so much I don't have time for MY litter—I mean Junior there. Won't you help me to tell people not to throw things around in the first place? Thanks—I'll be seeing you."

## Behind the Scenes

By REYNOLDS KNIGHT

Consumers now are incurring debt more slowly and repaying more rapidly than a year and two years ago.

Installment debt commitments in April rose \$259 million, the Federal Reserve Board reported. Last year those commitments rose \$307 million in April, while two years earlier the increase in that month amounted to \$551 million.

Instalment debt outstanding at the end of April this year totaled \$31.5 billion, an increase of \$2.17 billion over the like period a year earlier.

One reason for the tapering off may be seen in a decline in average weekly factory pay. It fell from \$84.05 in December to \$81.80 in April, mainly because of declining overtime work. Lack of the overtime cushion, plus the fact that consumer prices are rising, deters many a wage-earner from incurring more instalment debt, spurs him to pay off while he can.

★ ★ ★  
"SECOND HOME" BOOM — Seldom have so many favorable factors converged on an industry as are now behind the "second-home" boom. That's the view of the Gas Appliance Manufacturers Assn., which reports this market is gulping up a big share of the output of gas appliances and equipment.

The "summer-home" designation is obsolete, says GAMA, pointing out that new and better roads, more varied recreation interests and higher consumer incomes are changing more and more of such structures from seasonal to part-time year round use. Gas heating equipment of all types finds a place in this swing, with both utility fuel and liquefied petroleum gas participating.

The great rush for second homes is viewed as a most beneficial development not only for the building and appliance industries, but also for the communities sharing this development. A second home that eventually may become a retirement home brings in taxes and new business, usually without any appreciable increase in municipal costs.

★ ★ ★  
"THINGS TO COME" — A road cruiser that fills the gap between station wagon and house trailer provides sleeping quarters, cooking facilities and other conveniences for a family of five. . . . A new wall paneling of real wood veneer can be cut with a sharp scissor and fastened to any surface with contact cement without the need of special glue clamps. . . . Stenoos tired of getting carbon paper smudge on their hands can now type on a paper treated with an invisible chemical coating that produces copies without carbon.

★ ★ ★  
FOREIGN AID — There seems to be general agreement that the United States should

help other nations develop economically. As to method, two distinct schools of thought exist. One believes it to be more constructive when private U.S. capital is invested abroad, as contrasted with governmental aid programs that involve the use of taxpayers' funds, as expressed by the second school.

Recently two leading industrialists advanced both words and deeds in support of the private investment viewpoint. Stanley C. Allyn, chairman of National Cash Register, said: "I should like to see more investments abroad that would involve production facilities manned and managed by nationals of the countries involved. This entails the export of American know-how and American principles of democracy in industry."

Lewis S. Rosenstiel, chairman and president of Schenley Industries, Inc., announced that his company would invest during the next few years some \$30 to \$35 million in Scotch distilleries and other production facilities in England. This will make Schenley the first and only U.S.-owned distilling company to operate in the world market on so broad a scale, he pointed out.

★ ★ ★  
MERGER SLOWDOWN — Mergers and acquisitions among some well-known firms whose names are very much in the news continue, but there are indications that big-scale business of buying businesses is dropping off.

One reason is that tight money is increasing the competition for the soundest buys. One of the country's leading business-buying firms has acquired no new subsidiaries in a year — the first time that's happened in six years. Yet during the past 12 months this company has investigated more than 100 possible acquisitions.

Businesses that are buying may look for either (1) a going concern in another field that will help the buyer to diversify or (2) a company operating at a loss that can offset the buyer's tax liability. Purchase prices in both cases stiffen when the prospect sees the gleam in the buying business' eye.

★ ★ ★  
BITS O' BUSINESS — Cigarette makers, big TV advertising spenders, nevertheless upped their newspaper advertising expenditures 31.5 per cent to \$23.5 million in 1956. . . . Newspapers hit a record national ad volume of \$738 million in 1956. . . . Home mortgage debt has pushed beyond the \$100 billion mark to an all-time high, twice the 1950 level. . . . The boating boom gets credit for a large share of the gain in sales of reinforced plastics, which in the first quarter of 1957 were 20 to 25 per cent ahead of last year. Orders for molded boat hulls exceed the industry's present production capacity.

★ ★ ★  
The real estate broker proudly showed the seaside home to his prospect, "Just take a look at this view!" he exclaimed. The prospect did

## YOUR PROBLEMS by Ann Landers

### Pop Comes to Mom's Defense

Dear Ann: This is my first time to write to a problem column. I just had to comment on that poor abused guy whose wife has six children. The big hero bought her a washing machine for her birthday and was looking for someone to give him a medal.

I'm not a housewife rushing to the defense of All Women. I'm the father of three children who has plenty of respect for the work a mother must do in this world. When I take over occasionally, I am reminded anew that she has the most under-paid, over-rated, complicated, intricate and unglamorous task known to man.

The average woman who does a reasonably good job has to be a sweetheart, gay companion, brilliant hostess, nurse, laundress, fight referee, nose-blower, diaper changer, purchasing agent, chef, seamstress and housekeeper. It's a good thing God didn't think a man could do it. — T.B.C.

Dear T.B.C.: Yours is the greatest endorsement for Women since Mollie Pitcher.

Your home must be a very happy one, and your wife must be mad mad mad for you. I hope you'll write again. After reading beefs and fielding verbal harpoons all day, a letter like yours is downright refreshing.

★ ★ ★  
Dear Ann: I need help. My husband and I have been torturing ourselves for two years.

We were married only a short time when he was shipped to Japan. He behaved well for seven months, then one night he forgot he was a married man. The girl was a Japanese, very lovely — not common or cheap. She was just as lonesome, as he was — and fond of Americans.

He confessed everything when he got home and of course I was heartbroken. I've never thrown this up to him and we've both done our best to forget it. But it has been haunting us all this time and hanging over our marriage like a cloud of doom. Please advise us.

★ ★ ★  
—SAD TWOSOME  
If you two are still sitting around crying over a mistake that happened two years ago, you ought to find a psychiatrist with two couches, and both of you should lie down. If you think I am being flippancy, let me assure you I'm not. I mean it.

★ ★ ★  
Dear Ann: My problem will land me in a sanatorium if I don't get some help. My husband and I are both 55 and we work. Our only child is a girl of 33. She's been unemployed two months and is driving us crazy. She's never had a date, doesn't have any friends and spends 12 hours a day in front of the TV set.

We don't live in a swell neighborhood and there are no young people's clubs

around here to join. My husband and I would like to go away for a couple weeks on a vacation but we are afraid to leave this 33-year-old TV nut in the house alone. The place would burn down or the doors would be left open.

I keep telling her there's no future in looking at the dummies on TV. She ought to go out and get acquainted with some live people. We've tried not to nag but we want this girl to get some happiness out of life. When my husband asks her why she doesn't act normal, she won't even answer him. Please, help us before we crack up.

★ ★ ★  
—DESPERATE PARENTS  
There are several agencies that can help you, but you'll have to go to them, they won't come to you.

This 33-year-old problem child needs professional help. It's rather late in life to be correcting personality difficulties, but perhaps a trained social worker can suggest a course of action. It's imperative that this girl go back to work, and accept some responsibilities. Allowing her to vegetate in front of a TV set night and day doesn't help the situation.

Contact the Family Service Bureau and good luck to all of you.

★ ★ ★  
CONFIDENTIALLY: "UP-SET LEE": Your grandmother is wrong. Fears cannot be "transmitted in the blood." Fears are communicated in some way. You are merely imitating your mother's reaction.

★ ★ ★  
CORN-BALL: Check with your attorney. There is a law in some states against marriage between first cousins.

(Ann Landers will be happy to help you with your problems. Send them to her in care of the HERALD and enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope.)  
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## Mailbox

### Protests Park Plan

Editor, Torrance Herald: I wish to protest the proposed seizure of Walteria Park. Too valuable land for a park! Indeed! Too valuable for the profiteers — sure. But how about our children who are to play in the streets so that some clever operators can make a lot of money.

They don't live in Walteria nor anywhere else in Torrance. Their children aren't being deprived of the opportunity to run and play in a safe area, near enough to home for small children to walk without crossing a major highway. Certainly we need a new park on Madison Street but that's no excuse for grabbing Walteria Park.

Torrance voters didn't vote to tax themselves for parks only to turn them over to the developers after spending thousands of dollars to improve them.

If the slick operators want to really take over some valuable park property, they might try for Central Park in New York — there is a piece of real estate that plenty of large companies would like to set up businesses on.

Let's not let them turn our "All-American" city into a slum. We need more parks, not fewer. Decent play areas prevent vandalism, help develop boys and girls into good citizens of tomorrow. What can be more valuable?

We can prevent this deal going through if every interested person will write or call our city councilmen and let them know how we feel.

E. W. HUNTER

## THE FREELANCER by Tom Rische

### We Want Water!

Most people never think about how much water means until they don't have any.

Lots of Torrance residents found out this week, as a hot spell caused lawn waterers to get busy, the result was that people who lived up on hills either had no water or only could get a trickle.

A number of irate people called the paper. The water company and the police had even more calls.

One lady was quite upset because the lack of water at her house was working quite a hardship on her baby, for sanitary reasons as well as drinking purposes. She couldn't even go to the bathroom. She was understandably unhappy.

Other callers were equally unhappy. Most people don't stop to think about what water means until our supply is cut off. The desert dwellers know well the value of a water bag and an oasis, but fortunately most of us never have to face the crisis of dying of thirst.

We drink gallons of water every day, wasting gallons which flows down our sinks because it isn't cold enough or hot enough. Some people prefer to keep alive on alcohol, but we need some kind of liquid to sustain us.

★ ★ ★  
We keep ourselves clean in water, using gallons to take showers and baths that wake us up in the morning or refresh us at night.

We wash our dishes and clean our floors with water, slopping it generously over whatever is dirty. We could clean them with sand, but that's pretty messy.

## My Neighbors



"Income tax — state and county taxes — sales taxes: Atta boy, Tiger — now Go Get Him!"

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