

# EDITORIALS

THOUGHT FOR TODAY — First, we will take Eastern Europe, then the masses of Asia, then we will encircle the United States, which will be the last bastion of capitalism. We will not have to attack. It will fall like an overripe fruit into our hands. — From the Collected Works of Lenin, vol. 10, p. 172.

## Unwanted Tragedy

The wisdom of the council's steadfast opposition to unattended laundromats — despite heavy pressures — was emphasized last week with the tragic news from Oklahoma City that a 7-year-old boy had died in an automatic clothes dryer in that city.

Efforts in Torrance to install such facilities with no provisions for an attendant, or with supervision considered to be inadequate, led the council some time ago to outlaw all but closely supervised operations.

Newspaper reports of the Oklahoma City tragedy said the youngster apparently climbed into a faulty, coin-operated dryer. His mangled body was found an hour and a half later by two women who came in to use the laundry equipment.

Because of the foresight by our city councilmen, such a tragedy is unlikely to be repeated here.

## Ranchero Days

In another 10 days, the city will begin observing the third annual Ranchero Days, sponsored by the Torrance Chamber of Commerce and 32 civic and service organizations.

As outlined by the Chamber of Commerce, the purpose of the event is to offer recreation and fellowship for the people of Torrance, defray costs of the city's Tournament of Roses entry, and to enable local organizations to raise funds for their philanthropic programs.

The attractions will include the usual rides, plus a wild animal circus, parade, and championship rodeo. Ranchero Days is coming to be the city's biggest community event, and it deserves the support and patronage of the community's citizens.

Not only that, but everybody has a whale of a time. See you on the midway beginning July 22.

### LAW IN ACTION

## For Public Use

State agencies are buying more and more land through eminent domain procedures. No agency can take land without "due process" or "just compensation."

An agency usually buys all such property. But it also must pay for such temporary use of land as airspace for a freeway overhead or an underground right-of-way for a pipeline.

As a rule youicker over the price; but you can go to court to get the price set if you cannot come to an agreement with the agency.

Included in what you get may be money for "severance" if the state takes only a part of the land, for loss of business, loss of special benefits, and other damages.

In most such cases, the dispute is over price.

Now and then an owner may fight because the government takes the land but not for "public use."

But the term "public use" has been used broadly to cover benefits to only a part of the community, a small district, and once a short street to a land owner's

house. Yet, courts have refused to condemn land to get water to one big land owner.

Recently some home owner fought a school's locating in a zone for homes only. The court held that the school, as a state agency, could pick any site regardless of zones.

A school, public utility, or other government body can build about any place it says is necessary. The law presumes it locates in a place best for the public with least private harm. As a rule people can challenge the place only if they can show fraud or bad faith in choosing that spot—which is hard to show.

Recently state agencies have taken private land for slum clearance or "redevelopment." Sometimes it is condemned, bought with public funds, rebuilt, and then turned over to private owners.

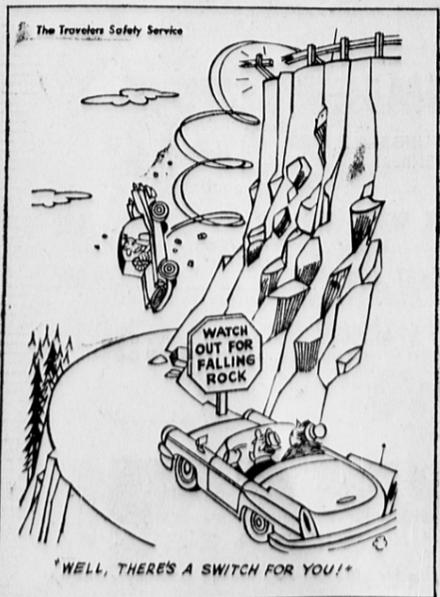
The courts have upheld "public use" in removing rundown areas as harmful to public health, safety, and morals.

NOTE: California lawyers offer this column so you may know about our laws.

## Opinions of Others

Some people have made an art of being slow to pick up a check—you've really got hand it to them.—Leavenworth (Wash.), Echo.

## The Luckless Legion by Irwin Caplan



Driver error was responsible for 85% of the motor vehicle accident casualties in 1958.

## Not Buying Any, Thanks—



RAMBLINGS by Ronnie Saunders

## Another View of the Beach

One hot Sunday recently I overcame my aversion to crowds long enough to consent to accompany my family to the beach. With the boys playing in the sand, the sun and water oblivious in their endless beauty to the hordes that filled the blankets on the sand, and a good book to keep me company, I was able to forget the crowds for awhile and enjoy the warmth of the sun and the sight of the waves breaking against the shoreline as I gazed up from the pages of my book from time to time to check on the boys and drink in the glorious day.

In time, the novelty grew thin and the crowd grew thick, and so I decided to take a walk with the family from the densely populated sands of Torrance Beach as far as it was possible to walk along the shoreline towards the peninsula of Palos Verdes.

The sandy stretch of beach was still wide as we left the area of Sunday bathers and walked beneath the eroded cliffs that adjoin the ice-plant slopes behind the playground area of the municipal beach. In a protected cove surrounded by weather-beaten rocks which bear the beginnings of cave mouths from years of beatings by the sea, we came upon a group of ocean-lovers that weren't there for swimming... the surfboard crowd with their smooth wooden boards on which they skim the waves as they stand upright on the ocean's surface.

Beyond the area of surfers the strip of beach narrowed. A few burnt scraps of wood and empty beer bottles were evidence of the beach parties that must go on in this deserted stretch at night. It was also apparent, from empty cardboard casings of discarded fireworks, that someone in Torrance had found a spot of his own in which to celebrate a private Four of July spectacular earlier in the summer.

As the passage of sand between the rocky cliffs and the sea narrowed still further, buildings on the peninsula took on shape. In the foreground above a dusty road that led to the Palos Verdes side of the inlet, was a red-tiled pastel building bathed in sunshine which I believe is a swimming club, looking like a picture in a travel folder of the Mediterranean of Old Mexico.

There were no people along this narrow stretch of land, and the sand was damp. The dampness made me realize that ordinarily this part of the beach would be under water, and that we had had

the good fortune to come upon it during low tide. Strewn on the sand along the bottom of the eroder cliff, in which even then a trickle of moving sand warned of ever-threatening landslides, were small surf-washed smooth rocks to fill the boys' pockets and arger rocks which bore holes on their rough surfaces from the constant hammering of waves.

Two small boulders were covered with moss, evidently used to being under water most of the time. Strewn among the rocks were bits of kelp and one or two pieces of driftwood. Eventually we reached the point beyond which there was no stretch of beach to walk. The sea met the land and rocks, and we

turned back. We left the isolated patch of sunshine, sea, and sand, picking up driftwood on our way, and returned to Torrance Beach, beyond the surfboard riders to the thickening crowds. As we neared our own blanket in the polka-dotted mass that covered the sand, the beach wasn't quite the same.

And knowing that for me at least the beach must always mean aloneness with the wondrous creations of nature... and never the hot-dog stands and shower-houses that spell the meaning of the beach for so many people, we left, carrying our driftwood as we mounted the ramp which led back to the streets of Torrance.

## From the Mailbox

### By Our Readers

Editor, Torrance Herald: Just a line to let you know how much I appreciate the wonderful coverage you have given the Torrance Chamber of Commerce activities during my term as president. With your help, the Chamber certainly moved forward during the fiscal year 1958-59.

I know you will continue to assist us during the year 1959-60.

Thanks again for your wonderful cooperation.

FRED W. MILL  
President

Editor, Torrance Herald: Recently, we had a near tragedy in our home, and since we do not know the name of the man who averted that tragedy, we believe a letter to your paper might possibly be seen by him and by many like him.

My daughter was swimming at Torrance Beach with a group of friends when, suddenly, she found herself swept far out from the rest of the group and unable to get back to shore, because the large breakers were going over her head, and she wasn't able to get her breath. Before she started to strangle she screamed for help, and suddenly a life guard was there to help her when she thought she surely was gone.

These fine men are rendering our community and all the beaches and pools a fine service. It seems that they have had a particularly busy time of it, so far this season. I feel sure that many parents join me in expressing gratitude to these men for the splendid job they are doing.

(Mrs.) HELEN S. HARDING

very much to know why you are withholding information from the residents regarding the current bus dispute? WHY ARE WE COMPELLED TO GET OUR INFORMATION FROM THE PRESS OF SURROUNDING TOWNS AND THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES?

The City Council by its action has cost the City of Torrance a great deal of prestige—the results of which they will undoubtedly feel when its members run again for public office.

The writer had occasion to discuss the matter with Councilman Nicholas Drale prior to the June 30th meeting and he stated that he was well aware of the fact that the local bus lines serving within the City limits were the ones that were losing money for the City; however, he was going to vote for the discontinuance of the Los Angeles-Torrance Line beyond 120th Street.

The writer respectfully suggests and requests that your paper make a complete survey of the situation, viz.: the number of people boarding the Los Angeles bound bus during the early morning hours enroute to their jobs as well as repeating the process during the early evening hours from Los Angeles. Then do the same thing with your local buses. You would then be able to present clear pictures to your readers of actually what is needed regarding bus transportation, and could make recommendations to better serve the community.

The residents of the community have the right to know that such matters are being passed upon by the City Council without their knowledge. It is the duty of the press to bring such matters to the attention of its

### THE SQUIRREL CAGE by Reid Bundy

## An Inside Look at History

Those who sit around in the evenings watching the one-eyed electronic monster may have noticed appearance on several programs recently of one Hugh Baillie, retired president of the United Press (now the UPI), who is busy plugging a book he has just published, "High Tension."

As a long-time admirer of Mr. Baillie, I'd like to help him along with a little plug. I haven't finished "High Tension," but I've read enough of it to tell you that it contains an eye-witness account of most of the world's major news events of the past 40 years.

Mr. Baillie, son and grandson of top ranking newsmen, started as a reporter for the old Los Angeles Record in 1910. From that time on he rose rapidly in the ranks of newsmen, starting with the Clarence Darrow episode in L.A. following the bombing of the Los Angeles Times building and continuing through wars, depressions, and the unending cold war which has followed World War II.

Mr. Baillie is a man of the race of vanishing Americans—a man who does his own

thinking on all topics. He has definite opinions on world affairs and is not a bit bashful about stating them.

The war in Korea would have been short and decisive, he said on the Jack Parr show the other night, if General MacArthur had not been held under the thumb of politicians.

General Chiang Kai Shek is honest and the true leader of the Nationalist Chinese, but he made a tactical error when he agreed to enter a coalition government with the communists following World War II, he said.

While the book is dedicated to reporters of the free world, it should be read by millions of Americans for a peek behind the scenes of world history written by a man who was there.

The next time a lady we know has guests for dinner, she'll say the blessing herself.

As the family and guests settled around the dinner table the other evening, she asked her 4-year-old son to say the blessing.

"But mother, I don't know

what to say."

"Just say what you've heard me say," the mother urged.

Obediently, the boy bowed his head and said, "Oh, Lord, why did I invite those people here on a hot day like this?"

Chatted with Barney Glazer, whose quips used to appear on this page frequently, during the hottest part of the day Friday. He was calling from his San Fernando home to see how things were going in Torrance. And, as you might expect, the talk got around to the heat.

"How hot is it up in the Valley?" I asked him.

"Darned if I know," Barney said. "I haven't seen the papers yet."

Turns out that he had just installed a new refrigerated air conditioning unit in his home and he couldn't care less about the outside temperature.

If it stays this way next week, my efforts for the HERALD may be sent down by mail from Barney's den. Hope he can stand the phone bills.

## In Years Gone By

With a large new industry about to locate here, Torrance was faced on July 12, 1934 with a serious housing shortage threat. According to the HERALD files of that date, the city faced loss of income to be derived from erection of the million dollar Hughes-Michell Process, Inc. plant, scheduled to move here from Denver, unless the city could provide adequate facilities for housing the relocated families of the engineers being transferred by the lead and zinc plant. It was also anticipated that places of residence would be required by 200 to 400 workmen which would be recruited by the plant, to be located adjacent to the United Concrete Pipe Corp. property on Normandie Ave.

The HERALD editorially urged local real estate dealers to procure vacant homes outside the community to be moved into Torrance and placed on "desirable vacant lots in the residential sections of Torrance which could be purchased at from \$200 to \$500."

Another round of pay raises owing their origin to NRA legislation the preceding year, were scheduled 25 years ago today to be given to nearly 400 employees of the Pacific Electric Railway shops. It was expected that a final pay boost the following Jan. 1 would restore salaries at the Pacific Railway to their pre-depression levels.

No increase in the tax rate was the good word passed out by the city fathers a quarter of a century ago after tentative approval of the budget for fiscal 1934-35 showed that lower property valuations had been offset by an austerity budget scheduled to come up for official approval Sept. 1. With a total anticipated income of \$153,261, cautious planners had allowed for a \$10,186 surplus after taking care of all disbursements.

It was exactly 25 years ago

STAR GAZER by CLAY R. POLLAN. Your Daily Activity Guide. According to the Stars. To develop message for Sunday, read words corresponding to numbers of your Zodiac birth sign.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE. ACROSS: 1-Canonized person, 2-Lured, 3-Quoted, 4-Intoxicating honor, 5-Longed for, 6-By oneself, 7-Fold, 8-Appalad, 9-Tiny, 10-Articles, 11-Irons, 12-Melody, 13-South, 14-African of Dutch descent (pl.), 15-Chinese mile, 16-Unit of energy, 17-Life preserver, 18-Philopian title, 19-Common point, 20-Piebles, 21-Girl's name, 22-Train, 23-Glossy paint, 24-Want, 25-Cols. DOWN: 1-Suber, 2-Filled, 3-Electrified particle, 4-Symbol for niton, 5-Revealed, 6-Curved molding, 7-Mourful enclosure, 8-Hindu ejaculation, 9-Dark red, 10-Precaution rate, 11-Search, 12-Made angry, 13-Trigonometrical functions, 14-Lets fall, 15-Felony, 16-Transparent substance, 17-By way of, 18-Wideawake, 19-Folded, 20-Solar disk, 21-Soup dish, 22-Body of water, 23-Puffs up, 24-Fiber plant, 25-Unhappiness, 26-Walk through water, 27-Horror, 28-Bishopric, 29-Mile sheep, 30-Fronton, 31-Symbol for nickel.