

Torrance Herald

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An Area for Review

Members of the Board of Education who have lashed out at the practice of transporting seventh and eighth grade pupils to homemaking and woodshop classes apparently have struck a raw nerve among members of the administrative staff.

Such practical arts courses were labeled undesirable on the junior high level at a recent board meeting. Administrators immediately came to the defense of the practice.

The HERALD believes those board members who have raised the question of the shop and homemaking courses are moving in an area which has needed study for some time.

It seems hardly germane that schools in a metropolitan area such as Torrance — which is part of the huge Los Angeles megalopolis — should devote so much time to shop and homemaking to such a broad segment of the student body.

Such courses are important — very important — to those students who will not continue schooling after high school.

Four years of high school, however, would seem to offer ample opportunity to guide those students into vocational courses. For the others — a growing majority — it is a waste of time, and could be responsible for the poor showing many high school students make when they enter college level classes.

For the college-oriented students, hard-core classes in basic studies should get the emphasis, which can be successful only if the foundation is put down in elementary classes.

Seventh and eighth graders will not be handicapped if they are not adept at such vocational activities.

Besides, most parents have trouble enough coaxing junior into raking the lawn, let alone fix faucets, repair furniture and attend to the sheet metal work around the house.

The current policies of the district certainly need close consideration by the board.

Morning Report:

A lot of fuss is still being made over Castro's admission that he has been reading Karl Marx for years. He has been acting like a Communist for years. The fact he now admits he is one doesn't seem very exciting.

As a matter of fact, the only people who can be surprised are those who still think that Mao Tse-tung is just an agrarian reformer who got mixed up in bad company.

I never saw Castro's Communist Party card. But I didn't trust him from the day he came out of the mountains and didn't ask for the works in a barbershop.

Abe Mellinkoff

Out of the Past

From the Pages of the HERALD

40 Years Ago

The Torrance HERALD of Jan. 6, 1922 carried in its editorial masthead the community's ambition for a population of 10,000 by 1925. It also had slogans "Torrance Means Business" and "Torrance the Industrial Garden City."

The New Year should bring us prosperity, as the abundant rainfall does indicate up to the present time. The three years of less than usual rain has left the earth dry at from three to five feet deep and a good providence has showered us benefits in abundance.

The sudden call to the land beyond of Mr. Julius Conrad, president of the Torrance Window Glass Co., came as a shock to thousands who will remember him for his liberality and benevolences.

30 Years Ago

Carleton H. Bell, city council members whose avocation is raising choice flowers, addressed a communication to The HERALD this week regarding the planting of flowers by the city and what individual residents can do to broaden this meritorious project for civic beauty. He called attention to the Olympic beautification program being promoted by Los Angeles and its suburban communities and urged that parkways be planted in a city-wide project.

To prevent encroachment of building on Western Avenue, the Regional Planning Commission is fostering a movement to establish a 50-foot setback on that artery

from 218th Street to San Pedro.

All are welcome to attend the old-fashioned "spelling bee" which will be held in Mrs. Young's English class next Monday evening at 7 o'clock. Following an hour's contest, the instructor will give a short talk on the subject, "Words to Increase Your Vocabulary."

Bill Spaulding, veteran coach at UCLA, was the guest of honor and principal speaker at the Rotary Club meeting this noon. Spaulding gave the club members a review of the season just closed and predicted that his club would rise even higher on the conference football horizon next season.

20 Years Ago

Aroused by the singular apathy of local citizens to so vital a defense service as aircraft observation — he declared not a single volunteer appeared to date in answer to his pleas published in The HERALD Dec. 18, 1941 — Edwin A. Bird, head of the "spotter" service in this area addressed a report to the chief of the interceptor command.

The report was the basis for a stinging comment over the Pacific Coast Network of a Los Angeles radio station Monday night. The Army's spokesman of the air rapped citizens of Torrance, Lomita, and vicinity for their lack of interest.

Conversion of the post-office basement into a public air raid shelter accommodating 400 and Red Cross dressing station, was completed Tuesday as sandbags were placed



It's News to Me

Bad Is Good Only When Good Is Turned Into Bad

By Herb Caen

To a Democrat, all Democrats are Good except the Southern Democrats, who are Bad, because they line up with the right-wing Republicans, which is Good if you're Barry Goldwater, but Bad if you're Wayne Morse.

The West Germans are Good, except for the old Nazis and the neo-Nazis, and the East Germans are Bad, except those who defect to the West, which automatically makes them Good. The South Koreans are Good and the North Koreans are All Bad except for those who filter across the border and denounce North Korea. The Chinese on North Formosa are Good and the Chinese on

the mainland are Bad, except that some day they might attack Russia (Good) or us (Very Bad), and anyway, they have a famine (Great).

As for the Laotians, they're Good, except when they ask for intervention against guerrillas (Bad) whom nobody can find (Laosy), and the Vietnamese are Okay except when they won't fight with the arms we've sent them (Mad-denying), or just plain don't seem to care who supplies the rice (Perfectly Awful).

All this seems to prove is that People (Good) are People (Bad).

It's time somebody revived the old definition of golf: "A game in which you place a ball an inch and a half in diameter on a ball 8,000 miles in diameter and try to hit the little one and miss the big one."...when one of those new "talking" elevators gets stuck between floors, does that cool, recorded voice say "Mr. Otis Regrets?"...In a whim of fitsy, I suggested that Florestan, the hero of Beethoven's "Fidelio," sounds like something that belongs in a toothpaste, and why didn't somebody write a sequel entitled "Florestan and Irium"? A friend tops that easily. He offers an opera

titled "Dristan und Isalde."

You are a not-so-young old-timer if you remember when the fences around excavations were made from the doors of the building just razed. And you're really an old-timer if you remember this toast: "Beefsteak when you're hungry, whiskey when you're dry, money when you need it and Heaven when you die." Cheers!

Next time I go to the polls I hope for the opportunity to vote on a proposition to repeal the no-drinks-on-election-day anachronism. That law made sense once, but today it just makes petty crooks out of restaurant owners... And the excesses of the holiday season remind me of the guy who walks up to a bar and groans, "What can you do for a hangover?" "How about a Bromo-Seltzer?" suggests the barkeep. "Look, friend," answers the sufferer, "a hangover I could cure with Bromo-Seltzer I wouldn't even discuss with you."

Law in Action

As a rule, our courts rely on both sides in a lawsuit to bring out pertinent facts through sworn witnesses. But when some well-known fact may be costly or useless to prove this way, courts may take judicial notice of them:

- (1) One does not have to prove well-known scientific or historical facts. For example, the name of the president, the time of sunrise, or the law of gravity do not need proof by sworn testimony.
- (2) The judge may look up some facts which he or the jury don't know off-hand: How long it takes an iron ball to fall 100 feet; the cause of a well-known disease; the time of full tide or sundown on a given day.

If science disputes a "fact," or the judge finds it debatable, he may refuse to take judicial notice of it and require proof, usually by expert witnesses.

Certain things, like medical theories are not admitted at all without expert testimony. It is the court's duty to find a law and take judicial notice of it: Certain state agency rules, federal limits on water rights.

The difference in laws of other states, like Nevada, or foreign countries, like Mexico, have to be proved by book or other documents. Otherwise the courts presume them to be the same as in California.

Formerly one had to prove them by "expert testimony,"

A Bookman's Notebook

News From the Gambling Front As Seen by Scarne

William Hogan

Whether this has anything to do with the holidays, I don't know. But one of the major book-sellers tells me that underneath all his tinsel and "class merchandise," the surprise best-seller is "Scarne's Complete Guide to Gambling." This is a definitive work by John Scarne, billed as "the world's foremost gambling authority" and author of such previous literary samples as "Scarne on Cards" and "Scarne on Dice."

Scarne (pronounced Scarney) is believed by some to be a natural mathematical genius. He has devoted most of his life to analyzing (and beating) games of chance. Once a professional magician and sleight-of-hand artist, he is a card manipulator of such standing that even members of The Witch Doctor's Club of New York, a professional society of prestidigitators, hold him in awe.

Scarne became well known during World War II when he gave gambling demonstrations to thousands of GIs overseas. His success prompted Yank, the Army Weekly, to sign him for a series of articles on cheating—presumably as a protection to soldiers from other soldiers.

Among gamblers, the phrase "according to Hoyle" has become "according to Scarne," who is without question the foremost figure of his time on odds, percentages and mathematical structure of gaming problems. According to Clayton Rawson of Simon & Schuster, he is so sharp that he is banned from playing in most Nevada casinos (where he is always welcome as an observer, however). This does not bother Scarne, a gambler smart enough to turn out books such as this, which most surely puts him ahead of the game.

In his present thesis, Scarne discusses and explains everything from horse racing odds to race horse keno; from punchboards to the language of carnival games ("Bag man, fixer or iceman," for instance, is the local official, or anyone acting for him, to whom the protection money is paid).

The book does not promise to make anyone rich. Yet it certainly informs one on the betting business and one's chances in it — from church bazaars to the numbers game (or "racket"), and up through

more sophisticated regions of chance—Chemin de Fer to a friendly little wager on the golf course.

Scarne notes that gambling in all forms is probably America's biggest industry (an astronomical \$500 billion

annually). He favors a national lottery as a way out of our fiscal crisis. He can find no injunctions against lotteries in scripture. And on the national lottery idea, he tells us that both George Washington and Benjamin Franklin advocated such.

Around the World With



DELAPLANE

"Appreciate if you could give us some advice on where to go in Lower California..."

Baja California is certainly the coming place for people who like their country unspoiled, primitive — in another 10 years it will probably be full of beach resorts. But now there isn't any place like it.

Robert de Roos, a writer who knows this country, writes me:

"The main town is La Paz and the only way to get there—without mounting an expedition—is by Trans Mar de Cortes, which flies DC-3s out of Tijuana, Mexico, just across the border from San Diego. Flights three times a week.

"La Paz is well-equipped for the tourist trade. Ruffo Brothers rents a fine fleet of fishing boats from \$45 to \$60 a day, with knowledgeable skippers. Bait and tackle included in the price.

"Los Cocos, a mile south of town on a benign bay, is the class hotel of the area. Los Arcos is a good hotel on the waterfront in La Paz itself. Los Cocos is about \$15 U.S. currency a day, American plan. Los Arcos is a bit cheaper."

"Some of the best skin diving in the world lies off Espiritu Santo Island, in the bay a few minutes out of town.

"Deportivos Maritimos, run by Dick Adcock, shows you how and rents the equipment, \$10 per day. Better write him at Edificio Hotel Perla, La Paz, Baja California Sur, Mexico, for advance bookings."

"... the best places to see native life on a trip to the Pacific."

Probably the Polynesian islands from Tahiti to Tonga are most native.

You might like to co-ordinate with native festivals — it's a time when most countries trot out their cultural background.

Write Pacific Area Travel Association, 153 Kearny St., San Francisco. Ask for "Events in the Pacific, 1962." Lists 400 holidays and celebrations in the area.

"Can you estimate the cost of three weeks for two people in Spain and Portugal?"

You can range pretty far, according to how you like to live. But these are the inexpensive countries.

Now hotels in Lisbon list doubles for two with all meals at \$9.25 to \$11.20. About \$4.75 for two without meals. That gives you an idea.

Spain should run about the same. And in both countries, these prices should come down a third in the country.

Both countries have government-owned inns. Very fine, usually renovated castles or some other romantic background, low prices.

Stan Delaplane finds it impossible to answer all of his travel mail.

For his intimate tips on Japan, Italy, England, France, Russia, Hawaii, Mexico, Ireland, and Spain (10 cents each), send coins and stamped, self-addressed, large envelope to the Torrance HERALD, Box RR, Torrance Calif.

Quote

"Anyone who can remember when there wasn't a Berlin crisis is eligible for membership in the old timers' club."—Kenny Bennett, Greencastle (Ind.) Graphic.

"Some new modern houses have wall-to-wall carpeting, wall-to-wall windows and back-to-the-wall financing."—Fred W. Grown, Berge (Edgewater, N. J.) Citizen.

"Civilization can be measured by the degree of helplessness that results when the electric power goes off."—S. E. Mekeel, Ovid (N.Y.) Gazette and Independent.

"Something for nations to think about: A nuclear war won't determine who is right — only who is left."—Sig J. Digree, Kodiak (Alaska) Mirror.

"Students today are the same as always — one in 12 has a spark of genius while the other 11 have ignition trouble."—Ray Winans, West Springfield (Mass.) Record.

about the windows and entrances.

Nearly 800 auxiliary officers are now being trained by the Sheriff's department in a special school located in the Torrance Civic Auditorium where two-hour sessions are being held every Tuesday night.



TEN YEARS AGO... Carol Crist (seated) and Wilma Camp are busy here getting ready for the annual Girl Scout Harbor Section luncheon which was scheduled for Jan. 9, 1952. The girls in the 10-year-old photo were representing members of Junior High Troop 184. (Herald Photo)

LIFE'S LIKE THAT

By FRED NEHER



"My parents allow me to stay out until 11:30... but Jimmy's allowance doesn't!"