

Torrance Herald

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This Should Be Interesting

James Dorais

Getting Right Subtitle Helps Pamphlet Writer

The campaign between Dr. Ralph Richardson and Dr. Max Rafferty for State Superintendent of Public Instruction already has overtones reminiscent of the famous battle in Pasadena a decade ago between the high priests of progressive education and parents who favor basic, academic instruction.

In Pasadena, the basic education forces succeeded in ousting the superintendent, Dr. Willard E. Goslin, under whose direction the community's school system had received national attention as the apogee of the "learning through living" approach to education. For their pains, parents who successfully objected to their children being used as guinea pigs were branded as "The Enemy" by the National Education Assn. and accused of being fascists.

Since then, aided by the shock effect of such events as the best-seller success of Rudolph Flesch's "Why Johnny Can't Read" and Russia's launching of Sputnik, believers in basic education have forced the progressive educationists to give a little ground, although slowly and begrudgingly.

Today, Dr. Richardson, a defender of the educational status quo, has the support of organized educationists. Dr.

category with fascist leader Gerald L. K. Smith as threats to the republic.

Especially singled out for attack, naturally, is the Council for Basic Education, a national organization of distinguished scholars who have been a leading force in battling the progressive educationists.

All this proved too much for Science, the publication of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

In an article captioned "Right Wingers Seem to be Almost Everywhere," Science reported that the Fund for the Republic, while contending it didn't sponsor this remarkable pamphlet, hasn't disavowed it either. According to the Fund, the pamphlet was merely a report to the Fund — not by it.

Science observes: "It seems that all anyone has to do who wishes to use the name of the Fund . . . is to subtitle his view 'A Report to the Fund for the Republic,' and remember to mail a copy before publication to the Fund for the Republic, Santa Barbara, Calif."

Around the World With



"Most books on countries are for people living out of a suitcase and touring. But we want something that tells how to live in a European country for one year . . ."

Best I've found is put out by Pan American Airways — "New Horizons Living Abroad." Covers living conditions in 88 countries. Schools, cost-of-living, health, things you need to bring with you. Some book stores or write 222 Stockton Street, San Francisco. Price: \$4.95 plus tax.

" . . . we have heard that the island of Mallorca is inexpensive and off the tourist route and are thinking about going . . ."

Inexpensive, yes. Off the tourist route, no. The airport logs 104 landings a day and is the second or third busiest in the world. (Somebody told me but I forget which. Anyway, it's plenty busy.)

Mallorca is loaded right now with English and Scandinavians—July, August are the big months. Good, small hotels at about \$4.50 with three meals.

Best action spots: Hotel Fenix and the Victoria (\$8 with meals). Dancing and large swimming pool at the new, modern Fenix. Mainly English and American clientele but the whole island comes here at night to dance.

The plush spot is the new Son Vida, a rebuilt castle operated by Alfonso Font who runs the Palace in Madrid. \$15 plus 15 per cent service with meals. Elderly, retired couples and everybody goes to bed at 10.

Most available by Iberia, a well-run, on-time Spanish State airline. Short jump from Madrid and Rome. 2 1/2 hours from London. 1 1/2 hours from Paris.

"My greatest worry is how many cigarettes can I take into France . . ."

Customs says five cartons and you could probably stretch it to six. American cigarettes are available in all tourist centers at 60 cents a package.

"You speak of camping in Europe and 1,800 camp sites. Where can I get information on these?"

All national tourist bureaus have this. (Most of them are listed in the New York phone books and many have branches in big cities.) The Michelin guide people put out a very complete book on it for France where camping is on an elegant basis you wouldn't believe. Any book store in England or France or the Librairie Francaise book store in Rockefeller Center, New York.

"Would you suggest going to Hawaii by tour or independently?"

Independently. This is the U. S. You don't need the language, tipping and other help of tours—though a tour does give you companions and assured hotel reservations.

Once in the islands, tours to the outer islands might be better for easy organization. Also I'd make the Gray Line tour around the island, the visit to Iolani Palace and the Pearl Harbor tour. Cheaper than doing it by taxi on your own.

" . . . you spoke of renting motor scooters and bicycles in France."

At Garage Lauriston, 94 Rue Lauriston in Paris for Vespa (Italian) scooters. Imbernotte, 1 Rue des Accacias for bicycles. Bicycles seem to be for rent in nearly all the vacation areas of France. And all large towns have scooter rentals.

Stan Delaplaine 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.

Go Home, Senator

This is the time of every even numbered year when all Congressmen and those Senators up for re-election begin chafing at the bit because of conflict of interest.

The conflict, of course, is between the demands of stern duty to keep at the seemingly endless legislative business at hand and the very understandable desire to get back home and have a go at campaigning.

We are indebted to the Washington columnist, George Dixon, for the story of the very practical, if cynical, advice offered by an old Washington hand recently to a Senator wrestling with his conscience over this traditional problem. The advice was to quit worrying about unfinished business and go home, and this was the reason:

The most conscientious man ever to serve in the Senate, it seems, was Robert M. LaFollette Jr., of Wisconsin, who virtually never missed a roll call. In 1946 he stayed faithfully at his Senate desk, while a young upstart named Joseph R. McCarthy campaigned for his seat—and his reward was to be beaten by 5,000 votes.

By contrast, there was another Senator with almost an all-time record for playing hooky. And what happened to him? His present address is the White House!

The Numbers Battle

Plans announced recently by various telephone executives that the only solution to the growing demand for their service will be what they call ANC, All Number Calling, have stirred up all manner of opposition.

San Franciscans, it has been reported in one of the newspapers of that city, have formed a group known as the Anti-Digit Dialing League, and this group has launched a noisy war against the telephone company's announced plan to drop letter prefixes from telephone numbers.

Similar reaction has been noted elsewhere as sentimentalsists decry the diabolical plan to snuff out charming old prefixes here and there around the nation.

Personally we favor the suggestion advanced by a wag that we change to ALC—All Letter Calling. In that case the numbers would go and just the letters remain.

The HERALD number then would be quite easy to recall—FAT-GOOO.

FROM the MAILBOX

Double Sessions Facts Outlined

Editor, Torrance Herald

Since keeping the Torrance public informed of happenings in their schools is my major responsibility and since "all of them" didn't know about the double session issue it seems that I've been partially caught with my "news copy down." It would be appreciated if you could find space in the next issue of THE HERALD to print this explanation!

The suggested "verbal spanking" by Mrs. McVey in her recent letter to the editor about the Torrance schools' failure to keep the public informed on double sessions and bond issues is only partially deserved. Many of us tend to put grease on the squeaky wheel, and when everything about an issue such as this seems to be going smoothly, the wheel doesn't get lubricated. This is probably the reason we didn't stand on the street corner over two years ago and pass out handbills to announce that the school building program had temporarily caught up with the population increase, thus enabling us to go off of double sessions.

Some of the blame can be placed on the reader-interest of newspaper subscribers. Stories on murders, robberies, vandalism, etc., evidently took priority in the interest of readers in 1959 and 1960 when several articles did appear announcing that it was no longer necessary to hold double sessions in Torrance.

I doubt that this letter will reach all of the 100,000 people or the 40,000 registered

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voters in Torrance that you spoke of, but here are the facts you asked for:

We have enough classroom space under construction or planned to take care of the slightly over 28,000 pupils presently enrolled, plus the 800 new elementary and 800 new high school students who will be entering school this fall. However, our special services and research people conservatively predict (their predictions have proved to be 99 per cent accurate over the last five years) that by 1965 we can expect to enroll four to five thousand new students. This figure does not include any new major housing developments or rezoning of property to residential.

We have enough money from the 1958 building bond authorization to keep up with the normal school population growth for the next year or so, but without additional funds authorized in the bond election on Sept. 18, the building program will come to a grinding halt. If this happens it is a fact that the increased enrollments destined to hit us will undoubtedly force the return to double sessions, and could also have curtailing effects upon the rest of the instructional program.

A factual comment about tax rates: Each year, part of the tax money paid by Torrance property holders is allowed by law to be spent to pay back the money borrowed from bond holders to build our schools. The law, however, protects the taxpayer by stipulating that only 10 per cent of the assessed valuation may be levied and spent for this purpose. Since we have, for some time, in Torrance, been bonded to this 10 per cent capacity the voters are only being asked to allow the continuance of the sale of building bonds after the 1958 authorization runs out early next year. Therefore, the new \$8,000,000 bond authorization if passed will not increase taxes.

If these facts alone can reach all of the people of Torrance, it is agreed, Mrs. McVey, there will be no need for us to talk of tents for kids and tepees for teachers in 1965.

LYSLE R. ALBRO
Public Information
Coordinator

A Bookman's Notebook

Literary Prize System Takes Strange Twists

William Hogan

Several times during the past few months I have registered my sour reaction to literary prizes and the manner in which they are administered. The best summing-up is

an editorial in Publishers' Weekly, the book trade bible, written by Roger H. Smith. I submit Smith's thoughts, which coincide with my own: "During the spring literary

awards season this year, a man could count his blessings or his bruises whether he won an award or was denied one. When lightning struck "The Moviegoer" and made it the National Book Award fiction winner, the event was attacked as a fluke or, alternately, hailed as a victory over 'the system.'

"When the Pulitzer jury picked 'Citizen Hearst' only to have the trustees reject the nomination, many concluded that NO book about Pulitzer's ancient rival—because of the rivalry—would ever receive an award bearing the Pulitzer name.

"And when John Williams, a Negro novelist, was rejected, despite unanimous jury recommendation, by the American Academy in Rome for its in-residence fellowship, there were angry mutterings that racial considerations had played a part in the administration of an award.

"The worst damage of these episodes and others like them is done to the books and the authors themselves. Obscured in this spring's contretemps were the facts that 'The Moviegoer' is a fine novel; 'Citizen Hearst' is a solid biography, and Williams' 'Night Song' is one of the most vivid novels about jazz . . .

"Damaged, too, are the reputations of the awards themselves. The public is only occasionally savvy in this field, but it is to be given high marks for perception if, at times, it detects something fishy about one or another award. After this spring's events, the public could be forgiven if it began giggling at the whole awards paraphernalia—or ignored it.

"Part of the responsibility of administrators of awards is to minimize misunderstandings by broadcasting as widely as possible, the terms of the award, the way in which it is administered, the method of selecting the winner and the limitations, if any, of the jury's choice.

"In Williams' case, he was told that he had been selected and that approval from the Academy in Rome was only a formality. When the Academy in Rome exercised its veto, Williams was entitled to an explanation.

When he received none, he declined a lesser award from the National Institute of Arts and Letters, on the grounds that to accept would be to imply that no explanation was due him. In the words of poet Alan Dugan, ultimate recipient of the Rome Fellowship, a 'painful mess' had been created. On that note, the spring awards season drew to a close."

GERTRUDE C. TOOKER

Civil Defense

Editor, Torrance Herald

Thursday, July 12, 1962 you published an editorial questioning the value of Civil Defense in Torrance and its importance, being, as you stated, it is an average community in a target area. You went on to belittle those who wish to see Torrance residents given the same right to have an efficient Civil Defense plan as other communities, as being hysterical, anxiety ridden, jittery people. Further you stated the only interest of this particular segment of the population was to create a new agency in the municipal government with which to saddle the poor taxpayer.

In the first place, gentlemen, had those responsible for the organization and direction of Civil Defense in Torrance assumed their responsibilities, and made any effort at all to create a Civil Defense organization, the need would never have arisen to make a request for someone who would and could organize an effective program.

Residents of Torrance have been sold short and cheated of their rights as American citizens long enough as far as Civil Defense. The public has been given no information; we are years behind in training programs of any kind, and do not even have a warning system, one of the most essential requirements for an effective and workable Civil Defense plan. Nothing has been done to start a shelter program with existing qualified buildings or those that could be upgraded, and new ones built, or train the necessary people to manage them.

Civil Defense, gentlemen, is a law of these United States of America, not a crackpot scheme of a few for personal gain. And the law clearly and firmly states, "The responsibility of and for Civil Defense is that of each local government." The national government does its share by matching dollar for dollar money budgeted by the cities, plus furnishing survival food, radiological equipment, a sanitary facilities, water containers and medical supplies.

It is the local government's responsibility to augment any other necessary equipment or supplies, bunks, baby foods, etc. You accuse those of us who would have residents of Torrance equipped, sheltered and trained for any emergency only interested in creating a new agency in the existing municipal government with which to saddle the poor taxpayer, using your own words.

Why is it constantly necessary for residents of Torrance to form citizens' committees or pressure groups to force city officials to carry out their respective responsibilities? Repeated requests by individuals and Civil Defense Commission members to have a public hearing held with Mayor Isen, Council members, Mr. Peebles, Captain Rochefort and a representative of the Los Angeles County Civil Defense present to bring out in the open once and for all just what has or is being done regarding Civil Defense in Torrance always have been ignored.

A public meeting with advance publicity would let the public know where money allocated for Civil Defense is being spent and for what. We are continually being told more is being done regarding Civil Defense than we know, but no one will tell us what. Why?

It all boils down to one fact, either those responsible for Civil Defense in Torrance want it or they don't. If they do not why was a commission ever formed? The five commission members can do nothing except make recommendations through Mr. Peebles to the Mayor and City Council.

So when you and the city officials ask how important is Civil Defense for a community such as Torrance I ask you how important is the security and welfare of your country and its citizens? What value do you put on your loved ones' lives? What is your price for freedom? You answer these questions, gentlemen, and you have your answers.



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