

Law in Action

Some ideas pay off big, and so you don't want them patented.

Suppose your idea pays off. Can you protect it from someone else using it? Of course if any embodiment of your idea is patentable, you will have protection.

But what if it isn't? Can you get legal protection for your idea?

NOT AS a rule: One writer thought up a TV series about the highway patrol. He wrote some scripts for it and talked his idea over in "confidence" with a highway patrol employee. He wanted to look into the patrol's files for material.

Instead of helping the author, the employee took the idea to a TV producer who in return hired him as "consultant." Result: A TV show using the writer's idea.

The writer sued. The California court said he had no "property right" in the idea of using government files for a TV show. It was old stuff. His imparting the idea in "confidence" did not protect the idea.

THE ORIGINAL idea man might have protected himself in advance by a contract. Even an oral contract would have given him some protection.

Of course you might patent the tangible development of an "idea." As a rule, the idea man won't be protected until he ties his idea down to something tangible which can be patented or copyrighted or protected against breach of confidence.

Thus now and then, the idea man gets paid. One man made and turned over a new folding chair to a manufacturer. The manufacturer copied features of it, but paid nothing. He patented the chair himself.

THE COURT said the manufacturer had "unjustly enriched" himself and should pay royalties for using the ideas.

Other courts have said there is a breach of confidence; and, that the idea was disclosed only on the understanding that payment would be made for its use. If so, payment must be made for the idea.

Bank Names Two to Top Positions

Appointment of two Torrance residents to executive positions at Pacific State Bank was announced this week by R. C. Yeary, president of the bank.

John C. Elsenpeter of 22645 Marjorie Ave., has been promoted to assistant cashier at the bank's Windsor Hills office, and David D. Sinclair, 3835 W. Artesia Blvd., has been named assistant cashier at the Hawthorne branch.

Elsenpeter, who joined the bank in 1960, has been a teller, operations officer, and acting assistant cashier. He is a native of Minnesota and a graduate of the Minnesota School of Business.

HE IS MARRIED and the father of two children. The family has lived in Torrance since 1960.

Sinclair, who hails from Edinburgh, Scotland, was employed for 33 years with the Bank of Nova Scotia, Canada. Since joining Pacific State Bank, he has served as a credit and loan officer, and as manager of two branch offices.

Pacific State Bank maintains its Torrance office at 21690 S. Normandie Ave., in the Carson Shopping Center.

Prudential Names Two New Agents

Two local residents have been named special agents for the Long Beach agency for the Prudential Insurance Co., reports manager John E. Griffith.

Charles K. White, 4622 Mindora Dr., and William G. Johnson, 3802 Artesia Blvd., were the special agents named to the new posts.

White is a native of Oregon and a graduate of Willamette University. He is manager of the Torrance Youth Organization.

Johnson, a native of Canada, attended schools in Spokane, Wash., and in Canada. Both agents are married. White has three children, and Johnson is the father of a six-year-old son.

New Directories Added to Files

J. Walker Owens, manager of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, has announced the addition of six more directories to the available out-of-town directories at the chamber office.

The new publications were added to a growing collection of books designed to provide residents with information on other cities. The books are maintained by the Chamber for the public's use.

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

HC Schedules Property Law In Evenings

Harbor College will offer a course in Real Estate and Property Law in the Evening Division during the fall semester, Carmen Marinelli, chairman of the business division, has announced.

The class will meet Monday evenings from 6:30 to 9:30.

Designed to cover the principles of property ownership and management with emphasis on California real property laws

and the practical aspects of those laws, the course will be conducted by Einar C. Petersen.

Petersen received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Stanford University and his law degree from Hastings College of Law. He is currently engaged in private practice in San Pedro.

Particular attention in the course will be given to community property, conveyancing, mortgages and trust deeds, landlord-tenant relationships, brokerage, mechanic's liens, homesteads, and will and probate proceedings.

Heap a bowl of cracked ice with tiny red tomatoes and elegant ripe olives. Sprinkle lightly with flaked parsley or dill weed. Serve as nibbling food before or during dinner.

Phys-Ed Teachers Attend Conclave

Marguerite Ruth Flint-Smith and Gwenola J. Jones are attending a women's physical education instructors conference at California State Polytechnic College at San Luis Obispo.

Mrs. Flint-Smith teaches at South High, while Gwenola Jones is an instructor at North High.



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