

'Let Freedom Ring'

To our grandfathers, the Fourth of July meant flags along the streets, band concerts, speeches in the park, and families picnicking in a celebration noting this nation's independence.

The celebration has changed to an observance of the day as another holiday by many, but in one local area, the picnic in the park will be revived next Thursday.

Organizations on the Palos Verdes Peninsula are banding together for just such a celebration at Malaga Cove School beginning at 11 a.m. Thursday. Popular Walter O'Keefe will be master of ceremonies for the event and George Todt, newspaper columnist, will be the principal speaker. Providing the musical background for the patriotic affair will be the West Coast Singers. It offers a rare chance for today's families to get together at such a picnic to celebrate Independence Day with a patriotic salute to our nation's founding.

Not so old fashioned but equally stirring are plans to ring bells across the nation at a specific hour in a salute called "Let Freedom Ring."

The Torrance Junior Chamber of Commerce, at the suggestion of Joseph Bonanno, now serving in the U. S. Army, took up the idea after reading of the suggestion in a nationally distributed newspaper supplement, and was successful in gaining approval of the project by California Jaycees.

Thursday at 11 a.m. on the West Coast (2 p.m. EDT) bells atop government buildings, colleges, universities, churches, and schools will ring.

Radio stations have been asked to join in the four-minute salute by broadcasting the sound of bells for two minutes to be followed by the reading of the Declaration of Independence.

Support for the project has been heartening, its backers report, and it could signal the beginning of an American tradition which will be observed for years to come.

"Let Freedom Ring" is a project we should all support.

Something to Skim Over

AM APPLE A DAY KEEPS THE DOCTOR AWAY

Recognize this old saying? It's so familiar we don't even have to read it carefully.

Chances are you may not have noticed the mistakes "am" instead of "an" and "the" repeated twice.

Just about all of us tend to skim over things that are commonplace and familiar. We take them for granted.

This applies to the Federal government's huge appetite for spending, for example.

Big spending seems to have become a habit and a regular way of doing things that we accept as commonplace.

But government deficits and unbalanced budgets, coupled with the current effort to reduce taxes without reduced government spending, result in a combination which can get our country into serious trouble.

This combination usually ends up with the government printing presses working overtime to turn out more paper dollars; and that brings inflation—fast.

Who wants inflated dollars, dollars that buy less and less?

Now, how often do we look carefully and critically at what the Federal government is doing? How often do we make any effort to determine whether it is doing its job in the best and most economical way? How often do we question the real need?

The familiar quotation has a mistake and an extra word.

How much of government's doing is wasted motion; extra steps that aren't really necessary?

Opinions of Others

Even though the hot summer months have not arrived, many are taking to the water on the warm weekends. In addition to public bathing on the beaches and at resorts, water sports attract thousands of people. The accident toll is high. For some reason, sensible persons take chances in water. Good swimmers drown through over confidence. Flippant jesters rock the boat. It is a good idea for people to know the simple rules that might save their lives.—Pelham (Ga.) Journal.

LIFE'S LIKE THAT

By FRED NEHER



"How do I look?"

The Chairman Prepares The Program



ROSE MANNING

ROYCE BRIER

Red China Getting Busy In World's Race Riots

To Soviet leaders, any evidence of social dislocation in the West, particularly in the United States, has long been propaganda bread and butter.

Yet Soviet newspapers and speakers have been sparing in comment on the recent radical disorders in Alabama, Mississippi, and Philadelphia.

The reason for this restraint has not been clear, until suddenly in the past week Red China's newspapers have contained a rash of letters and editorials about the Negro's troubles in the United States. Pekingologists, to coin a word, are now saying these protests presage a full-scale propaganda campaign to be spread over Asia, Africa and Latin America.

The ways of Communist

propaganda are always subtle and not easily analyzed in the West, but the experts have come up with a theory about the sudden interest of the Red Chinese in the American race conflict.

For what it is worth, it goes like this: the schism between Red China and the Soviet Union is deep and growing deeper. It is based in a struggle between the two great Communist centers for domination of Communist and leftist movements outside Russia and China.

The Mao theorists are taking the line that the Soviet leaders of a predominantly white people do not really understand the struggle of the colored peoples against the white hegemony of Europe and North America. The Russians are out of the mainstream of "emerging peoples" formerly colonial.

There is an obvious logic, and even some truth, in this, as concerns the Asiatics and Africans. It is extended to Latin Americans in the theory that, while most Latin Americans are of white stock, there

are large Negro and Indian strains among the masses.

The drive for Red Chinese pre-eminence began last October at the time of the withdrawal of Soviet missiles from Cuba. The Red Chinese automatically attacked Khrushchev, and somewhat to their surprise, non-Chinese Communists in Asia agreed. Red China's influence increased with them, as Soviet influence diminished.

From this came the expanded plan for a massive assault on Soviet prestige wherever it was faltering. It was too late for the Meredith trouble in Oxford, but the Alabama riots were made to order. The Red Chinese are said to be gathering film clips on the riots to spread about Asia and Africa, while Mao's propagandists grind out subtleties and protests to the newspapers.

They say in effect: "Only Red China will help the colored people—don't expect Soviet help." Thus a Birmingham police dog becomes a more potent animal than an African lion or an Asian tiger.

TALK OF THE WORLD

HONG KONG—People call Hong Kong a shop window, a listening post, the banking house of Peking and one of Asia's bright balconies, but actually it's the home of a colony of dragons. Some live in the hills, others lurk around or under the harbor, but all have to be treated with great care by the human population.

Dragon appeasement has been going on for ages, and all-important festivals feature dragon dances or dragon boats. Tourists think this is for them, but really it's all designed to keep the dragons happy.

If you have never had to deal with an unhappy dragon, you should talk to the government land surveyors and administrators, and take a look at some of the plants for new roads and new industrial sites in the New Territories, the farming area between Kowloon (which means Nine Dragons) and China.

Where are the dragons? Well, there's an apparently useless culvert cut under a new highway. When the road was being built the local Fung Shui man—he's a sort of witch doctor in charge of finding and placating spirits—warned the surveyors that years before a ceremonial dragon had been buried by two warring villages, and this sign of peace had been made just where the road was to go. The dragon must not be disturbed. So the British arranged to have the road hump a little—for the dragon's tail. Fung Shui means "wind

and water," but it covers most things to do with spirits. Homes and factories have to be built according to the advice of the Fung Shui man, and even in the crowded central district of Hong Kong, he will dedicate skyscrapers and let off a giant string of firecrackers to scare away evil spirits.

In the residential areas on the island of Hong Kong, new 16- and 18-floor apartment blocks rise against the hills like mantilla combs. All the major rooms look out over the harbor. Servant quarters at the rear, that is, facing the dragon lairs, don't seem to count. It's the people who pay rents from \$180 to \$300 a month who get the sun, light and air—and excellent fung shui.

The government recently constructed a reservoir to provide the New Territories with their own water. Right now all their water comes from Red China.

Work was going along fine, until a bevy of Fung Shui men went to the engineer in charge and explained the new reservoir would cut off the claws of the dragons who lived there.

A dragon without claws certainly is not a happy dragon, and the villagers figured they had best do something to appease them.

So the government treated each village to a special ceremony. Firecrackers, joss sticks, dragon dances, a huge feast for everyone—and the villagers felt the dragons wouldn't mind so much about the manure.

A Bookman's Notebook

Notes on Unhappy Wives; Hints on Seductive Arts

William Hogan

As though there were not enough troubles in the world already, a translation of a Roman best-seller turns up here as "Italian Women Confess." This is a selection from letters, mostly sad, sent to Italian newspaper and magazine loveletter departments over the past decade—a period during which some 5 million have been received.

This condensed log from Dante's Inferno is edited by Gabriella Parca, a journalist and sociologist. It is billed as a documentary exploration of the socio-sexual relationships in Italy, and certainly is that, as it investigates the Italian woman's role in a double-standard society. ("O madre, I am abandoned by everybody... I must write and I weep tears of blood, you must believe me... I have an ugly husband who is not right for me...")

The project carries a ring of endorsement from the anthropologist Margaret Mead. Yet just skipping in and around these heartaches that stretch from the Alps to Sardinia and Sicily, one finds it an excruciating, jarring and nearly hopeless comment on the sub-human condition, no matter how amusing some situations these ladies find themselves in may seem. You would have to be a collector of the saddest stories ever told (or an anthropologist) to get very far in these true confessions.

"A Literary Guide to Seduction," edited by Robert Meister, is an anthology devoted to the theory and practice of this branch of love-making as described by talents from Ovid to Aldous Huxley. This is higher-toned stuff than the poor Italian ladies offer. Yet the whole idea of such a collection suggests literary voyeurism, no matter how scholarly its approach may be.

Essentially, the editor asserts in his introduction, "every seduction is an allegory of the Fall; the angelic seducer redeems 'the other' by the nobility of his passion; the satanic one abandons her to her fate..."

There is a score of entries here by Kierkegaard, Abelard, even Thomas Mann. The editor, who has published widely in the fields of psychiatry and

psychoanalysis, tosses out a little how-to advice in an afterword (presumably with tongue-in-cheek): "As for the seducer himself, in addition to practical training he must be temperamentally suited for his pursuits. Willingness to invest time and the capacity for re-

straint and patience are imperative. If his temperament lacks these supreme virtues, no amount of training will prepare him for the noble calling of seduction."

"Italian Women Confess" Edited by Gabriella Parca. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 265 pp., \$4.95. "A Literary Guide to Seduction" Edited by Robert Meister. Stein & Day; 221 pp., \$7.50.

Around the World With



"Since we plan to be in Europe for several months, is it better to carry travelers' checks or arrange a letter of credit or what? We will be buying a German car, for example."

I certainly wouldn't pay for a car in travelers' checks. Checks cost \$1 per \$100. You should be able to arrange to pay for a car with your bank's check or your own. Ask your bank to handle it.

Letters of credit require going into banks (using a foreign language and uncertain hours in each country). Since you don't want to carry much foreign cash in your pocket, you are constantly in and out of the banks.

Travelers' checks cash anywhere, any time—hotels, restaurants, shops. I find one irritating thing: Hotels often charge you \$1 per \$100 to cash them. Even in payment of bills. (In Portugal, I found them charging \$3 per \$100.) This automatically makes you pay \$2 per \$100—or more—for your checks. So if you spend a couple of thousand dollars, it becomes a good deal of money.

However, I haven't found anything much better. Best is to buy American Express checks and cash them in American Express offices. You duck the hotel commission. Some banks charge a minor commission, too. Maybe a tenth of one percent.

"Our travel agent gives us the following hotels for our trip and we would like your opinion: Claridge's in London; Baur-au-Lac in Zurich; Excelsior in Rome; Athens Hilton in Athens; Hilton in Cairo; the Palace in Madrid; and the Ritz in Lisbon..."

You are on the deluxe, plush route and your concierges probably make as much money as you do. Claridge's is where Queen Frederika of Greece stays. The Baur-au-Lac is famous for millionaires, the most highly paid spies and the richer black market operators of Europe; King Farouk stays at the Excelsior and the man at the reception desk must be at least a count by his haughtiness.

The Athens Hilton is the newest and, I think the most beautiful of the Hilton chain. A marble palace. It is run by Alfonso Font. I think he's the most savvy hotel man in Europe. This is also a famous spy and millionaire hotel of the last war.

The Ritz in Lisbon is so good you won't believe it. Beautiful, new, excellent rooms and service. Swiss management. I would estimate your daily hotel bill for two will never be less than \$30 and you'll live like a king.

"We are very interested in the Indian country of New Mexico and would like to find places in Mexico where we could observe the culture. Something similar to Santa Fe, New Mexico..."

This is harder to find in Mexico. Pure Indian villages don't have hotels. The Indians speak their own language—sometimes only the head man speaks a little Spanish. Many of these people observe old customs. Suspicious of strangers and even dangerous if you visit. Visitors usually mean trouble.

If you base at Oaxaca in the south, you can drive for the day to some of the Zapotec villages. Further down, you get into Tehuantepec country which is interesting. There are wild bow and arrow Indians further south and a hotel at San Cristobal de las Casas. But only recently, the out-of-town Indians chopped up some foreigners with machetes.

In the lake country north of Mexico City, Patzcuaro is a very Indian town with a couple of good small tourist hotels. You will see a lot of Indian culture in the markets on the street in the plaza.

Be a little careful pointing cameras or showing too much interest in these towns until the local people have time to look you over. Best way is to sit in the plaza. Have your shoes shined. Look relaxed. Everybody has a chance to look and get accustomed to you.

"Please suggest a hotel and town where we will spend two quiet weeks in Switzerland."

My choice is Lugano. Pretty town on a beautiful lake with mountains rising on all sides. For a hotel, the Bristol up on the hill. Overlooks the lake. Not expensive. Gambirino is best restaurant. Quiet town with Italian flavor and houses in Mediterranean pastels of pink and blue. Very popular with the Swiss in the summer. You need reservations.

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.

Morning Report:

Abe Mellinkoff is on vacation.

Abe Mellinkoff



RING THE BELLS OF FREEDOM

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