

Hannah's Harpoons

BY HANNAH SAMPSON

It is to be hoped that the panaply and pomp necessary to the interment of the chief of state of the most powerful nation in the world will not be construed as the AOK sign for the rest of us to put ourselves into debt for private funerals as in the long ago.

The costly ceremony that attended the burial of our late President was the national indication to the rest of the world that we hold our leaders in high respect. This is as it should be.

However, the trend toward simple burial services for private citizens should continue. It is for us, the living, to carry on, and life cannot go on when all that one owns is placed in the earth with the deceased. The finest memorial to a loved one is the ability of his family to survive after he has gone.

NO-CALORIES
With three whose names appear on our Christmas list on stringent diets, the usual home made goodies must go by the board. After much experimenting, I have come up with a no-calorie candy. In two colors: Christmas Red and Christmas green. Included with the no-calorie candy will be jars of no-calorie mushrooms.

NO QUARTERING OF SOLDIERS
At a school assembly program this morning I heard the Bill of Rights read aloud by the fifth grade. It is a pretty thrilling thing to hear. All that care that was taken these many years ago to insure our rights! I have to admit to goose-bumps on the goose-bumps. Take that: "No quartering of soldiers" (without the consent of the owner of the house). Think what it would do to the budget if any old time the government felt like it, it could send a group over to be fed and housed!

GULLIVER'S TRAVELS HILARIOUS
I am reading GULLIVER'S TRAVELS by Swift, for the first time. After having seen the picture and read some watered down version — which I did — this seems like something entirely new. "Gulliver's" description of how he put out the fire in the Palace is hilarious. The serious manner with which Swift describes the most comic happenings really tickles the funnybone. Of course, the Socio-Political aspects of the book add the "meat and potatoes" to the dessert of the story.

I am reading also Bertrand Russell's (Barnes and Noble) IN PRAISE OF IDLENESS. Now, here's an idea! Let us be idle a little more without feeling guilty.

SENCE OF THE RIDICULOUS
I was enchanted with Richard Boone as a cantankerous old man in the Clifford Odet's play on television "Old Mitch." It does my heart good to see a "hero" type got up in that unattractive makeup. It reminds me of the time Walter Huston played a part minus his false teeth in "Treasure of the Sierra Madre." All for his art, and a very good job he did, too. But it seems to me a man has to have a very well developed sense of humor to do this . . . something unfortunately lacking in too many in the acting profession.

In life, too, it seems to me, a sense of the ridiculous is all-important. Hitler, Napoleon, Franco, Peron: these fanatics have exhibited a notorious lack of the ability of laughing at themselves.

I suppose it is true that no one with a sense of the ridiculous can be really fanatic, for somewhere along the line of his one-tracked endeavor, he must have the opportunity to observe himself in action: the sight is bound to cause an explosion of laughter. With laughter, comes a certain objectivity, and when objectivity enters, fanaticism is doomed.

To laugh—good-naturedly—at oneself, is the best form of medicine there is in the world. Easier said, however, than done.

FROM OUR HOUSE TO YOUR HOUSE
THE BEST OF THE SEASON'S GREETINGS!



GUN DEALER H. C. Barnett of Torrance told The PRESS that Fred Bassett purchased a .22-caliber deringer for his father's Christmas gift. —PRESS photo

YOUTH CHARGED WITH MURDER

(Continued from Page One) and Mrs. Bassett lying on the floor.

In a search of the house, deputies found in the youth's bedroom a detailed written plan for the double slaying. When confronted with the papers, young Bassett blurted out a confession to deputies and said he had planned it "for years."

Detectives said that Bassett at the last minute apparently altered his scheme, which called for two sets of gloves and a plastic shield for his face. The devices were intended to keep gunpowder traces from the suspect's face and hands, deputies said.

As investigators reconstructed the scene: About 3:45 p. m. young Bassett went to his mother's bedroom after she returned from a shopping trip.

"Close your eyes. I have a surprise for you," the student told her. She was shot through the head at close range with a single-shot .22-caliber deringer.

Hearing the shot, the elder Bassett rushed to his wife's aid and bending over her, told his son to get a wet towel.

Bassett returned with the towel, leaned over his father and shot him in the chest.

Noting that his mother was still breathing, he then placed a plastic bag over his mother's head.

The youth then went next door and told a neighbor, Mrs. Evelyn Glass, of "an accident."

Bassett, a 1963 graduate of Banning High School, gave no reason for the slayings.

PUBLIC MORALITY
It is not so much a matter of civic morality as of a criminality, personal, private, and public.

—Daniel Goldberger



RUPTURED water main caused Crenshaw Blvd. one-eighth of a mile north of Palos Verdes Blvd. to sink. Traffic was snarled to a near standstill, Repair crews worked around the clock to fix up the road, which is now open. —PRESS Photo

Savings Firm Loans \$1,884,404 To Home Owners

Glendale Federal Savings and Loan Association's Torrance branch office loaned \$1,884,404 to persons purchasing, rebuilding or remodeling homes in this area during November, Charles T. Cederlof, branch manager, announced.

The company's 14 branches loaned homeowners throughout Southern California a total of \$16,799,869 during the month, Cederlof added. This represented a 12 per cent increase from the \$14,079,084 loaned during the like month a year ago.

Glendale Federal Savings, with assets in excess of \$570,000,000, is thenation's third largest federally char-

tered savings and loan

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—Daniel Goldberger

Girl Hurt in Carson Crash

An attractive 19-year-old girl suffered serious injuries this week when the car she was driving was involved in a grinding collision with another auto and a heavy dump-truck, California Highway patrolmen reported.

Major Injuries
Donna Sue Graves, Compton resident, was treated for major injuries at Harbor General Hospital following the accident, which occurred early Wednesday afternoon.

Miss Graves, according to patrol reports, was eastbound on Artesia Blvd. when a car driven by Mrs. Lillian Taylor, 45, of Long Beach, failed to heed a red signal on Main St. in the

Carson area. Witnesses told the CHP that Mrs. Taylor was southbound on Main when she started across Artesia against the light, striking Miss Graves' car.

Impact of the collision caused the Graves auto to spin across the center divider and slam into the side of the truck, driven by Clifford Oswald of Harbor City, officers said.

IDEA FOR TODAY
We shouldn't feel ashamed to talk or to write of the beauty we see in life and to nourish our dreams by believing that we can make them come true.

Use Classified, DA 5-1515.

PROPERTY OWNERS AND REGISTERED VOTERS
PROTECT your PROPERTY RIGHTS

If you desire to express yourself at the polls on Nov. 4, 1964 on this vital issue affecting your rights in real property sign the initiative petition at your local realtor's office.

For your convenience all Realtors in the Torrance and Lomita area will be open until 9:00 p.m. Monday, December 23rd.

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