

# Press-Herald

GLENN W. PFEIL

Publisher

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Wednesday, December 9, 1964

## Those Tax-Bill Blues

Whether we like them or not—and we don't—the first installment on this year's property tax assessments becomes due tomorrow.

Much of the storm raised over this year's whopping tax bills still rages around the heads of County Assessor Phil Watson, members of the Board of Supervisors, school, and city officials. Protest or no, the taxes are due.

With tomorrow's due date staring us in the face, it is well to reflect again on the reasons for the tax bill, and again to say a small word in defense of the assessor who has succeeded admirably in taking politics out of the assessing procedure.

His job is simple. He only has to arrive at a fair estimate of the market value of each piece of property in the county and certify that estimate—or assessment—to the taxing agencies.

Mr. Watson says he is assessing property at its market value and then assigning 25 per cent of that value to the tax rolls. His rule of thumb for determining if your property has been assessed properly is to multiply the assessment by four. Most property owners would not accept four times the assessed valuation for their property.

On the contrary, we all have engaged in the suburban pastime of comparing "paper profits" on our homes as the value appreciates each year—much to the pleasure of the property owner.

Assemblyman Charles Chapel today (Section B, Page 10) explores the subject in depth and has some poignant observations on where the money goes. We recommend a close look at the information he offers on the subject.

How close a check do you keep on your public officials who are spending your money?

As you send off your first installment on this year's tax to beat tomorrow's deadline, it is a good reminder of your contribution to local government and the schools.

It is worth some serious thought.

## NEWS SPARKS by James Dorais

### Boston Talks Back to NASA

One of the nice things about running a dictatorship is that nobody successfully questions the central government's decisions, short of a revolution.

With the growth of federal powers, Washington, D. C., is sometimes accused of being a dictatorship, but one essential ingredient is lacking—up until now at least, it isn't possible to silence opposition to unpopular decisions.

The city of Boston and its suburbs currently are involved in a multi-million dollar hassle with the decision makers along the Potomac which can't be resolved as in Russia, by shooting the trouble makers.

The argument revolves around the decision of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to build a \$61 million Electronic Research Center in the Boston area.

NASA first picked a location in suburban Watertown, already owned by the federal government, the site of the present Watertown Arsenal.

The Arsenal's 2300 employees protested the closing of the facility, pointing out that 17 million dollars have been spent during the past five years to modernize it. But Secretary of Defense McNamara contends it is no longer needed and that its shutdown would save \$5 million a year.

When the decision was ir-

revocably made to close the Arsenal, however, the NASA changed its mind and decided to locate the Research Center three miles away, at Cambridge. The justification for the new location is that it is within walking distance from the campus of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Whereas the Watertown site, already owned by the government, would cost less than 1 million dollars to level, the Cambridge site, known as Kendall Square, would require, according to U. S. News & World Report, an expenditure of 40 million dollars to buy private property, tear down existing buildings, evict 94 industries employing 4,000 people and move the industries to other areas.

NASA, which hoped to start building next year, is already 10 months behind in its plans. Further delays are inevitable, as the property owners of Kendall Square have started court action to prevent redevelopment.

Cambridge's vice-mayor, Alfred Vellucci, who opposes the Kendall Square site because he feels the city can't afford to evict a substantial part of its industrial tax base in exchange for a U. S. facility that would pay no property taxes, predicts:

"Russia will be up to the moon by the time they get this thing going."

### Morning Report:

It's not for me to say it's out-and-out crazy. But I know the historians are going to have a hard time explaining it. I mean this race to Mars between space ships of America and Russia.

It's going to cost both countries a potful of glue. But it's not all bad. I'd rather have the competition out there than closer to me—at the United Nations, the Congo or Vietnam.

Whoever wins the 325-million-mile race will be the first to get fuzzy pictures of Mars. And the loser shouldn't feel too sad, either. After all, there are a lot of stars out there waiting to be photographed. As we losing alumni always say, "Wait till next year."

Abe Mellinkoff



## HERE AND THERE by Royce Brier

### Time Is Near for Review Of Policy on Red China

The practice of not recognizing or having traffic with someone you don't like, is a very old and human one, and in many cases it speaks immaturity. It almost invariably does when it is carried on by nations, though here again, it is an old practice.

There are some 700 million Chinese, comprising almost one-quarter of mankind, and they are presently subject to a government we don't like which imposes on them a social system we don't like. Nobody pretends the 700 million Chinese had a free-will choice in this government and social system, nor that they could throw it off if they would.

Opposing the mainland Chinese is a small Chinese faction headed by Chiang Kai-shek, a refugee on an island. There is some persistent pretense that we like Chiang's government and social system, but many more thoughtful Americans don't like Chiang any more than they like Mao and Chou.

Now the whole Chinese race, mainland, offshore and

expatriate, doesn't like the non-yellow race, and particularly the American part of it, for long-existing historical reasons which cannot, and need not, be discussed here.

But not being liked is often enough the universal fate of all of us, individually and collectively, and one measure of the maturity of the object of dislike is the reaction to it.

Shall he pull a shell about himself and sulks? This is what we are doing in the Red Chinese situation. That the government of Red China maintains the same isolation from the rest of the world does not make our isolation from Red China more mature.

Recently in San Francisco, Professor Roger Hilsman, of Columbia University, former assistant Secretary of State, said: "The time has come to increase communication with the Chinese Communists (and) to re-examine our policies toward trade with Red China..."

For two decades we have restricted trade with the

Soviet Union in some areas of military goods. These areas were initially so wide that our free allies have rejected much of it as unrealistic.

It may be that a similar restriction is indicated for Red China. But as Red China now has the bomb, Prof. Hilsman sensibly says we should open communications with Peking on arms control.

He wants travel restrictions lifted, and ordinary trade restrictions relaxed. This, too, is sensible, because the present restrictions in both fields are not notably hurting the Red Chinese, and are hurting the free world, including America. And here again our allies, including Canada and Japan, do not subscribe to our obsession that we can somehow produce a social system in Asia to our liking with a boycott.

President Johnson, who says he dreams of a rational and orderly world, could do worse than direct the State Department to review our China policy to determine if it makes sense at this late date.

## BOOKS by William Hogan

### Doris Muscatine Dines Her Way Through Rome

Doris Muscatine, who last year published a first-rate investigation of this city's restaurant's, "A Cook's Tour of San Francisco," has collected another set of experiences, impressions (and recipes) relating to the pleasures of eating and drinking. This is "A Cook's Tour of Rome," a city of eternal surprise where the author and her family have lived and where dining has been a civilized pastime at least since the age of Seneca.

Right off, Mrs. Muscatine reminds us of Seneca's anecdote about the death of M. Apicius, a first-century epicure: "When, on counting his fortune, he found one day that having spent a

hundred million sesterces mainly on food, he had only ten million sesterces left, and the prospect of starvation before him, he poisoned himself."

Things are not that hopeless in Rome today. For even in the most unpretentious trattoria in the vigorous working quarter of Trastevere, one can dine robustly and well. Apparently the author has dined her way through this Eternal City. The result of her investigations is a series of essays on food and drink; a critical and appreciative rundown of Roman "trattorie" and "ristoranti"; an attempt to open the reader to the Italian world and, perhaps most of all, to divest Italian cuisine of the spaghetti-and-scaloppine stereotype.

"A Cook's Tour of Rome" escorts us from elegant places like the Inn of the Bear, where one may bump into Sophia Loren and pay handsomely for the privilege, to small establishments in the Roman Jewish quarter, where stuffed zucchini flowers are made more delightful because of the Italian label, "Fiori di zucchini ripieni." We discover specialties of the Bolognese, Venetian and Tuscan restaurants in the city. And this being a superior

travel report, we do not neglect establishments such as Impiccetta, or Garden of the Poets, where the walls display a scattering of original "cimeli," memorabilia and art objects of bygone days as well as more recent verse, much of it scrawled in the Roman dialect:

"Remember when you enter this garden, That if the atmosphere is a little rough and course With the food and good wine 'There is the heart of Roman Trastevere! Drink brother... Lift your glass and while you're looking at it, Think that it is phosphorus that you're giving your brain... Here in this place you forget all bad things. There are no worries. Your years are no concern."

I do not know if it was Al Monumento, at Ostia, that I visited quite by accident as a soldier in 1944. This is a pleasant drive from the city, a place where the Tiber meets the sea. There was a memorable fresh Mediterranean sole in wine sauce at this place place even in those barren days. Sure enough, in Mrs. Muscatine's reference to Ostia there is this "Sogliola o mazzancolle al cocco." I found this one of many nice surprises in this book on food, travel, memories and certainly anticipation.

## AFTER HOURS by John Morley

### Treaty Revisions Needed To Solve Panama Crisis

MIAMI—All the way here in Florida, the hub of the Cuban refugee invasion, the new Panama riots are the subject of discussion, for they have an important bearing on the effect of the Castro conspiracy in this Hemisphere.

We went through Panama on our last news trip around the world.

Like Vietnam, Cyprus and other hot-spots, the renewed crisis over the Panama Canal has been long in the making—some 61 years, to be specific, since the United States signed a treaty which gave us the right to build the Panama Canal in 1903.

Panama was part of Colombia at that time. We tried a few power plays in an attempt to create an independent Panama, but the Colombian Assembly refused to approve it. So we promoted Panama's declaration of independence, anyhow, a couple of months later, and rushed to recognize it even before the shouting was over, in November, 1903.

Within a few weeks we signed a treaty with the new state of Panama. Since we were chiefly responsible for its independence, we earned the right to write our own ticket on the terms of the treaty. This treaty, however, was far different from the one we had offered, and was rejected by Colombia.

Main difference was that we had offered Colombia sovereignty over the Panama Canal. But in the new treaty with Panama, sovereignty over the Canal Zone was given to the United States. This is the festering sore we have been hearing about in Panama for years, and again on our recent trip.

There are other sore points between Panama and the U. S. The canal plans we had submitted to Colombia called for a channel six miles wide. The land we took from Panama was 10 miles wide.

Terms we offered Colombia included a 99-year lease, with option for renewal. The treaty we extracted from Panama made us the owners of the Canal in perpetuity, or permanent ownership.

We had offered Colombia the right to take any disputes direct to Colombian courts. Under our treaty with Panama we use only U. S. courts located in the Canal Zone.

These are the major questions that have been rubbing Panamanians the wrong way for some 63 years, and the issues most often raised by sincere Panamanians today, along with the false and exaggerated ones circulated by Castro agents and other Communists.

Treaty on the Suez Canal and the treaty on the Panama Canal, of course, have nothing in common. Suez was, prior to its seizure by President Nasser, an outright lease arrangement. The Panama Canal treaty gave the U. S. outright ownership.

But to emotional Panamanians this is academic. For they point out that since we agreed to the right of Egypt to nationalize the Suez Canal because it was on its soil, Panamanians believe, erroneously, that the Panama Canal belongs to them since it is on their soil.

### Quote

"The Night is mother of the day,

The Winter of the Spring." — John Greenleaf Whittier.

"Autumn brings fruit; summer is fair with harvest; spring gives flowers; winter is relieved by fire."—Ovid.

"At Christmas I no more desire a rose

Than wish a snow in May's new-fangled mirth;

But like of each thing that in season grows.

William Shakespeare

Negotiations between the U. S. and Panama suggest an increase in the present lease of \$1.03 million annually. In our opinion this will prove a fast evaporating soothing oil. For the pain will be back again and again until major surgery is performed on the patient. Raising the payment in the past proved satisfactory. Originally it was \$250,000 annually, raised to \$1 million, and now it is \$1.83 million.

We find too many U. S. "generals" and too few "soldiers" in the Canal Zone. Too many officials, too many political appointees seeking the tropical, relaxed life. It's a haven, or a last refuge for political cronies who have outlived their usefulness in Washington.

One notable exception, former U. S. Ambassador Joseph Farland, was recalled for speaking out. He was one of the ablest diplomats in the U. S. Foreign Service. The administration refused his prophetic recommendations.

Another point of antagonism is the way most of the 16,000 Americans live it up in an area infested with the extremes of wealth and poverty. We practiced segregation in Panama. The Fourth of July Avenue is a typical

City between the haves and have-nots. Until 1955 everything was segregated—schools, shops, toilets, etc. U. S. citizens were paid in gold, Panamanians in silver.

The U. S. aid program was nil in Panama, while we were pouring billions into even Communist countries like Yugoslavia.

Panama will not settle for long without changes in the 1903 treaty. The U. S. should rotate its administrators and workers with Americans more tolerant to closer association with Panamanians.

Instead of divided authority as between our ambassador, the governor of the Canal Zone and the commanders of our forces, there should be one voice of authority accountable to Washington.

Talk of a second canal create new problems. The present Canal Zone divides Panama in the center and influences its economy. A second canal would bring economic chaos and unemployment.

Panama does not want a second canal, of course. They simply want partnership, not just a lease. They want a voice in the operation of the Panama Canal—If for no other reason, to gratify a sense of pride and

## Our Man Hoppe

### Lack of Funds Delays Launch

By Arthur Hoppe

The Target date for placing a Zambian astronaut on the moon, originally set for next month, was "unavoidably postponed" today.

The setback in the crash program was blamed by Project Director Edward Nkoloso on a single factor—a shortage of research and development funds.

"Technologically we are well ahead of both the Americans and the Russians with the development of our turbulent propulsion engine," said Director Nkoloso. "But due to cosmic rays, we now find we will need an engine of greater thrust and this will require more money."

While behind the Americans and the Russians in money, Director Nkoloso has every hope of catching up. For he promptly submitted a request to the United States Government for "adequate supplies of liquid oxygen and liquid hydrogen and 7,500,000 pounds." (\$21 million.)

Officials at the American Embassy here were officially non-committal. One did say privately, however that he saw no reason to help Zambia beat the U. S. to the moon. "What kind of a boat race is that?" he said.

Informed of the initial U. S. reaction, Director Nkoloso merely removed a small red medal from his pocket and pinned it on the breast of his khaki tunic. On the medal was a likeness of Lenin.

Did this indicate he would seek Soviet aid? "Please," he replied with his disarming grin, "this is only a souvenir given me by Russian visitors during our Independence celebration last month. I would much prefer to do business with the Americans. However..."

Director Nkoloso disclosed he had also sought help from the United Nations. He displayed a copy of a letter he had written to UNESCO in Geneva asking for technical works on rocketry and \$19 million. But as yet, he said, he had received no reply.

"I am sure," he said, "that the request will receive the full support of the Afro-Asian bloc."

In addition, Director Nkoloso has paid a call on the Israeli Ambassador here, Mr. Avishai. This was considered significant, for throughout Africa today, in a minor league version of the cold war, Israel and the Arab states are competing to give away money and technical assistance to the emerging nations.

Ambassador Avishai received Director Nkoloso courteously, but was also officially non-committal. While he declined direct comment on the Zambia moon shot program, the ambassador did explain the motives behind Israel's hundreds of technical assistance projects in Zambia and the rest of sub-equatorial Africa today.

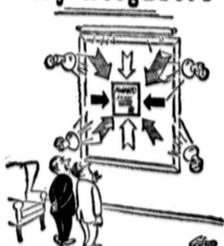
"It isn't altruism," he said. "It's simply that Israel is surrounded by millions and millions of hostile Arabs and we need all the friends we can get."

A week after Director Nkoloso's call on Ambassador Avishai, Premier Nasser of the United Arab Republic announced that he, too, was opening an embassy here in Lusaka. The Russians and the Chinese Communists are also expected any day.

"I have the distinct feeling," said Director Nkoloso with a happy smile, "that our program will not be delayed too long for lack of funds."

"Yes, please, I think I may say that with the help of our many, many friends, Zambia shall be first to the moon."

## My Neighbors



"I was hoping you'd ask me about that."