

Traditions of Christmas Around the World

Younger Sees Vast Increase in Crime

District Attorney Evelle J. Younger warned today that unless vigorous preventive measures are taken, California faces a devastating increase in crime.

In a speech before the Southern California Conference on Crime and Delinquency, Younger said his forecast was based on the increasing proportion of youth in the population.

"Statistics show quite clearly that a majority of crimes

in California are committed by persons between the ages of 14 and 29," Younger said. "From 1960 to 1975 California's total population will increase 60 per cent. During the same time the 14 to 29 year age group will increase 110 per cent."

Using these figures, Younger projected a crime increase of 55 per cent.

HE CALLED this "a frightening prospect."

To counteract it, Younger proposed, as immediate measures, more intense training and higher pay for police officers. For the long term he urged the elimination of poverty, unemployment, and under-education.

He also suggested more regulation at the college level.

"Public apathy and changing values contribute to the crime rise," Younger said. "In that connection, we find that school administrators permit a handful of students and faculty members to go undisciplined after deliberately sabotaging the operation of one of the world's great universities because they are unable or unwilling

to teach respect for man-made laws along with the law of relativity."

YOUNGER expressed high hopes, however, that improvement will develop. He forecast a growing insistence on legal behavior, a growing public conscience, an awakened citizenry. But he also warned that changes of this kind will require much time.

In the meantime, he said, the young will be growing more numerous and the threat of an expanding crime rate more persistent. He was careful to point out, however, that the problem lies with a minority.

"We know who commits most of the crimes," Younger said. "Throughout history the younger person has been the most crime prone. I am not going to tell you that our young people are going to hell. On the contrary, the vast majority of them, well over 90 per cent, are fine young people. Our sons and daughters are, for the most part, better educated, healthier, better oriented religiously, and more intelligent than we were at a comparable age."

"THE GOOD ones are better than ever. The bad ones (and the percentage of good and bad has remained unchanged for centuries) are worse than ever because today's transportation and communication facilities make movement and assembly for good or bad so much easier than it once was."

Younger cited U.S. Government projections to suggest the statistical immensity of the problem.

"The census takers tell us that in 1975 more than 50 per cent of the population in the United States will be 21 years of age or less," he said. "The problem then isn't more crime per person but instead, more crime-prone persons."

YOUNGER BASED his plea for better-trained and higher-paid policemen largely on the observation that recent Supreme Court decisions have made law enforcement more difficult. So, he said, even confessed criminals are hard to convict "in spite of the fact that police officers are better organized, trained and equipped to detect and apprehend criminals at any time in the past."

Younger said he wants to upgrade law enforcement because that—and not attacks on the courts—is the sensible way to solve the problem.

Educators Named to Committee

Seven Torrance educators have been invited to serve on committees to evaluate and accredit seven high schools in Southern California next year.

The Accrediting Commission for Secondary Schools of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges has invited three principals to serve on the committee. They include Dr. Carl Ahee of Torrance High, Dr. John A. Lucas of South High, and Dr. Richard G. Guengerich of North High.

Others include Dr. Harold Widney, assistant principal of Torrance High; John Nushy, curriculum coordinator at North High; Dr. Bruce Wagner, a curriculum consultant, and Leonard Lifton, North High assistant principal.

The seven committees will visit Beverly Hills High, Newport Harbor High, Edgewood High in West Covina, Centennial High in Compton, Lakewood Senior High, Rosemead High, and Brethren High in Paramount.

Nevis Charges System For Appeals Inadequate

"Americans' view of taxes has not changed substantially since 1776—they don't like them," Richard Nevis, fourth district member of the Board of Equalization, has told the Assembly Subcommittee.

Nevis added that "unctuous statements cannot hide the fact that in the formal avenue for the property taxpayer to obtain redress, the appeals procedure in California is woefully inadequate."

To achieve consent of the governed, there must be adequate administrative and judicial procedures," Nevis continued. "The present procedure is intolerable. There is no judicial relief for a dispute on the value of property for tax purposes."

"Judicial review of the valuation of property for local assessment purposes is contingent upon a prior protest to the County Board of Equalization or, in Los Angeles County, to the Tax Appeals Board. Its scope is limited to a review of the record of the hearing only and, in practice, the court will not modify a determination of a county

KEEP A FRESH TREE
You can keep your Christmas tree fresh longer by placing it in the coolest part of the room. Select a location which is away from radiators, hot air ducts, heaters, and fireplaces.



Your Second Front Page

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C-1

Ann Landers Says

Mama's Boys Can't Adjust to Marriage



Dear Ann Landers: I married a man eight years my junior. After four years of trying desperately to make him happy, our marriage is on the rocks. Our daughter is two now and I'm hoping to save the situation for her sake.

We didn't have a fight. He simply told me he was taking his clothes to his mother's house and wasn't coming back. When I asked why, he replied, "I am too immature to face the responsibilities of marriage. I want to live with my mother."

That was three months ago. He telephones every few days and comes to dinner every Sunday. I have refused support money because I am financially independent. I love him and I need him. Please tell me how to make this marriage work. — MRS. P.R.E.

Dear Mrs. P.R.E.: You can't force a mama's boy to be a husband. This juvenile has told you he wants no part of marriage and if you're smart you'll take his word for it.

Since you are financially independent, spend some of your money on a psychiatrist and find out why you love this loser. A normal attachment this isn't.

Dear Ann Landers: I just learned that the armed services will not take a man who has a prison record and I'm burned up. Why should the undesirable characters enjoy the privileges of living in this great country and not have to sacrifice anything?

My sons both served in World War II. The older boy

was wounded at Normandy. The younger boy picked up jungle rot in the South Pacific. When I think of the sacrifices made by millions of fine young men while the ex-cons sat out the war at home and made big money, it makes me furious. And now it's happening again.

What do you have to say about this? — M. M. M.

Dear M. M. M.: Serving one's country is a privilege, not a punishment. When a man is convicted of a felony he loses many of his rights as a citizen and the privilege of wearing the uniform is one of those rights.

Dear Ann Landers: In the past two years I have sent

Married Men Now Eligible

Married men now are being accepted for enlistments in the Marine Corps, Gunnery Sergeant Chet Pavey, Torrance Marine Corps recruiter, said today.

Recent changes in eligibility requirements represents a "drastic revision of recruiting policy" for the Leathernecks, Sgt. Pavey said. The local office has turned away many prospective Marines because of dependants, Sgt. Pavey added.

The change will apply only to men who are married but have no children.

you four well-written letters. Not one of them was published in your column.

I am sick of writing letters to you and not seeing my letters in the paper. This letter will be my last. — A DISTURBED READER FROM MULBERRY POINT.

Dear Disgusted: I am glad you wrote one more time because it gives me the chance to say something I would like to get across, not only to you, but to others who have similar complaints.

My column is not a billboard for people who want to tell off their friends and/or relatives. You say you are disgusted with me because I did not print your letters. This proves you did not really want advice, you just wanted to get your side of the story in the paper.

The primary purpose of my column is to offer service. Every week thousands of people who want help send me a self-addressed, stamped envelope, and they receive personal replies in the mail. Be my guest.

Confidential to Sick of Being Stood Up: Some people accept invitations in good faith but when the time comes they are not up to going. It is best not to count on a person who has "folded out at the last moment" on three occasions" as a fourth for bridge or a dinner partner for an extra man. But do be compassionate and continue to invite her to your larger parties.

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Pere Noel, Befana Awaited by French, Italian Youngsters

Skiing down a mountain with a lighted torch in your hand... strewn hay on the floor of your home... knocking on neighbors' doors in a symbolic pilgrimage—these are some of the ways you might find yourself celebrating Christmas in other parts of the world.

In token of Christ's birth in a manger. Poles spread hay on the floor and Lithuanians have straw under the tablecloth at their festive Christmas Eve meal. The colorful Mexican Posada or pilgrimage dramatizes the search which led Mary and Joseph to the stable. For each of the nine nights before Christmas, a couple dressed as Mary and Joseph goes from house to house. Only at the last house are they—and the parade of neighbors which is now following them—invited in for supper.

An even more novel procession may be seen in the mountains of Austria. According to researchers who have been collecting material on foreign Christmases, wood carvers in the little town of Oberammergau meet on Christmas Eve and ski down the mountain slopes with flaming torches in their hands, singing as they go!

JUST ABOUT every country which celebrates Christmas has its unique bit of seasonal folklore or ritual. In Sweden, it's the feast of St. Lucia on Dec. 13, ushering in the Christmas season. Each community chooses a lovely Lucia Queen to represent the young girl martyred for her religion centuries before in ancient Rome. In families with daughters, the priestess plays the role of Lucia. Her "privilege": to wait on everyone else for the day!

But even the standard holiday features—Christmas dinner, Christmas presents and Yuletide decorations—have picturesque local variations. Not only does Santa have numerous aliases (he's Julenissen in Denmark, Pere Noel in France, the Abbot Unreason in Scotland), but in Italy he is a she. Italian kids place their trust in Befana, an old woman on a broomstick who brings gifts to good children and ashes to bad ones. (In older versions of the legend, she ate the juvenile delinquents.)

AMERICANS are probably the champion gift-givers, spending more than \$27 billion for Christmas presents in a recent year! The most popular gifts? For women, probably perfumes and colognes; at least 22 per cent of the nation's annual perfume sales occur in December. (In round numbers, this means over \$7 million in Yuletide fragrances!) Men's toiletries, too, are Christmas classics—and have been for much longer than you might think. One world-famous European cologne, now sold in the U.S. as well, has appeared in Christmas packages for close to 200 years! Anyone who gave "4711" cologne in the 1700's was indeed a well-wisher—for the preparation was popularly known as "miracle water!" Folks

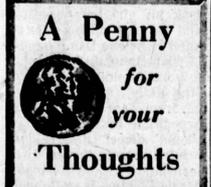
think it was good for whatever ails you. Santas of the 1800's took a more practical view, believing that the refreshment cologne was a good substitute for a shower (showers being hard to come by in those days). Today, both unperfumed colognes like "4711" and masculine scented aftershave lotions are slapped, patted, daubed, and rubbed onto their faces by men in more than 100 different countries. With some \$500 million a year being spent on men's toiletries, in our country alone, it would seem that the only man who hasn't tried them at one time or another is Santa himself!

Sorensen Wins Top NHS Award

IN ENGLAND and France, the Yule log is favored; in some districts of England, whole families go to the forest to select their Yule log. Pear, olive and applewood are considered best, and tradition says that the log must be large enough to last until New Year's Day.

Perhaps the most unusual Christmas tradition of all is the one still adhered to by some Swiss romantics. These folk advise a boy or girl to visit nine different fountains and take three sips from each at the time the bells are ringing for midnight services on Christmas Eve. After this odd rite has been completed, the future husband or wife will be found standing at the door of the church and a regular courtship will begin—if the spell has worked.

Us, we'll take mistletoe.



By HAL FISHER
Did you get all your Christmas shopping done early this year? Did you get all your gifts picked out so you could avoid fighting the crowd during the last few days? Neither did I! While chasing around after those last minute gifts I asked some fellow shoppers:

"What memorable Christmas gifts have you received?"

Shirley Schemmel, Ave. C, Redondo Beach:

"Well, one of the gifts I remember most was made memorable because of the way I received it. I was about 4 or 5 and it was during the depression. More than anything my sister and I wanted a sled but we were very worried because Santa wouldn't be able to fit it into one of our stockings. So my father hung a gunny sack over the fireplace so Santa could give us a sled."

Altha Lancaster, W. Jay St., Torrance:

"In our family we follow the old motto of 'share and share alike.' One Christmas my three children gave me a baseball bat as a gift. I was very happy to get such a useful gift, of course, but I didn't keep it to myself. I let the children use it occasionally."

Maryanne Johnson, Calle de Arboles, Redondo Beach:

"We have a pool table and one Christmas was not too long ago I was given a gold pool cue. It's only painted gold but how many men have their own personalized pool cue? I'm trying to improve my game."

Lois Negley, Strand Avenue, Hermosa Beach:

"I think that the most unusual gift I ever got was a bicycle. Some people might not consider this unusual, but I got it after I was married and had two children. My husband gave it to me and it was my first two-wheeler."

Pat Howarth, Avenue C., Redondo Beach:

"Well about six years ago I was given a small Japanese Hachi. This was before they became popular in the United States. I looked at it and I wasn't sure what it was or what to do with it."