

Uncle Sam Might Do Well to Look at Mail Service

It is ironic that at a time when the Federal Communications Commission has ordered an intensive and costly investigation of the country's largest privately owned communications system, American Telephone and Telegraph Co., the problems of the government-owned communications system, the United States Post Office, are reaching alarming proportions.

By any standards, AT&T provides a remarkably efficient service. Its rates, regulated by state commissions and the FCC, have risen only modestly with the years. Its operating companies have adapted to changing conditions, expanded and modernized their plants to meet the

needs of growth, and have made spectacular advances in technology.

The Post Office is a very different story. If drastic steps are not taken soon to revitalize its operations, the service, in the words of the new Postmaster General, Lawrence F. O'Brien, "will fall of its own weight."

In the past 20 years, the volume of mail has doubled—from 38 billion pieces of mail to 74 billion pieces. But postal costs have skyrocketed by 400 per cent—from \$1.4 billion to \$5.6 billion annually. The deficit for the current fiscal year is expected to approach a billion dollars.

The number of postal employees has increased from 360,000 to 640,000 during the 20 year period; the number of post offices has decreased from 42,000 to 33,500.

Coupled with mounting costs and deficits has been a deterioration of service. Delivery has slowed, pickup schedules are less frequent, and window service hours are shorter.

According to a recent survey of Post Office operations by US News & World Report, there are increasing public complaints of undependable special-delivery service, limitations on parcel post, roundabout routing of local mail under a new system of sectional-center distribution, and slow delivery of letter

mail to small cities and towns off main air routes.

A major reason for the Post Office's problems is that it has not adapted to changing conditions. Originally constructed around passenger railroad operations, the system now functions chiefly by means of highways and airways. Yet major post offices, some of them built 50 or more years ago, are mostly located near rail terminals, and lack sufficient access for trucks.

Another major problem is the Post Office's failure to keep abreast of mechanization. The first electric scanner—a machine which sorts letters 15 times faster than they can be sorted by hand—

was installed only last year, in only one post office.

Plans are under way for a variety of long overdue technological improvements, but resistance to automation is very strong among the highly unionized postal workers, who have powerful political influence in Washington.

The closely regulated privately owned telephone companies would never be permitted to raise rates if they failed to take advantage of available labor savings systems. But in the case of Uncle Sam's Post Office, rate boosts are currently being discussed as a means to reduce the deficit, even though conversion to automated devices proceeds at a snail's pace.



FINALIST . . . Louis Assink (left), Torrance florist, has been selected a finalist to represent this area in the "Designer of the Year" contest which will be climaxed in August at the annual convention of the Florists Transworld Delivery Association. Assink will now compete in sectional semifinals. He is congratulated here by Charles Parkey, district chairman.

Stores, Factories Pace Building Activity Here

Major non-residential construction projects started in Torrance during 1965 had a dollar value of \$9,528,750, it was announced today by the Torrance Chamber of Commerce.

Leading all categories in construction permits were retail shopping centers and stores with a total of \$4,368,795. Heading this list was Bullock's Fashion Square with a value of \$3,700,000. Desmond's which also is building in conjunction with Bullock's, is erecting a \$190,000 building.

Next leading category included new manufacturing facilities and private and public office buildings with a value of \$2,763,500. Top dollar project in this group was a new AIRsearch Manufacturing Co. building costing

\$450,000. Close behind were the new \$405,590 post office facility and the \$380,000 police station addition.

New warehouse and storage facilities construction amounted to \$1,104,600. The major constructions in this field were the new Reynolds Metals Co. offices and warehouse valued at \$369,100, followed by Southern Development Co. offices and warehouses costing \$296,600.

Three new convalescent home facilities in west Torrance attained a dollar value of \$698,755.

Miscellaneous construction which included the new Torrance Family YMCA and YWCA buildings, St Catherine Labour school auditorium, a Church of God addition, and a restaurant amounted to \$593,190.

Instructor to Attend Microbiology Meeting

El Camino College instructor Gerald M. Thompson will attend the International Conference of Microbiology to be held in Moscow, Russia in July of this year.

Thompson and his wife will leave New York on July 1 and return Aug. 4. Their itinerary includes 10 days in Moscow, three days in Stockholm, and three days in Paris.

Top Priority Established For Bridge

Emergency priority has been established for a \$140,000 footbridge at 243rd Street in Harbor City. The priority was set by the Los Angeles Board of Public Works.

A guided tour of the Russian capitol will be included in the Thompsons' trip. "I hear they practically throw the keys of the city to you if you are a visiting scientist," the instructor said.

Councilman John S. Gibson Jr., in whose district the bridge is located, said the speed in design and construction of the bridge is necessary to finish it in time for the opening of President Avenue Elementary School next fall.

Thompson received a B.A. and M.A. from the University of Southern California. He taught biology and physiology at Mira Costa High School before coming to El Camino in 1955.

Fortunately Mrs. Thompson has studied French this past year, as the couple's 20th wedding anniversary will be spent in the French capital.

The Thompson children, Leslie, 9th grade; Steve, 5th grade, and Scott, 3rd grade, will spend the summer in Iowa, visiting grandparents.

Your Second Front Page

Press-Herald

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C-1

Ann Landers Says

Thanks, Kids, for The Heavenly Help



Dear Ann Landers: I have always thought you were crazy. Now I am sure. What do you mean by telling parents to hide their bodies from their children? Don't you know this is the reason we have so many sex maniacs running around loose? They are the products of ignorant parents who encouraged shame and unsatisfied curiosity.

Not only are you crazy but you are also inconsistent. In your column several months ago you told women they should not hide from their husbands. You said undressing in the closet was wrong. I stood up and cheered for you that time. I said to myself, "That Ann Landers has a good head on her shoulders." And then you let me down when you came out with that foolish theory on seduction. I wish the editor would throw your column out of our paper and print more farms news. — WISCONSIN READER.

Dear Reader: About my "inconsistency": I hope it will come as no surprise to you to learn that the relationship between a parent and a child of the opposite sex is not the same as the relationship between a man and his wife.

And now, I hate to keep you away from your tractor, Zeke, but I hope you'll

stick around long enough to read the next letter:

Dear Ann Landers: We are two teenagers who read your column faithfully. We would like to settle once and for all the argument about the mother who undressed before her 12-year-old. The source we present is the Bible.

Leviticus 18: vs 6 part of 7: "None of you shall approach to any that is near of kin to him, to uncover their nakedness: I am the Lord."

"She is thy mother; thou shalt not uncover her nakedness."

We thought you might like to know that God is on our side. Sincerely yours. — CANADIAN TEENS.

Dear Teens: Thanks for your heavenly support, kids. I love you dearly!

Dear Ann Landers: Should my husband go to his daughter's wedding without me? She is his first wife's child and we never got along although I tried my best to tolerate her snippiness. This girl has every one of her mother's bad qualities plus a few of her own. They live in another city and I haven't seen the ex-wife or the daughter for almost four years.

The invitation was addressed to my husband which

I consider a slap in the face since he and I have been married for 12 years.

My husband is going to give his daughter in marriage. He will probably act very husbandly toward his ex-wife since she has not remarried. I say he is helping them insult me if he goes to this wedding and leaves me at home. What do you say? — EXCLUDED.

Dear Ex: It has always been a mystery to me that anyone would WANT to go where he is not invited. Some ex-wives get along with the first family and they do get invited. It obviously doesn't work that way in your family so please have the good sense and the grace to stay home.

Unsure of yourself on dates? What's right? What's wrong? Should you? Shouldn't you? Send for Ann Landers' booklet "Dating Do's and Don'ts," enclosing with your request 35 cents in coin and a long, self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Ann Landers will be glad to help you with your problems. Send them to her in care of this newspaper enclosing a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

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READY FOR TAKEOFF . . . Cynthia Hanny, a Torrance princess, is fitted with a parachute by Lt. Eugene Lewandowski (left) of Ontario and Sgt. Richard W. South of Hermosa Beach. The two men are members of the Special Forces, Green Berets guerrilla warfare specialists, and will march with their unit in the annual Armed Forces Day Parade here May 21. Miss Hanny is the daughter of South High basketball coach Jim Hanny.

17 Recharge Wells Are Completed

Completion of an additional unit of the County Flood Control District's west coast sea barrier project in the Redondo Beach area has been announced by Supervisor Chairman Burton W. Chace.

All work on the \$534,215 project was finished by contractors Ted R. Gregory and the Tereidon Co., Long Beach.

The work was supervised by Flood Control District Chief Engineer Walter J. Wood.

The unit involved drilling 17 recharge wells which are part of the fresh water barrier to prevent further brine intrusion along the county's west coastline.

The wells are 32 inches in diameter and reach depths from 378 to 710 feet.

THE WELLS are located on Prospect Avenue between Torrance Boulevard and Gertruda Avenue and in the right-of-way of adjacent intersecting streets.

"It is important that our fresh supplies be safeguarded from ocean contamination since about half of our water needs in Los Angeles County are met through pumping from our underground reservoirs," Supervisor Chace said.

Green Berets to March in Armed Forces Day Parade

Curiosity stemming from achievement in Viet Nam, the sale of 2.6 million books, record sales that have topped 3 million, a forthcoming TV show, and a major motion picture led Cynthia Hanny, newly selected Torrance princess, on a foggy Saturday morning to Fort MacArthur to see the "Green Berets."

Cynthia, a 19-year-old history major at El Camino College, learned the local elite combat outfit based at San Pedro is officially known as Company A, 12th Special Forces-Airborne. Its members are capable of infiltration of enemy territory by parachuting in, coming in by sea, or across land. They are trained to go any place, anytime, anywhere and conduct guerrilla warfare behind enemy lines.

The Special Forces Green Berets are scheduled to march in the seventh annual Armed Forces Day Parade here May 21.

CINDY FOUND out the Green Berets are professional reservists, all volunteers, who meet two weekends a month to practice combat skills. Most are former paratroopers, frogmen, or combat specialists. Its 70 members come from all parts of the Los Angeles metropolitan area, some from as far as Van Nuys, El Monte, and Ontario. They are ready for active duty whenever called.

The Green Berets operate as 12-man detachments. The team includes two medical specialists, two communications experts, two demolition engineer specialists, plus one light and one heavy weapons specialist. They speak a second language, practice hand-to-hand combat techniques, and are expert parachutists.

Their job is to build up, equip, train, and direct a guerrilla force of indigenous people. They can also build hospitals and schools and dig wells.

Following their Saturday morning briefing with Cynthia, the Green Berets were airlifted to Camp Pendleton for an overnight stay to practice air drops, ambushes, and raids. She was told out-of-town weekends were normal for the outfit.

THE UNIT may fly one weekend to Yuma, Ariz., for desert survival practice, to El Centro for desert night parachute drops, to Hunter Liggett Military Reservation in central California, or to Fort Bliss, Texas. It is scheduled for two weeks of summit training at Fort Wainwright, Alaska.

Company A, Cindy was told, was formed 10 years ago. Prospective enlistees must pass a severe physical examination and intensive psychological tests. For volunteers only, enlistment period is three or six years. All members must be first-qualified within their jump year. Doctoral degrees are not uncommon within the ranks of this select outfit.

THE GREEN Berets will march along with 6,000 or more other participants from the Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Army active and reserve groups in the annual parade. Grand Marshal will be senior Congressman L. Mendel Rivers, chairman of the House Committee on Armed Services.

Anticipated to attract more than 100,000 spectators from Los Angeles and Orange counties, the two-day patriotic civic event is designated as a "Report to the Nation" by President Johnson. It will include a military parade, Friday night fireworks show, and a display of military and space equipment. It is reputed to be one of the largest civic-sponsored military parades of its type in the nation, according to George S. Wing, general chairman.

COUNT MARCO

It's Every Woman for Herself

Face up to it dears. If you're one of the presently unnumbered 27 million women in want you're going to have to go out and get your proposal, because the odds are against his coming to you with it.

Many of you on the grand search ask me if it's proper to be the aggressor. Not only is it proper, say I, but absolutely necessary. No woman ever got the man she wanted by sitting on the sidelines waiting. Today, the modern girl doesn't fill her hope chest with linens and laces. She fills it with dollars and uses it as a war chest instead, hoping to capture him with his defenses down.

Is it proper to ask a man to take you out to dinner and for you to offer to pay the check? Of course! But you don't insult him by stating it bluntly. Finesse is the art of conquest.

You tell him your wealthy aunt in some far-off city wanted to surprise you and ordered a magnificent dinner for two at one of the more elegant restaurants you have chosen in advance. Will he

please take you? After all, it would be silly to waste all this largesse on a girl friend. Any man would be a fool to turn down that kind of offer. What you do of course is go to the restaurant, tell the captain or owner you're treating a friend to a birthday dinner and make arrangements to pay in advance. Simple, isn't it, when you know how.

Because he won't be worrying about the size of the bill, he'll consequently pay much more attention to you — and, who knows, it just might be the evening that will tip the scales.

When a good show or play moves into town purchase a pair of tickets for good seats. Then call him and tell him some friends who can't use tickets for the night you have in mind have given them to you, and ask him if he wouldn't just love to go along. You NEVER say, "Wouldn't you love to take me?" It plants a little seed of suspicion in his mind that he might be taken later on.

If the first one says he's sorry, he's busy, try the next

one on the list until either you or the list is exhausted. However, never ask your employer. He may expect or suggest you provide him with something else besides hitting the typewriter keys.

Remember that today, with the high cost of living, more men than ever resist dating because they feel they can't afford to give you the kind of evening they would like. Because all women are born with devious minds, it is up to you to maneuver him into compromising positions.

Even a little bus ride can be fun. Tell him you'd love to see the sights of the city through the windows of a bus. And think, how much closer to him can you get than squeezed together on a bus seat? Always sit on the aisle so that you are forced to lean across him. The brush of your hair against his lips, the lure of your perfume, a little intimate squeeze now and then, and voila!

All right now, girls, en garde! Charge! Every woman for herself. After all it's only money, but think of the dividends.