

Press-Herald

GLENN W. PFEIL Publisher
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Council Pay Proposals

Proposals to increase the monthly compensation of City Council members to \$300 and the mayor to \$400 will be presented to voters for approval at the polls on April 12. In making their decision to put the salary hikes on the ballot, the councilmen selected the amount granted by the State Legislature recently to general law cities with more than 75,000 population.

The argument has been advanced that \$100 a month is not an adequate compensation for the hours members of the City Council spend on city business.

Perhaps not, but that is only part of the story. Councilmen are compensated through other sources for many of those hours spent on city business, cited in one case last week when it was pointed out here that each receives \$60 a month for the few minutes each week as members of the Redevelopment Agency of the City of Torrance.

By charter, the Council members also are entitled to reimbursement for actual and necessary expenses while on city business.

A year ago the Press-Herald detailed the costs of trips (called "junkets" by some) taken by Council members at city expense, trips which in a 14-month period took councilmen to Houston, San Francisco, New York City, Oakland, Miami, Palm Springs, Los Angeles, Mexico City and Louisville, Ky. Some have since made similar trips including one to Guatemala City.

While not all members of the City Council made all the trips, only the press of their own affairs or other matters kept them at home — all were authorized to go. There has been no noticeable change in the pattern in the ensuing year.

The everyday actual and necessary expenses also must be considered when councilmen talk about the time spent without adequate compensation.

Incidental expenses paid to councilmen during 1965 ranged from \$1,105 up to \$2,050, figures which most businessmen would call generous.

(In this regard, it might be well for the councilmen to set up for themselves a stricter accounting system for expenses incurred on the city's behalf. Little or no documentation is shown for many of the claims paid.)

When the compensation of the councilmen is considered, then, the \$100 a month they now receive is only part of the story.

And it's been a long time since an unwilling candidate was dragged kicking and screaming to the starting line and elected to the post against his will.

An Assist for Talent

Efforts on a national scale to persuade talented young people to consider newspapering as a career will be aided on the local level through scholarships to be granted to deserving 1966 high school graduates who desire to study journalism in college.

The offer as outlined to school officials this week by Publisher Glenn W. Pfeil will provide one \$100 scholarship for a high school student in one of the schools served by the Press-Herald and another \$100 scholarship to be granted to a student in the Wilmington Harbor Area served by the Press-Journal and Harbor Mail.

Students to be selected will be leaders in academic and extracurricular achievement — the type of young man or young woman the important news industry and these newspapers seeks and needs.

Details of the scholarship offers have been furnished to school officials.

Signs of Unrest

All is not quiet along the Pedernales. The natives of the Great Society are getting a bit restive.

Twenty of President Johnson's neighbors, for example, have asked him to save their land from condemnation for a park to be created in his honor. Admittedly, they could "get a fabulous" price for the acreage; but in the old Texas tradition they just want to hang on to what is theirs, to pass the land along to their children, instead of enshrining old LBJ.

In another area, there has been protest over the issuance to officials of the Neighborhood Youth Corps of lapel buttons bearing the President's portrait and the words, "We're With You, Mr. President." It has been charged that national headquarters of the Office of Economic Opportunity approved a politically-inspired distribution of the buttons.

The course of true politicking never did run smooth. Even in the Great Consensus there are signs of discontent.

This Law Still Works

Four hundred years ago, give or take a few, Sir Thomas Gresham propounded a "law" that bad money drives out good: that when there are two forms of currency, one with a high intrinsic value and the other without, the public will tend to hoard the former and spend the latter.

Sir Thomas' law seems still to be working. According to banks federal and local, the more the new "sandwich" coins with their minimum amount of silver are put into circulation, the more the old high-content silver pieces disappear. The Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, for instance, has not had an unutilized silver half dollar come back to its coffers in 18 months.

Nobody knows exactly why this is happening, and a congressional committee is looking into the case. Unfortunately it is a little late to call Sir Thomas Gresham as an expert witness.



STAN DELAPLANE

Nothing Can Top Drive Along California Coast

Mendocino Coast, Calif. — For spring and summer, nothing tops a beachcombing ride along the western rim of our own continent—Highway 1. Start with a trip to Sea World in San Diego and wind up with sea food dinners on Puget Sound.

Worth two or three-day stops: Big Sur below Carmel; Timber Cove Inn just above old Fort Ross; Heritage House just below the antique gingerbread town of Mendocino. Excellent guide book to beaches, shells, fish, clamming (with recipes) is "Beachcomber's Guide to the Pacific Coast." Lane Publishing Co., Menlo Park, Calif. By mail, \$2.03.

"I plan to drive across country from West Coast to Washington, D. C., with three teenagers. Would appreciate route of most interest. Month of August."

Pretty hot at that time for the southwest route. I'd say Highway 40. Very good background book is "U. S. 40" by George R. Stewart.

"I guess we are unusually apprehensive about customs, money, shopping or where to go. But it is our first time to Europe . . ."

Get Fielding's Travel Guide to Europe. Entertaining reading in advance. Best advice once you're there: I always take a quick read at Fielding before I go over. This is the most updated (yearly) and practical book you can get. Should save you ten times what it costs.

"My problem is travel agents run the other way when I ask about a tour. I am a handicapped lady of 40—polio."

"We'd like to buy Brazilian jewelry (Brazilian gem stones) in Rio de Janeiro. Can you recommend a jeweler?"

The biggest is H. Stern—you don't have to look for him, he finds you. Has shops all over Brazil. And in New York now. I liked the workmanship.

"Instead of going to Europe again, we were looking for something comfortable but new . . ."

You might look into Africa, which seems to be the coming place. About 36 days all over the place for \$2,400 (round trip, New York). And you get in some Athens and Cairo time.

" . . . your advice on a trip we plan to Spain, particularly the Costa Brava and Majorca."

The Costa Brava and Majorca are crowded. Lots of action. Lots of single people. For me, too hot and crowded in summer. For couples, I say the Atlantic coast of Spain and Portugal. Much more pleasant summer weather. But no swinging night life.

"We sent for information to several tourist offices on the list you gave us. Some answered fully, but others were a disappointment."

Some of these offices are splendid. Some are ioxholes for deserving politicians. Even so, it's worth trying them. If that doesn't work, write the country's airline. That often does it.

WILLIAM HOGAN

Confidence Key Element In Eugene Vail's Writing

Eugene Vail, the Los Angeles-based author of "The Thirteenth Apostle," thinks of himself as an "old-fashioned" novelist who works in the classic style of Hawthorne, or Melville. That is, he sees the heart of the novel as a powerful story, rich in human values, that comes to grips with an important theme. He has worked for several years to make his new novel, "Chaos Below Heaven" (Doubleday, \$6.95) just that. Has he succeeded? He has, the author admitted with rare assurance during a visit here.

Vail speaks softly and with the confidence of a writer whose book has gone into a second printing before publication; whose "The Thirteenth Apostle" appeared on national best-seller lists for 30 weeks, and sees no reason why the new book should achieve any less success.

This is another large, multicharacterized story that carries philosophical, even mystical overtones. Basically, it observes a scientist who makes a giant breakthrough—a low-cost water desalting process—then faces the "purgatory" of re-

sponsibility for its use in a complicated economy and a selfish human society.

Like overpopulation, or the policing of space, the world's water problem is both abstract and acute. It is, Vail emphasizes, one of many huge problems that mankind faces and writers ignore. Writers, he feels, are not up to their task, which is to interpret the new world that is developing about them. The literary fashion remains black humor, or the contemplation of navels, in an age when man's technology threatens to control his destiny. Vail sees this as the most exciting time ever for writers, because man faces unprecedented situations in his ominous turning point in his evolution.

Man questions old values, seeks new answers. Even organized religion (the Vatican Council) questions established procedures and attitudes. But writers, who should be communicating details of today's phenom-

ena, are not providing this bridge.

It is Vail's plan to project a panoramic view of modern man in a series of novels, of which "Chaos Below Heaven" is one. His next, on which he has already invested much research, will be a "space novel." Vail is confident he can write a good, meaningful "space novel" in human terms, not science-fiction. During his observations at Cape Kennedy, he was impressed with the magical powers of scientists and technicians there. Yet few really grasp the philosophical implications of their new knowledge and performance. It is up to the writer to explain this to them, and to us.

Vail will apply his brooding, mystical talent to this demanding theme if only because no other writer offers this kind of literary interpretation. Can he bring it off? The important element in Vail's makeup as a novelist seems to be supreme confidence. With his current story of a contemporary Prometheus off and running, he will certainly

bring it off.

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HERB CAEN SAYS:

Parkinson's Law Applies Neatly to Our Freeways

PARKINSON'S Law as applied to freeways: the number of cars in traffic rises to meet the number of lanes made available . . . Hello there, Thorstein Veblen: you know those plastic stays that slide into men's shirt collars to make 'em lie flat? Well, Laykin's, the fancy Jewelry salon at I. Magnin, now has them in 14-karat gold at \$15 the pair (they'll engrave your laundry mark for free.) Definitely the gift for the man who has everything but STILL wants more.

AFTER WATCHING and reading Robert Strangelove McNamara, Gloomy Dean Rusk and Maxwell Taylor, not to mention the Sage of the Pedernales, I now know all there is to know about the war in Viet Nam except (1) why we are there, (2) what we're fighting for, and (3) how and when we are going to extricate ourselves.

The two words in their rhetoric that have become the most threadbare and meaningless: "freedom" and "aggression." There is little enough of the former on either side of this indigenous war, and more than enough of the latter on both sides. Give it back to the indigenes! . . . The old Roman, Tacitus, must have anticipated this conflict some 1700 years ago when he said: "They make a desolation and call it peace."

ADD QUOTES that stick in the mind: "The fear of looking foolish has kept a lot

of men from becoming either fools or geniuses." Who said it? . . . Good story-teller: One who can refrain from telling you the punchline TWICE . . . Sudden thought: Is there any state besides California that has only one Senator? . . . The recent series of plane crashes has produced a rash of new

photos of Chevrolet's new Panther, described as "General Motors' long-awaited answer to Ford's Mustang" (which it strongly resembles). The name, we read further, will probably be changed "to conform to Chevrolet's tradition of names beginning with C." How about Copy-Cat?

IN ONE EAR: Titanic Bank of America and gigantic Chase Manhattan of N.Y. are in a race to see which'll be the first to open a branch in Saigon (add signs of a long war?). Angle: BoFA execs thought they'd have trouble drafting a manager for duty over there, but they were swamped with volunteers — most of 'em married, of course. To keep peace in the families, they picked a man from their Kobe Japan office . . . Princess Barbara Hutton, sitting in the Fairmont's Presidential Suite, is improving slightly. She now gets out of bed for 30 minutes daily, but still hasn't set foot outside her rooms (after a month there). A member of the hotel's kitchen staff reports sadly: "I have a canary that eats more." . . . Gov. Brown may fly around in Frank Sinatra's jet, but Geo. Christopher is piloting a few Hollywood names on HIS bandwagon, too. Frinastance, Joseph Cotton, Pat O'Brien, Wendell Corey, Ernie Borgnine, Andy Devine and Richard Crenna.

CHEETAH: The papers and newsmags have carried

ROYCE BRIER

Scholars Win Concession To Travel in Red China

As a criminal, may be imprisoned, and certainly will lose his passport.

The reality that these illegal visitors are often disloyal in varying degrees to the United States does not impair the illogic of the restriction.

That some illegal visitors will "plot" against the United States when they're abroad—99 per cent of it talk—is conceded. But the power of such individual malcontents to stir up real trouble is minuscule, excepting the limited field of military secrecy. It is doubtful if the conspiratorial gifts of Emma Goldman ever perceptibly altered Russo-American relations.

Yet State breathlessly subscribes to the notion that one subversive can overturn the world order if not restrained. Meanwhile, thousands of trained American observers of unquestioned loyalty are inhibited in the theory that if you don't know about an unfriendly social system it will go away.

So state will now change this. Somewhat grudgingly, it confirmed a news story, of the change, and it is supposed to reflect the intent of the President himself. State had first hoped to make the change without publicity—ha! Anyway, the plan is to permit "scholars" to visit Red China, Cuba, North Viet Nam, North Korea, and, of all places, Albania. One wouldn't know how State defines a "scholar," but probably he's not an idiot who would embarrass State. He might not even be susceptible to brainwashing.

True, all five nations may say to hell with it, and nothing happens. But so might be sly enough to see an opportunity to make Marxists of us all, starting with the scholarly. O freckled day! as Alice read from the looking-glass book.

The Old Timers

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