

Press-Herald

GLENN W. PFEIL Publisher
REID L. BUNDY Managing Editor

Torrance, Calif., Wednesday, October 5, 1966

The Grass Roots Level

In this sophisticated era of worldwide communications via satellite, we are sometimes inclined to take the conventional spreading of news and information as a matter of course.

Yet, when a vital issue is being discussed at the national level, one often hears the remark, "let's get the thinking at the grass roots." National leaders know this is truly the voice of independent America. It's a thought to remember as we approach National Newspaper Week which begins next Sunday.

To keep the "grass roots" informed is the responsibility of local newspapers. It is the local newspaper that reflects the impact of world and national events on the lives of those in its community. The local newspaper is the voice of the community—and oftentimes its conscience.

While we strive to mirror accurately the events of the community, we assume at the same time the obligation and responsibility to be a major influence in making the community a better place in which to live. We are selfish enough to believe that our welfare as a newspaper depends largely on the welfare of the community.

As independent citizens, we welcome the privilege of the freedom of the press; and we are happy to be a part of the thousands of nondaily newspapers who make up the news source for the thinking grass roots of America.

It's a public trust we do not take lightly.

That 'Dodger Syndrome'

That glassy stare and weak pulse which has afflicted a great number of Southlanders the past few days can be attributed principally to what might be called the "Dodger Syndrome."

Who would dare believe last April 12 when Claude Osteen pitched the Dodgers to a 3-2 win over the Astros for the league opener that it would take another 161 games for the team to establish itself as the best of the National League again in 1966?

That's exactly what it took, every game on the Dodger's schedule.

Today they start in on the Baltimore Orioles—it's almost more than frail man should be subjected to in the space of a few days.

Despite the trauma of the situation, we're very happy for the Dodgers and are sure they can show those Maryland birds that we're still the best in the world.

Opinions of Others

If you think the new math your elementary school children are studying has you stumped, wait a few years.

One of the latest texts for high school students is entitled, "Plasma Physics: Scientific Principles and Technological Applications."

Only a few years ago, notes the book's publisher, the study of plasmas—extremely hot, electrified gases such as are produced by the sun or in the fireball of an atomic explosion—was limited to candidates for doctoral degrees.

This is but one more example of the revolution that has taken place in U. S. science education since the little metal sphere called Sputnik I popped into space and headlines back in 1957.—*Pomona Progress Bulletin.*

Speaking of tranquilizers, even back in grandpa's time there was something to make you sleep. They called it work.—*Louis Graves in The Nashville (Ark.) News.*

Isn't it hard to believe that this nation was founded partly to avoid taxes?—*Charles Buck in The Fowler (Colo.) Tribune.*

Fellow says the best way to get along with people is to smile, be friendly, and seldom say what you think. Trouble is that one isn't always able to develop the three so-called essentials.—*N. D. Wilcox in The Elysian (Minn.) Enterprise.*

FREEDOM'S FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE



Thanks Just The Same, Lyndon, But-



STAN DELAPLANE

Dismal London Summer Turns into Sunny Fall

LONDON — London is having a warm, sunny fall after a dismal summer of rain, rain, rain. Good for American tourists whose vacations were delayed by our air strike. (Hotels jammed as usual.)

A wonderful town of good shows. Fine restaurants. Taxis you can really sit in (with a top hat on if you like). And hotel bathtubs the size of swimming pools. Prices are up. I can't find much in the way of bargain buys. But shop the big stores anyway. I could be wrong. Harrod's, Simpson's, Selfridges, Harvey Nichols, Burberry, Liberty House will start you off.

A minor irritation: Two hotels so far have cashed my traveler's checks taking \$2 fee on the \$100. Go to a bank. They'll only take 40 cents. Why make the hotel rich? And why be irritated?

Ask when you check in if a service charge is added to your bill. Some do. It's rather new in England — 10 to 12 1/2 per cent. It adds up to a chunk. You'd be foolish to tip much on top of that. A half crown (35 cents) a day to the room waiter maybe.

"Will our portable radio work in Great Britain?"

Yes, just like at home. But programs are not the same. The Government runs the BBC and believes in large doses of culture. Plenty of trilling operatic sopranos. But no commercials. ("8" on your dial is the best station.)

"Can you suggest a medium-priced, clean hotel in Paris, please?"

The French tourist office in New York will send you a complete book of Paris hotels and prices. I think

both Paris and London lack in between, moderate hotels. It's either \$20 a day and good to luxurious or \$5 and awful.

... if there is much chance of losing our bags on this trip. We have two transfers.

Airlines check your baggage to the final destination

Travel

no matter how many transfers. I've only lost them once. They were recovered in 24 hours.

"Is there some custom in the South Seas about wearing flowers behind the ear?"

So they say in Tahiti. Behind the right ear, you are taken. Behind the left ear means you are on the prowl. (By mid-evening, EVERYBODY had the flower behind the port ear.)

This Boy Meets Girl flower action was only in Tahiti that I could see. Samoa is very strict country with a church or two in every village. No "night clubs" like Quinn's or Bar Lea or the all-night Lafayette. All of them right out of Somerset Maugham.

Suva in Fiji is a pleasant South Pacific town. A clipped and barbered scenery and a little stiffness you find in British Crown Colonies. The 4 o'clock tea and the starched whites. Big, coal-colored Fijians with sugar loaf teeth and wrap-around skirts come around barefoot with the Australian beer. (It's strong enough to blow a safe.) But if you want a tea dance partner, bring your own.

"We have heard of special tourist rates on gasoline and

Morning Report:

I don't like to knock the want-ad business of another paper, but I don't see why Mr. Hans Toffe should buy space in the Wall Street Journal. He was fired by the CIA, you recall, because his boss said he took classified documents home with him.

Now, he needs a job and plans to advertise in the Journal. He should switch his message to Variety Show Business needs him. Spy movies are the order of the day. The latest, I note, is the "Spy with the Cold Nose," not to be confused with the "Spy Who Came in From the Cold" with a cold nose. Or the upcoming "The Spy with the Cold Feet."

No, I don't think the CIA should explain why they fired Mr. Toffe but should be made to tell why they hired such a dope in the first place.

Abe Mellinkoff

HERB CAEN SAYS:

The Prof Had No Time To Talk About Leisure

Follow closely: Henry Baysayne, who is (take breath) Western Division Mgr. of Media Statistics, Assoc. Professor of Creative Arts at S. F. State, Exec. Vice-Pres. of the Calif. Regional Council and an associate of Ron Podell's in the Coffee Cata-ta on Union St. (okay, ex-hale), was invited to the White House this weekend to participate in the big Conference on Urban America. Baysayne, assigned to a panel on the future use of leisure time, had to decline the invitation. No time.

Inside out: Ex-Undersecretary of the Navy Paul B. (Red) Fay Jr. is "shocked and distressed" at reports from the East that the Kennedy clan is so annoyed at his book about JFK, "The Pleasure of His Company," that they no longer wish the pleasure of HIS company. (Personal aside: I know the Kennedys are touchy, but Fay's portrait of the late President is as warm and loving as any yet written.) Nevertheless, it's a fact that although he sent autographed copies of his book to all the Kennedys, not one has yet acknowledged the gesture. Exceedingly odd, when you consider that Fay, in deference to Kennedy wishes, cut 100,000 words out of his book, leaving only 80,000. Footnote: When Ber-

nard Geis, the swinging N. Y. publisher, learned about the 100,000 word cut, he phoned Fay with a big offer to publish the excised part. "Sorry," replied Fay, "I sweated blood over those 100,000 lost words—they're no longer fit to print."

Bing Crosby is in Scotland, shooting a color TV

San Francisco

film on salmon fishing; "Having lox of luck," he postcards. Which reminds us of the definition for a culture addict: "When you say Bing, he KNOWS you mean Rudolph." An intellectual, of course, is a man who, when you say "Truman," knows you mean Capote.

High society: Dr. David Krech, Prof. of Psychology at UC, and his wife Hilda, attended the Int'l Congress of Psychology at Moscow—and then returned (Leningrad-Montreal) aboard the Soviet ship, Alexander Pushkin. During the voyage, they won the wine tasting contest, reported in the ship's paper as follows: "Asked how they could explain their rich knowledge in this respect, the Kreches answered, 'Only by the fact that we are from the most drunken American state—California.'" Reports Dr. Krech: "Actually, I said 'the

best wine-producing state,' but something was gained in the translation."

These things I like: The noted San Francisco hostess who has her powder rooms bugged—so she can tape the remarks of her guests and play them later for fun and revenge... The dozens of electric guitars in the windows of South of Market pawnshops: solid evidence that not ALL rock'n'roll groups make good, or bad... The fetching name of the S. F. bar catering to hospital nurses: Flo Nightingale's Intensive Care Unit... The beautifully-kept chocolate brown trucks of United Parcel Service (and the goodies they bring to your door)...

The romantic name for vodka and soda: Crystal Chandler... Bobby Korter's sudden thought: "In a paternity case, it's always his child: in a divorce, it's her children"... Mark Twain's remark upon first hearing about the telephone: "The voice carries entirely too far as it is. Now if Bell had invented a muffler, he'd have performed a real service"... The oft-told tale of Oscar Wilde playing poker on his visit to San Francisco, laying down four deuces, and raking in the pot with a languid "Two-two-two-Two divine!"... Bob Quinn's short, pointy definition of Camp: "Corn revisited."

ROYCE BRIER

American History Best Example of Moderation

If one thing is notable about the United States in 177 years, it is that in government and social organization, moderation and common sense have in the long run prevailed. Even European nations grudgingly concede it.

This doesn't mean we have been free of nonsense and immoderation in many areas and at many times. It only means they are not the rule.

The most devastating example of it was the 1860s, secession and slavery. Secession was nonsense, a negation of the whole concept of our society as differing from the European. Slavery was nonsense in the rapidly evolving idea of human freedom. Abraham Lincoln opposed both with a stunning moderation and common sense, and we were spared disaster.

There are many less gripping examples in our history, some significant and far-reaching like sound money, some ephemeral, regional or even local. Big and little, they arise every day. A current big one is the ethical

and political antipathy toward the Indochina adventure.

In this, moderation and common sense are trying to impose themselves in accordance with our heritage. Another, quite as big and galling, is the struggle for racial justice. It has been smoldering for a century, but has only become intense

World Affairs

in the past decade. Large elements in our country are adamant against racial justice before the law, though the law enjoins it. In the heat of the struggle many Negroes do not want it, either, preferring a racial power outside the law.

Here is a case where moderation and common sense are difficult of attainment, though they have never been easy of attainment anywhere, or readily accepted by an overwhelming majority of any people.

It is in the nature of our free society, that we have

always been plagued by small clusters of people dedicated to immoderation and nonsense. Men don't like our society for reasons largely within themselves, and become the dupes of hate-mongers who say they would reconstitute it.

Take the recent case of an assembly of Ku Klux Klansmen in southern California. They swaggere d about with firearms, snarled a little nonsense, and only a few score cared to listen to them.

We have always been tolerant of such idiocy, even when it has sinister design, because the mass of our people are sure in their moderation and common sense.

Even in our suffrage, a capricious phenomenon, we have rarely erred. We have elected few bad Presidents, not many bad governors or other public officers, "bad" used in the sense, not of corruption, but of incompetence.

An actor would be governor of California. It is not impossible an actor could become a good governor, or even a good President. But the odds against it are very high. He would need to be of almost unique character and perception, for effective governance almost invariably requires training and experience in public affairs.

The United States, by its existence, is the best example in human history of the absolute value of moderation and common sense in a people.

Quote

Children are being rushed so much, by the time they are young adults they are spent, lost at the art of growing up slowly and enjoying the small things at home.—Mrs. J. J. Levonian, La Puente.

At a time when religion is so necessary as a moral discipline and an inspiration, it is unfortunate that some whose vocation it is to support it should indulge in double talk that only confuses people and tends to create agnostics. — Rabbi Edgar F. Magnin, Los Angeles, on "God is Dead."

I know they say I lack color and I know this is a fault, but if I tried to change I might not get the job done as well. — Walter Alston, Dodgers manager.

WILLIAM HOGAN

No Bombshell Seen In Forthcoming JFK Book

Recent news stories have tended to create a mystery around William Manchester's forthcoming "The Death of a President," an item of some 900 pages which Harper and Row will publish during the winter, or early spring. This is the project Mrs. John F. Kennedy "commissioned" a few months after the assassination, hoping it would be the "authoritative" history of the tragedy.

Mrs. Kennedy selected Manchester, a veteran of The New Yorker and author of several books, on the basis of her regard for Manchester's early biography of Mr. Kennedy, "Portrait of the President." Mrs. Kennedy is said to have withheld all personal and family information on the case from all writers but Manchester. Drew Pearson's associate, Jack Anderson, reported that everyone close to the Kennedys has refused to talk with Manchester's competitors, especially Jim Bishop, who is working on his own "The Day Kennedy Was Shot." Anderson quoted a

letter Mrs. Kennedy wrote to Bishop which suggested that she "controlled" historical facts and sources of information.

Apparently Manchester's book is not a refutation, or questioning of findings in the Warren Commission Report, as recent works by Mark Lane, Edward J. Epstein and others have been. According to the trade paper Publishers' Weekly, Manchester interviewed some 1000 people and amassed 45 volumes of documents and transcripts of tape recorded conversations before he started his book. Mrs. Kennedy herself gave some ten hours of taped interviews.

The trade paper reports that neither Mrs. Kennedy nor other members of the family have seen the manuscript, although a panel of advisors, including the historian Arthur M. Schlesinger Jr., have read it. The panel is said to have advised that portions of the work that might be considered to bear "an anti-LBJ bias" be deleted.

One sequence of Manchester's manuscript deals with the last Washington conversation between Mr. Kennedy and his Vice President, an argument over whether or not the President's trip to Dallas was really necessary. Mr. Johnson is said to have replied that his own influence had waned there and that a Presidential appearance was essential.

"The Death of a President" undoubtedly will contain fresh personal and family sidelights to the tragedy. But the consensus seems to be that while the book should stir a wide international interest, no new data of bombshell proportions will be found in it—at least none that Jacqueline Kennedy does not wish to be made public at this point in history.

er Jr., have read it. The panel is said to have advised that portions of the work that might be considered to bear "an anti-LBJ bias" be deleted.

One sequence of Manchester's manuscript deals with the last Washington conversation between Mr. Kennedy and his Vice President, an argument over whether or not the President's trip to Dallas was really necessary. Mr. Johnson is said to have replied that his own influence had waned there and that a Presidential appearance was essential.

"The Death of a President" undoubtedly will contain fresh personal and family sidelights to the tragedy. But the consensus seems to be that while the book should stir a wide international interest, no new data of bombshell proportions will be found in it—at least none that Jacqueline Kennedy does not wish to be made public at this point in history.