

# Press-Herald

GLENN W. PFEIL . . . . . Publisher  
REID L. BUNDY . . . . . Editor and Co-Publisher  
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## A Christmas Eve Rite

One of the unique Christmas Eve festivities is the annual performance of the Beacon Hill Bell Ringers in historic Louisburg Square.

In this bit of architecturally unspoiled Boston, not far from the Common, stand immaculately retained old homes with white Colonial doors opened wide, with well-appointed vestibules symbolizing a welcome open house to many, many visitors.

When the clock strikes eight in the evening, the Bell Ringers appear with their finely attuned bells (cast by the Whitechapel Foundry of London, England, casters of the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia and the bells of the Old North Church) to begin their concert of Yuletide tunes. Many of the visitors through the square sing along as they meander through the square and the narrow streets that climb from the Charles river embankment to the State House.

The tradition began with the late Dr. Arthur H. Nichols, a member of the Ancient Society of College Youths (an organization of Bell Ringers of England founded in 1637), when he helped re-establish the art in the Old North Church, whose original bell-ringer agreement, signed in 1750, included one Paul Revere.

Dr. Nichols, with the assistance of Bishop William Lawrence, succeeded in raising funds to rehang the old bells in the Old North Church tower. The repairs were completed just in time to celebrate the 18th of April, 1894. They rang before and after the church services while hundreds gathered in the streets to hear the bells, which had not been rung since the day Marquis de Lafayette visited Boston.

Dr. Nichols' daughter, Mrs. Margaret Shurcliff, while visiting England in 1902, rang a full peal of bells and was elected a member of the England Society of College Youths, the only woman ever to have been elected to such an honor.

Mrs. Shurcliff with her children, grandchildren, and members of her group, performed the bell ringing of Christmas Carols on Beacon Hill. She organized the new England Guild of Hand Bell Ringers in 1935, and in 1954 formed the American Guild of Bell Ringers.

Now enjoying their fortieth season, the Beacon Hill Bell Ringers continue the tradition carried on by Mrs. Shurcliff. The band is operated on the lines of a chamber music group without any one person's being the actual director. However, the rehearsals are held in the home of Raymond L. Myrer at 11 Louisburg Square.

## Opinions of Others

In January of this year, Treasury Secretary Fowler warned Congress that if the national debt limit was not increased, the government would not be able to cover more than half the March Social Security checks. For this and other reasons, the debt limit was increased. This, it should be added, was not unusual. Congress receives this warning at the beginning of every year. What it means, simply, is that all the money millions of Americans have poured into Social Security since 1935 has been paid out just as fast as it came in. There is no Social Security kitty. There is no insurance or retirement fund but an obligation on taxpayers to be met out of annual revenues.—*Lancaster (S. C.) News.*

There is a movement under way to organize "welfare clients" into a union to get bigger unemployment checks and unspecified fringe benefits. Those promoting such a union point out that the reliefers represent a highly potent political force and they intend to use it to get everything that is coming to them. . . . Incidentally, apart from not voting for politicians who won't give them what they want, we wonder what members of a welfare union would do in a case of a strike. Stop not-working?—*Kermit (Tex.) News.*

As America has moved from pioneering austerity to sophisticated affluence, from the simplicities of rugged individualism to the complexities and problems of an over-populated urban society, one of the casualties has been old-fashioned patriotism.—*Tempe (Ariz.) News.*

Whatever one's feelings about cigarette smoking, one can't help wondering why manufacturers can be restrained in advertising something that is perfectly legal. The principle is most disturbing. What is there to stop it from being applied to more and more private enterprises?—*Garberville (Calif.) Record.*

Maybe . . . a Marine's pay could be raised, say to what we pay those on welfare here at home?—*Columbia (Tenn.) Herald.*

## Morning Report:

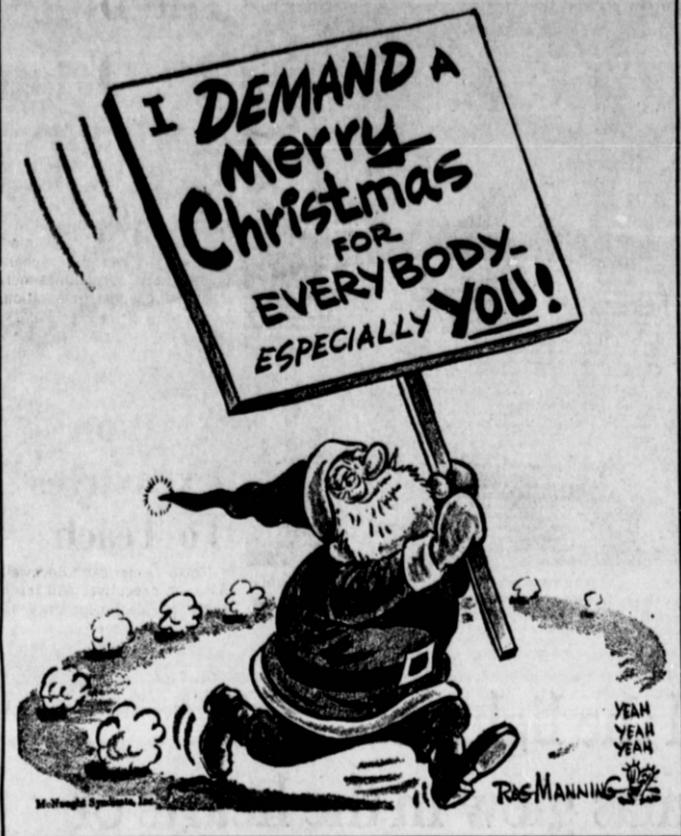
Just as the Nielsen service rates the shows on television, the Gallup Poll rates the show in the White House. After sagging for weeks, "All the Way with LBJ" registered some improvement. Actually, although the star is the same, the title has been changed to, "That Man Is Uncle."

Without changing the basic story line, Lyndon Johnson has altered his style. The plot at the White House still has the same old ingredients: Vietnam, high prices, higher prices, taxes, and minority problems.

But humor has been added: the high cost of marrying off a daughter, referring to the Senators Kennedy as kids, and other sure-fire one-liners. Uncle Lyndon has not yet topped the Smothers Brothers but wait until he starts singing.

**Abe Mellinkoff**

## Bearded Little Man Demonstrates



## SACRAMENTO ROUNDUP

# Tuition, Medi-Cal Lead State News During 1967

Capitol News Service  
SACRAMENTO — Governor Ronald Reagan's proposal to charge tuition at the University of California and the state colleges probably produced more pages of newspaper copy and more time on radio and television than any other source during 1967.

It's true that nothing came of the proposal, other than a pledge of the University regents to study it next year. And later in the year, Reagan was talking more about charges for the students — in the form of fees rather than tuition.

Tuition at state colleges was always in the background although no action was taken on it. That would be up to the legislature and no move was made to impose such charges on the state college students, in the absence of a tuition for university students.

The governor was assailed from many sides in organized opposition to his tuition proposals, although most polls showed the people favored some sort of additional charge from those using the state institutions. There was one march on the state capitol from those in opposition.

Otherwise, for 1967, the state government and legislature produced no single standout for attention getting. The CNS has attempted to rate the Top Ten Stories for 1967 in order of their importance but most could be changed in their position in the ranking.

However, following tuition, here are the other nine of the Top Ten:

1. Medi-Cal. This was a top story from the time the Reagan administration first reported the health care program was in financial difficulties. Next came the administration proposals to make across-the-board reduction in the level of services. This was followed by a court suit which resulted in a lower court decision that such cuts were illegal. That ruling was upheld by the state supreme court, which said that, before services for welfare recipients could be reduced, some 160,000 medically indigent (but non-welfare recipients) would have to be eliminated from Medi-Cal. Reagan called a special session of the legislature in November, asking to be given the flexibility to handle the money shortage but the lawmakers balked.

2. One of the same sort of storms of opposition result-

ed when Reagan announced in the spring that he would cut back employment in the department of mental hygiene by some 3,700 persons. The theory was that the caseload of patients had declined dramatically in recent years, while the number of employees increased. The governor proposed to level off the patient-to-employee ratio where it stood

A Special Roundup of State News in 1967

on Jan. 1. The reductions were made—partly through firings and partly through attrition—but the argument still lingers as to whether the level of service was reduced.

4. The near-billion-dollar tax increase of the 1967 session probably had more effect on more Californians than any other act of the year but fell behind tuition, Medi-Cal and mental hygiene in the attention it received. The increases included a 1-cent boost in sales tax, a big jump in personal income taxes, from 3 to 10 cents a pack on cigarettes, higher liquor taxes, and a boost in inheritance and gift taxes.

5. Governor Reagan's attempts at economy in government. This included his first attempt at a straight 10 per cent cutback, not attained, but a budget savings of about \$123 million. There was a freeze in state hiring; a freeze in new car buying; cuts in operating expenditures; and reduction in work force, through attrition rather than layoffs.

6. The legislature's operations under its new full-time, higher paid status. The lawmakers responded by being in session for a record 283 calendar days. But most of the year was spent in 3½-day weeks and many felt the change made few gains for the taxpayers in performance. Legislative leaders admit some further changes are needed in the system.

7. While a long time ago, the first story of the new year provided one of the most dramatic — Reagan's inauguration at 10 minutes after 1967 began. This was

followed by formal ceremonies on the capitol steps and a gala inaugural ball at the state fair grounds.

8. The single piece of legislation that probably drew more attention, other than those dealing with taxes and economy, was the so-called therapeutic abortion bill. The measure was counted out a time or two in the senate before finally winning passage, with an assist from the governor. It permits abortions when considered necessary by a panel of doctors to protect the mental or physical health of the mother or in the case of forcible rape or incest.

9. The continuing appointment by Governor Reagan of department directors and other key officials in his administration ranked among the Top Ten Stories of the year. This had started before Jan. 1 but continued at a lively pace through March.

10. The dramatic storming of the capitol by the armed Black Panther group in May spotlighted firearms legislation as well as shaking up many legislative and state officials in general.

Naturally, the year 1967 had a lot of also-rans, as far as big stories went and some would include them within the Top Ten. Also-rans included: college and university demonstrations and riots; ordered reapportionment of congressional districts; resignation of Phillip Battaglia as Reagan's executive secretary and subsequent charges; the 20-20 Republican-Democrat split in the state senate; use of convict and welfare recipients for farm work; water project financing; and proposed financing for rapid transit.

## CAPITOL NEWSMAKERS

# Santa Could Appear Any Time for Cal Sportsmen

By EDWIN S. CAPPS  
Capitol News Service

SACRAMENTO — Santa Claus comes at any time of the year for the state's hunters and fishermen when the wildlife conservation board moves in with projects to provide fishing access to rivers or streams, public piers in the ocean, new hatcheries or many other improvements.

Some of the most important projects to the users are pretty small in cost—often under \$20,000. Of course, construction of fish hatcheries, such as the new one on the American River east of Sacramento, runs into multi-million-dollar figures.

The executive officer of the wildlife conservation board (WCB), Raymond J. Nesbit, doesn't look much like St. Nick and, for that matter, is much more cold and calculating than the be-whiskered old gentleman.

For WCB projects are well investigated before they ever are brought before the board for its consideration. And an important feature is that with the exception of fish hatcheries, almost all WCB projects are built on the basis that the actual operation will be taken over by some local entity.

This means the state must make the original outlay but operation and maintenance costs, which can balloon state budgets, are not a part of the program. A city, county, special district or utility must agree in advance to take over those costs.

The board operates on an annual appropriation of \$750,000 from taxes on pari-mutuel horse race betting. The board consists of the president of the fish and game commission, the director of fish and game and director of finance.

In addition, there are six legislative members. When considering final action on projects, the legislative members take a vote first which serves as an advisory action for the final vote by the three board members. Many WCB projects are not of the spectacular variety but their use by hunters and fishermen make them important.

"The annual public use during 1967 exceeded 8 million visitor days," Nesbit said, "a significant increase over the 7.4 million recorded in 1966."

"Generally, our estimates of use have been conservative," he said. "On the public fishing pier at Ocean Beach in San Diego, we had estimated there might be 500,000 days of use a year but use of the pier has been about double that."

## The Men in Action on the Sacramento Scene.

During 1967, a total of 15 new WCB projects were completed and opened to the sportsmen. In addition, 30 new ones were either in the planning or construction stage.

For 1967, new projects included three large fishing access projects on the Sacramento River near Anderson, on the American River near Sacramento and on the Bear River near Colfax. An acquisition of ocean frontage in Mendocino county will add an additional 1400 feet of ocean access to the existing WCB project at Mendocino City.

Modernization and expansion of the Fillmore hatchery in Ventura county, the San Joaquin hatchery in Fresno county and the Moccasin Creek hatchery in Tuolumne county was completed during the year and construction is well along on the American River trout hatchery east of Sacramento by Nimbus dam.

Other projects over the years have included construction of the bridge over Montezuma Slough, connecting Grizzly Island to the mainland; improvements and onshore facilities at Pardee reservoir in Amador and Calaveras counties; numerous small dams on mountain lakes to increase the water level and sustain flows; and parking lots with fishing access along the rivers.

Nesbit, during his 10

years with the board, has been known primarily to others in the hunting, fishing and conservation field, as well as those people who were supporting projects. But, in 1967, he was called on to head a task force studying recreational development along with the state water project.

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"The basic problem given us was that the ultimate cost of the projects proposed by the Davis-Dolwig Act would be at least \$176.6 million of general fund money," Nesbit said. "The 'plan' projected by the task force would cost less, probably well under \$100 million."

There were several key recommendations developed by Nesbit and his task force which would help to bring down the ultimate costs. Some of these included:

1. Projects which may be desirable for recreation but have no actual connection with or use of project facilities should be delayed and possibly built by some other agency. These included such proposals as aquatic parks or reservoirs not connected with the state water project.

2. Recreational facilities should not necessarily be developed to the capacity to handle big holiday weekend crowds, when usage for the rest of the year would be far below that.

3. In many instances, temporary recreational facilities should be used at recreation sites, with ultimate development delayed until the demand for such facilities is demonstrated by usage.

Nesbit has received notice of general agreement with the principles of the task force report by Governor Ronald Reagan. The report still is under consideration by the state resources agency.

## HERB CAEN SAYS:

# San Francisco Merchant A Guest at THE Wedding

The only San Franciscan invited to Lynda Bird's wedding was Merchant Prince Cyril Magnin, whose store supplied all the ladies' finery, designed by Geoffrey Beene: wedding gown, rehearsal gowns, bridesmaid's dresses, and so on — adding up to a bill that has been estimated at \$15,000. Understandably Cyril wouldn't discuss price, except that the Father of the Bride insisted on paying full retail. "Cyril," said the President, "I don't want any favors," and what LBJ doesn't want, LBJ does not get. . . . The most hair-raising show on the telly recently, aside from the wedding, was KQED's three-hour extravaganza put on by the trustees of the California State Colleges, apparently titled "The Persecution and Symbolic Murder of Dr. John Summerskill by the Inmates of the Mental Hospital at Los Angeles, Under the Direction of the Marquis de Rafferty," or, "Salem Revisited." The casting was superb, although the script was largely unbelievable. . . . Another San Francisco theater is about to go — this time the Playhouse at Hyde and Beach, which'll be torn down in April for a five-story building, and what happened to the 40-ft. height limit? Or maybe these are short-short stories.

and place fingers in ears? . . . For the toughest Little Old Lady of the year, Jim O'Hickey nominates the 80-year-old, with a heavy cane, whom he was helping across the street the other day. As they reached the middle of the intersection, a tiny sports car whizzed past them, inches away, whereupon the octogenarian whacked it with her cane.

## Report From Our Man In San Francisco

cackling "Ole!" "Nice going," said Jim. "Thanks," she replied, "but I could've done better with a loaded billiard cue."

Add news from the various diplomatic fronts: Roberto Bianchi, the Guatemalan Consul General here, has announced his engagement to Renee Smith, a dashing divorcee. Few days before he mailed an airline ticket to his daughter, Lucrecia "Lucky" Bianchi, in Guatemala, so she could be here for the event. Then this cable arrived: "Sorry cannot attend. Being married the day before you announce your engagement. Luck, Lucky" . . . As for Dr. Arnold Chamove, the Ethiopian Consul General here, he's in Addis Ababa, whence he has informed the S.F. Zoo that he is shipping a female spotted hyena from there for our Zoo's lone and lonely male. "It's difficult to tell the sex of a hyena," notes Edgar Stone, editor of the Zoo Newsletter. "Maybe

that's why they laugh so much."

Furthermore: Big on the Market street-scene — the sour-faced guy at the entrance to a dept. store, wearing a zipper jacket and carrying a sign reading "This jacket guaranteed for three weeks!" The jacket, obviously newish, is full of holes. . . . Boo! A process server snuck up on Comic Jackie Vernon at Basin St. West and hit him for \$900 he allegedly owes the artist who painted his family portrait. . . . Bright side: Of the 1,300 or so cars stolen each month, 95 per cent are recovered by the police. Golly, if they just tried a little harder — ? (Cars that are stolen while already stolen don't count double in the statistics) . . . Actress Jean Arthur of Carmel is in seclusion, "deeply depressed," after the N.Y. show in which she was to star, "The Freaking Out of Stephanie Blake," flopped in the tryouts; she had \$50,000 of her own money in the disaster, plus \$200,000 from backers. . . . Mrs. T. Edward Hanley, the ring-a-ding Hungarian swinger whose art collection opened last week at the de Young Museum, journeyed alone to the Hashbury, met 15 hippies at the Drugstore, and took them to the Peppermint Tree for dancing—where she outrugged them all. They were so appreciative they invited her back to their pad to turn on, but she declined. "I'm always turned on," she said. "I'm a notch-eral heepee!"



**The Old Timer**  
"Relatives looking for hand-outs seldom stay long. It's usually just a matter of touch and go."