

-Comment and Opinion-

TORRANCE, CALIF., WEDNESDAY, JULY 17, 1968

Peter Gravett: Inspired

"Some people talk about brotherhood. Others live it. Peter Gravett is one of these, with a commitment to the welfare of his fellowman strong enough to inspire him to risk his life."

While Peter Gravett was attending a sports attraction at the Los Angeles Coliseum last summer, he saw an angry mob attacking a young boy. Mr. Gravett waded into the mob, protected the youngster from further, perhaps serious injuries, and with subsequent help was able to carry him to safety.

Monday night Peter Gravett was named Citizen of the Year during the second annual South Bay Leadership Banquet sponsored by Great Lakes Properties, developers of the Del Amo Financial Center.

A member of the Los Angeles Police Department—although he was not on duty when he saved the youth at the Coliseum—Mr. Gravett already has been awarded the department's Medal of Honor and was Citizen of the Month here last November.

He was saluted at a Torrance Chamber of Commerce luncheon at

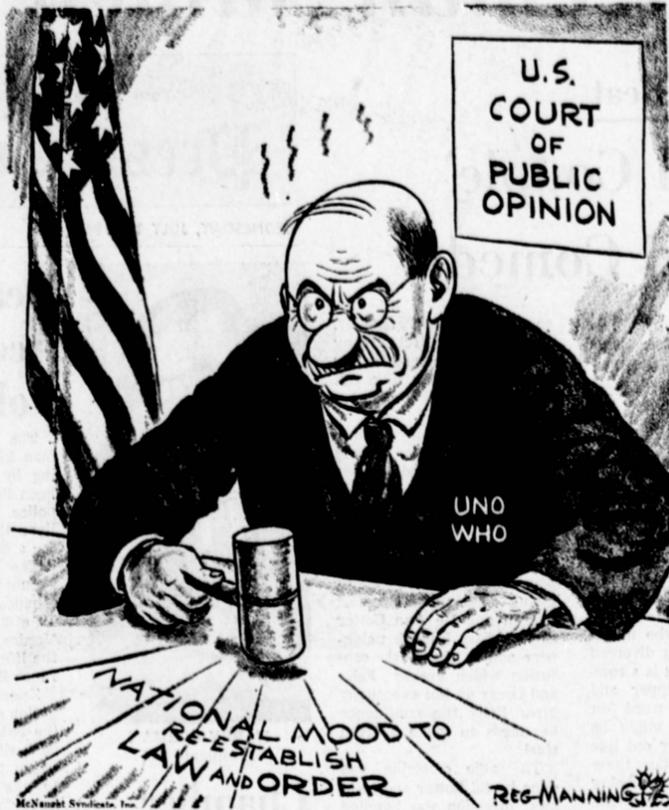
which Mayor Sam Yorty of Los Angeles was principal speaker.

In addition to the deserved honors which have been presented to Mr. Gravett, we believe the program which makes this recognition possible also deserves a share of the spotlight.

The Citizen of the Month awards program which culminated with the selection of a Citizen of the Year Monday is a unique activity for a private business organization. Throughout the past year the Great Lakes Property program has recognized a San Pedro couple, a Rolling Hills organization, and individuals from Torrance, Hermosa Beach, Palos Verdes, Harbor City, and Redondo Beach.

Great Lakes arranges for the selection committee—which includes a bank vice president, a Superior Court judge, and a utility official—and supports the honors with trophies, presentation programs, and paid advertising in community newspapers heralding the winners.

Mr. Gravett is to be commended for his valorous acts which brought him the award, and Great Lakes Property officials are to be commended for making such awards possible and public affairs.



ROYCE BRIER

Man Is Having Problems Locating Life in Space

At the turn of the century, the astronomer Percival Lowell, believed he saw "canals" on the planet Mars, indicating an engineering intelligence. Most astronomers didn't thus interpret the markings, and dismissed Dr. Lowell as a visionary.

Our photographic fly-by in recent years suggested the Martian crust is as sterile as the moon's, and somewhat resembles it. The fly-by, however, only caught a minute part of the Martian disc, and did not include the polar cap region, which might reveal the presence of water.

Whether there is microscopic life, we do not know, but may one day discover. But with Mars (and later Venus) out, there seems scant likelihood of any sentient extraterrestrial life in the Solar System.

This lets down the old-time Sunday magazine scribblers, but doesn't faze television writers, like those of

Star Trek, who don't claim their strange planets are members of the Solar System, and tend to take a galactic view of space travel. Nor do the little saucer critters in the New Yorker magazine cartoons need to have a home in our local planetary system, though they frequently manifest an

Opinions on Affairs of the World

earthly sense of humor. At least they seem to feel comfortable in it, sometimes more comfortable than we, which is doubtless the intent of the cartoonists.

The other day Dr. Harold Urey, University of California, San Diego, told a symposium on space exploration that life on other planets would probably take a form we couldn't recognize, due to differences in planetary evolution.

"There won't be any humans," he said, "or any little

green men, or even green beetles."

He disagreed, however, with Dr. Fritz Zwicky, California Institute of Technology, who takes a dim view of extraterrestrial life anywhere. He insists there is an "exceedingly small" chance of other life, in the theory that atmospheres conducive to life are rare.

So you have two eminent scientists with differing views on this ancient mystery, but your own guess may be almost as good as theirs.

The chance we will ever establish beyond doubt that there is life other than ours is also "exceedingly small," due to the universal condition, chiefly a universal magnitude beyond human imagination.

But many cosmologists believe life forms are also a universal condition. They note 100 billion stars in our Galaxy, some proportion of them like our sun. They say stars of this type, or stage, naturally form planetary systems, and if there are 10 billion, that leaves considerable room for planetary evolution similar to ours.

To verify this life is another matter. The stars in our Galaxy range in distance from 4 1/2 light years (26 trillion miles) to 80,000 light years (never mind other galaxies ranging from 2 million to billions of light years distant).

Lately there has been planning and effort to pick up radio signals from hypothetical intelligence in far space, but here, too, factors in stellar evolution, not subject to casual analysis, make such communication highly improvable.

From the earliest time man has always wanted to think there is something other than himself, a rather disappointing creature at best. But perhaps the dream is all he can take. Perhaps if he ever had word with an intelligent green beetle, it would disappoint him, and then where would he turn for solace?

Press-Herald

Glenn W. Pfeil
Publisher

Reid L. Bundy
Editor and Co-Publisher

Published Each
Wednesday and Sunday

3238 W. Sepulveda Blvd.
Torrance, Calif. 90510

They Are Still Thieves

An issue of the FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin included an article that tells in considerable detail about a breed of criminals that prey on every honest consumer and retail distributor—the shoplifter. Shoplifting is big business, and shoplifters unlike other law violators "... come in a wide range of ages and represent every walk of life. They use dozens of techniques to steal merchandise from stores varying in size from the small corner grocery to the largest retailer in the country. They steal anything from a 5-cent candy bar to items with price tags in the thousands of dollars."

According to the Bulletin, theft in the retail industry has been estimated in billions of dollars per year. Retailers in one city with a population of nearly a million estimated shoplifting losses at million dollars a month. Since many

stores, notably large volume supermarkets, operate on a slim one per cent of all sales, a dollar lost to shoplifting means that \$100 in sales must be rung up to offset the loss. It takes no expert to figure out that with shoplifting running into the billions of dollars annually retail distributors have no choice but to cover part of the loss with higher prices.

Through some weird mental process, shoplifters do not consider themselves thieves. In the words of the FBI Bulletin, shoplifting is considered by many, otherwise well intentioned people, as something other than larceny, sneak thievery, stealing, or a criminal violation. Perhaps the best way to curb shoplifting would be to brand a practitioner of the art in the eyes of society for what he is—a thief.

WILLIAM HOGAN

Three-Volume History of U.S. Presidents Issued

In 1807 Thomas Jefferson said: "I am tired of an office where I can do no more good than many others, who would be glad to be employed in it. To myself, personally, it brings nothing but unceasing drudgery and daily loss of friends."

Earlier this week we browsed through a massive, three-volume enterprise, "The American Heritage Pictorial History of the Presidents," produced by the editors of American Heritage, third volume of which is "The American Heritage History of the Presidency" (boxed, \$35), the work of a British student of the American pageant, Marcus Cuniffe. The holiday just past seems appropriate to emphasize the fact that most presidents have, in one way or another, thoroughly disliked the job, according to the text of these books. For instance,

Dealing with hordes of office seekers took a great deal of Abraham Lincoln's time. To a lady petitioning for a job for a friend, he wrote: "My Dear Madam:

The most I can say is that when the time comes, if it be made to appear that the appointment of your friend to the Post Office at Oskaloosa, will be as satisfactory to the people there, as would be that of any other person, he will probably receive it; otherwise not." On another occasion Lincoln remarked that it was not the Civil War that was killing him, "but the Pepperton Post Office."

Martin Van Buren re-

Browsing Through the World of Books

marked of Andrew Jackson, his predecessor in the White House that "the two happiest days of his life were those of his entrance upon the office and of his surrender of it."

In his four-year term James K. Polk spent only six weeks away from Washington. "He works from 10 to 12 hours in every 24," a Washington editor said. When the day's labor ended, Polk recounted them in his diary and brooded over his problems. Near the end of his term he explained that "no President who performs his duty faithfully and conscientiously can have any leisure. If he intrusts the details... to subordinates constant errors will occur. I prefer to supervise the whole operations of the Government myself... and this makes my duties very great."

The idea that government should help the people did not find much support in high places in the 19th Century. In his second Inaugural Address, Grover Cleveland declared: "The lessons of paternalism ought to be unlearned and the better lesson taught that while people should patriotically and cheerfully support their government, its functions do not include the support of the people."

President Eisenhower, American Heritage reminds us, once said: "Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies, in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed... The cost of a heavy bomber is this: A modern brick school in more than 30 cities."

My Neighbors



Other Opinions

Grandfield (Okla.) News: If you don't have an overriding purpose and life ambition and goal in what you are presently doing—you better change jobs or careers and get into something else. The guy who has little enthusiasm for his work and passes it over with comments like "it's something to do" or it makes me a living" somehow leaves us cold. We figure he'd just as soon be digging ditches. It is a reflection on himself, his lack of ambition and lack of faith in himself that he can really do something he feels is worthwhile. ... In this day and time nearly any kind of work can be highly technical and interesting when people who have a dedication to it and a sense of serving their fellow man, work at it and self-educate themselves beyond formal schooling to do the best possible job.

Toppenish (Wash.) Review: Seen at a grocery store, a woman checking out with frozen pizzas, frozen poor boy sandwiches, steaks, a variety of pastries and two cartons of cola. Then paying for it all with food stamps.

John Day (Ore.) Eagle: Five per cent of the people in the United States will provide the leadership for the coming generation. If university students are reluctant to pick up the cudgel, there will be no well-informed voice to preserve the necessary segments of democracy. It would therefore be helpful if you with leadership qualities would bathe, shave, get a haircut, shine your shoes and reenter the segment of America which so badly needs you.

Craig, (Colo.) Press: To enjoy freedom and the opportunity for peacemakers to work we have to have a secure society. This can only be achieved by orderly civilized means and adherence to the law.

Barnesboro (Pa.) Star: Whether it is in civil rights, college, unions, community or civil affairs, violence must be brought to an abrupt halt if the American way of life is to continue. ... Violence breeds violence, contempt breeds contempt, and justice breeds justice.

Quote

I'm helping Lady Bird's campaign to beautify America. — I stay indoors as much as possible — Louis Graves in the Nashville (Ark.) News.

Even GW Owned A Nehru Jacket

Caenfetti: The Sheraton Hotel's lawyers have informed the S.F. Landmarks Preservation Board that they do NOT want the Palace Hotel designated as a landmark. Big changes coming? ... Charles Joffe, producer of the Woody Allen film being made here, "Take the Money and Run," will use the Mission Rebels as extras—three result of a request from Mayor Alioto. "By the way," commented Joffe, "in New York we think of Mayor Lindsay as a good Democrat!" ... Even the painters are superchic in San Francisco—or, at any rate, the ones working at Oreste's, being redone after an \$80,000 fire. Under their white overalls, black turtle-necks. ... Not that any of these new fashion fads are really new. If you'll examine a dollar bill, you will note that George Washington is wearing a Nehru jacket and jabot. However, I can't agree with Jack Rafferty that he looks stoned.

A mess of dottage: Anthony Burgess, the finest living English novelist (okay, name a better one), will teach at S.F. State next Spring, providing there is a S.F. State next Spring, or a next spring. ... A noted madam and two of her best girls are already snuggled in at Russian River, well ahead of the slated opening of the annual Bohemian Club encampment. ... When the N.Y. Times makes a typographical error, it's a beaut. Herewith its two-column headline on a story about tourists returning to France: "Flow of Terrorists Into France Resuming as Tension Eases." Or who knows. Maybe they meant it.

End so it goes: Malcolm Stroud, co-owner of the bustling Coachman on Powell, has taken over a corner of Washington and Powell for an English pub to be called The Oak Tree—featuring a bar made from one 700-yr. old English oak that did not die in vain. ... Frank Granat, who quit the jewelry business here to dabble (successfully) in show business, has another winner coming up. He's the producer of the new English hit movie, "Twisted Nerve," starring Hayley Mills and directed by her gentleman friend, Roy Boulting. ... S.F.'s Donald Raff, top graduate at the Creighton School of Dentistry, had Cresalia Jewelers make up a sentimental souvenir for his wife: a charm bracelet whose charming charms are the teeth he worked on as a freshman.

Add unexpected but not unpleasant sights: the peace symbol engraved into the sentry box at the entrance to Hamilton Air Force Base—and already I'm sorry I mentioned it. Probably be gone tomorrow. ... Newest status symbol for S.F.'s hot rock groups is a Victoria mansion to call home—and The Grateful Dead now qualify. They just bought Leyland Mills' 1908 beauty, complete with ballroom, on Stanyan near Carl. Be it never so humble, etc. ... The other must-item is a vintage Rolls-Royce and The Initial Shock ("The Rolls-Royce of Rock Bands") scores in this department. Their white limousine may be the only Rolls in the world with a fender gash that has been patched with Band-aids. ... Speaking of elegant cars, Matt Kelly now has a topless Rolls. While he was mingling with the Deep Peninsula's horsey set, a horse masticated his canvas roof, right down to the bones.

Wall scrawls: Or, recent graffiti observed by Licensed Graffitiologists Kenny Burt, Richard Marshall, and Edna Shay. ... "Reagan wants to use the White House as a stepping stone." ... "Keep your city clean, eat a pigeon." ... "Margaret Sanger is alive and pregnant in Brazil." ... "Xerox never comes up with anything original." ... "Cinderella married for money." ... "Snoopy's Van Gogh is a forgery." ... "This wall has just been published in paperback." ... "I used to walk a mile for a Camel but now I'm too winded."

Funny old town: Where else would you find a Vulcan Stairway Association? The people who live on that unique street, above Twin Peaks tunnel, are banding together to fight City Hall's plan for a new sewer there. For that matter, where else would you find people fighting sewers?

The scam what am: Art Dealer Billy Pearson, who dreams of living weekends in a log cabin deep in the woods, placed a classified ad to that effect in the papers. His wife, Darlene, who has other ideas, placed an ad to run directly beneath it, reading: "Disregard previous ad." ... Mitchell Ayers, conductor of "I Do! I Do!" at the Curran Theater, will hear some real "I do's" Saturday in Tiburon, where his dgthtr, Judith Ellen, marries William Hayes. The father of the bride will then return to the Curran to conduct the score, which includes a song that says "My Daughter Is Marrying an Idiot." ... The gay illiterate: Tennessee Williams can't even spell the name of his most celebrated character, Blanche DuBois in "Streetcar." After watching the American Conservatory Theater production of his show, he sent a note to DeAnn Mears, who plays Blanche, as follows: "I think I know when a part in a play of mine is played truly and brilliantly. You played Blanche that way and I was thrilled." Deduct an "e" from Tennessee.

Horace Mann, father of public education in the U.S., said this in 1858 when asked to write a magazine article: "I have not the time to prepare it for the press. Besides, this printing exhausts a man too rapidly. If one could, like a domestic fowl, lay new eggs just like the old ones, then production would be easy. But when each new one must be more tasteful in shape and larger in size and richer in quality who can lay one every day?"