

EDITORIALS

Christmas for the Needy

It's quite all right with the Salvation Army for the jolly old saint of Christmas, Kris Kringle to make personal deliveries of Christmas joys for the children, but it's quite another thing to have "charity" delivered to needy homes before the eyes of inquisitive neighbors and curious neighbor children.

Accordingly, the Salvation Army will pursue its policy of "not letting the right hand know what the left hand is doing" when it comes to assisting needy families in this area this Yule. Lt. Col. Frank Wilmer, Southern California divisional commander announced.

Mothers of needy families will receive checks from the Salvation Army in amounts adequate to meet the Christmas needs of the family, with due regard to the family's economic status. The mothers will then make necessary purchases for the family and no one will know that the gifts and groceries are from outside sources outside the family's budget.

There has been virtually no abuse of the plan since its adoption by the Salvation Army approximately 15 years ago, although care is exercised in cases where either of the parents is addicted to alcoholism or victimized by other habits which might defeat the purpose of the Salvation Army's careful plan for the protection of innocent children from ridicule.

Signs for Safety

Highways in California are among the best in the world, but our state might well give serious attention to the redesigning of traffic signs and route markers to aid safe driving and expedite the flow of vehicles, especially in metropolitan areas.

In many key locations, highway routes are indicated by small markers that cannot be easily read until it is too late to change traffic lanes. Drivers unfamiliar with the maze of roads are given no information about route directions. A motorist trying to pick up Route 99 from the Los Angeles interchange sees a small marker with an arrow pointing left, but may not know whether a left turn will take him north to San Francisco or south to San Diego. The simple direction "99 North" or "99 South" would prevent hesitation and confusion.

The Washington State Highway Department is now using colored signs to indicate primary route directions: orange for northbound; green for southbound; brown for eastbound; and blue for westbound. Several eastern states have already adopted this system with great success. Adoption of a similar system in California would result in greater safety, convenience and time-saving.

Special Training

We have heard the suggestion again recently that candidates for political office be required to complete a special training course in public service in order to qualify for election or appointment, such courses to be taken in the political science department of universities and colleges. The idea is to secure men best qualified to serve the interests of the people they represent. The philosopher Plato made somewhat the same proposal centuries ago. He regarded public service as a specialized lifetime career for which men should be properly trained. In England, boys are frequently dedicated to public service and trained as thoroughly as if they entered the professions of law, medicine, or the church.

In the United States, however, we believe that sometimes common sense and a big heart are the best qualifications for public office. Many of our greatest leaders and best statesmen had little or no formal education. Andrew Jackson and Abraham Lincoln would probably have fallen short in educational qualifications, but their efforts won the approbation of the people who elected them to office.

LAW IN ACTION

STATUTE OF FRAUDS
Is a word of mouth contract any good? Much business is done by enforceable oral contracts. When you tell the gas station man to "fill 'er up" you are agreeing to pay for the gas. And such an oral contract is enforceable. But as long ago as 1877, the English Parliament saw that some types of contracts lend themselves easily to fraud. So they passed an act called the Statute of Frauds. The act said that certain debts and contracts—to be enforceable—had to be written and signed by the one who was to pay. The writing provision aimed to protect each party against false claims by the other. California, like other states, has adopted provisions of this old statute. They name certain contracts that must be in writing for courts to enforce them. You generally cannot be held for the debt of another unless you sign a paper that says so. This also holds if you are executor or administrator of a dead person's estate. Courts cannot hold you to pay a dead man's debts with your own money unless you say so in writing. Contracts to sell land or

What Is A Capitalist?

I AM A CAPITALIST! I'M A STOCKHOLDER IN A BIG CORPORATION! I GET INCOME FROM DIVIDENDS!

I SAVED \$360, AND BOUGHT 10 SHARES. MY DIVIDENDS PAY ME 22 BUCKS A YEAR. AND I HAVE 10 VOTES IN THE COMPANY.

MY \$360 IS 'CAPITAL'. THERE ARE MILLIONS OF LITTLE CAPITALISTS LIKE ME. AMERICAN BUSINESS DEPENDS ON US. U.S. 'CAPITALISM' IS ACTUALLY THE WORLD'S BIGGEST 'CO-OP'

REG-MANNING

THE MAIL BOX

(The Torrance Herald welcomes expressions from its readers which can be published on this page. The editor reserves the right to edit, shorten, or delete any material. Letters should be kept brief and must be signed. The writer's name will be withheld if requested. Opinions expressed in letters here published represent those of the writer and not necessarily those of the Torrance Herald.)

Neighbor Needs Job

Editor, Torrance Herald: Our next door neighbor is in quite a bad situation, and I thought perhaps a letter in your paper might be of some help.

The family moved here from Canada in May and the father went right to work. They recently bought a home next door to us and everything was going fine until a slump came at his place of employment and 30 men were laid off, including him. He is a very conscientious man, hard-working and honest, and a non-drinker, so he received a wonderful letter of recommendation. The defense plants tell him, though, that they cannot hire anyone who is not a citizen (although his former place of employment worked on Navy contracts). Most other places of employment will not hire him because he is not a citizen too. (He is just short two weeks of being able to draw his unemployment, so there is no money coming in at all.)

The family moved to our country because they love it and want to become citizens. He must reside here for five years. If no one will give the father a chance to work, though, we are doing our best to drive them out, which isn't fair. There are four children in the family ranging from one to 13 years old and Christmas is so close it won't be much of a holiday for them the way things are.

The father has had quite a bit of experience with auto parts, and has had some book-keeping experience. Right now, though, he would be willing to take anything offered to enable him to care for his family. He is definitely a family man and is terribly worried about his unemployment. May be there is someone in Torrance or a surrounding town who would give this man a chance if they knew.

This man was in the Canadian Army and spent five years overseas. Although he wasn't in our army, we were all fighting together, side by side.

A CONCERNED NEIGHBOR
(Editor's note: Persons interested in aiding the man can call the HERALD's office to get name and address.)

Country Airls
Editor, Torrance Herald. I would like to invite the powers that be to come out and take a whiff of the nice country air out near 182nd and Crenshaw. Then they would see what we have to stand 24 hours a day.

Anyone who drives down Crenshaw in his car can smell a nice, potent barnyard odor, which not unnaturally we nearby householders get the main benefit of.

On top of that, we are being eaten alive by flies. Yesterday

I swept up three dustpans full of the ornery critters. You don't need to look very hard to see the flies around here either.

For a while the situation was much improved, but now it is as bad as ever. The only place I know that it could come from in such quantity is some nearby dairies.

MRS. A. K. TATLOWEY

Number, Please

Editor, Torrance Herald
Attn: Jack & Mary Webb
Hollywood Riviera
Last night my boy was sick and I helped out with his paper route, finishing up after dark. While no one, including myself, shows too much concern over a "tardy, overage paper boy," I'm sure some of our friends have had plenty of trouble finding our homes after dark. I think all of us (apart from those included) should be sure our home number is clearly legible at night, either with porch lights that clearly illuminate the number or with reflecting numbers at the curb

that can be seen with a car's headlights. As a matter of fact, the whole numbering system in the Riviera needs revamping as we all know, and it's this very same inconsistency in the numbering system that makes it all the more important to have our houses clearly marked—after dark please. I have to deliver papers again tonight.

D. P. BEAVER

Secret Spies

Editor, Torrance Herald.
How can Owen J. Tuttle question Senator McCarthy's motives. The senator has repeatedly told us of the communist menace. How can we doubt him?

Senator McCarthy has undoubtedly caught many spies, but if probably keeping it secret for security reasons. You can't be too careful with these dirty Reds.

G. O. PETERIKIN

OF ALL THINGS

By Robert B. Martin

Lost, Strayed . . . Spies!
Every so often we read about someone finding a baby deer that apparently strayed from its mother. What the well-meaning hunter or hiker often doesn't know is that, by "rescuing" the tiny orphan of the storm, he's actually interfering with Nature's way of doing things, according to the State Fish and Game Commission.

It is tragic, indeed, when someone finds one of the little tykes and removes it from the forest. Game wardens have found that a mother deer often hides her new fawn in deep grass or behind a log. This is because its spindly legs aren't strong enough to support it during the first few days of life. The mother stands at a distance so as not to attract attention to her youngster.

Just Nature's way of doing things. Oh yes, in case you don't believe in her methods, it might be well to consider that there's a \$500 fine and six months in the clink for "kidnaping" a baby deer!

New Worry:
A high man in Civil Defense, speaking before an assemblage of civic dignitaries, said there is a grave possibility that Fascist elements would take hold of a city that had been H-bombed by Red aircraft!

And all were duly horrified when he added that the city would be little more than a hole approximately 90 feet deep. . . not a stick left standing, not a man, woman, or

that can be seen with a car's headlights.

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The SQUIRREL CAGE

By REED BUNDY

Local blonde bragging about the seats she and her party had for the Junior Rose Bowl game last Saturday bubbled, "Are their seats? Why, they're on the 60-yard line."

Which reminded Glenn Pfeil of the old baseball gag about the big sport who took a bunch of his cronies to the ball game one afternoon. After finding their seats, he boomed out to the usher, "Where's left field here, Bud. I ain't never been in this park before."

The Foghorn, publication of the U. S. Naval Supply Depot, had a couple of items this week worth passing on for chuckles. 1. "If your wife wants to learn to drive—don't stand in her way." 2. "Men are peculiar, just as women have long suspected. For instance, a fellow who hasn't kissed his wife for five years shot a fellow who did." End of chuckles.

It's that time of the year again, and we had just as well repeat one of last year's favorite Christmas time yaks just in case you missed it. A Russian named Rudolph looked out of the window and said, "It's raining." "No, it's sleeting," his wife said. "It's raining, comrade wife," he replied. "Rudolph the Red knows rain, dear!" O. K., so you heard it last year, already.

Wilfrid Delquist passes this one on to us: A stouthead lady, asked the salesgirl at a local lingerie department: "Is this where I can buy some silk covering for my settee?" Ever ride the bus to work? Jim O'Malley who rides one frequently says he is struck by a pair of signs in the one he catches in Los Angeles at 5:15 p.m. each day—One advertising card offers an insomnia cure saying "30 deep sleeps for \$1" Next to it is one which says "Wake up and live—79 cents."

The following news item is being reprinted in full without comment as an educational feature of this column: "The Air Force is said to be studying the possibility of issuing pajamas to enlisted personnel."

"The Men's Pajama Institute, which announced the study, says pajama-wearing would speed up adjustment to military life, make airmen more comfortable in leisure hours, and keep them cooler in the tropics and warmer in the arctic."

But, did you hear about the fellow who got the black eye at the Christmas office party when he was struck by the beauty of the place.

AFTER HOURS

By JOHN MORLEY

Special Note: These personal "sentence philosophies" under my copyrighted title, "I Believe," first began to appear in the Rotarian Magazine in 1937 and for the past 17 years in the press around the world. H. L. Mencken, contracted for their use in his book, "A New Dictionary of Quotations," now published by Alfred A. Knopf, New York. They have also appeared under my name in the Saturday Evening Post; Ladies Home Journal (the latest, Page 155, October 1954), and other national magazines. Also in my book, "I Believe," published originally in 1937 and reprinted after its 21st printing in 1947. A new edition of "I Believe" is scheduled for publication upon my return in September, 1955, from my coming trip around the world. . . . John Morley.

I BELIEVE . . .
I believe it is better to outlaw the means of war, than debate about the causes.

I believe it's just as bad to appease our allies as to appease our enemies.

I believe no reconstructed society can be built on unreconstructed people.

I believe when nations talk about spheres of influence, they mean a foreign policy which seeks influence in the spheres of others.

I believe it is difficult to make a heaven of our country while tolerating a hell all over the colonial world.

I believe we ought to fight just as hard to avoid war as we do to win it.

I believe the defeat of the Nazi armies in the East was not a Soviet, but a Russian miracle.

I believe England's policy of "balance of power" to maintain peace is wrong. Peace can only be maintained so long as power is not in balance.

I believe it is false to regard one's country as the center of the universe and to decide all things in their relationship to this idea.

I believe President Eisenhower's plan for effective control of the atomic bomb presupposes the honesty of nations who will share it. If this were true, and possible, there would be no need for control, or for an atomic bomb.

I believe it is apparent that the inventors of atomic bombs are putting half of their time in improving the bombs and the other half in inventing devices to protect us from them.

I believe Europe for years has been a collection of countries with chips on their shoulders and none on the table.

I believe man has brought progress to our civilization. . . but unfortunately civilization has brought little progress to man.

I believe if it's intolerable for a single dictator to oppress a mass of people, it is equally intolerable for a mass of people to oppress a single man.

I believe there is something wrong with a science which discovers weapons capable of destroying a city in five minutes, while discovering nothing which can rebuild it in less than 50 years.

I believe most ambassadors are guided by the illusion that they are on the inside track of national political patronage.

I believe if nations were square enough to live up to their treaties, we could get along without them.

I believe we never eliminate war simply by eliminating enemies.

I believe the spillover of war are death and dividends. . . but unfortunately they are not awarded to the same people.

I believe the most significant period of Japan's history can be divided from Fort Arthur to MacArthur.

I believe there never will be genuine peace in this, or any other nation, so long as material values of money and power are the principal object of human pursuit.

I believe in America it's not "United We Stand," but "United We Move."

I believe my habit is hard to break. . . even the habit of old-fashioned faith and allegiance to the good of U.S.A.

I believe there was a time when American patriots shouted, "Give me Liberty. . . Now they leave off the last word.

The Republicans claim their policies swept the country. . . The Democrats claim we had been taken to the cleaners.

I believe the people look forward to each new Congress with more curiosity than hope.

I believe America needs more men who love the people between political campaigns.

I believe the day will come when children will be writing to Washington, instead of Santa Claus.

I believe America is the only country in the world where in one generation you can rise from a plain cabin to cabin planet.

I believe some nations are still off the Golden Rule, as well as the Gold Standard.

I believe, the Ten Commandments remain the best world broadcast ever rendered.

I believe world peace will be nearer when our "fighting fronts" become Faith, Fraternity, Factory, Farm.

I believe faith in God is inspired more by reason than by God.

I believe faith in tomorrow is the universal inspiration of all free men.

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DON'T BE A YULE FOOL!



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