

EDITORIALS

A Year of Decision

Early this year, this newspaper suggested a list of major projects which the editors felt would contribute to the studied growth of this city.

The HERALD today republishes this list of projects to remind those in a position to control the destiny of Torrance of a small part of their heavy tasks. These suggestions are simple, and yet are of such a nature that their completion would add immeasurably to the worth of this community.

The HERALD believes these things should be stressed in 1955:

1. The unification of Torrance's many communities. This would include a Torrance mail address for all Torrance residents.
2. The opening of more major arteries through the city, especially north and south, to facilitate the flow of traffic and to encourage a trend toward "shopping in Torrance." High on this list should be the opening of Arlington Ave. between 190th St. and 203rd St.
3. A clean-up, paint-up campaign to encompass the entire downtown area, and a clean-up campaign at the city's major entrances.
4. An assessment of downtown business establishments to cover added costs of collecting trash.
5. Proper and adequate advertising of the city with prominent and professionally designed signs or billboards on major streets advising passersby that they are in Torrance.
6. Active solicitation of industrial and commercial developers should be emphasized. Residential development in Torrance has outpaced commercial development.
7. Serious consideration should be given to setting aside choice residential sites for high class homes, and to the raising of square footage limits to force the development of better homes throughout Torrance. The city has reached a saturation point on bedrooms.

These things, we believe, will make Torrance a better place to work, live, and do business.

Adult Education

Next week, Feb. 7 to Feb. 11, is Public School Adult Education Week, a week set aside to focus attention of the public on a new phase of American education—the home-town classroom designed to meet the demand of adults for more information on a wide range of subjects and skills.

The week will make us acutely aware of rapidly changing conditions in the world today. Adult education programs are keeping pace with new skills, new concepts, and new knowledge.

The neighborhood adult school is the institution to which men and women look for the acquisition of the new techniques and understanding needed to keep up with the economic, social, and political conditions which now dominate our national life.

Adult education is designed to meet adequately the practical needs of adult life for technical skills, to extend the educational opportunities of those who were unable to finish school, and to broaden the horizons of all who wish for richer and more profitable lives.

INCOME TAX

(This is one of a series of articles on income tax changes. The articles are based on information provided by the American Institute of Accountants and the California Society of Certified Public Accountants.)

"Why should I bother with that old tax form?" asked a young lady who started on her first job in December. "I don't need to because I got less than \$600."

"You don't need to," her father explained, "but it will cost you money if you don't. How do you expect to get back the tax that was withheld from your pay?"

Do You Have to File? Here are the rules to help you decide whether to file a federal income tax return:

1. If your gross income was \$600 or more in 1954, you must file, unless you are 65 or older and had less than \$200 income.

2. If you had \$400 or more income from self-employment, you must file a return to report these earnings for social security purposes.

3. If you had any salary or wages from which withholding tax was deducted by your employer, you must file a return to get credit for the tax withheld.

Married Couples Generally it's best for married couples to file joint returns instead of separate individual returns, because the joint return gives them the advantage of income-splitting. That is, there are taxes at the rate which applies to half their total taxable income.

There are a few exceptional cases in which separate returns might result in a saving. When capital losses are involved, for example, it's best to figure them jointly and separately to see which results in less tax.

Head of Household If you are supporting a dependent, although you are single, widowed, divorced or legally separated, you may be able to qualify as a "head of household" and figure your tax on a special table that gives you part of the advantage enjoyed by married couples filing joint returns.

This year you can qualify for "head of household" status if you provide more than half the support of a

parent and more than half the cost of maintaining the parent's household even if the parent does not live with you.

Incidentally, if your husband or wife died in 1952 or 1953 and you have as a member of your household a dependent child or stepchild, you are now entitled as a "surviving spouse" to the same income-splitting benefits this year as you would have had on a joint return—unless you remarried before the end of 1954. Your privilege to file as a surviving spouse applies to the first two years following the year in which your husband or wife died.

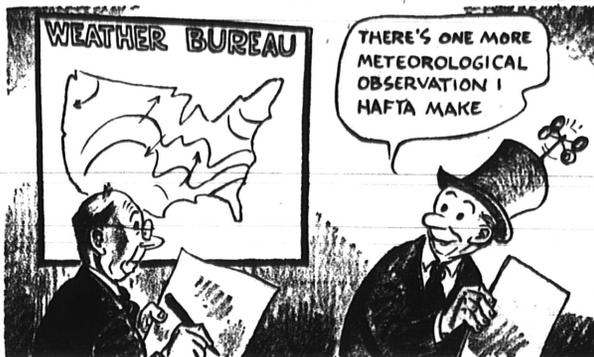
Choosing the Right Form The simplest tax return is a small card, Form 1040A, on which you furnish a minimum of information and leave it to the government to figure your tax. This is all right if you are sure you can't save money by itemizing your deductions and if you are not a "head of household."

You are allowed to use Form 1040A if your total income was less than \$5000, consisting only of wages, dividends and interest, and if all but \$100 or less is listed on your W-2 withholding slips. On Form 1040 you figure your own tax. It may be used as a "short form" on which you find the amount of your tax from a table which allows you approximately 10 per cent of your income as a standard deduction for contributions, taxes, interest paid, medical and dental expenses, etc.

If your income in 1954 was \$5000 or more you must use Form 1040 as a "long form." The long form permits you to itemize your deductions, whether your income was more or less than \$5000. If you think your actual deductions may be more than the 10 per cent standard deduction it's wise to list them and see whether itemizing saves on your tax.

Additional Information Be sure to read the official instructions. You can also get help from the Internal Revenue Service, which urges you to consult only qualified advisers.

Yesterday's Forecast



OF ALL THINGS

By Robert B. Martin

Snow... Southern Californians drive miles for a sight of it, and those darned Easterners get it right on their doorsteps... all for free!

They get all the breaks. Skiing, sleigh riding, ice skating... best kind of weather going.

Here, a fellow has to pay from 60 cents to a dollar for a little fun on the ice... and on a crowded rink, too.

Back East, a guy can step out the door of a morning, slide down the walk on his briefcase, flip over the gate and do a belly-whopper in the street.

And it doesn't cost him a dime.

My brother Ash did that once and he landed in front of one of those new fangled tractor-type snow sweepers. Ended up in Canarsie, and boy... was he late for work! Half the fun of snow is talking about it, wading through it or getting out of it.

Former up-state New Yorkers and others who may have lived in suburban areas may remember "the good old days..."

... when the community newspaper carried the weather report, "snow this morning, followed by small boys and sleighs"... the tracks of a deer and her young that had padded momentarily at your back door... new snow on pine boughs... cream that had frozen and pushed the cap off the milk bottle... snowball battles (no fair using rocks) and kids jumping into fluffy snowbanks.

Seems as though we all appreciated the coming of Spring in those days... and every one had a fireplace in his house... burned real logs! Blizzards cause havoc, but they bring people together... the bigger the blizzard, the more men needed to keep things going around the community... to keep the roads open, utility lines up, water supply running.

Ever listen to the ice on a lake... I mean ice that is so cold it cracks... when a sharp, bitter wind is blowing powdered snow across the surface... this is the time of year when the hero, undiscovered in the summertime, comes to your notice.

I remember Johnny Kastuk, the milk man, and Frank Crookston when he was on the route for the Van Cortlandt Dairy... they never missed a delivery because they knew too many people were depending on them... and the mail man on the R.F.D. route... next time you're talking about tradition and high ideals, remember the fellow who inches his way along a frozen, snow-jammed country road to bring you the mail!

Jack Kappel's still driving busloads of kids to and from the Putnam Valley Central School and Joe DeMatteis makes the run into Peekskill, rain or shine... Kappel's probably keeping his service station open most of the night these days, because motorists are no respecters of time when it comes to running off the road.

The guys who keep the roads open are warming up at Frenchy's place... hot toddy or hot cocoa, they've got to have something after long hours behind a snowplow... a pie a remote power pole and a link that's down and you'll probably find Rod Gale on the scene, half-frozen but ready to tackle the job... the day once knew, Frederick M.

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Rausch, M.D., will never be forgotten... he's all that a country doctor has ever been, and a little more... just another man who will always be ready when called.

Bury Oregon Corners under a blanket of snow... break through and Tommy Ripolon, the barber, will have the lights on in his shop... ready to give you a shave or haircut equal to or better than any you'll get in downtown Manhattan... and if the lights go out, there's always Harry Carr to call, for electrical work is Harry's specialty.

The names of these people are incidental, but they represent those just like them in small communities across America.

It's snowing in the East... and right now, I know they're on the job.

The SQUIRREL CAGE

By REID BUNDY

When thou art in the shower, And singing merrily, Ask not for whom the phone rings, It rings for thee.

Doctor friend of ours passes along this tip for any professional men who might resent being asked for medical or legal advice while attending parties and other gatherings outside the office. A prominent physician solved his problem with a short reply when asked to diagnose certain symptoms at a party. "I'd have to check you more thoroughly," he would say. "Strip to the waist." Worked equally well on men and women, our friend reports.

Which reminds us of a case-hardened reporter we once knew who had a neat way of insisting on following his newspaper's policy of using the husband's name in stories concerning women. Newspaper "style" usually dictates that a woman be referred to as Mrs. John A. Jones, not Mrs. Molly Jones. Whenever he ran into a woman who insisted on using her given name, our reporter would apologize and say: "I didn't know you were a widow." He got the husband's name every time.

Someone who signs his name "Bud" dropped off a note saying there were seven stop signs between Pacific Coast Hwy. at Narbonne and the HERALD building, and wants to know if we plan to do anything about THAT. Well, Bud Whatchance, in the first place, one of those stop signs is in Lomita, so that cuts the figure down to six. And, between the Torrance City limits and the HERALD building there are 18 blocks. Six signs in 18 blocks is only one sign for each three blocks. Until you get something to beat my count of a sign for each two blocks in the 17 blocks between the office and my home, I can't get too disturbed.

THE MAIL BOX

(The Torrance Herald welcomes expressions from its readers which can be published in this page. The editors retain the right to edit the copy for clarity and brevity. Letters should be addressed to the Editor. Opinions expressed in letters here published represent those of the writer and not necessarily those of The Torrance Herald.)

Make 'em Pay

Editor, Torrance HERALD:

I believe the tremendous costs to the present resident taxpayers of our city would be an unbearable load of bonded indebtedness for years to come (agreeing with the school board in this statement). I take a dim view about supporting financially this undeveloped area (Palos Verdes area). For any revenues this prospective subdivision may have is still far in the future years.

Wait, I heartily suggest, until their development is fully completed and settled with taxpaying residents. Then, take plenty of time and consideration with reason of benefits, and follow up by bringing the idea before our people on a ballot for a municipal vote on the subject of its annexation.

I believe the City Fathers should become thoroughly acquainted with all present and future aspects in regard to annexation, but feel it is not up to them alone either to acquire or reject this responsibility. The voice of the people must be heard, one way or another. After all "they pay the fiddler," so let them consider if they want to take the risk for long-term taxation and heavy costs.

I look with dismay even at the present planning needs and costs for just the educational facilities and upkeep, besides our already accepted costs for new municipal projects and buildings.

We are heavily bonded and are taxed enough for the present. Our population and purse are mainly that of the industrial working class who cannot afford more debts nor carry a tax load burden to please corporation builders.

I hope our home people will be alert to these extravagant costs and outlay to themselves. The additional repair, upkeep, and personnel needed

for parks, streets, utilities, sewers, garbage and trash collections, service trucks, equipment, etc., and the extensive need for more police personnel, patrol cars, and other equipment—all of which are minimized in this listing, will be heavily increased and the work doubled within each divisional office and department with the extensions of many services now unforeseen.

I say, let all subdivision "corporations" pay their own way or costs. Annexation, later should only mean a desire to be a section or part of our town.

Mrs. RAYONETTE C. BROWN 1041 Crenshaw Blvd.

AFTER HOURS

By JOHN MORLEY

My Town Hall lectures across the nation provide an excellent cross-section of what many Americans are thinking about world affairs, and U. S. foreign policy. What I learn in the "question and answer periods" on the Formosa-Red China situation is alarming and dangerous to the security of our country. The "people" are not aware of the facts because our government has not and is not releasing all the facts.

Our "on again, off again" policy on Formosa since 1950 has confused, frustrated and bewildered most everyone who has first-hand knowledge of on-the-spot conditions. Our promises, intentions and assurances to Chiang Kai-shek are not being fulfilled. Our assurances on the defense of Indo-China are being conditioned with the shifting winds of United Nations policy. This is to say that nearly all of the United Nations who can trade with China want Chiang Kai-shek buried, so business and trade can be back to normal with 500,000,000 Chinese customers on the mainland. The United States is being pressured by most of our allies and is up against the proverbial stone wall. Step by step we are falling in line with this blood-trade, policy which makes mockery of the 30,000 U. S. dead in Korea at the hands of the Red Chinese.

Loss of Yikiangshan Serious The President and Secretary Dulles announced that the fall of Yikiangshan "is not important" to the defense of Formosa, since all we lose is a radar outpost. The fact that nearly 1000 Chinese defenders were lost is evidently not serious. We are evacuating U. S. personnel from the Tachen islands to the south and it appears that we have already written off the Tachen as "also unimportant." Tomorrow the Reds will land on Quemoy, and since it is also over 100 miles from Formosa, that, too, will be of no strategic importance. One by one the Reds gobble up strategic islands so that the ships of most of our allies could deliver the goods to Red China without Nationalist China interference. Up to now no ships can enter the harbor of Amoy (across from Quemoy) unless the Nationalists permit them. Up to now only the ships of Britain, which are escorted by British destroyers, can enter Amoy.

The loss of Yikiangshan is of utmost importance, not because of its size, but because of the propaganda effect it is having on Communists all over Asia and the demoralizing effect it is having upon the Nationalists on Formosa and all over Southeast Asia. The fall of Yikiangshan was a test by Mao Tse-Tung and Chou En-lai to see what the United States would do. They called our bluff and we backed down. The fall of the Tachen is now inevitable and it appears that we will do nothing with any Red attacks short of the Pescadoreys or Formosa. This is the most serious threat to the Nationalists since the loss of the mainland in 1949.

Hammarström's Visit to China United States foreign policy has again been outmaneuvered as much by our allies, as by our enemies in Asia. We can count on few friends to support us against Red China's admission to the United Nations. Dag Hammarström, UN secretary general, is strongly in favor of Red China's entry into the UN. He is a Socialist. His country, Sweden, is about 50 per cent Socialist. The whole of Scandinavia is favoring Socialism. Norway is controlled by Socialists (52 per cent of government is Socialist). About 50 per cent of the Danish government is Socialist. Britain

is divided almost 50-50 between Socialists and Conservatives. Finland is 50 per cent Socialist. Denmark is 45 per cent Socialist. The Netherlands, who want China in the UN, the whole temper and atmosphere of our allies is, or is leaning to Socialism strongly... and Socialism is much closer to coexistence with Communism than we are led to believe.

Mr. Hammarström is an able and astute diplomat and a perfect example of what a diplomat should be. He is the typical trained diplomat that we have few of. He expresses the temper and mind of his country and the majority of the UN, who want China in the UN. His country, Sweden, which recently sold U. S. jets to Nicaragua, wants trade with Red China. Most of the UN members look at 8,000,000 customers on Formosa and 500,000,000 in Red China and must tip the scales very quickly. The profit-sign in Red China is coveted by most of our friends. Hence this maneuvering today on the Straits of Formosa.

Showdown Near For over four years Red China has been unable to land on Little Quemoy, or on 15 miles off the mainland to China. Whenever they tried it, they were annihilated by the Nationalists. I was there and saw it. Right after the return of Hammarström from Peking, the Reds landed on Yikiangshan with only guerrilla opposition. It was announced by Formosa that the regular Nationalist defenders were withdrawn. Why? Could it be that the United States ordered their withdrawal... and the withdrawal off the Tachen, to pave the way for a "settlement" or a ceasefire, allowing the Reds to occupy all the islands in a deal which will allow the Nationalists just to occupy Formosa. It is apparent to this reporter, who has covered the area a dozen times since 1950, that we have been outmaneuvered again by the Communist for the release of United States citizens. We paid \$120,000 to Hungary for the release of four U. S. fliers, who got lost in the fog over the Vienna woods... and now it appears we have sacrificed the Nationalist islands as the price of 13 U. S. prisoners in China. If this blackmail works, it won't be long before another batch of prisoners will be announced by Red China and the price may be Okinawa, Korea, or even abandonment of the Philippines. President Eisenhower's appeal to the Congress for authority to protect the Pescadoreys and Formosa and to draw a line beyond which the U. S. will fight the Reds, is superfluous and unconvincing, because it is apparent to anyone who has seen the Chinese navy and airforce that it is no match for the U. S. 7th Fleet and our airpower on Okinawa. China can make no move against Formosa without Russian military assistance.

Since Red China has been unable to invade one island, (Quemoy) for over four years, only 1 1/2 miles from the mainland, it is the height of optimism for anyone to suggest that they could invade Formosa, through the U. S. 7th Fleet, and take it out at sea. It appears to this reporter that the President's request of the Congress for permission to defend the Pescadoreys and Formosa, or some line far beyond the mainland, is but a ploy of soothing us to a painful wound we again inflicted upon our faithful Formosa allies.

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IT'S A FACT

By JERRY CAHILL

GREENLAND
WHO DISCOVERED BY A BAND OF ESKIMOS...
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LAW IN ACTION

NEGOTIABLE INSTRUMENTS AND THE LAW

Billions of checks, bank notes, drafts, promissory notes and the like flow through trade channels in the world today—pieces of paper worth billions of dollars.

With them we transfer money values and they pass from hand to hand like coin. The idea behind them: A man who signs his name to such a paper has—or will get—the money to back up his promise to pay.

All of our business—local state, national, and international—rests on "negotiable instruments," as these papers are called.

Two main types of negotiable paper: "promissory notes" and "bills of exchange." In a note, I promise to pay you a certain amount by a certain time. In a bill of exchange or a draft, I tell someone else who has or will get my money—to pay you. Your bank check is an example.

Your bank to pay the bill out of the funds you keep there.

And second, through our courts you can enforce the terms set out on the paper you hold. The law says that the owners of such papers have a just claim for payment.

If this were not so, negotiable instruments would have no value.

A negotiable instrument is a most complex form of contract. To protect you, all 48 states have adopted the Uniform Negotiable Instruments Law. To be negotiable, this law says that promises or orders to pay must meet certain requirements. One requirement: the paper must be payable in a definite amount.

Otherwise, it is non-negotiable and falls under general contract laws.

NOTE: The State Bar of California offers this column for your information so that you may know more about how to act under our laws.