EDITORIALS

In Defense of Juries

Several years ago, when representatives of the member nations of the UN met to hammer out a Universal Declaration of Human Rights, just about every "right" that anyone could think of was included in the final document. One right basic to American freedom, the right of the individual to a trial by a jury of his peers, didn't make the grade, however. For it's a right that people of many lands don't even want.

In America, too, there long has been controversy as to whether justice wouldn't be more scientific if juries were replaced by panels of experts or eliminated altogether. It has been speculated that the purpose of the late-lamented "jury bugging" project financed by a Ford Foundation grant was to garner evidence discrediting the jury system.

The U. S. Supreme Court did some thinking about juries recently in the course of its decision in the Toth case, which forbids the military to take back men discharged as civilians in order to try them before court martial for crimes allegedly committed while in service. In his opinion, Justice Black wrote:

"Juries fairly chosen from different walks of life bring into the jury box a variety of different experiences, feelings, intuitions, and habits. Such juries may reach completely different conclusions than would be reached by specialists in any single field. On many occasions, fully known to the founders of this country, jurors—plain people—have manfully stood up in defense of liberty against the importunities of judges and despite prevailing hysteria and prejudices."

Justice Black's words are a timely and perceptive reminder for Americans of the true value of one of their unique and very precious rights.

Good Neighbor Policy

One of the more encouraging trends of the day is the fact that people in all walks of life and organizations of every kind more and more are accepting actively the responsibilities of good citizenship.

The manufacturer who once was highly thought of just for making a good product and selling it at a fair price now spends money and time on building better employe and community relationships, on taking part in civic betterment programs. Organizations of all types, originally formed to elevate their own standards or improve their own status, today are lending their support to all manner of enterprises for the general public good.

Illustrating this growing awareness of civic responsibility are the words of Dr. Dwight H. Murray of Napa, president-elect of the American Medical Assn., addressed to his colleagues the other day in Boston:

"We doctors sometimes get the feeling that nobody understands us and our problems. But how can they? We know our neighbors' appendixes, but we don't always know what makes them tick as fellow human beings. When we stop and look around, we find we have many things in common with our neighbors, and they are very willing to help us with our problems if we help them with theirs."

Mutual understanding and helpfulness are the Golden Rule of good citizenship. Happily, more and more of us are coming to measure our civic stewardship by that rule.

SCHOOL COSTS IN CITY LOWEST IN LA COUNTY

The Torrance Unified School District ranks lowest among school districts in Los Angeles County in the cost per pupil based on the average daily attendance, according to a report from the county superintendent of schools.

In overall expenditures, the district spends $253.06 per pupil, the lowest figure in the county. The average figure in the county is $308.46 and the highest is $434.60.

Torrance's cost per pupil for teachers' salaries also is the lowest in the county — $169.67, compared with an average of $206.05 and a high of $279.03.

Since the Torrance district was founded only eight years ago and is growing so rapidly, school officials said most of the teachers here are on lower steps of the salary scale. As the district grows older, an increase in this figure is expected.

The district also was low in the county for other instructional salaries and cost of plant maintenance.

The only category in which it exceeds the county average was in transportation — $7.53 per pupil, compared with the average of $3.90 and a high of $8.90. This is due, officials said, to the sprawling nature of the city.

A breakdown of the figures is as follows:

Expenditure	County Average	County High	County Low	Torrance Cost
Administration	$ 12.36	$ 6.92	$ 19.67	$ 9.41
Teachers' Salaries	206.05	169.67	279.03	169.67
Other Instruction Salaries	12.41	7.08	17.76	7.08
Other Instruction Expenses	12.54	9.95	27.24	11.60
Auxiliary Services	7.71	4.25	13.24	6.60
Operation of plant	32.69	25.00	46.87	30.26
Plant Maintenance	13.20	5.65	33.75	5.65
Fixed Maintenance	7.60	44.34	11.82	5.25
Transportation	3.90	.91	8.90	7.53
Total	$308.46	$253.06	$434.60	$253.06

Wrong Address

The Freelancer

By TOM RISCHE, Herald Staff Writer

Ever a practical group, the Torrance Toastmasters are getting in shape early for praising those "whatsit" Christmas presents.

At the Christmas program to be held Tuesday, each member will bring a comic gift. As each is given his gift, he will be asked to give a two-minute speech on what it is, how glad he is to have it, and what he will do with it.

This should be good practice for those who are prone to receive peculiar gifts from misguided friends or relatives. It is especially good for the man who opens his Christmas box to find a full-length portrait of his mother-in-law.

☆ ☆ ☆

It might be well for all of us to fix a smile on our faces as we open our gifts, especially if we are going to be with our relatives.

I have a friend, who is now nearing 30, but still receives Rover Boy books from a doting, but addled, aunt. This smiling practice would be especially helpful for him, since auntie can't seem to get it out of her thick skull that he isn't still a little feller in short pants.

Smiling practice is good for people who are likely to get atrocious neckties, flashing socks, or gaudy cufflinks.

Reid Bundy, a guest at a Toastmasters' Christmas program several years ago, received an empty paper bag as his gift.

"There is nothing in this bag," he announced, "and nothing is the one topic that I am eminently qualified to speak about."

☆ ☆ ☆

Many of us may feel that we have to make much to do about nothing as our kind relatives do their best to please us, even if we don't share their bizarre tastes.

We are expected to exclaim brightly, "Oh, it's lovely," as we open our gifts on Christmas. There is nothing which puts a chill on a gift-opening like the afterthought, "What is it?"

As a variant to this, there are other possible ways to find out what it is that you have received as a gift.

"Oh," you might say, "I've never seen one of these before. How exactly do you use it?"

☆ ☆ ☆

If it is all too obvious what the gift is, for instance a rakish purple and green necktie, the best rejoinder is, "Now isn't that a necktie?" If intoned properly, the giver will think that he has been complimented even though you have actually only stated a simple fact.

One of the best solutions to the problem would be for people to give each other money, if they are doubtful about what to get. This saves them the trouble of shopping, you the trouble of returning the gift, and lets you use the cash as you choose.

I may not have many gifts to unwrap at Christmas, but, boy, do I have fun counting my money.

The SQUIRREL CAGE

By REID BUNDY

Mary Webb, who watches over the happenings around the Riviera area for us, has been up a tree during the past couple of weeks.

First her husband, Jack, was stricken with polio. This presented a babysitting and transportation problem for Mary because she couldn't drive.

Neighbor Wil Zens, who produced the Torrance movie last year volunteered to give her driving lessons so she could go visit Jack, who is now in the California Rehabilitation Center in Santa Monica.

The training was intensive—and apparently effective. She got her license yesterday morning and took off almost immediately for Santa Monica to see Jack. She wants to get him home by Christmas and those daily visits will help.

☆ ☆ ☆

Know how long the water fountain in the City Hall corridor has been out of order? Well, it was 53 days on Nov. 10. You'll have to take it from there — we're so busy with Christmas shopping that we haven't had time to figure it out. This was all brought to mind Tuesday night when Bernice Goodwin, secretary to the City Council, brought several carafes in for the Councilmen's use.

☆ ☆ ☆

Know how long the traffic signal at Torrance Blvd. and Fern Ave. stays green for traffic on Torrance Blvd. I can tell you that the three times I clocked it yesterday it was green for ghastly long time of eight (8) seconds! Let me tell you that in eight (8) seconds not many cars get through at one time after traffic begins to pile up.

Mail Box

Drive Successful

Editor, Torrance Herald:

The Kid's Day Committee of the Torrance Kiwanis Club and its officers and members wish to thank you for the fine support and cooperation given us during our Peanut Sale. Your contribution of space in your paper helped make this fund-raising drive an outstanding success. We hope that we may call upon you again in future drives.

The entire profits will be disbursed within our own community to worthwhile groups and activities that aid the youth of this area.

THOMAS WILKES
CHARLES D. VIRDEN
Co-Chairmen
Kids' Day Committee

Glazed Glances

By BARNEY GLAZER

A building contractor once visited a mental institution. He watched a square-shouldered inmate erect a brick wall. The man proved himself to be a skilled mason and his trowel fairly flew. Impressed, the contractor said: "I can use a man like you. Would you like a job when you leave here?" The inmate nodded and his face radiated joy. "Fine," beamed the contractor, "I'll see you Friday and we'll talk to the superintendent about releasing you." The contractor started to walk away. No sooner had he taken a dozen steps when pow! a brick suddenly hit him on the back of his head. Stunned, he turned his head slowly and looked back. There stood the grinning bricklayer, shouting enthusiastically: "Don't forget our appointment Friday!"

☆ ☆ ☆

Just before his son was born, Bill O'Connor made sure that his wife would enjoy the benefits of the finest hospital in town. No cost was spared. A few days later, Bill received a newspaper clipping which read: "Mrs. Margaret O'Connor has given birth to a healthy son. Both mother and baby are doing nicely under the CAR of Dr. Downs."

☆ ☆ ☆

Your 1956 automobile may have 250 horsepower but it doesn't have the horsesense that pulled your carriage 50 years ago . . . An executive of Los Angeles Rams football team was smiling quite smugly in his sleep one night. Unable to contain her curiosity any longer, his anxious wife poked him in the ribs until he awoke. Still smiling, he said he had been dreaming that the Rams had just traded Norm Van Brocklin, Tank Younger, Don Paul, Billy Wade and Elroy Hirsch for Kim Novak.

☆ ☆ ☆

Inmates of Los Angeles County Jail refer to the establishment as The Biscailuz Hotel . . . This is the time of the year when a man imbibes too much Christmas cheer and invariably gets on the wrong bus. He realizes his error after he notices a lot of people coming to order hamburgers . . . Then there was the carpenter who insisted on leaving a pile of wood shavings on the floor after each day's work. He was warned to clean up, so he took a shower.

☆ ☆ ☆

Most marriages are happy marriages. It's the living together afterwards that causes all the trouble . . . Definition of a policeman's nightstick: To touch people you wouldn't touch with a 10-foot pole . . . A friend of this department blew his top when he learned his wife had gone on a trip and had taken the mailbox key with her. He telephoned her long distance and she MAILED the key to him!

☆ ☆ ☆

It pays to advertise, even adversely and disparagingly, to wit the Sherman Oaks restaurant which, despite its self-deflation, continues to draw an excellent trade. The cafe advertises: "Famous for Dining Discomfort." Its coat of arms consists of a rough looking bull, backed by a crossed and sadly bent knife and fork. The menu points out: "It ain't easy to take a beautiful Grade AA steak and toughen it the way we do. We know our gravy is tender because we run it through the meat grinder. We recommend our tough sirloin, miserable New York cut, unchewable filet mignon, and disagreeable lamb chops. Try our tired T-bone for 25 cents; with meat, $2.25. We know the service is terrible, but people don't mind waiting because the food is even worse.

☆ ☆ ☆

Mary McCoy said it: "When a man and woman marry, they become one. The trouble really starts when they try to decide which one;" . . . Square meals make round people . . . Epitaph boldly chisled on a hep musician's tombstone: "Don't dig me, boy. This time I'm REALLY gone!"

☆ ☆ ☆

When the woman next door buys a hat just like your wife's, the choice is yours, mister—either buy her a new hat or sell the house . . . The six-year-old boy had just finished a hearty dinner but he was nibbling away at a box of cookies. "But you just finished your dinner," his exasperated mother scolded. "Didn't you have enough?" "Yes, mommy," the youngster replied, "but eating makes me hungry."

☆ ☆ ☆

Two Marines introduced themselves to a pair of pretty ballet dancers in a drug store. "Watcha doing tonight?" asked one of the servicemen. Promptly, the two girls replied in unison: "Swan Lake, Orpheus, and Pied Piper" . . . If Uncle Sam is trying to decide whom to use on his next postage stamp, your chronicler would like to recommend the tear-stained face of a sobbing taxpayer.

☆ ☆ ☆

Attention, all parents! The reason why so many of your children are seen on the streets at night is they're afraid to stay at home alone . . . Definition of Hollywood: A place where people spend money they haven't got for things they don't need to impress people they don't like . . . My Aunt Zookie says she was all ready to buy a nice 10-pound turkey at the local market when the clerk suddenly said something that made her change her mind. He said: "Seven dollars and 90 cents."

☆ ☆ ☆

Quelle belle sentimente! but I just heard about a prison that honored its star tenant not only by making him a trusty but also by retiring his number!

☆ ☆ ☆

A contractor whispered through the wall of a dwelling to a carpenter working inside. "Can you hear me in there?" he asked. "Yes," replied the carpenter. "Okeh, fine," said the contractor, "now can you see me?" "Not very well," answered the carpenter. "Good," exclaimed the happy contractor, "we won't have any trouble selling this house."

☆ ☆ ☆

Jack Rosenbaum describes the plight of the gentleman who was being interrogated by the minions of the law. "Why," they wanted to know, "did you steal this car." "Because," the gentleman prisoner explained, "I was too drunk to drive my own car" . . . Yma Sumac, the celebrated songstress, overheard two girls talking. First teen-age girl: "We can't go out with him. Why he's only 16 years old!" Second teen-age girl: "That's right. We'd better stick to the real old ones—the 17-year-old boys."

☆ ☆ ☆

Idabel Overlease, the newswoman, says her face turns watermelon-red every time she remembers the typographical error that crept into one of her recent newspaper features. When published, the story's head read this-a-way: "PRINCIPAL HAS SECRET MEETING WITH SCHOOL BROAD." . . . Which has nothing on the Beverly Hills Citizen's recent newshead which read from left to right: "BURGLAR SLAYERS ASK LIENIENCY." Ever since then citizens have been inquiring how much leniency they have in their Mechanic's Lienency period.

TODAY'S BEST BUY!

$5.63 will buy one clinic visit for a child.

Your Community Chest needs your fair share!

Torrance Herald

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IT'S A FACT

By JERRY CAHILL

THIS WEEK'S ANSWERS

HOLIDAY MONEY

Fill in the amount you want and your name and address on the Holiday Cash Request below. Then bring or mail it to our office. Money for Holiday expenses, unpaid bills and other needs may be yours in 24 hours! Everything is private — payments are tailored to your pocketbook. Use your coupon today. For faster service, phone me right now.

THE MANAGER

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