

EDITORIALS

A Day of Honor

Americans from coast to coast will honor the dead of this nation's wars Wednesday, Memorial Day. Observance of this sacred holiday will be varied—top drivers of the nation will compete in the annual Memorial Day classic at Indianapolis; Gold Star Mothers will visit the graves of their sons killed in action on some foreign soil; other mothers and their families will take the opportunity for the year's first picnic; while still others will compete in the life and death battle for position on the nation's highways . . . and hundreds will lose the battle, joining those whom they set out to honor in the grave.

Memorial Day is a national holiday and is an occasion to display the Stars and Stripes. The flag should be flown at half-staff until noon, then raised to fly from the top of the staff until sundown.

Whatever your plans for the day, give a moment's thought to those whom we honor on Wednesday. The price they paid for our continuing freedoms can only be justified through observance of the debt we owe them and through the efforts to maintain those freedoms for which they died.

Straight Thinking

A trend of this age is toward leniency with criminal offenders—a trend toward finding excuses for the individual, a trend toward seeking causes for his defections in his social background. In short, a trend toward blaming society rather than culprits for their shortcomings. And quite often the blame for this situation—or the praise, according to the point of view—is laid to the growing influence of women and their organizations in public affairs.

Whatever may be the softening influence of women in this field as a generality, dramatic proof is in evidence that California women, when aroused by a particularly despicable type of criminal, can be as stern as any hanging judge of the Old West ever knew. This came last week in Berkeley when the problem of the trafficker in narcotics, that malignant criminal who enslaves the young and destroys health while he deforms the personality, arose before the California Federation of Women's Clubs at their annual convention.

They adopted a resolution classifying the dope seller with the murderer—recommending life imprisonment or death as the maximum penalty and a 10-year sentence for the first offense!

A second resolution dealt with "the alarming decrease in narcotics arrests" since the State Supreme Court ruling drastically restricting admission of evidence. The clubwoman urged the passage of whatever legislation may be needed to close the loopholes by which such criminals are escaping justice.

No "soft" thinking is reflected in those resolutions. It is "hard" thinking of a kind that needs to be hard. And in our opinion, it is sound and straight thinking.

Make Your Choice

California voters have one more week to inform themselves on the candidates and issues in the 1956 primary election, to be held on Tuesday, June 5.

For those voters who have not done so, the time is here for finding out about the candidates seeking election for state and national offices and about the issues which will be presented for approval.

Several contests on the June 5 ballot have been dramatic, the balance seemingly "all over but the voting."

Among the hot contests which will be decided Tuesday is the Democratic presidential preference race between Adlai Stevenson and Senator Estes Kefauver. Each is seeking to win the California delegation, a delegation which carries a lot of weight at the national convention. Republicans have only to make their approval of the slate pledged to President Eisenhower.

Locally, a young Republican, Charles Franklin, is waging a vigorous campaign to win the nomination for Congress from the 17th District and Torrance resident, Tom Brewer, is campaigning strongly for the Republican nomination for the 68th Assembly District.

One national race which may prove to be a close battle is the contest between Richard Richards and Sam Yorty for the Democratic nomination for United States Senator.

Whatever your preferences for candidates and issues, don't miss the chance to make your choice at the polls.

Fatal Fallacies by Ted Key



"I ain't the ruin dreadful?"

A Blessing Or A Sentence



Barney's Blarney

By BARNEY GLAZER

"Judge," I asked my good judicial friend, "have you ever let your legs hair down to try hangover on the rocks?"

"No, I haven't," replied the judge. "But I've tried many men who have."

Well, here it is planting time again and I'm very proud indeed of my new system for growing a weedless garden. First I plant a whole yard of nothing but weeds and then I sit back and wait for the flowers to choke them out.

I'd like to go on record right here that I don't like the way my wife looks at things—especially new furniture. 1956 Cadillac, diamond bracelets and milk stoles.

In our house, there's a good reason why my wife always wins the arguments. She never permits her stubborn opinions to be sidetracked by my solid facts.

During a recent birthday party, one of the guests was complaining how little he got out of life. Said the host: "Probably, your life wouldn't be so empty if you'd put something into it."

In my way of living, I consider two procedures as highly dangerous. One is trying to keep up with the Joneses and the other is trying to pass them on a blind curve.

Whenever I glue myself to the TV set too long, my daughter has a cute way of dragging me away. She reminds me: "Dad, you'd better get up and move around or your self-winding watch will stop."

Sign on the back of a florist's truck: "Don't speed. Our next delivery may be for you."

So that's what a taxi meter is! It's something that runs faster than the taxi.

I've finally learned the true secret of full living. Whenever I'm out for a ride with my wife, and I want to relax, I drive.

Ain't it the truth though? From the moment a woman says: "I do," there are a lot of things she doesn't.

One of my neighbors hates to attend cocktail parties but his wife loves them. As a consequence he has to attend them all, like it or not. Meanwhile, he has worked out the perfect system to make his wife take him home early. As soon as he arrives at each party, he starts flirting with the first pretty girl he meets.

Sid Hoenig, the pharmaceutical genius, relays the tale about the 5-year-old boy and

lane freeway out of Los Angeles to evacuate the threatened people. Maybe this is possible, but I haven't heard any more about the proposal.

The situation is so mixed up that one wonders if the civil defense people know what they are doing. Until recently, the alarm system in Los Angeles were atop local fire stations, but they were removed. The firemen didn't know why.

If you were to walk down the street and ask the first 10 people you meet what they are supposed to do in case of an air raid attack, chances are that they would not know, I don't.

I know that the question has been batted back and forth like a political football for some time. I do know that Mayor Poulson has denounced Governor Knight for suggesting an evacuation plan. I do know that Governor Knight has denounced Mayor Poulson for denouncing him.

The best thing I can suggest to do is pray that the bombers never come.

girl who announced one day they intended to get married. "Where will you live?" asked his father. "In the playhouse," replied the boy. "And how will you support your wife?" "I'll mow lawns and run errands." "And what will you do about your children?" "Oh, me and Susie decided as soon as she lays an egg I'll stamp on it."

Once upon a time there was a little baby whose mother was an Indian and whose father was a railroad man which made the baby part Indian and part injuneer.

Short short story of a young actor who came to Hollywood to seek fame and fortune. He finally got his big break but it wasn't until the sneak preview that he learned he had been making two pictures at the same time—his first and his last.

Things I've never quite been able to understand—why it takes 10 minutes to vacate a school building during a fire drill but only 2 minutes when it's time to go home.

Out of the Past

From the Files of The Torrance HERALD

10 Years Ago This Week

May, 1946

Construction on the first 200 homes in Torrance Manor was to begin early in July . . . Torrance City Council contacted Governor Warren and the Adjutant General's Office requesting that the National Guard station a unit in an armory to be constructed on land provided by the city.

20 Years Ago This Week

May, 1926

Torrance subscribers with French-type hand telephones were due for a decrease in rates, according to an announcement by the Southern California Telephone Co. . . . George Isaacs, spokesman for the county health department, stated that hog farms spreading in the northwest parts of Torrance will become a menace to health and comfort unless properly regulated . . . Louis Zamperini was defeated by Norman Bright in the 5000 meter run at the First Annual Compton Relays.

30 Years Ago This Week

May, 1926

Members of the Torrance Police Dept. met with boys of the Torrance High School Club, Street Sweeper, and their sponsors, Carl L. Hyde and Charles V. Jones, of the Rotary Club, to discuss ways and means of improving moral conditions among the youth of Torrance . . . Helen Reeve returned from a motor trip to San Francisco with her father, Hurrum Reeve.

AFTER HOURS

By JOHN MORLEY

Contrary to prevailing skepticism of Russia's conciliatory attitude toward the West, this reporter believed upon his latest return from the Iron Curtain . . . and believes now . . . that the Soviet government has been forced by internal and external conditions, since the death of Stalin, to change many of its Statist and Communist ruthless policies at home and abroad. It was either change, or invite slow but definite destruction. The Communist party decided on some radical changes, however temporary or unpredictable they may prove to be.

In our opinion the conditions which influenced the post-Stalin government most are as follows: (1) The growing power and influence of Marshal Zhukov and the Russian army, who hated Stalin and the Communists for the murder of thousands of army officers in the 1937-38 purges. (2) The unpredictability of Soviet satellites in Europe and Asia under a new wave of nationalism and independence of Moscow. (3) The growth of Christianity inside Russia because of the shortage of food, consumer goods, back-breaking taxes, failure of farm cooperatives, and the worst drought and winter in history. (4) The growing military power of the United States and its allies. (5) The economic rehabilitation of Europe, causing a serious decline in Communist support. (6) Russia's shortage of oil, tools, heavy machinery, caused by a top-heavy military program at home and commitments to Red China. (7) U. S. Long range commitments to defend Europe, the Near East and Asia against Communism aggression. (8) Russia's concern over the fast growing strength of Communist China with three times

its population. (9) The world wide prestige of President Eisenhower and his availability for another term of four years.

In our opinion these are among the main reasons for the Communist "New Look" . . . the deflation of Stalin . . . the abolishment of the Cominform . . . the planned reduction of Soviet armed forces . . . the astonishing announcement of future abolishment of the concentration camps . . . the trips of Messrs. Krushchev and Bulganin to Belgrade, Geneva, Delhi, London.

My last trip around the world took place after Khrushchev and Bulganin visited Marshal Tito in the spring of 1955 and showered him with apologies for Russia's past deceit. We never witnessed such confusion among Communist parties around the world after this unprecedented event. This was followed by the smiles at the Geneva Summit conference, which I covered in July, 1955. For Khrushchev and Bulganin to publicly say to President Eisenhower in Geneva: "We believe in you and the intentions of the United States to work for peace" was a Russian statement which hardly could be deduced from Russian instructions to her satellites in the cold war.

Russian statements in New Delhi and London had an air of conciliation and compromise unheard among Communist official statements in the past. This change of policy has taken the steam out of many Communist drives all over the world. This does not mean that Communist conspiracy is declining as a goal toward world conquest. Not in the least. But it does mean that the present Communist leadership in Russia has been forced to unprecedented

changes in policy from fear, pure and simple. This new policy has gone too far to be just a temporary expedient to fool us.

It has dug deep into Communist programs and fundamentals, which ruled Communists and non-Communists with an unbending iron fist. While the fist is still there, it is not all iron, but a mixture of more "soothing" alloys. An expert on Russia told me in Scandinavia on my world trip that "major surgery was being performed inside the Soviet Union and some of the diehard Communist patients may have to die."

MAILBOX

Editor, Torrance Herald: I was pleased to see a nice story in another paper this week about El Camino throwing open its recreation facilities to the public this summer to nearby residents, but I could find nothing in the HERALD about it. Don't you consider such a move on the part of El Camino worthwhile for your readers?

G.L.M.
Torrance.
(Editor's Note: The HERALD published the story in detail when it was announced on May 10.)



Torrance in Books

Devil at My Heels, by Louis Zamperini with Helen Tritz, with a foreword by Billy Graham, N.Y., 1956. E. P. Dutton & Co., Inc., \$3.95.

The good old textbook used to say that the most dramatic type of conflict may be entirely without physical action: the inner conflict of man with himself. The life of Torrance's Louis Zamperini was filled with both kinds of conflict: inner and outer.

Fundamentally, this fast-paced autobiography is a story of redemption. The antagonist is Zamperini himself. If you saw the dramatization of the Zamperini story on NBC's "This Is Your Life," you will recall the highlights.

Young Louis was well along the way to becoming a juvenile delinquent when an awakening interest in athletics saved him. His first triumph came in 1934, when, as a junior at Torrance High School, he broke the world's inter-scholastic mile record and began a brilliant career as an international track star. Coached by Dean Cromwell at USC, he represented the United States on the All-America track team at the 1936 Olympics.

Zamperini was nearly crushed by the spiritual disintegration that was an aftermath of his war experiences. The war hero went into the eclipse of dark years. In spite of his impressive record, he returned to a morally bankrupt world, lost his savings, nearly ruined a brilliant career through dissipation, impaired his health and found himself at the age of 32 on the edge of hopelessness and disaster.

The loyalty and faith of a superior wife set the stage for a miracle of regeneration. At her behest, Louis attended the evangelistic meetings of Billy Graham. The ring messages of the great preacher awakened his latent goodness. He made the great decision to dedicate the remainder of his life to the betterment of his fellow men, to become a missionary, returned to Japan where he forgave his former enemies and made converts to Christianity.

Mindful of the waywardness of his own boyhood, Zamperini inspired "The Victory Boys Camp" in Los Angeles, devoted his time and effort to help maladjusted boys attain their lives to the principles of religion and good citizenship.

The fabulous story of Louis Zamperini will be a beacon of hope and strengthened faith to many readers. It is the classic theme of the struggle of good against evil.

Although the devil was at Louis' heels, the Olympic star outran him. (Wilfrid Dellquest.)

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NATIONAL EDITORIAL ASSOCIATION

ANNOUNCEMENT

Dear Neighbor:

No . . . this isn't a solicitation. Nor a bill . . . nor an ordinary advertisement.

Just a word of friendly greeting from the new manager of the Model Finance office. I'm sure we'll hit it off because I've been with Model some time and I know what nice folks we do business with. So, come on in and let's get acquainted . . . whether you need a loan or not.

Our by-word here, as you know, has always been prompt, courteous service. I will see to it that your needs are always given special consideration.

Just between us, I'd like to improve our service to you if possible—so whatever suggestions you have to offer will be more than welcome. And always feel free to call on me with your own money problems—I'm sure we can help solve them quickly and simply.

Sincerely,
DON PEPE
your new manager



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