

EDITORIALS

THOUGHT FOR TODAY — When a housewife takes a purseful of money to the store and returns with a market basket of groceries, that's normal; but when she takes a market basket full of money to the store and returns with a purseful of groceries, that's inflation! —President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

The Annual Headache

That annual headache, the city budget, is the center of discussions these late spring days around the city hall, and as is usually the case, it is going to be a tight squeeze to get the expenditures trimmed to the point where they can be paid for out of current income.

Unlike the federal boys who go now and pay later, the city manager is required by law to present a balanced budget.

Several phases of the current budget discussion have all the earmarks of splitting the council on the city's policy: new personnel, salary adjustments, bus service, rubbish pickup, and others.

Many of these problems have been faced — and deferred — in years past and as one councilman said at a recent meeting, "The city is at the crossroads."

The statement offered by many of the councilmen that "We can't afford that this year," is, we think, a weak answer to some of the city's problems.

We have to afford some of the costs it takes to operate a city of 20-plus square miles and 100,000 residents.

Salaries must be reasonably aligned to those prevailing in the area, the ranges between salary scales must be realistic, and the services demanded by the citizens must be provided and paid for.

The city council can no longer defer many of the items being presented to it by its city manager, George Stevens, who is charged with operating the city under the council's policy, must provide the personnel to staff the city departments.

Stevens says the city needs 25 additional men if it is to perform the minimum functions during the coming year. Inasmuch as he has a reputation throughout the West as being an outstanding city administrator, we'll take his word for it that the city will suffer if he council gives him less.

Evidence of the situations which develop in undermanned, inadequately supervised departments of the city has been much in the news recently.

Salaries of city workers must be fair and the range between entering employees and top supervisors must be maintained. To spend \$40,000 or so to correct distortions which have been permitted to creep into the system through flat money raises in past years is a necessity, not a luxury.

The HERALD believes the city manager is speaking with a knowledge of the situation when he says these matters must be contained in the 1959-60 city budget.

There is a lot of fat that can be trimmed from most budgets, but we believe they taxpayers of Torrance will pay willingly for those items which the city manager says are absolutely necessary.

Opinions of Others

An educator says it's better to know a lot about a few things than a little bit about most everything. Perhaps he wants quality of learning instead of quantity . . . and maybe the smart-alecky attitude of some of our delinquents could be channeled into a more constructive pathway if they knew a little less and learned a little more. Judge O. J. Anderson says with the rise in delinquency we need a little more sternness some place—maybe in the home.—Buffalo (Minn.) Journal Press.

We long for the carefree happy days when all a little businessman had to do was to look after his business. He didn't have a payroll tax, a sales tax, a social security or withholding tax to complicate the problem of doing business. Nowadays in addition to the problem of conducting the business, one has to keep a set of books that takes a good share of the spare time . . .—Ruleville (Miss.) Record.

Billy The Kid—Today



RAMBLINGS by Ronnie Saunders

The Summers of My Youth

For so many years summer began for me not by calendar designation but on the day school ended. All the summers I have ever known were like one another in some ways—the carefree colorful full-skirted dresses the women wore, the sentimental songs on portable radios that filled the air as I lay beneath the sun's warmth in a bathing suit, soft winds blowing my hair by day, and yearnings to walk on solitary city streets or down unlighted country roads beneath the stars at night.

But in other ways each summer was different. There were those first summers I remember of my early school years when it was always too hot to remain in New York and summer meant going to the country.

During the depression years mother would select second-rate boarding houses in the mosquito-ridden villages of New Jersey and summer would mean sitting on wooden-railed porches with other city-evacuees listening to the adults talk, tramping down dusty roads beneath the trees, and sometimes getting a ride to a swimming hole which could never be reached on foot. One year, when there must have been a little more money, the "lodge" we stayed at had a casino, and when Daddy would come up week ends there would be sounds of music from that building

and listen to Vaughn Monroe or Tommy Dorsey or Artie Shaw who occupied the bandshell every afternoon. Older people used to stay at night and dance to them.

The summer I was 13, there must have been a big surplus in the vacation budget. Because I remember we rented a bungalow for the season at Lake Hopacong, N.J. That was the year a bungalow neighbor taught me to bake cakes and make fudge and we had a rowboat. Every morning we'd row two hours to town to pick up our mail.

The highspot of the vacation for me was the day someone took us to town and I saw Judy Garland play the role of Dorothy in the film "The Wizard of Oz." When daddy joined us for Labor Day week end it was chillier and we sat on the screened porch with its yellow light to chase the bugs at night listening to a radio. It was 1939 and the news from Europe was frightening. The commentators kept saying the "cold war," and I new a terrible thing was happening far away.

I spent the next two summers at home in New York City — for the first time in my life. By then I had two friends, and the three of us took a "season locker" at Oriental Beach.

There was a big skating rink right on the ocean and a big bandshell and seats nearby. When we weren't swimming we used to sit or skate

THE SQUIRREL CAGE by Reid Bundy

Obituaries on the Billboard

Columnist J. Q. Jewett with the Poseyville, Ind., News, probably scored a few points with his boss recently with the following item, which we hereby steal in its entirety:

A merchant and an editor were discussing the value of billboard advertising. The merchant contended more people read the billboard than the newspaper. The next week, the merchant came tearing into the newspaper office wanting to know why the obituary of his wife's mother was not in the paper.

"Well," said the editor, "I knew you wanted the obituary read by the people, so I nailed it up on your billboard."

Three recent letters to the Herald were given a scenic tour of the country before being delivered to us here. One was from Supervisor Kenneth Hahn, one from the California Public Utilities Commission, and the third from the C. J. RaRoche and Co., Inc., of Hollywood, all mailed in Los Angeles.

They were missive to New York City, according to a rubber stamp notation on the covers.

All year long, teachers of the city have been filling out the report cards of their students, telling about the prog-

ress junior is making in music, spelling, social studies, and kindred subjects.

For Mary Ellen Hodge, a sixth grade teacher at Newton School, however, it came the other way around as school was dismissed for the summer last Friday.

Jan Harrel, one of Miss Hodge's students, sat down and made out a "Progress Report" for the teacher. It went like this:

READING An excellent reader. Reads to the class every day and seems to do it without stumbling.

SOCIAL STUDIES. Writes questions and assignments with great skill. Always is on time and she does excellent correcting.

SPELLING. She is always the top speller, and gives tests and definitions easily and smoothly.

ARITHMETIC. Knows all she has been teaching us very well.

LANGUAGE. Knows all the nouns, verbs and other things she teaches us.

MUSIC. Sings beautifully. Knows many songs and participates without hesitation.

ART. Draws very nicely. Has taught different ways of drawing.

WORK AND STUDY HABITS. Works quietly and quickly and gets everything finished.

P.E. Seems to enjoy teaching us our P.E. skills.

GROUP RELATIONS AND ATTITUDES. Has many friends, and gets more every day. Has a sense of humor and is a very cheerful companion.

COMMENTS: Miss Hodge is an A+ teacher.

Then there's Mark Maddy, a fifth grader at Crenshaw Elementary School, who took up the subject of teachers in a recent issue of the "Satellite Express," student newspaper. Writing under the title "My Opinion of School Teacher," Mark said:

"I sure am thankful for school teachers! I remember when I was a nobody, just a peepsqueak who got in the big school kids way! When I entered school in the first grade, I felt like shrinking to a mouse, but my teacher pumped me up and jacked me up, and made me feel important. All five of my teachers did this."

"My opinion is that school teachers made the United States what it is! Who taught George Washington? Who taught the whole government how to read and do their own independent thinking? Who taught the great scientists who make life easier every day? The school teachers! The school teachers taught practically the whole United States. Even Abe Lincoln had schooling so he could teach himself."

"If it weren't for school teachers, I wouldn't be able to write this page. Everywhere you look in the slightest way, has something to do with school teachers. So all I can say is, 'I sure am thankful for school teachers!'"

And sixth grader Tom Peterson at the Crenshaw school is asking for trouble when he says women talk the least in February. It has the fewest days, Tom explains.

LAW IN ACTION

Degrees of Crime

Our law defines as well as sets up degrees of some crimes.

Thus the court may punish "simple kidnaping" by 25 years in prison; "aggravated kidnaping" for money by "life" in prison with a chance for parole; and "aggravated kidnaping plus bodily harm" by death, or by prison for life with no chance for parole.

Kidnaping may mean taking a person to a hideaway for a ransom; but forcible movement, not the distance moved, is the defining idea in kidnaping. And force also includes threats of force.

In one case a man started to rob an apartment, tied a woman and made her walk about searching for money. He then assaulted and robbed her.

The court called this "aggravated kidnaping" with "bodily harm" and sentenced him to death.

What is "aggravated" kidnaping with bodily harm? In various cases, juries, who now decide the penalties, have found aggravated kidnaping where a person has burned the victim's hands, struck him, or stuffed him into an overheated closet for an hour, as well as moved him.

Juries have found kidnaping where the criminal merely moved the victim about in her own home. In another case he moved the victim only 22 feet from one parked car to his car.

If two or more people agree to kidnap someone, they may

The Luckless Legion by Irwin Caplan



In 1958 motor vehicle accidents killed 36,700 and injured 2,825,000.

In Years Gone By

Requests that the city council appoint a termite inspector to check all the houses in the city was the top item on the agenda of the businessmen as they met here to discuss civic problems 30 years ago.

The request, reported in the June 13, 1929 issue of the Torrance HERALD, was to be presented to the council by a special committee of businessmen who had been gathering data on the menace through the Chamber of Commerce.

Members of the American Legion were warned that three blasts of the city's fire siren would be a signal for all to gather at the clubhouse. The measure was part of emergency training which was that year's answer to civil defense organizations.

Dr. P. M. Seisas, former West Point coach, awarded athletic letters to Torrance High School's baseball and tennis teams.

Pennington, Paul Welsch, Alfred Jaunsem, Charles Faulkner, Wilfred Tidland, Willie Agapito, Pete Zamperini, Charles Ruppel, and Simon Schipper, Teanin letters went to Al Jaunsem, Pete Hall, Charles Steiner, John Young, Leonard Lock, and Paul Welsch.

The city council was asking the county for \$174,000 to make improvements on Sepulveda through the city, Crenshaw from the refinery to Carson St. (Crenshaw was then Cedar Ave.), Arlington from the refinery to Torrance Blvd., and that part of Cabrillo-Eshelman Ave. in Torrance. The county share was put at 50 per cent of the grading and 40 per cent of the paving costs.

A new Dodge Brothers Six could be purchased from the Allen H. Paull agency at 1420 Cabrillo Ave. for \$945. Torrance Motor Co. at Marcelina and Craven had a week end special — a Jordan Sedan for only \$250. It was described as a seven passenger car, fine for the family's vaca-

tion. Rubber, upholstery, and paint in good shape, an advertisement said.

Up the street at 1316 Cabrillo Ave., the Flaherty agency was pushing the new Marquette, at prices ranging from \$965 to \$1035. It was hailed as a great performer . . . "over the top of a long, 11.6 per cent grade at 25 miles an hour . . . all in big gear!"

Another highway project which interested local residents of 30 years ago was a contract awarded by the board of supervisors for the improvement of Normandie Ave. from 182nd St. to the Wilmington-Salt Works road in Harbor City at a cost of \$320,927.

A survey made by the electrical industry and published in the June 13, 1929 HERALD revealed that nearly 7 per cent of America's homes were equipped with electric refrigerators. The ice-man presumably still called on the other 93 per cent.



"Bad government is brought about by good citizens who are too lazy or indifferent to help good candidates."—The Whitehall, Mich., Forum.

"Always do the right thing — those you cannot please — you will at least surprise." — The Evening News, Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.

"A taxpayer is a person who does not have to pass a civil service examination to work for the government." — National Safety News.

"No one acquires a love of liberty working for government. You either bring it along with you or you never have it."—Lowell Mason.

"Successful people are the ones who can think up things for the rest of the world to keep busy at." — Don Marquis.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Includes a list of words to be found in the puzzle.

STAR GAZER by CLAY R. POLLAN. A horoscope section providing daily activity guidance and birth dates for various zodiac signs.