

# Torrance Herald

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## Partners In Crime



James Dorais

## Stern Treatment for Scofflaws Rates Praise

For a long time, an influential school of thought has held that crime is really a form of sickness and that punishment is an unenlightened relic of the dark ages. "If increased penal sanctions were the answer to crime, crime would have been wiped out long ago with burning, thumbscrews, whipping galleys and the like." Reference to the bad old days when minor crimes were punishable by brutal penalties, including death, is a favorite gambit of defenders of lenient treatment for criminals. The only trouble with that line of reasoning is that we've come so far from the extreme of those days that we have gone all the way to the other extreme.

The fact of the matter is that the rate of crime in California, particularly for vicious crimes of violence, has been sharply increasing in recent years, and the increase has been accompanied not by a trend toward harsh penalties but by a trend toward greater leniency. All of which would suggest that a return from the extreme of coddling criminals to a middle ground of surer and more reasonable punishment is very much in order.

There are many indications that a majority of the public thinks so, as well as law enforcement officials and many judges. For example, a Richmond judge recently invoked stiff penalties in his court for harrassing policemen. And a San Francisco judge sharply increased the penalties for street muggers, stating the penalties would remain in effect until his wife felt safe to walk on the sidewalks again.

Other offenders were ordered to clean up the beach, and one was required to read Gibbon's "Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire" as a condition of being put on probation. Cruel and unusual punishment? The public's probable verdict is that it is sensible rather than cruel, and while unusual, it ought to become less so.

## Quote

Sin never improves any more than a cancerous condition improves without medical aid. — Billy Graham.

When a plumber can make \$7.50 an hour, how can a young person justify spending four to 10 years in college? — Herbert Cook, San Francisco.

I'll ask for an attendance clause in my next contract. When the fans don't like you, it helps the gate. — Bo Belinsky.

The Treasury's new depreciation policy may save some taxes in early years only to add greater taxes in later years. — F. Llewellyn, San Marino.

She was cold and indifferent. — Paul Oakland, father of eight, on winning divorce.

## ROYCE BRIER

# Man's Visit to the Stars May Be a Long Way Ahead

Now that we've shot up the Van Allen Belt (maybe), and raised a television satellite to let Europe see Hoss Cartwright, we feel big, big, big! You get the idea there is no limit to what we can achieve. In the old days newspapermen used to slave in attics to bring us yarns about beautiful blondes from the other star systems. Now scientists out of Who's Who, and loaded with honors and martinis, talk as airily about far-space as your pappy used to speak of a trip to Yellowstone Park.

But not Dr. Sebastian von Hoerner, a distinguished German astronomer, writing in Science. He says simply that we are going to stay right here in the Solar System for all time, and further, we are not going to have any extra-Solar visitors, no matter how advanced they may be. The doctor doesn't doubt

there are folk in other star systems, what he calls "alien intelligence," and some might be measurably beyond us in technology, but the best we'll ever do is jabber with them by radio.

He has much the highest sober figure yet for habitable planets — about six per cent of all stars have at least one where conditions are favorable to the development of some form of life. As the stars approach infinity in number, this would make quite a universal mob.

But not at all crowded. The 10 stars nearest the sun average about 18 light years distant, and a light year is six trillion miles. Even at the speed of light, 186,000 miles per second, a round trip would require half your lifetime.

But you can rule out the velocity of light for any artificial vehicle, whether ours,

## A Bookman's Notebook

# Sagan's Fifth Romance Called Shallow Effort

William Hogan

Francoise Sagan was only 18 when she wrote "Bonjour Tristesse." As a writer she was very, very good, no question about it, and she came on like a movie star. There always seems to be a strain of accordion music in the background of her prose, and a message that love is a bittersweet thing. In four previous novels she wrote about sex. Not raw sex, of the kind so many of her writing contemporaries revel in, but an innocent French girlish sex. Sagan sang in a minor key. The image she presented was a blend of Audrey Hepburn and Edith Piaf, junior grade. In her books the theme is "Hello, sorrow!" Here it is again in a fifth, called "The Wonderful Clouds."

This is a fairly shallow little romance that opens in Key Largo, Fla., where a girl named Josee perspires in an artificial setting with her American husband, Alan. He is handsome, rich, thoroughly offensive young idler, usually loaded with Bacardi, and brutally jealous of his French bride. In fits of neurotic possessiveness, Alan accuses Josee of infidelity. Whether he knows it or not, he is right. Josee escapes her gilded cage, first to New York, then home to Paris where she feels guilty about Alan's utter dependence upon her. She is a lyrical little animal whose rolls in the hay are as inoffensive as Alice's step through the looking glass. And then comes Alan to find her, as the strains of accordion music seem to rise in particularly haunting refrain through the notorious blue afternoon of Paris.

This is a dreary, if chic, novella in the Sagan style. All her characters seem doomed to wind up next year at Marienbad. As before, one suspects that there is a superlative native talent here, and that Sagan, now 30, could become a writer of Colette-style and grace if she tried. In "The Wonderful Clouds," she seems to be wasting both time and talent on a thin and superficial theme. It is all very French, very youthful, very sad. Like her others, this, too could be called "Bonjour Tristesse." The lit is here, but my! What unimportant people she chooses to dream about.

Notes on the Margin—Gerald Moore has accompanied leading singers and instrumentalists of Europe and the United States for almost half a century and tells of this career in an anecdotal autobiography titled "Am I Too Loud?" (Macmillan). His earlier books have included "The Unshamed Accompanist" and "Singer and Accompanist." ... "Jade: Stone of

Heaven," the history and lore of the precious stone of the Orient, by Richard Gump, has been announced for October publication by Doubleday. Richard Gump is the

third generation member of his family to head the famous San Francisco store.

The Wonderful Clouds. By Francoise Sagan. Translated by Ann Green. Doubleday, 128 pp., \$3.

## Around the World With



"What is the best auto map for driving in Mexico? And is the gasoline all right?"

The AAA map of the Republic is very good. PEMEX, the national Mexican gasoline company, has a large map and sectional maps. Once you're on a major highway headed for Mexico City, you can't get off very far anyway.

The roads are well marked with highway numbers — like "Mexico 15." The little mile posts with "Mexico" and a number tell you the kilometers to Mexico City. (Multiply kilometers by six and drop the last digit to get miles.)

Buy gasoline "Super-Mex" for our cars. Or "Gasolmex" will do. But if you buy plain Mexilina, you'll be ping like a banjo. You can blow a piston with this stuff. The residue keeps on firing after you shut off the engine.

The only problem keeping on the right road is through town centers. Look on the walls of buildings at the corners for signs "Transito" in an arrow. Gives you the direction of one-way streets. They usually wind you out of town.

On the highways: Bridges are narrow. The truck driver flashing his lights oncoming means HE is coming through first. Don't argue this.

In towns where you stop, there is always somebody to "watch" your car. Ranges from a real policeman to a boy. The tip is one peso (8 cents). Worthwhile. But if it's a boy and overnight, make the deal in advance. Otherwise you get a big argument in the morning. (Two to three pesos would be OK on an overnight where you leave the car in the square.) You can tip the police watchman. It's the custom.

It is never safe to go more than 60 miles an hour. I prefer 50. Chuckholes appear without warning. Approaches to some towns have a real slowdown system—a series of concrete ridges four inches high that will send you through the roof.

A string of burros may be just around the bend. I've seen bridges out with no warning than a tree branch laid across the road.

Piles of gravel for the next day's work are often dumped in the middle of a road with no warning light at night.

Truck drivers constantly break down. When they do, they block up the wheels with a great big rock. When they are repaired, they drive away. The rock remains.

If all this sounds terrible, it's not. Mexico is the most fascinating country in the world to drive through. It needs some caution.

Excellent source for free mailed information on road conditions, car care, permits required, etc.—Dan Sarnborn Travel Service, McAllen, Texas. (They sell car insurance. Your U. S. insurance doesn't cover you in Mexico.)

Stan Delaplaine finds it impossible to answer all of his travel mail.

For his intimate tips on Japan, Italy, England, France, Russia, Hawaii, Mexico, Ireland, and Spain (10 cents each), send coins and stamped, self-addressed, large envelope to the Torrance HERALD, Box RR, Torrance, Calif.

## Ranchero Days Coming

The city's annual August celebration, Ranchero Days, gets under way Wednesday evening and signals the high point of the summer season in the city.

On tap for the fun seekers will be a professional collection of thrilling rides, a midway of booths operated by Torrance service clubs and civic groups, a queen contest, parade, and two days of rip-snortin' rodeo action. A beard contest is under way as a side attraction.

The annual Ranchero Days celebration will return to the Del Amo Shopping Center area which will be the scene of the carnival midway and rodeo action.

Cosponsors of the annual event are the Torrance Mounted Police Assn., Torrance Elks Lodge, and the Junior Chamber of Commerce. Adding their backing by operating concessions are more than a dozen Torrance clubs and organizations.

Much of the proceeds of the celebration will go toward financing the city's entry in next January's Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena. Additional proceeds will be used by the local clubs in their charitable programs.

It's all fun, and the principal benefactors are Torrance groups.

We can recommend that Torrance area residents get into the spirit of the celebration, even though it is a little late to enter the beard contest, and have fun at the fair.

Make your plans now to attend the carnival midway on Wednesday through Sunday; the parade on Saturday morning; and the rodeo Saturday and Sunday afternoons.

And, above all, have fun.

## Opinions of Others

There are three good reasons for being a teacher—June, July, and August.—New Mexico School Review.

A man's body is extremely sensitive. Pat him on the back and his head swells.—Coffeyville (Kans.) Journal.

We seem to be playing a game of tic-tac-toe with the Russians in nuclear testing. What happens when both sides run out of squares?—Suffolk County News (Sayville, N. Y.).

Tact is the ability to make your guests feel at home when you wish they were.—The Putnam County (Ind.) Graphic.

Getting home late for dinner can get hubby a diet of cold shoulder and hot tongue.—Fort Collins (Colo.) Coloradoan.

Back in the good old days there was something to make you sleep. They called it hard work.—Atchinson (Kans.) Globe.

## Out of the Past

From the Pages of the HERALD

### 40 Years Ago

A mad dog was killed in the streets of Torrance Wednesday afternoon when he threatened the lives of several pedestrians. Dr. Lancaster, Torrance health officer, was summoned and killed the bulldog with his rifle. Later examination showed the animal to be suffering from rabies. It was the third case in Torrance during this summer.

the group now organized in a statewide campaign to defeat the Housing Act at the general election in November.

Tom Mix, the famous Fox star, comes to the Torrance theater on Aug. 6 and 7 in "The Rough Diamond," a picture that is an extraordinary departure from those he commonly appears in. It is a thrilling, romantic picture with the cowboy star appearing as a dashing world adventurer.

### 20 Years Ago

California lumbermen are concerned over a clause in the State Housing Act that would deny anyone the privilege of having a shingle roof on his house. The clause somehow appeared in the Act and won the signature of Governor Stevenson, according to

"For God's sake, Mr. President, let's not be too late," was the cry that went up this week from Torrance. This is the punch line of a telegram addressed to President Franklin D. Roosevelt, and

calling for the immediate opening of a second front, a move adopted by United Steel Workers Lodge 1414.

Ninety-five Torrance residents were scheduled to donate blood this morning with the visit of the mobile blood unit. For its second visit to the city the unit will begin operation at 8 a.m. and expects to complete its work by noon today. Red Cross workers will serve coffee and doughnuts to the donors.

Scheduled for induction as a private in the Army Aug. 5—just 30 days prior to the primary election when he will seek the democratic nomination to congress from the 17th District — Judge John Shidler today received pledges from hundreds of his friends that they will continue to seek his election. Judge Shidler told the city council that the war effort came first and that he was not seeking deferment either because of his position as police magistrate or because he is married.

## LIFE'S LIKE THAT

By FRED NEHER



"One of you bured a bone in my chair!"

Established Jan. 1, 1914

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STAR GAZER			
By CLAY R. POLLAN			
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JUNE 21	1-23-47-61	69-70-80-84	DEC. 21
JULY 21	1-23-47-61	69-70-80-84	JAN. 20
AUG. 21	1-23-47-61	69-70-80-84	FEB. 19
SEPT. 21	1-23-47-61	69-70-80-84	MAR. 20
OCT. 21	1-23-47-61	69-70-80-84	APR. 18
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APR. 18	1-23-47-61	69-70-80-84	OCT. 12
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AUG. 14	1-23-47-61	69-70-80-84	FEB. 8
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