

A Time for Decisions

It has been nearly 10 years since this city first opened the battle to locate a branch of the South Bay Municipal Court at the Torrance civic center. That battle was won when Division 3 of the court opened in early 1959, and in the intervening time, Torrance and Inglewood have done battle over the location of the Southwest Superior Courts Building with Torrance emerging the winner.

As 1964 comes to an end, a new salvo has sounded the call to remove the facilities of the South Bay Municipal Court from their present location in Redondo Beach to the Torrance civic center.

The earlier location of Division 3 of the court in this city, and the decision to build the superior courts building here, were more than the result of a war between cities. Both were, in fact, recognition of the growth of Torrance and the position of the city as the center of the greater Southwestern section of Los Angeles County. The county recognized this in 1956, when it voted to establish the court in Torrance.

Two items from that 1956 report should be recalled by the Board of Supervisors:

One of the chief advantages of a Torrance court was that it would be near the geographic center of the judicial district. "There is less likelihood that in the future the district will be split into two districts, resulting in more costly court operations," the report said.

Under the short list of disadvantages, the report noted a court in Torrance would be separated from the superior courts. Inconvenience to the public, to attorneys, and to the office of the district attorney was cited.

The Press-Herald believes the location of all facilities of the South Bay Municipal Court in Torrance would be a logical addition to the legal facilities now located here. Completion of the superior courts building will bring to one place all the legal offices of the county located in the Southwest Area—all but two divisions of the South Bay Municipal Court.

The easy accessibility of the Torrance civic center, the obvious advantages of the nearness of both municipal and superior courts, and the savings to taxpayers which would ensue require the relocation of the municipal court. The present building was designed for future expansion. The county's present 10-year capital outlay budget provides for the addition of four more courtrooms in Torrance to meet the needs of the area.

The need is here today. The South Bay Judicial District has grown too much to afford the luxury of an ocean-front courtroom. The people served by the courts are entitled to centrally located facilities.

There is no better time for a decision than now, as the new year stands before us. And there can be only one decision: the court must be moved.

NEWS SPARKS by James Dorais

Stakes High in FPC Decision

The year 1965 should bring a final decision on a hard fought controversy of major economic importance to Southern California, and of long range significance to the rest of California and the nation as well.

Before the new year is over, the Federal Power Commission is expected to rule on whether or not a natural gas producing company can build interstate pipelines to deliver fuel direct to large industrial customers, thus by-passing gas distribution utilities which are regulated by state public utilities commissions.

The specific case concerns the application by Gulf Pacific Pipeline Company—a subsidiary of Tennessee Gas Transmission Company—to build a pipeline from Texas to Southern California to deliver gas directly to Southern California Edison Company and the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power for use as boiler fuel to generate electricity.

The two electric generating agencies are presently served by the Pacific Lighting distributor group—the Southern California Gas Company, Southern Counties Gas Company and Pacific Lighting Gas Supply Company, all regulated utilities—on an interruptible basis. The term "interruptible" means that service can be temporarily discontinued during periods of heavy cold-weather use by "firm" domestic and commercial customers—a system, it is argued, that results in a balanced all-year

load and lower costs for all categories of customers.

The Los Angeles smog problem enters into the argument, as proponents of the Gulf Pacific pipeline plan contend that diversion from natural gas to fuel oil when gas service is interrupted contributes to air pollution, even though such diversion occurs in the relatively smog-free cold-weather periods. However, the regulated gas companies currently supply all but 15 per cent of the industrial fuel requirements of the southern California area and are prepared to supply even more if required to under smog-abatement regulations.

In any event, there is no question that increased natural gas supplies are needed in the immediate years ahead in the fast growing southland, and application is pending before the Federal Power Commission for a large increase in daily deliveries to the gas distribution companies from current suppliers over existing pipelines from Oklahoma and west Texas.

More than 130 days of public hearings have already been held on the two competing proposals, more than 20,000 transcript pages have been recorded and 674 exhibits have been introduced into evidence.

The hearings are expected to be concluded by April, and a final decision made by the FPC late in the year. The stakes—in terms of costs to consumers and the future of regulatory control of public utilities—are enormous.



HERE AND THERE by Royce Brier

On The Warren Report: The Myth Just Won't Die

Those who have doubted the orthodox story of the assassination of President Kennedy, have been at their task for a year. They have in the main been free to express their convictions, and to refute, if they could, the official story, though they have lacked certain powers of an official investigation.

They have made no inroads on the official story, though they have pointed out some flaws occurring in the investigation immediately after the event: Most of these flaws, however, were inseparable from an event of such extraordinary impact.

The unorthodox divide in support of two theories: (1) that Lee Harvey Oswald was innocent; or, (2) that he was a member of a conspiracy.

Now comes Professor Hugh Trevor-Roper, a distinguished Oxford historian, to say the Warren Report is defective in presenting only the orthodox side of the assassination story.

Prof. Trevor-Roper wrote a definitive book on the death of Adolph Hitler in the bunker, at a time when there were widespread reports he had escaped. So we must assume the Professor is well aware how the encrustations of myth attach to violent historical events.

The historian contends the Warren Report conclusion is invalid until the "defense" has been heard. Yet there is no hint the Warren Commission, which questioned over 500 witnesses, ever refused to hear any witness for the defense, so-called.

Few assassins not actually captured at the scene, including John Wilkes Booth, have been more thoroughly identified as potential assassins, than was Oswald. There is no doubt he was in the textbook building when the President passed, that he bought the rifle used in the killing, that he shot and killed the policeman, Tippit, while the hunt for the assassin was on.

His psychic makeup was startlingly similar to that of Booth, and indeed to that of Giteau (Garfield) and Czolgosz (McKinley). All four were loners under the incalculable pressures of a twisted hatred of society. Such people are at large all times—they daily slaughter family or associates without warning.

The frequency with which we encounter these explosions of the human mind argues persuasively that Oswald was the assassin, provided: (a) he had the background for it; (b) he was at the scene. The Warren Commission developed these two points exhaustively.

Conceded, the Dallas police, the FBI and the Secret Service made mistakes before and after the fact. The only alternatives to believing them mistakes, are belief in an a priori conspiracy, and/or belief in subsequent criminal suppression of facts. No substantial evidence of either has been produced.

BOOKS by William Hogan

Bird-Watchers Will Find Many Books on Pet Topic

It is possible that there are more bird watchers among us than ever before. It is certain that there are more bird books around this season than in any previous. Some are very big and visual, like "Audubon's Wildlife," with text by Edwin Way Teale (Viking; \$15), and Doubleday's sumptuously illustrated "The World of Birds," which covers the 8580 species known to exist on earth today, available at \$22.95.

Our house bird-watcher has kept his eye on bird books as well as the feathered creatures themselves this season and has forwarded his literary field notes from time to time. His ornithological file, however, has become almost too thick for comfort at this point of the year. Therefore, we telescope some of his longer reports on his specialty into the following capsule notices:

"Thoreau on Birds," by Helen Cruickshank (McGraw; \$7.95). A winnowing from Thoreau's comments,



"Prosperity is something you feel, fold and mail to Washington."

remarks and feelings about birds, chiefly from his Journal, and altogether a delight. Illustrations by John James Audubon and others. A "must" for the avian library.

"Birds of Prey of the World," by Mary Louise Grossman and John Hamlet (Clarkson N. Potter; \$19.95). A massive, illustrated, comprehensive rundown on the world's birds of prey—prehistory to the present precarious predicament of the California Condor and others that are not faring too well in this man-dominated world. Both informative and a work of art.

"Song and Garden Birds of North America," by Alexander Wetmore, an excellent National Geographic Society project (\$11.95), this is available only through the Society's national office in Washington, D.C. This is not a field guide, being much too large and heavy for that; it is a supplement to a pocket guide that you will read and refer to time and time again as questions come up about specific birds. With this there is just no excuse any longer for one to be in doubt about what bird he has seen, or heard, in the field. Fourteen leading ornithologists have contributed to this delightful volume.

"The Birds of Arizona"—(University of Arizona Press; \$15) is both a handsome and scholarly presentation of the facts of life of some 423 varieties of birds in that State—some of which take to the air over California, as well. Field sketches by George M. Sutton and a selection of fine color photographs by Elliot Porter.

"Birds of the World," by Hans Hvasv (Dutton; \$4.95) examines a representative flock (some 1100 species). Attention is mostly on Europe and North America. A fine little illustrated book that gives one a pretty good idea of all the beautiful, exotic and sometimes downright ugly birds to be flying around this earth of ours.

Note: A standard, hard to beat: "A Field Guide to Western Birds," second edition, by Roger Tory Peterson (Houghton Mifflin; \$4.95).

My Neighbors



"But Alice, when will we ever have an opportunity to wear them back in Menominee Falls, Wisconsin?"

AFTER HOURS by John Morley

Convictions, Predictions, And Best Wishes for 1965

• There will still be people in the New Year who will scream the loudest for things they can't take with them.

• There will be renewed realization that America is a Paradise—regardless.

• That rather than trying to "capture" the minds of men all over the world, we just try to "free" their minds with education.

• That both conservatives and liberals get out of similar traps. For, because something is old, it doesn't necessarily make it good, and because something is new doesn't necessarily make it any better.

• That gossip, slander and rumor will continue to travel faster than the greatest truths.

• The happiest people will be those who are too busy to notice whether they are happy.

• To expect more than our parents expected of us is expecting too much of our children . . . with the competition of TV and the Beatles.

• We will continue to judge people by the way they behave when things go against them.

• There will be new, successful men because of the loyalty and inspiration of their women . . . while others will succeed in spite of being told they're dumb.

• There will be "eccentrics" with new ideas referred to as crackpots—and until the idea catches—and they will build the biggest house in the block and invite their critics for lobster and champagne.

• There will be progress in nuclear energy, especially in the effort to reverse its emphasis, now that the road to hell has been paved with its invention.

• Next year more and more men will continue to make less and less use of their legs and there is every indication that women will again outwit them by improving on the extraordinary use of theirs.

• We will continue to meet men and women who will do their best, win or lose. Others will prefer to just look on, avoid pressure, work and hazards. And when these two types meet face to face, expect one of them to have a bagful of excuses, envy, jealousy, and even hate.

• There will be more student revolts on the campuses. It's a symptom of the times, encouraged by an increasing volume of fuzzy thinking among the teachers. But it should be remembered that it's usually the coward who joins the mob. The hero is the fellow who proves his courage within the rules of the game.

• Human nature will continue to be drawn to accident and tragedy. If Jesus, Lincoln, or Kennedy had died of heart attacks, their

"images" would not have been the same.

• Sympathy will not really heal. Only the bereaved can heal their wounds in whatever direction their heart dictates.

• We will remain a "no-Hellian." We don't believe that part of religion which proclaims the existence of a hell after death. For no God of love can be capable of sending anyone to Hell, regardless. Hell is something self-imposed, or imposed by others, right here on earth.

• People will continue to eat the Bible, not its meaning. Like the people who eat the menu, not the meal.

• We will continue to notice people who will be so busy "building" they have no time to join the "wrecking crews."

• The light some persons may seek on the outside has probably been burning right in their own inside for years.

• Contain your disappointments next year. Keep in

mind always that people will respond more to evil than good.

• As another year approaches, it will become more evident that you don't need to understand women to enjoy them.

• Nothing else in the world but your heart will hold almost anything for you.

• Except in an emergency, to hurry at anything through 1965 is to lose its real flavor.

• The New Year, like the new generation, will offer an unfinished society . . . unfinished business, unfinished plans, unfair practices, unrectified mistakes, unjust decisions, uncharted waters, unhappy solutions. This is the challenge to all of us.

• We join our publishers from California to Ohio with the many hands who help to bring you "After Hours," now in its 29th year, in wishing you and yours a healthy, happy and peaceful New Year.

Our Man Hoppe

How to Write A Rotten Book

By Arthur Hoppe

Ever since Mr. Goldwater's smashing victory at the polls ("Twenty-six million Americans can't be wrong!"), the Conservatives have been sort of shopping around for a new leader. Prominently mentioned is Mr. Robert Taft Jr. Which is fitting.

It's fitting because Mr. Taft Jr. ran for Senator in Ohio and suffered the same kind of smashing victory Mr. Goldwater did. He therefore is unemployed, too.

Indeed, Mr. H. L. Hunt, the Right Wing Texas oil man, says Mr. Taft "could have been the strongest candidate the Republicans might have nominated for the Presidency." (After all, he only lost Ohio.) And he says Mr. Taft, to groom himself for '68, "should speak often and write a best-seller."

It's a grand strategy. I'm sure Mr. Taft, being in politics, will have no trouble speaking often. But he may need a little help writing a best seller. He's more than welcome to my advice.

First of all, he must realize that the whole purpose of any best-seller these days is to point out what a lousy, rotten world this is. The public demands it. In fact there's a direct ratio between how lousy and rotten the world strikes you and how many books you sell.

Naturally, this has changed writing techniques. Take sex. I'm glad to say some of the eternal verities hold true and you still need sex. But in the old days all a best-seller required were three chapters ending: "He took her golden body in his arms and dot, dot, dot."

Today, you are not allowed to use dots. Instead, you use Gerbermeyer's "Clinical Guide to Anatomy." And you devote four chapters to showing how lousy and rotten sex is.

The hero has to be different, too. In the first chapters he's still as lost and confused as he used to be. But you can't resolve this any more by having him discover The Real Meaning of Life at the end. No, the way you resolve this is by having him discover that everybody else is as lost and confused as he is. In a glorious revelation he sees at last that people are frauds, values are valueless, life has no Real Meaning and what a grandly lousy, rotten world this is. Oh, the public eats it up.

But it isn't easy. Like most of us, Mr. Taft probably has a fine wife, a warm house and loving children. Which makes it hard to write about what a lousy, rotten world this is. So, obviously, he's got to get a divorce, several interesting neuroses, the peyote habit, a cold water flat, and a social disease. Then he can write about reality.

At long last, a best-seller under his belt, he can stand before us, unshaven, red-eyed and trembling—a real rotten lousy world leader.

Well, Mr. Taft may reject my advice on the grounds I've never written a best-seller. And it's true. Oh, I've tried. But every time I sit down to write about what a lousy, rotten world this is, the same joyous, inspiring, delight-giving, ruinous question keeps popping into my mind: "Compared to what?"

Morning Report:

I can hardly wait for the new cigarette ads—due very soon now. I can hardly wait, for the beautiful models will all be old ladies—25 years and up. It will be a relief, because with all those children in the ads, I was beginning to think I was too far gone to keep up my lovely boyhood habit.

Of course, it's going to be tough on the models. Birth certificates will not be enough to get jobs. They must not only be at least 25 but look it, too.

This is an almost impossible combination. Because almost all females over 25 don't look it, and those under that limit try to look older.

Abe Mellinoff