

Press-Herald

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The Map-Maker's Art

Politics is a funny business. For years we have been sermonized on the bipartisan flavor of California's state government, the cooperation between the major political parties on statewide projects, and the harmony in general which pervaded the hallowed halls of Sacramento.

That may be true on the front steps and in the halls. Back in the back room, however, the boys in charge are still cutting up the pie to suit their own special interests.

Latest demonstration is the proposed reapportionment which would cut Los Angeles County up into 12 Senatorial districts. The Torrance-South Bay area is cut up like a Thanksgiving turkey. Palos Verdes Estates and Paramount would be in the same Senatorial district, but Redondo Beach and Hermosa Beach would be in different districts.

We can only speculate on the motives that guided the map makers to put Palos Verdes, Compton, and Paramount in one district while splitting Redondo Beach and its sister cities of Hermosa Beach, Manhattan, and other beach cities. What those South Bay cities have in common is much and of a long-standing nature. They need a voice in Sacramento that is not diluted by the artificial boundaries of a gerrymandering clique.

The same is true elsewhere in the county where contiguous areas, long associated in common pursuits and interests, have been split apart.

Before it is too late, we think the back room boys should consider something besides party registrations in drawing the lines.

Opinions of Others

"Not many Americans know that the Federal Office of Education has been authorized to spend approximately \$1.5 billion during the current fiscal year. This is more than double the amount spent during the past fiscal year and it is a good example of the rate at which we are federalizing education. Let us never forget that Federal financing means Federal control. The Administration in Washington will soon be in position to control the intake of the minds of our children. That means we are losing our freedom."—*Wilmanina (Oregon) Times*.

"The subsidy for voluntary insurance would be offset by a new hardship clause. Those 65 and over are now entitled to deduct all of their medical expenses. After this year, they will only be allowed (a) 3 per cent deduction plus one half of health insurance premiums. This is giving something with one hand and taking it away with the other. The older people get, the more their medical bills cost."—*Santa Paula (Calif.) Chronicle*.

"New industry coming into a community means even more than just so many new job opportunities. It estimated that 100 new industrial workers in a community means 359 more people; 100 more households; 91 more school children; \$710,000 more personal income per year; \$229,000 more bank deposits; 97 more passenger cars registered; 165 more workers employed; 3 more retail establishments; and \$331,000 more retail sales per year."—*Garnett (Kansas) Review*.

"... in the Great Society, the rewards of being in the underprivileged class are so golden that those of other classes may well decide to join, rather than remain privileged, or among those who must foot the tax bills for all the benefits."—*Argo (Ill.) News*.

"They're equipping automobiles nowadays with everything but what they need most, eyes."—*Goshen (Ind.) News*.

A Tragedy of Errors by Jerry Marcus



"I'll pay the fine for speeding while you get the marriage license."



ROYCE BRIER

Build Up in Viet Nam, Dominica Like Leap Frog

General Lee put 72,000 men into the Battle of Gettysburg, the largest integrated force he ever commanded. General Meade had 90,000 men.

The United States now has, in Viet Nam, and the Dominican Republic, a manpower approximating Lee's command at Gettysburg, most of them combat troops. There are 47,000 in Viet Nam, about what Grant commanded at the Battle of Shiloh, and 23,000 in the Caribbean.

While Lee and Meade were at Gettysburg, Grant at Shiloh, every American felt the grinding physical strain, the tumultuous emotional impact of conflict. The fate of the American people hung in balance.

You and I feel almost no strain now. A few American soldiers die daily, but it is an individual, not a national disaster. We are fighting paper-and-picture wars—we read about it in the newspapers, and we see an occasional television scramble.

True, we are under emotional strain about these two undeclared wars. But this derives not from combat itself, but primarily from apprehension over where the wars could lead. Interlocked with this is a disturbed questioning, and a division of the American people, over the way they stealthily came about, and are stealthily carried on.

In any case, when put in scale against our Civil War experience, the situation today is to many absurd. It seems wholly out of proportion to the issues presently involved, which do not go to the survival of the American people and nation, but to pride, obstinacy and confusion, if not self-deception, manifested by our leadership.

We have always been a people who sought a clear-cut historical direction. If we were going to exert our armed power we wanted to know why, and what we hoped to gain in freedom and order by exerting it. Moreover we wanted it above-board, a declaration of war, then fight because we had to.

We came by this principle honestly. We had seen the Europeans for centuries going to war blindly, at the

behest of their politicians, who happened to be monarchs and their hangers-on. We neither wanted nor intended that. We wanted a say in our wars, as befits free men.

Unhappily, we have had very little say in our present wars. They have started on battalion scale with plenty of palaver out of Washington about why we were there. Then, week by week, these wars have been escalated, as the smart-alec saying goes. There was not enough power exerted here or there, and we were clobbered. Hence we clobbered back. We would show the bastards you can't lick the United States.

So it was a leap-frog process, and each leap was more men, more money, more power and out of Washington a running dialogue about why each leap was obligatory. So it's Gettysburg-size, and we hardly knew it and who would have thought it? A few more undeclared wars, and it will be Civil War-size, or 10, 20 times as big. Then we'll feel the strain, all right.

William Hogan

WILLIAM HOGAN

Michener's New Novel Adult History Course

James A. Michener's marathon novel about archaeology and Israel, "The Source," may be the biggest adult education course in history since Henryk Sienkiewicz published "Quo Vadis" in 1895.

Like his previous nonstop fiction, "Hawaii," this is a vastly ambitious book and an exhausting one. In effect, it is a history of the Jews, which is about as audacious a theme as a novelist dare take on. In narrating it, Michener heaps globs of history, and prehistory, onto his reader. He narrates it all crisply and intelligently. But oh my, how long it is!

As a Chicago-financed team of archaeologists peels away layer after layer of civilization at desert digs in modern Israel, the narrative cuts back and forth—now to then—the Crusades, the Roman occupation of the region, to Solomon, the Canaanites and millenniums beyond. The story of the archaeologists is intertwined with peoples of the past, as artifacts and objects are uncovered. These may be a Crusader's bronze seal; a horned altar of the time of King David; a prehistoric fertility symbol.

work, as Michener attempts to keep a three-ring historical circus fascinating at every turn—which is impossible to do. Sometimes the vignettes are as moving as they are illuminating. Just as often the project becomes stilted as a pretentious Biblical movie: "I am Zadek ben Zebul, right arm of El-Shaddai, seeking a place for my people..."

While I think Michener would have had a more successful book if he had cut this by half, I must say that if you stick with him you will learn a great deal about the mechanics of archaeology in the field, and certainly much about gods and men throughout the ages in

Quote

"I pray that the discipline that I have felt at home will enable me to discipline myself when those who love me are no longer my monitors."—Janice McCann, 17, of Los Gatos.

They're making us cover up so much I'm ashamed to be seen in public.—Baby Jane, topless swim dancer during San Francisco vice crackdown.

The result is an uneven

STAN DELAPLANE

You'll Find Low Prices At World's Free Ports

"We would like any advice on shopping overseas. What are 'free ports'?"

Lowest prices are in free ports. And most countries have some sort of free port in the international airport. A free port is a sales area set aside. It pays no taxes on local goods and no import duties on foreign goods. Only travelers leaving the country can use them.

Some famous free ports are: Shannon Airport in Ireland. The airport at Amsterdam. Orly airport in Paris has a little—mostly French perfume and brandy. All international waiting rooms at New York airport have them. Honolulu and Miami have free ports if you are leaving the country.

Hong Kong and Singapore are all free port. So are most Caribbean islands with the exception of Puerto Rico. Panama is a free port. Between countries, most European airlines sell a few things at free port prices—perfume, liquor, cigarettes.

What's wrong with them? Well, you may be homeward bound. Waiting for a good price in a free port. And they don't have the selection. You can be sure of a selection of anything in Hong Kong and Singapore. Almost everything in the Virgin Islands and Jamaica. Very good in Shannon and Amsterdam. But the others are only good for little last minute grab bag things.

We have heard of resort areas that have good summer rates...

Best are the Caribbean islands—and it isn't too warm in the summer. Best way to get general information is write "Government of (name of island)." And write on the envelope—"Tourist Information Requested." It will get to the right people.

The American southwest has good summer rates. Phoenix and Tucson Chambers of Commerce can fill you in. Both Greyhound and Santa Fe run very good and inexpensive tours to the Grand Canyon now.

They tell me here in Rome that the sleeper for good country and inexpensive travel now is behind the Iron Curtain. And that these countries are making a lot of effort for tourist money. Particularly Bulgaria. But I haven't seen any contacts for this in America yet.

"Can you advise me on tipping in New York and Washington, D.C.?"

I figure tips in these cities run \$15 a day. And that you run into 10 to 15 tipping situations a day. Most of these will be quarter tips—taxi, doorman, hat-check girl etc. Dinner and lunch tips at 15 per cent are the big ones.

Redcaps at train or airport charge 35 cents per bag. Bellboy for baggage—\$1 for one to three bags.

"Where do you find out about a river boat on the Mississippi?"

Write Greene Lines, foot of Main street, Cincinnati, Ohio. They run the paddlewheel "Delta Queen" on the Mississippi and several tributary rivers. (Which are better in my opinion. The Mississippi has such high levees and is so big you don't see much.) Good food. Very good accommodations. Many stops at river towns.

"We arrived after the airport bank closed in London so had to tip the porter with American coin (50 cents)."

That's OK in these big airports. The porter can change foreign coin at the airport bank. But it's of no value to a hotel porter or chambermaid. Because bank's can't handle foreign coin. If you MUST do this, give the maid a \$1 bill and ask for change in her money. (She won't know. But the man at the desk will.) About \$10 or \$15 in \$1 bills is a handy item overseas. Changes anywhere. And saves you cash.

ing a big traveler's check for some late minute buy.

"Can you get to Mexico City by train?"

You can. And any travel agent can tell you how. But let him set up your hotels and tours, too. He can't get a commission on Mexican train travel. Several readers

have been very high on Mexican trains. But I haven't been on one for years.

"Are ballpark pens a good present in Europe?"

No more. They have all they want. Late American records are better. And our nyons seem to be better than theirs.

HERB CAEN SAYS:

Some Hitches Are Wondrous

THAT'S OUR TOWN: For a city that seems to run mainly on the shorts, San Francisco can sure throw the money around where it doesn't always do the most good. Take this month's 20th anniversary, "commemorative session" of the UN, to be held here—at our invitation. This project will cost us \$300,000 and what are we getting for it?

Unlike the 10th anniversary, which ran here for a week and was peppered with elegant parties, this will run only two days. There will be no actual business performed, also unlike the 10th. Besides, this session is at the Ambassadorial, rather than Ministerial level, meaning that aside from Adlai and U Thant, celebrities will be scarce. The 10th anniversary meeting drew such highrangers as Ike, Macmillan, Molotov, Dulles, Krishna Menon and Dag Hammarskjold.

Already there are wondrous hitches. Since the city is paying for air transportation and housing, the various Ambassadors were asked whether they will be bringing their wives. Several, whom we shall not identify (diplomatic immunity), said yes indeedly they are bringing their wives. Subsequent checking by the local committee disclosed they aren't married! They had intended to bring along their girl friends—at our expense.

Another Ambassador sent his regrets: he would be too busy in New York to attend the session. "However," he added with insouciant gall, "my wife and I will have some free time in August. May we use the plane tickets and hotel reservation then?" (No!) An added expense: some 3000 multiple translating devices have had to be imported from Switzerland; the ones in N.Y. can't be spared (cost: \$20,000).

However, for our \$300,000, I suppose we will get a couple of days of some kind of international publicity—especially if LBJ comes and delivers a major address. However, he is still undecided. Just in case, though, the roof of the Opera House has been crawling with Dept. of Justice sleuths from Washington, checking security.

SCOOPS DU JOUR: It may cheer you to learn that at least one branch of our armed forces would still seem to be on a peacetime footing. A Strategic Air Command Major whizzed in and out of town last week, pausing only long enough to pick up several items for the boys back at headquarters: \$200 worth of St. John's Bay Rum, six copies of "Candy," and three copies of "Fanny Hill."

IN ONE EAR: George Raft, the one-time movie hero, would seem to be having a problem. He spent hours in an office at 447 Sutter—the bldg. that houses Internal Revenue's Appellate Division... Movie-mogul Jack L. Warner's autobiography, "My First 100 Years in Hollywood" (actually, it was ghosted by Dean Jennings of this area, is notable for a strange omission. Nowhere does he mention his first wife, an S. F. girl with whom he lived about five years (1912-1917) on Presidio Ave., in a house next to the Presidio wall. She is the mother of his son, Jack M. Warner, from whom he is completely estranged... Pea Bracken, author of two girly-type bestsellers, "The I Hate to Cook Cookbook" and "The I Hate to Housekeep Book," is about to become a cook and housekeeper, willy-nilly. She'll marry artist Parker Edwards, who occupies the house next to hers.

NOTES & QUOTES: Comedian Jerry Lewis is relly Mr. Nice Guy. Last year, he was awarded a medal at St. Mary's College at a banquet for the brass only—so the other night he bounced back to the campus, at his own expense, to put on a show for the kids only... TV comic Ronnie Schell, strolling along the street, claims he passed an atheist singing "Hmmm Bless America"... And after 25 years and five children, Phyllis Diller feels her marriage to Fang is cooling: "The only time I've seen him with a gleam in his eye lately is when there's a short in his electric blanket."

Morning Report:

It looks to me that the whole War on Poverty may very well turn out to be a major error. Not for what the Government is trying to do but because of what it's called.

I've heard money called the root of all evil and even heard a few guys say they were sorry they had been born rich. But I never met anybody who was glad he was poor and very few who even admit it. That's why I think less than 3 per cent of the eligible poor in Philadelphia voted for poor people to serve on the anti-poverty board. It's a wonder to me they even found enough candidates to run.

But just change the "War on Poverty" to the "Rush to Get Rich." Then who could stay away from the polls?

Abe Mellinkoff