

D.A. Unwraps New Weapon In War on Red Light Areas

By EVELLE J. YOUNGER District Attorney

A most difficult problem in law enforcement is what to do when the usual methods will not work. One particularly trying area is in what has been called the "world's oldest profession," involving bawdy women and bawdy houses—a vice going back at least to Biblical times.

Where this sort of thing develops, there are various kinds of disease, and one kind that comes with it is economic. A decay sets in and ruins a neighborhood. Decent people will not live there. Property values go down, and taxes with them; but the cost of policing goes up. The whole community suffers.

THE USUAL method of fighting vice of this nature is, of course, to arrest those involved in the sordid trade and fine them or jail them. But often these penalties will have no effect. Those who feed on human weakness consider a fine or a few days behind bars a minor item of "business" expense.

One example of community blight brought on by bawdy houses was in the neighborhood of 68th and Central in Los Angeles. In a county as large as ours there are, of course, others. But at this one the erosion had worn deeper. Legitimate people would not buy property in the area. Lending institutions wouldn't provide money for building improvements.

MEANWHILE the evil had become so aggravated that we are getting complaints of men being approached on the street when going to church with their wives and children.

The police—in this instance, Sheriff's deputies—made arrests day after day, but as soon as the guilty were released, they went brazenly back to their trade.

So the District Attorney's staff went back too—to the law books. There was an old statute, rarely used and all but forgotten: The Red Light Abatement Act. It offered the possibility that in most cases the mere threat of using it would be enough to clean up festering sores of vice.

WHAT IS different about it is that it is aimed not at the bawdy women or the parasitic men who work with them, but at the owners of the buildings they use. The act permits us to file civil suits against property owners. And it provides that the judge may order the offending premises padlocked for as long as a year.

So the burden of cleaning up a building is thrust on the owners. And since most of the real estate was heavily mortgaged, there was a very genuine threat that, if they didn't comply, the properties would be lost. They would lose their investments.

WE WENT to work on 10 of these cases, in several neighborhoods. The owners very quickly got busy. They evicted tenants, fired managers, even renovated their properties. In almost every instance we eliminated a breeding ground of crime.

And, to make a happy ending happier, once the red lights were extinguished, rents frequently went up, buildings commanded higher prices, everybody profited. Everybody, that is, save those who feed on vice. We haven't solved the problem everywhere and altogether, but we are making progress.

... Let's Go

By LARRY MACARAY

HONG KONG—Yesterday was a strange and exciting day. What had been planned as an uneventful four hours of flying from Osaka, Japan, to Hong Kong turned out to be an all day journey—the hard way. Sweltering heat one minute, pouring rain the next.

The flight makes one stop at Taipei, capital of Taiwan (Formosa)—I should say usually, except yesterday. An airplane had crashed on the runway at Taipei and the authorities reluctantly made it land at the military field at Tianan, about 250 miles away.

Heavy air strength at the base apparently is the reason why we had to land at Tianan with all the windows covered. What a sensation! We were herded into a small quonset hut for a sweltering four hours while the airfield at Taipei was being repaired. The Chinese workers at the field had to stop work and watch us trudge wearily from the airplane. I suppose that landing at this military is unheard of for a commercial jet airline.

UNBELIEVABLE is all I can think of in describing Hong Kong. The impression from the air is "mouth-open." The sight of skyscrapers after skyscrapers set in this strange array of islands is completely new—even to the most experienced travelers. It feels somewhat as if the rest of the world doesn't seem to exist—except as history or faint memory.

The sense of urgency—of knowing that here is where things are happening—permeates the atmosphere everywhere. The rich are the richest and the poor are the poorest. The Hong Kong Hilton (I'm writing this on the 13th floor) is as plushy as one can get. Even the Bank of America has an office in this hotel. Money seems to be pouring in here for investments of all kinds—mostly construction.

Today I saw the floating city of Aberdeen. There are over 100,000 people living on the strangest excuses for boats. They are born here and die here—men never making it to the land to live. Even the worst poverty I saw

in Mexico seems rich in comparison to the poverty here in the floating city. Amidst this mudflat city we had lunch in a fancy floating restaurant, the "Tai Pak," that was modeled after an ancient Chinese palace.

SHOPPING PARADISE. It is a shopping paradise, even if you don't intend to spend. Goods of top quality from all over the world and at reasonable prices. After a wonderful four-hour tour of this island, Hong Kong, today I went shopping and bought a suit, a pair of slacks, and 12 oil paintings. I happened to pass an art gallery that was having a one-man show of a fine artist named Leung Yu Wai. I was so impressed with his work that I really spent my "bundle" of money for the paintings.

There are over four million people living in and about 396 square miles of land that includes the island of Hong Kong, Kowloon on the mainland, and the new territory next to Red China. These figures, alone say a great deal about what's happening here. Tomorrow we go to the Portuguese Province of Macao, a small peninsula also bordering on Red China. I've heard so much about it that I'm expecting a rare experience.

I received several letters in response to my article offering to send you a postcard from some country along my travels. The first letter was from Miss Fern Lashow and I quickly mailed a view of Hong Kong to her. I will be at the Istanbul Hilton in Istanbul, Turkey, on July 27 and 28 in case you would like a card. Having a wonderful time with 17 wonderful travelers.



IN TOKYO... Members of the Hilton Hotel tour which Press-Herald columnist Larry Macaray is conducting are pictured during a stop in Tokyo, Japan. Dorothy McLaughlin (with the white bag) of Torrance is among the travelers with Macaray. The group will be in Istanbul, Turkey, July 27 and 28.

Chapel Theatre to Open With 'Thousand Clowns'

Herb Gardner's "A Thousand Clowns," a story which revolves around a television character, Chuckles the Chipmunk, will open at the Chapel Theatre Friday, July 23. Duke Schneider plays the comedy writer Murray, who detests anything phony and refuses to write for the show, but he must decide whether to continue earning a substantial living or give up the custody of his nephew, Nick, portrayed by Lee Ellsworth of Torrance.

associate social worker who envies West's position in life and his philosophy. Murray's brother, Arnold, is played by Dick O'Neil of Redondo Beach.

Michael B. Druxman of Hollywood directs the Chapel production of "A Thousand Clowns." Performances are scheduled each weekend through Aug. 21. Adrienne Held of Torrance is producer, with Enola Burket managing the props. Marvin Armour, stage manager, F. Linskey, lighting director, and Lynda Gorchester, sound director, head the stage crew.

Reservations may be made by calling the Box Office, FR 2-9639. Chapel Theatre is located at 4164 Pacific Coast Hwy., behind the Indian Village Restaurant. Curtain time is 8:30 p.m., and reservations will be held until 8:15.

'Life' Topic For Lesson

The lesson-sermon on Christian Science churches today is on the subject of "Life." It describes the nature of man's spiritual life as an idea which exists forever in the divine Mind. The Golden Text is from Proverbs 16: "Understanding is a wellspring of life unto him that hath it."

The readings will also include this passage from the Christian Science textbook: "The understanding that Life is God, Spirit, lengthens our days by strengthening our trust in the deathless reality of Life, its almightiness and immortality."

Navy League Group to Tour U.S.S., England

Members of the Palos Verdes Peninsula Council of the Navy League of the United States will tour the U.S.S. England Thursday, July 22, according to Dr. Richard B. Hachett, president.

The ship, which has just returned from a tour of duty in the Western Pacific, was adopted by the council last year.

A reception will be held at the Allen Center Naval Officers Club following the tour.

Harbor Hospital Makes Administrative Changes

Three top administrative changes at Harbor General Hospital were disclosed Thursday following the announcement of promotional changes in executive levels at other Los Angeles County hospitals.

In the major change, Harbor Hospital administrator A. L. Thomas and David Odell, administrator at Olive View Hospital, exchanged places. The move was made at the request of Thomas, who will retire after 35 years service next January.

Thomas asked William Barr, superintendent of the Los Angeles County Department of Charities, to approve the change so Odell, previously designated as Thomas' successor, could get acquainted with Harbor Hospital. Thomas said he did not want the new administrator to have to walk in "cold" in the middle of budget and expansion planning now beginning.

Leslie R. Smith, assistant administrator, was named ad-

ministrator of the Long Beach General Hospital. John O'Conner, assistant administrator at Los Angeles County General Hospital, was named to succeed Smith.

Dr. Harold Mazur returned to Harbor Hospital as medical director. He succeeds Dr. Benjamin J. Cutshall, who resigned to enter private practice. Dr. Mazur was medical director at Harbor General Hospital from 1950 through 1954. He previously served at Rancho Los Amigos Hospital in charge of medical science.

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