

Press-Herald

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Tomorrow Is Labor Day

How many of us pause and reflect on the significance of American holidays? To some they are merely a colored numeral on a calendar, to others an excuse for a long weekend—when cliff dwellers take to accident-cluttered highways to get away from the city streets, when suburbanites come to the city to celebrate.

On Labor Day we should reflect on significant social and economic changes—the better standards of living we enjoy, the shorter work week, the improved working conditions. Today, American families have more leisure time than ever before.

During this holiday pause, we should consider how we might invest some of this leisure time toward helping our fellowman. There is a great personal satisfaction in participating in organizations like the Boy Scouts, the Torrance Family YMCA, the YWCA, women's clubs, parent-teacher groups, 4-H clubs, and other similar groups.

Let us show our appreciation to those who have made Labor Day possible by volunteering to assist our community in making it a better place to live and to work.

The Absentee Ballot

In close elections, the absentee vote often decides the issue. In the 1960 presidential election, Richard M. Nixon carried the State of California by the absentee vote. And there are countless examples of absentee votes making "the" difference between defeat and victory in close elections.

Most recent example, cited by Assemblyman Charles E. Chapel in his "Sacramento Report" last week, was the failure of a water bond issue in Fallbrook, Calif. Voters turned out in a 100 per cent effort, absentee votes included, and divided 444-222 on the issue, only to discover the measure had lost despite the two-thirds majority because the law requires a majority of "more than two-thirds."

It has been estimated that there are nearly a million Americans presently outside the continental limits of the United States. In addition to this, there are always countless thousands of potential voters away from their home precincts on Election Day, but still within the borders of the United States. The mobility of the American people makes the absentee ballot a highly significant factor in every election. It enables millions of American citizens who would otherwise be disenfranchised to cast a ballot for the man of their choice.

If you expect to be away from your permanent residence on Election Day next Nov. 8, you owe it to yourself as a citizen to obtain an absentee ballot. The right to vote is the most fundamental of all our rights, but the individual citizen must exercise that right. The behavior and performance of officeholders, at every level of government, is dictated by the knowledge that periodically they must come before the bar of public opinion in the polling booths.

The caliber of men in public life is a direct reflection of the wisdom and judgement exercised by the voters. When it is time to vote, you are the only person in the booth. If you cannot be there personally, then let the absentee ballot serve as your proxy.

Opinions of Others

The nation's No. 1 consumer, the American housewife, is starring in absentia in a Senate debate. She is pictured either as a sharp shopper or a gullible nitwit, depending on the speaker. Because she spends more money than any other nation's housewife, and keeps her family well fed and well dressed, our money still is on her, despite what the politicians say.—*International Falls (Minn.) Journal.*

Inflation means to "blow up," it can be conjugated thus: "Inflate, inflated, busted." Those who believe inflation can be controlled at any desired point may also believe that an atom bomb can be exploded just a little.—*Tower City (Pa.) Herald.*

The Agriculture Department is now trying to encourage the growing of more wheat. Our money is pretty short, but it doesn't seem too long ago that wheat was the nastiest word in the Department's vocabulary and farmers were skunks for contributing to the surplus. How time changes things!—*Fredonia (Kan.) Citizen.*

Automakers recalled thousands of cars for safety checks. Maybe auto license bureaus should call back drivers for the same purpose.—*Goshen (Ind.) News.*

Morning Report:

Too late to keep him from being re-elected is the disclosure that President Franklin Delano Roosevelt had eyes for somebody in addition to his wife, Eleanor. If the story could have been broken earlier — say, in 1936 — it might have cost him a state or two.

Of course, he could easily afford the loss that year as he swept everything except Maine and Vermont. The really-bitter Roosevelt-haters can't get much satisfaction so late in the game. "That Man in the White House" isn't there any longer. As a matter of fact, he has been replaced four times. Giving them four chances to dilute their anger. As the Federal budget went up each time.

Abe Mellinkoff



FROM THE MAILBOX

Firemen Ask Delay in Naming New Fire Chief

Editor, Press-Herald:

The following letter has been sent to the City Council by the Torrance Fire Fighters Association, but we feel it is of concern to every resident of Torrance:

Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council: On or about July 23, 1966, you received a copy of a letter from this organization to the City Manager with regard to the filling of the soon to be vacated position of Chief Engineer of the Torrance Fire Department. In this letter were several of our reasons for desiring this position to be filled by the use of a competitive promotional examination within the Torrance Fire Department.

We were subsequently advised in a letter to us from the City Manager, a copy which was sent to the City Council, of the actions of his office and those of the City Council regarding this matter.

As a member of the council, we feel it necessary that certain other facts be brought to your attention at this time.

On Feb. 11, 1964, the City Council adopted Ordinance 1462 which allowed for outside examinations for department heads, in an attempt to rectify an unfortunate police and city administrative situation. This policy, while apparently not including the office of the city administrator, set forth qualifications for eligibility for the position of Chief of the Fire Department. It indicated that the rank of Chief Engineer and the next three succeeding lower ranks, in cities and counties with a population of 80,000 or more would be eligible.

Upon investigation, additional information reveals the startling fact that this portion of the ordinance defeats its own purpose. It will allow the ranks of engineer and fireman, in some cities and county areas to compete for the position. In others, Torrance included, only officers will be eligible. In certain instances even the rank of captain will be excluded. These facts constitute an inequitable inconsistency.

During his 39 years of service, Chief Benner has pursued a policy of well qualified, competent leadership within the Fire Department, from the top down. Your confidence in this administrative sound policy has been expressed many times in the past. We feel that this policy will continue to be a keynote in our Fire Department. There are presently 27 fine officers, with

in the Department, who would qualify under this proposed new civil service ordinance. These officers attained their positions under the guidance, training, and discipline of Chief Benner. Were this not the case there would be grounds and justification to seek applicants from other Fire Departments.

As a solution, we suggest and strongly urge that the necessary steps be taken to delay the posting of the examination until such time as the carefully considered new Civil Service ordinance becomes law. Such action would, indeed, be an indication of your recognition of Chief Benner's efforts as an interim period could easily be handled by the present structure of the Department, as it has during his absence in the past.

Sincerely,
RICHARD L. DEARMITT,
Chairman, Safety and Welfare Committee, Torrance Fire Fighters Association.

Test Tips

Editor, Press-Herald:

I read with interest your article "Teachers Offer Tips on Tests (Wednesday, Aug. 24) and as a teacher and a former teacher in Torrance I must agree with their tips. Students who can employ these tips do score better on tests. As is true in many cases, getting the student to a point where he can use these tips is another question and quite a process.

The testing environment is to many students a threatening situation, and a moment of great psychological stress. Decisions must be made by the student, a response must be made, a response which will be critically evaluated. It is a time wherein the student will be held up and examined. The student entering such an environment will perform better if measures are taken to acquaint him with the testing environment in its total framework.

A student may be a capable reader, very knowledgeable in the subject area to be tested, and be psychologically secure yet still give an overall "showing" or response pattern which is not the true picture of his learnings or capability. One reason for this is that the student is not skilled in test responding methods and techniques. Students who are "test-wise" in this area make a better showing. The student should be given learnings and understandings concerning the many forms and sizes of tests

which are given, and should be given practice in the techniques of responding to each of these techniques. How much better does a student who knows these techniques perform? A recent study by Mare Monte found that a student may score as much as 12 per cent higher.

Throughout the country, a few districts give instructional units on test responding methods and techniques. The Los Angeles City Schools is one of these districts. Other districts are following suit, but to a very limited scale. Generally, it is left up to the teacher to give what preparation there can be, and what with elementary school teacher's 25 plus subjects she must teach and other administrative and clerical details, there is precious little time to "wedge" this unit into the already bursting program.

As a researcher in education, I and other teachers agree that as a person cannot write if he does not have the skill, a student cannot be tested if he does not know how to respond or the method by which he is to respond.

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WILLIAM HOGAN

New Zealander Becomes Modern Robinson Crusoe

Bali Ha'i: An unpretentious book titled "An Island to Myself" makes ideal summer reading, although it will not be published officially until Sept. 12. It will make agreeable autumn or winter reading, too. Yet it is the sort of thing that may get lost in the flood of big, well-publicized titles which will arrive during the early autumn season, so I mention it now and suggest you watch for this unusual saga of one man's fine madness (Holt; \$4.95).

This is an account by Tom Neale, a New Zealander and veteran of commercial life in Rarotonga, who in his 50s left the world behind for a life alone, on an uninhabited coral island in the Cook group — Suvarov, named during the 19th Century Russian occupation. Neale spent more than five years on this atoll, half a mile long and 800 yards wide, far from commercial sea routes. The years were divided October 1952 to June 1954

HERB CAEN SAYS:

It's Far East Checkers And Oriental New Year

Brain laundry: A reader, browsing in Abercrombie & Fitch, notes that the game originally called Chinese Checkers is now "Far East Checkers," and envisions the day when Far East Town celebrates Oriental New Year, brides register at Shreve's for their wedding Taiwan, and we all gather around the piano to sing "Slow Boat to Quemoey" . . . Poster in the San Francisco buses: "What Has the Kingdom of God Been Doing Since 1914?" Lemme see. Uh—trying to get all of us to Heaven the hard way?

The noon balloon: San Francisco Mayor Shelley, after seeing, "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf": "Just like a meeting of the Board of Permit Appeals!" . . . Nothing ever changes in the armed forces dept.: A major Bay Area hotel offered five rooms free for a week to servicemen—and wound up with one (1) high-ranking officer plus his wife and seven children. At ease, you dogfaces . . . At the Allegro Hi-Fi on Market Street, Maestro Josef Krips listening to an album for two hours, waving his hands and beaming "Vonderfool! Zentzational! Zimply grrreat!" (The album: the new one of Mozart's "Abduction from the Seraglio"—conducted by Josef Krips . . . S. F.'s Gordon Getty, son of Tycoon J.

Paul, has retained Attys. Jim MacInnis and Bill Newsum to file a suit against the Getty estate, asking for an accounting of the "more than \$100,000,000" worth of undistributed dividends. A friendly suit, despite the son-against-father implications, Gordon simply wants to find out what's what.

Our native wits: Dr. Harry Benjamin defining the

San Francisco

three ages of man: young, middle-aged and "My, how well you look!" . . . A native, fascinated to read how many children were born exactly nine months after the New York blackout, suggest that the scientists get to work immediately on a luminous Pill . . . And Allan Sherman, entranced with the fact that it's the year 4664 for the Chinese and 5726 for the Jews, told Hollywood newsmen Mike Connolly: "My only conclusion is that for 1062 years, the Jewish people had to do their own laundry!"

Quotesville: California Superior Court Judge Fran McCarty, in his plea for revision of what he calls "Our Sick Narcotic Laws": "How fine it is that so many find inspiration in the ruins of an old church, an old building or an ancient civilization, but how strange and

sad it is that so few discern anything of value in the ruins of a human being."

In I. Magnin here, there was Grover Magnin, who built the store and ran it for so many wonderful years until he retired. "When I hired Architect Tim Pfeuger to build this store," he reminisced, "I told him to make it pigeon-proof. It was the first thing I thought of, because I live at the St. Francis Hotel and I could see what the birds had done to that building. So Magnin's has no ledges or cornices where a pigeon can get a toe-hold. Of course, the other kind of pigeons—the ones who buy the French originals on the third floor—have always been welcome!"

Mister Cool: That would be the British gentleman—Bowler, walrus moustache, Saville Row suit, Guards tie, etc.—who walked into Gordins' men's store in Oakland, to be asked by Co-Owner Bud Michaels: "Would you like a free ticket, sir?" Sir: "For what?" Bud: "We're giving away that Bentley convertible parked out front." "Thankoffy," replied the Britisher with a faint smile, "but I don't really need it. Why not give it to someone who does?" I still don't understand how they lost India.

ROYCE BRIER

Washington Has Strict Control in War Effort

The way to escalate a war, as the saying goes, is by stages. If a people is angry, as we were after Pearl Harbor, and as the Germans were in 1939, it doesn't mind a war.

But if a people is not angry, as we are not at the Indochinese, or even the Red Chinese, you can't plunge in and clean it up. So if a government has more ethereal goals than are contained in actual warfare, as we have in Viet Nam, it must proceed with subtle calculation.

It must let events seem to force its hand. It must make an enlarged effort seem rational and even inescapable. It must resort to evasions and distortions, enlarging the efforts secretly, finally admitting it only when it can no longer be concealed. It must take advantage of every circumstance, every opinion and belief, which fits or seems to fit its escalating purpose.

even utilizing the opinion of private citizens to this end.

Hence, you may be sure the hearts of the Pentagon press horde jumped when Richard Nixon, visiting Saigon, said it may take half a million men to win the war.

Mr. Nixon offered his reasons, but his reasoning is not for comment here.

World Affairs

What is for comment is that in the very same newspaper which contained his judgement, there leaked or was released a summary of a Pentagon survey, which says three-quarters of a million men will be needed to win in five years.

You may call this a coincidence, but its coincidental character is highly dubious. Mr. Nixon has a large following among those who would normally oppose Viet Nam policy, and the Administration cannot be indiffer-

ent when he offers support for its primary foreign policy.

So far as we momentarily know, our Viet Nam manpower is 285,000, but Defense Secretary McNamara has said it would rise this fall. For better than a year Mr. McNamara has been raising the Viet Nam ante, preparing the people so to speak, for more effort, more casualties, more cost. Unofficial estimates are that manpower will go to 400,000 by the end of 1966, and Mr. Nixon would add at least 100,000 to the figure.

Nor need you think the 400,000 figure, running for several weeks, is coincidence. It didn't just spring from the imagination of the reporters. It came, or was fed, from the Pentagon, and the Pentagon's and Administration's purpose is to pave the way for your acceptance of new burdens.

What, then, are we to think of the 750,000 figure, a figure only logistically possible for 1967?

You surely must perceive the little wheels whirling in Washington to keep you fully informed about your business. You must behold the computer lights blinking, as they compile the data, including the psychological, meet to the crisis. You can imagine the endless midnight conferences, dripping with coffee, to determine when to issue this, that information, and what to issue, so you will not be alarmed or disheartened.

For the Administration does not want to hurt your feelings or shock you, lest you turn sour and ask embarrassing questions, like, "The time has come, the Walrus said, to speak of many things . . ." You see, Sumter and Pearl Harbor were brutal, and everybody felt mean, but they were not controlled in Washington. This can be, and brother, is it!

This is a saga of self-inflicted loneliness which I found to be the most exhilarating masculine adventure since "Tinkerbell." Robert Manry's log of his 78-day transatlantic crossing in a 13-foot 6-inch sloop (still current and recommended). "An Island to Myself" is highly recommended.

