

Press-Herald

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Extra Caution Needed

Motorists have a special reason for being extra cautious while driving these days. With schools of the community now back in session, thousands of small children are walking from home to school and back along the city's streets.

Many of these are kindergartners and first graders, walking perhaps unescorted on city streets for the first time. Motorists, who must always presume that children are unpredictable, must take special care during the first weeks of school.

Parents, too, can help prevent tragedies. Here are some tips:

• Have children sit well back in the seat. Close car doors tightly and lock them. Keep children from playing with door handles. Be particularly cautious when approaching school. Watch for youngsters running into the street — especially from between parked cars.

• Designate a location where the youngster is dropped off and picked up each day if driven to school. Make it on the school side of the street — do not permit children to cross mid-block.

• Parents should choose a safe walking route for their children and walk it with them at least once to point out hazards.

• Finally, respect all traffic laws and school regulations. Your example may save the life of your youngster.

A Timely Warning

Congressman Alphonzo Bell's remarks here before a Chamber of Commerce membership luncheon a few days ago is the kind of talk that is easy for most of us to understand.

He emphasized, as the theme of his views on foreign policy, that any policies set forth by the United States should be designed specifically for the benefit of the United States.

In these days of far-flung foreign commitments in almost uncountable numbers and volume, a call for U.S. policy for U.S. welfare sounds largely out of step with the times.

His demand before the Torrance group for a more careful study of future alignments and treaties by this nation is timely when hot spots in this world of emerging nations brings about many petitions for U.S. aid in some form.

We've got ample problems at home and need not go scouring the world for busy work to keep us occupied. Congressman Bell's warning to put our own house in order is a message that should be heeded.

Trend of the Future

A routine press release from a leading oil company tells of the appointment of an experienced mining engineer as manager of uranium exploration. An official of the oil company said, "The company's decision to enter the uranium energy field was made following an intensive study of the nation's long-range energy requirements." It was made in recognition of "... the growing demand for all forms of energy and the need to devote each form to its most efficient use."

This development is significant for two reasons. It illustrates the constantly changing nature of the industrial and economic structure of the United States. It also indicates a healthy acceptance of new developments and the need for diversification. Instead of oil companies, coal companies, gas companies and some form of nuclear fuel companies, the trend will likely be toward energy companies encompassing all of these fields. As in the present instance, a successful company in one field of energy will devote a portion of its resources and knowhow to pushing developments in new and more advanced forms of energy.

History has shown that change is inexorable as well as beneficial in the long run. Progressive companies are not only receptive to change but encourage it. This is the reason why the U. S. oil industry has led the world in petroleum exploration, production and refining techniques. It knows that change is inevitable, that it is good business and required in the interest of long term national progress.

POOR REFLECTION



Freedom's Powder Horn

AFFAIRS OF STATE

Legislature Muffs Chance To Build Governor's Home

By HENRY C. MACARTHUR

Capital News Service

SACRAMENTO — A great deal of controversy is being raised over the activities under way by private interests to provide a new governor's mansion for California.

All of this is interesting, but hardly important as to procedure and the question as to whether or not it's quite ethical for a private group to solicit funds for this purpose.

The mansion has now become a "do-it-yourself" project for the people of California, for the simple reason that the state legislature has had the opportunity for 10, these many years, to do something about the mansion, and has come up with a goose-egg for 10, these many years.

So the real question, rather than whether the procedure is ethical or not, is why shouldn't the people of the state do for themselves what their elected representatives have failed to do for them?

The legislature since the early part of the century has elected to provide a rat-trap, or fire-trap, call it what you will, as a residence for the chief executive of the state.

And Governor Ronald Reagan and his family performed a meritorious service for California when they refused to live in the inconvenient, mid-Victorian structure, which might have been a fine house at one time, but now is an antiquated pile of junk which should have been abandoned and razed many years ago.

The Regans thus brought the long controversy to a head by refusing the meager largesse of questionable accommodations provided by the state for its chief executive, and elected to lease a slightly more modern home for their residence.

Graphic though it is, Miss McCarthy's material remains personal, war correspondence, as it was intended to be, not the stuff of literature.

Morning Report:

The politicians have nobody but themselves to blame. They hired drama coaches and allowed makeup artists to pancake their faces before appearing on television. Actors, who often are not too bright about things undramatic, after 10 years got the point. If a politician could be made to look like an actor, the reverse was also true.

Senator George Murphy and Governor Ronald Reagan piled up landslide victories. Now Shirley Temple Black is running for Congress and nobody will be surprised if she wins.

It's the misfortune of the Democrats in California that this new trend is killing them. They will have to come up with candidates who don't look like rejects from a Sunday afternoon panel show.

News and Opinions On Sacramento Beat

structure, and are setting out to accomplish what the legislature failed to accomplish over a period of years, on the grounds that contributions might lead to favoritism.

One wonders, at times, how far hypocrisy can go among a supposedly enlightened people. Certainly, this attitude is pushing it above and beyond reasonable expectations.

The action of the mansion committee at least represents a move which is constructive. Up to this point, the legislature has come up

WILLIAM HOGAN

Vietnam's War Literature Is Chiefly News Accounts

Mary McCarthy's reportage from Vietnam has reappeared as a pamphlet (she describes it as a "pamphlet") titled "simply 'Vietnam' (Harcourt: \$1.95). As a newspaper series this was sharp, impressionistic, critical prose by a stylish novelist-essayist who was always in command of her material.

"If Saigon by day is like a PX, at night, with flares overhead, it is like a World's Fair of Exposition in some hick American city..."

Graphic though it is, Miss McCarthy's material remains personal, war correspondence, as it was intended to be, not the stuff of literature.

with nothing constructive in the ultimate.

It authorized the purchase of a site, which was purchased and taken off the tax rolls, so the people of Sacramento pay more taxes to make up the loss.

The state uses the site for nothing more than a parking lot, thus deriving some revenue for itself, but none for the city of Sacramento which derived appreciable funds in taxes before the land was acquired.

Thus legislative dalliance resulted in nothing but disadvantage to the taxpayers of Sacramento, who indirectly are contributors to the maintenance of the state parking lot.

Instead of criticism, the people behind the drive for funds for the new mansion, should be given a medal for attempting to accomplish with private funds what the legislature has failed to accomplish with tax money.

Browsing Through the World of Books

duced little beyond Robin Moore's recruiting poster, "The Green Berets." There is no "The Naked and the Dead" of the Mekong Delta yet; no "A Bell for Adano" or "A Walk in the Sun." Whether this seemingly endless, evasive campaign will produce its "A Farewell to Arms" remains to be seen.

David Halberstam, who won a Pulitzer Prize for his Vietnam coverage, has attempted a novel "One Very Hot Day," which Houghton Mifflin has announced for January publication. This is "a sharp picture of a small war and why it is different from all wars which have preceded it," the publisher states; a picture of the "decadence" of Saigon, the "pressure and tension of fighting an enemy one never sees." One hopes Halberstam might be this war's Norman Mailer, or Hemingway, but the chances of such are slight.

The controversial, even embarrassing Vietnam war is not a literary one. It has produced little beyond Robin Moore's recruiting poster, "The Green Berets." There is no "The Naked and the Dead" of the Mekong Delta yet; no "A Bell for Adano" or "A Walk in the Sun." Whether this seemingly endless, evasive campaign will produce its "A Farewell to Arms" remains to be seen.

With force and emotion, Schell reported the despair of farming people separated from their land; the political problems resulting from this exclusively American action; the implications of creating vast camps for the homeless.

This is the stuff of high drama. Yet it remains merely news, like so much of the Korean war which, with one or two minor exceptions, never produced a literature. Vietnam is many problems, including the literary. It might take a Tolstoy...

CAPITOL NEWSMAKERS

Parks Director Brings New Ideas to His Post

By EDWIN S. CAPPS

Press-Herald City Editor

SACRAMENTO — William Penn Mott Jr. may have made more changes in his eight months as director of the state department of parks and recreation than have been made for the last 20 years.

The most noticeable change — and perhaps not the most popular — was a general increase in use fees at the state parks.

But such increases, which are now designed to collect from the users about 50 per cent of the cost of operation and maintenance, is indicative of Mott's approach to the parks and recreation business. It apparently is supported by the administration of Governor Ronald Reagan.

The first reflection of Mott's ideas on development will come at Oroville Reservoir, part of the state water project. Mott's department has thrown out many of the plans for the park development at Oroville which had been set up by the previous administration.

The change will be a closely coordinated development on one area of the reservoir, complete with considerable private operation of facilities.

"We want to make all the dollars count in this development," Mott said. "We'll let private developers do what we don't have the money for. And we won't have the thing spread out too far with not enough funds to take care of all of it or develop it properly."

The Oroville development will include launching ramps

at the Oroville Dam, scheduled for completion this fall. These ramps will operate at the minimum level of the reservoir. Other ramps are planned at Kelly Ridge and Loafer Creek but they will not be operative at a minimum level. The reservoir will fluctuate about 187 feet between minimum and maximum depths.

The state will operate the launching ramps, a day-use area at Loafer Creek, including picnic sites and a beach, and later will develop 150 camp sites. Sanitary facilities and parking also will be provided.

The private development will include lodges, up to 150 cabins, a marina, several stores and restaurants, and parking. The state will control the design of all the private development and will lease them on a long term basis for a percentage of the gross profit. After so many years, all of the privately built facilities will become the property of the state.

One of Mott's novel ideas at Oroville will be to provide a lot of green turf to make the reservoir area more picturesque. The terrain around Oroville, like most foothill country of 1,000 feet, gets very dry, brown and dusty in the summer.

"I've never understood why the land around a reservoir has to be so unattractive," Mott said. "After all, there's plenty of water."

"We plan to use a rain-bird irrigation system to keep it green," he said. "In other words, we hope to keep the area surrounding the reservoir looking like it's

springtime all the year. And it's a beautiful area in the spring."

Naturally, because of the heavy fluctuation of the reservoir, there will have to be a bare exposed bank for many feet during periods of low water.

"But we hope the green grass surrounding the reservoir will make people forget about the ugly exposed bank," Mott said. "Instead of a dried up area, we hope to give a meadow effect."

Another feature in the coordination will be a trackless train which will travel through the recreation area. It also will visit the dam and powerhouses so the visitors will understand what makes the whole project tick.

In other changes, Oct. 1 will find at least a temporary lifting of a 20-year ban against keeping dogs overnight in state parks. Mott held hearings several months ago to determine public reaction to the change. Governor Reagan had suggested a change in the dog-ban in his policy statement for an action program for parks.

Next Jan. 1, Mott plans to institute a program for reservations for camping sites in state parks, another brand new concept. Camp sites in parks now operate on a first come, first served basis, and many people have to be turned away on peak weekends. The only park in the system with reservations at present is the Hearst Castle at San Simeon.

Mott said the reservation period — when they're accepted — will be from Jan. 1 through June 30.

ROYCE BRIER

Ancient Rites Could Shed Light on the Day's Cares

Russell Baker is a sort of whimsy columnist with the New York Times, penetrating and amusing. The other day he did a piece wondering how come modern Americans are insulated against frustrations and revolting developments which would drive their grandpappies up the wall 100 years ago.

Among these are city noise, fads, the claptrap of politicians, journalists and

generals, and lies in advertising. He lists forty latter-day problems presumed to worry us mildly, such as litter, beards, rats, sexual education, the corrosive effect of affluence, automation, hippies and air pollution, and each has an alarm viewer, but we seem to throw most of them off and go on living.

This evokes an idea which has been nagging herabout for sometime, and it may be set forth as follows: it is not possible the dire state of our society, as Baker calls it,

a little ceremony, better not described or televised, to learn if Ho Chi Minh is going to soften this morning, or tell them again to go to hell.

But seriously, as the comedians say when they go metaphysical, there is some doubt if things are as unprecedentedly dire as the dire specialists would have us believe. A recent magazine quoted the young Lincoln in 1838 saying the country was going to the dogs, law and justice failing, because they lynched three Mississippi riverboat gamblers in Memphis.

It may be Caesar thought things were unpromising in his time, and sure enough, they were. Possibly the difference now is communications. In Caesar's day it was six months before you learned of some atrocious event, and then it was too late to fuss about it. In 1838 it was a month.

Now all you do is sit down to the six o'clock news, and everybody is pushing everybody else around the streets, hurling sticks and stones which break your bones, and it happened somewhere this afternoon, and the world is doomed. It's never been anything else.

It may have been a foremost complaint of Brutus against Caesar that the latter took little account of these omens, in fact there is hardly a record that he ever looked at a chicken in Gaul except as a fryer.

But Caesar notwithstanding, the world we live in is now so bogged in woe on every side, or "world dire" as Mr. Baker has it, that it might pay us to re-examine this chicken-or-goat rite to see if we can't come up with a solution, or at least a little foresight to learn what's going to become of us.

Like, if you're planning a riot in a city, or planning resistance to one, why not first sacrifice a goat to determine the outcome? Any number of Mr. Baker's forty problems might be eased considerably by such a measure, and some might even be solved, bringing them down to twenty, manageable for the average day's meditation.

Naturally, this could be carried to the highest level, like President Johnson and the Messrs. Rusk and McNamara could repair to the White House rose garden for

Alan Grey Says . . .

The Auto Workers Union . . . Had a meeting of the board . . . And came to a decision . . . To start their strike with Ford . . . The current prognosis . . . Is one they didn't like . . . With present negotiations . . . It would be a lengthy strike . . . I wonder if the workers . . . Have thought about the cost . . . How long they will be working . . . To regain what they have lost.

Abe Mellinkoff