

'Involvement' Rewarded

His involvement in community affairs can be a good index of a man's concern for the welfare of his family, his neighbors, and his community.

This may be said also of business and industrial firms and a year of such involvement will be climaxed at special ceremonies next week when the Great Lakes Properties, Inc., names a Citizen-of-the-Year from those who have been awarded Citizen-of-the-Month honors during the past 12 months.

The Great Lakes Properties program has been one aimed at giving areawide recognition to those persons who have shown their own involvement in their communities—sometimes in measured quantities which have an accumulative impact, sometimes in one dramatic heroic moment.

The winners selected by the committee to receive the honors over the first year of the program have spanned these extremes. The person selected as the Citizen-of-the-Year will win a distinguished honor and deserves the commendation again of the entire community.

Also deserving commendation are the Great Lakes people who believe in involvement in community affairs and have taken this method to pay tribute to the contributions of others to the community.

Because they have taken the bother to recognize these people and their contributions to the communities, a dozen area residents have won recognition which might otherwise have passed them by. We all should be the better off for it.

Seat Belts Save Lives

With news of the holiday traffic toll fresh in our minds, it might be well to consider the automobile seat belt, a simple, easy to use safety device that has been a proven lifesaver. It is assuredly provable that many of those who lost their lives during the holiday just concluded could have been spared had they buckled up the seat belt. Many probably had belts available and did not use them.

A recent study by researchers at the University of Michigan into 177 fatalities in automobile accidents brought out the conclusion that 40 per cent of the victims could have been saved with lap belts, and an additional 13 per cent with shoulder straps.

The researchers also reported that a majority of the nonfatal injuries covered in the study could have been prevented by the wearing of seat belts.

The simple buckling of seat belts appears to us to be a cheap price to pay for such an outstanding safety margin.

Opinions of Others

I suggest that the separation of education and the central government is just as fundamentally important for the freedom of the society as the separation of religion and government. Both government and education must function well for the free society to flourish. But since these two dominant agencies of society have different roles to perform, each must function independently of the other in order to achieve its discrete aims.—John A. Howard, president of Rockford College.

Safety experts report that driving at night is more than twice as dangerous as driving during the day. In 1965, there were 10 persons killed for every 100 million vehicle miles traveled in darkness—4 dead for every 100 million miles traveled in daylight.—Today's Health, magazine of the American Medical Association.

One of the best records of efficiently meeting consumer needs has been compiled by investor-owned electric utilities. While consumer prices have risen by over 200 per cent since 1930, the cost per kwh of electricity has steadily dropped. Lower costs resulted from greater capital investment per employe, good management, and the need to compete with other fuels. Free market forces continue to be the consumer's best friend.—Associated Industries of Alabama.

Recently we witnessed an attack on the earnings of the oil industry when the government threatened the industry with the most dire consequence unless certain of the companies that had made a modest increase in the price of gasoline rescinded it. If the government continues to interfere with the price of gasoline, as it has done in the price of natural gas, it will establish another dangerous precedent which will prove to be a great disservice to the American people.—J. Howard Pew, chairman of the Sun Oil Company.

Morning Report:

General de Gaulle clouted us in the United Nations—again. Unsuccessful in settling the Vietnam war on his terms, with precise French logic, he now demands that his formula that failed there be extended to the troubled Middle East.

His plan for us is simplicity itself: Get out. Get out of Vietnam. Get out of the Middle East and while we are getting, get out of Europe as well. This is not very friendly but it is clear. And Clarity is a French virtue.

We owe a great debt to France for her help in our Revolutionary War. Without her fleet, Yorktown might never have been. Sometimes I feel, the General regrets it's too late—even for him—to cancel the sailing orders. At 77, he is ramrod straight in body—and mind.

Abe Mellinkoff

War? What War?



HERB CAEN SAYS:

Water Goes a Long Way With Camels or Hippies

At the U.S. Conference of Mayors in Honolulu, Dr. Ellis D. Sox, the S.F. Health Director (not to be confused with "LSD Socks", put the bum rap on our hippies as being "a health problem that costs San Francisco \$35,000 a month." Among his listeners was Mayor A. Thanyan of Riyadh, capital of Saudi Arabia, who smiled: "You don't know how lucky you are — my city is infested with tribes of Bedouins. They are not only dirty and unwashed, they bring in their camels, which are even dirtier and more unwashed." The proposed trade was declared, although, as San Francisco's Ted Courtney interjected, "it might have been instructive to find out which can go longer without water — hippies or camels."

In the glittering collection of Turkish art at our de Young Museum: the jewel-encrusted dagger featured in the film "Topkapi"—the item that those rollicking baddies went to so much trouble to steal. Anyway, they didn't get away with it. . . . Just before Melih Esenbel, the Turkish Ambassador to the U.S., arrived for dinner at the Museum the other night, somebody discovered "Bulgarian Cucumber Soup" on Caterer Thomas Thomass's menu. Just in time, it became "Cold Cucumber Soup"—another foreign crisis averted.

ed . . . Rep. L. Mendel Rivers, the hawkkest hawk in Congress, will simply die when he finds out that his daughter, Marian, who lives in S.F., has just become a campaign worker for Lovey-

San Francisco Dove John Burton, running for the California State Senate.

Who says nobody wants to go to Vietnam? The Agency for International Development ran an ad for diesel plant operators and mechanics to go over there, and received 2,023 inquiries—biggest response in the country. Of course, the emoluments and perquisites may have something to do with it: \$7,000 to \$13,000 a year plus 25 per cent hardship bonus, furnished quarters "and other benefits" (hello, Dolly!).

Comedian Jonathan Winters, exhorting the troops in Vietnam: "Never mind about those clowns in the Haight-Ashbury. Most of them are junkies or fags anyway. Not that I have anything against homosexuals—I'm in show business, you know. But they just don't have any place in a war." That's what they keep telling 'em down at the Draft Board, isn't it?

Former Asst. Secty of

Quotes

It is just a fact of life that your box office appeal gets better the further away from home you go when it comes to the bait for fund raising.—Gov. Ronald Reagan on upcoming out-of-state fund-raising speeches.

I do deplore this increasing feeling among some of the people who participate in these sorts of things that they have to do more and more spectacular things in order to create attention, and I somewhat deplore the tendency of the press to be so completely fascinated with this aspect of our life.—Assembly Speaker Jesse M. Unruh (D-Inglewood), on demonstrations at President Johnson's Los Angeles trip.

When we know how much the state will spend under the budget, we can quickly cut the tax cloth to fit the spending pattern. You can't take dollars out of the citizen's pocket that you don't need to run state government.—Sen. George Miller Jr. (D-Martinez).

This is going to be grand theft—10 years in San Quentin. We're going a long way. It's a bad bill.—Assembly

man Edwin L. Z'berg (D-Sacramento), on bill to make dognapping a felony.

California cannot afford separate planning that stalemates its major resource programs and its program for safe and adequate highways. Neither can it afford avoidable inter-agency conflicts that require major program changes after huge sums have already been invested.—Administrators of three state's transportation and resource agencies, on naming a committee to work out differences in highway routings.

My Neighbors



"Before I begin to read this have any of you weak hearts?"

AFFAIRS OF STATE

Capital Punishment Suit Asks Court to Make Law

By HENRY C. MacARTHUR
Capital News Service

SACRAMENTO — In filing suit to block execution of 61 death row murderers, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People attempts to circumvent the normal processes of government and as the federal courts where the suit was filed, to extend its dictatorial authority over the people of the state.

The condemned row murderers all have been tried by California courts, and the death sentence imposed. The attempt to prevent the sentences from being carried out makes a mockery of justice in this state.

Regardless of the hysteria the subject of capital punishment creates in some quarters, it is the law in California, and therefore should have the respect and consideration given all other laws.

For some forty years, the opponents of capital punishment have attempted through the legislative process, to abolish that law, without success. The issue never has been taken to the people of the state for a general vote, which would be the proper course of action if the opponents feel they are not obtaining a

just deal from the legislature.

But instead of going to a popular vote, NAACP, no doubt prompted by the fact that 28 per cent of the condemned men are Negroes,

Sacramento

seeks to have the federal courts mak another legislative decision.

The United States Supreme court in effect made a legislative decision, and negated the will of the people of the state, when it held Proposition 14 unconstitutional. This proposition, voted by the people with a large majority, merely affirmed the right of a property owner to have absolute jurisdiction in the handling of his property. This was a great victory for NAACP, as it supposedly ends discrimination against minority races and transfers that discrimination to the majority.

Whether the NAACP expects the federal courts again to rule against the constitutional right of the people to make their own laws, remains to be seen.

Assemblyman Charles J. Conrad, R-Hollywood, says if NAACP is successful in its suit, Californians "can brace themselves for an increase in crimes of violence,

which already are the highest in history."

"I wish," Conrad declared, "they would give some consideration to the torture often inflicted upon the victims, and to the years of loneliness and economic loss by the families of those victims."

"The death penalty is a deterrent. Numerous criminals have testified how they hesitated to kill because I didn't want to sniff that gas."

"But for over a generation, we have seen the growth of a philosophy that it is wrong to punish murderers and rapists. That criminals are just sick people, and during that time, crime has reached an all-time high."

For an issue that has received all the comment that capital punishment has over the past forty years, it might appear to be about time for the issue to be submitted to the people, and thus be decided once and for all rather than having it come every session before the legislature.

But even if it were submitted to the people, and a vote cast to retain it as part of California law, the question then might be whether the people made a proper decision under court ruling.

ROYCE BRIER

Glassboro's Quick Shot At History Fading Away

Certainly Premier Kosygin, and probably you, never heard until recently of a town called Glassboro, a New Jersey college town southeast of Philadelphia.

Many years ago, at the height of her career, Norma Talmadge arrived in a small Iowa village to shoot a silent film. The whole countryside went quite dingy over this colossal event. So did Glassboro, when it learned it was to be the site of a summit meeting between Kosygin and President Johnson.

But just as Miss Talmadge's film is gone with the smoke of a Roman empire, so will Glassboro's great moment be forgotten. For nothing of memorable consequence could happen there. Mr. Kosygin and Mr. Johnson are too cautious, too acutely aware of the wrong word or gesture, to reveal

the world the substance of what they said.

True, there may be leaks, as there were leaks from the Kennedy-Khrushchev

World Affairs

meeting in Vienna, but there will be little or no confirmation.

Notwithstanding the talk was important. The two men participate in wielding the greatest aggregate of power existing in the present world. Neither wields untrammelled power, but both were free to express how the aggregate power should be used.

Both men fear a showdown of this divided power, for a showdown would be fatal for everybody. But they are at opposite poles in how the power should be used. Both are ruled by

fixed thought, and neither could convince the other of his own righteousness and wisdom.

Yet both are presumably practical men, and in history, the practical has a devious way of undermining fixed thought. It is this undermining process which mages mankind tolerable to itself. Fixed thought is what you want to do, and it is comprised of a thousand forces and elements. The practical is what you can do in a given circumstance.

The given circumstance runs roughly like this:

In the Mideast the Arabs hoped to exterminate the Israeli state, and the Russians hoped they would. The Americans believed it would be inimical to the Free World and to peace. The Israelis settled it in days by mauling the Arabs into submission. This left the Russians holding the bag. They are trying to extricate themselves, but against a hard fact.

In Vietnam, the Americans are trying to put down a rebellion and invasion. The Russians deem this against their professed interests. But here another factor enters: the Red Chinese, contiguous to the conflict, who hate both the Americans and Russians, and insist they are conspiring to sell the Vietnamese down the river.

The Red Chinese show signs of trying to butt in on the Mideast aftermath, saying again there is a Russo-American plot. The Russians must take this into account, and it fully explains Mr. Kosygin's misgivings about meeting Mr. Johnson, and the hanky-panky of making Glassboro the site.

Historically, this interplay and overlapping of capricious forces is common but it has rarely been manifested on a global scale. All this (and the Chinese bomb) were subjects for discussion. We hope Mr. Kosygin had a pleasant tour through the Jerseys. George Washington slept there in another troubled time.

WILLIAM HOGAN

New Generation to Have Tales of Horatio Alger

The stories of Horatio Alger Jr. left a strong mark on the 19th Century American character. Perhaps 20 million copies of his simple, inspirational books were sold — the Ragged Dick and Pluck and Luck series of the 1860s, the Tattered Tom books of the following decade. Alger wrote 120 books for boys, quite apart from his juvenile biographies of famous men, such as "James A. Garfield: Canal Boy to President."

The publishing house of Holt, Rinehart & Winston has chosen this week to revive what some might call the good old days of uncomplicated literature. Two of Alger's most representative works are being issued in their original, untampered-with versions. "The Store Boy, or The Fortunes of Ben Barclay" and "Julius, or The Street Boy Out West" appear as a single volume. Each points to the sound old American theory that hard work, ambition and high moral character make poor boys rich.

Holt's idea of bringing back Horatio Alger is obviously based on the result of the recent American penchant for corn and "camp"—Batman, Tarzan, life-size

posters of Chester Conklin, Tiffany lamps. "Strive and Succeed," which is the overall title of these two books, may make it as a successful coffee table showpiece. If it does, the publisher will dust

Books

off as many Alger titles as the traffic will bear.

Horatio Alger Jr. (1834-1899), son of a Unitarian minister, once fled to Paris as a rebellious bohemian, but was persuaded to return to Revere, Mass., and become a minister himself. He became chaplain of a newsboys' lodging house in 1866, but secretly longed to be a literary man. He was not much as an adult novelist, but his books about boot-blacks and newsboys, mostly smug and good, were successful beyond his wildest dreams.

Alger never used a simple word where a circumlocution could be substituted (a barber in his stories is "a knight of the scissors"). Russell Crouse once observed that Alger got away with literary murder for years. But the playwright S. N. Behrman, in a new introduction here, insists that reading Alger today is "like

taking a shower bath in pure innocence."

The Store Boy

"The Store Boy" is about a small town teenager, poor but kind of heart and devoted to his widowed mother. He loses his job just as the mortgage on his mother's cottage is foreclosed. He proceeds to New York, where his wit and courtesy bring him a nice position, the promise of a lovely bride and a chance to save the mother's home.

No more complicated a character, Julius the street boy invests his savings in real estate — but why spoil it for you? One would be churlish to snicker, especially on Fourth of July week. Who knows? — Pluck and Luck may ride again to take its place beside the new lapel button poetry.

Norman Maller

has contributed a new introduction to the Dell paperback edition of the text of his play, "The Dear Park," based on the novel of the same name (95 cents).

"Viet Rock and Other Plays" a collection of four works by the controversial young playwright-director Megan Terry, appears from Simon & Schuster (paperback, \$2.45).

The Old Times



"They have pills that will cure almost anything except the watusi, the frug, and the terk."