

GLENN W. PFEIL . . . . . Publisher  
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Torrance, Calif., Wednesday, April 26, 1967

## Public Schools Week

Most Californians no longer take their excellent public schools for granted. Most of us have learned of the value of the schools and of their contribution to our communities and to our state.

One of the observances which has served well to acquaint us with our schools has been the annual Public Schools Week celebration each April.

This year's observance—the 48th annual event—is being held this week under the theme, "Insure America's Future—Know and Support our Public Schools."

Our public schools have advanced greatly during the 48 years that Public Schools Week has been observed. At its beginning, the successful completion of the eighth grade was considered a mark of accomplishment. Today it is only a beginning point.

This week's observance of our system of public education is a continuation of the program begun nearly half a century ago by the California Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons.

In calling for support of the 1967 Public Schools Week program, Grand Master Laurence E. Dayton recalled that public schools are "a major factor in the lives of our children from the time they are five years old, and exerts a continuing influence upon them during most of their formative years."

Many schools of the community are joining in observance of the week with open house, programs, concerts, art shows, and other special events.

We could all add our support by showing up at one or more of the events.

## Good Omen for Libraries

Passage of Torrance library bond issue for \$2.35 million by a solid 4-to-1 margin has given hope to the Citizens for Better Libraries who are supporting a bond proposal for \$37.8 million for the Los Angeles Public Library which will be on the Los Angeles ballot May 31.

The library issue has more than passing interest for residents of the Southwest and Harbor Areas as much of the area is dependent on Los Angeles city library service.

Proposed for the funds to be made available on approval of the issue is a new central library, 14 other new libraries, the replacement of 35 old and inadequate libraries, and \$5 million in new books.

Samuel J. Leask, chairman of the Citizens for Better Libraries in Los Angeles, was happy with the Torrance results.

"Although the size of the Torrance bond issue and the size of the city is on a much smaller scale than Los Angeles, the fact is that citizens did not hesitate to vote the needed money to provide better library service," he said.

It's an omen which pleases Mr. Leask.

## Opinions of Others

**Altoona (Pa.) Mirror:** "One of the things that hadn't been said about the Johnson Administration was that its Commerce Department is suffering from a split-personality syndrome and billboard schizophrenia. . . . Rep. William C. Cramer of Florida has pointed out to his colleagues in the House that at the very time the Commerce Department's Economic Development Administration is busily putting up roadside signs to plug its projects, the department's Bureau of Public Roads is just as busily drafting regulations to eliminate roadside signs."

**Abilene (Kan.) Reflector-Chronicle:** "A news story tells how a generous Congress has pushed the salaries of its top employes to such levels that \$20,000-a-year jobs (staff jobs, that is) are becoming commonplace. There are 494 of them ranging up to \$28,500 paid to the head doorkeeper of the House. That sounds like a lot of pay for a 'doorkeeper'. In fairness, this job may be misnamed, since it carries much more responsibility than the title implies. However, it is purely a political pay-off type of job. And the salary is only \$1,500 less than a member of Congress."

**Petaluma (Calif.) Argus-Courier:** "We don't like to rake over old coals, but it's important to point out that the controversial textbook 'Land of the Free' has become a 'must' in all California junior high schools. . . . The thing that does bother us about this text is its negative approach to our own glorious history. There are always those among us ready to point out our black marks in history and they completely distort our great heritage by failing to balance it with the shining moments that have made this country the beacon of freedom in a weary, troubled world."

## Morning Report:

I want to be as patriotic as the next fellow but it's not easy. Unlike baseball, somebody keeps changing the basic rules.

When the Russians wanted to buy heavy equipment from us, it was patriotic not to sell. Because the equipment would increase their war potential, and leave us nothing but some Russian gold. Which in itself created a storage problem. But now they want to sell us six 60,000-kilowatt generators for the Grand Coulee Dam. This will make us mightier and they will have to store our gold. But there is a great cry against the deal.

It's very confusing. By the dawn's early light, I'd like to be able to see on which side my patriotic bread is buttered.

Abe Mellinkoff

## He's Long Past Retirement Age—



HERB CAEN SAYS:

## He's Got the Classiest

## Garbage Disposer in Town

Speaking of the garbage problem (and the same to you), Ingle Shankel has a friend who lives in a glorious new high-rise overlooking the Golden Gate Bridge, and a fine pad it is: air conditioner, built-in hi-fi, color TV, balcony, wall-to-wall everything. The builder forgot a garbage chute. "Every few days," reports Ingle, "he used to put the garbage in an old suitcase and carry it out through the lobby, but he soon ran out of suitcases. Now he stuffs the garbage in I. Magnin, Saks or Roos/Atkins bags, puts 'em in his sportscar, drives downtown and parks. Then he lurks in a nearby doorway till somebody steals the packages. Downtown San Francisco being what it is, it's usually a short wait." I say!

**San Francisco**  
 Berkeley, California." Hold on, brave Berkeley. Help is on the way. Let Freedom Ring!

Add infinites: Doesn't break me up, but everybody's telling the joke about the guy who goes into Lupo's and orders a pizza and the waiter says "Shall I cut it into eight pieces or six?" Guy: "Better make it six—I could never eat eight." Ha? . . . On the other hand, I do like this classified ad in the Hillsborough (Calif.) Boutique, a weekly: "Horsewoman trained in European equitation will exercise your horse in exchange for the pleasure of a mount, 347-2812," and don't all start dialing at the same time.

As for that "Personals ad in the Berkeley Gazette — 'Hitler's Sons, please contact Mike' — you're right; that would indeed be our old friend Mike O'Brian, No. Calif. Storm Leader of George Lincoln Rockwell's American Nazi Party. O'Brian: "We couldn't get started in San Francisco. Got

kicked out of three houses in one day. In Mill Valley, we lost two houses in two days. Now we're in Oakland. Have a good group of 28. Of course, a lot of kooks tried to join up but I've weeded them out." Of course.

There's one tradition that will never die here and that's the daily parade of ladies jaywalking across Stockton St. between City of Paris and Macy's, despite the patient cop in the loudspeaker car who warns them they're taking their life in their feet. "Now go back to the sidewalk, ladies, and cross at the corner," he says in that tired-nice voice, but no chance. Maybe they think he's saying they're cross at the corner. . . . Are you always faintly surprised, too, when you pick up a table lighter in somebody else's house and find that it works? The ones around your own house never do, right? . . . John Gracie nominates for oblivion: "Those jokers who get married in the daytime wearing — God help us — white dinner jackets!" Nomination seconded. . . . I still want to know if a fat hippie is a hippie but nobody will tell me.

## WILLIAM HOGAN

## Most Manchester Reviews Favorable, Survey Finds

Reviews of William Manchester's 'The Death of a President' were generally favorable, although in some cases its appearance has given critics a chance to air their own feelings about the Kennedys, the Kennedy myth, the Kennedy-Manchester battles, Democratic politics, "instant history," Manchester's limitations as historian, or reporter, and regrets that the work is not literature.

Some have been excessively long critical essays, such as Tom Wicker's in the New York Times Book Review. The Times' Washington bureau chief finds this "a book to be quibbled over for the ages," a "monument" which tends to perpetuate the "Kennedy myth." Wicker agrees that Manchester is a "talented, sensitive, personally anguished writer," but one "whose loyalty and devotion to the late President inevitably bob to the surface; indeed, he makes little attempt to hide them. . . ."

In the Los Angeles Times, the Washington reporter Robert J. Donovan found the

book "powerful, dramatic . . . a work whose strengths outweigh its weaknesses." Donovan found the quality of writing uneven, "at times strong and taut, at other times flighty, florid, sentimental." On the whole this "epic book" seizes the reader with its narrative force

## Books

and is "one that will be read for a long time."

Book Week (New York World-Journal-Tribune) carried essays by both Alistair Cooke, American correspondent of the Manchester Guardian of England, and the novelist and political commentator Gore Vidal. Cooke's piece was the most negative I have seen. "Manchester's method," he observed, "is what you might call non-selective documentary, an assembly line of infinite ingredients whose monotonous movement is teased, for the lack of suspense, by stopping and starting and flashbacks . . . a best-seller written for the snooper's world that Marsh-

her from all those arrows, but the day is gone. Now all you see is Marlboro Country, with some joker on a headland gazing at the Golden Gate Bridge, which is more

perilous than Injun arrows if you commune, at that.

Still, Mr. Reagan skinned out of every ambush, surviving to be honored by the very Red men who would scalp him if they could in the old west.

But they couldn't because they were to a man bum shots, couldn't hit the broad side of a barn with their silly arrows. Later, when they got rifles, they were still as cock-eyed and all they ever drilled was some poor old camp cook to give pathos to the opera.

In short, the Indians in the west, while they could curdle your blood with their yells, were practically harmless in warfare, while the lily white wagon train

They hold that California should not break with tradition and interfere with the lengthy tradition in this state of providing education for everyone at no cost to anyone except the taxpayers.

This attitude only continues the long-time conception that educators have of taxpayers, which is that the

producers who provide them with funds, salaries and facilities are not qualified to make any decisions concerning education and that their sole status in the picture is to foot the bills.

Where the educators miss the boat, despite the advanced learning they must have to become educators, is in failure to come to the realization that the producers of the state can produce only so much, and that eventually, funds for something are going to run out.

And when funds run out, there's only one solution. That's to shut up shop, or curtail to the extent the field of higher education have little or no value, as far as instruction to young people in the field of living is concerned.

About the only solution now will be for Collier to carry out his expressed intention of causing his program to be submitted to the people through a constitutional amendment, and for a change, let the people decide on this important issue.

The result could come as a surprise to the educators, who easily could find out the taxpayers not only want, but demand some governmental curtailments which might allow them to keep some of the money they sweat to earn.

## World Affairs

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## Quote

Governor Ronald Reagan: "Every time we tried to effect an economy in this state, I have found that there are certain individuals directly involved whose only approach to the economy seems to be to make the cut where it will hurt the most and be the most damaging in order to muster public opinion on their side."

Assemblyman Winfield A. Shoemaker, D-Santa Barbara, on bill to overhaul state's divorce laws: "We feel that a family court concerned with solving family problems, instead of just deciding whether one partner or the other is guilty, will do much to reduce the divorce rate in California."