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Torrance

Club Clears Up Confusion About Drivers Licenses

Motor Vehicle Department Given Discretionary Power

Confusion which has prevailed regarding the provisions of the amendments of the California Motor Vehicle Act, which became effective July 29, has prompted the legal department of the Automobile Club of Southern California to issue a statement concerning drivers' licenses. A report has been circulated to the effect that all operators with licenses three or more years old will be required to take a driving examination. This, the legal department says, is an error. The statement follows:

"Section 69, as amended, provides that the division of motor vehicles may at any time cancel all operator's licenses which have been outstanding for three years or more, and to require the renewal thereof, subject to examination at the discretion of the division.

"This amendment has been made for two reasons. First, since an operator's license, as heretofore issued, has been good until revoked or suspended and since the operator's address appears on the license and is the only record of addresses of operators which the division has, these addresses are inaccurate because no provision has been made for advising of change of address. Therefore it was thought advisable to authorize the division to call in all licenses issued three years ago or more and eliminate from the files the names and addresses of a large number of persons who have left the state or have died.

"In the renewal of such licenses, when called in by the division, the division may or may not require an examination as a condition precedent to the issuance of a new license. This is a beneficial feature because, if the record of one heretofore licensed appears to be bad—that is, to involve numerous convictions of speeding or reckless driving—then the division is authorized to require an examination of such applicant for the renewal of his license. In this way some who have been licensed previously and who, because of physical or mental deficiency, are not competent to drive an automobile, and who have caused numerous accidents previously, may thus be prohibited from driving by the division refusing to issue a new license in the event the applicant fails to pass the examination."

Miss Virginia Lakin of Santa Barbara has been the guest the past week of Misses Grace and Muriel Barnes of Engracia avenue.

Great Catholic Gathering Near



Bishop John J. Cantwell

The eyes of the entire nation will be focused upon Southern California from September 1 to 8, when leaders in social welfare activities from all America and Canada will gather for the National Conference of Catholic Charities at Los Angeles, according to Thomas A. J. Dockweiler, vice president of the Los Angeles Social Service Commission.

It will be the greatest Catholic assemblage ever held in the West, he declared, and will come as a fitting climax to ten years of extraordinary achievement by Bishop John J. Cantwell. He said also, that it will bring into bold relief the fact that Los Angeles led the country in the establishment of the first co-ordinated bureau of charities under church auspices, with Bishop Cantwell as the sponsor and pioneer.

Since Bishop Cantwell arrived, Mr. Dockweiler pointed out 40 parishes have been added within Los Angeles and 60 in other parts of the diocese, a total of 100 within a decade, besides 72 churches, 23 in the last two years, for Mexican exiles.

192 Squadrillion (Count 'Em) Miles in Our Universe

On the basis of preliminary studies just concluded at the University of California Lick Observatory, on Mt. Hamilton, an estimated diameter of 10,000 parsecs, or approximately 192,000,000,000,000 miles, has been offered as sufficient to account for the sidereal universe, which surrounds the earth on which we live.

This approximate figure of 192 quadrillion miles has been computed by Allan Douglas Maxwell, James M. Goewey Fellow in Astronomy, registered from Woodland, as a result of preliminary studies on the density of stars toward the edge of the sidereal galaxy in which our solar system is found. He offers the computation as a working supposition, which may be altered by further observations.

Maxwell made his observations by means of the spectroscope in six areas in the Cygnus region of the Milky Way, in conformance with a systematic plan adopted by astronomers. His problem was to compute the distances of the fainter stars in the Milky Way and to discover how far into space the cloud-like mass extended. The instrument used was a two-prism quartz spectrograph attached to the Crossley reflector according to a design originated by Astronomer W. H. Wright of Lick Observatory.

Many other estimates of this sidereal universe diameter have been made in the past, ranging from 6,100 parsecs to more than 90,000 parsecs. A parsec is an astronomical unit roughly equal to nineteen trillion miles. Maxwell's figures incline toward the more conservative or smaller of the estimates.

The problem involved is explained as follows: The sidereal universe is composed of probably more than a billion stars, occupying positions in space such that the universe assumes the shape of a thin watch. The Milky Way, a luminous belt of stars visible to the naked eye, forms the outline of the great circle, or the rim of the watch. Our solar system of the sun, earth and other planets occupies a small spot somewhere near the center of the circle, or near the axis around which the hands of a watch revolve.

Because of the great distance of the stars, it has been impossible to measure the extent of the Milky Way by direct computation, but with the aid of the spectrograph an indirect method has been devised, hinging on the relation of brilliance of light to the distance it travels before reaching the eye. It is known that the brilliance of light is inversely proportional to the square of distance it travels. That is, a light moved twice as far away from an observer's eye would appear only one-fourth as brilliant.

With this physical law to work upon, the distance of stars can be computed by obtaining a measure of their brilliance as seen from the earth, and their absolute brilliance or magnitude as it would appear at a standard distance from the earth. The difference between these two figures give sufficient data for finding the distance of the star.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Bale, who are on a motor trip to Oregon and Washington write of the pleasant time they are having. Mr. and Mrs. Bale are accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Luck of 257th street, Lomita.

Mrs. B. J. Scott left Wednesday for a three weeks' trip with relatives to Washington and Oregon.

District P. M.'s Enjoy Gathering at Redondo

Postmasters Gourdier and Smith of Torrance and Lomita Attend

Postmasters Al Gourdier of Torrance and Charles Smith of Lomita were among 150 delegates to the annual convention of the California-Nevada Division of the National League of Postmasters in Redondo Beach last week. An interesting and instructive program was arranged by C. J. Funk, Redondo Beach postmaster who acted as host. The convention was in session Thursday and Friday, with a banquet Friday night addressed by Congressman Crall. Other speakers at the convention included Dr. Ripley Jackson, former postmaster at Glendale, and R. Guy Smith, postmaster at Moss Beach and secretary of the convention, who came to the convention in a Pacific Air Transport plane. Frank Stevenson of Terra Bella was president.

Mayor London of Redondo Beach welcomed the postmasters, with a response from Chief of Inspectors Caine of San Francisco, who brought greetings from the postmaster general and his staff. Inspector Caine gave an interesting talk based on the development of the postal service since the time of the couriers of ancient Babylon.

Inspector Kline of Los Angeles told the delegates that the postmaster is manager in his city of the biggest business enterprise in the United States, and as such should realize that his work is the most worthwhile of any in the community. The postmaster, he said, is the most representative business man in his town and should take pride in that fact.

Saturday morning the postmasters journeyed in a body to Torrance, where they were escorted through the big mills of the Columbia Steel Corporation.

A poet turned up during the convention, who, answering to the name of John M. Callaghan of the Redondo office, dedicated the following verse to the convention:

The Evolution of the Mail
In days long ago when our ancestors wrote,
They heaved out their missive on rocks.
Then patiently waited, perhaps for a year,
For the mail car, propelled by an ox.
And if they received a reply in a

year,
Such speed made them stammer,
aghast,
"It is hard to believe that such things can be so,
"Ye Gods, but the P. O. is fast."

As time went along and the people progressed,
Some genius invented the pen.
Then messages traveled all over the earth,
Transported by coaches and men.
Then our forefathers haughtily smiled as they thought
Of the lumbering ox of the past,
And exclaimed, in a moment of praiseworthy joy,
"Ye Gods, but the P. O. is fast."

The coach served its purpose, then dropped out of sight
To make way for the engine and rail.
And knowledge was spread o'er

the breadth of the land
By means of the fast moving mail.
Then our fathers admitted the aerie was reached,
And that time had been conquered at last,
And meant what they said when they whispored with awe,
"Ye Gods, but the P. O. is fast."

And now we have come to the air-plane age,
When speed is a matter of fact,
And sending of words to the ends of the earth
In a flash, is a commonplace act,
And if it should happen our message is late
By a fraction of a second, or so,
We proclaim, in our modern, contemptuous way,
"Ye Gods, but the P. O. is slow."

The ox and the coach and the rail and the plane,

Have all played their separate parts
In helping develop a service to man,
Which has now been reduced to an art.
And we in Redondo, through Postmaster Funk,
Send greetings to each honored guest.
We do not pretend to be better than they,
But, Ye Gods, we're as good as the best.

Mrs. Lewis Ripple, who was expected back last week, has decided to remain in Michigan for a short time. She was called to Pontiac, Michigan by the death of her mother.

Mrs. A. P. Stevenson and daughter, Betty, have returned to their home on Post avenue from Centerville, Iowa.

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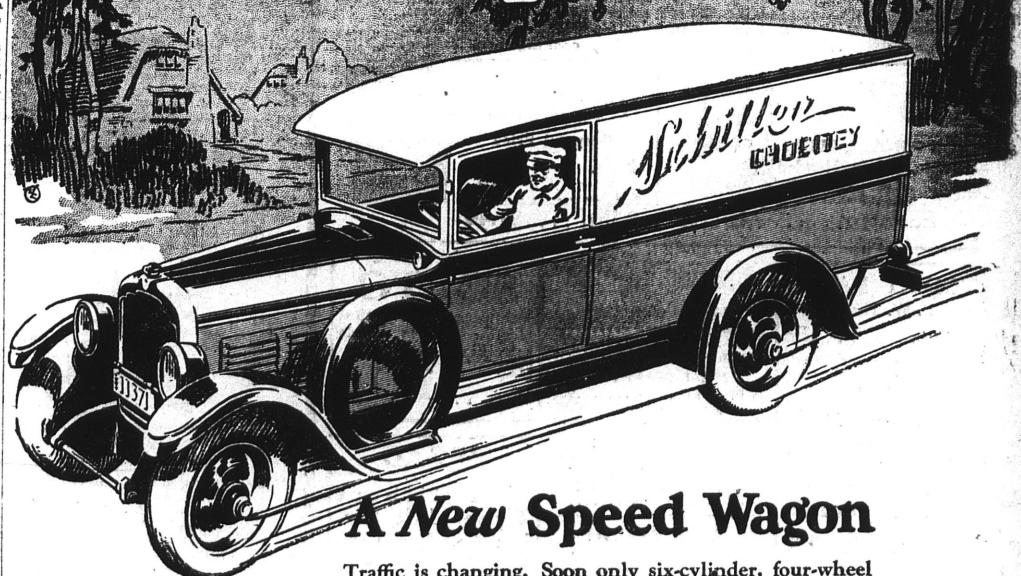
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