

THE SQUIRREL CAGE

BY REID BUNDY

HEP HYMNAL—Easter has a solemnity 12 Queens. This nameless come and go for most, except for a few dozen hardboiled eggs that are still around to be deviled or put into salads. For one Torrance Gardens couple, however, memories of the day will linger for some time. The day got off to a rocky start when the couple decided it was time their 26-month-old daughter started going to church. Everything went well for the first few minutes—the tot was interested in all of the unfamiliar faces around her, in the candles at the altar, and at the surroundings, that were totally unfamiliar to her. At a most inappropriate time, however, at one of those fabled times you could hear a pin drop, the couple was startled to hear their daughter break out in a song she definitely hadn't learned in Sunday School. She sang out loud enough for all to hear: "She wears red feathers on her huly-huly skirt." She and her father went for a walk

POLITICAL BLUNDER—We really booted one the other day while talking to Dr. Mir Asad Ali, who is visiting here from Pakistan to study steelmaking techniques. During an interview with the young doctor at Columbia Steel Co., he told us he was born in Karachi, Pakistan. Grabbing at the chance to display our knowledge of political geography, we said, "Let's see, that was part of India then, wasn't it." The question nearly broke up the interview. It seems that the Pakistanians, who won their independence in 1947 after a bitter struggle, have no love for the neighboring nation—India.

RAINBOW'S END—For centuries, men have been searching for that pot of gold at the end of the rainbow—and for almost as long, practical jokers have sent unsuspecting friends out for items by the hundreds that are almost as inaccessible. Snipe hunters have looked for everything from pie-crust stretchers to cans of striped paint through the years. A new one turned up at the Torrance Herald the other day, however. From a downtown store with a note from his boss came a young clerk on a serious mission. He wanted to borrow our deadline for his boss, promising to return it right away. Bill King, to whom the request was relayed, was forced to tell him we had loaned ours out just a few minutes earlier.

SQUARE WHEELS—From all outward appearances, the brighter the paint job on your auto if you're a Torrance High student, the better chance you stand of being labeled a square. More and more every day, the autos parked around the side streets adjacent to Carson St. halls of learning are leaning toward two-tones—the original paint and generous blotches of primer paint. It could be that the boys are just slow about getting the jalops into the paint shops.

LOCAL NOBLES—Some squirrel Cage reader, after patiently lamping the local telephone directory, postcards us that there are 479 Kings listed therein, but

Chamber Warns Against Fast Pitch Artists

With warm weather and longer working hours coming the itinerant fast pitch artists will be on the prowl in Torrance, the Chamber of Commerce warns.

The Chamber has issued a warning to all Torrance citizens to demand to see a Torrance city business license or a Chamber of Commerce solicitor's card before obligating themselves for any merchandise or services from door to door callers.

This canary colored clearance card is issued by the Chamber to solicitors representing legitimate projects and before the card is issued the salesman or company must register and file complete data regarding their business. This file is available to anyone for inspection.

Issuance of the card does not constitute an endorsement by the Chamber of the merchandise offered.

Regular permanent merchants of Torrance pay an annual fee to operate in the city.

Almost daily the Better Merchants division of the Chamber of Commerce receives calls from irate housewives or citizens who have found themselves taken in by some fast-talking salesman who obtained their signature on a contract obligating them to purchase merchandise or services from an unknown company which is usually located out of town and with no guarantee in back of the product or the firm's ability to fulfill their part of the contract.

Science Fiction Writer to Speak To Manuscripters

Mark Clifton, Redondo resident, and author of science fiction stories for such leading magazines in the field, as Astounding Science Fiction and Galaxy, will be guest speaker at the next meeting of the Southwest Manuscripters.

The meeting will be held at Clark Stadium, Valley Road, Hermosa Beach, on Friday evening, Apr. 17, at 8 p.m. The names of the winners in the

group's short story contest will be announced at that time.

Clifton's background has been gained largely through 20 years spent as personnel manager for a large technical plant, where he worked himself up from clerk to director, then served as consultant for labor relations. It was in this work he feels, that he gained his understanding of people. Working with engineers and the scientific-minded at the plant, has gained him the know-

ledge concerning the science used in his ideas.

Seventeen months ago, his first story was accepted upon first submission to Galaxy. He has, since, sold six shorts and seven novelettes in this field. His first submission, while still on the job, was accepted for anthology, thus breaking a sixteen year record.

Clifton is now writing under contract for Astounding Science Fiction, and has been requested

to do an original for Ballantine Publishing Co., publisher of Pocket Books.

Membership in Southwest Manuscripters is open to any person interested in writing. Details may be obtained by calling Elsie Pestoff, secretary-treasurer, at FRontier 5-3464.

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