

EDITORIALS

Serious Study Needed

The magnitude of the proposed annexation of some 6800 acres of Palos Verdes peninsula land to Torrance poses attractive long-term possibilities to this city and, at the same time, calls for some very serious consideration on the part of the Torrance City Council.

Already misunderstanding and varying shades of interests have lead to misapprehensions and distortion that have placed Torrance in the role of land-grabber. Actually, the initiative thus far has all originated with the land-owners who, frankly, see certain advantages to them in becoming part of Torrance.

At this point the Great Lakes Carbon Company seems disposed to offer the entire piece with no strings attached. Unlike some other developers that have sought annexation to Torrance, the company offers a lot more than tract homes that can only increase the burden on Torrance municipal services and its school system.

Over the long haul, the proposal seems attractive to Torrance. It must be realized, however, that all phases of the proposal and its ramifications must be carefully studied. The wisdom of the City Council must be augmented by the deliberations of school authorities and the experts who make up the Industries Tax Committee.

A Needed Project

The Torrance City Council again has expressed an interest in opening a new avenue into downtown Torrance from the north with the extension of Arlington Ave. from 190th St. to 203rd St.

Mayor Nicholas O. Drale has brought up the question again in a letter to the Industrial Development Committee of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce in which he stated that the pending construction of the Sepulveda Freeway through North Torrance made the opening of this artery now a necessity in order to assure the planning of ingress and egress facilities for the street on the new freeway.

From all indications, the city is going to be forced to use its condemnation powers to acquire the right-of-way over property which is now unoccupied.

The need for another artery into Torrance from the north cannot be over emphasized. At the present time there are only three routes into the area from the north—Hawthorne Ave., which runs west of the downtown section a considerable distance; Crenshaw Blvd. which is destined to be one of the heaviest traveled streets in the area in the near future; and Western Ave., which bypasses the city on the east.

Opening of Arlington Ave. would shoot southbound traffic directly into downtown Torrance and is a vital project in the fight for progress in the downtown business area.

We believe the city should act soon to assure completion of this project.

Report from Earth

The echoes of Christmas carols serenade into oblivion the faltering footsteps of 1954. We like to believe that the coming year will be one of peace, prosperity and progress. Only the united good will and determination of intelligent people can make it so. We might begin by honestly facing the truth that most of our fears and troubles are of our own doing. Our real enemies are ignorance, stupidity and selfishness.

We have never seen a little man from Mars, but if he exists, and if his intelligence is as superior as is popularly supposed, he must be surveying our antics with puzzled amazement. It is intriguing to speculate what his Report from Earth would be. Perhaps he would flash this message:

"This green, beautiful world is a strange world. It is inhabited by beings who teeter between godlike nobility and brutal degradation, like a star that sways uncertainly between two poles. These creatures are continually destroyed by enemies. Invisible forces, which they call disease, invade their bodies and slay them. Floods, fires, accidents and disasters of nature kill them by millions.

"Yet the astonishing thing is that they spend much of their resources and energies in contriving ways to destroy each other. Most of their activities consist of the making of death-dealing weapons with which to exterminate their fellow creatures.

"An earthing will weep over the plight of a little child, bring crutches to the aged and infirm, fight valorously against the treachery of disease, and, in the afternoon of the same day, drop a bomb to annihilate thousands of those whom he spent the morning to save. And, in the evening he will look out upon the stars and pray and sing hymns of thanksgiving to his gods.

"It is a strange world. Its inhabitants are even stranger. We cannot decide whether they are descended from gods or devils. It seems as if they are impelled by something from both."

A Working Day

While most of us were home enjoying turkey and tinsel, cards and candy, silver ribbon, and other Christmas joys, a lot of Torrance men and women spent the day working, aware of the holiday only because their work had increased.

To the California Highway Patrol, Torrance police officers, firemen, sheriff's deputies, and others who were on duty during the holidays, a word of thanks and our appreciation for helping make our Christmas so enjoyable.

And to those who caused extra work for these men, file on you.

I Remember Mambo

-BUT, D'YOU REMEMBER THESE THINGS, WHICH MADE HEADLINES IN '54?



Operating Costs of Local Schools Lowest in Los Angeles County

Torrance's 11,979 school students can be classed as the "bargain babies" of the county, according to a list of current expenses released by the Los Angeles County Superintendent of Schools, Division of Statistics and Reports.

Listed on the chart are all major expenditures in the operation of a unified school district, and out of all the districts in the county, total expense of operating the local Unified School District is only \$251.78 per pupil—lowest in the county.

The figure compares most favorably with the overall county average of \$301.59 per pupil in average daily attendance, and is far below the \$429.98 cost of the highest district in the county—named by county auditors.

In only one item, the cost of transportation per pupil per year is Torrance above the average.

The county average is low, however, because some school districts, like Culver City, do not employ buses for hauling children to and from school; they have them for special chartered excursions only.

Torrance's per pupil cost in transportation is \$7.40, while the over-all average is \$3.68. Highest county-wide cost is in the "maintenance of plant" column, which, oddly enough, is one of the lowest items of expenditure for local taxpayers.

While the average cost per student is \$14.93 a year to maintain buildings and equipment, Torrance gets by with nearly one-third of this amount, or \$5.79 per pupil.

Because most Torrance schools are new, and because a continuing preventive maintenance program is carried out, these plants maintenance costs can be held at a minimum, it was explained.

Another item of reduced price in the local district is the expense of teaching salaries. Here again, it was indicated, because Torrance has hired many new teachers in the last two years, salaries are on the low end of the pay scale.

The average per pupil cost for teaching salaries here is \$166.22, while the county average is \$159.71. High for all districts is \$277.36 per pupil per year.

A long established district must pay teachers from the high end of the sliding scale employed in determining the wages paid to instructors. Newer areas, like Torrance, still are on the low end, except for those instructors who have been in the local schools for three or four years, or more.

Teachers who have tenure, and 10 or 15 years longevity in the older districts are those who tend to pull up the over-all

average on the cost per pupil chart.

Another great difference in costs between Torrance and the county average is evident in fixed charges, retirement and insurance, for example. The local district has an enviable public liability-property damage insurance rate, earned because of a long standing safety record.

This record is reflected in a lower over-all cost, and money usually used for this can be detoured into other instructional channels.

Torrance's cost per pupil for these fixed charges averages only \$5.79, while the county scale is now at \$8.01 per pupil cost.

Other comparable items include: cost of administration—Torrance, \$10.14; county average, \$12.17; operation of plant cost—Torrance, \$29.91; county

average, \$31.92; other instructional salaries—Torrance, \$7.56; county average, \$11.91; cost of miscellaneous expenses of instruction—Torrance, \$12.42; county average, \$12.50.

Cost of auxiliary services, which includes operation of attendance offices and personnel, and student health and psychological services, runs the nearest to county average cost per pupil of any item.

Torrance pays \$6.47 per pupil for these auxiliary services, while the county average is \$7.29 per student.

The chart, presented to Torrance School Board by Dr. J. H. Hull, served to give some comparison between the operating expenses of the local unified district and all other school districts in Los Angeles County.

OF ALL THINGS

By Robert B. Martin

Circumstances beyond my control . . .

Who was the first to write those words? Was it Charles Dickens in his book, "David Copperfield"? Well, old Mr. Micawber did use the expression in a letter to David.

But that wasn't the start of it. The Duke of Wellington is probably the first one to have used the expression when he wrote, "circumstances over which I have no control," in a letter explaining something his son had done.

What we're getting at today is the fact that many of us are still using expressions that are old as the hills. . . . ops, see what we mean? Wonder who first used that one . . . "old as the hills?"

Some of the coined phrases and "bromides" we're using today actually belong to ancient history.

"While there's life there's hope." Cleo first pointed that out in a letter to Atticus.

Dear old Diogenes first said: "Habit is second nature."

When Julia, niece of Calor did, Tacitus observed at the funeral that both Cassius, her husband, and Brutus, her brother, failed to show up. Tacitus wrote: "Cassius and Brutus show pre-eminence because their images were not displayed." This later became, "conspicuous by their absence."

During the first century, Clement I, Bishop of Rome, sent a letter to the Church of Corinth. It was in this letter that the words, "we are all in the same boat," first appeared.

Antigonous I King of Sparta, was described as "son of the sun" in a poem written by Herodotus, according to Plu-

tarch. Antigonous shrugged it off with the remark, "my body servant sings me no such song!" You might recall that the expression is used today as, "no man is a hero to his valet." The remark was later attributed to Napoleon.

Two well-known pieces of advice were uttered by Lord Chesterton: "I never put off 'til tomorrow what I can do today," and "Whatever is worth doing at all is worth doing well."

Ben Franklin had something to say in noting that the Constitution of the United States was in operation, and to all appearances would last. Said Franklin: "Nothing is certain but death and taxes."

Eldon, Lord Chancellor of England, first said: "New brooms sweep clean."

During those stormy days when windows were a luxury, the Duke of Buckingham popped in on James I of England, crying that a mob had just heaved rocks through his windows. Rather than have the Duke say more against the starving rabble, James said: "Those who live in glass houses should not throw stones!"

Newspapermen, and here we pause to use another coined expression, "are waging a constant war" against the use of bromides. But in the rush to turn out news copy, we still slip in such old granddaddies as "meat and the law," "white as a sheet," "cool as a cucumber," and others.

Which brings us right up to the title of our column. Wonder who first uttered those words?

Probably Adam . . . when he saw what came of his rib.

The SQUIRREL CAGE

By REID BUNDY

Christmas comes on Sunday next year—and most calendars now out for 1955 show Monday, Dec. 26, in red which means it's another double holiday AND, there are only 306 shopping days left until Christmas. So take a tip from your old uncle who spent a few frantic minutes last Friday evening between 5 and 6 scurrying from store to store along with thousands of other Torrance area shoppers. DO YOUR CHRISTMAS SHOPPING EARLY. I don't want that big mob downtown next year getting in my way at the last minute.

Do you have your 1955 calendar yet? For those who don't, I'll lay out the important days for you. On the first day, of course, is Jan. 1. That's a holiday, and one of the best placed in the whole year. If anyone needs a day off during the year, it is usually the day after New Year's Eve. Right?

Then on Saturday, Feb. 12, is Lincoln's birthday. Some do and some don't when it comes to observing this as a holiday. My calendar has it marked in red. Some thing applies to Tuesday, Feb. 22. That's for Washington. Inasmuch as I didn't get my six-month vacation I asked Santa for, I may take an hour off here as a sort of a compromise.

March is a jousy month for us holiday lovers. The only red letter day in the month used to be March 15, the day Uncle Sam sent the con dogs out after those who didn't ante up their taxes. That's been moved to April 15, however, so March is just left lying there, practically lifeless.

April, now, is another story. It's almost like March used to be. You now have until April 15 to turn in your 1954 income tax returns. All that means is another 30 days or so to swell the coffers of aspirin makers.

May still has its Memorial Day, this year on Monday, May 30. That's the day we set aside for commemorating fallen war heroes and to the testing of race driver skills.

You can skip June. The only bright spot here is the fact that a lot of people will be taking off on their annual two-week vacations.

July is a humdinger, though. Independence Day, July 4, falls on Monday. That means a three-day holiday for many. August is another quiet month, but who cares—what will be under way by then, the summer vacations, fishing trips, lawns to mow. Nobody will have time for a holiday any way.

September marks the return to normalcy in the calendar business. School opens so mom has fewer kids under foot, there's Labor Day on Monday, Sept. 5, and the last of the summer vacationers will be returning home with pictures of sister standing in front of a big tree, or a Yel-lowstone Park bear.

Some may think October is a quiet month, holidaywise, but there are more red letters on the October calendar than most of the other months combined. One reason is the week of Oct. 9 through 15 is fire prevention week and the insurance company who printed my calendar thoughtfully put the whole week in red. (I think I'll try to take the whole week off, just to be on the safe side.)

Also right in the middle of that week is Oct. 12—Columbus Day.

Now comes the good part of the year, again. Here is where most of you will begin to think about Christmas shopping again—just think about it, you know. Thanksgiving comes along on Thursday, Nov. 24, the Christmas Club checks will be coming in from the banks, if you have kept them up. You get these and take mama out to dinner, pay up your boy's college dues and start thinking seriously about doing your Christmas shopping—with charge accounts.

Then comes December again. You all know what to do here. But you won't. You'll wait until Saturday afternoon, Dec. 24, and I'll have a heck of a time doing my Christmas shopping because all of you will be downtown again. I know. Oh well, you can't say I didn't warn you.

AFTER HOURS

By JOHN MORLEY

(Editor's Note:—We are privileged to publish, along with other newspapers and magazines throughout the world, observations of John Morley condensed into "sentence philosophies," some of which appeared in the Saturday Evening Post, Ladies Home Journal, Readers Digest, etc., under his name . . . In his book, "I Believe" . . . in H. L. Mencken's "A New Dictionary of Quotations," published by Alfred A. Knopf, New York.)

I BELIEVE . . . I believe we have succeeded in injecting philosophy into everything except the news. I believe my ambassadors are guided by the illusion that they are on the inside track of international wisdom, instead of the inside track of national political patronage.

I believe it is safer to deprive the right to vote to a man with a Red-conscience than a poll tax to deprive a man with a black complexion.

I believe the masses have no access to inside political facts which makes them vulnerable to outside political fakes.

I believe Democracy should call for less brave dying and more brave living.

I believe prejudice can be a great time-saver. It enables a person to form opinions without the trouble of gathering the facts.

I believe the charity that was once a virtue has become a government institution.

I believe nobody is ever going to say a word about the "take-home-pay" of the white collar worker.

I believe some Americans use hyphens in their names because only a part of them has come over from abroad.

I believe rising taxes will force some people to give up some of their luxuries, later on some of their pleasures, and finally some of their vices.

I believe inflation is bad . . . whether it's of heads or currencies.

I believe every generation, no matter how shady its character, thinks itself superior to the last.

I believe in this country we pick our president . . . and then pick on him.

I believe it unfortunate that the only people who are supposed to know how to run the country become communists instead of statesmen.

I believe losing an election is far worse for some politicians than losing the peace.

I believe the government's success in rounding up kidnapers, Communists, bank robbers, proves that it never really got mad with the old bootleggers.

I believe most labor trouble is provoked by those who don't labor.

I believe if some folks listened to the alarm clock in the morning, like they watch the clock in the afternoon, there would be less of this continual haggling between capital and labor.

I believe Americans should take their hats off to the past . . . but coats off to the future.

I believe a Communist is nothing but a Socialist in a hell-of-a-hurry.

I believe science and religion don't contradict each other any more than light and electricity.

I believe a genius is a man who shoots at something no one else can see, and hits it.

I believe if a thing can be done, skill will do it . . . if it cannot be done, only faith will do it.

I believe happiness is not a destination, but a manner of travel.

I believe a leader is someone who leads you to a way you were afraid to go.

I believe life is sometimes like a donkey . . . you can make it do anything except back up.

I believe for the friendship of two the patience of one is absolutely necessary.

I believe when people get to heaven, they will be surprised to find many people they had not expected to see . . . and many will be surprised to see them too.

I believe that a rolling stone gathers no moss . . . but it's also the wandering bee that gets the honey.

I believe the tight nut behind the wheel is more dangerous than the loose bolt in the engine.

I believe the secret of patience is doing something else in the meantime.

I believe the words Communist, atheist, famine, slavery, sick tragedy, murder, blind, deaf, are more horrible than the evangelists' cries of damnation and hell.

I believe solitude in your own home is the best insurance against insanity, frustration and crack-up.

I believe wealth and health to be truly enjoyed must be periodically interrupted.

I believe the man who trims himself to suit everybody will ultimately whittle himself away.

I believe many people hate for one reason, while there are 99 reasons why they should love.

I believe by the time your brain is capable of earning the price of a good meal, the stomach is too old to enjoy it.

I believe nothing will ever be fool-proof as long as there are fools.

I believe fear of God is as bad as fear of the devil.

I believe the brotherhood of man must always rest on the fatherhood of God.

I believe the intelligent see the truth in different religions . . . the narrow-minded only the difference.

I believe it's better to believe all the miracles, fables, superstitions, in the Talmud, the Alcoran, the Bible, than that this universal frame is without a guiding spirit.

I believe the greatest compliment I ever received from a loved one was inscribed on a Christmas box tag: "For services rendered far beyond the line of duty."

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OUT OF THE PAST

30 YEARS AGO

December, 1924

Former Torrance Police Chief M. Anderson and Herman Beach, attorney A. P. Morewood were each sentenced to two to ten years in San Quentin after being convicted of extortion. A jury deliberated an hour and ten minutes to find the pair guilty.

C. R. Rippey was named City Recorder following the resignation of James L. King, who was linked with the extortion case . . . Attorney J. U. Hemmi was sentenced to seven months in the Orange County Jail, following his conviction of receiving stolen funds from the Anaheim Post Office.

20 YEARS AGO

December, 1934

The city obtained \$170,000 in funds from the Public Works Administration for use in purchasing wells, and developing water property in Torrance . . . A harking dog probably saved the lives of the two sleeping children of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Pierson, of 2268 Sonoma Ave. The house caught fire, and the children climbed out the window . . . An elderly man was found dead in a pool of oil in a pump hole, into which he had fallen . . . Ten persons were injured in Christmas accidents . . . Edgar H. Barlow was named Worshipful Master of the Torrance Masonic Lodge.

10 YEARS AGO

December, 1944

A short-lived cyclone hit West Torrance, twisting an oil derrick to pieces . . . To meet Torrance's post-war needs, Maj. George W. Braden, a nation-

ally-known recreation authority, was hired by the City Council to study the city's recreation possibilities . . . Chief of Police John Strobel indicated that the city would follow Army policy in offering full protection to Japanese citizens returning after the war . . . Booklets explaining post-war economic possibilities in Torrance were being offered by the Chamber of Commerce.

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