

EDITORIALS

The Future is Ours

The future is ours to command if we are willing to accept the discipline and responsibility of leadership. Paul Loranger said following his installation to serve a second term as president of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce last week.

Tomorrow always comes and there is always work to do, places to go, and people to serve, he said.

High on the president's list of things to be done is the industrial and commercial development of Torrance.

Industrial development is a long-range project and must be worked at constantly.

Commercial development of Torrance has not kept up with the residential development, but the outlook for 1955 is bright. Authorization by the City Council last week of the execution of a lease with a large commercial realtor for 36 acres of airport property should add greatly to the city's retail wealth this year, and should actually aid the commercial development of Downtown Torrance and make its attractiveness as a shopping center better.

We hope that Mr. Loranger will be able to report at the end of his term with the Chamber of Commerce that the downward trend of per capita retail sales has been reversed, and that Torrance merchants—all Torrance merchants—are getting their share of the business of this area.

Should We Call the Cops?

We have an uneasy feeling that when the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors and the Torrance City Council banned the sale, to children under 18, of "crime books," they were unintentionally fighting fire with gasoline. The law will only help to spread the evil it purports to correct. It will not stop the circulation of "crime comics." But it will create a small army of junior bookleggers, gleefully thumbing their noses at the law by smuggling the forbidden books into unincorporated territory from nearby cities where their sale is still legal.

There is one major objection to this law: it will not work. Lawyers say that it is unconstitutional, and they are probably right. It certainly ignores the lessons of experience, which should have taught us that the surest way to popularize a book is to forbid it by law.

We sympathize with the opponents of "crime comics" and, like them, deplore the circulation of this sadistic muck. We wonder, however, if they are not making a serious mistake by calling in the cops. What has happened to the parents? Have they no responsibility in guiding the reading habits of their own children?

Repression, parental or legal, has never prevented youngsters from reading objectionable books. On the contrary, it whets their appetites. This hue and cry against "crime books" is nothing new. It has been going on ever since Jesse James robbed his first bank. Generations before Dick Tracy chased bloodthirsty murderers, bug-eyed kids smeared greasy fingers over the pages of The James Boys, The Dalton Gang, Old Sleuth Weekly and The Younger Brothers. Those pamphlets were bound in lurid colored covers, sold for a nickel, and were just the right size to slip inside a school geography.

Everybody disapproved, especially the minister, the teacher and Paw Paw, a man of action, took his little potential criminal into the woodshed and tried to improve his reading tastes by using a single on his better nature. Even Paw never killed Jesse James. He drove him underground.

The encouraging memory is that those young rascals, who devoured the exploits of criminals and smoked corn-silk cigarettes behind the barn, confounded their elders by growing up to be fine, law-abiding citizens who, in their turn, began to worry about the future of the next generation. Ah, wilderness!



LAW IN ACTION

OUTLAWED DEBTS

You may hear that some debt has been "outlawed." Why should someone get rid of his honest debts merely by not paying them for a long enough time?

Well, the law looks at delayed claims this way: If you have a just claim, you owe the debtor a duty to press your claim within a reasonable time. You should not "sleep" on your rights. Why? Because stale claims are hard to prove, and defense against them is sometimes harder to make. One party to a lawsuit might wait until the only witness against him has died or gone away. Then he could sue and win unfairly. Anyhow, memories dim. Sometimes men and women honestly change their memories to fit their later views.

What is a reasonable time? Statutes of limitations set up the times after which you may not start a lawsuit. The time varies. For instance: As a rule in California you cannot normally sue for possession of real property after five years. You cannot nor-

mally sue on a written contract after four years have elapsed, or on a spoken agreement after two years. In most personal injury cases, such as an automobile accident, you cannot bring a suit after one year.

The time does not run while the debtor or "defendant" is out of the state. Nor, as a rule, does the time run if a plaintiff (the one who brings the action) is a minor, or is insane, or is in prison, when the right to sue first begins. The same holds in criminal actions. A court the other day threw out a case because the district attorney had not acted promptly. For witnesses in criminal cases like those in a civil suit also die, forget, change their minds, or leave the country. So, most criminal actions must go to court within a certain time. But there are exceptions. A murder charge, for instance, can generally be brought anytime.

NOTE: The State Bar of California offers this column for your information so that you may know more about how to act under our laws.

Move Over



OF ALL THINGS

By Robert B. Martin

I'VE BEEN STUDYING two kinds of California drivers. One's too careful and the other's too reckless.

Take the case of Mr. Didwit, who wouldn't think of exceeding the speed limit under any circumstances. But he was always being cited for driving too slow on freeways. And for exceeding the parking 11 m i t downtown.

The other, whom I shall refer to merely as Raoul, is the devil-may-care type of driver who has the idea that traffic regulations are for other people.

Mr. Didwit could be relied upon to stop at stop signs, go when the intersection cleared and always, always, always give the pedestrians the right of way at crosswalks.

RAOUL STOPPED at stop signs . . . just long enough to

make sure there were no police cars in the area; and then he would burn off an inch of rubber to back him in his appeals to Raoul. But Raoul, who fancied himself as quite a ladies' man, would just laugh and tweak her nose lightly.

"Didwit's girl, Fannie Mae, often came to the side of her fiacre to back him in his appeals to Raoul. But Raoul, who fancied himself as quite a ladies' man, would just laugh and tweak her nose lightly.

"DIDN'T WORRY your head about me, you pretty little angel," he said from their car.

And Fannie Mae would practically swoon. Well, one Saturday night

Mr. Didwit felt compelled to call off his regular date with Fannie Mae as he wanted to stay home to curl up in his armchair with the newly-revised edition of the California Vehicle Code.

This is where the trouble started. Fannie Mae, who deep in her heart only wanted to reform Raoul, decided that it would do no harm to go for a drive with him. They were gone less than an hour . . . Los Angeles to Tucson and back.

"It was such a refreshing drive," Fannie Mae exclaimed as he let her off in front of her house.

Just so happened at this time that Didwit found some new regulations he just couldn't resist complying with immediately. So he jumped into his car and drove down the center of the street at 19 miles an hour.

★ ★ ★

HE CAME TO AN intersection, dutifully stopped at the stop sign, and started across when he should whiz by but Fannie Mae and Raoul.

Raoul was driving and Fannie Mae was running as her skirt had become caught in the bumper after Raoul had dropped her off at the house.

Didwit went into a jealous rage and gave chase. Well, he caught up with them and forced the man's car to the curb. U-turning right in the center of a block. It jumped the curb and ran right through a number of bushes.

★ ★ ★

IT SO HAPPENED that the bushes were loaded with policemen who were there on a stake-out.

They were rounding up a gang of hubeap thieves. But this didn't phase the aroused Didwit in the least. He pulled the terrified Raoul from the car and trashed him within an inch of his life.

Didwit's in jail today. He's serving a thousand years. All on traffic counts. The judge went easy on the assault and battery end of it. Thirty days . . . to run concurrently with the thousand years Didwit got for returning in the center of the block, jumping a curb, running over someone's bushes, folling a police stakeout, proceeding up the street on the wrong side of a sidewalk, exceeding the speed limit, parking his car on the wrong side of the street, jumping out of the driver's side into traffic, etc., etc.

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DIDWIT'S girl is thinking about trying out for the Olympic track team. She was clocked at 72 miles an hour that night.

And Raoul's in the hospital. He's curled up with the newly-revised edition of the California Vehicle Code.

"Me . . . I'm the guy who's playing it safe from now on," he maintains.

The SQUIRREL CAGE

By REID BUNDY

Man can't live on bread alone,

Although the quote is just;

But along with every loaf of bread,

Man has to have some crust

★ ★ ★

Modern newspaper design is slowly eliminating the need for the filler, the lily item of information that is used to fill up the bottom of a news column, according to the Linotype News. In the event that such items will soon be a thing of the past, the editor of the News thought these should be preserved as museum pieces of a lost art. We agree. They are all from the New Hope Gazette of Bucks County, Pa.

It takes 78 pounds of ink per year to print the Gazette. However, it didn't take much to print this item.

London is the capital of England, geographers declare. Bees turn out more honey per bee than you would believe.

Times have changed, everyone agrees.

Drive carefully over the holiday week end. The life you save may be mine.

Holly berry pie is not very popular.

The jungle tribes of upper Amazon prefer Yocco to a 10-to-1 martini.

Dragons are afraid of thunder.

Confucius did his best work under a big apricot tree. Bamboo contains noradium. Nobody knows what noradium is.

There were more but this is a fair sampling of the gems, if newspapers quit using such items, where are people going to go to learn all of these things.

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One of the fillers above mentioned, Confucius, which reminds us of something a famous man once said about the oft-quoted philosopher: "Confucius talks too d—much."

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Jane McIlvaine, who wrote "It Happens Every Thursday," that best seller about weekly newspapers, has reported she believes to be the opening gambit in the Russian claim to invention of the typesetting machine.

While touring Russia with a group of American editors, Mrs. McIlvaine was in the composing room of Pravda where she spotted a typesetting machine.

"It was exactly like the Model 14 Linotype I used to operate at the Archive (Downtown, Pa.)," Mrs. McIlvaine reports. She mentioned that to the Russian guide. The reply was icy, to put it mildly: "That is impossible, madame. This machine was made in Stalingrad!"

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Our nomination for the greatest news story of the 1955 is already in. It's the story about the moose invading the Anchorage, Alaska, area following heavy snow. It's real humorous (here in Torrance).

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These three amendment plans are almost identical, even to the phrasing, and all provide for the most rigid world government — univer-

It's Your Country

By JOHN BECK

TOO LITTLE, TOO LATE:

At long last one of the giants on the American publishing scene has taken cognizance of the fact that plans are under way to amend the United Nations Charter. The Saturday Evening Post of Feb. 26, 1955, contains an article entitled "Judgment Day for the U. N." by Demaree Bess, "an expert's appraisal of what may really happen."

The author's appraisal may prove to be correct; only time can tell. But what seems obvious at present is an attempt to avert current a n d widespread fears that we may become enmeshed in World government through UN Charter amendment. The careful reader of "Judgment Day for the U. N." may also discover more real significance in its omissions than in its contents.

The article begins with an account of a small group in Red Wing, Minn., who began "more than two years ago" to study the UN with an eye to correcting some of its defects, later learning that a great many other people were doing the same thing. From this the uninformed reader may gain the impression that not much thought had been given the matter prior to couple of years ago.

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FORD GRANT: Actually, according to a vice-president of the United World Federalists, Greenville Clark — and he should know! — plans for remedying the "weaknesses" of the UN began with a conference in October, 1948, the very month and year when the charter came into effect.

A little later this Conference Committee commissioned Clark to prepare a set of proposed amendments to the UN Charter. In this he was aided by Louis B. Sohn, a Polish law professor who was conducting a course in "World Organization" at Harvard, and by a grant from the Ford Foundation.

The collaboration of Clark and Sohn, assisted by the Ford Foundation, covered the period from July 1949 to July 1953, when it resulted in the publication of what was called a Preliminary Print of "Peace Through Disarmament and Charter Revision (Detailed Proposals for Revision of the United Nations Charter)." A digest of which was prepared by Robert H. Reno, 95 N. Main St., Concord, N. H., carrying the cover description, "A Plan for Universal, Enforceable and Complete Disarmament Under a Revised Charter."

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AMENDMENT PLANS: Those who are familiar with the charter amendment proposals of the London Parliament Conference on World Government and the Copenhagen Declaration of the United World Federalists, both published in 1953, will instantly recognize the pattern set by Clark and Sohn (assisted by the Ford Foundation) for the destruction of the Republic of the United States and the reduction of its citizens to a state of permanent helplessness.

These three amendment plans are almost identical, even to the phrasing, and all provide for the most rigid world government — univer-

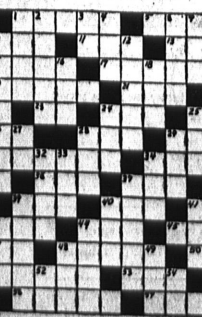
★ ★ ★

SOOTHING SYRUP: The overall impression created by the Post article is that there is really nothing to worry about that "normal students" are concerned with charter amendment, and that the promised revision conference will be held in 1955; but that nothing much is likely to come of it because the United States is getting what it wants by using the "informal amendments" within the framework of the UN's flexible charter and through regional military alliances.

What the Post article very carefully does not say is that we are headed for world government either through UN Charter amendment or through "regional alliances." Either way, "Judgment Day for the U. N." may turn out to be Doomsday for the U. S.

Crossword Puzzle

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| HORIZONTAL | 40. River bottom |
| 4. Rotating device | 41. Past notice |
| 8. Hunt | 42. Vessel |
| 10. Period of time | 43. Hurry |
| 11. Obvious | 44. Oak nut |
| 12. Least check of | 45. Pronoun |
| 13. Terminates | 46. Caster |
| 14. Report | 47. Beyond recall |
| 15. Note of scale | 48. Fairy |
| 16. Wander | 49. Condo |
| 17. Over | 50. Fen |
| 18. Comb form | |
| 19. High musical scale | VERTICAL |
| 20. Exit | 1. Scarcity |
| 21. Animal | 2. Man's name |
| 22. One of a number | 3. Roman house |
| 23. Printer's measure | 4. Roman house |
| 24. Fabulous bird | 5. Measer |
| 25. Obese | 6. Sin |
| 26. Reluctant | 7. Spanish article |
| 27. Copies | 8. Wheeled platform |
| 28. Run away (slang) | 9. Swastika |
| 29. Feet | 10. Melody |
| 30. Bone | 11. Tip lightly |
| 31. Disfigure | |



Look for Answers on Page 11

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