EDITORIALS

Free Enterprise

It wasn't such a very long time ago, most everyone who reads this can remember when . . .

. . . The iceman was as familiar a sight as the milkman on suburban streets.

. . . Penicillin, sulfa, and other antibiotics were in the test tube stage, or unheard of.

. . . Radio was a wonder, and good reception rare.

. . . Delicious spring and summer fruits and vegetables were available in season only.

. . . Television seemed like a college professor's pipe dream.

. . . Tire trouble, fuel and water pump imperfections, and rear axle breakage were common dreads of motorists.

Think and you will be reminded of scores of good things that were once rare or unheard of, and today are available to most Americans.

Much of today's abundance has come within our lifetime, and much of the progress has been made possible by machines, which resulted from research by Americans in private American industry under the free enterprise system.

THE MAIL BOX

(The Torrance Herald welcomes expressions from its readers which can be published on this page. The editors retain the right to edit the copy for matters of libel and good taste. Letters should be kept brief and must be signed. The writer's name will be withheld if requested. Opinions expressed in letters here published represent those of the writer and not necessarily those of The Torrance Herald.

Drunk at the Wheel

Editor, Torrance HERALD

Last Sunday afternoon the peaceful quiet of our neighborhood was broken by the screeching brakes and the crunching sound of two vehicles being crushed together.

We went to the corner, one house away from ours, to find the police removing a driver from his car whom in his drunken stupefaction wasn't even aware of what happened. This driver had struck another car minutes before and continued on his drunken path into the four-way stop intersection near our home and struck a car stopped at the stop sign.

Today we read in the paper that this driver was sentenced to 30 days in jail for drunk driving and 180 days for driving with an operators license that had been suspended by one of our local judges.

Later inquiries showed that this offender had previous convictions for drunk driving and now we understand that this prisoner's sentence of driving with a suspended license has been suspended and he will serve only the 30 day sentence on the drunk driving charge and will once again be free to endanger the lives of other drivers as well as our children.

I sit and wonder—had this case been tried and heard in Los Angeles courts what deservable punishment would have been given this person for his crime and how would this punishment have been carried out.

F. H. FROHNHOEFER
1116 Hickory Ave.

What About Crime?

Editor, Torrance HERALD

Could your child be a potential delinquent?

No, you say, because your child has always been good? The record shows that delinquents don't always come from "poorer homes," but from the so-called "better homes" as well. Juveniles are committing seven times as many crimes as adults. Delinquency last year was up 15 per cent in the nation.

What's the answer — more recreation, curfew laws, or something else? We would like to have your ideas.

Many changes are taking place in our city today. People are moving about more freely than ever before. Community ties are fewer and roots more shallow. Life generally is more complex. Families find it more difficult to remain strong and united. As the city increases in size, its problems multiply rapidly. Citizens tend to leave the development of community life to chance, or to shift the total responsibility to government.

Therefore, we are seeking ways and means of strengthening local community life through increase citizen knowledge and participation. We must and can learn from one another. The tradition of free and open discussion is as old as the history of our country.

It is perhaps for this reason Gov. Goodwin J. Knight asked the cities of California to have what he calls an "Old England Town Meeting." We on this "Old England Town Committee" have asked all organizations and civic-minded people to help us in making this report to the governor. We have asked them to do the following:

1. Evaluate the existing juvenile problem in the local Torrance area.

2. Describe and evaluate whatever facilities and programs you and your organization are offering to meet this need.

3. Your suggestion for improving methods of dealing with juvenile problems.

In doing this, we hope to encourage citizens' thinking and to stimulate community planning and to give us the criteria for the report to the governor. We also feel that your help will be a valuable contribution to delinquency prevention and control in our city.

Therefore, we hope that if you are asked to help or appear at this meeting you will do so and not sit back and let someone else do it. Your thoughts and ideas can help. They may not be the answer, but they will help in finding an answer.

Until later, thank you.

SGT. D. C. COOK.

IT'S A FACT by JERRY CAHILL

The Silver Lining

The Freelancer

By TOM RISCHE, Herald Staff Writer

What's in a name?

All the talk about changing the name of 174th St., to Artesia St., brings to mind one of my pet peeves—the cockeyed street name situation in Southern California.

Especially if he's traveling from one city to another the poor, confused motorist is liable to find that for no apparent reason he isn't traveling on the street he thought he was traveling on because the name of the street changes periodically.

☆ ☆ ☆

The cities have a right to call their streets anything they want to, I guess, but the more uniformity is sreet names, the better for the motorist.

For instance, starting at the ocean, a driver starts out on 27th St., and without knowing it, he suddenly finds himself on Gould Lane. Then if he goes further on the same street, he's on Redondo Beach Blvd. If he chugs along a little further, he comes to Torrance and 174th St. If he passes through Torrance, he discovers he is now on Artesia Blvd.

Or, to cite another example, if he travels from Torrance to Lomita, he may discover that what he thought was Cabrillo has become Eshelman and what was Arlington in Torrance has become Narbonne in Lomita.

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Not too long ago, the Board of Supervisors changed the name of part of La Cienega Blvd., to Darby Blvd., adding even more to the confusion. It's fine to honor worth public figures, but why can't some new street be named after them rather than part of an old one?

Modern planning, with curved streets, dead-end turnarounds, and service roads has made it had enough for a driver to find his way around in an unfamiliar area. Why add to the troubles of the motorist?

It seems to me it would be a great public service if the powers that be could sit down and agree on uniformity of names for streets all over Los Angeles County.

If you know the names of the main streets in the County, you can pretty well find where you are going. But if you have different names in different towns, then it's pretty tough.

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The modern trend seems to be away from using the old numbered system. In the old days, if you were looking for 174th St., you could pretty well find it by looking between 173rd and 175th Sts.

Nowadays, you are likely to find that people prefer to say they live on Fiddlefaddle Rd. or Tweedledee Lane rather than plain old 174th St. It may sound ritzier, but Fiddlefaddle Rd. sure doesn't give much indication of where it might lie.

If they want to honor diginitaries, why don't they name buildings or parks after them and leave the streets alone?

Glazed Glances

By BARNEY GLAZER

When Reverend Arthur Waechter's wife passed away, recently, he spoke thusly during his services: 'My beloved wife is in Heaven with God. More than ever before, I want to be nearer to Him so I can be nearer to her" . . . Two teen-agers were talking. Said one: "My date last night said it was awfully warm and she'd give me a kiss if I took the top down. Took me an hour, but I finally got it down and it was worth it." Said the other: "An hour? Why I can take mine down in five seconds." "I know," said the first lad, "but you have a convertible" . . . Friend of mine took the bus home, but his wife made him take it out . . . Plumber's helper to talkative housewife: "Look, lady, let's get one thing straight. I'm his apprentice, so stop calling me his accomplice."

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I'll never quite be able to understand a woman who always complains about a crowded bus but never lets out a solitary whimper about crowding into a girdle . . . A farmer we knew went shopping for a new automobile, looked with wide-eyed amazement at all the new daring color combinations and then went back to his farm that night and had a frightening nightmare about lavender cows that gave chartreuse milk . . . Bob Vincent saw a sign in an Oklahoma City ice cream parlor which read: "All sundaes are served to children in tip-proof dishes" but Bob didn't see a single child in a tip-proof dish . . . Too many folks of modest means who are trading in their old wheezing family car for a brand new high-priced model are saying: "Gee, I can hardly believe this, it's just like a dream!" When they start making those payments it will be more like a nightmare.

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Betty Brown Eyes always goes along with the gag when I introduce her to strangers as: "This is my mother" but I hastily add: "of our two children" . . . A property owner complained to the local police that folks in the neighborhood were parking in front of his driveway. But the police never answered the call. After a few weeks, the gendarmes suddenly made an appearance and ticketed a car parked in the street in front of the man's driveway. It was his own car! . . . Incongruous headline in the Tabor City Tribune (North Carolina): "Oppose Construction of $60-000 5 & 10 Cent Store" . . . Kerwin Hoover's column quotes Brice Van Horn about the man who likes work so much he can sit and look at it for hours . . . That game is starting again. You say: "I can't stand it!" and when someone anxiously inquires: "You can't stand what? you reply: "A matchstick on its end." . . . Or, you scream: They're getting me down!", followed by the inquiry: "Who's getting you down?" with your reply: "My birds, of course. A whole sackful for my pillows."

The SQUIRREL CAGE

By REID BUNDY

Now I've told you this in years gone by, but I'm afraid some of you haven't paid much attention to me. Right now there are only 100 shopping days left before Christmas. Now what I want you to do is go out and start getting that Christmas shopping done. When I rush out of here on Saturday afternoon, Dec. 24th, to do my shopping, I don't want a bunch of you late shoppers cluttering up the store aisles and getting the last gaudy necktie just ahead of me. DO IT NOW.

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Los Angeles Police Sergeant A. M. Barr was giving a talk to a service club the other day warning them of the perils of bogus checks. By way of illustrating how smooth the rubber check operators are, he said $3000 worth of bogus checks were passed for tickets to the Los Angeles Police Show last year. His pitch: Be doggone sure of the identifications—ask for several and then hope they're not all phony.

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SUDDEN THOUGHT: How long has it been since you saw an ivory comb—or an ivory backed brush? Careful there, you'll be dating yourself.

☆ ☆ ☆

So you think you'd like to be on the City Council! Well, here's what the dozen or so candidates who get their names on the ballot next spring will be asking for:

1. Either no pay or enough to cover just part of the expense involved.

2. A full-time job which must be done in addition to your regular employment.

3. A telephone call in the middle of a winter night from some unfortunate resident who wants you to know that his yard is full of water and that it's just about to come in his house. 'And what are you gonna do about it?"

4. Plenty of opportunities to tell you why you voted for or against certain measures.

5. Additional opportunities to speak at clubs, PTA groups, union meetings, and other functions.

6. Plenty of opportunities to get your picture taken with other Councilmen at groundbreakings and other public functions (more often than not when you are supposed to be out working at your regular job).

7. In addition to all of this, you will be given the chance to attend several committee meetings a week on city business, attend a few water, sewage, and Civil Service conventions, and to represent the city at all sorts of odd functions.

AND, you'll do a thousand good things and hear nothing. Just make ONE mistake, though . . . wowie.

"Too many minds are open—at both ends!"

AFTER HOURS

By JOHN MORLEY

NICOSIA, CYPRUS (Special to the HERALD)—Venus was born on the island of Cyprus to teach men love. Richard the Lion-hearted honey-mooned here with Berengaria of Navarre. For some 4,000 years Cyprus was just a place to romance, to rest, and to revitalize one's soul with its natural beauty. Today Cyprus is a Mediterranean grab-bag with Britain, Greece, Turkey—and the Communists—grabbing from different directions. This beautiful and prosperous island of some 500,000 Cypriotes is ominously quiet—but can erupt any moment. Here are the facts gathered on the spot—pro and con—on the question of union with Greece.

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The key figure in Cyprus is saintly Archbishop Makarios III, Greek Orthodox leader as well as the duly elected representative of more than 80 per cent of the people of Cyprus. I talked with him at great length on the Cyprus question. He is a popular, sincere and dedicated leader to the cause of "Enosis," or union with Greece. He attended Boston university (1946-1948; he is a member of the World Council of Churches, an observer at the recent Bandung conference in Indonesia. He is the only archbishop in the world elected by the people. His main theme—"Whatever the people want, the people must have. They should be allowed to choose their own destiny. All I'm seeking from the British government is to agree to free expression of their wishes in a free vote."

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For over 3,500 years the Cyprians have been governed and exploited by every conquering nation of the Mediterranean . . .the Assyrians, Persians, Egyptians, Greeks, Romans, Byzantines, Arabs, Venetians, Turks—and since 1878 by the British. In spite of these conquests of Cyprus, the Cyprians for the most part have retained the Greek influence, Greek language and Greek culture. Over 80 per cent want union with Greece now—for good, bad, or indifferent. Independence from Britain is their present goal.

British administration since World War I has made Cyprus the most prosperous island in the Mediterranean. During the same period, Greece, devastated by two wars, civil strife and the Communists after World War II, has barely eked out an existence. Millions in U. S. economic aid has actually prevented a collapse and a Communist victory. In spite of this, the great majority of Cpprians are willing to gamble their prosperity and material advantage for union with Greece. The Greek government is aware of the economic plum in annexing Cyprus, so it has taken the case of Cyprian independence to the United Nations this week. Foreign Minister Stefanos Stefanopoulos, bed-ridden Prime Minister Papagos and Archbishop Makarios of Cyprus told me British Foreign Minister MacMillan has agreed to meet with Greek representatives in London to further discuss the issues.

☆ ☆ ☆

The Cyprian case for independence is favored by the U. S. government and by most of the Middle East, with the exception of Turkey. Yet the U. S. opposed proposals for a plebiscite because of the Communist threat in Cyprus. The Communist-led labor party claims control of 35 per cent of the people of Cyprus. Archbishop Makarios denied this to me, calling the Red threat 'negligible."

☆ ☆ ☆

Since 1878 Britain has had a foothold on Cyprus, when Turkey "leased" it to Britain in return for British aid against the war with Russia. Turkey lost Cyprus in World War I by betting on the wrong horse and her defeat along with the Kaiser. At Lausanne in 1925 Turkey officially relinquished all claims to Cyprus and Britain annexed it as a crown colony.

British interests are formidable in Cyprus. Having lost their great defense base in Alexandria recently, the British regard Cyprus as an important defense pivot in the Mediterranean. The U. S. agrees strongly on the point and it appears to this reporter that an important case can be made of it, while the threat of Communism exists on the island and Red conspiracies are engineered from Moscow. Archbishop Makarios told me that the people of Cyprus would agree to British bases in return for independence. The Reds, of course, violently oppose the issue of British bases and threaten civil war.

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Our valuable ally, Turkey, opposes independence for real and selfish reasons. She fears Soviet domination of Cyprus as a threat to Turkey's southern flank and the danger to the Bosporus and the Dardanelles which Russia covets. Since about 15 per cent of Cyprus is Turkish, the Turks say that any kind of union should be with Turkey, which country previously ruled Cyprus. The Turks on the island also threaten to fight against annexation to Greece. They will be joined by the Communists and create a formidable force.

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The United States, in full support of NATO of which both Greece and Turkey are members, as well as Britain, is on the spot. We can't afford to allow a Communist base in Cyprus. We are not certain that Greece can control the Reds in Cyprus as well as the British do now. On the other hand, Turkey is our strong ally against Russian infiltration in the Mediterranean.

Americans who traditionally support the rights of people to free determination, are in sympathy with Archbishop Makarios and the will of his great majority of Cyprians for union with Greece. They are also aware of the immediate dangers. It is unfortunate that strong reasons appear to oppose independence now. Sober reflections in Cyprus and Greece will consider this important point: Communism is the greatest threat to free determinaion. When Communism is brought under safe control in the Middle East, the rights of the people of Cyprus should prevail.

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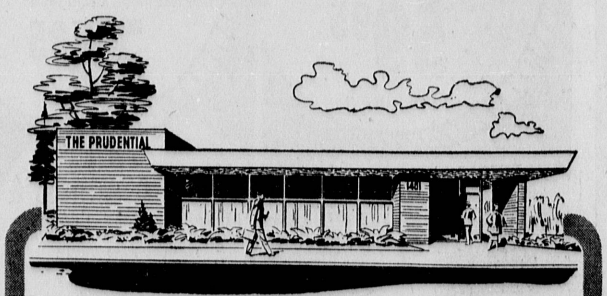

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