

EDITORIALS

Sound Off

We feel that the purpose of a newspaper should go beyond the mere circulation of news. A newspaper should provide a free forum for the expression of the views of its readers. It is all very well for an editor to pontificate about the state of the nation, but for one of the most interesting features of a newspaper is the space set aside for opinions of its readers.

Ever since its founding 42 years ago, this newspaper has encouraged readers to write letters to the editor. And we are always glad to print them so long as they conform to the bounds of decency.

Most letters to newspapers complain about something, express dissatisfaction or even anger. This is to be expected, human nature being what it is. But every once in awhile our old eyes are gladdened by a letter of praise, a message of appreciation that gives somebody a well-deserved slap on the back. We don't want you to pull the punches on your criticisms. Those constructive yells of yours help us to avoid mistakes and to do a better job. On the other hand, when something especially pleases you, we like to hear that too. It is encouraging to know that out there beyond the circle of paper and ink there are appreciative readers who applaud our efforts to serve the community.

There are a few reasonable cautions that must be observed. If you write a book-length letter, you can expect it to be cut or left out altogether. There are others waiting to be heard, and we want everybody to have an equal chance. If you want to call somebody a philandering scoundrel, do not write it in a letter. Tell him so to his face and risk a punch in the nose. We are fond of our nose, and we do not want to get it punched along with yours.

Please sign your name and address to your letter. We will not print it if you ask us not to. We will keep your secret as closely as we guard the name of our favorite long-shot at Santa Anita. But we like to know that a letter is written by a flesh-and-blood person instead of an anonymous ghost.

So, come on, folks! Let's have your brickbats and bouquets.

Freedom Means Work

Under the constitutions of many states, slave owners were required to furnish their slaves with food, shelter, clothing and medical care—total material security, as nearly as it is possible to provide.

The slaves, of course, had total loss of freedom. And the highest gift which could be conferred was to make a slave a freed man.

The freed slave then had to assume personal responsibilities—to provide for his own material security, without reliance upon state laws requiring someone else to provide it for him.

In America all men are meant to be free. With this freedom they are expected to assume personal responsibilities. They are masters of the state. Each law which is designed to provide material security for the individual enslaves him somewhat. It is well to remember this in the coming election year when some politicians will be legislating "favors" to get votes.

Freedom is not an easy thing; to have it and keep it means hard work and acceptance of responsibilities.

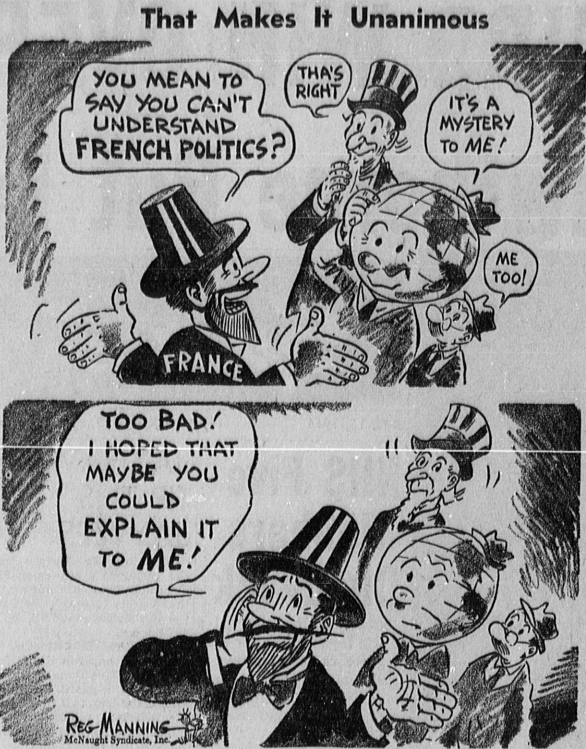
Yes, Advertising Pays

A retail grocers' association reports that of every 100 customers put on the books of any store in any one year, only 19 remain after 10 years. Citing this, the Sandersonville, Ga., Progress says: "Merchants who believe 'everyone knows where my store is' might ponder these figures and seek more new customers through planned newspaper advertising in the home town newspaper."

Competition is certainly keen in retailing these days, and the successful merchant must go after business vigorously. The home town newspaper is still the best place to advertise any store's wares and attractions.

1. Desert race	36. Out of
2. Insect	44. Standards
7. Meat	47. Type size
11. Proceed	48. Yes
13. Whiting stone	56. Upon
15. Phenolic acid	51. Internal
16. Exits	52. Bury
17. Adds to	53. Same
18. Misdeeds	54. Shoehide
19. Delects	55. Withered
21. Cuddled	
24. Orum	1. Cheryman
25. Doctrine	2. Rules
26. Felino animal	3. Seaweed
29. Paid notice	4. As owned by
30. For cesspits (Abb.)	5. Hearing organs
31. Climbing plant (Abb.)	7. Dues
32. Lubricant	8. Trees
33. Bow	9. Guide
	10. GHT's name

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60



AFTER HOURS

The life of a reporter is full of rumors. He is exposed to them constantly by the very nature of his profession. Experience sometimes gives him a kind of third sense which makes it possible to separate the fact from the fake.

Rumors spread like wildfire among unstable and neurotic people. There are folks who will believe anything you tell them if you whisper it... anything. Friends who may know of your pet dislikes will deliberately invent or exaggerate a statement just to please or win your approval.

New York... Rumor: Russia has become the world's greatest military power, including air and naval superiority in both the Atlantic and Pacific.

Tokyo... Rumor... When I was in Japan recently, rumor had it that the waters of the Pacific were noticeably contaminated, and eating the fish of certain areas around the H-bomb tests would result in sudden death.

Formosa... Rumor: President Chiang Kai-shek's oldest son, General Chiang Ching-Kuo, is a Communist and married to a Russian Communist woman.

Washington... Rumor: President Eisenhower will not run because of Mamie's heart condition. Fact... Nobody's heart condition will affect the President's decision for 1956, unless he was bedridden and unable to perform the duties of the presidency.

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The SQUIRREL CAGE

By REID BUNDY

How have you been doing with the new California license plates? For me, it appears that I'm faced with an out-of-state motorist each time I see one of the odd numbers coming down the street—and we've been seeing them for about a month.

Looked for funny ones—haven't had much luck. Saw a FUR number, a bunch of GLE, GLA, KIS, KSS, numbers and one HUH, but that's about it.

The scramble for license plates with initials which match the owner has quieted down some, although we heard one fellow get a report the other day that a Pasadena bank had his initials. Found it out just five minutes after he had picked up his off-beat license tabs here.

The major studios must have found their tag supply—our spies report that there are a lot of KNX and KHJ plates around Sunset and Vine.

Topper was a plate hanging on the back of a lowered hot-rod type coupe driven by a boy who couldn't have been more than 14. The plate said LAD.

A private note to Reggie: The Post Office Department sent a truck around town Saturday afternoon dropping off newly painted mailboxes—all red, white, and blue. (Reggie has been disturbed because Torrance was apparently last on the list for the new look in mailboxes.)

LAW IN ACTION

WHERE DID I PUT IT? You never know when you will need to lay your hands on some legal facts in a hurry. Then you may waste days and still not find what you want.

Write down facts about your marriage: Wife or husband's name, date of license, who married you, and where you've put certified copies of these papers.

Get an old composition book, rule down some columns, and list the names, dates, places and main points of all these things about your parents, family, children, property and so on.

Some other facts to list in your little blue book: your deeds, debts, mortgages, contracts to buy or sell, leases, stocks and bonds, bank accounts, safe deposit boxes, pending law suits (and witnesses), your will, important letters, income tax and other tax returns.

Note: The Start Bar of California offers this column for you to know more about our laws.

Strange Facts About Polio

Dick Lane of TV fame says: "When you have your picture taken, you don't ask for justice. You plead for mercy."

Definition of a professional boxer: That's an amateur boxer of 18 who waits until he's 52 to admit that he accepted money instead of medals.

Classified Adaddy: "Former big-game hunter, merchant mariner and lady's man needs job. Can handle small arms, big boats and medium-sized women."

Leo Guild calls his television set "the family watching machine."

Rita Rabin writes and inquires: "If a midget husband dies, does his midget wife become a widget?"

New TV show, "Wide Wide World," is confusing our youngsters. As one of our bewildered offspring bowled: "I always thought that the world is round, and now I find out it's wide!"

Yma Sumac defines Christmas trees in filmland as: Holly Wood.

And let me repeat, dear kiddies, that Santa Claus is definitely NOT a myth. He's a myther.

I've never seen a married woman sit close to her husband while riding in an automobile. A woman who sits close to her husband will never lose him to a younger woman.

In a sweater to his severest critics, Liberace always replies: "Nobody loves me but the people."

Mothers! Learn something from Noel Coward's statement: "My mother was always there when I wanted her, and never when I didn't. Which is why I always wanted her."

In Russia, the young ladies have double trouble. They have to worry about falling for two lins—the male and the party.

Sign on a housepainter's