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 newspape has encouraged readers to write letters to the editor. And are always glad to print them so long as they conform to the bounds of decency.

Most letters to newspapers complain about something, ress 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 oberved. If you write a book-length letter, you can expect 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 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.

Sound Off!

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. Ar the highest gift which could be conferred was to make slave a freed man.

The freed slave then had to assume personal responsi-bilities—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

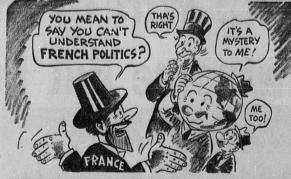
A retail grocers' association reports that of every 100 customers put on the books of any store in any one year, only 10 remain after 10 years. Citing this, the Sanderson-ville, Ga., Progress says: "Merchants who believe 'everyone knows where my store is' might ponder these figures and seek more new 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 vigor-ously. The home town newspaper is still the best place to advertise any store's wares and attractions.





That Makes It Unanimous





AFTER HOURS

By JOHN MORLEY -

The life of a reporter is full rumors. He is exposed to em constantly by the very ture of his profession. Exature of his profession. Ex-prience sometimes gives him kind of third sense which akes it possible to separate

a kind of third sense which makes it possible to separate the fact from the fake. Rumors spread like wildfire among unstable and neurotic poeple. There are folks who will believe anything you tell them if you whisper it... anything. Felends who may

them if you whisper it , , , anything. Friends who m ay know of your pet dislikes will deliberately invent or exaggerate a statement just to please or win your approval. To say that much harm can a come from unverified rumors is an understatement.

In recent months, here and abroad, we were exposed to our share of rumors. Simple research proved all of them to be false. Our rule on rumors is to consider the source . , his experience to identify truth from propaganda . . . and the emotional stability to know one from the other. Here's a sordid sample of recent rumors brought to our attention:

* * *

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

Fact . . . In checking with the Tokyo health authorities, scjenitists and those who knew, I found no evidence whatever that the waters were contaminated, or the fish inedible because of contamination anywhere in the Pacific, as well as right in the H bomb area. In all probability Red agents started the rumors for propaganda.

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

ried to a Russian Communist woman.
Fact . . . I saw General Chiang Ching-Kuo fight Reds harder than anybody I know on Formosa and was personally instrumental in exposing four major Communist plots on Formosa in recent months. His Russian wife, Fanina, is a Christian and hates the Communists in her mother country, Russia. General Chiang has two fine boys, ne it her smokes nor drinks, has no hobbies, and devotes his waking hours to the security of Free China. He is devoted to his

THE POLIO VACCINE STORY

father, President Chiang, and his foster mother, Mei-ling, both faithful Christians in the

sisted on sleeping only on white silk sheets whenever she visited the White House.

visited the White House.

Fact., This reporter asked
Mei-ling about this and learned
of the fabrication of this rumor. He also asked Mrs.
Franklin Roosevelt in Ne w
Delhi, who denied any knowiedge of Madame Chiang Kaishek's preference for silk bedshects while a guest at the
White House.

White House.

\(\frac{\pi}{\pi} \frac{\pi}{\pi} \frac{\pi}{\pi} \)

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

Fact ... The United States has on the high seas today more naval units than all the navies of the world, friend or foe, combined. Russia does not have one aircraft carrier. Our estimated atom bombs in reserve number more than 10.000, to Russia's estimate of less than 100. Russia's estimate of less than 100. Russia's nas superior manpower, but we have superiority of strategic bombing and long range air power.

* * *

Los Angeles Rumor:
Russia is calling and arming
reserves for combined attacks
on Turkistan, Turkey and
Iran.
Fact . . Russia has recently released over a million menfrom the armed forces to prevent catastrophe in agriculture. The present Communist
leadership does not control the
army as did Stalin. The Russian army under Marshal Zhukov holds undisputed power
on all military decisions and
the possibility of aggression is
more remote than at any time
in the 38 years of Communism.

VACCINE PRODUCTION MOVES INTO HIGH GEAR

the chances of his resigning NATO and going to the States to run. His answer was serito run. His answer was seri ous and to the point: "Mr Morley," he said, "I'm a sol in war or peace.

in war or peace. When a ma chooses the army as a caree he expects to make whateve sacrifice necessary to serve he country. Tat has been milie's training. No person considerations will ever affect any decision if my country calls, in war or peace. If m countrymen believe I can be can yearlier to the call, today, tomorrow, or long as I am able to breath



WHERE DID I PUT IT?



List the employment bene-fits you may have coming— such as insurance for life, ac-cident, medical service, and the like.

cident, medical service, and the like.

Write down facts about your marriage: Wife or huse band's name, date of license, who married you, and where you've put certified copies of these papers. If you've made any contracts with your husband or wife before or after marriage, where have you put them? What's their gist? Have you written down how you hold title to your property? Community property? Joint Tenancy? Separate? etc. Write down all the facts about your life, fire, and car insurance. Do you have an inventory of your property, household goods and where you have stored them?

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

The SQUIRREL CAGE

By REID BUNDY

How have you been doing with the new California license 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, num-bers and one HUH, but that's about it.

#

The scramble for license plates with initials which match the owner has quieted down some, athough 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

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





Strange Facts About Polio



Dick Lane of TV fame says: "When you have your picture taken, you don't ask for jus-tice. You plead for mercy." Charley Bollar of the Castle Restaurant wonders: "Is the last word that women always have the same word the Greeks had for everything?" * * *

* * * Classified Addilly: "Form

big-game hunter, merchant mariner and lady's man needs job. Can handle small arms, big boats and medium-sized * * *

H R A Leo Guild calls his television set "the family watching ma-chine."

* * * Rita Rabin writes and in-quires: "If a midget husband dies, does his midget wife be-come 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!"

* * *

Walter Mendenhall writes about the doctor who made his personal fortune in the stork market.

* * *

My Aunt Draykop just bought 20,000 1955 calendars for only one cent apiece. She figures she'll become a mil-llonaire if 1955 ever comes * * *

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

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

* * *

Polio Isn't Licked Yet!

DR. SALK CONTINUES CINE RESEARCH SUPPORTE MARCH of DIMES GRANT,

MEMBER CALIFORNIA NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION MEMBER NATIONAL EDITORIAL ASSOCIATION

1619 Gramercy Ave. FA 8-4000

KING WILLIAMS, Publisher GLENN W. PFEIL, General Mgr. REID L. BUNDY, Managing Editor -

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Pa

I'm glad my banker explained this to me so carefully. A joint bank account is where the husband deposits money and the wife withdraws it.

Nagging wife: "My dear, MUST you always wear brown trousers with a blue jacket?" Determined husband: "What's good enough for nature is good enough for me Didn't you ever see brown leaves against a blue sky?" * * * Six mechanics were playing poker. Instead of playing for money, they played for their tools. It took jacks or better to open. Mrs chairn group organ the n party.

shop: "The Varnishing American."

* * *

Walter Mendenhall tells about the following inscription on a tombstone: "Here lies an athiest, al dressed up and no place to go."

* * *

RED who Red

Jur

Pla

Ac

* * *

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

And let me repeat, dear kid-ies, that Santa Claus is def-sitely NOT a myth. He's a sythter.



Torrance Herald

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