

EDITORIALS

Battling a Jinx

It isn't always easy to shake a jinx—sometimes it seems an overpowering force.

Such is the hope of the Offutt family of Torrance whose modest home was destroyed here Wednesday night while the family was attending a meeting of the Torrance Moose Lodge.

The Offutts have been Torrance residents since the first of this year—seeking a new start here after a series of events which made their former Milwaukee, Wis., home seem to them like the granddaddy of all jinxes.

Anyway, after the father of the family was thrown out of work as an expediter, the mother had lost her part-time job, and one of the couple's daughters was stricken with a costly and serious illness, the Offutt family decided to come to California and start all over again.

Work wasn't easy to find, even for an experienced and well-qualified expert, so the father took a job at Harbor General Hospital in the maintenance department.

They had made a down payment and were buying their home.

The children were happy, meeting and playing with new friends, and looking forward to the first days of school here again next week.

Father had needed some costly dental work to qualify for a permanent civil service appointment. The couple had worked out details for financing this added expense.

Things were looking up—until they had returned home from a happy evening Wednesday at the Moose Lodge.

They found their home in ruins—destroyed by flames that had devoured the family's possessions.

The Offutts may have felt—by this time—that they were destined to be crushed by the jinx that seemed to follow their every move. It would be a natural conclusion.

But friends of the family do not share in such a feeling.

Members of the Moose Lodge have volunteered to provide the labor necessary to rebuild the family's home.

Other friends of the family have started a campaign to collect the building material needed for the rebuilding—and still others are busy contacting friends and area residents for furniture, bedding, and the things it takes to make a home.

Maybe the Offutt family feels it should give up—but others, many others, do not; and through the efforts of these others, we believe the jinx is facing a mortal enemy.

Those who wish to join this battle may contact any member of the Torrance Moose Lodge. They'll take it from there.

Shades of Proposition 4

The proponents of the much publicized Proposition 4 may shortly be able to say "I told you so."

Recent developments in the Long Beach-Wilmington oil field subsidence problem had the United States government filing suit to compel the State of California and 121 oil producers to do at the Wilmington oil field what Proposition 4 would have required.

Proposition 4, if you will recall, was turned into a holy war of propaganda with the successful opponents succeeding in making the public believe it was a dastardly move on the part of the big oil companies to force the little boys out of business.

Here is an example of what propaganda can do in molding the minds of voters. People who otherwise never bother to give a thought to much more serious interests, readily were persuaded to pin stickers on their cars and jump on the band wagon smear against big business.

The people of the State of California will succeed in costing the oil companies some money, but they have already laid the ground work for a successful suit by the government that will force the taxpayers to pay for something that might have been taken care of through Proposition 4.

Two beneficial results can come from this unhappy situation. It will reticulate the interest of the people of the sinking area in the seriousness of their problem. It should serve as a lesson to the voters in prompting them to use their heads in evaluating the many important propositions to appear on the general election ballot next fall.



Clearing Out the Mailbag

Question—Is nervousness itself a cause of high blood pressure?—P.G.

Answer—No. Blood pressure varies appreciably in all of us, depending upon the amount of activity or excitement. It is lower when we are relaxed and higher when under emotional or physical stress.

but as of itself it doesn't cause the condition.

Q.—Does swimming cause sinusitis?—T.P.

A.—Yes. In fact, many of the most severe attacks of sinusitis follow swimming. Water forced into the nose can drive a lower-nose infection up into the sinuses.

LAW IN ACTION

The Supreme Court

The president names a new justice of the U. S. Supreme Court when one retires, resigns, or dies. As a rule the Senate confirms this appointment; but if not, the President sends in another name.

When do the justices come from? Some from private law offices, others from government—Congressmen, governors of cabinet members.

Custom calls men to the Supreme Court from all three branches of government—lawmakers, administrators, or judges from lower courts.

And odds are at any one time there will be justices from each part of the country—New England, the Middle Atlantic, the South, the Midwest, and the West.

For the Supreme Court decides questions of wide public concern.

New justices take an oath to support and defend the Constitution as well as to administer justice without respect to persons, and to do "equal right to the poor and to the rich."

NOTE: California lawyers offer this column so you may know about our laws.

should never go swimming when he has a cold because infection can be forced up into the sinuses.

Q.—What are the most important causes of headache? R. W.

A.—By far the greatest number of headaches is caused by nervous tension. Next in frequency are those caused by infectious diseases—tonsillitis, measles, and so forth; sinus infections, pneumonia, meningitis, among others.

But why was the symbol 30, and not 40 or 50? A headline writer on the rim of a Philadelphia paper has one answer.

He claims that 30 came from the fact that 30 words was just the right fit in a sink of type—in the days when newspaper body type was also set by hand.

Q.—If a child gets infantile eczema and recovers from it, will it show up later in some other form?—E.M.

A.—It may and it may not. The primary lesion of the allergic reaction is the hive. If this hive occurs on the skin, it can be either in the nose or throat if then becomes hay fever.

Because of this, we seek Supreme Court justices who will take brave stands, perhaps against a hostile public opinion. We want them equally free to dissent from the majority views, and even in time to overrule themselves and adopt a minority opinion.

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Where Did the End Begin?

In the patois of the press, 30 is the end.

But where the tight little symbol came from is not only clouded in mystery; its origin is downright controversial.

Half the newsmen in America tag their stories with 30. But you could put the names of those who know its origin in a hat.

And from each there'd be a different explanation—and an argument to back it, according to producers of a new movie, entitled simply "30", which will be released by Warner Bros.

No newspaper term is perhaps as well known to the public as 30.

Along press row, some of the more popular versions of the birth of 30 go like this: In a wire service office in Los Angeles a Western Union telegrapher recalls hearing that 30 symbol started with a WU operator, back in the bicycle days of Morse code.

The old WU operator's name was "THURTY". As he clicked off his daily file of stories, Thury would sign each one: THURTY. The sign-off became a byword along the Morse line. Other telegraphers picked it up and made it "Thirty". Then, at last, 30.

Then there's the yarn told in the composing rooms of a Chicago daily by a grizzled printer with hands like mercury.

He remembers hearing that 30 originated during the pre-typewriter era of journalism. In those days, all news copy was written in longhand by reporters. To indicate clearly the end of their stories, they adapted a numerical symbol, which, as legend has it, was 30.

At the restaurant, you ordered sandwiches and your wife ordered a fruit salad. Restaurant surveys showed decline in the sale of dinners, increase in sandwiches and salads, a slight drop in the number of sales and a large drop in the sale per customer.

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The editor of a Midwestern weekly disputes all of these stories. His claim is that 30 began with a rebusman, who saw to it that each of his columns contained thirty items. And when this was done, he simply ended it with 30, which gave notice to the composing room that that was the end of the piece.

Finally, in upstate New York, a cub reporter has this contribution. He maintains that the end mark in the early days of newspapering was "3". The mark is still used widely. However, when typewriters came along, reporters found that it was quicker to hit the "3" key without going to upper case. What came out was "3". To tie it up more neatly, they just added a "0". And 30 was born.

If all the 30 marks used by the nation's newsmen were laid end to end they'd probably circle the earth. But where did the thing really begin? "You pay your money and takes your choice."

Are you average?

If you were last Friday and Saturday when both the humidity and the temperature soared, you came home from work, listlessly unbathed, your shirt collar at the door, and thought of how sad where you could get least uncomfortable.

Your wife, equally listless, met you at the door and suggested that instead of her having to prepare a meal you take her out to eat. If you were average, a survey of the Torrance restaurants indicate you talked her out of it. Restaurant business was off those two days.

At the restaurant, you ordered sandwiches and your wife ordered a fruit salad. Restaurant surveys showed decline in the sale of dinners, increase in sandwiches and salads, a slight drop in the number of sales and a large drop in the sale per customer.

In spite of the heat, both of you ordered coffee. (Torrance waitresses said that coffee sales remained steady.)

Both of you finished your meal, still uncomfortable and wondered what type of dessert would be best to top it off. You both ordered ice cream.

You returned home, unbathed your tie, and entered your living room still wondering how you could get more comfortable.

"Our customers were too listless to even wisecrack about the temperature," one waitress commented. "I didn't even here that old saw, 'it ain't the temperature, it's the humidity.'"

L. A. S. Thompson of the Torrance Police Department received a large dose of faith restorer last Sunday as he stood watch at the station during the quiet holiday week-end.

It started out with Mrs. Lois Barman of west Torrance who brought an expensive Polaroid Land Camera to the station and reported that her son had found it near the Riviera Beach Club earlier in the day. She turned it over to the police for an effort to determine its owner.

A relative few minutes later, young Larry Youmura of Long Beach came into the station with a small leather coin purse containing \$5.32 in silver—and no identification of its owner.

Youmura said he found it near 23th St. and Western Ave. Laying near the roadway, and had tried to turn it in at a nearby drug store. When he found the store closed, he made his way clear out to the police station to start it on its way back to the owner.

In both cases, Lt. Thompson commented, the finder could have kept the found article and no one probably would have been the wiser.

Their actions, however, sort of restore your faith in our neighbors, he said.

From The Mailbox

Juvenile Laws

Editor, Torrance Herald: The Locust Junior Chamber of Commerce gave a benefit dance two weeks ago on Wednesday which was broken up by a gang of 18 to 20 year olds. A brick or other object was thrown through a window, injuring two young people. Other damage was done to cars and property and general bedlam is reported to have resulted.

Apparently, no charges of any kind were preferred although some of them were held overnight by the police. Such an occurrence apparently comes from a feeling of jealousy—a feeling of social inferiority and jealous that others are having a good time.

It is impossible for many people to understand why it is necessary to have four people in uniform to enforce a dance and still have it erupt into something like this.

Does this indicate a need for a revision of our juvenile laws? It should be stated that other incidents of this nature have happened. We can exert pressure on our public officials for a change of attitude and laws.

D. J. Myers, Locust, Calif.

Editor, Torrance Herald

My family, friends, and I listened and enjoyed a razz-d Band Concert that was held at the Torrance Band Shell, Sunday Aug. 17.

Under the supervision of Jim Davidson, Torrance Recreational music director and his young assistant, Bob Salisbury, just a few youngsters, around 75, participated in a Band Concert and showed a most enlightening display of musical ability.

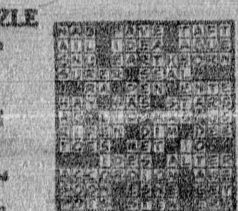
These lads and lassies showed a real zest for playing. Not only, did they learn, but their director helped show them how to have fun with their music.

It's rather nice to live in a city that has such a fine recreational department, and allows its children and grown-ups to enjoy and make use of various types of recreational programs and activities.

MRS. G. TUCKER

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

- ACROSS: 1-Three and half of ocean... 2-Printer's measure (pl.)... 3-Older... 4-Planet... 5-Part of... 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-... 61-... 62-... 63-... 64-... 65-... 66-... 67-... 68-... 69-... 70-... 71-... 72-... 73-... 74-... 75-... 76-... 77-... 78-... 79-... 80-... 81-... 82-... 83-... 84-... 85-... 86-... 87-... 88-... 89-... 90-... 91-... 92-... 93-... 94-... 95-... 96-... 97-... 98-... 99-... 100-...



ONLY YESTERDAY

Advertisement for 'STOP FIGHTING WILBUR!' featuring cartoon characters and text promoting a school event.

Advertisement for 'Torrance Herald' newspaper, including subscription information and contact details.

Advertisement for 'My Neighbors' featuring a cartoon illustration and text.

'STAR GAZER' advertisement featuring a star chart and a list of names and dates.