

# EDITORIALS

## Revision Needed

A minor explosion in the staid ranks of the California Congress of Parents and Teachers has continued to echo throughout the Southland following a restatement of the antipolitics rule governing membership in a PTA.

The ruckus started in Fresno this week when it was stated that the Congress policy says any officer in a California PTA must resign if he or she takes an active part in a political campaign.

The recording secretary of the 11th PTA District promptly resigned saying the policy "denies the freedom I cherish as an American citizen."

The policy was enlarged on by the president of the 10th District, which encompasses all Los Angeles city schools, who reported that it was a long-standing rule that members who become active in campaigning should sever relations with the PTA.

"As long as PTA members do not lend their names to political campaigning and to speechmaking, there is nothing to prevent their civic participation in events outside the PTA," the Los Angeles president was quoted.

It is a pity that the California PTA has seen fit to eliminate from its ranks a large segment of the state's able leadership. Their action means that an Assemblyman, although he has children in school, is not eligible to join the PTA where he lives—his means and a society with children in school cannot let herself be named to the Women's Committee for Knowland, or Brown . . . if means and can't talk to a service club on behalf of a political candidate . . . you can't do any of these things if you want to maintain your standing in the PTA.

It's wrong, wrong, wrong. One of the principal objectives of PTA groups is "to secure adequate laws for the care and protection of children and youth" and it is one of the principals of our society that to get the laws you want, you elect the men to office who share your views about those laws.

Working for your chosen candidate is an American custom and privilege and the PTA should encourage, not stifle, the exercise of this privilege.

The HERALD will be the first to agree that the PTA should not be made a sounding board for political ideas nor should the officers campaign under the banner of the PTA, but we can see no harm in officers and members of any PTA unit working publicly for their candidate in their own name.

Modification of such a rule in the PTA to permit its members to exercise their American privilege is needed.

There's nothing in politics which will bring shame to the PTA.

## A New Menace

In addition to traffic, polio, and the usual childhood disease, a new and deadlier menace has been reported recently in Torrance. Rattlesnakes.

Officers of the South Bay Humane Society have reported killing six young rattlers in a nest in the sump area near the western city limits of the city, and Friday reported a foot-long rattler found slithering its way into the kindergarten play area at the Howard Wood Elementary School.

They advise residents to regard all snakes as dangerous because the young Pacific rattler looks much like the harmless gopher snake. Even dead snakes can be dangerous, they point out, because the venom is still poisonous if the fangs are bared.

For quick assistance with any snake, the South Bay Humane Society officers ask Torrance area residents to call them at FR 2-8100 day or night. Such a call could save a life.

## White Cane Days

Next week end, Sept. 26 and 27, will be "White Cane Days" in Torrance, the annual fund-raising project of the Lions Clubs to finance their worth-while sight conservation program.

The program started in Los Angeles in 1951 and has since grown in acceptance to the point where \$125,000 was collected by Lions Clubs in the U.S. last year to finance aid to the blind and sight conservation work.

Locally, the Lions Club has worked through schools of the city in assisting students obtain needed glasses and eye examinations where it might otherwise have been impossible for the family to finance such work.

Purchase of the little white canes from members of the Lions Club here next week end will be appreciated by the club, and more important, by the sightless or poor-sighted persons the money will aid.

### STAR GAZER

By CLAY KOLLAN

Your Daily Astro Guide According to the Stars.

To develop message for Sunday, read weekly corresponding to numbers of your Zodiac birth sign.

1. Aries	11. Cancer	21. Scorpio
2. Taurus	12. Leo	22. Sagittarius
3. Gemini	13. Virgo	23. Capricorn
4. Cancer	14. Libra	24. Aquarius
5. Leo	15. Scorpio	25. Pisces
6. Virgo	16. Sagittarius	26. Aries
7. Libra	17. Capricorn	27. Taurus
8. Scorpio	18. Aquarius	28. Gemini
9. Sagittarius	19. Pisces	29. Cancer
10. Capricorn	20. Aries	30. Leo

## More Deadly Than The Atom



THE SQUIRREL CAGE by Reid Hundy

## Snow Removal Funds Received To Aid Stricken Neighbor

The summary of highway users tax fund apportionment to counties for the month of August just released in Sacramento by State Controller Robert C. Kirkwood shows that Los Angeles County received \$2979.18 for snow removal and \$4516.25 for heavy rainfall damage for the month.

silence, but he didn't get far with it.

Have you noticed it? Postal service is improving since the new four-cent stamp came into use. Just this week I got a letter, mailed in San Francisco and it took only 11 days to get here. Of course, it was first sent around the state on a sight-seeing tour.

It has a rubber stamped message on the cover reading "Missent to Thornton, Calif." That's quite a bit like Torrance, isn't it? O.K., we'll let the guy off.

Then it was stamped "Missent to City Terrace." Which is an East Los Angeles Station.

Final blue stamp on it — one we see often here — read "Delivered to Rubbercraft Corporation in Error."

By George, though, it arrived at its destination.

Doyle Dameron reports in the August edition of the General Telephone Co. magazine that Walt Kenney of the firm's methods engineering division has come up with a new definition of a telephone engineer.

"A telephone engineer is a person who passes as an exacting expert because of his ability to turn out with prolific fortitude infinite strings of incomprehensible formulae, calculated with micrometric precision from vague assumptions which are based on debatable figures taken from inconclusive experiments carried out with prebendational accuracy by persons of doubtful ability

and questionable mentality for the avowed purpose of annoying and confounding a hopelessly chimerical group of esoteric fanatics referred to altogether too frequently as practical telephone men. I don't get it either.

The cost of peace is expensive, according to figures compiled by a guy with a fast pencil this week. He says it costs all the federal individual income taxes paid by about 24,000 married taxpayers earning \$4500 a year to pay for one of the new heavy bombers, and that a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier would take all the income taxes paid by about 950,000 such families.

Hurts, doesn't it.



"A smart mother knows a pounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." — Imogene Fay.

"Many wise words are spoken in jest, but they can't compare with the number of foolish words spoken in earnest." — Chilton (Wis) Times Journal.

## Income Tax Change May Benefit Many

By REYNOLDS ENIGHT For the average American with income mainly from wages or salary, income tax-scrubbing time is half a year away.

But the taxpayer who wants to save money come next April would do well to take a look right now at his deduction possibilities.

The Internal Revenue Service plans to give taxpayers having incomes from wages or salaries up to \$10,000 a chance to use the simplified card form. Persons using this short form need answer only 15 questions, and they automatically get the standard 10 per cent deduction.

But if you're anywhere around the \$10,000 bracket you may well be entitled to more than the standard 10 per cent deduction provided you take the trouble to use the long-form return.

According to latest figures issued by Internal Revenue, covering returns for 1956, more than one-third of all taxpayers chose to itemize their deductions, whereas in 1950 it was one in five. Even those required to use the longer form have the option of taking a standard allowable deduction or itemizing them.

Total amounts deducted by 1956 taxpayers averaged

## Families Hold Painting Bee

### Happy Family . . . Mr. and Mrs. Steve Henderson are pictured with their children in their newly decorated home. Steve has been hospitalized by anisotropic lateral sclerosis since last April. Neighbors in the 22400 block on Evelyn Ave. surprised the Hendersons by painting the interior of their home while they were away last weekend. Children, left to right, are Stevie, Jayne and Judy. (Rerald Photo)

By BOB WILTON Herald Staff Writer

Steve Henderson smiled up at his wife, Betty, as she placed a cigarette between his lips and lit it. Continuing to smile, the 33-year-old former office manager of the Torrance Van and Storage Co. said, "I haven't been able to do things like this for myself since last December when I lost the use of my arms and hands."

Henderson, who lives with his family at 22428 Evelyn Ave., first learned he had anisotropic lateral sclerosis, the fatal disease that took the life of Lou Gehrig, late major league baseball player, in April, 1957.

The Navy veteran said he had never been sick a day in his life before and had never been off from work.

"I guess I was just like everyone else until this hit me—in a hurry, driving and sometimes impatient with the children. Now I have to take time to enjoy the things that mean so much to a person who knows what the end will be, but not when."

Betty entered the room and, bracing her feet, took Steve's hands. Then, rocking

back and forth, she pulled him to his feet. He started slowly across the room.

"I can get from one room to another, but if I trip I go all the way down as I can't coordinate my leg muscles fast enough to catch myself—and then I can't always depend on them working at all."

Steve was smiling when he returned and sat down. But his smile really shone as his wife put Stevie, 4 year old, in his highchair.

"That is Chubby," he said, nodding his head toward his namesake.

Two little girls came into the room. One went to the side of her father and showed him her homework while the other sat on the arm of his chair.

"I'm Judy, I'm 6," said the one seated. "I go to school. I just started and am in the first grade."

"That is Gabby," said Steve, "and the studious one is Jayne. She is 11. This is her homework and she really is good in arithmetic."

Steve looked around the room and then asked, "How do you like the newly painted walls and woodwork? The neighbors did this while we were away last week end. We have lived here five years and our neighbors always were friendly, but for them to re-decorate our house as a surprise—well, we think they are wonderful."

This act of friendship on

the part of neighbors living in the 22400 block on Evelyn started after Mrs. Henderson asked one of them what color she thought she should paint her living room.

Soon a plan was made after over-the-fence talks in backyards, casual meetings on the street, and living-room huddles. It was suggested that the Hendersons visit a sister living in San Fernando Valley over the week end.

No sooner had the Hendersons driven away than the neighbors converged on the now empty house. They carried pails of paint, brushes, stepladders, a sanding machine—in fact, they resembled an office building maintenance crew.

Drapes were cleaned and new carpets secured. Before the week end was over, the interior of the house was completely re-painted—and this crew of "Evelyn Avenue Fairies" still had time to hold a picnic on the front lawn last Sunday.

The Evelyn Avenue fairies were the Messrs. and Mrses. Bryce Foster, Wally Gregory, Mel Stromme, Hank Vanderpool, Ed Kleist, Don Combar, John Lucas, Don Anderson, Frank Rooney, Jim McDonald, Al Baker, Bob Stewart, Cliff Elmer, Bob Stennett, Jim O'Toole, Herb Williams, Lee Kirby, Joe Gervasi, Howard Maker, John Shiers, Al Richardson and G. W. Stadler of the Torrance Van and Storage Co.

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| ACROSS               | DOWN                           |
| 1. Part of 2007 (12) | 1. Measure of quantity of heat |
| 2. Forward           | 2. In printing, remove         |
| 3. Newspaper         | 3. Usually assistant           |
| 4. 77 (11)           | 4. To be full                  |
| 5. Dog               | 5. Produced                    |
| 6. Related           | 6. To be full                  |
| 7. Unit of weight    | 7. Undergrowth                 |
| 8. Name of a city    | 8. To be full                  |
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