

# EDITORIALS

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK**—Whether we want to be there or not, Gulf and every other American corporation, is in politics... up to its ears in politics, and the more other heart swimming—or down.—Archie D. Gray, vice-president, Gulf Oil Corp.

## The Smog Battle

Wouldn't it be a strange turn of events if one of the scientists doing research on smog came up with the finding that elimination of the backyard incinerator has deprived the Los Angeles basin with one of its best anti-smog devices? Observers are curious after noting that eye-irritating smog disappeared during recent forest fires.

## A Note to Drivers

This newspaper has been asked by a reader to reprint a letter addressed to "Dear Driver" and sent to the Editor (N. Y.) Advertiser. The message follows:

"A few weeks ago, I saw a little girl struck by a car as she tried to cross the street. I saw a father race toward her and hold her to him as she struggled in the agony of death. I saw all the plans that had been made for her dashed and I saw the look of despair that came over his face. I could only offer a prayer that such a thing might never happen again.

"Today my daughter, who is 6 years old, started off to school. Her cocker spaniel, whose name is Scout, watched her leave and whined his belief in the folly of education.

"Thought we talked about school. Her told me about the girl who sits in front of her, a girl with yellow curls, and about the boy across the aisle who makes faces; about the teacher who has eyes in the back of her head; about the trees in the school yard and the big girl who does not believe in Santa Claus.

"We talked about a lot of things—tremendously vital and unimportant things.

"Now as this is written, she is sound asleep with her doll Paddy in her arms.

"When her doll gets broken or her finger gets cut or her head gets bumped, I can fix them. But when she starts across the street—then, Mr. Driver, she is in your hands.

"Much as I wish I could, it's not possible for me to be with her all the time. I have to work to pay for her home, her clothes, her education.

"So, Mr. Driver, please help me to look out for her. Please drive carefully. Please drive slowly past schools and at intersections. And please remember that sometimes children run from behind parked cars.

"Please, don't run over my little girl."

The New York newspaper commented: "If any driver can resist its appeal, he has no business with a driver's license."

## Car License Fees Explained

In just a few weeks, now, you will receive a statement of fees due for the registration of your car for 1955. What the total amount of those fees will be governed by the make, model and year of the vehicle you are driving.

But the registration fee itself will be the same for everybody who owns a private pleasure automobile, station wagons alone excepted. The fee is \$2.

Registration fee on station wagons for 1955 will be \$2. A law providing for the additional \$1 was passed by the Legislature at the last session, and for that addition.



THE SQUIRREL CAGE By Reid Bundy

## Some Thanksgiving Leftovers

Sign on a small sports car: Help Stamp Out Tail Dogs.

The Cinderella Corp. has moved its headquarters from Palmer, Mass., to Kissimmee, Fla.

Sign on a Florist delivery truck: Drive carefully — The Next Day May Be for You.

Contact News, house magazine of the Wisconsin Public Service Corp., runs a column of news on engagements, weddings and births under the heading: "Shared ... Paired ... Married."

What do you do to increase the mileage on your imported sports car? According to a local "big car" dealer, you can do the same as most foreign car owners do — lie about it.

Heard at a Kiwanis Club meeting, according to Ted Olson:

"It's foolish to worry about confused, miserable teenagers. Give them a little time and they'll turn out to be confused, miserable adults."

And, what is a teenager? We heard it was someone half way between an adult and the telephone. Or a child.

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## Tracing Torrance History

# Handwritten Will Leaves Rancho to Manuel's Wife

The handwritten will of Don Manuel Dominguez, which is still on file in the Los Angeles County Probate Records, is printed here today in the sixth of a series of articles being published exclusively in the HERALD.

**INTRODUCTION**

By R. C. GILLINGHAM

Don Manuel Dominguez died on Oct. 11, 1822, leaving an estate valued in excess of \$400,000. Three weeks after his death his will, drawn up on April 18th of that year, was filed for probate in the Superior Court before Judge Volney E. Howard.

In an examination of the documents in volume 2 of the settlement of the estate, still on file in the Los Angeles County Probate Records, the will was found intact. It is an interesting document, written in Spanish in long hand. Translated into English, it is reproduced here in its entirety as an excellent example of the form of will which was traditional among the Spanish rancheros of early California.

"In the name of God Almighty, I Manuel Dominguez, a native of San Diego, County of San Diego, State of California, at the age of 70 years, a legitimate son of Don Jose Cristobal Dominguez and of Maria de Los Reyes Ybanes de Dominguez, finding myself through Divine Providence of sound and disposing mind, believing and confessing I firmly believe and confess the mystery of the Holy Trinity, of the incarnation of the Son of God, and of the Redemption of man by the death of the same Son of God, our Lord Jesus Christ, in the belief of the immaculate Conception of Our Lady the Virgin Mary, Mother of God, and in all the sacraments which the Holy Apostolic Roman Catholic Church believes, confesses, and teaches; in which true faith and communion I now live and purpose living and dying, and since death is natural and precise, as its hour is uncertain, I offer, make, ordain and publish my last will and testament in the following form:

"FIRST, and above all committing my soul to the mercifulness of God Our Father, who... of nothing to the late-cessation of Our Lady the Virgin Mary and to the supplication of my guardian the Holy Angel and of all the Saints, I command my body to the earth from which it came, desiring that it be buried in the Catholic Cemetery of the City of Los Angeles.

"SECOND, I give and bequeath to each of the above-named my dear daughters, the sum of five dollars in money of the United States of North America, which will be satisfied by the executor of this my testament, without intervention by the Court of Probate, immediately after the conclusion of the funeral ceremonies over my remains, or as soon as possible.

"THIRD, I give and bequeath to my beloved wife, Maria Engracia de Dominguez, all the remainder of my property, real, personal, and mixed, which belongs to me at the time of my death; and I constitute the same Maria absolute heir, owner, and legatee, in order that, according to the dictates of her conscience, she may enjoy or dispose of it all, without being responsible to anyone as to its management or disposition, nor to any Court of human justice, but solely to God and her conscience.

"FOURTH, I name and constitute as executors of this my last will and testament my wife Maria Engracia Cota de Dominguez and Don Francisco Mora, Catholic Bishop of Los Angeles, whose integrity being unquestioned, I excuse them from giving bond for the faithful discharge of his duty, nor do I desire that they be held accountable before any Court of Justice, and for the present my testament may remain with either one or that it is executed.

"In testimony of which I have here placed my signature, and I have placed the sign of the Cross in my mark in my residence on the Rancho San Pedro, County of Los Angeles, this 18th day of April of the Year of Our Lord 1822."



"Some housewives go over their budgets carefully each month, others just go over them."—Penny Journal Star.

"It is a mistake to think that the primary job of education is to make people happy. The job is to teach people to think."—Prof. Malcolm P. McNair.

"A very small river will carry a good deal of water to the sea—if it keeps running."—Sunshine Magazine.

"It takes two kinds of people to make the world—fools to write about the glories of autumn, and the rest of us to take them."—Marjorie Johnson.

"Salary is an amount of money that no matter how large it is some people spend more than."—Banking.

"Too many meetings are held each month for no better reason than it has been a month since the last one."—Bill Vaughn.

"Nothing splendid has ever been achieved except by those who dared believe that something inside them was superior to circumstance."—Bruce Barton.

"What a new face courage puts on everything! A determined man, by his very attitude and the tone of his voice, puts a stop to defeat and begins to conquer."—Ralph Waldo Emerson.

"When a man sees eye to eye with his wife, it means that his vision has been corrected."—Cliff.

"A classmate warned me that who looks forward to the kind of dress other women lack dumped into."—G. Norman Collier.

The appraisal of the estate listed over 25,000 acres in the Rancho San Pedro, valued at \$16 per acre on the average, or \$400,000. The personal property totaled almost \$70,000, of which \$10,000 was in cash. Also included in the personal property were 5500 sheep at \$1.50 each, 250 cattle at \$10 a head, and 20 horses worth a total of \$450. Furniture in the fifteen-room home a Dominguez built was appraised at \$400, the most valuable item being a piano, listed at \$150. Administrative fees, payment of taxes, and funeral expenses, including \$1000 distributed for masses, amounted to over \$6000.

Thus it was that during an eventful lifetime, Don Manuel Dominguez accumulated an estate worth many times its earlier value, estimated to have been less than \$5,000 in 1824. Today, the same acreage in one year pays far more in taxes than its total appraised worth in 1822. In sharp contrast with the record of his contemporaries, the owner of the Rancho San Pedro passed on a magnificent heritage to the benefit of his heirs.

(A decision by the daughters of Manuel and Maria Dominguez to partition the rancho is related in the next of this series of articles on the history of the Rancho San Pedro to be published in the HERALD Thursday.)

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## FROM OUR MAILBOX

**Roaring Monsters**

Editor, Torrance Herald

I'm wondering how much longer our children will be awakened shortly after 6 a.m. daily by the rattling of their windows and the clanking of their beds by the forty-ton monsters roaring around Maricopa Street hauling their 71,000-pound loads of soil.

I have been advised that both our police department and legal city officials are powerless to cope with the madly early roomings and roaring of these monsters.

I understand that hundreds of our neighbors are greatly upset about this situation. We all are very proud of the progress of our city, and welcome all our new industries—but, we only ask: Please fellows, don't our children as well as the entire family rest until a reasonable waking hour?

FRANK H. FROHNHOEFER  
1116 Hickory Ave.

## Roaring Monsters

**LAW IN ACTION**

### Know Your Dog

It's not true in California that every dog is entitled to one bite.

His owner may have to pay damages for dog bites, (1) if a person is bitten in a store, theatre, or other public place; and (2) if he is bitten while lawfully on private property such as the dog owner's.

Thus if an owner invited you, expressly or by implication, on to his property and his dog bit you, the owner is legally responsible.

The owner is to blame where a person is lawfully on his property, even if the owner didn't know that the dog was "vicious."

A dog owner or keeper is liable for his property only if he should have known the dog was dangerous. The injured party needs to prove that the owner or keeper knew of the dog's viciousness.

In some cases the victim can prove this knowledge by the fact that the dog had shown viciousness before, or was chained and muzzled and kept as a watchdog, or from size (75 pounds in one case), and by breed.

If the owner knows of his dog's viciousness, he must protect people from him by lock and chain. This applies not only to biting, but also to those with high spirits which might jump on people and hurt them.

Some places call for owners to keep dogs on leashes when they are away from home. If the owner fails, he may be held to blame if the dog hurts someone in one place, where a dog ran and struck a motor scooter driver in the street, the court held the owner liable.

A dog which is not held in the injured person's hands and provoked the dog into attacking.

Keep a Dog on a Leash



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## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

1. Example
2. Used for writing
3. To make
4. To make
5. To make
6. To make
7. To make
8. To make
9. To make
10. To make

DOWN

11. To make
12. To make
13. To make
14. To make
15. To make
16. To make
17. To make
18. To make
19. To make
20. To make

### STAR GAZER

BY CLAY S. POLLAN

Your Daily Activity Guide According to the Stars

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

1. Peace	2. Love	3. Joy	4. Success
5. Health	6. Wealth	7. Power	8. Honor
9. Fame	10. Wealth	11. Power	12. Honor
13. Love	14. Joy	15. Success	16. Wealth
17. Health	18. Peace	19. Power	20. Honor
21. Love	22. Joy	23. Success	24. Wealth
25. Health	26. Peace	27. Power	28. Honor
29. Love	30. Joy	31. Success	32. Wealth
33. Health	34. Peace	35. Power	36. Honor