

Gaining Weight Brings Problems



THE SQUIRREL CAGE by Reid Sandy

The Advantages of Children

The Admiral says he was sitting around listening to the "Silent Night Cha Cha" the other evening and suddenly realized that children have too many advantages. For instance, they don't have to raise children.

Lady, why didn't you signal? "Mister," she came back at him brightly. "I always turn here."

The fallout, I sigh That causes me dread Isn't stuff from the sky, It's hair from my head.

But falling out hair isn't a worry for Fred Hopkins, who has lived at 1514 Pinedale since 1924. Fred, who'll be 69 next April, is worried about getting to the state capitals of South Dakota and Alaska. He's visited all the rest.

While waiting for the garage to make some adjustments on his new sports car the other day, he told us that he visited his first state capital in 1913 when he visited Hartford, Conn. Two years later he got to Boston, Mass., and two years later, Albany, N. Y. Another two years went by and he got to Richmond, Va., and two years after that, Providence, R. I.

He visited Denver, Colo., and Salt Lake City, Utah, in 1930 while on vacation, and in 1941, after going east to his mother's funeral, he started out in earnest to visit the capital cities of the United States.

During his trips he has talked to governors and top officials of most of the American states, and now wants to get the last two out of the way so he can visit friends in Naples, Italy.

Fred's old Johnny comically, his great-great-grandfather, Stephen Hopkins, signed the Declaration of Independence.

And his mother was the ninth lineal descendant of

Roger Williams, the first Baptist clergyman.

In addition to his travels, Fred is busy with his stamp collection, one of the finest of private collections. He has met many notable persons through his stamp hobby, including the top postal official of England, with whom he once shared a taxi from a New York hotel to a stamp dealer's exhibit.

Retirement for Fred, a hatcher, has not been a bore.

As Bob Lawless, pastor of the Rotary Club's bulletin, the "Rotary Rig," says: "The one who thinks our jokes are poor, would straightway change his views. "Could he compare the jokes we print, with the ones we didn't use."

But one he did use was about a visitor who commented to Niels Bohr, the famous atom scientist and Nobel prize winner: "I'm surprised to see that you have a horse shoe hanging over your door. Do you believe in that superstition?"

"Of course not," replied Bohr, "but I've been told that it's supposed to be lucky whether you believe in it or not."

Lee Lease, one of the editors of the Torrance Elks Lodge's bulletin, "The Antlers," reports that member Steve Bilski has taken an application for membership out for his son. The boy will be eligible about 21 years from now—he's just a wee babe.

HERALD columnist Abe Leaders who often readers a booklet on dating behavior entitled, "How Far to Go," reports that she received a request from Salt Lake City recently for one of the booklets. The reader who writes for the booklet branded like she was faced with a live situation when she added to the bottom of the letter the plea: "And please hurry!"

Tracing Torrance History

Early Air Shows Visit of Famous Dominguez Hill

In 1910, the first national aviation meet held in the United States took place on Dominguez Hill. An east-west runway was scraped out of the top of the hill, and the most famous of aviators, including the Wright brothers and Glenn Martin, participated in the show according to today's article, the 11th in a series on the history of the San Pedro Rancho.

In the history of the Rancho San Pedro, a number of interesting facts center around the land area with the highest elevation in the tract. This is Dominguez Hill, still bearing the original name given by the early Spanish rancheros in recognition of the grant to Juan Jose Dominguez in 1784.

Rising gradually on three sides, Dominguez Hill has an elevation of less than 200 feet at its summit. The eastern side terminates abruptly in a bluff, rising some fifty feet above the level of Alameda Boulevard. In open past the hill extended further to the east, having been eroded away long since by winter floods. The contour of the land is fairly level throughout, with the exception of a few small ravines. Covering an area of more than 4000 acres, or about 10 per cent of the Rancho included in the patent of 1850 Dominguez Hill because of its aridity, was considered of little practical value and lay neglected for many years. Nevertheless, it has its place in local history, and even in national events.

Another event of entirely different nature occurred on Dominguez Hill in 1910, when it was the scene of the first national aviation meet held in the United States. This took place near the flat summit of the hill, where an east-west runway was cleared, together with a grandstand several hundred feet in length.

All of the pioneer aviators took part, including the Wright brothers, Glenn Martin and several European aviators. The first distance record was established, 45 miles, and Arch Hoxey crashed and was killed directly in front of the grandstand.

Many drove up in horse and buggy and some by the new-fangled automobile, but most of the big crowds came by special trains on the Pacific Electric Railway. The cars stopped at the east side of the hill, leaving the passengers to trudge a dusty quarter-mile up the hill to the field.

The program lasted over a week, with a second meet again held there in 1912. In 1941, a plaque commemorating the first air meet was dedicated on the site by Park 253, Native Daughters of the Golden West.

In later years, after more water was available, most of the Dominguez Hill land was devoted to farming, including truck gardening and the raising of flowers. One of the colorful sights in the summer season was the Bodger Dahlia Farm, which operated on the southwest slope for a considerable period. Some general farming is still carried on in this area.

In 1923, Dr. Gregorio Del Amo, husband of Susana Dominguez, founded the Del Amo Nurseries, with headquarters on the southwest slope of Dominguez Hill. Dr. Del Amo was responsible for the planting of the trees on the eastern brow of the hill, which have grown to notable proportions in recent years.

The most significant development on Dominguez Hill took place in 1921, with the discovery of oil. The first leases were negotiated with the California Midway Oil Company and with the General Petroleum Corporation. The returns for the first two years were relatively small, but with further development by the Union Oil Company and other operators, the total receipts in the ensuing decade exceeded more than a million dollars.

More recently, a large reservoir and two storage tanks have been erected on the summit of the hill by the Dominguez Water Corporation, providing an ample water supply under good pressure for all local needs. The City of Compton has a storage

tank immediately to the north, with a connecting line between the two systems for use in emergencies.

Today, with the exception of a few small parcels, the major part of Dominguez Hill, Victoria Street to Del Amo Street, is still owned by the later heirs of the Dominguez family. The total holdings exceed 2800 acres. Other than one tract of 60 acres, none of the land north of Victoria Street is now held by the Dominguez heirs.

In the past year, a number of proposals have been made involving the development of Dominguez Hill, with no definite action to date. One of these was a new subdivision of over 1200 homes, with accompanying school and shopping facilities, to be located south of Victoria Street, between Central Ave. and Avila Blvd. Another was a plan for an industrial world's fair, covering some 600 acres in the same area, the buildings later to be converted for use as a college or university. A golf course also has been proposed for the eastern side of the hill.

As compared with other portions of the original tract, it therefore has turned out that the barren hill once spurned by the Dominguez sisters in the Partition of 1855, has proved to be one of the most valuable areas of the Rancho San Pedro. The present policy of the several Dominguez interests is to continue leasing of the lands on Dominguez Hill. In view of its past record, this tract alone, apart from other current sources of revenue, should continue to provide its owners with a substantial income for many years.

(How the various companies growing out of the original Rancho San Pedro fared will be outlined in this series, being published exclusively in the HERALD. Watch for this chapter Thursday.

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Current Events

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EDITORIALS

Some Money to Spend

What would you do if you had \$4200 to spend? If you were a member of the city council and it was city money, there are many places where \$4200 could be spent around the city.

It would pay the salary of an additional police officer from now until next summer.

It would pay for most of a modern traffic signal system at one of the city's several intersections now "bleeding" with the hazardous, one-eyed Chinese lantern signals.

It would buy pipes, sprinklers, meters, and lawn seed for the Torrance Blvd. parkway from Crenshaw to Maple Ave. — bare and dusty for more than seven years.

It would be a good start toward a West Torrance library building.

That much money — \$4200 — would buy a lot of crosswalk paint, traffic light, office materials, postage, or other city needs.

But, that \$4200 was used to finance a jacket for six members of the city's seven-man council in Boston for a meeting of the American Municipal Assn.

Meetings of city officials on a national level are good for the cities participating, and the HERALD does not oppose them. And, we think the city of Torrance should be represented at the major meetings by delegates who could articulate the ideas and suggestions offered by other city officials.

But for six members of the city council to make the transcontinental junket at the taxpayers' expense is stretching a good thing too far.

Add to this the several other trips of long distance character, taken earlier, and the superficial cost of operating the city is given what seems to be an unnecessary jolt.

Opinions of Others

In the past few weeks, a rash of senseless bombings of houses of worship and schools has taken place throughout the South. . . . Decent people should rise up and demand that the culprits, when captured, be severely punished for these unwarranted attacks. If allowed to go unchecked, these groups may decide that the Methodist, Presbyterians, or even the Rotary Clubs, should be eliminated. Terror tactics are never good, and only prove the cowardice of the perpetrators. — Waltersboro (S. C.) Press and Standard.

FROM OUR MAILBOX by Our Readers

Noise Hit Again

Editor, Torrance Herald: My wife was showing me the piece that Frohnmeyer fellow wrote you (Nov. 30).

In all the towns we have lived in, they had laws that said those kind of machines could only be used from 7 a.m. till 10 p.m. I know what he means 'cause I'm an old "scizzer" operator myself.

Your for less noise and more sleep.

O. J. "BILL" BROCKENRIDGE

Editor, Torrance Herald: Hurrah for Mr. Frohnmeyer's letter. Did you know I was taking peas until 1:30 a.m. Thanksgiving morning and those monsters he wrote about fired up their motors and "revved" around in the wee-wee small hours?

M. WATKINS 808 Patronsella

Editor, Torrance Herald: After reading your account of the North High vs. Long Beach Poly game in your Sunday paper where you played up what you called a "braver", this family was ashamed to say we have taken your paper.

The only paper in this area, we thought was for our children are in back of our schools.

We have a fine school district. Dr. Hull has done more for our Torrance schools than any man ever has. Or should be expected to do. Do you think it was

"Greetings — Oh lovely spouse, wouldn't you be ham, the whole orange juice — guess the whole town and extra the green coffee?"

My Neighbors

My Neighbors

STAR GAZER

Table with columns for dates and astrological information.

Everybody Has a Word for It

Have you ever noticed that "hello" or "goodbye" is more or less generally used over telephones throughout the world? They aren't, says Pacific Telephone Manager J. S. Pyle.

In Sweden they say "god dag" (good day) and "god natt" (good night). The Italians say "pronto" (ready) and "addio" (goodbye).

In Spain, for instance, the telephone is generally answered with "hola" (hello) and the conversation is ended with "hasta pronto" (see you later).

In Germany these words become "ja wohl" (yes, well) or "bitte schon" (pretty please) and "Wiedersehen" (re-encounter). In France, the telephone is answered with "bonjour" (I am listening) and "adieu" (goodbye).

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for words.

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