

Torrance Herald

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This Week's Motto:

To yawn is the only way some married men get to open their mouths.

On Holes in the Ground

A growing clamor for an all-out program of bomb shelters to protect us in the event of a nuclear war—reaching a point of near hysteria in some quarters—has raised some serious questions in the minds of many Americans, especially so in this area of the nation.

We are being told on all fronts that Americans are ill equipped to withstand such an onslaught of super bombs, and that the only answer is to dig deeper holes in which to crawl when the fateful moment comes.

Along with many others, we have some reservations about the value of such holes.

In the first place, use of the bomb will probably never be necessary. The long operative program of the Soviet regime to force capitalist nations to spend themselves to death is working according to plan, and when combined with the perfected infiltration and propaganda techniques of the Reds, the need for such force as a bomb is diminishing daily.

An all-out program of shelter construction raises another serious threat—the built-in excuse for another super agency, probably one to put to shame the most ambitious empire builder of the present day.

If the excitement of the populace can be whipped to the point where a frenzied shelter building program is launched, it would have the added curse of causing more huge expenditures in the public sector—a modern way of saying the government would spend more and more of your money.

Shelters would have a genuine appeal, we believe, if they could be used to protect the American taxpayer from the yawning chasm of bankruptcy brought about by the confiscatory taxing programs of our various levels of government.

Opinions of Others

"Congressman James F. Battin of Montana says that \$89,000 was spent by the Public Health Service during the past year in research and issuing a detailed report on people's behavior at cocktail parties. This should be valuable information which will go a long way in solving the troublesome problems which now confront the United States on every hand. Also, we imagine that Public Health staff members stood in line in applying for this particular 'research' job." — *Fort Worth (Tex.) The Southern Conservative*.

"The federal government has worked out a system which will insure receipt of immense sums of money from the taxpayers.

"There are at present no less than 80 separate programs in operation by which bureaucrats of the federal government 'give' part of the costs to states providing the states match this spending by adding more outlays to their own budgets.

"In addition to 80 programs now in operation, thee government has plans to move into new areas."—*Gooding (Idaho) Leader*.

"Misguided do-gooders frequently quote the Sixth Commandment, 'Thou shalt not kill,' to prove that capital punishment is wrong. This Commandment in the 20th chapter, verse 13, of Exodus has also been interpreted to mean: 'Thou shalt do not murder.' Then the 21st chapter, verse 12, says, 'He that smiteth a man, so that he die, shall be surely put to death.'"—*Wadesboro (N.C.) Messenger & Intelligencer*.

"It is one of the facts of life that not even the people who depend steadily upon railroads for either freight or passenger use worry very much about the financial distress of the railroads . . .

"But it is another fact of life that railroads are a vital part of the national fabric, even in the realm of national defense, and that they should be healthy."—*Chico (Calif.) Enterprise-Record*.

Law in Action

Voluntary Confessions

Our courts decide where our rights and our security conflict.

For example, in the days of the rubber hose, police sought easy confessions. But, today, the U. S. Supreme Court allows only voluntary confessions to go into evidence at a trial. Those obtained by force or threats are barred.

Recently the Supreme Court spelled out what it means by "voluntary":

1. In one case the sheriff brought the accused into court. The judge told him of his rights and of the charges against him. The prisoner said: "I'm guilty. I killed the woman."

A rancher had lassoed him, but the sheriff had stepped in to protect him from a gathering crowd.

Despite the roping, the court found the confession voluntary and upheld it. For only the judge and the prisoner's protector were in court when he confessed. No force or threat.

2. But the U. S. Supreme Court rejected another conviction when the "totality" of the conduct of the officers amounted to a denial of "due process of the law."

It concerned a 19-year-old prisoner who had only fifth grade education.

Why did the Supreme

Court upset this conviction? Because the trial court admitted a coerced confession in evidence. Officers had arrested the prisoner without a warrant, had held him without much food for two days, and had not allowed him to see anybody he knew.

Finally, the police chief had told him that a mob outside wanted to "get him," but if he "confessed," the police could hold them off.

He broke down and "confessed."

Such confessions, the court held, were not an "expression of free choice."

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

Don't Be Fooled, Nikita—



Big-Hearted Uncle Sam Revives a Dying Ghost

By JAMES DORAIS

As everyone who has explored California's Mother Lode country knows, the Sierra foothills are dotted with ghost towns with picturesque names like Timbuctu and Whiskey Gulch, once populous gold mining centers but long since deserted except for a handful of inhabitant and a few ramshackle buildings.

These sleeping hamlets may suddenly spring to life again, however, for if Urban Renewal can come to Wink, Texas, why can't it come to Rough and Ready, California?

Wink is located in the West Texas county of Winkler, an 887-square mile area with a total population of only 13,662. Wink itself has just 1863 souls, although in the late 20's, following discovery of oil fields in the area, it had a brief, prosperous fling and reportedly reached a population zenith

of 20,000. Years ago, however, the oil fields largely played out, the boom folded, rows of unused buildings fell to the ground, and tumbleweeds took over the gardens.

For some time people who stayed on in Wink have sought ways to rehabilitate the town. They tried to attract industry but without success because of the lack of an adequate water supply. Then someone hit upon the idea of asking Uncle Sam for help, and they were successful beyond their wildest dreams.

The Urban Renewal Administration, apparently unconcerned about minor matters such as industrial water supply, has made Wink an outright grant of \$891,868 and is lending it, at low interest, \$1,034,758.

With this nearly two million dollars provided by the nation's taxpayers, half of Wink's structures will be torn down, hopefully to be

replaced by new homes and stores, street and sewer facilities will be built, and a 24-unit public housing project will be constructed.

Wink's rehabilitation is costing \$1034 per resident. At that ratio, it would cost \$14,338,444 to rehabilitate Torrance.

In contrast to Wink, the little Texas town of Italy, badly damaged by a tornado a few months ago, decided to reject offers of federal disaster relief to help it rebuild. They said they'd rather handle the problem themselves.

In declining the offer, the editor of Italy's newspaper wired his Congressman: "City Council authorizes me to thank you for offer of federal disaster funds. We feel the federal treasury is in worse shape than Italy and suggest that any allocation set up for Italy be applied to the national debt."

Obviously, it wasn't so applied. The greenbacks were shipped off to Wink instead.

Out of the Past

From the Files of the HERALD

30 Years Ago

"Beware the black widow" a front page article in the Aug. 27, 1931, issue of The HERALD warned.

Mail carriers in Torrance reported to Postmaster Alfred Gourdier that they had found several spiders in mail boxes they claim are the deadly poisonous black widow variety. The mailmen have told Gourdier the spiders bear on their backs the tell-tale red spot which identifies them as the feared insect.

Hereafter no salary, other than ordinary volunteer firemen's compensation will be paid a volunteer fire chief in Torrance.

"There are three regular paid men on the department who are qualified 24 hours a day to take care of the volun-

teer fire chief's duties, it was pointed out by Councilman G. A. R. Stienen in a resolution eliminating the salary and passed by the city council.

Mrs. P. T. Cadman, a sister of Mayor Anton J. Cermak of Chicago, was a recent visitor in Torrance. During a three-day stay she stopped at the Plaza Hotel. Efforts to learn the identity of Mrs. Cadman's local acquaintances were fruitless.

Twenty-two Boy Scouts, members of Troop 4, sponsored by the Torrance Kiwanis club, were gypsying down through Southern California and across the border into Mexico. Scoutmaster Frank Steinhilber assisted by Harwood Clark conducted the trip.

The State Board of Health adjourned a meeting in Los Angeles during the week after hearing almost universal assent to a proposal to close beaches in this area due to sewage contamination. It was suggested that the county undertake a program of building sewage treatment plants to supplant the practice of discharging raw sewage at various outlets into the ocean.

Declaring oil sump holes constitute a "terrible hazard" not only to humans but to animals, Mrs. Bernice Davidson, secretary of the South Bay Humane Society, urged the city council to abolish these eyesores. Every week, she reported, the society is called upon to rescue and treat animals, even horses and

cows, that have become mired in the sumps.

The mayor of Redondo Beach voiced his opinion during the week about the recent council action denying the Torrance Chamber of Commerce its annual subsidy.

Mayor Isaac Hawkins wrote the council on Tuesday night that he regretted the "abandonment" of the Torrance Chamber and said he preferred that the city should continue with the civic organization as it had in the past.

Protesting the easement granted the Southern California Edison Co. for installation of power poles in their district on the grounds they purchased homesteads with the understanding all wiring was to be underground, 46 Hollywood Riviera residents petitioned the Huntington Land Co. against such above ground improvement.

Gains and Brains

When, in life's experience, one door closes, another opens. There is probably not a day when that does not happen, but we often look so long and regretfully upon the closed door that we do not see the one which has just opened for us. Defeat is part of life's discipline. To play symphony you must use the black notes as well as the white ones.

AFTER HOURS By John Morley

Mood for Happier Living Found in Mexican Resort

ENSENADA, Mexico . . . Our readers will recognize a temporary departure from our preoccupation with the affairs of the world to a diversion that may suggest a mood for happier living.

For in the process of living through one crisis or another, we have to live with ourselves. A good deal of what happens around us . . . pleasant or unpleasant . . . is often a reflection of our own moods. What we think of anything is what it is to us. And happiness is often more our state of mind than anything else.

It is easier here in the beautiful Bahia Resort hotel in Ensenada's Bay of Todos Santos to reflect on the search for a happier life . . . away from telephones, telegrams, cables, and the heavy mail which sets the pace for most of us whose words are constantly exposed to the critique of public perusal.

It is not necessary to be somewhere else to find inroads to a happier life . . . except that reflection is easier around natural beauty of mountains and sea, when the mind and spirit are in temporary respite from constant preoccupation with the tensions of the world.

No one ever plans to be unhappy. That's for sure. Barring sickness, accidents, shock, misfortune . . . unhappiness is unwittingly self-inflicted. Lack of self-discipline, unhealthy or unwise habits and indulgences, extravagance . . . and the pursuit of the pack and social status . . . are the roots of much misery.

No one worth his salt wants to sleep in the bottom of a boat, letting the shifting

winds of luck and chance chart his course. But many people do just that. We may not all be masters of our fate . . . but barring emergencies and hard luck, most of us are endowed with a brain capable of choice and some skill to guide it. Since we cannot control the wind, or the elements, or our luck, we have the alternative of guiding our course by the stars, by our will and by muscle.

Free-men have free-choice . . . and choice is the most important ingredient toward a happier life. It applies equally to the young graduating school, or to the young at heart graduating from humdrum existence.

The key to a happier life involves making the right choices. The choices we must make during the hours we are awake and the consideration we give to the hours for sleep and rest. Sleep charges our battery. We need a fully charged battery for a clear head and mind to induce a happier day. This is fundamental and vital . . . just as the endless succession of hour-by-hour decisions, important or unimportant, that must be made by each of us.

When we choose, for instance, to relax in front of TV, we reject reading or roaming in a park or beach. If TV is best for our happiness, fine . . . but it is wise to compare it with something else every now and then just to be sure. If our social life calls for a lot of parties, we sacrifice sleep and the recharge of our battery. You cannot expect to have an alert enthusiastic brain with a half-charged battery.

When we spend ten dollars for anything, we reject all else that ten dollars will

buy. Unless we have an unlimited number of ten-dollar bills, it is wise to watch our step, for people who are loaded with tens can influence us into trouble. So it is not just a matter of choosing something, but in choosing the thing which is tailor-made for us and for our peace of mind, regardless of the pack.

To do this takes self-analysis, self-discipline . . . strong back to fight off the clowns living on a merry-go-round of self-deception. Happiness is not built on things we have or covet, or pleasure we indulge in, but in how we control and use time in relation to value received.

Much unhappiness is caused by not knowing what we really want, rather than by choosing unwisely.

For most of us health, work, love, friendship, achievement and the pursuit of an ideal constitute happiness. Real happiness means realizing all of these in a measure as a whole, not separately.

We must think of happiness in the whole-person, not in separate parts. Happiness involves the whole-man . . . not just the eyes, or the ears, or the palate . . . but the mind and the soul and the heart, in relation to true values.

Happiness is in limiting our desires, rather than in trying to always satisfy them. It is in feeling absolutely "comfortable" in the whole environment of our thoughts and action on any given matter or decision.

Happiness is having something extra in the heart rather than in the hand . . . (To be continued.)

SIGHT AND SOUND by Ernest Kreiling

We Say One Thing, Do Another With TV Dials

(Fifth in a Series)

The great American audience is a fickle, if not devious, maiden for the broadcast savior to woo. We are indeed a curious group which can't always be taken at its words when it comes to watching the kind of television programs we say we want.

The most implacable assaults on the trite and trivial of television generally flow in strident tones from the socially and culturally elite.

At least one survey, however, gives us pause to ponder their knowledge of what they attack, if not their candor.

Although this survey was done a few years ago with regard to radio listening, its implications seem equally valid for television today.

A group of 100 people composed equally of college professors, high school teachers, and members of wealthy families were queried about their radio preferences.

The first part of the findings revealed the expected, namely that they both preferred and wanted more news, semi-classical music, quiz programs, discussions, and classical music.

But when they were asked to name some of those programs then on the air and available to them, more than half were unable to name a single program. One sixth of the group could name only one such program.

But that wasn't all. They were then given a list of 24 programs high in intellectual appeal and asked to check whether they listened to them often, sometimes, or seldom.

Four of the programs were entirely fictitious, although dressed up in titles that sounded appealing to those who felt they should identify themselves with cultural fare.

Interestingly enough, 27 of the 100 people checked those four non-existent programs 132 times.

So the sophisticated critics of radio were found not only

to be largely unacquainted with the "quality" programs on the air, but they cast some doubt on their own candor about their listening habits.

No, this wasn't a broadcaster's survey, but a University project done in Waco, Tex.

More recently in Milwaukee, a survey revealed that 44 per cent of the people questioned said they wanted to see more discussions of serious subjects on television. But only four per cent of the same group listed the discussion of serious topics as the type of program that "best served their needs."

This same idea is further confirmed by the ratings which continue to show small audiences for the type of programs many people say they want.

In June a splendid "CBS Reports" featuring Walter

Lippman attracted viewers to only 6.6 of the sets in use at the time, while "The Untouchables" and "Groucho Marx" shared 76 per cent of the viewers.

So it's apparently a matter of, "Let's have more culture for those who need it; as for me, I'll take 'Pete and Gladys'."

The great challenge posed to broadcasters recently has been to use more imagination and to be fearless to experiment with new ideas and new approaches to television. But there's some evidence to indicate that the viewing public is hypnotized by the predictable and the pedestrian, and that we're reluctant to look at some of the best that's available.

This kind of evidence makes it a little hard to refute the broadcasters who claim we're getting what we want.

Could they be right?

During This Week

Aug. 27, 1894 — A federal income tax law was passed as part of the tariff act, but was later declared unconstitutional. The first federal income tax, passed July 1, 1862, had been retracted in 1872, along with other war taxes. It had been a progressive tax based upon income.

Aug. 28, 1798 — Kentuckian John Dufour gathered grapes in his vineyard, 25 miles from Lexington. Dufour's 630-acre tract was the first successful commercial vineyard in the world.

Aug. 29, 1809 — Oliver Wendell Holmes was born at Cambridge, Mass. When the government decided to destroy the frigate Constitution because it was unseaworthy, Holmes' poem, "Old Ironsides," aroused such intense sentiment that the ship was saved and repaired, to become an honored relic in the Boston Navy Yard.

Aug. 30, 1842 — A tariff act

was passed to prevent importation of obscene literature and pictures. Senders were liable to heavy fines or imprisonments, or both.

Aug. 31, 1842 — Congress authorized the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery of the U.S. Navy. Dr. William Barton, Philadelphia, was named Chief Surgeon and organized the department.

Sept. 1, 1513 — Vasco Nunez Balboa, commanding 190 Spanish soldiers and 1000 natives, sailed from Antiqua (Guatemala) on the voyage during which he discovered the Pacific. On Sept. 25, he sighted the ocean. Magellan named it seven years later.

Sept. 2, 9 A.D. — One of history's most important battles took place. Hermann Arminius, German leader, who had been trained in Roman military service, led his countrymen to victory over Uarus, Roman governor of the Germanic province.