

Torrance Herald

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This Week's Motto:

The trouble with most rugged individuals is that they're too smooth.

Keeping the Pledge

The State Board of Education lost no time here Thursday in reaffirming its standing requirement that the pledge of allegiance be part of the daily schedule in all public elementary and secondary schools and junior colleges.

The fast action of the group on this matter set at rest the fears of many that this vital daily reminder of our obligations to our flag might be discarded for other patriotic observances in light of new state laws which do not make the pledge mandatory.

Board president Thomas Braden of Oceanside expressed the sentiments of many when he said, "To me, it is distasteful to discuss changing our regulation . . . I am sure no board member would want to see us change it."

His colleagues quickly backed his statement with their votes, for which we are, indeed, thankful.

The Push-Button Age

Class will now come to order. Take notes if you like. With the near-completion of the new traffic signal installations through much of the city, a note of instruction is in order, according to Jim Whitmer, the city's traffic engineer.

Lesson for today: The green "Walk" light comes on only when you push the button on the corner post.

It's that simple. If you're like some others (who won't be named here), you've stood on the corner of, say, Arlington and Torrance Boulevard waiting for the walk signal only to watch a couple of cycles of the green traffic light pass without a "Walk" light flashing.

Just push the button, Jim says. That's all there is to it.

Class dismissed.

A Tragic Reminder

The tragedy of a small boy tumbling from a bridge crossing Dominguez Channel in North Torrance has stirred residents in areas near the channel into seeking protective measures which would preclude another such mishap.

The County Flood Control District, which denied jurisdiction over the channel, has handed the problem back to the city.

This week's tragic death must stand also as a reminder to parents that such facilities are a natural attraction for children. Since the death of the lad, a number of people have called the HERALD to report that they had seen children playing on the bridge and were fearful at the time that one might drop to the concrete bed of the flood control channel.

The HERALD urges serious consideration of suitable safety additions to the structure, and at the same time reminds parents that the bridge is not a "jungle gym," and asks that their children be instructed accordingly.

Opinions of Others

"Today's prices prove that the best time to buy anything is a year ago." — S. E. Mekeel, Ovid (N.Y.) Gazette and Independent.

"If you criticize the wealthy these days, you may be accused of being anti-labor." — Roderick I. Chalmers, Minneapolis (Minn.) Argus.

"While you're telling your son about the birds and bees, he's probably thinking about the cars and the keys." — John C. Porter, Rexburg (Ida.) Journal.

"A real salesperson is a fellow who can sell American transistor radios in Japan." — Kenny Bennett, Greencastle (Ind.) Graphic.

"Federal aid to education should start with teaching arithmetic in Washington." — Alvin E. Ericson, Bonuel (Wis.) Times.

"Sound is stuff that is slower than a jet." — Fred W. Grown, Edgewater (N.J.) Bergen Citizen.

Morning Report:

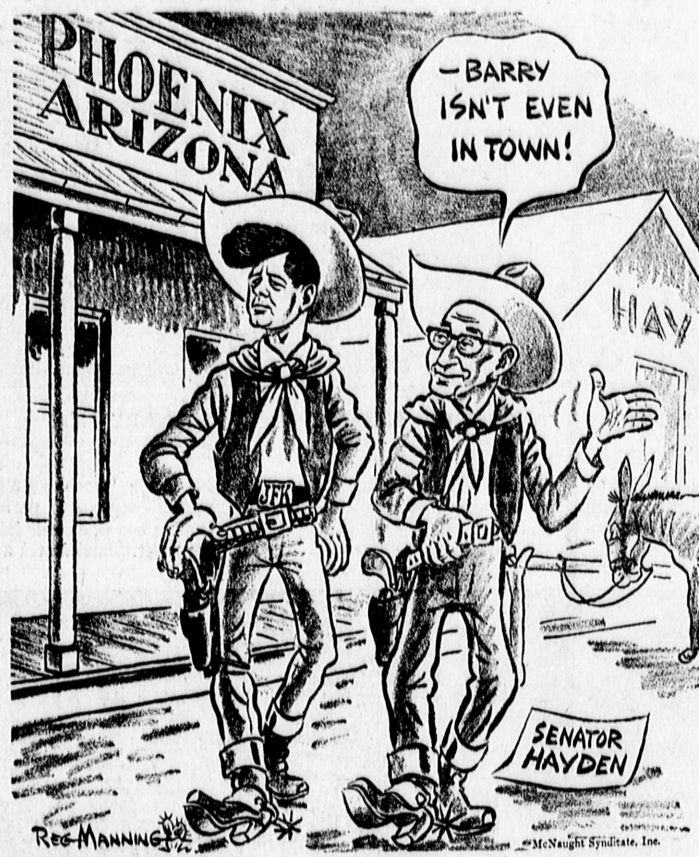
Trapping speeding motorists with radar is old hat. And to this is now added a special kind of radar to pick up night-time burglars in warehouses and banks.

The new gadget is said to be jam-proof. But that's what they said at first about the roadside radar too. I'm sure with the rising level of scientific education in our schools, some smart burglar will find a way to fool this new radar.

It's no use fighting scientists. We must join them. Because the day may come when a burglar without a degree in engineering will be as helpless as a driver without his own jamming device.

Abe Mellinkoff

Relax, Jack—



THIS WILD WEST by Lucius Beebe

Gentlemen's Sentiment: 'Won't Shoot No Horses'

It is no secret among well-informed publicists, and people whose business it is to know about what pass for trends in the general awareness, that there is a substantial segment of American public opinion that feels that Russian aggression has long since passed the bounds of possible containment and that the preventive war, whose very mention roused such anguished screams and holy denials only a few years back, is very much under consideration again in state circles.

This is a school of thought that argues that the continual and ever-mounting spiral of crises invoked by the Communist world, the total treachery of their leaders and the resulting off-balance state of the world's economy must end in eventual war, and that perhaps time would be on our side if this ultimate contingency were faced up to right now.

They foresee an accelerated decline in Western economic and military potential, a ruinous rise in taxation, and the ever-present possibility of surprise attack with undisclosed weapons by an enemy whose economy is geared to total warfare all the time and where nobody's private feelings in matters of life and death are even considered.

That the temper of American opinion is a good deal more aggressive than that of the Administration at Washington and more reconciled to the possibly fatal eventualities of war is evident from conversations, letters to the editor, opinion polls and a variety of other indexes. Despite the silly rash of fallout shelters, American opinion is veering from the belief, almost universally held until recently, that absolute annihilation for everybody will result within half an hour of the commencement of hostilities.

The campaign of intimidation waged by Russia and the terror press in this country has resulted in a reaction in the opposite direction of active resentment against being pushed around by a boorish foreign peasant. There is also an increasingly articulate body of opinion similar to that of the intelligent and influential Dallas Morning News, which is of the mind that Mr. Kennedy is a very weak sister indeed where we need a strong man on horseback.

And finally there is the ever-widening belief, despite Drew Pearson's fireside chats to the contrary, that Mr. Khrushchev, even though he once possessed some measure of balance, is rapidly losing his marbles.

His essential fraudulence

has become universally recognized and with it the fact that his truculence is purest Hitler.

Probably most Americans are not familiar with the Duke of Wellington's appraisal of Napoleon, but it will bear quoting: "Bonaparte's whole life," said the Duke, "civil, political and military, was a fraud. There was not a transaction, great or small, in which lying was not introduced . . . His foreign policy was force and menace, aided by fraud and corruption. If the fraud was discovered, force and menace succeeded . . . The habit of Napoleon has been to astonish and deceive mankind and he came last to deceive himself."

Mr. Khrushchev has finally achieved the stage of deceiving himself. The widely hailed "peasant cunning," which was supposed somehow to guide him through all perils to himself and everybody else, has been corrupted, as absolute power corrupts everyone who ever achieves it, until he believes that his destiny rides the whirlwind and that the tides of history have set in his favor. "He came at last to deceive himself."

Self-deception and limitless power have been the combination which has brought to humanity every ill and mischance of history. They

gather and multiply today in the Communist philosophy.

In a recent letter to the Monterey Peninsula Herald, the venerable Samuel F. B. Morse, patriarch of Pebble Beach, has suggested what a real many Americans feel would be justified in the policy of Washington which is purely and simply to break off all negotiations with Russia at every level and let the Kremlin know that, if it wants war, the West will do its part toward making it mutual.

"We might add," said Mr. Morse, "that if atomic warfare isn't sufficient, it is possible to use a type of gas that will crawl down into every crevice and possible ventilating area on the face of the earth and into the deepest mines, so that it may completely eliminate all animal life from the face of the earth and nothing will be left to applaud the blessings of communism."

The melancholy inclusion of "all animal life" will give pause to many intelligent people who would view a drastic curtailment of humanity as an unmitigated boom, but hesitate to assume the moral risk implicit in eliminating other and far more admirable forms of animal life. A universe without people may be viewed with "complacency," even admiration, but one without

ROYCE BRIER

On the Office Stature Of President Kennedy

Last January 21 the cover of The Economist of London bore a picture of J. F. Kennedy with the caption, "Great Expectations."

Months later many British and American publicists are saying the great expectations have not been met, and some of the criticism is in his own party.

Carl Sandburg, the poet, visited Mr. Kennedy and came away saying he may be a great President. Mr. Sandburg has spent a great deal of his life in Lincoln biographical lore.

Without necessarily comparing the two men in character and outlook, one may suggest that more than any other two presidents they were, and are in office under comparable situations, a strained crisis involving the survival or destruction of the nation.

On the Lincoln record there is doubt if a president can

be judged after 10 months in office. Many, not all, presidents have grown with the job, and none grew more than did Lincoln. Mr. Kennedy's critics say his promise of firm decision has not been fulfilled, that issues are filtered through too many advisors, and that he talks rather than acts.

This was also charged to Lincoln, and his first year almost bore it out. To this day his maneuvers over Sumter is not clear, though there is some evidence he tricked the Confederates into the first shot.

The total debacle at Bull Run, July, 1861, was largely due to Lincoln's failure to resist hysterical pressure, which threw an untrained, disorganized army into Virginia in an "On to Richmond!" decision. The California hero, John Charles Fremont, was a wash-out, and should never have been appointed to the western command in St. Louis.

AFTER HOURS By John Morley

Some Things I Believe

- The more I travel and see the world for what it is, the more I am convinced that the United States is the only country I know deliberately founded on a good idea.
- The only power which can permanently resist fear . . . is the power of love. If this be true, then the only power which can resist the fear of communism is the love of country.
- Speaking as I do across the nation and facing thousands in my conventions, colleges, clubs, I see the urgent need for a "concentration camp" for rumor mongers, alarmists, crepe-hangers and fear-infesting politicians.
- Perhaps only one in ten thousand understands the Berlin situation . . . but we meet him ten times a day.
- If we don't pay close attention to the changes around the world, we'll wake up and find that the changes will include Washington.

- So-called reluctant politicians are hypocrites. There is no such thing as a reluctant leader. A real leader must really want the job. If you have to climb a ladder to reach him and then coax him, he is not your man and should be dropped like a hot potato.
- People who appear uncooperative are not really against you . . . but for themselves.
- On every trip to Washington I see or hear evidence that President Kennedy believes only what Democrats tell him . . . or only those who concur with his ideas.

- Losing your faith usually ends up by finding wrong answers.
- It's the height of stupidity to be positive about ideas. Every antiquated idea was once positive, fresh and modern. Every fresh and modern idea today will be passe in time.
- Ideologically speaking, there are two kinds of people in the world who know what they are really after . . . the fanatical Christian or believer, and the fanatical Communist.
- I can recall the wonderful days when we counted our blessings instead of our calories.

- If you can't be grateful for

benevolent animals is unthinkable.

The story is told in military circles of a young Canadian recruit with a farming background who was ordered into action against a force of Italians who, at that stage of things, in World War II, were still using cavalry for reconnaissance. Ordered to take part in an ambush to surprise and destroy a cavalry outpost, the man complained to his officer, "I'll shoot all the foreigners you can show me, sir, but I won't shoot no horses."

Farmer or no, it was the sentiment of a gentleman.

what you've got . . . be grateful for what you haven't got.

• To stew about your enemies is to forget that you made them.

• Everybody needs a good rival or two to keep the rust out.

• Karl Marx was a flagrant faker. He pretended happiness for the proletariat . . . while his main goal was hatred for the bourgeoisie.

• You can't fool all the people all the time . . . as some of them are also busy fooling you.

• The fellow who appears nonchalant in the face of trouble is either rich, or amply covered by insurance.

• A committee is a group of people who singly were unable to do anything, but together after long deliberation agree that nothing can be done.

• People I seldom see have been sending me cards from abroad wishing I was with them.

• Much of what we do is not influenced by our experience, but by our expectations.

• In dealing with your fellow men . . . all religions offer the same advice . . . here it is: Christianity . . . Matthew 7:12 . . . All things whatsoever ye would that men should do unto you, do ye even so to them.

Judaism . . . Talmud Shabbat 31A . . . What is hateful to you, do not to your fellow men.

Buddhism . . . Udanavarga 5:18 . . . Hurt not others in ways that you yourself would find hurtful.

Islam . . . Sunan . . . No one of you is a believer until he desires for his brother that which he desires for himself.

Brahminism . . . Mahabharata 5:15:17 . . . Do naught unto others which would cause you pain if done to you.

Confucianism . . . Analects 15:23 . . . Do not unto others what you would not have them do unto you.

Taoism . . . T'ai-Shang Kan-Ying Pien . . . Regard your neighbors gain as your own gain . . . and your neighbor's loss as your own loss.

Hoppe in Wonderland

Please Don't Cry in the Bier

By ART HOPPE

It's a well-known fact that you can't patiently negotiate with the Russians because they're shifty. I can prove it personally.

The whole thing started when the Communists decided to toss Mr. Stalin out of Mr. Lenin's tomb. Our experts, who are known as "Kremlinologists," filed long stories from Moscow saying Mr. Stalin now posed a terrible problem for the Communists: What were they going to do with him?

Our experts said Mr. Khrushchev couldn't very well chuck Mr. Stalin into a single tomb some place. Because the Russians would all be making pilgrimages to it. In order to cry in his bier. That being the way Russians are. And Mr. Khrushchev couldn't just — well — throw Mr. Stalin away. How would it look?

So I got this great idea for a sort of cultural exchange program. I got it from a friend who'd received a letter from his mother in Culpeper, Va.

She wrote: "It's an outrage! This man was personally responsible for the deaths of thousands of his countrymen. His vices were well known. He surrounded himself with a clique of corrupt power seekers. And yet he still lies secure in his monumental tomb. It's a disgrace!"

So I asked my friend how come his mother was down in Culpeper had an advance tip on this Stalin thing? "Stalin?" he said. "She means General Grant."

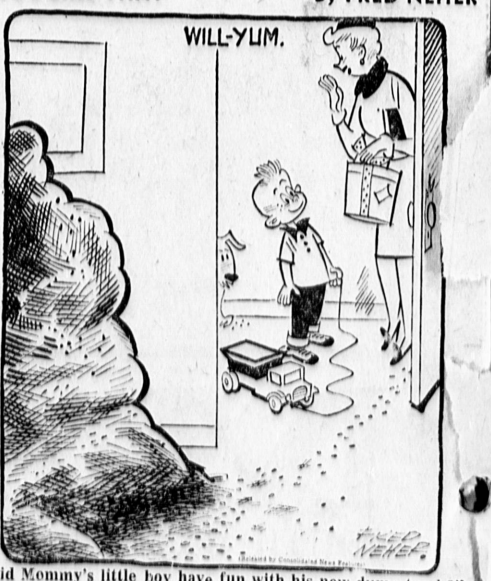
And it's sort of true. There Mr. Grant was, a real national hero. So we built him a great big Grant's Tomb. Then the historians went to work on him. And it turns out he was kind of a rum-bum and a crummy President. At best. And I doubt if anybody'd much care these days if we tossed Mr. Grant out of Grant's Tomb. (Except maybe Mr. Groucho Marx.) Which shows that a democratic society changes its mind about its heroes, too. It just takes longer.

Anyway, I'd always felt that you could negotiate patiently with the shifty Russians if you sought an agreement that was mutually beneficial. And here, clearly, was an exchange program that would be mutually beneficial: we'd each get rid of an embarrassing national hero in return for a certified tourist attraction.

But before I could get into print with this grand idea, the Kremlin doublecrossed me and our Kremlinologists. They sneakily stuffed Mr. St. Jin into a hole in the ground. Right in the Kremlin. And there went another opportunity to ease Cold War tensions. So you can't negotiate patiently with the shifty Russians. You've got to be quick about it. And, with the way things're going, that's not a bad idea either.

LIFE'S LIKE THAT

By FRED NEHER



"Did Mommy's little boy have fun with his new dump truck?"