

# Torrance Herald

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REID L. BUNDY - Managing Editor

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## The American Race

In the United States, we are all given an equal position on the starting line, Mayor George Christopher told a Torrance audience Thursday.

There are no guarantees that all will be together at the end, however, he emphasized.

His comparison of the opportunities in America to a footrace is at odds with much of the political philosophy of the day which would place the stress on equality at the end of the race, not the beginning.

Outlining his own background, as an emphasis on the role of opportunity, Christopher told a gathering of backers here that his father came to the United States from Greece because of opportunities. He worked on railroads, farms, and at other menial tasks across the country before reaching Sacramento. There he saved his money, bought a peanut cart, and sold hot peanuts in front of the State Capitol.

"I hope before long his son will be inside the Capitol," Christopher said, and in this nation, where an even start is guaranteed by a Constitution which proclaims that all men are born equal, Mr. Christopher could make the move in one generation from a peanut cart in front of the executive mansion to a desk inside.

He already has pushed himself through night school after being forced to drop his regular schooling at 15. For nine years, he went to school "every night for the year," and has had a successful career as an accountant and businessman.

Mr. Christopher's allusion to a race is exemplified in his own case—all he asked for was an opportunity, and he is running the race far ahead of many of his contemporaries who started even and had greater opportunities along the way.

To place an artificial leveling agent at the end of the race would dampen the development of such able men as Mayor Christopher, and would thus reduce greatly the quality of American leadership.

We can ill afford it.

## Opinions of Others

Nowadays many young folks make a living by working their parents and their parents make a living by working the government. — *Aztec (N.M.) Independent-Review.*

Tocqueville suggested three essentials for a successful republic: religion (a church separate from state and faith that teaches morality and respect for law and order); experience and practice in self-control; decentralization of government, with an indirect election of important officers and a representative democracy only. All three essentials are in danger in the push for equalitarian and paternalistic movement. — *Newton (Miss.) Record.*

We forget who said this, but we like it: "Doing business without advertising is like winking at a girl in the dark. You know what you are doing, but nobody else does." — *Toppenish (Wash.) Review.*

Of the many fine words whose meaning has been perverted by the political stresses of our times, surely one of the most abused is "temporary," especially in the field of public finance. When it comes to taxes, most of us have become calloused to this misuse. We have "temporary" taxes dating back to World War II and beyond, and few are naive enough to believe that any relief from them is in the offing. — *Bedford (Va.) Bulletin-Democrat.*

The family is the very foundation stone upon which free societies such as ours are built. . . . That most Americans so believe is shown by their generous support of those institutions that help keep the family strong. One such institution, which has been a part of our lives for 81 years, is the American Red Cross. — *Huntington (Ind.) News.*

## Out of the Past

From the Pages of the HERALD

### 40 Years Ago

The reorganization meeting of the Chamber of Commerce brought the announcement that the \$11,000 budget had been reached. More than 100 attended the final campaign committee meeting held in the sales offices of the Dominguez Land Co.

Mr. and Mrs. P. F. Brown had a delightful card party last Saturday night. "500" was played early in the evening and dancig was enjoyed later. Delicious Valentine refreshments were served.

The names of Conway Tearle, Will Rogers, Harry Carey, Billie Dove, and Harold Lloyd figured prominently in motion pictures advertised on Torrance Theater programs. Advertised as a big upcoming attraction was "The Sheik."

Weather permitting, the boys of the McKinley Home were to be guests of Tor-

rance organizations at a movie party. Torrance residents were to provide transportation for the lads.

### 30 Years Ago

More than 100 representative citizens of Torrance attended the meeting held in the Guild Hall of Central Evangelical Lutheran Church Tuesday to hear and take part in a discussion of the proposed city charter. Judge C. T. Rippey presided at the meeting where details on the advantages of a city charter were emphasized.

That portion of the McDonald Tract adjoining the Moneta school wants to secede from Torrance, according to J. F. O'Haver, who headed a delegation from the Gardena Chamber of Commerce. Proponents of the idea maintained that the impending city charter election in Torrance was delaying work in the tract.

Rainfall total for the year in 1932 was about equal to that already recorded in Torrance. A community-wide observance of the 220th anniversary of the birth of George Washington was scheduled.

### 20 Years Ago

One Torrance mother knows what it's like to duck enemy shells. She is Mrs. Blanche Barnard, wife of Dan Barnard Jr., who returned home with her daughter, Betty Lee, this week from Pago Pago, American Samoa. That South Sea island port, about the size of Torrance, was shelled by Jap war vessels Jan. 11.

Installation of 10 air raid warning horns in the southwestern section of Los Angeles county was completed over the weekend by county electricians and pipelitters and today work was under way in the Florence district.

## That City Girl



I WONDER IF HE'S LOSING INTEREST IN ME?

## ROYCE BRIER

# Automation'll Get You, If You Don't Watch Out

In this century the far-out writers have been grinding out yarns about a fairly remote future where everybody sits around with a pitcher of martinis, while machines do all the work.

This problem, with its touch of terror, arose about 100 years ago, but not for writers. The guys who were worried about it were farm hands, who saw the reaper cut them out of jobs in the fields.

Later the automobile was hurting the livery stables, and the adding machine, the bank clerk.

But a few decades since, the real computers arrived, and with them a science called cybernetics. These electronic monsters mushroomed out of mere computing and into do-work fields, such as operating lathes, even carrying out administrative tasks. The nightmare of an unmanned factory loomed, about to overtake the far-out writers.

Who worried about this were the skilled workers, backbone of the American technological system. They organized to fight it, but it was like fighting a forest fire with a garden hose. Economists and sociologists too: alarm.

An organization founded by the Fund for the Republic

has just issued a report: "Cybernation: the Silent Conquest."

This report simply says that automation has a better chance of overthrowing the capitalistic system than has Comrade Khrushchev (the corollary is of course that the Comrade also must bow to automation, which might destroy the Marxist theory of production, and so the Communist political system).

Anyway, the report notes the unremitting rise of the automatic process in our society. As we have not seen technology reverse itself, the decline of the bank teller, the salesman and the clerk is on the way. But electronics may also take over the work

of the managerial segment of society.

In the past century the ills of the machine went unfulfilled. Each new machine hurt classes of people, beggaring some, but all the machines together made new and unforeseen jobs, immensely increased the production and well being of the whole society.

But automation is in a new dimension. A computer or feedback system is more voracious than ever was a reaper or internal combustion engine. Will our factories have no more vast car parks? Will machines occupy a couple of floors of a skyscraper, and the rest stand empty? Even the experts don't know, but they don't hesitate to warn you.

## From the Mailbox

By Our Readers

Editor, Torrance Herald

This is a crime prevention week letter with some comments on crime and crime prevention.

J. Edgar Hoover of the FBI says that crime costs us taxpayers \$56 million a day in the United States of America. Also "The cost of crime cannot be measured in monetary losses alone. The tragic waste of young lives to crime is a sad commentary on American society, and each year reflects an increase in the number of youths who are turning to crime."

The late Will Rogers used to say, "all I know is what I read in the papers." I consider myself an authority on ways to reduce the amount of crime and the billions of dollars a year crime costs the taxpayer. All I know about how to reduce the amount of crime is what I read in the Bible, and my personal observation of real Biblical law enforcement and the panty-waist, collegiate, sociologist, psychologist, penologist, do-gooder, pampering of convicted criminals as exists in California at a cost of many millions of dollars a year to the taxpayers.

I HAVE LIVED and worked in three "deep South" chain-gang states and in several Northern and Western states.

Forty years ago, and to some extent today in several Southern chain-gang states, there was a saying "the shortest sentence in the Bible is, 'Jesus Wept,'" and the shortest sentence in police court is "thirty days." (Thirty days in the chain gang

doing public work with a pick and shovel, digging drainage ditches, rock quarry work for road construction, etc.).

These 30-day, chain-gang sentences were for such "crimes" as public drunkenness, vagrancy, disorderly conduct, vandalism, malicious mischief, trespass on private property. A sentence for petty theft would be anywhere from three months; to a glary one to ten years, and robbery ten to thirty years.

After doing one sentence in a Southern chain gang, the criminal would do one of three things: either go straight, or go north, or go west where he would be treated with more consideration by the panty-waist, collegiate, do-gooder law enforcement authorities than by the self-supporting taxpayer.

CALIFORNIA has become the "Promised Land" for thousands of chain-gang state criminals who still believe they can make crime pay, and for thousands from the cold northern states who want to enjoy the mild California climate either outside or inside our panty-waist prisons where they live in idleness with good food and medical care at the taxpayers' expense—just a sort of "house arrest" in a comfortable hotel-prison.

"The way of the criminal should be hard," the Old Testament tells us. The Bible also tells of sins of omission . . . most California taxpayers are committing sins of omission by not endeavoring, by both voice and vote,

## A Bookman's Notebook

# Lively Historical Notes Gathered on Sierra Lore

William Hogan

"If God should dispatch a rail-car train to the city of Placerville to convey passengers direct to heaven, the conductor might whistle till the setting of the sun and not get a single passenger." So charged the Rev. William Taylor, who took to the hills in the early 1850s to survey the moral condition, intemperance, profanity and Sabbath-breaking of the miners. He found that heaven had no attraction for the likes of them.

In anecdote after anecdote W. Storrs Lee punctuates his lively historical scrapbook, "The Sierra." As much as anything, this is an amusing and dramatic social history of the range. There is some geology and a little anthropology sprinkled in. Storm, earthquake and fire rumble down the granite walls and canyons. There is grizzly bear; there are practical jokes; there are lightning slides which became the pride of the mountain lumbering industry.

You might label W. Storrs Lee a popularizer of the Sierra and her legends. His text has a pleasant, old-fashioned unpretentious bounce to it. I should think that young people especially might take to this book and strongly recommend it to, among others, teen-aged audiences.

Actually there is little new here, from the Gold Rush to the present fight for conservation. The veteran reader of California lore no doubt has heard all this before. Yet such a magnificent story can stand many approaches, and the present book is vastly readable and entertaining, no question about that.

The author has dramatized other American regions in such books as "The Green Mountains of Vermont" and a rundown on the building of the Panama Canal, "The Strength to Move a Mountain." "The Sierra" seems to me the best of these, possibly because the author had such a wealth of raw material to draw on.

Excellent illustrations by Edward Sanborn complement the text.

Do not be misled by the forbidding title "Arizona Territory: Post Offices and Post-

masters," by John and Lillian Theobald (Arizona Historical Foundation; \$3 paperback). Our Western man, W. H. Hutchinson, writes that if it were only this, it would commend itself solely to addicts in the more esoteric aspects of Western Americana. Using post offices and postmasters as their guide, the authors have studied their work with historical facts on Western mail transportation, personalities and problems. These are rare strands in the Western fabric that Hutchinson feels enriches the whole field.

NOTES ON THE MARGIN . . . John W. Gardner, president of the Carnegie Corporation, is the editor of "To Turn the Tide," a book that presents the goals, foreign and domestic, of President Kennedy's first legislative year. These are revealed in Mr. Kennedy's statements and addresses from his election through the 1961 adjournment of Congress. Foreword by Carl Sandburg and a special introduction by the President (Harper; \$3.95).

The Sierra. By W. Storrs Lee. Putnam's; 344 pp.; illus.; \$5.95.

## Around the World With



# DELAPLANE

"Is there some way I can rent an apartment in Rome before I arrive there? Some agency which handles this?"

Write Pat Palmer, Inc., 22 East 67th St., New York City. She specializes in rentals overseas from palaces to pensions. A classified in the Rome Daily American should draw answers. And the American Embassy sometimes has listings.

"What language is best to study if we are to be traveling in Europe for six months? Paris, London, Rome, and Germany.

English is pretty universal. I find the next most usable is French. (Best book to brush up your French is Margaret Madrigal's "Magic Key to French." Companion to her excellent "Magic Key to Spanish.")

" . . . road information on the road into Mexico from Eagle Pass?"

The rule on Mexican road information is this: Ask about every 10 miles as you go. Information seems to be a matter of local knowledge.

Ask at the border. Then ask again as you go. First, write Dan Sanborn's Travel Service, McAllen, Tex. They keep up to date best on Mexican roads. It's free — Sanborn's sells Mexican auto insurance for the money side.

"Going by freighter to Panama with a stop in Guatemala. Which place do we buy presents?"

Any stop in Guatemala is going to be a banana port. They probably sell sugar-cane alcohol and, just maybe, some rough-worked tortoise shell.

The free ports of Panama are the spots, the East Indian shops, Thai silver, Hong Kong carved ivory, French perfume, German cameras — and a complete range of prices made up to suit your looks. So offer half whatever you are asked.

"My niece this summer brought me a box of 'Dutch Likueur Chocolates' from London. I haven't tasted anything so good in 40 years. She has forgotten where she got them and it seemed possible you might know."

I don't. But I guess you would get these at Fortnum & Mason on Piccadilly, London, S. W. 1. Try a letter there. An elegant store.

"You mention the big hotels in Hong Kong but aren't there smaller hotels at better prices?"

Right. Al Kay, the Pan American PRO in Hong Kong, is taken with the Luk Kwok Hotel — the original hotel of Suzie Wong in the Wanchai dock area. Says it's air-conditioned, good, inexpensive rooms, and now has a "cowboy" bar.

Another I've found good and inexpensive is Sunning House on the Hong Kong side.

"A present for a boy of 9 that we can order from overseas . . ."

I just got my godson a two-foot teak model of a Chinese junk from Hong Kong — \$11 including shipping charges. Has a stand, sails, rudder, gangway and makes quite a show.

Stan Delaplaine finds it impossible to answer all of his travel mail.

For his intimate tips on Japan, Italy, England, France, Russia, Hawaii, Mexico, Ireland, and Spain (10 cents each), send coins and stamped, self-addressed, large envelope to the Torrance HERALD, Box RR, Torrance, Calif.

## Morning Report:

Postal rates are going up. Congress listened to the people who send out lots of stuff — direct-mail advertisers, Congressmen, who are a special group of direct-mail advertisers, and publishers.

It seems to me they listened to the wrong people. Postal rates should be set by the people who receive mail, not those who send it.

Monthly bills would then cost at least 50 cents to mail, junk mail would be even higher, and love letters would be carried by mailmen for nothing. In no time at all the Post Office would be making more money than the mint.

Abe Mellinkoff

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