

Torrance Herald

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KING WILLIAMS - GLENN W. PFEIL
REID L. BUNDY - Managing Editor

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Through a Leaky Siphon

One of the immutable laws of bureaucracy is that spending agencies will always find means of maintaining and expanding its expenditures.

In actual practice, all the agencies need is an excuse to spend—however flimsy—and they will move into areas heretofore considered outside their province.

One of the newer ones to come along is the "open space program" of the federal government to be administered through the Urban Renewal Administration. This plan has been brought into being, according to an "American Recreation Journal" report cited by Recreation Director Harry Van Bellehem, "to help curb urban sprawl and prevent the spread of urban blight and deterioration."

Several city officials recently rubbed their hands together in gleeful anticipation of getting some "free" federal money to buy park land in Torrance.

When the matter was broached at the City Council meeting last Tuesday, one of the new members, Ross Sciarrotta, dampened the enthusiasm of some of his colleagues.

"When the federal government gives, the federal government controls," Sciarrotta said. "Remember, the federal government doesn't give anything away without making a provision for collecting it," he said.

We believe Mr. Sciarrotta touched the nerve of the matter of "free" federal money. Torrance, as a relatively prosperous city, can easily afford to acquire its own recreation sites if it doesn't have to ship the money through Washington, D. C. If it is forced to use the leaky siphon of the federal bureaucracy to transfer money from its citizens into its park sites, however, the city probably couldn't afford to put up a decent slippery slide.

Mr. Sciarrotta is right when he says we can do it ourselves, and his stand deserves the support of citizens and officials alike.

Righting a Wrong

The drive to qualify an initiative constitutional amendment for the November ballot which would provide 10 new State Senators, raising the total to 50, has been launched and deserves the consideration of all Californians interested in a state government which is representative of the people.

The new drive, spearheaded by Supervisor Frank G. Bonelli, would add five senators to Los Angeles County and one each to San Diego, Orange, San Francisco, Alameda and Santa Clara counties.

The new proposal, as distinguished from the one tried two years ago, would alter the present alignment of senatorial districts in those areas which have not experienced the tremendous population growths. Elimination of this change in alignment using instead the addition of senatorial representation from the heavily populated areas is, THE HERALD believes, a sound approach to the serious state problem, and is an approach that deserves support.

The claim that a metropolitan area such as Los Angeles can be represented adequately in the Senate by one senator can no longer be sustained. With the powerful representation of rural areas calling most of the shots in the upper house, one senator from Los Angeles County, for example, can expect to get only the scraps his rural colleagues decide to throw his way. And this is no reflection on the ability of any man holding the office—he's terribly outnumbered.

Mr. Bonelli's new move to right an inequitable situation should be supported strongly. Without it, we shall continue to be orphans in the state family.

Out of the Past

From the Pages of the HERALD

40 Years Ago

Weaving an interesting story of Torrance industry into a film to be shown in the manner of the popular Burton Homes travelogue, technicians are at work on the newest promotional effort of the Chamber of Commerce. The picture, to be used in advertising the advantages of Torrance as an industrial city, is being produced under the direction of Secretary Pottenger and the directors of the chamber.

Charter members of Torrance Chapter 380, OES, who are now in office are having their pictures taken so that the photographs may be hung

in the Eastern Room of the lodge quarters. Paul Beall is Worshipful Master.

30 Years Ago

An exhibition aquatic program featuring swimming stars of national repute was held at the Hollywood Riviera Club Sunday afternoon under the direction of Fred Cady, head Olympic swimming coach. Included among the performers were Georgia Coleman, Dorothy Poynton, Buster Crabbe, Michael Riley, "Dutch" Riley and members of the LAAC relay team.

The inaugural meeting of the new City Council was witnessed by a crowded cham-

ber Monday evening. All the accoutrements of a big city affair were provided including a microphone through which the ceremony was carried to a public address system to citizens gathered outside the city hall. The meeting was a genuine love feast.

20 Years Ago

With slacks becoming more and more the accepted feminine attire, the honor of having the first "all-slacked" office force went this week to Selective Service headquarters at 1337 El Prado. Women of office workers at National Supply Co. discussed the slack trend recently but decided they would not adopt the new costume at the present time.

All elementary schools of the area will remain open 12 hours May 4-7 inclusive to register home applicants for sugar rationing books. Schools will conduct classes as usual while the registration is going on. Two of three cars allotted to the Torrance auto and tire rationing board are left.

The Torrance Rotary Club will receive the Community Service Award—an engraved plaque—from Carlos G. Stratton, governor of the local district.

If They Really Split—



James Dorais

California Agriculture Getting Boycott Jitters

California agriculture, which is heavily devoted to the production of specialty crops, is almost completely a self-supporting operation. Unlike most farm states, production of the so-called basic crops is not the main thing in California; consequently, California farmers depend very little on subsidies from the taxpayers.

Ironically, California farmers also apparently can expect little help from the federal government in the forthcoming trade negotiations with European Common Market countries. That was the consensus of agricultural leaders, government and University officials, and businessmen at a recent Fresno meeting of the California Agricultural Congress.

As expressed by Earl Coke, vice president of the Bank of America and former Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, the problem faced by California growers is this: "No other state produces as many 'orphan' crops, crops that could well be sacrificed on the altar of free trade, as does California. While the

politically sensitive crops—those produced nationally in large volume—are likely to be strongly represented in trade negotiations, our California specialty crops could easily be traded for larger national trade objectives."

An extremely disturbing indication of what is in store is revealed in a joint statement of the Dried Fruit Assn. of California and the California Prune Advisory Board on the results of negotiations just concluded at the Geneva Conference under the General Agreements on Tariffs and Trade.

According to the statement, the tariff on California prunes has been doubled in several of the most important export markets of Europe—West Germany, Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands. Under the reciprocal trade program the tariff in

these countries was 8 per cent. It has now been increased at the insistence of France and Italy—both of which produce prunes—to 16 per cent.

The new agreement also will permit Common Market countries to impose additional fees in addition to the fixed tariff when, in their judgment, import prices fall too low, a provision, the statement declares, that "can mean the complete exclusion of certain California farm products, including prunes, from access to Common Market countries."

California produces more than four-fifths of the world's total supply of prunes, of which 40 per cent is exported. If California prunes and other specialty crops are excluded from the European Market, thousands of California growers are headed for economic disaster.

ROYCE BRIER

Big Dreams to Relax Tension

How they dream up things in the State Department you will never know. But some elements in that unwieldy institution must operate like the legend of Madison Avenue—run it up the flagpole and see if the breeze catches it.

As part of the disarmament work in Geneva, the United States and the Soviet Union each has its own ideas about relaxing tension. The Russians, as a preliminary, want an agreement to cease "war propaganda." But naturally they say all this propaganda comes from us.

So it has to be some bright spirits in State who contrived a counter move. Then they handed this package to Arthur H. Dean, our very sober and effective negotiator at Geneva.

It goes like this: we will speak kindly of the Soviet Union if the Soviet Union will kindly "outlaw" all books by Marx, Lenin and Stalin harping on the "inevitability" of war. The rationale for this is that Premier Khrushchev has revised that part of Marx-Lenin-Stalin dealing with inevitability, and is plugging co-existence. Indeed, this is the basis of his schism with Red China, which is sour on co-existence.

Now Marx in the Manifesto

A Bookman's Notebook

Chesty Puller: Living Legend of the Marines

William Hogan

There have been fabulous men in the Marine Corps, but probably none created the stir, in their day, that has always surrounded the cocky rooster, Chesty Puller.

His leadership in combat was daring and indefatigable; his luck at escaping death beyond belief. He lived through more than 100 combats in the Banana wars of Haiti and Nicaragua.

At Guadalcanal, Cape Gloucester and Peleliu he led and lived.

Recalled from postwar obscurity—his Marine superiors found him more irritating than brilliant in peacetime—Puller led the First Marine Regiment ashore at Inchon in Korea.

He served almost 40 years, 27 of them in foreign duty. He won five Navy Crosses, more than any other man. He held more combat decorations than any other Marine.

In "Marine! The Life of Li. er." Burke Davis has written an adulatory biography. Complete it is, including old and new anecdotes concerning his flamboyant behavior and his almost universal contempt for the other branches of the Armed Forces.

If there are surprises in the book, they are his letters to his wife and children. They revealed that, though he was hard as flint in mind and body, he was butter-soft in heart.

Still, these flashes of the personality of this remarkable man are not enough. Chesty Puller needs a lot more explaining, a non-partisan examination. Davis seems incapable of doing this.

For like George Patton, another dashing non-conformist, Chesty was rather clumsy in the china shop politics of strategy, of co-operation. When Chesty spoke and acted while away from the battlefield, the breakage was something awful. And the Marine Corps he so dearly loved suffered for it.

A strict disciplinarian in many ways (and as hard on himself as any other Marine) he ordered his jeep driver to run over an Army Major who blocked his way under proper orders. And for one of his men who fired at a Military Policeman, Puller wrote in defense: "This man can't be guilty... If he'd fired at the MP, he'd have hit him."

When his own superior, General Oliver Smith, advised against this comment, saying: "You can't do that, Lew," Puller replied: "The hell I can't. I signed it, didn't I?" All this cantankerous act-

ing by Chesty delighted his Marines. He is probably one of the few military leaders about whom it can honestly be written: "His men would follow him to Hell."

Although Davis makes no critique on the Puller character, most fair-minded authorities would agree, I think,

that Chesty's attitudes limited his usefulness. Most pro-Chesty fans think he was prematurely retired, although the reason given was medical unfitness.

Anyway, he's home in Virginia now, still a hero to all members of the first Marine Division with which he was so long associated.

Around the World With

DELAPLANE

"We're going to Tahiti in May... is there any way to get your last Tahiti columns...?"

Jimmy Coulot has reprinted these in a little booklet... Send me a self-addressed envelope and I'll forward a copy.

"You mentioned that you had taken an apartment in London for a few months. Can you tell us how to arrange something like that? How much does it cost?"

I got my furnished house for three months through Al Wagstaff, a travel agent. Write him at 177 Sloane street, S. W. 1, London. He has a special service geared to Americans on short-time rentals. He'll send you a list, description and cost.

English furnished houses are not like ours—they often don't include linen, silver and blankets. But the ones handled by Wagstaff do. And when you move in, your basic food supplies are there ahead of you.

Cost is anywhere from \$36 to \$100 a week, depending on size and location. But it's a lot more comfortable and cheaper than hotels.

"We've heard about renting villas in Spain, on the coast..."

You could write Wagstaff (above) on this one, too. On long term rentals you do wonderfully in the south of Spain or the Costa Brava—a friend of mine with three children was doing this on \$3,000 a year.

In the big summer season of short rentals, the prices on these places go up. It's still pretty inexpensive though. And you get a lot of maid service for a few dollars.

"... a place to buy a Swiss watch at reasonable prices in the Caribbean. We are on a cruise."

The free ports are the places. Jamaica, I think, has the best selection. You get it without duty. It will be about half what you pay in the States. You buy it ashore and it is delivered on your ship or plane when you leave.

"How many cigarettes can you take to Europe?"

The rule varies. Most countries go for two cartons. They are pretty relaxed about this if you don't pile them all in a bundle. Distribute them through the baggage and tell the Customs man: "I brought enough to last me for my PERSONAL use."

Good place to buy them at \$1.50 a carton is the duty-free shop at Idlewild. Second rotunda deck in the international arrivals building.

There is one drawback: They deliver them in a bundle on board the plane.

Friend of mine arrived in England the other day with six cartons and British Customs charged duty on ALL of them.

"How would you tip on a first-class trans-Atlantic ship (Italian) on an eight-day crossing? There are two of us."

On an Italian ship, I'd tip the room steward \$10; the table steward \$10; the deck steward \$3; the wine steward \$5 (if you have wine with every meal); the bar steward \$3 and the bellboys about 25 cents for each service.

LIFE'S LIKE THAT By FRED NEHER



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Morning Report:

Former President Eisenhower wrote "Crusade in Europe"; President Kennedy wrote "Profiles in Courage," and now Almost President Richard Nixon is signing copies of his "Six Crises."

As a taxpayer who has read parts of all three books, I am happy that all three have had Government jobs. Because I'm not sure they could have done right by their families if they had relied entirely on the writing game.

Frankly, none of these fellows is a Tolstoy. And "Six Crises in a Courageous Crusade" is not exactly a good title for Hollywood.

Abe Mellinkoff