

# Torrance Herald

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## Open Examinations

Councilmen opposed to open examinations for chiefs of the city's police and fire departments as a city policy may have stopped a move to set up such a procedure earlier this month, but they failed to stop the discussion of the proposal.

The Chamber of Commerce board of directors, in a unanimous vote, approved a resolution opposing the council's action and stated that "citizens have the right to expect to obtain the best man for these two jobs at such a time as a successor is selected." The Chamber of Commerce board pointed out that the present ordinance limits those eligible for the jobs to two police officers and one fireman, "and such limitation cannot assure the citizen that the departments are being given the best leadership available."

Members of the Torrance Fire Department, in a letter addressed to The Herald this week, maintains that opening the competition further to present members of the department would serve the same purpose by making 21 fire officers eligible to compete for the top post.

The Herald has recommended open examinations according to the proposal offered by the City Council's police and fire committee and City Manager Wade E. Peebles.

Selection of the top executives for these two departments is not an inherited right but one that must be earned by training and proven by competition with the best in the field.

We are convinced that a Torrance fireman can be the next chief of the department if the City Council opens the exams to the three ranks below the chief office, even though the tests are opened on a selective basis to statewide competition.

The Herald does believe such open examinations, which has been the policy in selecting heads of other city departments, serve the best interest of the 118,000 citizens of Torrance who have every right to expect these two departments to be the best available.

The Herald urges the City Council to take another serious look at the proposal. The Torrance Firefighters Assn. proposal that competition be opened to three grades below chief to all persons with 10 years of experience sounds reasonable.

Just add to it the recommendation that similarly ranked personnel in California cities of 80,000 population would be eligible, and the city would have the ideal solution to its present dilemma.

## The Herald's Role

This is National Newspaper Week, the one week in the year when most of the country's daily and weekly press accept with thanks any bouquets in rhetoric that may come their way. But it is also a time for the conscientious publisher to take stock of his product, particularly in its fulfillment of this year's National Newspaper Week slogan: "Newspapers Make a Big Difference in People's Lives."

We at The Herald strive throughout the year to adequately cover the forces affecting the lives of our readers at the grassroots level. That means careful and responsible coverage of the city government, the schools and the organizations of men and women who are working for the constant improvement of the community life in Torrance. It means, cradle to the grave reporting on the lives of friends and neighbors with a thoroughness unique to the hometown newspaper.

The Herald speaks out regularly on issues where the public welfare is concerned. We are proud to admit to having a master—the welfare of the people of Torrance. We sell advertising space. Our editorial and news columns are not for sale nor are they used for the promotion of any personal financial adventure of the publishers.

In January 1964 The Herald will observe its 50th year of continuous publication, an important milestone in the life of any publication. It has seen Torrance grow from a homey little settlement to a city of 118,000. Throughout this half century this newspaper faithfully has recorded and promoted each stage of development and improvement. The files of The Herald give the city its only complete historic record.

We at The Herald strive daily to live up to the best traditions of the publishing business in the hope that this newspaper will continue to make a difference in the lives of the people of Torrance.

## Draft Exemption

In all probability, the condition tied to the exemption of married men—that single men can expect to be called up sooner than they might be otherwise—will also prove a boon. The college or high school graduate who has to sweat out that uncertain period before his greetings arrive could well welcome a chance to get his tour of training and service behind him.

Now if only we could manipulate the cold war so that no peace-time draft at all would be necessary at all! At least we can dream.

Exemption of married men from the draft, so long as there are single men available, was widely welcomed throughout the nation. Not only by young married men and their brides, either. The President's order made a great deal of sense to almost everyone.

A peacetime draft is onerous, however it is administered. It disrupts young lives at a crucial time, interrupting education in many cases, making the first, important start in a business career a difficult thing in many, many others. It adds uncertainty to a period of life that should be filled with zest and the adventure of setting out to make one's way in a fast changing, challenging world. Even more disrupting is the draft's effect on new families, of course.

Now we have an exportable commodity for England. Ship them our true confession magazines.

## Just A Piece Of Paper?



## ROYCE BRIER

# New Marine Commandant Plans Rocket Transport

The problem of getting man moving in space, at least the far reaches of the atmosphere, continues to excite Washington, and without a doubt, Moscow.

With all the hullabaloo about getting a man to the moon and back, there still seems a good deal remaining to do to transport men in any number at altitudes of 500 miles, which is little more than 1-500th of the lunar distance.

Recently a new Marine Corps commandant was named. Lieutenant General Wallace M. Greene. He said he had in mind the ultimate use of space rockets to transport Marines to battle stations en masse.

What he mentioned — for late in the 1970s — was a landing team of 1,200 Marines moved several thousand miles, to Africa, for instance, in 80 minutes.

It isn't easy, and General Greene doesn't think it is.

But clearly our military and civilian planners are sufficiently impressed by what we have so far accomplished, to visualize an unending spiral of high altitude achievement.

Fifteen years ago the jet vehicle moving at just under the speed of sound was a theory, and today it is a commonplace. But it is not good enough. Britain and France are teaming up on a 1,600 mph commercial jet, and we are at least talking about 2,000 mph, or better.

So the jet outmoded the prop, and each jump in velocity makes the old velocity obsolete. But cost is the rub. Sixteen hundred develops about all the friction heat a conventional aluminum skin will stand, and that means steel alloys, and that means weight. The development cost of a 2,000 mph craft is put at \$1 billion, and only governments have it.

Rockets are more costly.

You could buy a jet or two for what it costs to put a man in orbit, and the jet carries 120 persons.

What kind of vehicle, then, will carry aloft 10 times as many men as a commercial jet carries? Nobody knows, not even General Greene. That is why 1970, or beyond, is such a convenient date.

It is reasonable to assume, that our children in considerable numbers will travel in rocket-propelled vehicles several thousand miles an hour. But most experts think financing will be as difficult as the technology.

It would seem in any case that the goal is far more important than stunting a couple of men to the moon, and possibly cheaper. Our terrestrial travelers would have some advantage in landing in a friendly and known environment. They would have a further advantage: if they go they can return: The likelihood of returning from a moon trip diminishes the more the concept is explored.

## FROM the MAILBOX

# Defend Present System of Firemen Promotions

Editor's Note: Letters to The Herald are welcome provided they are signed. The writer's name will be omitted by request when possible. Letters must be in good taste and as brief and concise as possible. The Herald reserves the right to reject any part or all of any letter received.

Incompetency was implied by the City Manager's recent proposal to open the Fire Chief's examination to Fire Departments of any California city with a minimum of 80,000 population. "Get the best man for the job," has been the cry.

Read on, fellow tax-paying citizen, it is high time you get a good look at all the facts to be considered. We too, want the best man for the job.

"Lack of qualified applicants" . . . ? Facts: Not 1 but 21 Torrance Fire Officers with a minimum of 10 years service are available to compete. These fine men have proven themselves on every competitive step of the ladder. They have a sincere interest in you, are dedicated to the Fire Service, and have devoted their lives to protecting life and property in this "All-America City".

Is the Torrance Fire Department's general performance inferior? Facts: Over the years, under the present closed examination system,

Torrance has developed one of the most comprehensive, highly efficient, fastest moving, hardest hitting, best equipped, and dependable fire departments in the entire nation. Statistics prove our fire loss is well below the average of comparable cities. Not a bad record considering our square mile area is nearly twice that of the average city.

Sound like flag waving? You bet your life it is! We have a flag to wave. Why even consider going outside for unknown "soldiers of fortune" from other cities? A promotion to Fire Chief from the ranks would trigger five subsequent promotions down the chain of command. Promotions worked for: studied for, and DESERVED. Some on the department have Fire Science degrees. Many others are working toward this end, still others pursuing related specialized college courses in administration, public relations, personnel management, chemistry, hydraulics, arson investigation, etc.

In California how many cities of 100,000 or more population hold open chief's examinations? Fact: NONE.

To work for the City of Torrance we had to be at least one year residents. To compete in examinations for Engineer, Captain, Battalion Chief, and Deputy Chief we have to be residents. Now to

vie for the Chief's slot, are we to face every Tom, Dick and Harry from the whole State?

"Fear of competition?" Fact: No! But this would be an extremely lopsided arrangement, completely unnecessary and morally dead wrong. Going outside our city for a Fire Chief could pave the way for going outside for lower classifications as well, which in turn would be the beginning of the destruction of our entire Civil Service system. The system which enables the 118,000 population metropolis to operate efficiently with only 780 employees, compared to such smaller cities as Glendale with 1,182 employees, Pasadena with 1,702, Burbank with 1,099, Santa Monica with 987, etc. Let's not take another step in the direction of the spoils system!

The capable City officials are sincerely trying, we trust, to arrive at a solution which will benefit Torrance. Hats off to the Council and Civil Service Board members who voted against outside examinations. They also recognize the pitfalls and demoralizing effects of tampering with a sound Civil Service system. Our proposal is to allow the next three ranks below Chief, with 10 years minimum service, to compete for the post in a closed examination. Provision for this pro-

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## AFTER HOURS By John Morley

# The U.S. Presidency— Promise and Performance

"The difference is that a statesman thinks he belongs to the State . . . and a politician thinks the State belongs to him."

WASHINGTON, D. C. — The presidency is the highest office in the land . . . and the most powerful in the world. Survival of free men is the big stake in that office . . . and the man elected holds the key.

Every four years the voters are sold a bill-of-goods more and more by presidential candidates in both parties. Some may be as naive as some of their supporters in believing their promises can be fulfilled. We can overlook the honest and sincere miscalculation, bad judgment, or even the hocus-pocus of their professional pitch-men.

But year after year the gap widens by duplicity and double-talk . . . between the candidate's promise and performance in the areas he knows, or should know, is unrealistic of fulfillment.

Somewhere along the line enough aroused Americans will call the bluff of those who resort to deliberate political-trickery. Flag-waving, drum-beating and convention hall confetti are one thing . . . but false or unattainable promises pyramided year after year could result in such loss of confidence in the solemn office of the presidency as to inevitably jeopardize the sanctity of our political system. This is a nuclear age . . . and new safeguards are needed.

It is not possible to accurately say which of the promises were sincerely made . . . and which were just to win votes. This in some degree can be measured by what the candidate has done after going to the White House.

Here is a part of the documented record between "promise and performance" of candidate John F. Kennedy in the 1960 campaign.

**On Israel's Rights at Suez**  
Promise: Speaking at the Zionists of America convention, New York, Aug. 6, 1960, candidate Kennedy said: "If the clear, thoughtful language of the Democratic Platform is to have meaning, the influence of this nation must be brought to bear on a just solution that removes all discrimination at the Suez Canal for all times . . . and the White House must and will take the lead."

Performance: Nothing has been done to date by the White House or by the State Department to persuade President Nasser to permit Israel its rightful use of the Suez Canal, in accordance with international law and treaty. Kennedy approved \$380 million in economic aid to Nasser in the past two years without any conditions that might open the Canal to Israel, as it rightfully should be.

**On Nepotism**  
Promise: Candidate Kennedy said in Washington, D.C., Oct. 18, 1960 . . . "Nepotism is dangerous to the public interest and to our national morality."

Performance: Ranging from brothers-in-law, and other relatives, President Kennedy has more relatives in high political office than any president in history.

Promise: Candidate Kennedy said in Seattle, Sept. 6, 1960 . . . "Let me say that I think it is extremely important that the U.S. maintain a sound fiscal policy and a balanced budget."

Performance: The President has sent to Congress a record \$98.8 billion federal budget, even topping expenditures in the peak World War II years . . . and has already built up a \$27 billion deficit since he took office.

**On Political Ambassadors**  
Promise: Candidate Kennedy said in Miami Beach, Oct. 18, 1960 . . . "We will rebuild our diplomatic corps so we don't send ambassadors and others out because they have contributed to a campaign."

half of the "non-career" appointees to present diplomatic posts abroad are big Democrat contributors.

Performance: Candidate Kennedy said in New York, Nov. 5, 1960 . . . "I am not promising action in the first 100 days alone . . . I am promising you 1,000 days exacting presidential leadership." With a swipe at President Eisenhower's illness and golf, Kennedy said: "I want to be a president who believes in working full time."

Performance: In his first two and a half years of office Kennedy has been away from the White House, not including foreign trips, 255 days, almost one-third vacationing, yachting, etc., at Hyannisport, Palm Beach, Newport, Glen Ora, and others.

Promise: Candidate Kennedy said in Springfield, Ohio, Oct. 17, 1960 . . . "I am not going to promise a cabinet post or any post to any race of ethnic group. That is racism in reverse at its worst."

Performance: Kennedy did not submit a Civil Rights Bill to Congress for two and a half years for political reasons . . . and only after the Negro riots forced his hand.

to imply that opponents of the plan were anti-Negro rather than anti-waste of public funds.

**On Cuban Freedom**  
Promise: Candidate Kennedy said in Cincinnati, Oct. 6, 1960 . . . "If elected, I shall continue to work with Cuban refugee leaders and give them all the help to free their country. I will resist further Communist encroachment in this hemisphere by encouraging all liberty loving Cubans who are leading the resistance against Castro. We must strengthen the anti-Castro forces in exile, for thus far the Eisenhower administration has given them virtually no support."

Performance: The record speaks for itself.

Performance: Kennedy did not submit a Civil Rights Bill to Congress for two and a half years for political reasons . . . and only after the Negro riots forced his hand.

## Our Man Hoppe

# 'Just Plain Jack'-Part 2

—Art Hoppe

Good morning, friends in television land. It's time for another visit with Just Plain Jack, the story of a young man who is blessed with charm, good looks, wealth and success. He also has children.

As we join Just Plain Jack today he is in the Brown Study, studying brownly. His little girl, like any little girl anywhere, is playing on the floor with her scissors. Clipping coupons. His little boy, like any little boy anywhere is standing by his father's side. Crying.

JACK (shuffling papers): All right, that takes care of the gold outflow; civil rights, Junior, stop crying; nuclear tests; Junior, stop crying; Honduras; Junior, stop crying; and . . . Caroline, why is your brother crying? As usual?

LITTLE GIRL: Maybe he wants Mommy.  
JACK: Good. Why don't you run find Mommy, Junior?  
LITTLE GIRL: Silly Daddy. Mommy's in Greece.

JACK: Be quiet, Caroline. See, Junior? You go out to busy old Pennsylvania avenue and head east. But wait till the light turns red. And . . .

LITTLE GIRL: Daddy!

JACK: I was just teasing, ha, ha. Oh, aren't we all having fun without Mommy, ha, ha. Junior, stop crying or I'll bat you one, ha ha. (Shuffling papers) Now, in regard to the multi-lingual Junior-stop-crying NATO nuclear force we must stop crying and . . . Pee-YARE (Portly Pierre, the faithful family retainer, edges reluctantly in.)

PIERRE: Please, Chief, no more horsie. I'd rather play — ugh — football.

JACK: Pierre, I feel another non-political trip (Junior, stop crying) coming on. What's my schedule?

PIERRE (reading list): Monday, Congressional breakfast; Tuesday, please be sure to take Caroline to the dentist; Wednesday, change Junior's sheets; Thurs . . .

JACK: Those lists she leaves. Pierre, I feel I must make a long trip into the wilds. Immediately.

PIERRE: You already did that, Chief.

JACK: At this point, I'd even go somewhere to shake hands with the Devil.

PIERRE: You did that last week, Chief. Arkansas. Governor Faubus. Frankly, you're traveling too much. Did you notice how the guards on the gate ask to see your identification now? It's not good for your image.

JACK (glumly): You're right, Pierre. It is up to us fathers to make our children happy. Wait, I've got it! Caroline how would you and Junior (please stop crying) like to go to Disneyland? Real family fun together?

LITTLE GIRL (suspiciously): Alone?

JACK: Well, Daddy has to work. But there must be somebody who'd put up with Junior. Somebody who's desperate enough to see Disneyland. Some . . . That's it! Pierre, call good old Nikita. Tell him our representatives will meet him forthwith at the Summit. Of the Matterhorn.

PIERRE: In Switzerland?

JACK: In Disneyland. And promise him a trip to Knott's Berry Farm, too. Now, Caroline in your non-political speech be sure to mention how this Administration has made the whole world happy and even gay and JUNIOR, STOP CRYING!

Will Jack Get Rid of the Kids? Is This Any Way to Be a Good Father? Is There Any Other Way. Tune in to our next episode, friends. And meantime, as you go down the byways of life, remember: When you think of raising children, think of just plain Jack.