

Torrance Herald

Established 1914

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

SUNDAY, JANUARY 19, 1964

Just Ignore Me, Dahlings!



Disorder in Panama

Few Americans will doubt the Castro hand has been at work in the Panama Canal zone for a long time and that there is little likelihood it will remain in pocket for a long time to come.

Calmer heads seem to have prevailed over the hot young ones that touched off the incident that became a hideous street battle over the flag raising at an American high school.

Doubtless, there is always merit in the national pride any native has in his homeland. Other factors have mitigated against serene community relations such as the wide gap in standards of living and the fact that American wealth has been concentrated in the hands of a few nationals as is so often the case in Latin and South America.

Unquestionably, American occupation has failed in some ways, notably in the lack of good communications between Americans on duty in the Canal zone and their Panamanian neighbors. This would indicate teaching of English to Panamanians and the teaching of Spanish to Americans hasn't been as thorough as it might have been.

One thing is certain—the United States simply must take a firm stand. Too much is at stake. Once order is completely restored our representatives will have to set about correcting any wrongs that exist in the best traditions of America.

Dangers in the Home

Home Sweet Home, that supposed pillar of sanctuary, is the site of more injuries each year than our nation's highways, according to the American Medical Assn.

On the average, about 26,000 Americans are accidentally killed in their homes each year and four million are injured. Most of these injuries and deaths occur through falls—the great majority among older people.

For the most part, these falls among older people occur at floor level, and in general, they are easily preventable. When you can answer Yes to the following questions, then you have set the pattern for safety proofing your home against accidents of the aging.

Do you have scatter rugs—those bright and cheerful magic carpets of death—fastened securely or provided with nonskid backing?

Do you have handrails of a proper height and strength on all stairways and steps and by the bath tub and commode?

Do you have for yourself or for visiting old people a comfortable, safe, stable chair with sturdy arms?

Do you have a light switch by the bed and flashlights at all needed areas?

Do you know that older people should sit a moment on the edge of the bed before rising; that they should stand still an instant after coming to their feet to prevent accidents from possible dizziness?

Do you know that a clean, orderly house, as free as possible of things to trip over, makes for the safest home for people of all ages?

Opinions of Others

LOUP CITY, NEBR., TIMES: "Even though women often wear tennis outfits when they can't play, and ski suits even when they can't ski, they sure mean business when they put on a wedding dress."

JUNEAU, ALASKA, ALASKA EMPIRE: "... communism alone is the enemy of freedom and dignity and good will. The enemy is hatred wherever it festers. Hatred is the enemy of man and of God—hatred which may have been created by unjust and prolonged oppression, hatred calculatedly stepped up as a force behind violence, contagious hatred glorified and spread as only modern man can spread ideas and emotions."

RIVERTON, WYO., RANGER: "It shouldn't take the sacrifice of a President to jolt people out of slovenly ways. But since the President has been slain, let us hope that the decay has been purged from the soul of America and that the new national resolve to do better will be long-lived."

NORWALK, CONN., HOUR: "Automation has been called many things, from the prime mover of civilization to job scourge, but a University of Pennsylvania professor has added another euphemism to its collection. It is, says Dr. James Charlesworth, a generator of barren boredom. Perhaps utopia has indeed arrived when political scientists fret over the effects of too much leisure on the public, but the fact remains Americans and members of other advanced societies have given the appearance in recent years of children left in a department store toy department."

CORVALLIS, ORE., GAZETTE-TIMES: "We have grown too careless about protecting our birthright. And we lose our freedoms just as easily through internal corruption as through external aggression."

CENTREVILLE, MD., RECORD-OBSERVER: "Careless littering is a national problem, but must be attacked on a unit level, with each responsible for its own. Each piece of paper or can tossed aside is one more eyesore. It would be so easy to place this trash in a container for disposal."

ROSHOLT, S. D., REVIEW: "First they were hungry, so we prepare to feed them. Now they are thirsty, so we will have to give them drink. In the first case it was wheat—now the Russians say that their vodka supplies are mighty low and they want to buy our potable alcohol—so they won't lack their favorite drink. . . . In the case of the Russians, we wonder what will happen when the communists are driven to sample the vodka of free enterprise?"

ROYCE BRIER

Asia is Dominated by Three Political Masses

Look at the map of Asia, and you will note it is dominated by three main political masses: Russian Siberia, Red China and India.

But the southeast consists of a group of small, weak nations which trail off into the sea, fronted by the Philippine Republic and Indonesia. This is Kipling-Maugham country, and the casual Anglo-American view of it has been romantic, but the tropical poverty there militates against political stability of any kind.

In the 1950s, the late John Foster Dulles thought to fill the vacuum left by the dying French rule in Indochina with an American holding action against the Red Chinese. Out of this grew a policy disparagingly called "brinkmanship," and it was Mr. Dulles' theory that if the Communists got a foothold in this vast area, all Asia would go to smash, with resulting world war.

Mr. Dulles convinced many American and British states-

men of this theory, and not to support it was somehow to be soft on communism.

Ever since, the United States has been fighting a rear-guard action in old Indochina. It has been an action of steady loss of territory, influence and freedom. We have lost in North Vietnam and Laos, and South Vietnam is a notorious sink of failure. Cambodia has repudiated us (our total aid to these four enclaves about \$3.4 billion). A few weeks ago a new state of Malaysia was formed on the peninsula, and this is now threatened by the demagogue Sukarno of Indonesia.

Only Thailand and Malaysia remain self-governing entities, for now Burma, ruled by a leftist general named Ne Win, has taken the road to "neutrality," which is only another name for Red Chinese domination. Win is ostensibly fighting Communist guerrillas in his jungles, and the West is virtually barred from Rangoon.

Thus for a decade our ef-

orts to thwart the Communists in this region is a piecemeal record of decline, and over most of the area we are the "imperialists."

This raises a question: how much failure are the Americans prepared to endure in this crusade? For there is no promise whatever that we will do any better in the next decade than we have in the one past. It seems high time to re-examine Mr. Dulles' original doctrine to learn where it is taking us, and if its premise was ever sound.

Chiefly, it is geography which is against us. The site of our crusade is 9,000 miles distant. The adjacent Red Chinese have inexhaustible manpower, and by endless guerrilla action can meet all the force we are willing to exert to the south of them. Furthermore, is force the answer? Nobody is advocating abandoning Thailand and Malaysia, but otherwise there is something radically wrong with our history out that way.

From the Mailbox

FOR TAX OVERRIDE

The override tax election on February 4 deserves the support of every voter. Each member of the Torrance School Board is doing his best to see that our school tax dollars are wisely spent and that the maximum dollars possible are going where they will do the most good—the classroom—for instruction and material to benefit the student.

The Board's decision to ask for a continuance of the expired 50-cent override plus 40 cents additional was not a whim, but a carefully considered judgment of the financial requirements affecting the school system with the continued increase of students.

Torrance voters wisely approved an \$8 million school bond issue in May 1963 to add new classrooms and schools to house additional students. These classrooms will require teachers, books, and materials; override funds are needed to provide these.

It is the responsibility of the voters to provide their School Board adequate funds to enable them to maintain a school system we can be proud of. A responsible Board has said, "We need these funds." Responsible citizens will vote "YES" on Feb. 4.

WILLIAM C. BOSWELL
2842 Onrado St.,
Torrance

MD THANKS

Many thanks for your newspaper's excellent reporting throughout the year, of our program to aid the many thousands afflicted with muscular dystrophy.

Because of your help, the people in the communities your newspaper serves, gained a better knowledge of the nature of muscular dystrophy and what we are doing about it—services to patients and their families; three local clinics supported by Chapter funds; the summer day camp program for MD youth; year-round patient activities and community activities on behalf of MDAA and the volunteers who so ably assisted. The public learned of the vital research work being conducted in L.A. County, where important advances have been and are being made by local researchers toward the ultimate conquest of the disease.

The pace you so generously gave during our 1963 fund-raising drive, made many people aware of our need for funds and the reasons for giving, resulting in a most successful campaign. The monies raised will be used for additional patient and clinic services in 1964; will help support five local research projects located at UCLA and Veterans' Administration Center, and will provide increased public education programs.

Your efforts on behalf of those afflicted, aroused a warmhearted response in the people, enabling us in turn, to wage a more vigorous fight against MD in 1964! We are most appreciative.

Sincerely yours,
JOHN J. PREIS, President
Los Angeles County Chapter,
Muscular Dystrophy Associations of America, Inc.

TALK OF THE WORLD

NICE, FRANCE — College Stanislas de Nice, on the French Riviera, is a private French school for boys between the ages of 6 and 7. There are 35 men and women on the faculty.

The school day begins at 8 o'clock and ends at 4:30. At 7:30 motor bikes, scooters and bicycles start winding their way up the narrow side street off Boulevard Cimiez transporting boys of all shapes, sizes and ages.

Those not on wheels ascend the long flight of stairs carrying brief cases containing school books, supplies, and a snack.

There are four American students in the student body, all in the sixth form (seventh grade). All instruction is given in French. When school started at the end of September, three of the four boys could not speak or understand French. After six weeks they possess a large vocabulary and after three months they will be fluent.

The scholastic program is intense. Emphasis is placed upon mathematics and science in the modern section and the classics in the classic sections.

All boys are required to take English starting in the sixth form and either German, Spanish, Greek or Latin in the fifth form (eighth grade) depending upon whether they are in the modern or classic sections.

The athletic program is practically nonexistent, consisting of only two hours of instruction per week.

The average French child, while charming in many ways,

James Dorias

Aluminum Cans May Discourage Litterbugs

"Don't be a litterbug!"

It's a great slogan and it probably has accomplished some good in the direction of reducing the spread of unsightly rubbish along scenic roadways and campground areas. Unfortunately, like "Speed Kills" and other admonitions, it appeals most to the kind of people who need to be appealed to least. The worst offenders against the rights of others, whether reckless drivers or litterbugs, often are beyond appeals to their better natures—chiefly because their natures aren't very good to begin with.

A new development may possibly reduce litterbugging in the future far more than slogans have in the past. The most ubiquitous and unsightly instrument favored by people who throw rubbish from their cars is the tin can—and there are indications that the use of tin-plate containers is rapidly being replaced by aluminum.

A couple of months ago, the Reynolds Metals Company and the Hamm Brewing Company announced the first commercial use of a 12-ounce, all-aluminum can for beer. A Reynolds executive stated: "The door is now open to what could be the biggest single market for aluminum. The nine million beer cans packed each year, nearly 20 per cent of the nation's total metal can output, represent a potential of more than 150,000 tons of aluminum a year."

Last week Alcoa Aluminum carried a full page ad in the Wall Street Journal proclaim-

ing that "soup mix cans will never be the same again." The subject of the ad was an aluminum can with a built in opener being produced for one of the major soup canning companies.

Aluminum cans were first used a few years ago for motor oil. In the past three years, aluminum has captured 80 per cent of the market for frozen fruit juice concentrates. Some brands of tuna are now packed in aluminum cans. According to Reynolds Metals, about 13 per cent of the 48 billion metal cans produced in the country this year will be made entirely or partly of aluminum.

Of interest to anti-litterbugs is the prediction of Hamm Brewing Company's president: "The consumer will benefit from the salvage

value of aluminum cans. This could be an important incentive in efforts to eliminate roadside litter."

Unlike tin cans, aluminum cans do not rust. If strewn about the highways, they would loom out even more offensively than tin. But also unlike tin, aluminum can be used over and over again. It is the hope of conservation groups that a system will be worked out by manufacturers and food distributors to pay householders for used aluminum cans similar to the refund system on used bottles. The hope is that even the most calloused litterbugger would kick the habit if his economic instincts are appealed to, rather than his virtually non-existent aesthetic instincts.

Our Man Hoppe

Let's Give Up Smoking Reports

Art Hoppe

Boy! Our Government sure scared us with that report on smoking and health. It was a shocker. After months and months of studies, research projects and compiling statistics, our distinguished Government scientists at last revealed to a waiting nation the unbelievable truth: smoking isn't good for us.

All over the country you could hear the horrified cries at this startling news: "Oh, no!" "Egad!" And "If I'd only known!" Some people's hands were trembling so badly they could hardly light a cigarette.

But there's no question this terrible disclosure will radically affect the lives of us smokers. We are, after all, reasonable, rational adults, concerned with our own longevity. And if this doesn't make us quit, nothing will. Look at me. I've only leaped through parts of the 387-page report and I've quit already.

The part that got me to quit was just one line. It said: "It is of interest that cancer of the palate has been associated with smoking cigars with the lighted end in the mouth."

So I've quit smoking cigars with the lighted ends in my mouth.

Oh, it wasn't easy. The first day was awful. The craving would get me. It got so I could feel acrid warmth spreading around my upper molars, taste those hot dry ashes on my tongue, sense that rich thick smoke swirling out my ears.

And I would say to myself weakly: "Maybe I should taper off slowly." Or, with false bravado: "Who wants to live forever?" Or, worst of all: "Maybe the pleasure of curling up with the lighted end of a good cigar in my mouth is worth cutting a few years off my life."

Oh, the agony! But the only way to quit, is to quit, I would say to myself firmly. And would pop a red-hot pepper into my mouth. Or, if the desire became overwhelming, a lighted punk. And then I'd go kick the dog.

But the best trick—and I hope that it will prove of help to all of you who are also trying to stop smoking cigars with the lighted ends in your mouths—is to walk around the house with the wrong end of a good cigar in your mouth. Unlit. Of course, it doesn't really satisfy you, but I feel it eases the withdrawal pangs.

And the pain eases. Sometimes now I go several hours without thinking of putting the lighted end of a cigar in my mouth. True, the craving often becomes overwhelming. Particularly after eating Mexican food. Or at cocktail parties. For I am no longer the center of interest at cocktail parties that once I was.

But it's worth it. For smoking cigars with the lighted end in the mouth is only a habit. And now that we know it's harmful, I'm sure we can kick it.

So there's no question our Government's voluminous and exhaustive study will have a tremendous effect on us reasonable, rational smokers. And if you don't believe me, just ask yourself: "How many people do you know who, after reading the report, still smoke cigars with the lighted ends in their mouths?" Precious few, believe you me.

Otherwise, as far as I can tell, things are pretty much the same.

(Distributed by Chronicle Features)

Quote

I've pondered long about it . . . Won't someone tell me this . . . Why aren't more people happy . . . I ignoreance is bliss? — Eugene P. Bertin, Pennsylvania School Journal.

Strength for These Days

(From The Bible)

My God shall supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. —(Phil. 4:19)

Sometimes it is difficult to see how the Lord will provide but moving in His mysterious ways God always manages to find methods that did not exist before, to perform His gracious wonders.

Established Jan. 1, 1914

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Member of National Editorial Association
Calif. Newspaper Publisher Assn.
L.A. Suburban Newspaper Assn.
Verified Audit Circulation Represented Nationally By The Rientz Co.
Publication office and plant, 1619 Gramercy Ave., Torrance, Calif.
Published Semi-Weekly, Thursday and Sunday, by King Williams Press, Inc. Entered as second class matter January 30, 1914, at Post Office, Torrance, California, under act of March 3, 1879.
King Williams Press, Inc. Glenn W. Pfeil
Reid L. Bundy - Managing Editor
Gene Roberts - Display Adv. Mgr.
Bernard Brady - Regional Adv. Mgr.
Evelyn Stillwell - Classified Adv. Mgr.
Dorrell Westcott - Circulation Mgr.
Chas. R. Thomas - Mechanical Supt.
Adjudicated a legal Newspaper by Superior Court, Los Angeles County, Adjudicated Decree No. 218476, March 30, 1927.
SUBSCRIPTION RATES: By Carrier, 50c a month. Mail subscriptions, \$12.00 a year. Circulation of 10,000.

Morning Report:

President Johnson is working mighty hard these days to give us a fire-sale budget. By hook or crook, he wants to get it below \$100 billion. Even one buck below. And will settle happily for \$99.9 billion.

I think he got the idea by reading the ads for the January sales. Nothing is ever sold for an even number. It's always \$8.98 or \$3.99 or \$9.98. At a great saving to us customers.

Now, a lot of people are going to say Mr. Johnson is playing sneaky election-year politics. But if it's fair for a free-enterprise department store, I suppose it's equally fair for a free-enterprise Government. Especially since nobody is fooled, anyway. It just makes us feel better.

Abe Mellinkoff