

# Torrance Herald

Established 1914

GLENN W. PFEIL

Publisher

REID L. BUNDY - Managing Editor

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## Charter Amendment Needed

The responsibilities of a city clerk in Torrance are varied and demanding.

Principal responsibilities of the clerk are to keep an accurate record of all City Council proceedings; keep a record of all resolutions and ordinances, and be custodian of the city's official seal.

The city clerk's office is responsible for the conduct of municipal elections, and is normally the contact point in the city for people seeking information about a thousand things.

For all of these responsibilities, the Torrance city clerk is paid a monthly stipend of \$350.

A proposed charter amendment which will be included in the April 14 city ballot asks Torrance voters to approve a base salary of \$750 a month for the city clerk, and to grant him expenses, sick leave, and paid vacations which the civil service ordinance gives to other department heads of the city.

We could point out that City Clerk Vernon W. Coll has been doing a commendable job during his two years in the office, and deserves more than a \$350 monthly salary (which puts him among the lowest paid city employees).

That Mr. Coll is doing a commendable job is not the case at point, however. The point is, do we as citizens of Torrance believe the responsibilities of the city clerk are worth only that small stipend to the city?

The Herald thinks not, and recommends strongly that Torrance voters approve the proposed charter amendment on April 14.

## 'A Message of Mercy

The terrible temblors which devastated large areas of Alaska on Good Friday left a huge rebuilding task in many of the 49th State's cities and communities.

One of those cities, Anchorage, was named an All-America City with Torrance on Dec. 27, 1956, and Torrance has been asked to join other cities named that year in a special effort to aid the stricken city.

While the first needs of the disaster victims have been met, the enormous task of rebuilding their homes, stores, factories—in fact their cities—is going to require all the encouragement that can be offered by those of us who missed the crushing quakes.

The suggestion that Torrance make a special effort to help the residents of Anchorage is commendable and one in which Torrance residents can support with merciful hearts.

The help Torrance can provide may be only a token when compared to the needs, the message of brotherhood the help will convey can be very important.

A program will be developed during coming days to implement the city's offer of help, and we suggest that it be given wide support.

## Out of the Past

From the Pages of the HERALD

### 40 Years Ago

No matter where you turned in Torrance in 1924, the story was oil. It gushed forth so fast that the city was producing more than 50,000 barrels of the black gold each day. Eight new wells increased the city's production by 5,700 barrels a day, according to The HERALD for April 1, 1924.

Building was almost as big a story, however, and building permits issued in the city during the first three months of 1924 set a record high of \$545,000. The figure had doubled over the previous year.

Work was due to start shortly on paving Western Avenue. Torrance was ready to pave the city's section, but the Palos Verdes extension was being held up. Bids were to be opened and the work done within the week, it was reported.

Eight candidates listed their qualifications for office and stated their views in the April 4, 1924 edition of The HERALD. The big issues were economy in government and progress.

### 30 Years Ago

Louis Zemperini and Hubert Luck, track stars at Torrance High School, received special permission from the Board of Education to participate in the Compton Junior College-University of Southern California cross track meet, reports The HERALD for April 5, 1934.

The Tarlar stars ran unattached. Zemperini ran a dead heat in the mile; the other finisher was his brother Pete, who ran for Compton. The pair were timed in 4:31.6. Luck ran the 440 and finished fourth.

Assemblyman Cecil King spoke in Torrance, and an overflow crowd turned out to hear the man who now serves in the Congress.

City elections were three days away, and it's interest-

ing to note that the whole city was served by seven precincts.

### 20 Years Ago

Another construction boom was in the making, and the city building department issued a total of \$90,125 in building permits in March, according to The HERALD for April 6, 1944. The total for the first three months of 1944 was twice the total for all of 1943 — \$180,000 compared to about \$90,000 in 1943.

The city topped its Red Cross quota as the drive neared the end of a campaign to raise \$18,000.

A pair of friendly owls strolled through the city, stopping near Gramercy and Cabrillo. Residents, somewhat surprised, watched as the pair of owls headed for the open country after a short stroll.

### 10 Years Ago

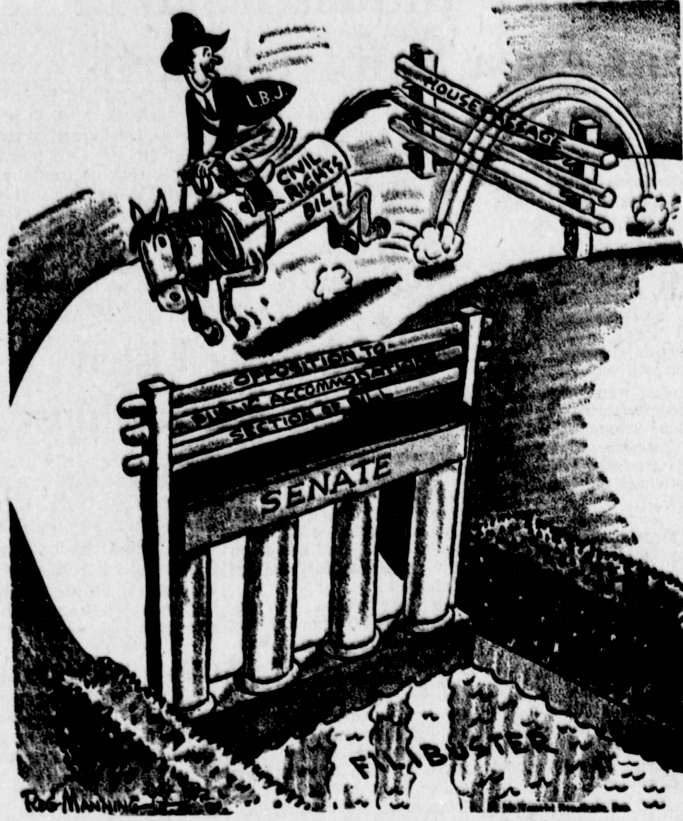
The Walteria Post Office was approved by the Department of the Post Office and Clara Conner announced the new station would be opened soon, according to The HERALD for April 1, 1954. The station was needed to serve the growing southern section of Torrance.

Ground was broken in Hollywood Riviera for the first tract of homes in the boom that would triple the city's population in four years. The development was under way when Mayor Mervin Schwab broke ground with the traditional gold shovel.

In sports, Torrance got official franchises for its Little Leagues and the teams were opened for registration. The city's growing population forced the Little League to divide into two divisions.

A bill which would permit the city to lease land for 50 years passed the assembly and waited action in the senate. Passage of the bill was predicted shortly.

## Now Comes The BIG Jump!



## HERE AND THERE by Royce Brier

# Betancourt Now Laughs At South American Reds

Romulo Betancourt of Venezuela is an owl-eyed, portly man, an inveterate pipe-smoker, which is rare enough in Latin America. His voice is soft, his manner mild, and he has a lively sense of humor.

But he is one of the toughest statesmen ever seen south of the Rio Grande, yet was never the dictator-tyrant, like Batista, Jimenez, or Peron.

This month he ended six years as president, inaugurating his successor in a changeover so serene as to be almost incredible in his world. In his youth he had been a Communist but he gradually moved right to become an old-fashioned socialist.

This didn't satisfy Jimenez, the dictator-tyrant, though, and Betancourt fled to the United States. He lived for a time in California.

When Jimenez was overthrown, Betancourt returned to Venezuela and soon was

in control of the Democratic Action Party, which made him president.

Like many strong men, Betancourt was a man with a ruling idea, but it was not a self-seeking idea. On taking office he proposed to stay for his constitutional single term, and to turn the office over peacefully.

This was a big laugh in a country where presidents almost invariably had to flee conspirators in a few months or a year, and the laugh echoed about South America. But four years later, when the writer met Sr. Betancourt in Caracas, it was still an obsession with him — a democratic president who would surrender his office to an honestly elected successor. He intended to prove it could be done, and no fooling.

The whole idea was less funny by then (March, 1962). Fidel Castro ached to get his hands on Venezuelan oil, and was supplying agents, money,

guns, and bombs to Venezuelan Communists.

There were weekly shoot-ups and bombings, one at the American Embassy. Soon the rebels bombed oil pipelines, burned stores and factories, took part in two military revolts, which Betancourt put down. Even so, he had few political prisoners, and he stayed within his limited constitutional powers.

He defied the reds at every turn, and he talked and practiced democracy. The writer believes, after a free tour of the country, that few if any Latin America leaders have ever done as much for his common people. This naturally infuriated the reds, and late last year they stepped up their violence to halt the presidential election. They failed, and Dr. Raul Leon took office as Betancourt's successor.

Sr. Betancourt is an eminently successful man in a world designed to thwart the kind of success he sought.

## BOOKS by William Hogan

# National Book Awards Honors 'The Centaur'

John Updike's "The Centaur" (Knopf) was judged the "most distinguished" work of American fiction published last year. It was named winner of the 15th annual National Book Award in fiction at literary rites held recently in New York. Other National Book Award winners, each of which receives a \$1,000 cash prize:

Poetry: "Collected Poems," by John Crowe Ransom, the 74-year-old Kenyon College poet, critic and teacher (Knopf).

Arts and Letters: "John Keats: The Making of a Poet," the biography by Aileen Ward (Viking).

History and Biography: "The Rise of the West," by

William H. McNeill (Chicago), a scholarly and lucid new interpretation of world history.

Philosophy and Religion: "Man-Made America: Chaos or Control?" a critique by Christopher Tunnard and Boris Pushharenv (Yale).

Sponsored by publisher, bookseller and manufacturing trade groups, National Book Awards are concerned chiefly with fostering national interest in books and reading. The so-called glamor prize remains the award in fiction. Frequently in past years this has caused consternation and heated disagreement among the literati. This year's choice may be no exception.

"The Centaur" is an odd

## Public Meeting Calendar

Listed below are meetings scheduled for the City Council and City Commissions during the month of April, 1964.

Torrance residents are cordially invited to attend any of these meetings.

Meeting	Date	Where	Time
Civil Def. & Dis. Com.	6	Council Chams.	7:30 p.m.
City Council	7	Council Chams.	5:30 p.m.
Rec. Commission	8	Council Chams.	8:00 p.m.
Civil Service Board	8	Emp. Lounge	7:30 p.m.
Airport Commission	9	Council Chams.	8:00 p.m.
Library Commission	13	Room #209	7:30 p.m.
Election Returns	14	Council Chams.	8:00 p.m.
City Council	15	Council Chams.	8:00 p.m.
Planning Commission	15	Emp. Lounge	7:00 p.m.
Youth Welfare Com.	16	Emp. Lounge	8:00 p.m.
Torr. Beaut. Com.	16	Council Chams.	7:45 p.m.
Torr. Safety Council	20	Room #209	7:00 p.m.

## TRAVEL by Stan Delaplane

# Latest Tips on European Auto 'Leasing' Explored

"We would like to rent (or buy and resell) a car while we are in Europe this summer. But we get conflicting advice on which is cheaper . . ."

The newest thing in this line is the "lease" plan. (And it looks like the cheapest to me.) The minimum lease is 25 days. . . I don't know why they call it "lease." It appears to be just a cut-rate rental.

Write Kinney System, 501 Fifth Avenue, New York City for their booklet (free) "Driving Abroad." I don't know that they are best or cheapest. But it's the easiest to read and understand. Gives short rentals vs. lease rentals. And comparative prices on what you'd pay at home if you buy the car and ship it back.

One thing I found: If you buy a car to ship home later, find out where you have to ship it from. I drove around, winding up in Lisbon. Then I found that to ship economically, I had to drive the car back to London.

... any advice on summer schools and camps for children in Europe."

The Scandinavian countries are making quite a thing of this for tourists. For teenagers and even younger. Park the kids and go off on your own. The best information on this comes from SAS office in the U.S. — the Scandinavian airline.

"We have never traveled outside the U.S. but would like to start planning for next year. Is there a way to start?"

Best I've seen for armchair planning is a free booklet called "World Wide Package Plan" — any Pan American or American Express office. Gives you a list of 135 planned package trips in all parts of the world. Car rental rates. Maps of Europe, etc. This will give you a choice of trips and basic costs.

When you have the trip in mind, write the national tourist bureaus of the countries where you want to go. (They are all in the New York phone book yellow section if you don't have a branch in your own city.)

You can get a very useable file. A brown envelope for each country where you are going. (And write the name on the outside with a big, fat marking pen — you may be trying to find the right envelope in a dark airplane.) Basic material in it should be a map and a map of the major city — usually free on airline counters.

## Quote

We can't pick our customers at county jail—Capt. Joseph Kimble, San Mateo jail commander.

The American girls are the most difficult to control, because they aren't used to chaperones. — Mrs. Esther Randall, hostess for Long Beach beauty pageant.

## Strength for These Days (From The Bible)

Give unto them a garland for ashes.—(Isa. 61:3)

We can do much to help and comfort others. We can give them the blessing of strength; we can give them the blessing of peace and we can give them the blessing of prayer.

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You could put in \$10 worth of the money of the country. —for airport tips and taxis when you land. Then stuff it with clips from travel pages —the things you want to do, places you want to see. Restaurants, Shops, Best buys.

That way you only use the stuff from the country you're in. And you don't get all your information cluttered up. This is the way I do it. And it works for me. (Have the next country envelope in your flight bag enroute. That way you get out your map, taxi, and tipping money on landing.)

"We have reservations on a tour to the Olympics in Japan but would appreciate a good list of Japanese restaurants in Tokyo . . ."

I have a list of my own—printed in a book called "Pacific Pathways." Problems with Japanese restaurants is you can only find them by giving the phone number to your taxi driver. He phones. They give him directions. Tokyo has named its streets —for the first time. But friends from Tokyo tell me

the taxi drivers are more confused than ever.

There are free booklets about what to do in Tokyo on hotel desks. THEY give phone numbers and sometimes maps in Japanese. Restaurants are listed if they advertise. So you get some big ones. But they won't all be very Japanese.

"We have heard there are ways of traveling to Europe on uncrowded planes . . ."

This is quite a trick. But worth it. Mid-week is usually best. You can also ask the ticket check-in man at the airport how heavy the list is. Sometimes catching a plane four hours later gives you the three-across seats all to yourself.

Get first in line to board the plane. Take a three across at the BACK. And sit on the aisle seat. Chances are everybody will drift forward —they don't want to step across you. By averages in this musical chairs game, you often wind up with three seats to yourself. Pull out the arm rests and you've got a bed.

SOMEWHERE AT THE FRONT

Dear Mr. President: I hope you won't mind a common footsoldier writing you. But I wanted you to know how much all of us front-line troops are behind you in this war you've declared. And in case you happen to have a couple of other wars going by now, I mean your War on Poverty.

I doubt you could have picked a more popular war if you'd sat down and tried. Now some wars give people mixed feelings, like Vietnam or Ruanda or places like that. But there's not a moment's hesitation, believe you me, when you ask any true American that key question: "Are you for Poverty?"

And not only are we behind you to the man, but there's not a rookie in the outfit. No sir, we're combat hardened. Most of us Americans have devoted our lives to fighting Poverty. As my friend, Mr. Lou W. Free says: "Sometimes I've been so intent on fighting Poverty that I nearly starved to death doing it."

Mr. Free's wholeheartedly enlisted for the duration in this one. And he's right where the fighting's thickest. You remember how you appealed to all of us troops to "create new jobs." Well, Mr. Free sat smack down on his porch and went to work. And he says he'd sat there hardly a week, distracted only by the squeaky swing in his canary's cage, when he'd created his first new job: "A canary swing lubricator."

"At this rate," he says with pardonable pride, "by the end of the year I alone will have created 52 new jobs. If each of our 190 million citizens does as well, in a year's time 9,880,000 new jobs will have been created, or 52 new jobs for each and every man woman and child in the U. S. Down with Poverty!"

Of course, Mr. President, Mr. Free's plan is clearly impractical. After all, who needs 52 jobs? I mention it only to illustrate the grave danger in trying to fight this war with outmoded conventional weaponry. There you are, head of an army of 190 million fanatics, ready to fight Poverty to their last gasps. And you want them to fight with such old-fangled weapons as Manpower Retraining, Community Action Programs, and the CCC.

Don't you know there's a war on? This is no time to entangle us boys at the front in bureaucratic red tape, to boggle us down in complex maneuvers and devious legislative tactics.

No, I say it is high time to prove your sincerity in this War on Poverty by declaring these tired old weapons obsolete. Now is the hour to unleash the ultimate weapon, the most awesome force the world has ever seen. For heaven's sake send us boys out here where the battle's fiercest the one weapon which tests prove will lick Poverty in a blinding flash: Money.

Enclosed, for your convenience, is a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

Military standards, of course, are all always tougher when nobody is fighting. The brass has more time to think up tests and naturally can make them tougher.

That's why I don't think Cassius, who is smart enough to make \$1 million after taxes before hitting 30, should feel too bad at being rejected. If this country really needs him, they'll get him. To do latrine duty, kitchen police, and polish missiles—the three major GI duties in the next war.

## Morning Report:

As a onetime soldier myself, I think Cassius Clay is smart enough to get in the Army. Even though he flunked the test twice. At least he's smart enough to serve in wartime.

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## OUR MAN by Arthur Hoppe

# War on Poverty Needs Direction

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Abe Mellinkoff