

Torrance Herald

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You've Had Great Instruction—



Centuries of Service

Thirteen Torrance employees were cited Tuesday night for service to the city totaling 230 years.

Mayor Albert Isen presented a watch to Casper Clemmer who recently retired after serving the city for 30 years.

"It was a special thrill," Mayor Isen said. "Casper and I went to school together in Torrance . . . a long time ago."

Another 30-year-veteran, Percy Bennett, retired recently as chief of police, was not present to accept the award.

Robert Moffitt of the fire department stepped up and accepted a lapel pin with a diamond in it symbolizing 20 years of services.

Receiving a similar pin with a ruby setting for 15 years of service were Marshall Chamberlain, bus superintendent; Edward Enrietta of the city garage; Donald Fulton, finance; Lt. Donald Hamilton, police department; Clarence Junior, street department; Angus McVicar, water superintendent; Donald Minor, fire department; Lt. Don Nash, police; Raymond Reese, park; and Lt. Robert Wright, police.

Those in the City Council chambers applauded former police officer Ronald Nicolai as he made his way to the front on crutches to accept a retirement gift from Mayor Isen. Nicolai, seriously injured in an accident while on duty, was among a dozen employees who retired during the past year.

Others who retired included Ellen Blackshere and Hazle Bender of the water department; Charles Fulton, park; Adele Francois, transportation; Michael McMahon, planning; Thomas Mann, park; Alexander Thompson, police; Eugene Walker, fire; Henry West, building; and Ralph Perkins, streets.

The employees cited for service totaling more than 200 years and those retiring whose service may add up to another two centuries deserve much credit for the services, public facilities, condition of parks, roads, streets, other city improvements.

To these people, residents of Torrance owe a hearty round of applause.

A Happy Holiday

California has its Admission Day, other states have their special historical observances, but our sister state of Hawaii, out there in the warm Pacific, can pretty well top us all.

Each June 11 the 50th state bedecks itself in finery and flowers to celebrate Kamehameha Day. To those unacquainted with Hawaiian history, Kamehameha is not another Alamo. It's not a treaty. It's a man. And quite a man. The first to unify the paradisiacal islands, King Kamehameha did it with colorful force and unbounded determination. His role in history as well as legend is secure.

So, congratulations to you, Hawaii, as you celebrate the birthday of a king. Not many states can claim that distinction.

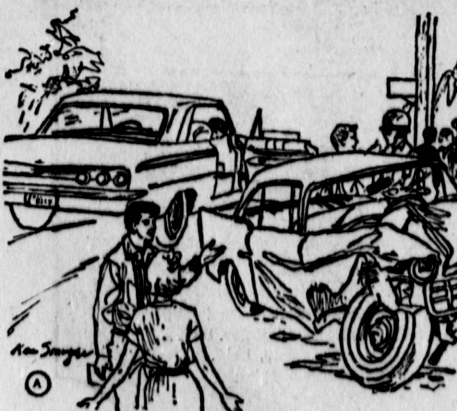
Opinions of Others

The merits of the housing initiative aimed at nullifying much of the present Rumford Act will be assessed by the voters next November. Meanwhile, the debate over it continues to produce a considerable range of opinion, from sincere moral repugnance to sincere philosophical approval—with some fairly wild-eyed sloganeering scattered in between.

Opposition to the initiative has included strong attempts by persons high in state government, the clergy, and other fields to prevent qualification of the measure for the ballot. Opposed to this view is that of others equally sincere who feel that we should not distort or inhibit the direct legislative right of the people of California in order, even, to thwart a proposal we may feel is unsound.

A brief filed with the Court by Secretary of State Frank M. Jordan, contending that the people should have the right to vote on the housing initiative, quoted one of the most succinct appraisals of the role of the people ever to come out of the U.S. Supreme Court. In the opinion of the late Justice Robert H. Jackson. "It is not the function of our government to keep the citizen from falling into error—it is the function of the citizen to keep government from falling into error."—California Feature Service.

Youth Behind The Wheel



FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY—Driving is a privilege which carries with it certain responsibilities. One of the most important of these is financial responsibility. The Automobile Club of Southern California advises that you may suffer the loss of your driving privilege in the event you are involved in an accident in which damages or injuries are suffered by another motorist. Generally,

HERE AND THERE by Royce Brier

Those Teachers Smarter Than We Used to Believe

INTERLAKEN, Switzerland —Travelogue is not this writer's line, but the Swiss Railways abhor nontourists, and if you can't lick 'em, join 'em.

Around 1900 American maiden schoolmarms on vacation began raving about Interlaken, and were still raving in their old age. Now you understand. It lies between two narrow lakes, ringed with 500-foot hills knifed with finger valleys, and with one exception the hills hide the high Alps. The exception is a vista of the great Jungfrau, a glistening white Shangri-la, seeming not of this planet.

Eiger and Monch, the others of celebrated triplets, are not in view. All rise a little over 13,000 feet, and they produce a glacier system unequalled in America south of Alaska. You board a train running up one of the valleys, and change to a cog-road, which lifts you out of the valley like a fan-jet.

It is astounding to behold

broad, flowered meadows while your car grinds up a 25 per cent grade. But everything is at an Alice-in-Wonderland tilt, adorned with people and cows, and you round a rock promontory to Scheidegg, 6,762 feet, and there they are, three miles away.

Eiger left, Monch, then Jungfrau. You can't believe it. They fill half the sky with an unearthly, tossed white, and in unbearable silence, for you have the illusion such violent form should be transformed to violent sound. Eiger, they say, is the toughest to climb, sheer columns of red rock below its snow, but Jungfrau's immensity obscures the panorama.

In 1893, a rich Swiss conceived rails to Jungfrau, the saddle between Monch and Jungfrau. They thought the man was a bit crooked for lack of oxygen, but 19 years later it was opened.

You couldn't put a line through moving glaciers, so

they cut into Eiger's rock, zig-zagging under Monch, to within 2,000 feet of Jungfrau's summit.

Few engineering feats equal it. You ride in the dark for 55 minutes, and emerge to a blinding white. There's a hotel-restaurant, and a lift to an outlook on the last half-mile to Jungfrau. The peak looks curiously intimate, as if you could run it in ten minutes, but the hardest souls need four hours.

Indeed, a short flight of stairs or a walk across a room, and average dubs are winded at 11,500 feet, and the word went around: one martini equals three down below, be warned! We stuck with beer. It's a fine place to tame kids who dash about for 60 seconds, then sit, glassy-eyed and uncommunicative.

So we dropped back to the valley floor, and over a pitcher of martinis, concluded the maiden schoolmarms of long ago weren't so dumb as we had once thought.

NEWS SPARKS by James Dorais

Bureaucrats in Quandry Over Growing Grad List

Back in the early 1930's, teenagers used to graduate from high school to the slogan, "WPA, here we come."

Thirty years later, after many years of unprecedented prosperity and well advertised affluence, that depression-day slogan, with appropriate updating, is being revived.

The bumper baby crop of the war and immediate post-war years is reaching adulthood, and nobody seems to know quite what to do about it. The ideas that have been advanced so far all seem to stem from the basic premise that the last thing that ought to be done is to find ways to expand the labor market so that young people can go to work.

Thus we have increasingly more talk from politicians on the state and federal level of reviving the old Civilian Conservation Corps. And no matter how high blown the rhetoric used in promoting this depression-born concentration camp idea, its aim is simply to get rid of the kids for awhile.

The Administration's Youth Corps plan, idealistic though it may be, is another get-'em-out-of-the-way gimmick. Lowering the draft age, for the same purpose, also is reportedly being considered.

Secretary of Labor Willard Wirtz has unveiled a proposal to remove two million teenagers from the job market by making all youngsters stay in school until they reach 18,

instead of 16. Thus the schools would be expected to add to their other duties, the role of giant play pens or detention centers, depending on the degree of rebellion by those unwillingly detained.

There are many in education circles, of course, who have no objection to the concept of high schools and colleges being used as places to park the kids — regardless of their desire or capacity for higher education.

The present controversy over the administration of California's state college system stems in part from differences of opinion on this concept. Robert R. Smith, whose resignation as Dean of the School of Education at San Francisco State sparked the controversy, attacked what he termed "a superficial concept of elite education inappropriate to a state college system" and charged that "bias in curriculum matters" was fast de-emphasizing many programs in the performing arts and of appeal to women.

An opposite viewpoint was recently expressed by Dr. Robert M. Hutchins, former president of the University of Chicago, who claimed that the standards of colleges today are "undecipherable, their accomplishments dubious, their pretensions insufferable, their independence a sham and their appeal to their constituency irrational and degrading."

The pressures to enlarge

all college plants to make it possible to provide a college education for every young person who hasn't been stashed away in a CCC-type program is considerable. Outside of watering down educational standards, however, it is difficult to see what will be accomplished. Two years, three years or four years later, the kids will still be there — a trifle older, but with the same need to be accepted and have places found for them in the adult world.

Quote

"This type of reporting is about as accurate as giving the first inning score as the final result of the ball game." —Assemblyman Don Mulford on chart evaluating legislators' voting records.

Everywhere the traffic accident problem is magnified out of proportion. More people die of pneumonia than from traffic accidents.—Philip Gagliardi, British Columbia minister of highways.

I have been happy doing what I wanted to do all my life. Retirement is just an opportunity to accomplish some of the many things I haven't had time for.—Signe Gustafson Walker, retiring high school dean of girls.

Blindness is only an impediment, not a handicap.—Judge Paul Jackson, sightless San Luis Obispo jurist.

AFTER HOURS by John Morley

Quiet Reflections: This I Believe

• It's a national disgrace . . . that after our giving \$900 million to Red-leaning Sukarno of Indonesia, he publicly told our ambassador "to go to hell" . . . and the State Department is now considering another \$50 million loan to him.

• On his tour of Appalachia I heard President Johnson say in Pittsburgh that "Our Number 1 problem is poverty." From what I saw of both Appalachia and Vietnam, our Number 1 problem is 16,000 Americans in Vietnam, sent there to fight with antiquated weapons and without a policy to go all out and win.

• Where there is superficial respect for death . . . there is superficial respect for life.

• There is something wrong with a foreign policy which sends 16,000 Americans to fight in Vietnam . . . and some 40,000 Americans who previously died in Korea . . . thousands of miles from home . . . and then refuses to send them to fight the most direct menace to our security 90 miles to Cuba.

• Many Americans would be jolted out of their lethargy if they took a close look at a map of the world and saw what has happened to freedom.

• This is the time for politicians and statesmen to be counted. In electing them we usually get what we want. If we refuse to accept only the best, it's surprising how often we end up by getting the best.

• Too many incompetent men are elected to public office, not so much by incompetent voters . . . but by default.

• Increasing the national debt . . . and decreasing taxes . . . could bury us faster than communism would like to.

• It's much better for the Bible to be discussed in the schools . . . than in the courts.

• We should remind the union bosses that profit and profiteering are not the same thing.

• In the world I recently saw again, one can tell the character of a country by the character of its entertainment.

• In my lectures at college convocations, I meet so-called intellectual professors who deny God and say that "love for man is sufficient." But isn't man the image of God? And how can you love a man without loving his Creator?

• Every new generation is offered an unfinished society. Every society is committed to change. Change in living, yes . . . change in principles, no.

• I watch out for the man everybody likes. He is usually a slicker.

• A person is dead who stops dreaming, searching for some idea, or some answer he can improve upon.

• Nothing else but the human heart can hold almost everything.

• An idea which is not controversial, startling and even shocking . . . is no new idea at all.

• Upon returning from another round of Communist countries . . . it appears that the only way you can co-exist with them is to let them devour you.

• Be thankful when people talk about you. You are at least no longer ordinary.

• The growing feminine emphasis of more and more "sex-sell" toward marriage is statistically the growing reason for more and more broken marriages.

• The "inner-space" in man is much more important than the outer-space of the universe.

• The American way of life . . . and the free-enterprise system could be all but destroyed if President Johnson means what he said in his White House speech, Jan. 15, 1964 (Congressional Record, Page 2277) . . . "We are going to try and take all the money that we think is unnecessarily being spent and take it from the 'haves' and give it to the 'have-nots' who need it so much."

was my hero . . . and gave me my start."

• I wish politicians would stop calling us average Americans. Teachers grade around averages. Parents compare their children with average children. Average is mediocrity, no matter how you spell it.

• Knowledge is not ability. There are more men of knowledge in the employ of men of ability than men of ability in the employ of men of knowledge.

• The best place to keep your money is in the bank . . . not in the heart, or your lips.

• Keeping up appearances for the sake of status makes one a sucker for the pitcher's art.

• Except if a lion is chasing you, to hurry at anything is to lose its pleasure and inspiration.

• Foreign children behave better because their parents demand strict respect . . .

but this also stifles their initiative. It's a wise parent who knows the proper balance.

• I meet too many people whose manners seldom measure up to their fashionable dress.

• Probably the best way to appear incoventional today is to uphold the conventions.

• People all over the world criticize America. But it's a curious fact that the whole world looks toward America.

• Everything happens to everybody sooner or later who happens to walk in the same direction.

• Disregard for human dignity and human life are the major qualifications of a dictator.

• Trying to reason with a Communist is fine . . . if you can reach his reason, without destroying your own.

• It's not cowardice to be afraid of the dark. The real coward is the one afraid of the "light."

OUR MAN by Arthur Hoppe

Spin a Tape, Mr. President

The trend was first noticed in the California primaries when CBS conceded victory to Mr. Goldwater 38 minutes before the polls had closed.

An event, however, that went unrecorded at the time was the case of Mr. Sabatini R. Flanagan of San Francisco, who had planned to stop off to vote for Mr. Rockefeller on his way home from work. On hearing of Mr. Goldwater's victory, he sighed, said, "What the hell," and headed for his favorite tavern.

The coup by CBS created havoc in the other networks. In a brilliant counter-stroke that November, ABC elected Mr. Lyndon Johnson to the Presidency 17 minutes before any of the polls closed. Due to the time difference, this gave 16.2 million die-hard Republicans on the West Coast more than three hours in which not to bother voting.

It was not until 1968 that NBC, armed with its new \$12.4 billion TICTAC II computer, took the next stride forward: by announcing the new President before any of the polls opened. This smashing break-through, of course, led to abolishing voting.

Such a bold reform was not accomplished overnight. Sentiment dies hard. And for several years a few voters here and there faithfully continued to turn up at the polls to cast their meaningless ballots in a nostalgic gesture to yesteryear.

But this cost money. Ballots had to be printed, polling places maintained and records kept. Thus, by 1972, hardly a dissenting voice was raised against the 44th Amendment, which did away with this anachronistic practice forever.

And what an air of excitement the new method created on election morning of 1976. Every civic-minded citizen dutifully marched to his television set to discover whom a democratic majority of the computers had declared the new President — all on the democratic principle of whom a majority of the people would have voted for. If there had been any reason to vote.

The reforms might have ended there if CBS hadn't again stolen a march on its competitors by computing what the other computers would compute. And thereby announcing the winner on election eve. ABC struck back with improvements on this system and was thus able in the next off-year race to concede defeat in behalf of all losers before the campaign began.

But it was again NBC, in the important elections of 1980, which scored the advance so vital to our society today: the ability to analyze all possible issues and discernable trends by May 15 and thereby select the new president before either party nominated a candidate.

Thus, friends, in the short span of 20 years, thanks to the swift advance of our computer technology, we have been able to eliminate costly voting procedures, arduous political campaigns, long-winded candidates and the hectic nominating conventions. All of which took up so much valuable television time.

And so it is, ladies and gentlemen, that we are gathered here in the White House in this historic year of 1984 to pay tribute to the new President of these United States — the JIMCRAC 707-B.

Would you care at this time to spin a few tapes for us on your video readout, Mr. President?

Morning Report:

Our Postoffice Department has come up with a new mail box that glows in the dark in patriotic red, white and blue stripes. Makes it quicker to find at night. But pickups from the box have been cut down in the interests of economy. So any time you saved finding the box is lost while you letter lies there waiting to be delivered.

Airplanes have been speeded up but it takes longer to drive to airports—heavy traffic trying to take advantage of the speedier planes. We have stuff to hide a lady's wrinkles as the faster life cuts them deeper daily.

What I mean is that progress is not a double-edged sword but rather double-pointed—with no handle.

Abe Mellinkoff