LOOSELEAF NOTEBOOK

By ALAN ANTHONY

Perhaps we're fighting a losing battle trying to get back an even break for youth. Youngsters 30 years ago did not suffer the resentments, guilts, and rebellion so apparent today.

In those days children were permitted to be children and to play by themselves—with companions they enjoyed. If they didn't enjoy them, they changed to another "group" at will. They didn't need a meeting with a counselor and morals instructor to try and get at the root of the forces of their inimical drives.

The kid just didn't like the company, so he changed it. Too logical, too oversimplified for today.

Today the child is channeled, equalized, forced into an age group though he prefers older company—or younger, lectured to, advised, counseled, adjusted, told what to like, and made to feel like an arch criminal over the simplest breach of custom.

Latest straw in the wind is a new system by a law-enforcement agency quite close to us, though not ours. Tickets will be issued school children for such things as "unsafe walking," riding bikes on a sidewalk, riding double, "obstructing pedestrians."

The ticket is sent to the superintendent of schools, although what he is doing in the act is not clear. The "violator" (criminal), and maybe his parents, then will be summoned by a school authority for "counseling."

A school official has no right to counsel anyone about what happens off the schoolgrounds, but by the time this routine is over the child will feel like he'd burned down City Hall.

Riding double on a bike used to be half the fun, and it told the world you had a friend. Enemies didn't ride double.

And justice was swift.

In our home town, old Pinky Morway, the town constable, drove his pink walrus mustache round town in a Model T. He had a cure for riding bikes on the sidewalk. It went something like this: "Getcha goddam bike off the sidewalk!"

Pinky's wife taught eighth grade. Her outlook was just as uncomplicated. The biggest kid in class was from the other side of the tracks, and a nice guy withal. It was he we'd call when we were on the bad losing end of a fight. He could not be intimidated.

But when once he gave Mrs. Morway some lip, there was no counseling, no Rorschach tests, no fooling. She hauled him off the chair by the shirt front, dragged him to the library, and shook him till half the books toppled off the shelves.

Resentments? He loved her. So did we all. We hadn't yet learned how to abreact the forces of our hostilities. We just hoped no teacher would be out there at recess to louse up our game of kick-the-can. We liked our play disorganized.

There must be a moral, but this present writer will leave each to draw his own.

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LIBRARY OPENS — John D. Henderson, county librarian, congratulates Irene Davenport, branch librarian, on fine new library in Lomita. Facility opened at 24648 Narbonne Ave.

'CITIZEN OF THE YEAR' RACE UNDER WAY

More than 1000 nomination blanks for Torrance's "Citizen of the Year" for 1959 were mailed this week to business and industrial firms and community organizations, according to an announcement today by J. H. Paget, president of the sponsoring Chamber of Commerce.

Paget said additional forms can be obtained at local newspapers and at the chamber office, 1511 Cravens Ave.

The award, in memory of two departed Civic Leaders—Dr. William I. Laughon and Grover C. Whyte—will be presented as a highlight of the chamber's annual banquet at the Statler-Hilton in Los Angeles March 30.

Jim Becker, banquet chairman, said the award will be judged on what the nominee has contributed to the citizens and city of Torrance in 1959.

1959 Top Year at Union Carbide

Sales and net income of Union Carbide Corp. for 1959 were the highest in the corporation's history, Morse G. Dial, chairman and chief executive officer, reported in a preliminary statement.

Sales for the year were $1,531,343,000, 18% above sales of $1,296,532,000 for 1958; and 9% above sales of $1,395,032,000 for 1957, which was the previous record.

Net income amounted to $171,637,000, or $5.70 per share, an increase of 37% over the $4.15 per share earned in 1958

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Letters

Torrance Water Suit

EDITOR
THE PRESS:

We are publicly asking Torrance city officials to withdraw their condemnation suit against Narbonne Water Co. No. 2, as on Jan. 5, 1960, the people in the area voted more than 3 to 1 to join the area with County Water District 13 and bond the area to buy the company and replace worn-out mains.

This suit prevents the county water district from fulfilling its obligation to start work immediately. County water officials have asked Torrance to withdraw the suit, but as of this date no word has been received that Torrance city officials have acted in good faith to withdraw their suit.

As soon as Torrance's suit is withdrawn, work can start and shortly thereafter old lines can be replaced and building restrictions removed.

Hoping for immediate favorable action by Torrance city officials, I am

DESSIE G. MYERS
Lomita

Chest Seeks Donation of Land for Center

If it could get the land now, the Harbor area could have a new Community Chest service center within a year, Jimmy Visceglia, chairman of the Chest's center relocation committee, predicted today.

Money is available now for the building but not the land, he said.

"Our problem is to find a generous person or business, or even a government body, that would give us land for the center."

Visceglia said the Chest must move out of the present San Pedro center because it is overcrowded.

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