

# Hannah's Harpoons

BY HANNAH SAMPSON

We have just returned from our yearly cleansing at the Spas of Las Vegas. This is not, alas, the debauch I would like it to be, for we are frugal folk and it is with the greatest reluctance that we part with a nickel.



HANNAH  
massive handle.

Still, the moment I am in sight of a slot machine the nickel somehow no longer resembles its purchasing power (i.e.: a pack of gum, a bar of chocolate, or a good, solid ice cream cone at Thrifty Drug) but becomes instead just one of 40 or 80 little metal widgets to press hopefully into the slot and pull prayerfully on the

### NO BARGAIN

I have stood for hours pulling at a slot machine with an arm so crippled by bursitis that it was agony just to raise the hand to deposit (and inevitably lose) my money. But what is pain when at any moment the machine will spew forth its riches?

It never does, of course; or, if it does, it happens to someone else. Still the heart pounds as though one were on the way to instant discovery of a new continent.

On our last trip I refused to buy stamps from a stamp machine at the airport just prior to boarding the plane. (Eight cents worth of stamps cost ten cents in a vending machine).

"You'll be throwing nickels down the sewer in Vegas in about an hour and a half," my husband reminded me mildly.

As it turned out, it was only an hour and a quarter, but I can't bear to waste money so "foolishly." For some unfathomable — to me — reason, in Las Vegas it just isn't money.

### TOOK THE CHILDREN

Usually we go alone, but the one year we took the children, they had a marvelous time with all those pools and free TV, free souvenirs, free movies, and free just about everything else "for the kiddies."

I, however, had a rotten time. For, with the kids along, every penny represented something: seven nickels: school lunch; three nickels: good humor man; and so on.

My husband dropped me off at one of the clubs "for two hours," while he took the children to the park. For five minutes I poked listlessly around, idly putting pennies in the slots (yes, pennies! they have penny machines downtown!) when suddenly I knew that I simply couldn't enjoy playing the one-armed bandits. Not today.

I had one hour and fifty-five minutes to kill, and a plastic sack full of nickels and pennies we had saved for just this kind of vacation.

And there were six hundred, SIX HUNDRED machines in the place banging and clanging, and generally popping off all over the place. The sirens' call fell on deaf ears.

Instant Reality intruded itself into that pipedream of a world. I reverted to my usual self: Mrs. Housewife, Mrs. Mother, Mrs. Billpayer, Mrs. Bargain Hunter; and I have to admit it: the return on the slot machine is definitely no bargain.

I bought a newspaper and went and got me a long cup of coffee, and there I sat until my family rescued me.

### SHELL GAME

This is not to say that we don't enjoy going to that improbable place. We do. It takes us out of the workaday world into the palatial routine to which one can become too easily accustomed. I like having my bed turned down at night (particularly when I hadn't had to make it in the first place!)

I like finding the towels replaced each time I wipe my dainty fingers, I like room service, and prime ribs; I like soft lights, and highly-paid entertainment.

As I say: I like these things, and for two days EVERY YEAR we live this orgy of a life. So I don't mind that old shell game they play there, egging you on to imagine that you can take some of it away with you. I suppose we all love to be fooled.



**CAMPAIGN HEADQUARTERS** for the first United Way, Inc., fund drive in the Harbor area is established at 2021 S. Vermont Ave. in Torrance through the courtesy of the Shell Chemical Company of the same address. Welcoming the organization to Torrance are, from left, Jack Cunningham, general manager, Synthetic Rubber Division, Shell Chemical Company; Samuel Bowlby, vice president,

Shell Oil Company, and Stanley Williamson, plant manager, Torrance plant, Shell Chemical Company, and Harbor area chairman for the United Fund drive. The campaign, first in Los Angeles County, will begin in mid-October. Formerly the Community Chest, United Way, Inc., combines more than 320 agencies into a joint drive for funds.

## Fall Arts, Crafts Program Slated

Satellites, rockets and moon-fields will occupy the attention of the boys in a new class to be offered at the Arts and Crafts Center of the Torrance Recreation Department starting Saturday, September 14.

Space technology Laboratories has generously supplied ideas and printed information to aid the young space-men. While the boys are building models of satellites, the girls will be sewing shifts in anticipation of their fashion show to be held at the end of the four week craft session. These classes for boys and girls 8-14 years will start on Saturday, September 14, 1:30-3:30 p.m. There is a 75c registration fee and there will be an additional fee for material.

A Children's Ceramics Class will also begin Saturday, September 14, 9:30-11:30 a.m. for ages 6-13; the \$1.00 fee covers the cost of all materials.

The Adult Craft Studio will begin September 9. Lecture-Demonstrations on ceramic techniques will be Wednesdays 1-2:30 p.m. and

Thursdays 7-8:30 p.m. Workshops will be held Wednesdays 2:30-4 p.m., Thursdays 1-4 p.m. and 8-10 p.m. Those who wish to work on their projects in mosaics, copper enameling, etc., will be welcome at the Workshops. The fee for enrollment in the four-week session of Adult Craft Studio is \$1.00 and entitles the individual to attend lecture-demonstrations and workshops.

According to Arts and Crafts Center Director, Erika Muhl, registrations for all these classes will be accepted at the beginning of each session. The Arts and Crafts Center is located at Sea-Aire Park, 22730 Lupine Drive. For further information call the Center at FR 5-9142 or the Recreation Department at FA 8-5310, Ext. 263.

### DANGER HOURS

Most traffic accidents involving children occur shortly after school. This fall, be especially alert between the hours of three and five p.m., most dangerous hours for children.

## Self-Help

We are indebted to the Christian Science Monitor for noting the warming success story of a young Californian who proved in his own life the old precept that he who helps others helps himself.

A Korean war veteran, still under 30, noticed on a trip around the world that most underdeveloped areas he visited had many unanswered "little problems." How to build a home? How to solve a special, but not insurmountable, problem in livestock farming?

The veteran didn't know the answers, but he knew there were people who did. The question was, how to get the problems and the answers together at the lowest possible cost.

Today in Palo Alto he heads a "mail order peace corps." Americans travelling abroad, or residents of foreign countries, forward problems to the nonprofit organization. Nine paid workers and 50 volunteers do the research, calling on 1500 volunteer experts in widely varied fields, and forward the solutions. Private donors supply about \$60,000 a year for the work. The Ford Foundation has provided \$50,000.

This triumph of initiative is a double one. It provides a veteran with a very satisfying career, and it brings help and hope to thousands of others around the world. On such creative helpfulness rests our hope for the world's future.

## FLATTERY

The natural color and pattern of wood is beautiful and often copied. Although imitation is the most sincere form of flattery, most people would prefer natural wood instead of synthetic woods photographed on metals.

## OBITUARIES

**WALLACE CLARY**, age 47, residing at 3445 W. 187th Place, Torrance, died August 29 at his home. Funeral services were held at 3:00 p.m. Saturday from the Douglas Mortuary Memory Chapel with Rev. Franklin of Hermosa Nazarene Church officiating. A native of Broken Bow, Oklahoma, Mr. Clary had been a resident of Los Angeles County for the past 22 years and had been a Superintendent at the Aluminum Control Foundry. He is survived by his wife, Bess Clary of the home; three sons, Stanley, Stephen and Wallace Clary, also of the home; one daughter, Frances McDonald of West Covina; and one sister, Ruby Cassidy of Los Angeles, and 3 grandchildren. Interment was in Inglewood Park Cemetery.

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### At the End

The enemy was just beyond an undulating wave of brown earth and men were in a ditch by the side of a road that meandered down to the Odriatic.

A vineyard was in between. In the vineyard was a very old man, carefully at work to save the vines that were torn by the wrath of war, for it was spring that marked the resurrection of life.

"Damned Eyetic," muttered a bearded one who hunched against the ground each time a shell whistled. "They gotta live," snapped another who was born of people who had left Italy after an earlier war.

A chatter of machine guns came from the right. A mortar crumpled from the left. A rumble of tanks came from the rear.

"We gotta go," said the sergeant. Crouching close to the ground, weaving, they

### NEVER ALIKE

No two pieces of lumber are ever exactly alike, which is why a paneled wall of west coast hemlock, for instance, has so much charm and individuality.

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## Carson Street Improvements OK

Improvement of portions of three streets in the Carson-Dominguez area at a cost of \$9,280 has been approved by the Board of Supervisors.

Supervisor Burton W. Chace said the improvements will include portions of 213th Street near Legend Avenue; Martin Street near 213th Street; and Water Street near Ballard Street.

Another proposed project in this area will be the Carson Street-Wilmington Avenue intersection. The work will include reinstalling conduit and relocating service in conjunction with new curbs constructed under County permit.

Chace said the Board also provided additional funds to include a traffic island at the Carson-Wilmington intersection which carries 19,000 vehicles daily.

## REMOVE WARTS!

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## school! shoes! karl's!! BIG REDUCTIONS... for the Fall Semester



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