

# Conventions Grow Yearly; Whoopee, Sideshows

By REYNOLDS KNIGHT  
Hotel executives, who certainly should know, say the mid-sixties have witnessed a real slow-down in convention whoopee. Today, the hotelmen say, conventions are nearly all business. Oh, there still is a certain amount of conviviality, but most of the "sideshows" are out.

Perhaps the biggest reason for the new look at conventions is the growing habit of bringing the wives. Another is the fact that today's convention sessions quite frequently begin with breakfast meetings.

The hotelmen have another comment on today's conventions. They themselves are happy because there are so many of them, and they spend considerable time and effort in lining up conventions for their individual hotels many years in advance.

The evidence of the growth in number of conventions is the rush to build convention centers in towns outside New York and Chicago.

**TIMELY NOTE** — For the first time in history, celebrants in New York's famed Times Square on New Year's Eve "saw" 1966's arrival timed to one-tenth of a second. The exact moment of the New Year was marked with precision time pulsed by signals transmitted from the

U. S. Naval Observatory through telephone lines from Washington, D. C. It was shown as "12:00:00.0" for one-tenth of a second — on a \$10,000 digital clock that's a feature of Bulova Watch Company's spectacular sign in the heart of the Great White Way.

In addition, the sign ran off a series of three animated films on a 20x31-foot screen made up of more than 4,000 incandescent bulbs. The first segment showed the Old Year packing up while the New Year waited impatiently; the second depicted a couple waiting for the stroke of 12; and the third regaled the Times Square throngs with a variety of New Year's greetings.

Normally, Bulova uses the screen to transmit public service and commercial messages and greetings to specific visiting groups. The sign's digital Accutron clock is believed to be the only one of its type on public display.

**THINGS TO COME** — Portable infra-red heater for use in such hard-to-heat places as barns, garages, workshops, and sports areas. . . Strainer out of electric bilge pumps. . . Plastic windshield for bikes, trikes and motorcycles. . . "Waffle iron" for grilling hot dogs. Opens like a waffle iron and is fitted with slots to hold the frankfurters. . . The pre-softened wax dries

voice-actuated device to convert any tape recorder into an automatic voice-actuated system, eliminating need for using on-off switch. . . New computer for reading magnetic documents, designed as a link between remote sources of information and the data processing equipment. . . germicidal towelettes of soft, strong paper impregnated with germicide and an antiseptic principally for use of hospital patients. . . For the snow country, boots designed to hold trousers securely in place and keep snow entirely out of boots.

**TIPS FOR BOAT OWNERS** — Fiber glass hulls are finding popularity among boat owners and for one particular reason — low maintenance cost. But that doesn't mean the fiber-glass hulls can do without any maintenance at all, owners are warned.

The Boat Promotion Committee of the Society of the Plastics Industry, Inc. has this advice for owners of fiber glass boats: Treat the finish of the boat exactly as you would an automobile. Johnson Wax of Racine, Wis., a leading producer of car care products, recommends its soft-foamed cleaner-paste wax called "Kil," before the boat goes into the water, and subsequent waxings during the season as needed.

The pre-softened wax dries to a haze that can be wiped off to a shine with only a light touch, with no need for buffing.

**BITS O' BUSINESS** — Proof of football's popularity, the growth in attendance, with 1965 crowds approaching 5,000,000 in the 46-year-old National Football League. . . Most important news event of 1965, the LBJ rollback of aluminum and copper prices. . . Often think it costs you more to run your car than anyone else? Well, if you live in Boston it's true. Beantown costs of auto operation are the highest in any major U.S. city. . . One leading U.S. producer of automobiles plans to use a quarter-million used cars in its foundry operations in 1966. . . With the turn into 1966, new revised safety standards for car tires became effective. . . Oil refineries are fewer in the U.S. these days but the output of oil products continues to rise.

**SCIENCE NEWS** — Farmers, foresters and others working in the fields and woods of the nation have a new weapon in their fight against plant disease. Combined use of infra-red and ultraviolet devices, radar and both regular and color photography make a possible close aerial checkups that frequently reveal disease, such as in wheat, weeks to months before it can be seen at ground level. . . With more than 300 anti-snoring devices registered in the U. S. Patent Office, science is still getting around to looking for a cure, warning that not one of the 300 is really dependable anti-snoring device. Early studies point to the soft palate as a possible criminal. . . The known date of an animal life may have been pushed back by 120 million years with the finding of fossil bones in Canada believed to be at least 720 million years old.

## Public Notice

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## TO SOLVE HOUSING PROBLEMS

# Realtors Help Minority Groups, President Says

The incoming president of the California Real Estate Association (CREA), Burton E. Smith of Bellerose, today said CREA is recommending that "they stop letting themselves be whipping boys for civil rights groups, some government officials, and so-called fair housing groups."

He made the statement during a press conference at the Biltmore Hotel in Los Angeles, where some 2,000 realtors, real estate salesmen,

their wives and guests just concluded a three-day directors meeting with installation of officers.

"There are many," he said, "who like to blame the real estate agent, the real estate board, and the multiple listing service for problems in housing for minority groups. We would remind them and the public that the property owners, not the real estate agent, is the one who must decide if he will sell his private resi-

dential property to a minority group buyer."

**SMITH POINTED OUT** that it is a violation of law in California for a real estate agent to decide that residential property he lists for sale cannot be shown to a client for reasons of race, color, religion, national origin, or ancestry.

"We, as real estate agents," he continued, "will honorably represent the interests of the property owner and his wishes. We have fought long and hard to preserve his freedom to choose the buyer of his property. And we have the freedom to follow his wishes. "But we cannot legally or ethically be the property owner's conscience in these matters."

**COMMENTING** on a survey of multiple listing services operated by member local real estate boards, he said that only about one half of one percent of all the property offered for sale through those multiples were racially restricted by the property owners.

"This is conclusive proof," he declared, "that the supposed monster of discrimination, at least in the sale of housing in California, is only a paper dragon."

He cited the availability of housing for sale to minorities as an indication of the success CREA has had in its voluntary program to provide equal opportunity in housing.

"WE HAVE recommended that Equal Rights Committees be set up in those real estate boards that have groups in their communities claiming discrimination is a problem. Equal Rights Committees are there to work with such groups and define the role of the realtors, to be sure the property owner and the prospective buyer know that the realtor is there to represent, to aid in finding housing, and to sell housing, not to make a social or moral choice for the property owner."

He said the Equal Rights Committees are working well and gave Sacramento and the San Francisco Peninsula as specific areas where they have had marked success.

## Youths Win Awards for Horticulture

Graham Bentley of Carson High School has won first place in the senior high school individual competition in the Los Angeles City Schools annual horticulture contest.

In the senior high school team competition, Carson High placed third and a Narbonne High team won fifth place.

## Registration Continues at Adult School

Registration for second semester classes at South Bay Adult School will continue through Thursday, according to F. A. Applegate, principal.

Some 150 classes in more than 80 subject areas are included in the Spring Schedules which have been distributed to residents of the South Bay Union High School District. Adults who live out of the district are welcome to attend, and may obtain a brochure by calling FR 9-5421.

Classes new to the program, or of special interest are: Property Management, Naturalization, Law for the Layman, Bookkeeping, Personal Development for Secretaries, Short-hand (day class), Schematic Diagrams, Color TV, Short Story Writing, Spelling and Vocabulary Improvement.

R. N. Refresher, Art in Dress, Interior Decoration, Self Improvement (Women), Programmed Mathematics, New Math for Parents, Lip Reading, Photography, Applied Psychology, and Modern American Literature.

Fees total \$3 for most classes.