

# A Penny for your Thoughts

By HAL FISHER  
February is the month which marks the founding of Parents-Teachers Association of America. Millions of men and women from Maine to California have devoted countless hours to this organization. What do they get in return? To find out the Pennies Photographer asked several ladies from the Halldale Elementary PTA in Torrance: "What benefits have you received from your membership in PTA?"

Mrs. Herbert C. Clark, 223 S. Hobart Ave.: "I think I've become a better parent through learning how my children are educated. Your children and husband come first, but one can derive great satisfaction from using their free time serving others."

Mrs. Lyle White, 1441 W. 216th St.: "When you are active in PTA you can gain by getting to know the faculty and administration at your child's school. I've been able to see my children's education from both sides of the picture, the school side and as a parent. I've also met some very nice people."

Mrs. Jack Kenyon, 1322 W. 213th St.: "The greatest advantage to being in PTA are meeting and working with a lot of fine people, and getting to know the school and how it teaches. There's a challenge in working on committees and helping the group."

Mrs. Donald Hartman, 20938 Brighton Ave.: "Well, for one thing you find out that teachers are human. It gives you outside interests and new friends. I found great personal satisfaction by serving on a committee that achieved 100 per cent membership for our PTA."

Mrs. Eugene Theberge, 222 Levinson St.: "Contact with the school is one benefit. Others are the social life and meeting people with similar interests. You can exchange ideas with other parents and the children benefit too, from their parents' interest in the school."

## Hearing on Fireworks, Bed Tax Set

Lomita councilmen set March 8 for a public hearing on a proposed bed tax in the newly established city. The council is considering the imposition of a 4 per cent tax on motel and hotel charges. Also scheduled for the March 8 meeting is a public hearing on the sale of fireworks in the city. The council set the hearing date after it received a report on the matter from City Administrator Stanley D. Greene. Greene told the Press-Herald he made no recommendation on the fireworks. Greene did, however, cite the Torrance ordinance permitting the sale of fireworks as "a good one."



HEART FACTORS . . . Specialists who met with area residents last month at Little Company of Mary Hospital discuss causes of heart and circulatory disorders, the nation's number one health menace. Left to right, seated, are: Sister Mary Xavier, chief dietician at Little Company of Mary; Dr. Robert F. Nielsen, local cardiologist and chairman of the Southwestern branch of the Los Angeles County Heart Assn.; standing from left: Dr. Richard J. Lescoe, Torrance thoracic surgeon and Southwestern Branch professional education chairman; Dr. Richard Call, vice president and program planning committee chairman of the Heart Assn.; Dr. Walter J. Newers, psychiatrist, president of the South Bay Psychiatric Society and chairman of the Medical and Health Committee of the Southwestern District; and Dr. Ronald T. Piccirillo, cardiologist and medical vice president of the Southwestern Branch.

## Newspaper Boy Saves Man's Life

A 12-year-old newspaper carrier was credited by possibly saving the life of a Wilmington man who was trapped beneath a car Monday. The boy, Tom Crotty, son of Mr. and Mrs. James F. Crotty of 766 E. 246th St., alerted neighbors who jacked the car off the man. The man, Herman De Vries, 58, was trapped beneath his own car when young Crotty saw him. The car had rolled down a sloping driveway, knocking De Vries down. Neighbors called an ambulance, and De Vries was taken to Kaiser Hospital. Attendants at the hospital said De Vries suffered internal back, and right leg injuries and was improving, although he was listed in "serious" condition.

## Moose Lodge Show, Dance To Help Research Project

The Loyal Order of Moose Lodge 785 and Women of the Moose Chapter 44 of Torrance will sponsor a show and dance Saturday at the Moose Lodge at 1744 W. Carson St. for the benefit of the Danny Thomas - St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. The announcement was made this week by K. E. Finke, governor of the local Moose organization. The program is one of many being held nationally by Moose Lodges across the nation as another method of continuing the charitable activities of the Family Fraternity. Known as The Annual Moose Charity Festival, it is expected to be the major public service function of the Moose Lodges for the year. St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, founded by Danny Thomas, has been open since February 1962 and is investigating the medical problems of children, specifically leukemia, muscular dystrophy, childhood tumors and nutritional disorders. The ALSAC (Aid Leukemia and Stricken American Children) center has been hailed as the finest of its kind by leading research scientists. CHILDREN ARE admitted by referral from their private physician at no cost to the patient. Funds are raised nationwide for support of the institution, with less than 10 per cent being spent for expenses, and over 90 per cent going directly to the important work at St. Jude's Hospital, Memphis, Tenn. The local program will consist of a show and dance. The show "The Gay Nineties" is a variety review written, produced, and cast by the members of the local Moose unit. Producer is Carl Fisher and Mistress of Ceremonies is Mrs. George (Jody) Clay. THE SHOW has shown to a full house several times in the Torrance Moose Home and at several other Moose Lodges in the Southern area. Local chairman is Mrs. Ward Peacock. Richard Bell, dance chairman, announced that he has the Joe Radulovich band engaged to provide the best in dance music. Show curtain goes up at 8 p.m. with the dance following.

## Ann Landers Says Who Writes Letters During Gin Parties?

Dear Ann Landers: Our son is 18, a high school senior. While cleaning his room this morning I ran across this letter from a friend of his who is 19 and in college: "We just got back from the laundromat where we took turns riding in the dryer. It's 1:30 a.m. and my room is jumping with guys. Right now we are drinking gin highballs and eating popcorn. It's too bad you aren't here. This is the greatest blast ever. Don't make any plans for the 12th of next month because I expect you down for the big dance. There are some great looking chicks here and you don't have to worry about mothers because these girls don't have any. Well, I've got to go now because it's my turn to drink one straight down. I have a hunch I won't feel so hot in the morning but it's worth it." Ann, what do you think? This boy's mother went back to work to help put him through college. I think perhaps we'll send our son to a trade school. Do you care to comment?—A MOTHER, TOO

Dear Mother: I hope you won't deprive your son of a college education on the strength of that letter. It's phony. Do you believe a college boy (or anyone else for that matter) would sit down and write a letter in the middle of a drinking party. Get with it.

## County Plans Improvement On Broadway

A roadway improvement project has been authorized on Broadway south to Victoria Street. Work will consist of extending the pavement and gutter on two sections of Broadway to join curb and gutter constructed under County permit by owners of adjacent properties. Supervisor Kenneth Hahn said the project is a type of roadway improvement work performed by the County in cooperation with the public for the betterment of the roadway system. Broadway carries a daily average of 4,000 vehicles in the vicinity of the proposed project.

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## Count Marco Says How's Your Voice, Big-Mouth?

The average American wife has three kinds of voice: nasal, loud, and big-mouth. In medical terminology your sound system is referred to as the voice box. To most husbands, unfortunately, your voice is more like a jukebox with an overloaded coin slot. You never seem to run out of selections. Equally unfortunate for him is that he can't make a popular or soothing selection, much less unplug you for a while. What's wrong with your voice? First, the American woman has far too loud a voice. Mind you, there are exceptions to the rule, but I'm talking about the rule now. There are types of talkers, too, and nothing to a husband is worse than being stuck with the compulsive talker. That's you. As soon as he opens the door you hit him with a stream of hot air. Never do you cool down long enough to say anything worth

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listening to. Smart husbands stuck in marriage learn to tune you out. The domineering-type voice belongs to you who bellow like a cargo master directing the loading of a cattle boat. Everything you say has a booming quality. Many a hero in battle gets his medal merely because he's so used to the booming sound of a wife's voice that when a sergeant barks an order he changes into action automatically. When you tell me, "But my husband never talks to me," it could be that he never has a chance to. No better words were ever spoken than, "Silence is golden." The best investment any of you can make after seven years of marriage is to have a recording made of your voice. No matter the cost, it's well worth it. Stop sounding dull and bored by it all. Put some inflection and life into your voice. Don't speak

## A LETTER FROM JAPAN

# Student Tells of Night Spent in Za-Zen Temple

(Note: The following letter has just been received from John Haig, a Torrance High student who is spending this year at the Tokyo Gakugei Daigaku Koko school in Japan. John, the son of Lt. Col. and Mrs. Thomas Haig of 3226 Onrado St., will return to Torrance in time to graduate with his classmates at Torrance High.)

This sounds elaborate, but it is very practical, too. The hand positions keep them warm, while the slow, measured walking helps to restore circulation to the legs when they go to sleep while sitting. This continued for two or three hours. Actually, the monks of the temple continue it all day. We, however, were only spending one night so we stopped at nine o'clock to go to bed.

Dear Torrance, Recently, I had the opportunity to spend the night in a Zen temple and practice Za-Zen. Before I describe my experience, however, I would like to explain some principles of Za-Zen (known in the United States as Zen Buddhism). The central idea of Zen is to achieve the sudden, almost intuitional enlightenment that came to Buddha as he meditated in India. This enlightenment is a spiritual thing that cannot be arrived at by the use of reason or logic. Because the world is transcendental and ever-changing the facts upon which one bases logical reasoning are also false, and mere passing manifestations of the unreal world we live in. Therefore, to truly gain enlightenment one must free his mind of all worldly mat-

ters and allow the enlightenment to enter his mind without having to compete for notice. In Za-Zen, this is done by sitting in what is commonly known as the lotus position for hours in order to isolate oneself from the temptation to speak or to disturb the blankness of the mind in any way. The method is described in an account of my night at a Zen temple. AT THE invitation of a friend, I spent a weekend at the Sojiji temple in Yokonama. I was taught the sitting form, ceremony, and ideas of the Zen sect of the temple. In the sitting form the foot of either leg is put up on the thigh of the other leg; hands are in the lap with the right hand below, palms facing upward and thumbs forming a circle. One's body must be held vertical with the head straight. A cushion is used so that both knees touch the tatami mats. This position is held for about an hour, after which we walk in the standing Zen style. For this form, the hands are put in front of the chest, the left made into a fist with the thumb inside and the right hand outside; elbows are out at the sides. We walk with half steps while we breathe deeply. WE AWOKE at 4 a.m. and sat for an hour and a half, during which we read passages of the scriptures from a sheet which was distributed to all of us. Following this session, we went to the main hall where services were held. In Zen, the ceremony in the service is cut drastically. This is especially evident when these morning services are compared with those of other Buddhist sects. These monks had a real trick for keeping the morning services down to only two hours. They are supposed to read all the scriptures, but if they did, today's service would run right into tomorrow's. Therefore, they take the books and flip them through with their hands—all six volumes—and read just the first and last words on each page, this counts the same as though they had read them all! We listened to the chanting for about an hour, and those who knew the reponses took part. We then proceeded to burn incense before the altar and statue of Buddha and returned for breakfast. TOGETHER with 10 monks, we ate the normal temple breakfast. The food was plain—rice gruel with silt, some Japanese pickles, and preserved seaweed. Before eating and as we cleaned the utensils, we chanted the passages of the rules of the order having to do with meals. The reason for serving such plain food is that if the food is too tasty one might be tempted to gluttony—an undesirable extreme. If the food is too unpalatable, then one might eat too little—another undesirable extreme. The food is therefore as described, good, nourishing, but not delicious. After breakfast we cleaned the temple and returned home, having gained, hopefully, some enlightenment of the true path through our stay and meditation.



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