Herald and News

FRANK JENKINS, Editor — BILL JENKINS, Managing Editor

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BILLBOARD

By Bill Jenkins...

Buena Stone came through with a clipping from a San Francisco paper the other day regarding the litterbug situation, which goes to prove that almost all papers feature the litterbug campaign and that almost all readers pay attention to it. Buena's suggestion in her accompanying note read "Maybe what we need." And she couldn't have been righter.

The story, and picture, concerned a house painter by the name of Richard Smith who was caught dumping two barrels of rubbish in a ravine alongside the Skyline Highway south of San Francisco. He ran up against South San Francisco Municipal Judge Thomas Bocci Jr. who imposed a $50 fine plus a sentence of four hours of clean-up work done in the ravine — under the watchful eyes of a court bailiff.

I strongly suspect that were such measures put in effect in our area we'd have much less littering than we have now.

In fact I seem to remember a story from long, long ago of a small town cop who was bothered with the citizenry's illegal parking. So he finally worked out the system of letting the air out of all four tires on an illegally parked car, tagging it, and then walking off. It was good exercise and a good lesson for the drivers to have to pump up, or pay to have pumped up, their tires. And it stoppped all foolishness about obeying or disobeying the parking laws. They were strictly adhered to after he started his campaign.

A letter from Loyd DeLap in the mail the other day with another clipping, this one from the Post-Intelligencer up in Seattle, containing the information that Lt. L. C. Stillwell, assistant to the officer in charge of the Seattle Navy Recruiting Station, was principal speaker at the opening of a new recruiting station in Bellevue. Lt. Stillwell is also pretty well known around these parts since he happens to be a local boy. People sure do keep up with the news about the home town lads.

The Plumbing and Heating Industries Bureau has come out with the information that some 1,281,940 new bathtubs were sold during the first half of this year. This raises a question in our minds as to what happens to the old bathtubs? Or were all these new tubs sold for new houses? It seems unlikely.

The only use I've ever seen an old bathtub put to was as a watering trough for stock. But I suppose there must be other ways. Perhaps one could make a gigantic planter out of it and raise exotic house plants. Or use it as a spare bed in the guest room.

The Bureau tries to pass it off by saying that the total sales exceed the building figures, but that they believe many of the new tubs are being used in a "second bathroom" installations. They even come out and state that two bathrooms in every home is becoming the standard for the middle class.

I wouldn't know about that but I do have a great deal of admiration for any outfit with nerve enough to use the term "middle class" in these touchy and class conscious times.

If you have been criticised lately for your use of the (so-called) English language, be of stout heart and face up to your foe with a new weapon—The American Peoples Encyclopedia.

An announcement from them (from their press bureau which happens to be the J. Walter Thompson Company) informs us that the Caxton Club will bring out this Fall another series, this time the Crockett Almanacks, Nashville Series.

Franklin J. Meine, editor of the APE and a noted authority on American literature says that the language of the almanacks should make us all ashamed of the way we write (and speak) today. He quotes such examples as the "sam singer who hollered so loud you could hear him as far as a catamount." He also uses as examples such terms as a woman "butterlanging" the daylights out of mess of rattlesnakes and the time he (Davy Crockett) was so "exfunctoficated with the flu that he even snored hoarse."

Hooray for Meine. If this sort of thing keeps up long enough we'll finally get the word "ain't" back in the American dictionary as proper usage.

Along NATURE'S TRAIL with Ken McLeod

Industrial research and invention are the two keystones that make for the success of life in our modern industrial age, and, invention has been encouraged by our patent system. There are those, however, who would change our patent system. Somehow these people have an aversion to the government granting a monopoly for seventeen years to any individual for making public an invention. These people seem to think that the government is giving away something to the inventor. Actually, the theory of patents by its very nature, brings into public knowledge a definite idea with a natural monopoly for a period of years that otherwise could have been preserved from public view merely by secrecy.

Obviously, the commercialization of many inventions would destroy the secret; but in the case of others it would not. Thus in spite of the government granting legal security for a number of years many inventions are retained as "trade secrets" and not revealed to the public through the patent process. In secret the invenior can retain his natural monopoly and use it for his own benefits in whatever way he might choose as long as he does not disclose his secret.

The situation the inventor finds himself in when he goes to the government voluntarily to accept the bargain the government offers him, simply is this: "Make your invention public and you can retain your monopoly for 17 years." If the government decides to drive a much harder bargain it is permissible to wonder how many inventors would volunteer to surrender their natural monopolies. Certainly those who make an invention which may be exploited and kept secret will scarcely be expected to do so. The results under such conditions would be disastrous.

Court decisions of recent years are very confusing in regard to patent monopolies, take for instance where the supreme court declared that Marconi's parents were invalid for lack of invention after they had expired. In another decision the supreme court used the term "flash of genius," as though the method of making an invention was of more importance than the invention itself. Another court proclaims that an individual can make an invention; but if a group, working together, perform the same act and obtain the same result it is not an invention. Since the complexities of the modern world are forcing more and more inventions to be developed by two or more individuals working together, pooling knowledge in widely separated fields by this talk of lack of invention is very disconcerting.

To one who is not versed in all this legal play in definition it would appear rather obvious that any increase of control over our environment, or any beneficial alteration of it, is invention. The method by which such results are obtained is of no importance. The attitude of many present day court decisions seems to be comparable to a general deciding that if a regiment takes a position from an enemy no advance has been made, whereas if an individual does so it is a commendable act and deserving of a medal—in court cases, a patent. This action on the part of courts has caused many research organizations to refrain from taking out patents if the courts do not consider their findings invention they have much better protection under the law of "Trade Secrets."

Some few years ago the enemies of our patent system were in the habit of proclaiming that there were great numbers of "suppressed" patents. A "suppressed" patent was supposed to be a patent of value that was not being "worked" because of some selfish motive on the part of the owner, such as having an obsolete plant that he would be forced to scrap if he put the patent to work. This story has many variations—who has not heard it directed against the oil and the automobile industry as suppressing wondrous mythical gasoline engines of tremendous efficiency?

Then these propagandists propose new laws for forcing licensing as a corrective measure of this imaginary abuse of our patent system. It is of interest that those who have sought to find substantiation to these charges and have advertised for specialists to reveal anonymously, giving the serial number of the patent, of such wondrous inventions that have been "suppressed," have never been able to find a case that was justified. There are no "suppressed" patents.

There will be attacks made on the patent system in the future, as there have been in the past, probably by individuals who have little knowledge of their subject. Assuming that no disastrous changes are made in our patent system, certain trends in the industrial research field become obvious. Research, in spite of all the present attendant publicity, has not yet come into its own with respect to many of the smaller units of industry. The larger units have been able, because of their position, to pioneer general movements. This pioneer work was possibly too hazardous for the small units to undertake; but now that the exploratory work is pretty well over there is no longer any reason why the smaller units of industry should not make full use of industrial research for their own advancement and welfare, in fact, the time is fast approaching when their security must depend upon it.

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They'll Do It Every Time

By Jimmy Hatlo

Hal Boyle

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. (AP) — "Why do you have two holes in your nose?"

"Can you please take the wallpaper off my apple?"

"What is the longest thing in the world? Are roads the longest things in the world?"

These aren't queries asked on a $64,000 quiz show. No adult could think up questions as intelligent as these, not even for people trying to win a big motor car for a consolation prize.

They are just ordinary question that popped into the blondered head of Leila Jim Palmer, who is in the "question-asking stage"—just about 4 years old.

Leila Jim is the youngest of three daughters of Helen and George Palmer, a young newspaper couple. My wife, Frances, and I feel very lucky to be godparents of all three of "those Palmer sisters," who are growing as fast as morning glories. Nina is 8, Zona is 6.

Any home that has young children in it is a daily quiz show, a program interrupted only by meals or bedtime.

But the questions children ask are much more searching than those asked on television programs. The answer to even a $100,000 question on television is, after all, a simple matter of information that can be found by looking in a reference book.

It has to be that way. If the question didn't have a simple clear-cut answer, everybody would get confused and contestants would start suing the sponsors to collect the $100,000.

The questions asked by small children would ruin any TV quiz show, stump any panel of experts—because they often can't be answered simply and easily. A child's queries reflect the collision of a small mind with all the wonder that lies about it.

Any child can ask a question that would take a 70-year-old philosopher weeks to explain—or even leave him dumbfounded.

As children get older and shyer, they cease to ask these life-prodding questions. They pull down the curtain on their doubts and thoughts, and we miss looking through the little open windows by which we felt we knew them.

Helen and George are wise parents. As each of their children passed through the question-asking stage, they jotted down the child's questions.

Later in life, at the right time, each of the girls will be given a record of what she wanted to know at four.

Here are some typical questions asked in recent weeks by Leila Jim:

"How can a puddle go away?"

"Did the weeping willows weep that pond under them?"

How can Santa hear what you want for Christmas?"

"Do you love me even when I'm bad?"

"Could you walk on water?"

"What is under wallpaper?"

"Do you get to be what you want to be when you grow up?"

"Do your clothes still fit you when you get bigger?"

"Which do you like best—(and you can't say both)—cars or houses?"

"When daddy was a little boy did he want to be a daddy?"

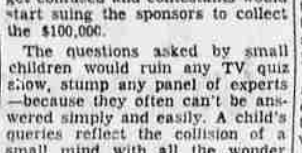
"What do you have to take things out of your nose?"

"Will my name still be Leila when I grow up?"

"How do you get braids?"

"Could you put the whole world inside this house?"

"What can I say if I can't say damn?"



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JAMES MARLOW

Associated Press News Analyst

WASHINGTON (AP)—When the Big Four foreign ministers open their three-week meeting in Geneva Thursday, they will be making another test of the so-called "spirit of Geneva."

But it will not be the final test. It will be just one more test. And it probably will not be very successful although at the end of it the diplomats can be expected to issue some pleasant bulletins about progress of some kind.

If they make any progress it will be an achievement since the three main problems they will discuss at Geneva have been big problems a long time and are not likely of settlement this soon.

The air of optimism could be breathed in easily for a short time after President Eisenhower met at Geneva last July with Premier Bulganin of Russia and the heads of the British and French governments.

The world was astonished that Russia and the West at Geneva could not only get along so pleasantly but that they could get along at all. At Geneva all sides expressed pious hopes and peaceful intentions.

But, when it was boiled down, all that happened at Geneva was talk. Any concrete results of the meeting there had to be shown by deeds later. The Eisennower administration, as it faced tests of the Geneva spirit, began to put a damper on optimism.

The first test came early in the fall at the United Nations when the United States and Russia had their first chance, since Geneva, to discuss publicly the President's sensational aerial inspection proposal made at Geneva.

In the U. N. the United States and Russia got nowhere. Now comes the second test when Secretary of State Dulles meets this week at Geneva with Russia's Foreign Minister Molotov and the foreign ministers of Britain and France.

Eisenhower and the other three members of the Big Four had agreed their foreign ministers would meet at this time to discuss these three main problems:

(1) German unification and European security; (2) disarmament; (3) improving relations between the West and Russia in trade and exchange of visitors.

Almost since the end of World War II the West and Russia have not been able to agree on the unification of Germany. Russia is expected again to balk at Western unification proposals, for various reasons.

For example: it doesn't want a united Germany in a military alliance with the West but West Germany is already in such an alliance. If the West Germans and Communist-run East Germans voted now on unification and choosing a single government the victory almost surely would go to a non-Communist government which would be allied with the West.

From the Russian viewpoint there seems no reason to hurry on this one. On the contrary, by holding out the bait of a united Germany if the Germans agree to break loose from the West, the Russians can hope at least to damage, if not break up, the Western allies now united in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

It seems impossible that the West and Russia in the short time since the Big Four meeting in Geneva could agree on a European security organization that would satisfy the Russians, if they want to be satisfied.

At Geneva, Eisenhower suggested this country and Russia exchange blueprints on their military establishments and permit each other to check on those establishments from the air.

The Eisenhower administration says this is a plan that should be preliminary to any agreements on disarmament. The Russians want to talk about general disarmament. This whole business is up in the air, unlikely to be solved at Geneva.

As for improving relations between the West and Russia, perhaps some minor agreements can be made if the foreign ministers ever have time to discuss this problem. The other two problems may take all their time.

When he left for Europe last Friday Dulles wasn't making any big predictions. The most he'd say was that he hoped he and the other foreign ministers could build "modestly" on what the Big Four began in Geneva last summer.

ANG Stages Mass Alert

WASHINGTON (UP) — Jet fighters of the Air National Guard scrambled into the air across the nation today in a practice exercise to determine the guard's readiness to help in defending the nation against enemy air attack.

The order for the Air National Guard units to get into the air was flashed by the Air Defense Command headquarters in Colorado Springs at 5:28 a.m. PST.

The signal went out to the Air Guard's 23 wings and 73 squadrons which have been assigned an air defense responsibility.

The exercise, called Operation Stopwatch, is designed to establish the time required to alert, man, and employ the Air Guard's fighter-interceptor squadrons after a state of air defense readiness has been declared.

The Air National Guard, which formerly had a Tactical Air Command assignment in event of war, last July was assigned a primary mission of air defense to supplement the regular Air Force.

The Air Guard fighter-interceptor squadrons had been told earlier in the month that a practice airt would take place sometime during October but no specific time or date was set.

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Bruce Biossat

A distinguished lawyer and former national commander of the American Legion, Ray Murphy, has afforded us striking insight into how great organizations like the Legion are sometimes maneuvered into approving ill-considered resolutions on topics of national concern.

At its recent Miami convention the Legion by voice vote condemned UNESCO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, on grounds it was Communistic, atheistic and sympathetic to world government.

Murphy was chairman of a special Legion committee ordered by the 1953 and 1954 conventions to investigate these charges. He now says that five or six members of this group, including himself, then had a bias against UNESCO on the basis of what the Legion already had said.

The committee set about probing the matter, examining 23 specific charges against the organization. One, for example, was that Alger Hiss fathered UNESCO.

In the course of its inquiry, the committee visited Communist book shops and scanned the files of the Daily Worker, hunting for boosts for UNESCO. They found none.

"After a thorough study," says Murphy, "we changed our minds."

The group decided instead that UNESCO was doing effective work in reducing illiteracy in backward lands, that it was trying earnestly, though sometimes ineffectually, to lift general standards of health, nutrition and education all over the world.

Interestingly enough, a similar committee named by the Chamber of Commerce of the United States had come to the same conclusions about UNESCO: "We looked for evidence and we could not find it."

Last May, Murphy presented his committee's findings to the Legion's national executive body in a two-and-a-half-hour speech.

"At the end," he says, "I received a rising ovation, which was unheard of."

But Murphy and his group did not "campaign" to put over their report with the full convention at Miami. It is estimated that fewer than 50 of the 3200 delegates ever read the painstakingly prepared document. There was no debate on the subject.

Instead, the convention proceeded to endorse a resolution which denounced UNESCO on all the counts Murphy's committee had found to be false.

Murphy attributed this astonishing result to a "vociferous" and tightly organized minority of extremists whose views do not represent the Legion rank and file. In the absence of an organized effort to support the committee's findings, the extremists stampeded the convention.

It's a sad lesson. Evidently fact alone are not enough. They must be vigorouly championed, and the rank and file must be willing and eager to hear and accept them.

Fire Menaces Texas Town

HAWKINS, Tex. (AP)—A burning oil and gas well shooting flames 200 feet high menaced the heart of this east Texas town today. Residents prayed that no oil would erupt.

The torch was fed by natural gas and could burn indefinitely without causing much damage to the town of around 2,000 persons.

But if oil should appear and pressure of the gas drop, burning oil could spread along the ground and destroy everything in its path. If the pressure remained high, oil would be blown into the air and burned there.

The well is only two blocks from the business district and is dangerously near homes.

Hawkins is in the midst of the huge East Texas oil field, and as a cafe owner, E. T. Petty, said, "There's a well on every lot."

The well blew out with a deafening roar early yesterday afternoon. It caught fire about 5 p.m., probably from a spark from stones striking together as they were blown from the hole under the tremendous pressure of the gas.

Experts were attempting to increase the flow of oil in the 15-year-old well, which had to be treated from time to time to keep the oil flowing, when it erupted.

"We were there beside the substructure 75 feet away when the gas and mud began to blow out," said J. S. Garrett, an oil well driller. "A plug must have blown out of the surface pipe."

Efforts to pump mud into the well to plug it failed. Late last night, engineers shut down nearby wells and forced salt water into them in hopes the water would reach the producing sands and put out the flaming well from underneath.

Homes in the immediate vicinity were evacuated and some residents moved out their household belongings.

THE DOCTOR SAYS

By EDWIN P. JORDAN, M.D.

Once in a while one runs onto a person who says he or she has never had any trouble sleeping. More common to most of us is the experience of sleeping well a good deal of the time but having spells when sleeplessness hits us and we get up in the morning unrefreshed. A few people have chronic insomnia more or less continuously and this constitutes quite a problem.

Mrs. C. evidently falls in the latter categor. She says "What causes insomnia? I have had difficulty in sleeping for the last 23 years, since carrying my daughter and have become a walking drugstore. If I don't take sleeping tablets of one kind or another I lie awake night after night and get so weak I stagger when I walk."

Such an exaggerated kind of sleeping difficulty is hard to explain.

It is possible, of course, that it started as a mild form of insomnia but that Mrs. C. has become accustomed to the use of sleeping tablets to such a degree that she is unable to have a restful night without them.

This is an unfortunate situation and shows why it is desirable not to get in the sleeping pill habit if one can possibly avoid it.

Most insomnia is probably caused by inability to throw off the worries and cares of the daytime. The person who starts thinking of the office within a few minutes of turning off the light at night is likely to develop chronic sleeplessness. The longer this goes on the worse it gets.

Undoubtedly, many people who complain of insomnia sleep better than they think they do. They may be wakeful for short periods two or three times during the night, but really get all the sleep they need.

Often they make things worse by worrying about not sleeping. This is unnecessary, as most people can get nearly as much rest for their bodily functions by lying quietly and relaxing in bed as they would if they were sound asleep.

Since worry is the principal cause of insomnia, its management is apparent. Before going to bed some occupation which takes the person's attention away from the daytime cares is desirable. This may take the form of reading some book to one's self, or aloud, preferably one which is rather dull. Other people may relax better if they do hard work of some kind.

The choice of pre-bedtime occupation should be made individually on the basis of personal likes and complete removal from the mental activity which is the major source of worry.

Sometimes a warm drink just before retiring is helpful. Training oneself in muscle relaxation has been found practicable by many.

The drugs which induce sleep should be avoided in chronic insomnia. Most of them are habit-forming and their effect wears off if used often. Alcohol to bring on sleep should be avoided also.

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