

The Herald and News

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Letters

By BILL JENKINS

Last Sunday we stated that the paper welcomes letters to the editor and outlined a few of the basic requirements such letters must meet in order to be published.

Maybe today it would be a good idea to go into the picture a little deeper. As stated in the Sunday edition we require identification on all letters. It does not necessarily mean that we will not print a letter without a signature or an address or both. But in many cases, where the letter is critical of public policies, major issues or other controversial subjects, we have to know that the letter is from a responsible source before we will allow it to be published. This paper does not believe in sniping from ambush. We don't allow our own writers on the editorial page to remain anonymous. We certainly wouldn't make it a practice to allow private citizens to use these pages and remain unknown. In other words, we reserve the right to pass on all letters and use our own judgment.

The letters to the editor department of any newspaper is usually an interesting one. Particularly in the British press, where the emphasis is more on the local scene, these letters cover every subject from history to the way the town council works. Almost all newspapers conduct such a department and consider it as one of the most important functions of their operation on the news side.

If someone were to ask me how his letter would be assured of publication I'd give him these tips: Make it brief and to the point. Keep out libel, scandal, profanity and scurrilous statements. Write only on those subjects which are close to your heart and on which you are well informed. If you do these simple things your letter will certainly be published. I might add, too, that letters containing constructive criticism are given preference over those that merely complain.

There are many people in this area, responsible, thinking people, who have a keen insight into the life and times of the Klamath Basin. No paper can ever have a news staff large enough to gather the opinions of everyone. But we'll always manage to find space to print the honest, sincere opinions of others that are sent in.

Speaking of letters reminds me that a letter, the writer didn't want his letter published or his name used, came in today suggesting that one way to stop the litterbug menace might be stiffer city ordinances against littering in downtown areas. He quotes as examples the people who park on the streets or in a parking lot and then proceed to empty their ash trays, throw away all the old papers and junk in the car and drive off leaving a mess behind them for the wind to blow about.

I think he has a good point there. We are apt, perhaps, to think in terms of county areas, forest lands and recreation areas when we think of littering. But the city certainly gets its share.

The city council has enacted a new ordinance regarding garbage disposal containers which will help a great deal. But in a country as windy as ours we certainly have to watch the downtown and residential streets if we are to maintain a clean town.

Food for thought.

Stage Stations

By KEN McLEOD

"Stage Stations and Early Hotels" was the topic Mr. Ralph H. Cross, of Berkeley, California, in speaking to the Northern Annual Symposium of Historical Societies of Northern California and Southern Oregon at Weaverville, California on November 5. It was always an inspiration to have the opportunity to listen to a master of a subject speak upon it and Mr. Cross is indeed a master of the subject of early inns and hotels which has been his personal interest for the past 18 years. The tremendous amount of research that he has accomplished and the enormous mass of classified material he has collected upon this one subject is truly a challenge to those of us who merely dabble in the waters of history.

Mr. Cross is not a professional historian, the subject is merely his avocation, yet that hobby has made him the recognized California authority upon the subject. Cross by vocation is an attorney and president of the bank of San Leandro. Cross has set an example for many another student of history for he has shown that it does not require an individual to be a Ph.D. to gain prominence in any particular phase of history. His work is the living example of what Dr. Rockwell D. Hunt, of whom we spoke in our last column, calls the "new perspective in history."

Shelter, of course, is one of the first demands of human life, and the trade routes and emigration trails leads to definite public camp-stops or whatever title one may apply to public housing places. Mr. Cross divides his thinking upon the wayward places into two groups by using the year 1849—the inns and stopping places existing before 1849 and those that came after 1849. This second period he ends in 1869 when the continental railroad was completed. The picture of the inns themselves is likewise a study of the history of the west, one of the most dynamic phases of our Western history which was displaced by the coming of the iron horse.

Cross spoke amusingly of the fact that in the 20 minutes allotted to him he would have difficulty in covering Northern California, an

area of some 24,000 square miles, having 1,000 miles of stage roads and some 489 hotels of historical interest. Cross pointed out that the public house of this early period was a considerable establishment for it had not only to accommodate to the needs of man but his beasts as well. This meant that it must not only provide a shelter for man but also a corral, barn and feed for the animals. Even though the teamsters preferred to sleep out in the open during the summer months they still had the requirement for the corral, hay and grain for their teams.

The condition of roads was possibly one of the commonest subject of conversation and every old timer who has ridden the horse drawn stages of the bygone era takes delight in telling stories of the mud that was encountered during the rainy season. Cross, in speaking of one section of an important California highway used the description given him by an old teamster as being "fourteen miles long and five feet deep."

Cross pointed out that the people who kept these wayside stopping places had to be individuals of ingenuity and enterprise. Speaking of one hotel on the California trail crossing the Sierras he mentioned the fact that it was a common occurrence for the innkeeper to feed 500 horses and to keep 125 men in beef steaks. This particular hotel had hunters to keep the hotel larder well supplied with game, but it was beef that the teamster preferred for his meals.

Water transportation was conducted as far as possible and thus in California the Sacramento River was an important link in the transportation system, at the head of navigation the freight was carried on by wagon. In the Northern California area when the town of Colusa was the head of navigation on the Sacramento it was common for as many as 50 wagons a day to leave the city for the northern settlements.

Hotels, Cross pointed out were more than just the stopping places for the public passing through the region, they were the center of the social and political life of the country and one of the most vital organs of our historical heritage.

Mr. Cross, was launched upon this study of inns and hotels eighteen years ago when he read a statement by a so-called expert who made the statement that there were no hotels in California more than 50 years old. This set him to wondering how people lived before 1880 if there were no hotels in the country. This question has led him to all parts of California and into conversations with hundreds of old timers, his library alone fills a special 20 by 60 foot building and records of individual inns and hotels which he keeps in a card file now requires a series of card filing drawers that placed end to end would extend the length of 27 feet. So when he made the statement that there were 489 hotels of historical interest in Northern California, that is merely counting the records of those in his catalog.

"Katchoo-o-o-o-o!"

By HAL BOYLE

NEW YORK (AP)—Everytime an Eskimo visits Manhattan and opens his mouth to comment, this first thing he says is:

"Katchoo-o-o-o-o!"

This isn't a form of polar greeting. It is just a sign—sure as sneering—the fellow is coming down with a virus.

Happens with every touring Eskimo. Let him take one look at the subway and before he can even brag they got better looking igloos above ground back home, down he comes with the sniffles.

The people who come here to admire the skyscrapers in our town remain to enjoy our viruses. As a matter of fact the residents here no longer boast about the skyscrapers. That is taken as rather early century talk.

Your real true-blue New Yorker, full of civic pride, would rather dwell on less well known virtues of our spreading cosmopolitan community.

We particularly excel in civilized diseases and uncivilized viruses. In the size of ulcers we don't claim we outmatch Hollywood. All we say is that we've got more of them. And we can prove statistically that for every two-ulcer man you see at Hollywood and Vine we can produce four three-ulcer men along Broadway. We have fellows who even go on a diet themselves but continue to feed their ulcers three square meals a day.

Other cities now and then call attention to an epidemic virus, but here we've got so many viruses we name them after the month. A showoff right now is a fellow who claims he's got an April virus in November.

Take a virus away from a New Yorker this time of year and what have you got left? Only a guy with a lonesome feeling. A virus is more than a form of social prestige here. It's a social necessity. The common cold is highly uncommon in New York. A gent who isn't fast enough to latch on to a virus is expected to stay healthy.

Now about our uncivilized weather. Other cities enjoy a climate. We don't really have a climate. We have a series of used up and discarded weather from other areas.

It is possible to find seven different kinds of weather in San Francisco on an average day. But what does San Francisco do with all its weather when it is through with them? It blows them away.

So does Canada. So does Florida. So

does Europe. This is the world's melting pot of weather.

Maybe Tucson, Ariz., can fry an egg on the pavement during a heat wave. We can't do that. The humidity won't allow it. But we can bust an egg on the sidewalk and soft boil it. Can any other city honestly make this claim?

Smog? We mail our surplus to Los Angeles.

If you come here from out of town and get homesick for your favorite virus or favorite weather, don't complain. Wet your finger and hold it up. Good or bad, a wind will blow it this way soon. Everything blows to New York City.

Distinction

By JAMES MARLOW

WASHINGTON (AP)—Russia's Foreign Minister Molotov at least has had the distinction of rendering the three Western foreign ministers speechless at Geneva.

For one diplomat to be able to knock the talk out of three other diplomats is quite an achievement. But why Molotov had such an effect on them is hard to see.

When he told them yesterday Russia wouldn't agree to their plan for unifying Germany, the three Westerners had to call a recess until today. Secretary of State Dulles said he had to consider the matter overnight before speaking.

Yet Molotov's performance was no surprise. The No. 1 problem before the four ministers before they ever reached Geneva, just as it has been the No. 1 problem since they arrived there, is the unification of Germany.

The West and Russia had never been able to agree on it before. And there was no reason to believe the Russians this time at Geneva would soften up or cave in. There was no widespread optimism here that they would.

The best anyone could reasonably hope for—before the conference—was that the two sides might reach some small agreements on other problems and finish up without calling each other names.

That would permit them to have another meeting next year when, if relations between the West and Russia hadn't become too wrecked again, there might be some more agreements on some other problem smaller than the unification of Germany.

The United States, Britain and France would like to see Germany united under a democratic government favorable to the West and linked to it, just as West Germany now is linked to it through the North Atlantic military alliance.

And that's exactly the last thing the Russians want to see. From all reports the East and West Germans—if they were permitted to unite and have free elections to choose a new government—would choose a democratic government favorable to the West. The Russians certainly have reason to fear that would happen.

For that reason they will not permit free elections, as Molotov has made clear. He denounced the idea of free elections. He called it "unreal and dangerous."

He indicated—so the press officers of the United States, France and Britain said—that the only kind of unified Germany the Russians want is a Communist Germany. And there can hardly be any doubt of that.

And where does this leave the West and Russia so far as Germany is concerned? So far as can be seen it leaves them right up against the same stone wall that separated them before the Geneva meeting began Oct. 27.

Dulles and Molotov did a little traveling during a weekend recess in the conference. Molotov went to Moscow. Dulles went to Yugoslavia to see Marshal Tito, who is friendly with the West and recently became friendly with the Russians all over again.

Since both Russia and the West want Tito on their side, he's in a good spot to play off one against the other, saying something that pleases one side one time, and something that pleases the other another time.

After their meeting Dulles and Tito issued a statement. They said they'd like to see the Russian satellite countries independent. That means independent of Russian domination.

That was a first-class propaganda harpoon, thrown directly into the hide of the Russian bear. The least it could do was stir up some discontent among the non-Communist satellite people.

But just how smart Dulles was in heaving this harpoon, right in the midst of the Geneva conference when he was hoping for some agreement with Molotov, is a question which will probably be debated for some time.

Just before he left Moscow for Geneva, Molotov told foreign correspondents he was taking "better baggage" back to Geneva with him. The Western optimist market took on a bullish turn, judging from Molotov's almost brutal position on Germany when he got back to Geneva, that "better baggage" he talked of consisted of one big torpedo.

Don't Like

Klamath Falls, Ore. (To the Editor)—About 98 percent of us intelligent American people would like to know why the broadcasting radio stations keep trying to cram down our throats all that foreign news? Not one of us gives a tinker's dam what they are doing 7,000 miles away. We try to live in the U.S.A.

Mrs. Stella Livingston

Eds Note: A tinker's dam is not profanity, as sometimes thought. The term comes from the past when roving tinkers covered

the country patching up the housewives' metal cooking utensils. A dam was a mud or clay form molded around the break that was being repaired to hold the molten patching material. When the job was finished the broken dam was cast away. Thus the term "not worth a tinker's dam" meaning worthless or of little value.

Blood Clot Drugs

By EDWIN P. JORDAN, M.D.

Nature has given us remarkable bodies which function with great satisfaction. Once in a while however, one of the bodily functions gets out of whack and one can, for example, have too easy clotting of the blood, or its opposite—too easy bleeding.

Q—I should be interested to learn about a drug which is used to prevent blood clotting, particularly when one is past middle age and threatened with apoplexy. F.V. A—There are actually two substances which are sometimes used in human beings to delay the coagulation or clotting of blood. One of these is heparin which is obtained by making an extract from the liver. The other is dicumarol which was originally obtained from spoiled sweet clover and can now be made in the laboratory. These substances must be used with care since too much of them may result in excessive bleeding. They are not used too freely to prevent apoplexy, but may have value for a few patients.

Q—I am a saleswoman standing on my feet from 6:30 in the morning to 5 or 6 in the evening, with only a half hour for lunch when I sit. Lately my right leg has begun paining me and even after a good night's sleep, I awake in the morning with the same feeling. Is this a beginning of something serious? Mrs. T.M.

A—There are several possible causes for the discomfort you are having in your leg. You should have your feet examined for the possibility of fallen arches and to make sure that you are wearing the most comfortable shoes possible. There is also the possibility of some difficulty with the blood circulation in your legs. I should say that this was serious enough for you to seek relief.

Q—My dictionary says that sadism is a sexual perversion in which satisfaction is derived from the infliction of cruelty. Does this mean only physical cruelty, or can it be mental cruelty as well? Reader.

A—This term is derived from the Marquis de Sade, and I believe applies strictly to physical cruelty, though there is, of course, cruelty of the purely mental variety.

Q—Would you please comment on the dangers, if any, of making a blood donation every three months? There seems to be a divergence of opinion on this, E.O.A.

A—All of the evidence of which I am aware indicates that a healthy person can make a donation of blood of the usual quantity at least as often as every three months without producing any harm whatever.

Q—Would you say something about the floating kidney? I should like to know how this develops and whether it can be corrected with surgery only, and if it is serious. Mrs. H.B.

A—This is a condition in which one of the kidneys is not attached as firmly as normally and moves around to some extent. It may not produce any symptoms at all, nor require treatment. If treatment is needed, surgery is the only method of correcting the condition.

Quotes

By UNITED PRESS
MIAMI—Senate Republican Leader William F. Knowland on political activity of the labor movement:

"There are some of the rank-and-file of the new labor combine who visualize taking control of the Democratic Party as they have in the state of Michigan and making it into the equivalent of the British Labor Party."

WASHINGTON—Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey predicting developments at the 1956 Democratic national convention:

"I think a majority of the favorables will be for Stevenson when all is said and done."

VERSAILLES, France—Baron Gottfried von Cramm on his marriage to the multi-millionaire heiress Barbara Hutton:

"She hasn't given me a present yet but I am hopeful."

MCINTICELLO, Ark.—Mrs. Chester Green, mother of turncoat William Cowart, one of three men released from Army custody today:

"I told him we'd have a bang-up Thanksgiving and a good Christmas although we don't have anything to hang on the Christmas tree except him—and he's enough."

NEW YORK—Roman Catholic Bishop Fulton J. Sheen on the general TV audience:

"New York and Hollywood are just the crust on the great American sandwich—the meat is in between."

VERSAILLES, France—Barbara Hutton on her reactions to the romance of Princess Margaret and her decision to give up Group Captain Peter Townsend:

"I think she was a very courageous girl. I think she is going to be very unhappy later."

Service Lists Prison Jobs

The U. S. Civil Service Commission has announced new examinations for filling the following positions: Prison mechanical supervisor (operating engineer), paying \$4,080 and \$4,525 a year, in various federal penal and correctional institutions located throughout the United States; savings and loan examiner, paying \$4,525 and \$5,440 a year, in the Federal Home Loan Bank Board at locations throughout the country; and geologist, paying from \$3,670 to \$8,990 a year in various federal agencies in Washington, D.C., and throughout the United States.

The individual announcements of these examinations give full details concerning the requirements to be met for qualification, and instructions for filing applications.

McINTYRE

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Applications for the geologist examination for positions paying \$3,670 and \$4,525 a year, must be filed not later than December 20. There is no closing date for acceptance of applications for the other examinations.

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