

The Herald and News

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Here and There

By BILL JENKINS

In this business of writing columns it is all too easy for the author to find himself falling into critical habits. Sometimes it just seems that everything you pick up is either ridiculous, wrong or in some manner deserving of scornful treatment. But, at last, I have come across a news release which meets with my whole-hearted approval and does much to restore my faith in modern science.

The turfgrass specialist at the University of California at Los Angeles, a fellow by the name of Dr. Victor Younger, says that science may have ended forever the scourge of a brown lawn. The secret lies in dyes, and Dr. Younger says he has tested several of the newer types of green dyes and found them both safe and capable of making your lawn, no matter what its condition, look lush and green.

If this is a reality, it is indeed a boon to mankind.

The release I was reading gave no details as to how much dye was applied, but I assume it would be no insurmountable chore. And it couldn't help but be both easier and cheaper than constant and heavy applications of fertilizer and water.

More power to you, Dr. Younger.

If you are one of those people who halfway flip your lid every time you go through a California Quarantine Station, the following information may make you feel better.

During the month of January the 16 quarantine stations in California refused entry to 8,400 shipments which did not meet quarantine requirements. They also found 1,097 which owners failed to declare. The result of all this was the prevention of entry of 3,000 lots of insects, diseases and weeds into the state.

The state department of agriculture reports that the most important pests caught at the border stations included the cotton boll weevil, the pecan nut weevil, citrus white fly, the pickleworm, the pecan shuckworm, the pink boll worm, the European cornborer, the apple maggot, the walnut husk maggot, and the sugarcane borer.

California has indeed been spared a horrid fate.

I seem to be on the subject of California statistics today. But, briefly, it might be of interest to note that the state finance department purchased a total of 57,600 toothbrushes last year. They will be used in the various state institutions.

One final note, and then I'll quit. Anyone who thinks that the competition in the real estate business in California isn't keen is crazy. At the end of January 1958 there were 125,031 real estate licenses issued in California which all amounts up to quite a handful of salesmen.

Police Survey

By FLOYD L. WYNNE

The survey of the Klamath Falls Police Department as issued to the council Monday night is certainly a thorough evaluation of the department in its entirety.

The survey is extremely critical of the administration of the police department. It points up the deficiencies in almost all phases and departments of the police force.

It admits the lack of a library for study by officers, the lack of adequate care and maintenance of firearms and other equipment, the lax manner of handling prisoners, the lack of adequate training, but rather at the door of the chief and the assistant chief.

The report itself does a very excellent job of outlining the type of organization that the department should have. If put into practice, it would result in the updating of procedures and modernization of police practices.

It must be noted, however, that what criticism there is in the report, it is not directed at the members of the force as such. Any malpractices pointed out in the report, or any deficiencies in records kept or procedures followed cannot be laid at the door of the staff members, but rather at the door of the chief and the assistant chief.

The report is high in its praise of the intelligence of the staff as a whole. It finds little to criticize in the conduct of the members or their carrying out of their duties. I feel safe in saying that the majority of the members of the police force are conscientious officers who are doing their best to render a good police service to the citizens of Klamath Falls.

They have been following policies and procedures as outlined for them by their superiors. In many cases they have not had adequate training, but this, in turn, was

cause in some instances the council could not make adequate funds available for such training.

In this instance, the people must also come in for a share of the blame since they turned down a request of an additional two mill levy several years ago to update the police department.

I don't believe that Inspector Younger meant the report as an indictment of the Klamath Falls Police force as such. It, however, is in its text an indictment of the individuals who are responsible for the administration of the police force.

The report, while being critical, does sharply point out the manner and method by which the deficiency can be rectified and the department improved.

As a matter of fact, Inspector Young had already instituted a number of changes in the department even prior to the publishing of his recommendations.

He had put the department on a 40 hour five day week by changing the shifts and beat procedures. He had taken the department off the foot patrol system and put them on essentially a motor patrol.

He had instituted the keeping of additional and more detailed records, and had launched efforts at improving the public relations of the department by keeping a log on visits to banks and other establishments, and had initiated a card file on all business houses, listing their managers and assistants and their home address and phone numbers.

The next step is a thorough study of the report, and then some hard and fast considerations by the council as to what course to pursue and what actions to take to implement the report.

You can rest assured on one point, there has never been nor will there be any effort to whitewash this report in any way. It was an impartial report, made by a conscientious police officer who is thoroughly trained in the policies and procedures of an excellent police department.

I'm also certain that in the weeks ahead the city council will be conducting a complete evaluation of its own of the inspector's recommendations.

The report is not one that can be put into practice within the next few weeks in its entirety. It will require time on some of the suggestions, but there certainly are many, many items in the report that can be put into effect immediately, and should be.

A number of the recommendations can be made by the council, but others will have to be made by you, the people, since some of the recommendations will require the expenditure of money over and above the current police department budget.

But, the way and the need for improvement has been pointed out. It's up to us to take it, or fall back into the old procedures that have been allowed to exist for the past 15 to 20 years in the department.

Hard Work
By HAL BOYLE
NEW YORK (AP)—A lot of people have it easy in this life," said Erskine Caldwell. "They don't have to work hard."

"I do. I have to sweat."

But in the last 30 years Caldwell, a tall, blue-eyed, sorrel-haired man who looks as if he had been quarried from the red earth of his native Georgia, has written 34 books. They range from the early realism of "Tobacco Road" to his recently completed "Molly Cotton-tail," a children's story.

Disability Pact
By GEORGE J. MARDER
(United Press)
You can get almost as many opinions on the meaning of the Eisenhower-Nixon disability pact as there are constitutional experts in Washington, of which there is a goodly surplus.

But two things are clear: 1. The disability understanding between the President and the vice president would not be needed or made if Congress had ever acted, and

2. If the disability pact is ever used, it will put Nixon beyond reach of charges of a play for power.

This latter is important in the event President Eisenhower is ever so disabled he cannot make the decision to turn over the government to the vice president.

Historically, vice presidents have been in extremely difficult spots whenever a president is ill to the point of being unable to carry on, even temporarily, the full duties of the office.

Nixon had to move cautiously not to lay himself open to any charges that he was eager to take over.

The result could be, and has been, stalemate in government.

The best, or perhaps the worst, example of this was in the second administration of Woodrow Wilson. Critically ill, Wilson was unable to be president for months, except in name.

But the vice president was so fearful of laying himself open to a charge of seizing power, and so fearful of antagonizing the ailing president, he wouldn't even call a cabinet meeting.

The result, nobody was at the helm of government.

This year will mark the film debut of "God's Little Acre," his most successful novel. More than eight million copies have been printed, and it has become the best selling work of serious fiction ever written in America.

It has been translated into some two-score languages. But for some reason "God's Little Acre" has never been distributed in Russia, where several of Caldwell's other works are quite popular.

"I don't suppose the Russians cared for the first word of the title," the author remarked dryly.

He wrote the book 25 years ago last summer in a Maine farmhouse in three months at a period in life when he was at financial rock bottom.

"I only worked at it on the odd days," he recalled. "On the even days I had to cut wood and raise potatoes."

"Usually I rewrite a book 15 to 20 times, but not this one. As I finished each sheet, I let it fall to the floor. And when I had finished enough sheets I had the book. I have never read it myself since."

For 20 years, angered at what Hollywood had done to his "Tobacco Road," Caldwell stubbornly refused all offers to make "God's Little Acre" into a film. Finally he did it himself on a partnership basis.

The movie was shot near Stockton, Calif., because no location site could be arranged for in Georgia. People in his home state, Caldwell said, didn't approve of his portrait of Southern life.

"But after the film was finished," he added, "the mayor of Augusta wanted us to have the premiere there, but after he had had a private showing to see what he wanted to cut out."

Caldwell, who has fought censorship all his life, made it clear the film's premiere won't be in Augusta.

The writer, a lone and rugged individualist, is the son of a Presbyterian minister, and as a child moved to a new town almost every year. This kept him from making any lifelong friends in his youth, and he observed, "I have none now."

Still a wanderer, he never lives more than seven years in one place, never writes two books in the same room. A martinet in self-discipline, he wrote for seven long years — "usually from sundown to sunup" — before he sold his first magazine story.

"A man has to do a thing his own way," he said. "You can't advise a writer. If he wants to write enough, he'll find his own way. If he doesn't want to, he'll find an excuse. That's all there is to it."

His years of privation stick in his memory.

"I still save string, rubber bands and paper clips," he said.

Caldwell rarely reads books now, rarely associates with other writers because he thinks writers — including himself — are pretty dull people socially.

"All writers talk about is their own work," he said. "They don't even know good jokes."

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HowCUM? NOBODY WOULD KNOW—NOBODY WOULD CARE—BUT THE BOILERWORKS IN NEW ROQUEFORT IS EQUIPPED WITH SILENT LIGHT SWITCHES...

WHEREAS—THE HOSPITAL—WHERE "QUIET" IS THE ESSENCE OF QUIETNESS—STILL HAS THE OLD-FASHIONED SWITCH THAT SOUNDS LIKE A KENTUCKY SQUIRREL RIFLE...

Arizona Students Protest Name Change Of College

TEMPE, Ariz. (AP)—What's in a name? If you're one of the 1,000 Arizona State College at Tempe students who stormed the state Capitol yesterday in protest over a proposed school name change, the answer is simple: Dynamite.

And the fuse is 19 years old. The students have been trying to get the school name changed to Arizona State University for several years, but University of Arizona supporters say such a name change would "filch the good name" of their school.

Besides, they add, Arizona has enough trouble supporting one university.

Rebel Forces Warn French

TUNIS (AP)—Algerian rebel leaders today threatened new reprisals unless France halted executions of nationalists caught in Algeria.

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The rebel ultimatum was prompted by the approaching execution of Djamilia Bouhired, a 21-year-old girl rebel fighter sentenced by the French to death last July for participating in a terrorist attack.

Each driver took an eye test before trying out the signs, which incidentally read "Utopia" and "Metropolis," with varying distances underneath. The eye tests eliminated anyone with color blindness, and they also gave the experts a good cross-section of motorists with different degrees of vision.

When the tests were finished, 58 per cent of the drivers said the green on white was best. Twenty-seven per cent chose blue lettering on the white background, only 15 per cent picked black.

Another result: Most drivers thought capital and lower case lettering was easier to read than signs with all-capital letters. And eight out of 10 drivers preferred reflective signs to no - reflective even in broad daylight.

Already, 18 of the 48 states have approved the green and white directional signs for the interstate highways that will run through their jurisdiction. And approval of the rest will be forthcoming in another two or three weeks.

The states, however, can choose reflective or non-reflective signs, only the color scheme has to be standard. Lettering size may vary, but the federal government wants every sign capable of being read at a distance of 800 feet.

That's 300 feet more than present requirements for older roads, and will provide one additional margin of safety on the dream highways being planned for the American motorist.

Quotes
By UNITED PRESS
WASHINGTON — Air Force Lt. Gen. Clarence S. Irvine, in a speech for the Armed Forces Communications Electronic Assn.: "One of the most interesting space vehicles we are now studying is a satellite that can hover under control over a given portion of the world. This of course means establishing circular orbits of over 20,000 miles."

NEW YORK — Mrs. Luenette Jones, 34, widowed mother of the 11-year-old Negro boy who has confessed that he pushed two playmates into the Hudson River and watched them drown:

"I don't know why Junior did a thing like that. I'm not an unfilial mother. I work nine to five but I don't leave until those kids are gone to school, even if I'm late. I spank Junior when he's naughty."

They'll Do It Every Time

By Jimmy Hatlo



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LEFT OUT
LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP)—The mother of an elementary school lad asked why his picture wasn't on a display board with those of other children whose parents had attended the same school. The youngster explained: "I couldn't remember what Daddy's name was before he got married."



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