Herald and News

Editorial Page

Maybe Just A Word . . .

Like too many communities in our fair land, we have automobile graveyards scattered in the Klamath Basin. And, almost every time one drives by one of these lots, it seems, there is another wrecked car in the driveway or proximity.

It's pretty certain that each wrecked car stands for the maiming, if not the death, of a human being.

Why is it that we hold life so cheap? We do not have the figures at hand for 1960, but in 1959 91,500 persons were killed by accident in the United States. Of these fatalities, 37,500 were vehicular, 13,000 were industrial and 27,000 occurred in the home.

Add to these the uncounted number of nonfatal accidents that must have occurred to each one in which there was actual loss of life, and you get some idea of the dreadful toll of carelessness — the thoughtless disregard for the sanctity of human life.

Even more appalling is the loss of life due to deliberate self-destruction. Addressing the National Association for Mental Health, Dr. Joseph Hirsh placed at 50 to 60 thousand the number of Americans who die by suicide each year.

He also expressed the opinion that, for each successful suicide effort, there were no fewer than five, and perhaps as many as 60, unsuccessful trials.

Although many public agencies address themselves to the humanitarian task of reducing the numbers of these accidental and suicidal deaths, we incline to the belief that individual efforts score greater accomplishments.

In all probability, the boy whose father is a careful driver is apt to follow the example he has become familiar with all of his life.

The girl whose mother is an orderly homemaker is apt to run her own home in an equally orderly manner.

And the recently employed worker is apt to heed the safety regulations of his shop or industry if he sees these regulations honored by his superiors.

Much, too, can be done to prevent suicidal attempts. In Dr. Hirsh's study, he noted an increased incidence of attempts at self-destruction on dull days in the fall and winter, during prolonged hot spells in the summer and following recent marital separation or divorce.

The incidence was also notably higher in persons who lacked any formal religious affiliation—in our opinion, the most significant reason.

Alerted by these observations and recognizing the emotional effects of purely personal conditionings, the considerate friend, clergyman or physician may provide just the right word, deed or counsel to tide the depressed person over a period of climax.

Keep Hammering

President Kennedy will have to be at pains to prevent the Russians from making improper propaganda use of their release of the two RB-47 American fliers.

Already their official "news" organs are talking of the action as if it were a cold war concession that must now be matched by us.

This is an old Soviet game. You commit some act of wrongdoing. Then you correct it, and ask your adversaries that they treat the correction as a solid concession. The hope is, of course, that the world will lose sight of the fact that you are correcting something which you never should have done in the first place.

Kennedy made plain in announcing the fliers' release that he had given nothing in return at the outset, and implicit in his comment was the position that nothing would be given.

(Those lawmakers who later demanded to know whether he had yielded up anything to the Kremlin evidently had not bothered to read or hear what the President said.)

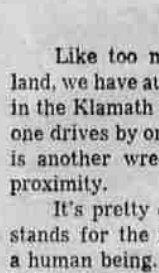
Among the things he said at the time was that Moscow had by its action removed a serious obstacle to improvement of U.S.-Soviet relations. But that is a far cry from saying we are now prepared to do, or have done something in return.

All that was accomplished was a slight betterment in the general diplomatic atmosphere. Whether real negotiations and real concessions on both sides will follow from this remains to be seen.

In his inaugural address Kennedy called on Khrushchev to show evidence of earnest intent to achieve genuine solution of such outstanding world problems as disarmament. He obviously does not intend to be taken in by fraudulent gestures.

But he and his new administration must remember that the world is always watching. And many peoples do not make proper distinction between real and phony concessions as they view the cold war from their distance.

Thus one task of the President and his information agencies is to tell and retell the true story of the released American fliers. Another, for him, is to state tirelessly to the Russians and all the world that we are ready and eager for real advance toward disarmament and peace.



JIM BISHOP: REPORTER . . .

You're Never Older Than You Feel -- Sometimes

MIAMI, Fla.—He is bent over the sink, washing the breakfast dishes. This gives me time to write. My father has been here a week. For a proper appreciation of what has happened, one must recognize that he is 77, has an auricular fibrillation, edema of lungs and ankles, his feet shuffle slowly, his head is inclined, hair white, teeth new, eyes blue and twinkling, manner courtly and diplomatic.

When my mother died, over three years ago, John M. Bishop Sr. retired to his room in my sister's house. He seldom came out. The man who sits alone is in poor company. He built up nervousness, fears and, in effect, marked time. Once, he had been a big solid man, a handsome, second-generation Irishman in the uniform of a police lieutenant. He weighed 234. Now he was a shrunken, skinny man of 139, watching the clock and waiting for the hour to take the next pill.

He was terrified of planes, afraid of trains, nervous in automobiles. I goaded him into leaving the room. My brother John shoved him on the train at Newark, New Jersey, and I met him the next day at Flagler Street and yanked him off. I had no intention of babying him. I said: "If it is God's will that you have to go, let Him take you in bright sunshine rather than in that stuffy room."

Dad agreed. His leg muscles were so flabby that it hurt to walk more than a hundred yards. The first night, I took him to the Jai-Alai games. When we got back to the Key Biscayne Hotel, he said he couldn't sleep without his pill. He was gone before he could reach for it. The next day, I asked him to play nine holes on a pitch and putt course.

"Oh no," he said. Golf was 20 years behind him. I gave him an eight iron and a putter and dragged him out. He played and shot 44. The next morning, he was out by himself and shot 34. His snowy skin got red, then deep tan. We went everywhere together, even when I was working on a column. We toured Miami Beach at night, just to see the lights.

We went to George Baker's home for dinner. Dad was afraid that it would be too fashionable for him. He met an airline stewardess named Beverly, reached for the roast beef and her at the same time and, in an hour, he had promised to make his first flight on her plane. John was moving fast.

They came over to my table. He had his arm around her. Beverly said: "Mr. Bishop, I have something important to say to you." I looked up and said: "No matter what you have to say, I'm not going to learn to call you mother." It wasn't that, she said. John had promised her to make a jet flight to New York.

Sunday we went deep sea fishing on the Elkam II. My father is afraid of the sea. He relaxed, held his face to the warm sun, ate as though food had been outlawed, and asked the captain numerous questions about the gulf stream. Monday, he played 18 holes of golf and drove to Hialeah to visit Frank and Gail Gerace. He fell asleep watching television.

Tuesday we went to Hialeah. He knew nothing of the horses, but would bet the whole wad—$2—on anything Bill Hardtack was riding. He won $7, and got back to the hotel in time for a corned beef and cabbage dinner. He was now averaging at least two miles a day on his feet. The pain in the calf muscles was almost gone.

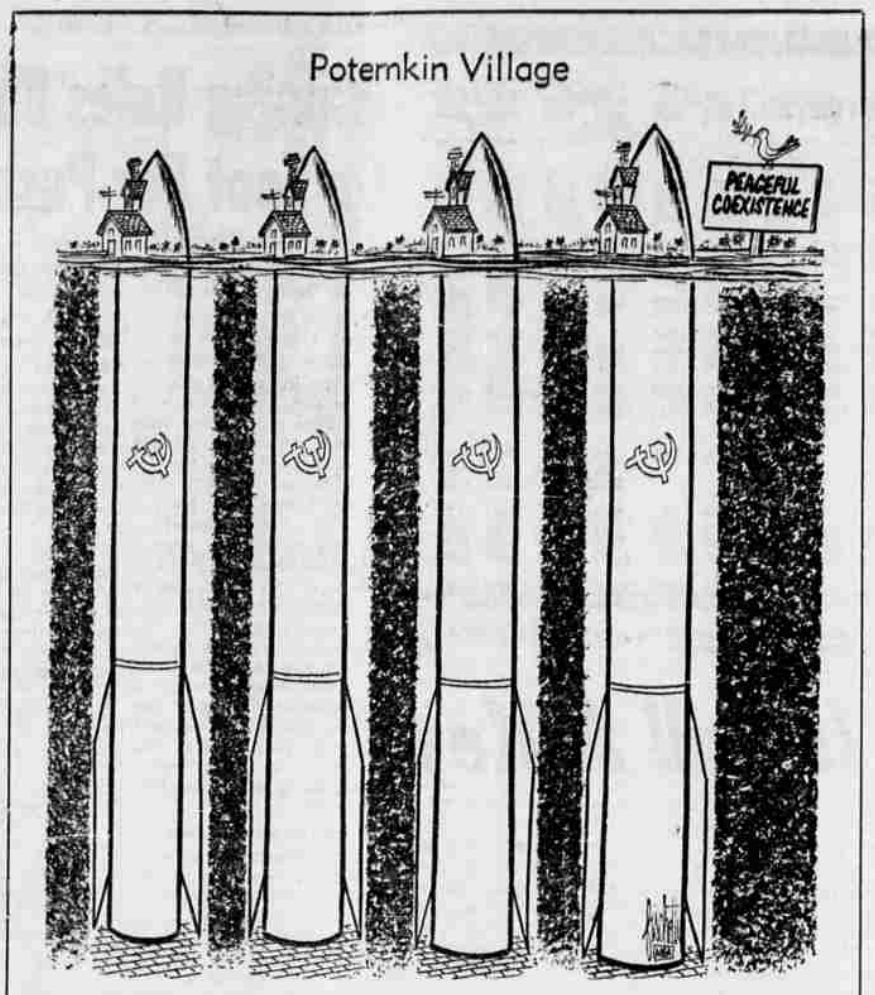
Wednesday, he visited the Sequarium, watched the porpoises spring out of the blue water, saw a 300 year old turtle, and murmured: "My friend, you've got me by a few years." At the airport, Dymond of National put my father in a Lockheed Electra simulator (a real flight deck of a plane built in a big room) and took him down an imaginary runway and up to 9,000 feet, making twists and turns, through an electric storm with fake lightning on the front windows, and down to a safe landing.

"If that's all there is to it," Dad said, "I'll change my mind. I'll fly." We'll see. The next day, Tom Ferris and I played 18 holes at Key Colony. Dad drove the electric cart. He had never been in one. Later he went to Jordan-Marsh, bought some wild sports shirts and a straw hat with a narrow beatnik brim, and said: "What's next on the agenda?"

He visited Dr. J. V. Hankwerker, accompanied by a note from his northern doctor. Hankwerker examined the tricky heart, searched for fluid in lungs and ankles. The doctor said: "He's in good shape. Heart is all right and no fluid. He's dry as a bone."

Now he is washing the morning dishes. I'm trying to write and he wants to know "What's next?" Last night, we stood along the edge of the sea, looking at the little blue pinholes in the sky.

"This," he said solemnly, "is the closest I expect to get to heaven." . . .



THE VIEW FROM HERE . . . by F.L.W.

Entrance Age Change Brings Big Response

REACTION to my recent column on the bill to change the entrance age for first grade school children was immediate and vigorous.

BESIDES A NUMBER of letters, which presented both sides of the issue, I had a number of phone calls from those who favored the bill and some from those who did not.

IN THE MAIN, the issue seemed to evolve around those children who were obviously ready to enter the first grade, and those children who were emotionally, psychologically or physically not ready to enter the first grade at the age of six years, or five years nine months.

ONE CALLER, who was an educator, took sharp issue with my viewpoint and fell back on the argument that one quarter of all students who enter the first grade at just under six years of age fail one grade or another during their school years.

He also blamed the slow progress of first grade classes on the slower student who requires more attention and thus holds back the progress of the class.

In this instance, it was presumed that this slow individual would be the youngster who was not quite six at the time school convened.

It was also this person's understanding that the shifting of the school age back to July 1 was to be done by a series of moves, first changing the date to September 1, then to August 1 the following year and then to July 1.

No reasons were given for the selection of the July 1 date. It appears to be just an arbitrary date.

IN ALL THE ARGUMENTS from both sides, it appeared that each side was doing the other an injustice.

The educators claimed that the parents were inclined to overestimate the intelligence of their youngsters, and were unable to admit to having children who were not ready for school. They also had a tendency to accuse the parents of merely wanting to get the youngsters off their hands and into school so it would give them fewer problems.

The parents involved, in turn, felt that the educators were not willing to meet the challenges posed by youngsters of this type, and were inclined to favor a more accelerated, modernized type of educational structure rather than deal with the facts as they are.

SOMETHING is to be said for both sides, but, in the main, it is unjust to accuse parents of merely wanting to get rid of their youngsters by pushing them off on a teacher. This may be true in some instances, but it is only an isolated or an uncommon case. I can't deny that parents do have a tendency to overestimate the intelligence of their children.

On the other hand, it is unjust to level accusations at the educators, also. They are dedicated people and, I'm sure, feel they were doing the proper thing for the most good for the most children when they made the recommendations they did.

THE RECENT MOTHERS MARCH against the Legislature in Salem attests to the fact that something as vital to parents and to the educational structure as this issue was should not be handled merely by the passing of a bill.

The bill itself is House Bill No. 1097, and the bill flatly provides for the changing of the entrance age date to July 1. A child must be six years of age by the previous July 1 in order to begin school in September. There are no other provisions for a gradual shift to the date, nor any provisions for testing of youngsters' intelligence or any other method.

In effect, it would penalize the 75 per cent youngsters of the period July 1 to September 5 birthdates, by setting them back a year in their education because 25 per cent of their numbers might fail a grade.

THE END RESULT, if such a program were enacted, would be to have youngsters graduating from high school at 19 years past, and with several years military service sandwiched in, coming out of college at 25 or 26, even 28 or 30 in the case of medical school or other courses requiring additional college training.

I STICK with my original point. This is not the proper method of attacking this particular problem of regulating the progress of the early school year youngsters.

Despite the fact that the November 15th date has held for about the last 30 to 35 years, it may be that some changes are necessary. But, from this viewpoint, the arbitrary shift in entrance date is not the answer.

Travel Talk

ACROSS
1 Massachusetts cape
4 Italian capital
6 They travel by sea
12 Shoshonean
13 Prayer ending
14 City in Pennsylvania
15 Offer
16 Classified advertisements
18 Senseless
20 Flowers
21 Scoundrel
22 Bridge
24 Shoo, cat!
26 Let it stand
27 For
30 Idaho vegetable pride
32 Earth goddess
34 Egg dish
35 Standards
36 Fox
37 Kind
39 Traveling by water
40 Gudrun's husband (myth.)
41 Superlative suffix
42 Publish
43 Annoys
46 Spaces between arches
51 Decay
52 Former U.S. president
53 Essential being
54 First woman
55 Saintes (ab.)
56 Musical directions
57 Morning moisture

2 Elevator inventor
3 Consecrated
4 Fast
5 Portent
6 Simplest
7 Abstract being
8 Joint part
9 Macaws
10 Irritate
11 Soap-making frame
17 Declaimed
19 African province
23 Small (Fr.)
24 Place
25 Italian lake
26 Desert plant
27 Finished a wall
28 Govern
29 Greek mountain
31 Tried
33 Smallest
38 Most mature
40 Female relatives
41 Worms
42 Devotees
43 Petty quarrel
44 Secure
46 Girl's name
47 Wander
48 Simmer
50 Legal matters

DOWN
1 Country under Castro's control

Answer to Previous Puzzle

Almanac

By United Press International

Today is Monday, Feb. 6, the 37th day of the year with 328 more in 1961.

The moon is approaching its last quarter.

The evening stars are Mercury, Venus and Mars.

On this day in history:

In 1788, Massachusetts ratified the U.S. Constitution.

In 1850, Henry Clay delivered his last great speech on the floor of Senate, speaking in favor of his compromise bill of 1850.

In 1943, Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower was appointed commander-in-chief of the Allied expeditionary forces in North Africa.

In 1952, King George VI of England died after a lengthy illness. He was succeeded to the throne by his daughter, Princess Elizabeth, who assumed the name of Queen Elizabeth II.

Thoughts

But with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. — I Peter 1:19.

The blood of Jesus is sacrifice; the sweat of Jesus is toil and labor; the tears of Jesus are love and compassion. They abide as eternal symbols of God's way of meeting the needs of a lost world. — W. A. Criswell.

But he said to him, Leave the dead to bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God. — Luke 9:60.

Your great employment is to bring the individual souls of men to Christ. — E. N. Kirk.

EDSON IN WASHINGTON

State Of Union Talk Raises 'How' Factor

By PETER EDSON
Washington Correspondent
Newspaper Enterprise Assn.

WASHINGTON (NEA) — One view of President Kennedy's first State of the Union message is that if he gets just half of the things he wants, he will be a miracle man.

There are 30 action programs listed in the message. Detailed messages will be sent to Congress on many of them within the next two weeks. This is no 100-day program. It will keep Congress busier than it has been in years, late and long.

Some of these programs could cost the government billions. The great, unanswered question is how the President will propose to pay for them under a balanced budget for 1962 and a deficit of only two billion dollars for the current fiscal year ending next June 30, instead of the 100-million-dollar surplus planned by ex-President Eisenhower in his budget message.

To do this, says Kennedy, it will be necessary for Congress to enact "all the revenue measures" already submitted to Congress for 1962 in the Eisenhower budget.

These measures include extension of present excise and corporation income tax rates, increase of aviation and highway fuel taxes and higher U.S. postage rates.

Kennedy advocates closing customs and tax loopholes but the President also proposes a tax incentive to business for plant expansion to create jobs. This would be a tax reduction for some concerns.

The President is obviously counting on a higher level of business activity to increase national income and provide more government revenue. But priming the pump to get this new flow of tax receipts started will cost something.

These are the Kennedy programs in which the federal costs are bound to increase, no matter how set up:

—Make federal grants for public schools and higher education. (Note that Kennedy specified only "public" schools.)

—Increase hospital, nursing home, other health care facilities and personnel — meaning doctor and nurse training.

—Strengthen U.S. military tools for national defense. This includes more air transport for the Army, more Polaris subs for the Navy, more missiles for the Air Force. Anyone can write his own ticket on that, and the cost could be billions.

— Improve America's foreign aid program on the scale of lend-lease and Marshall Plan operations. They cost about 17 billion dollars apiece, although a few billions came back.

—The 500 million dollars for Latin America is already in the budget. Of U.S. farm income "reduced by 25 per cent since 1951," he must specify later how it would be raised, but it is obvious this isn't going to be done for nothing.

—An expanded food-for-peace program could be a giveaway to put more emphasis on basic research for greater progress and to join with the Soviet Union and other nations in exploration of outer space. The sky's the limit on expense.

The same goes for development of U.S. natural resources.

Some of the Kennedy programs will cost the government only minor millions for increased administrative expenses. They include:

Expand the U.S. employment service. Create a new department of housing and urban affairs. Form a National Peace corps. Increase U.S. support for the U.N. Promote U.S. exports. Attract foreign investment and travel to the U.S. Curb organized crime and juvenile delinquency. End the denial of constitutional rights on account of race.

Some of the proposals won't cost the government anything, but the tab will be picked up by others:

Increasing the minimum wage will be paid for by private employers. Putting health care for the aged under social security will make the beneficiaries and their employers pay for it. Extending unemployment benefits through federal loans to the states means that the advances will be paid back.

Redevelopment of areas of chronic unemployment won't cost the federal government anything in the long run if the program is done on a loan basis. Stimulation of housing and construction could also be done by loans. But if these two programs are financed by grants, the cost could be millions.

But all these programs have certain obvious inflationary pressures if they add up to greatly increased government spending.

The great challenge in the Kennedy program is how all these things he recommends can be done while keeping the dollar "sound as a dollar" and encouraging price stability.

That will take a real miracle man.

No Drastic Change In Kennedy Policy

By JAMES MARLOW
Associated Press News Analyst

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Kennedy has said enough now to indicate he intends to follow a moderate course and that the keynote to his presidency will be action and change—but not drastic change.

There are points on which he disagrees with the policies of his predecessor President Eisenhower. And these are apt to get more attention than the points on which he agrees.

But there are plenty of points of agreement between him and Eisenhower, as Kennedy disclosed further at his second news conference Wednesday.

Some of the fields in which he does not see eye to eye with Eisenhower may have profound importance to the people affected.

Still, in one field after another, instead of proposing something completely new, he simply wants to go a step beyond where Eisenhower was willing to go.

For instance: Eisenhower favored a medical care plan for the aged. So does Kennedy. But Kennedy wants to tie it into Social Security. Eisenhower was unwilling to go that far.

Some of Kennedy's statements Wednesday illustrate strong differences with Eisenhower.

He opened his news conference with the announcement he was reversing Eisenhower's critical cut in the number of servicemen's dependents allowed to go overseas with them. This affected the morale of the armed forces.

But it was part of Eisenhower's effort to reduce the flow of American gold abroad.

Kennedy also announced he had ordered, in an attempt to encourage increased home-building, a reduction from 5¾ to 5½ per cent in insured loans by the Federal Housing Administration.

These were definite reversals of Eisenhower policy. But in one field after another Kennedy showed agreement with Eisenhower thinking. He even went out of his way at times to note he was following Eisenhower policy. Some examples:

Asked why he had cracked down on belligerent speeches by high military officers, Kennedy said this was to avoid conflict with administration policy which has been non-belligerent. He pointed out Eisenhower had done the same.

Eisenhower was opposed to a tax cut to overcome the business slump. Kennedy said he is, too, at least at this time.

Eisenhower in his budget message to Congress last month — seeking new revenues to balance the budget — asked Congress to vote an increase in postal rates and the tax on highway and aviation gasoline.

Kennedy said he will do the same. In fact, he said he would ask for a change in only a few items in Eisenhower's budget.

When it was suggested to him that his State of the Union message to Congress last week was critical of Eisenhower "military policy and judgment," Kennedy said:

He is waiting, perhaps until the end of February, for his own aides to give him a report on America's military strength. And he added:

Until then "I would not attempt to make any criticism or suggest that we are going to have to change the plans made by President Eisenhower."

Nor has he backed away from any commitments made by Eisenhower in the foreign field. Asked his position on defending Berlin against Communist pressure, which Eisenhower was pledged to do, Kennedy said:

"My view . . . is the same as the view expressed by the previous administration . . . There is no change in our view on Berlin."

In 1957 a committee headed by H. Rowan Gaither reported to Eisenhower on American defenses. At the time the Washington Post said the report pictured the United States as "in the gravest danger of its history."

The Eisenhower administration tagged it top secret and never released it. Kennedy was asked if he'd turn it loose. He said not now, not until it has been studied, because some of it involved American security.

Changes as they come should in some cases be subtle, some blunt, but probably in very few extreme. Still, in the end the total of them could shove and shape America into a new look at home and abroad.