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Safety On The Rails

The railroads have done a superb job in the matter of safety for passenger and worker alike. That is the gist of a recent editorial in the New York Times

"At the turn of the century one out of every seven accidental deaths in the United States resulted from a railroad accident," said The Times. "Today the ratio of such fatalities is only one out of every 30. In spite of three serious passenger train collisions, each owing to the failure of operating personnel, and despite the fact that the railroads performed more than four times as much train service and nearly twice as much passenger service as in 1900, fatalities resulting from railroad accidents of all kinds in 1950 were down 66 per cent and injuries down 34 per cent. If one excludes accidents resulting from the major menace of crossings at grade, the reduction in railroad fatalities has been 73 per cent. In 1907, 4,000 employes lost their lives in railroad accidents. There has been a steady decline in this toll and last year, for the first time, fewer than 350 were killed."

This is a fine record of progress. Railroad safety has been advanced by improvements in equipment and physical facilities of all kinds, from signal systems to the cars themselves. Equally important, it has been advanced by an unremitting educational campaign whose purpose is to make every worker put safety first on every occasion. The railroad people literally think safety and act safety. The occasional failure, which is found in every human endeavor, should not be allowed to obscure the splendid facts.

One Necessary Guarantee

The head of an oil company recently said that his industry must have one guarantee if progress is to continue. That guarantee, he went on, "is freedom—freedom to explore where we will, freedom to conduct our research, freedom to speak capital and build plants and facilities, freedom to earn profits with which to finance expansion and maintain our credit."

In the course of his talk he pointed out that 8,000 wildcat wells were drilled in this country last year. Of this he said: "Can you imagine the government engaging intelligently and efficiently in a wildcatting operation? Can you imagine the Secretary of the Interior explaining to a Senate committee why they drilled in the 80 per cent of places that proved dry? Or, what is more likely, trying to explain why all the Democratic county chairmen had their ranches drilled on and the Republicans didn't!"

The American oil industry, under the free competitive system of doing things, has been an economic miracle. Last year as much oil was produced as in the whole first 50 years of the industry's history. From oil well to market is a long way—about 1,000 miles on the average. But the industry has built a unique system of distribution which bridges those miles as a matter routine—and at an extremely small cost to the consumer.

All ths has been done in a climate of freedom—which is the only climate that produces the highest possible living standards for all the people.

Frederick OTHMAN

WASHINGTON — Sometimes this job has me biting my fingernails, wondering whether I am a menace by mistake. Take a letter I have from a revenue agent in one of our biggest cities.

"You finished a recent column with the hope that you were not boring, your readers with a succession of stories dealing with the Finnegans and the Delaneys," he began. "In the investigation of a taxpayer this past Monday, I ran into the following situation:

"He had sold his tavern and the goods in it for $67,000. When I suggested his income tax did not look so good and that there was a possibility he might owe a little income tax, he stormed over to his office, yanked a handful of newspaper clippings from his file and tossed them to me. In tones that could be heard a block away he bellowed, 'I have been saving these from the paper. This guy in Washington is smart; he knows what he is talking about. Read them.'

"This taxpayer was referring to you. He had saved all your columns about the funny business of internal revenue bigwigs. Of course, everything you said was true. You are to be commended for your reporting of the situation. Now will you be kind enough to write about the average internal revenue employee who works in the field division?"

"I'll do better than that. With a good deal of humility, I am turning the rest of this dispatch over to my tax-collecting correspondent. He knows what he's talking about and it's enough to give a taxpayer the shudders.

"Thousands of men with families who have been with the bureau for years have a take-home pay of between $4,000 and $5,000 a year," he said. "Let anyone who thinks we are satisfied try to eke out an existence on the same income.

"You know the possibilities confronting us in our daily work of checking the records of taxpayers. More than 90 percent of these people are honest. Yet there is a present-day spirit among us to chisel a little. We auditors are reasonable. We are not going to ask a person to substantiate 100 percent of the items he claims on his tax return. But we have pride in our work and we don't like to see downright, dishonest people get away with murder.

"It is generally conceded that our office is the most efficient; in the country. The collector has been given numerous citations. He is our boss. We who know him think he is honest, but we do not love him. We would not give our blood for him. We will work as hard as we can to keep his bureau on top, but we hope he unbends sometime in the near future and recommends at least a few of his better men for promotions."

My man went on to say that while Congressmen and even bona collectors could handle businesses, the lowly agent can't earn an honest dollar on the side, even in his spare time. He is in a desperate spot.

"I think, as a group we are more than reasonably honest," he continued. "But the temptation to make money, either honestly or dishonestly, is ever present. If the Congress, the Civil Service Commission, yes, and the collectors in their stupid ignorance continue to sit in their tranquil sanctums and expect us to continue at our present lowly pay, the Finnegans and the Delaneys will multiply by the thousands. It is getting late; very, very late.

"I beg you, please, to tell our story. I want to carry it in my brief case to show the next taxpayer who confronts me with a dozen or so of your recent internal revenue columns."

That does it. I'm doing a little soul searching, myself. I only hope the gent who sold the saloon gets the works.

These Days

By

Sokolsky

SUPPRESSION OF FREEDOM

It is difficult to convince Americans that their freedoms are in danger. The other night, I listened to Senator John Bricker of Ohio explaining to an audience of newspapermen the dangers to them and their country of the so-called covenant on human rights which the United Nations, including some shameless Americans, are trying to put over on us. I am sure that these men did not realize the importance or the seriousness of the Senator's speech. Unfortunately, we possess so great a wealth of liberty that we often disregard our treasures.

Compare, for example, Amendment 1 to the constitution of the United States with Article 14, paragraph 3, of the Draft Covenant on Human Rights!

The First Amendment of the American Constitution reads:

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances."

That amendment simply says, with regard to the press, that Congress shall make no laws abridging its freedom. There are no ifs, no whereases, no buts, Article 14, paragraph 3, of the United Nations Covenant is more involved, more wordy, because it seeks to suppress freedom of the press. Read it:

"The right to seek, receive and impart information and ideas carries with it special duties and responsibilities and may therefore be subject to certain penalties, liabilities, and restrictions, but these shall be such only as are provided by law and are necessary for the protection of national security, public order, safety, health or morals, or of the rights, freedoms or reputations of others."

Under this provision, newspapers, magazines, news-gathering agencies, wire-services and that part of radio which supplies news or comment would be limited to exactly what the government of a country wanted its people to be told. The competition for news and the contentiousness over views would disappear and in their place would standy only the propaganda of officialdom — the partisanship and bias of those in power, protecting their vested interest in the status quo. There is no freedom in that.

Or this provision the state department once said that it was "generally satisfactory from the point of view of the United States" —a statement which is not and cannot be true. Actually the people of the United States have not been consulted concerning it and most of us hardly know what is being done about it. The Covenant was conceived in secrecy and proclaimed only to the initiated. It is so long and confused a document that few bother to read it.

Senator Bricker said before the Silurians in New York:

"The most dangerous feature of Article 14 of the Draft Covenant is the authority to impose penalties and restrictions on the press to ensure 'national security.' Because modern war is total war, almost every activity can be linked with some facet of 'national security.' For that reason the term 'national security' could be used to justify almost any restriction on the press which the President and the Congress might choose to impose..."

The real danger is that it is not congress that is legislating for the United States in this respect. It is a foreign, an alien body, the United Nations, most of whose members have never known freedom in their own countries—certainly not freedom of the press. Most of them abhor freedom as dangerous to those who control their people either in the slavery of Sovietism or in the tight grip of feudalism. Such men and women are legislating for us.

And when we accept their legislative decisions in the form of a treaty, our courts hold that a treaty, once signed by the President and ratified by the Senate in accordance with the constitution, is the law of the land.

Legislation by treaty can reduce to ashes the freedoms which the Constitution guarantees.

Senator Bricker said:

"... The words 'national security, public order, safety' and 'health or morals' are flexible enough to satisfy any dictator who wants to control the press of his country. Dr. Goebbels's position as editor-in-chief of the German Press met the requirements of 'national security.' A dictator is the government. A dictator's safety, security, health, and reputation are all jeopardized by an independent press. Why give these loathsome tyrants legal sanction for operating, regulating or intimidating the press?

Why, indeed?

MISTER BREGER

"... An' now we come to masks of our own modern day ..."

Broadway Roundup

By ED SULLIVAN

My Secretary, Africa, Speaks

Dear Boss—Thanksgiving and Christmas decorations coloring shops and stores.... Sir Stork winging to the Herb Jeffries, the Jimmy Starrs, the George Fishers .... Hottest new theatre feud, Judith Anderson and Blanche Yurka .... The Peter Shaws (Angela Lansbury) expect Christmas twins.... Jackie Cooper and Janis Paige having fun.... Sol Hurok will be played by George Sanders in the Zanuck biog..... A daughter for the Sonny Schuylers .... Dolores Del Rio back to Mexico for a radio series .... Florence Kendall, Messmore's ass, has become Vivian Blaine's secretary.... Russell Nype added to all-star "Lights On" benefit at Carnegie Hall tomorrow night.

Main stem hucksters selling Confederate flags and caps.... Harvey Stone bark to N. Y. .... Australian-made records of Donald Novis arriving here .... BOAC planning commercial non-stop jet flights, N. Y. to Panama City.... The Dan Burleys of Ebony mag expecting Sir Stork. .... Donald Flamm, who founded WMCA one room and ran it into $2,000,000, wealthier after the Williston Basin oil strike ... Correction: Glenn Davis wore No. 41 ... Paulette Goddard and Stanton Griffis, Ambassador to Spain, a duet .. Virginia Hill's brother, Chick, now an actor in Mexican films.... Mother of Ronnie Graham, great Ruban Bleu entertainer, died suddenly.... Arthur Lesser to France to see Maurice Chevalier.

Anne Jeffrey's now free to wed Robert Sterling, Ann Sothern's ex. .... Influenza bedded Senator Styles Bridges in Michigan ... Moira Shearer coast-bound for a flicker ... James Montgomery Flagg's eyesight failing rapidly.... William Wyler taping a "Voice of America" broadcast in German.... Small mag writer, Peter, for the Martin Cohens.... Vaudeville's Herman Timberg at Memorial Hospital ... The Dr. David Etesses expect Sir Stork (she's Jennie Grossinger's daughter, Elaine).... Vice squad raided a 58th St. hotel ... Fouad Arson, Egyptian delegate to UN, dating Mary Estabrook, of the Standard Oil clan.

Robert Rosenwald, grandson of Julius Rosenwald, and Ruth Frank honeymooning.... Bea Lillie refused to follow Judy Garland into the Palace ... Joe Walcott opening a nightclub in Philadelphia ... Joseph E. Davis razing his villa in Palm Beach?.... Baron Von Cramm celebrate Barbara Hutton's birthday with a 3-foot birthday cake ... Leonard Sues got a black eye in Studio One rehearsals.... Mala Powers due in from the coast to see the Met's Jerome Hines ... Dean Tristram Walker Metcalfe of LIU ailing ... Eva Marie Saint, Claudia in "One Man's Family," honeymooning with NBC's Jeffrey Hayden.... Warden of the West Virginia State Penitentiary, Orel Skeen, who aborted the big prison break without bloodshed, is a cousin of Bill Tabbert of "South Pacific."

Tickets to N. Y. Giants-Cleveland Browns game tomorrow almost impossible to get ... Ronald Reagan and Nancy Davis have set the date .... Ilona Massey showing the town to Richard Greene.... Louis Hayward and June Blanchard to wed November 25 ... El Morocco set attending Mass for Fred McEvoy at St. Patrick's, Monday morning.... The Gene Krupas reconciling?.... The H. Greeley in BBDO's publicity department is Helen, not Horace.... Add Clicks: Tennessee Ernie's "Shotgun Boogie" at Copa (He was a B-29 pilot), Jack Waldron at Old Knick, Tony Bari at Jimmy Kelly's Art Tatum's piano magic at Cafe Society.... Eddie Foy up and around after his operation.... Betty Hutton to Korea.... Add Reunions: 82d Div., 29 E. 39th St., tonight; 22d Bomb Group (H), 31 E. 39th St., N. Y. C., Dec. 1. AMELIA.

CUERO, TEXAS, RECORD: "There is something about a church which inspires reverence. It matters little whether it is a one-room building with hard-backed benches or a great cathedral with tall spires which point heavenward. . . . It may be so because. . . . people lower their voices when they enter, and greed and avarice are forgotten at the door. Inside the church are spoken words and thoughts which have guided men for centuries. Inside it a person instinctively turns his eyes and his heart toward the altar of greater power and wisdom."

CUTIES

"Go over to our opponents' bench and cheer! Every time you do a cartwheel, we lose ten yards!"

Walter Winchell In New York

WALTER WINCHELL

THE BROADWAY LIGHTS

The First-Nighters: Only one pioneer reached Broadway's glittering wilderness during the week. "Paint Your Wagon," a musical, rolled into the Shubert Theatre with a $500,000 advance sale. Most of the aisle sentinels hitched dazzling superlatives to James Barton's merry - making and Olga San Juan's natural assets. The N. Y. Times' delegate rejoiced: "a bountiful and exultant musical jamboree." Several oracles dissented .. The Metopera's season-opener, "Aida," inspired the customary tiara-bearing gala .. Hefty bankrolls were worn in the form of germs, furs and other finery. The show-offs, as usual, attracted more newspaper space than the opera .. The reports say that Anita Loos' new comedy, "Gigi," is a Philly dilly. Variety's man certified to its "bang-up writing and brilliant casting" .. The Hartford Critics reported John van Druten's "I Am a Camera" shoud be "in the winner's circle" after 3rd Act surgery .. Henry Fonda's new showcase, "Point of No Return," will enjoy a healthy advance sale when it opens at the Alvin Dec. 13th .. "The King and I" remains King of the current hits. "Guys and Dolls" runnerup .. "Top Banana" just slipped into 3rd place with "Call Me Merman" and "So. Pacific" tied for 4th.

In the Wings: Sigmund Romberg, the composer (who passed this week), composed over 2,000 songs. Tune-Pan Alley vets report he never thefted from the classics as so many others do .. Once a songwriter asked Romberg: "Do you thing my tune will last?" .. "It should," he chuckled. "All of of Mozart's other works have!" .. An interviewer asked Doug Fairbanks, Jr.: "Isn't show business a crowded profession?" .. "Not," replied Doug deftly, "on top."

The Cinemagicians: "Darling, How Could You?" offers a so-so celluloid translation of James M. Barrie's wholesome-as-a-cookie whimsy. Joan Fontain is the Lookie .. "Fairie Roundup" (to read the opinions) is a leaf off the old cactus.. "The Clouded Yellow" presents a generally entertaining clue-chaser. Lovely Jean Simmons is the damsel in distress .. "Cattle Drive" is another rodeo where the clinches throw the cowboys. The scenery is photogenic; the yarn isn't .. "Laughter in Paradise" is a peppy British prank spiced with Alastair Sim's adroit mischief-making .. "Street Bandits" is an inept crime meller that convicts the cast of killing time. .....

Stairway to the Stars: Elene Nikolaidi, the Greek singer, received an ovation during "Aida." They say she is the most beautiful woman ever to grace the Met stage .. "The Number," which got little encouragement from the critics, appears to be clicking. So is lasher Perry Nelson of the cast, who got five bids from Hwood. George Abbott is credited with making a capital "A" Actress of her .. The 'All About Eve' writer (J. Mankiewicz) was in the Cub Room with the James Masons. When the the James Masons. When the photographer aimed her camera at them, Joe coyly cooed: "You don't want my picture—just take Mrs. Mason's. I'm just a writer." Jes a liddle of Oscar-winning writer, thassall .. The adverts for "Behave Yourself!" have Shelley Winters looking like Mae West .. The town's chorines assure you that the most entertaining undressing-room companion is Judy Sinclair of the "Top Banana" girl dept. Not, however, for family newspapers .. Perlita Neilson, who was so good in "Lace on Her Petticoat" as a 12-year-old girl, is actually near 18.

The Press-Box: The President's recent quote: "My people are honorable—all of them!" Then came the terrific tax scandals involving several in his administration .. The most vital news about Peron's "election" was not in the headlines reporting his "victory." It was buried in the story: Over 2 million voted against him .. Barbara Hutton's clear-as-a-fog remark to a reporter: "I don't feel young enough to be engaged again. But this does not mean that I will not marry again" .. The terrible news from Korea—over 6,000 American prisoners of war were massacred by the Red Chinese. Police Action, you know .. If the bookmakers are out of business, what point is there in running the results of races from the out-of-town tracks? Awful waste of space on sports pages with newsprint so high .. Churchill says when he comes here he isn't going to ask for any money. What's he gonna do-take it? .. The way they are smearing Eisenhower it looks like his critics have already conceded his election .. How times change. Not long ago the Big Scandal was Frank Costello & Friends. Now it's Truman and his .. This reporter enjoyed another Last Laugh. Life mag spoke bluntly to us for our World War II war-nings. The current Reporter mag hammers Life for echoing them.

The Worry Clinic

By DR. GEORGE W. CRANE

Successful churches streamline their methods in line with modern psychological law. Don't be fettered by antiquity. Jesus never hesitated to employ modern methods in order to win converts. You can pep up Sunday school attendance remarkably if you will follow the ideas outlined below. I've used them, so I know whereof I speak.

By GEORGE W. CRANE

CASE B-392: When George, our oldest child, was 12½, he asked:

"Did you hear about the prize I won at Sunday School?" I protested my ignorance, so he went on:

"Well, while we were away at the farm last month, my class here has been studying about Samuel. The teacher offered a book to the boy who would make the highest score at the end of the four weeks

"I didn't know anything about it till I got there at class today. I had missed all four of their lessons. But I tried for first place on the test, so the teacher is buying two books and giving one to each of us. We get them next Sunday.

"I suppose I ought to give you a commission, though," he smiled "for I got all my information from listening to you tell Bible stories at bed time to David and Danny."

"PEP UP" SUNDAY SCHOOL

The following Sunday George dressed up to an unusual degree in order to receive his prize award. He even washed behind his ears without the usual insistence by Mrs. Crane.

His interest had been pepped up because of the competition and the book that he had won.

Competition can be one of the best aallies of a good Sunday school. Nevertheless, many old mossbacks will inveigh against "buying children" with rewards. They will veto contests and indict rivalry!

Yet contests or competition attract all the football and baseball crowds. They fill the theaters, for the basis of dramatic suspense is conflict or competition.

Even fiction must have competition between the hero and the villian, or the story fails flat and becomes textbookish.

CHURCH CONTESTS

A contest should be running in every Sunday school perennially! As soon as one ends, launch another, varying the type buta always keeping up the continual competition, which is the fuel for progress.

Divide your entire Sunday school into two fairly equal groups. Then find the average attendance of each group for the preceding year or quarter. Let that be the basal line for comparison.

Eliminate as many details as possible so the compilation of results can be done inside of 5 minutes each Sabbath morning.

Allow special credit for new members, collection money, Bible reading, etc.

Suppose you have two groups of 50 people each. Let's assume that the average attendance for the preceding quarter has been 35 for each group.

Use that "35" as your basis. Every additional person in attendance above 35 represents an increase.

FOOL PROOF CONTESTS

Buy a couple of toy airplanes or automobiles, red and green. Conduct a transcontinental race from New York to San Francisco. Allow 20 miles, or some such figure, for every individual in attendance about your basal 35.

If one team has 53 next Sunday, that means 18 people above the basal 35 average. At 20 miles per person, that advances the auto or airplane 360 miles.

If the other team dropped to 30 this means a loss of 3 persons below the 35 so the corresponding airplane or auto must be moved backwards 60 miles.

Post the results and move the autos every Sunday before dismissal. Don't wait a week to report on the preceding Sunday's totals!

Children are best motivated by immediate rewards and quick results.

At the end of the contest, have a banquet or picnic for the winners within a week or two.

Start a new contest the very next Sunday. You can't coast for a year on one contest any more than a department store can succeed on one ad.

Send for my bulletin on "How To Pep Up Sunday School," enclosing a dime and 3c stamped addressed envelope.

"Mary Haworth's Mail"

HAPPILY MARRIED, WOMAN DISCUSSES GRIEVANCE AGAINST FRIENDS WHO DROPPED HER WHEN TIMES WERE HARD

DEAR MARY HAWORTH: I am happily married to a fine dear man and have two adorable healthy children. In the last few years, fortune has smiled on us; and we are grateful for it, and eager to show our appreciation of our blessings by doing what good we can. However, things weren't always so bright for us.

Our income after marriage always was higher than average; but in the uphill years it didn't permit us to maintain the standard of living in which we were reared. And because I couldn't keep pace socially, I was dropped or snubbed by old friends and acquaintances, even relatives, who had dozens of ways of showing me I no longer belonged. I didn't so much mind the lack of money; but a few years after marriage I was virtually friendless, and the cold attitude of so many chilled me to the bone.

Fortunately those were my busy years. Eventually the shock eased; but we were glad to get back to our almost forgotten standards of plenty, and it was a joy to be able to give our children more advantages. One by one, we found relatives and fair weather friends welcoming us back to the fold; and the worst offenders in past years are most effusive now. At first we laughed together at the old hypocrites. Perhaps we should be delighted, but we're not.

I am reluctant to be taken up again by those who barred us socially years ago. I no longer care for them. Stan says, however, "People are like that; that's the world." And while he shares my feelings, he believes the lack of money would have forced us out of any similar group. Also he thinks it is to the children's benefit to be accepted again. If it is worldly to drop old friends in adversity, the policy was never followed by my parents. The needy were most warmly greeted, and hospitality and help was given them without thought of repayment. Give us the benefit of your wisdom and insight. Is Stan right? Am I very wrong?

D. L.

MAN'S ATTITUDE MORE WHOLESOME

DEAR D. L.: Stan's attitude is larger than yours. It appraises and accepts the imperfections of human nature, and goes on to make the best of things. In all probability his rational realistic philosophy of life is chiefly responsible for the latterday return of good fortune that you are enjoying.

Now that you are riding the crest of prosperity again, it were dangerously nonconstructive to explore old chapters of social rejection and wretchedness, with mind attuned to vindictive sentiments. Alas, this the way to plunge yourself to the depths again, as abruptly as you were dashed before—since the power of thinking, for good or ill, is dynamite in its effects upon the thinker's experience.

Your grudge-holding disposition towards fair weather friends of yesteryear, now flocking back to salute your success, indicates that you haven't grown much, if any, psychologically, in the uphill years of marriage and motherhood. Had you grown in wisdom and understanding at normal pace, or sufficiently to share Stan's comfortably detached estimate of these social sycophants, their bootlicking attentions wouldn't disturb you. Why? Because you would have acquired other more mature friends and interests, in the period of their neglect—and thus be genuinely indifferent to their snob values and vagaries.

HER PERSONALITY MAY LACK APPEAL

You speak as if there were only one social group, namely, that into which you were born. When elbowed out of it for lack of money to live expensively, you felt as lost as a soul in limbo,—which suggests that you aren't a very resourceful, cooperative or flexible neighbor in your own right. In your own way, you were as much of a material snob as those who let you down, just as narrowly "exclusive" in your judgment of "worth" —else you would have found thoroughly nice, satisfactory friends in the humbler walks of life, during your lengthy sojourn there.

Stan's idea that the children will benefit by your return, as a family unit, to the background circles that once dismissed you, indicates that no alternative opportunities exist, for social affiliations, so far as he knows. Here again is evidence that you aren't very magnetic or enterprising in the social arena. And it may be—awful thought!—that people dropped you, when times were hard, as much because you were a bore, as because your purse was flat. In any case, my advice is to suit your present behavior to Stan's philosophy, and let bygones be bygones, absolutely.

M. H.

Mary Haworth connects through her column, not by mail or personal interview. Write her in care of The Daily Record.