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DRIVERS' LICENSING RESTRICTIONS VITAL

It is widely believed among safety authorities that passage of the standard drivers' license law by all of the 48 states is an essential step in solving our automobile death and accident toll.

States which have adopted the law find that it is definitely in the interest of public safety and better driving.

The law is not designed to materially lessen the number of persons operating cars—it is designed to force them, if need be, to become reasonably competent and careful. Under the terms of the law applicants are given an examination on traffic rules and a driving test. If they fail the first time they may take the examination again later. Ultimately, only a small percentage of drivers fail to earn licenses—and all licensed drivers are more capable pilots of automobiles.

But the law does prevent the licensing of persons whose presence at the wheel of a car would constitute a menace to life, property and health. These include persons under the legal age limit, habitual drunkards, narcotic addicts, the congenitally reckless and incompetent, etc.

Today many states have no provision whatsoever for examining drivers. Other states have outmoded or ineffective restrictions. In these states thousands of men and women are legally entitled to drive cars, who are mentally and physically incapable of operating their machines safely and prudently. That is largely responsible for the automobile's horrible annual harvest of 36,000 lives.

TWENTY BUREAUS FOR ONE JOB

In a plea for reorganization and consolidation of Federal bureaus, Senator Byrd of Virginia, recently pointed out some astonishing instances of duplication and overlapping.

For example, at least 24 agencies have been created to deal with lending government funds, and five similar agencies are now in liquidation.

At least 3 agencies have been concerned with insuring deposits and loans.

At least 10 agencies have been concerned with government construction.

At least 9 agencies have been concerned with credit and finance.

At least 12 agencies have been concerned with home and community planning.

At least 16 agencies have been concerned with wild life conservation.

So it goes, down a long list. Every one of the purposes for which these agencies have been created may be beneficial and legitimate—but certainly can be no excuse for setting up 20 bureaus to do on bureau's job. Nor can there be any excuse for permitting bureaus to grow unchecked and to eat up tax funds in unimaginable quantities. Senator Byrd also points out that one bureau has 13 addresses in Washington alone.

Untold millions of public dollars are thrown away annually through duplication. Congress can have no excuse for failure to adopt at once a reorganization plan such as the President recently proposed.

OBSERVATIONS

By CHARLES P. SQUIRES

LOS ANGELES AGAIN

After an absence of some months I find myself in Los Angeles again. At the Biltmore, as usual, the very center of things.

I observe that the tide of activity which set toward the Biltmore when Baron Long bought it several years ago, is still flowing strong, so that, whereas during the summer preceding the coming of Baron Long, five entire floors of the hotel were closed. Now the fifteen hundred guest rooms are not enough to accommodate those who seek to stop there. The great hotel is, I think, the brightest and gayest spot in the west. Nevertheless, prices have not been advanced and that is, perhaps, the reason for its great success.

OLVERA STREET

I hastened to spend an hour in Olvera street, especially to visit my friends, Michael and Helen Duff Pratt, who have one of the most interesting shops in the street—Helen Duff's Treasure House. It is full of fare and beautiful objects, some of them real antiques.

Mr. Pratt, remembered by many Las Vegans as the person who made such interesting photographs of preliminary of the construction of Black Canyon and the works pre-Boulder Dam, has taken up a new method of color photography with which he is securing results amazingly beautiful. The process, it is said, is destined to take a leading position in colored advertising photography for the high class magazines and such. Nicoll Laboratories owns the process I am told and Mr. Pratt is using it with great success.

JERRY'S JOINT

I was introduced to a place on Ferguson Alley which seems to have quite a sudden popularity and which, in spite of its rather disreputable location (at least it once was the very center of the city's vice) is, I am assured, now quite respectable and patronized on occasion by the "best people."

"Jerry's Joint," as it is called, is something after the style of some of the popular joints in New York's Greenwich Village but, because it is the heart of a real Chinatown a hundred years old, appears much more genuine and not nearly so artificial as the New York joints I have seen. The real charm of the place I think is the rather spooky neighborhood and the manner in which one enters through dimly lit corridors. Inside there are several rooms devoted to dining, music and dancing and the "Jade Room" which is really beautifully decorated room and bar in the Chinese style.

Many Los Angeles cafes are striving after Chinese atmosphere. "Jerry's Joint" is about the only one I have seen which really has it. And I should be something of a judge, because I first walked the uneven pavements of Ferguson Alley, Marchessault and Sepulveda streets in 1887—fifty years ago. I can't help feeling some sorrow that most of the old Los Angeles Chinatown—so far as I know the most interesting in America—is about to be destroyed to provide grounds for Los Angeles' great Union station, now under construction.

DEPARTED GLORIES

I passed the corner of Fourth and

Bunkerville Notes

By MARY H. LEAVITT

Supt. Alton Copeland of the S. C. S. is working to protect our canal from floods. Ten "over-passes" are being built across the canal at the main entrance of side washes from the mountain.

This group, under the supervision of Warren Hardy, has worked for several months at the project. It is a wonderful piece of work and represents thousands of dollars to this community. The citizens of the town are furnishing the material and the CCC are doing the work, which is very much appreciated.

JUVENILE BOARD MEETS

The Clark County Juvenile Delinquency Board met Monday afternoon in the justice court. John Cahlan, the probation officer, read that part of the Nevada statutes relating to the formation of such a board and its duties. The object of this board is to establish a spirit of cooperation between the youthful offenders, his parents and the court, with the view of crime prevention, rather than seeking punishment for crimes committed. Leo A. McNamee board and Mrs. Chas. P. Squires secretary. Other members present were Leslie Edwards and K. O. Knudson. Miss Maude Frazier, the other member, was absent from the city. The regular meetings will take place on the third Monday of each month at 7 o'clock in Leo M. McNamee's office.

Main, Los Angeles, and recalled the days when the Van Nuys hotel was considered the very top of high hat society snobbishness.

For some years the Van Nuys was just about the most aristocratic spot in Southern California. It is still a fine hotel, but the name "Hotel Barclay" does not carry the exclusiveness in its sound that the Van Nuys did.

HOLLENBECK HOTEL

There are quite a number of us in Las Vegas, I think, who were guests one time or another, 20, 30, 40 years ago, of the old Hollenbeck hotel, corner of Second and Spring, Los Angeles. It was quite famous in its way. I remember that when we opened "Hotel Las Vegas" the thirty-room frame and canvas hostelry built on the northeast corner of Main and Stewart streets, Las Vegas, we brought six or eight waitresses from the Hollenbeck to care for the big crowd at the auction sale of Las Vegas lots, May 15-16, 1905.

The Hollenbeck was torn down some years ago to make room for a parking lot. Now a new building is about to be erected on the site while the present federal building is razed and a larger one built.

THE DOWNEY BLOCK

Not many will remember that the present federal building, the pride of the city twenty years ago, occupies the site of the famous old Downey block which, when I first came to Los Angeles, housed the public library, McGuiness' cigar and gambling rooms and other features of the gay '80's. Now it is the heart of the new civic center and soon will lose all identity with the old times.