

HERB CAEN



Son of 3-Dot Journalism

HELLO: John Sinclair, vice-president of 1st California Title on Sutter, was busy at his desk Wed. afternoon when a uniformed driver walked up to him with "Say, I seem to have locked myself out of my truck — do you have a coat hanger I could borrow?" John did indeed, and a few moments later the driver reappeared to return it, to say "Thanks," and drive off in his truck — a Brink's armored car!

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INSIDE OUT: The Italian movie company that's in town, filming something called "Perverted Story" or "Strange Ending" (depending on how you translate it), is running into heavy union problems. Although the director is American — John Ireland — the rest of the crew is Italian, so the local movie technicians are picketing the proceedings. "And if they don't hire any of our people," vows a union boss, "we'll picket the Italian Consulate next. American companies in Italy hire plenty of Italians. Besides that, this movie puts the knock on San Francisco." Basta, basta!

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DOT-DOT-DOT: Heavy cloak 'n' dagger activity over in Sausalito, where a former FBI agent (now living there) has mysteriously acquired a film of the JFK assassination that contains, he claims, the hitherto "secret" frames in the historic Zapruder home movie of the tragedy. One TV network is checking the film for authenticity . . . Views of Fisherman's Wharf and Alcatraz used to constitute the most popular S.F. postcards, but no longer. H. S. Crocker, which printed 3½ million postcards last year, with 32 different views, reports a new winner, with 278,000 sales: "The Crookedest Street in the World" (the Lombard St. curlycue). The Wharf and the Rock aren't even in the first five any longer . . . Ex-Public Utilities Commissar Bill Bennett, who attended one of the Nixon inaugural balls, is back to report: "Never have I seen such an antiseptically straight crowd. It renews my Catholic faith in the immaculate reception!" . . . Frankly, the National Airlines people are getting a little tired of customers who walk up to the ticket counter and grin waggishly: "I'll take two chances on your flight to Miami."

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WIGWISE: Is our munificent Government now supplying hair-pieces for balding employees? And if he isn't a good boy, is the toupee snatched away? I must say these were the unworthy thoughts that crossed my mind when a local U.S. official showed me a Govt. form which, in his case, read as follows: "The above employee will be eligible for a wig on 03-09-69. If conditions exist which may result in the wig being withheld, he must be informed orally or in writing no later than 60 days before the above date." This turns out to be another milestone on the road to Upper Bureaucratese: "wig" in this case stands for "with-in-grade" increase in pay. Wiggy.

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BAY CITY BEAT: KNEW's Hilly Rose has discovered what could be the best 6c bargain in the State. For the price of a stamp, he just became the 13,254th ordained minister of the Universal Life Church, Inc. This could get him half-fare on certain airlines and railroads, a tax advantage and even "special consideration" if he's drafted. (When a member of the Atty. General's staff was queried about this gimmick, he just groaned) . . . John Newton phoned his old friend, Mme. Sally Stanford, who's back in Franklin Hosp., and was told by the operator: "Miss Stanford is in the recreation room." John: "Instructing or observing?" Click . . . Ed Gauer, the Roos/Atkins board chairman, will have a true status office in the new R/A bldg. at Fourth and Market, opening in March: two balconies, lavish bar, bathroom, shower and his personal sauna. Not to mention the great view looking the OLD Roos/Atkins building are not doing anything more urgent might check the happening at Gr an indescribable something for speakers, film, recorded and Steve Miller Blues Band mighty church organ. Is to Gracie?

MY STAR

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