

## HERB CAEN



## Old Man Ribber

NOW MAKING the rounds, this list of items available at a garage sale in San Clemente, occasioned by a suddenly-canceled lease: One Quaker Bible, never used; a set of worry beads, worn; large used suitcase, laundered; one copy, "How to Speak Chinese in One Easy Lesson"; one copy, "How to Speak Russian in One Easy Lesson"; unused portion Washington-San Clemente-Washington plane ticket; pumpkin, hollow, very old; copy of General Motors invoice for one white El Dorado Cadillac delivered to Moscow; two dozen no deposit-no return milk bottles; one copy, "How to Fight Inflation," unused, pages uncut; Disneyland "Jungle Ride" blazer with initials "R.Z." (may be withdrawn); 432 deleted expletives; one woman's good cloth coat, faded on one side due to flash bulbs; foot-operated tape-erasing switch, used only once by Little Old Lady; used car which owner has been unable to sell.

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**SEENARIO:** Jennifer Leland was among those in line at the Los Altos Post Office last Fri. morning when a man strolled in, removed Mr. Nixon's picture from the wall and set it on the ground, after first blowing the dust off the top of the frame. In its place, he Scotch-taped a color postcard of a classic Model A Ford, after which he turning to grin to the citizens assembled: "Sorry, that's all I could find on such short notice."

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**CAENFETTI:** James McCord, having plumbed the depths, has bobbed back to the surface and is plunging around to autograph copies of his new book, "A Piece of Tape"; he'll be at the B. Dalton bookstore at Sutter and Kearny between noon and 3 p.m. Aug. 29 . . . The first major mountaineering expedition ever organized in S.F. is now laying plans and collecting money for an assault on 26,500-foot Annapurna in Nepal for the Spring of '76, hoping to plant the flag at the summit as a bicentennial gesture. On the team: TWA Pilot Steve Johnson of Mill Valley, S.F. Geologist Scot Macbeth, Mill Valley Atty. Bruce McCubbrey, Daly City's Jerry Tinling and Engr. Tony Watkins of Martinez . . . A Sonoma resident with absolutely fantastic legs is being wooed by Paramount to costar with Sean Connery in a major flick. The story is Paul Gallico's "Matilda," and the Sonoman is Sydney III, the most noted kangaroo in the Kenwood stable of Tom Rooney, who, of course, is known as "Kanga" Rooney around the bar at the Swiss Hotel. "Matilda" is a fighting kangaroo that wins the welterweight championship of the world and then the Mafia wants it to take a dive and — well, let's not spoil the ending.

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I LOVE HER. I mean this Olga person who writes the Sunday horoscope in The Chron's pink section. I refer especially to this forecast under Capricorn, published Aug. 4 but written weeks earlier: "Why, Cap, Olga 'is surprised that you should embroider the truth in order to cover that little rip in the fabric of your past. The embroidery is much more obvious and damaging than the rip. So go back, tell the truth, and get it over with. NOW. Then forget it" . . . Mr. Nixon is a Capricorn.

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**SPINOFFS:** Bob Mayer, vice-pres. of States Steamship Lines here, and an old friend of Gerald Ford, was at the Presidential swearing-in last Friday and is rumored to be headed for a heavy job in the Fordministration . . . Tim McClain of San Rafael: "We now have two of the things we've needed for a long time — a living ex-President and a President with sons, who'll think twice about getting us into a war" . . . Patrick Spellenberg to MaryEllen Anderson: "Is Mr. Ford our first lame Dick President?" . . . Rose Hicks, musing over the breakfast marmalade: "I wonder what happens to Ron Ziegler now?" Mr. H, briskly: "Oh, he's already been dismantled and put back in the box" . . . Before Ford was confirmed as Vice-President, Sen. Alan Cranston happened to ask Gov. Reagan: "What do you think of him?" Reagan: "All I can say is he prays a lot." Nothing more? "No, he just prays a lot" . . . TV commentator Sunday night: "There is no longer a Western White House." Lompoc doesn't count?

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**BAY CITY BEAT:** Author Alex Haley is still being pushed for the vacant "artist's" post on the Art Commission, but is so involved in finishing the epic novel of his family, "Roots," that he, in turn, seconds our nomination of Ann Halprin, the super dance figure . . . As for the appointment of Ray Syufy to the Port Commission, replacing the veteran Cyril Magnin, that must be another of those little jokes the Mayor likes to play on the populace from time to time. Not that Syufy isn't a considerable theater man. Oh, far from it! . . . (If you would learn true humility, go take a look at the Port of Oakland) . . . Money-money-money: "Helter Skelter," an account of the Charles Manson case co-authored by S.F.'s Curt Gentry and the L.A. prosecutor of Manson, Asst. D.A. Vincent Bugliosi, will be the main November selection of the Book of the Month Club . . . Sign spotted by John Laxalt on the back of a camper trundling through Carson City: "Your Social Security Taxes At Work. Thank You!"

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**MOMENT OF TRUTH:** Stan Weinberger, owner of the Mr. Broadway hair salon at Van Ness, has an exciting new employee. That would be Blas Romeo, of Lima, Peru, whose skyrocketing four-year career as a matador ended when a bull stepped clumsily on his left little toe, necessitating its removal. Now if you don't mind having your hair done by a man whose supreme ambition it was to cut ears and tail . . . okay.