

Pushups at 100!

San Francisco — (NC) — He snuggled comfortably in a well-worn easy chair, puffed his cigar, smiled and commented: "This is my heaven!"

Father George Trunk, who'll be 100 come Sept. 1, was talking about his second-floor bedroom-study in the gray frame Nativity parish rectory, close by San Francisco's famed Opera House.

There are red geraniums in window boxes. The walls are decorated with murals — scenes of snow capped mountains, lakes rimmed with pines, the way Father Trunk remembered his childhood surroundings in Carinthia, a province now divided between Austria and the Slovenian section of Yugoslavia.

Father Trunk always had been handy with a paint brush.

For 22 years, he was pastor of St. Joseph's Church in Leadville, a town high in the Colorado Rockies. While there he covered the church walls and ceiling with paintings from the New Testament.

"The inside of the church needed painting very badly and contractors wanted \$6,000 so I decided to do it myself. It cost \$78 for scaffolding plus money for the paint," he detailed. The Leadville church now is regarded as a national Slovenian monument because Father Trunk's paintings are considered a fine example of primitive art.

Father Trunk doesn't paint

anymore, but his days are busy. He's up at 6 a.m. each day and exercises for 30 minutes, doing push-ups and bends. Then he says Mass in a small chapel in the Nativity church.

After Mass, he breakfasts and returns to his "heaven." He spends most of the morning at his desk typing a weekly political column for a Slovenian newspaper published in Cleveland.

"Sometimes I feel tired but I start writing and I feel better right away," he said.

Promptly at 11 a.m. and 4 p.m., he goes for a half-hour walk.

After lunch, he reads until 2 p.m. when he takes an afternoon nap. His favorite books deal with politics and science.

Father Trunk, a priest for 75 years, attributes his longevity to self-discipline.

"Sometimes I don't feel like exercising in the morning but I make myself get up and do it," he said firmly.

"Twenty years ago, the doctors told me to stop smoking and to stop drinking coffee. But I told them I didn't want to live if I couldn't have my cigars and coffee." He also likes a little honey and brandy during the day.

He was active in politics before he came to America and was a delegate from Carinthia to the Versailles treaty conference after World War I.



Father George Trunk in the rectory of the Church of the Nativity in San Francisco. He is writing his weekly political column for a Slovenian newspaper published in Cleveland. (Religious News Service)

Old Cemetery Landscaped As Playground

New York — (RNS)—The oldest cemetery in New York City, and one of the oldest in the nation, is being transformed into a playground for its neighborhood.

St. Mark's in-the-Bowery (Episcopal) is believed to be the first inner city church in the nation to redesign the use of cemetery space. Among the famous persons buried at the site is Peter Stuyvesant, first mayor of New York.

The crypts and flat grave-stones have not been disturbed. There will be a stone-paved area for play, a fountain and seating.

In recent months, St. Mark's has been redefining its relation to its community, once white and affluent but now comprising "mobile" minorities, blacks, Puerto Ricans and hippies.

About 30 teenagers, some with police records, have been hired to do the work. The Rockefeller Brothers Foundation contributed \$16,000 to the project. The Neighborhood Youth Corps has agreed to pay the young people and the State Department of Highways donated 20 truckloads of cobblestones.

The church is the oldest place of worship in the city and is an official historic landmark. The cemetery is 300 years old.

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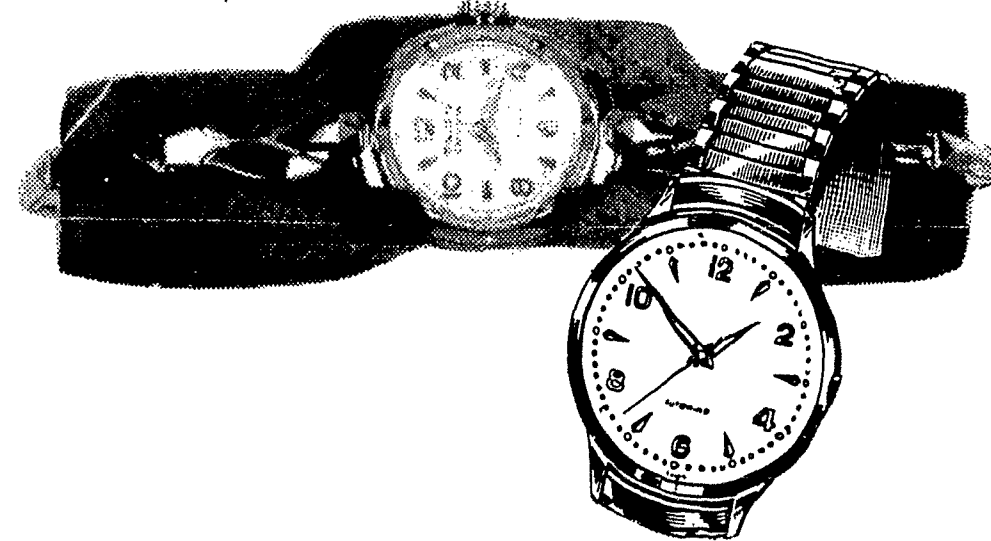
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1970 CAPITOL HILL ROUND-UP 1970 Court Denies Father Custody of Infant Son

Q. Has somebody finally come up with a plan to aid the non-public school student that meets all the requirements of the law?

A. Yes. The Speno-Lerner Bill is a major bi-partisan plan that aims to do exactly what is needed: aid the hard-pressed parents of the students in the non-public grammar and secondary school by providing a tuition grant for each child in school.

Q. Is there a lot of support for the plan?

A. Yes. When introduced the plan had 16 sponsors, eight assemblymen and eight senators, both Democrats and Republicans, including upstate, city and Long Island areas.

Q. What is the aim of the plan?

A. To provide tuition payments to parents of non-public school students and help them meet the financial crisis they are facing today.

Q. How does it work?

A. It works like the Scholar Incentive Plan on the college level with a grant based on 1) the cost of the secular education in the school, 2) the income of the parent, and 3) a formula that pays a "portion" of the parent's cost in tuition. It benefits the 850,000 students now in non-public schools.

Q. Who gets how much money out of it?

A. Every parent with a child in a non-public gram-

mar or high school gets a grant based on his net taxable income. The schedule looks like this:

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Parent's Net Taxable Income | Top Annual Grant to Elementary Students |
| Under \$4,000 | \$150 |
| \$4,000-\$9,000 | \$100 |
| \$9,000-\$15,000 | \$ 50 |
| Over \$15,000 | \$ 0 |
| | Top Annual Grant to Secondary Students |
| | \$250 |
| | \$200 |
| | \$150 |
| | \$ 0 |

Q. What about a family with two or three children in school?

A. Each child in school reduces the net taxable income by \$2,000 for figuring purposes.

Q. What is the "formula" for figuring school costs?

A. First it is determined what percentage of school time is devoted to secular subjects (arithmetic, spelling, writing etc.) and what percent is devoted to religious subjects (religion, preparation for first communion, bar-mitzva, the bible etc.) The result shows what per cent represents the cost of secular education.

Q. For example if the tuition were \$100 at a school. What would be the grant?

A. A \$100 tuition at a

school where secular subjects were taught 90% of the time and religious subjects taught 10% of the time would mean a secular cost of education at that school of \$90. Under the bill a parent could get a grant for \$72 (80% of the \$90).

Q. Why the 80% why not all?

A. Because it preserves the parent interest in education and insures that the parent not only pays for the total cost of religious education but a portion (20%) of the secular education as well.

Q. Then would each family get \$72?

A. Depending on income. The low income and middle income families would both get grants of \$72 (since that is less than their top maximum grant of \$150 and \$100 under the law). But the high income family, \$9,000 to \$15,000, would only get \$50 since that's the maximum grant the family can get no matter how high the tuition is.

Boston — (NC)—The petition of a 20-year-old unwed father for custody of his illegitimate baby was dismissed in probate court here on a motion of the Catholic Charitable Bureau of the Boston archdiocese.

Judge Robert G. Wilson, Jr., of Suffolk County Probate Court approved the bureau's motion "with reluctance . . . because I have a great deal of sympathy with a man who has brought into this world a human being and wants to provide him a home and an education."

The father, Robert Monnar, who will be 21 on March 17, appealed the decision to the Massachusetts Supreme Court through his attorney.

The father's petition for custody of his 22-month-old son was opposed by the child's mother, an 18-year-old unwed girl, and the Catholic bureau.

(Massachusetts law traditionally consigns the prerogative of determining the future of an illegitimate child to the mother.)

Judge Wilson based his decision on the fact that the unwed mother had signed "surrender papers" giving

the child to the Catholic Charitable Bureau on Feb. 3, 1969, thereby delegating all authority over the child, until final adoption, to the agency.

U.S. AMBASSADOR SEES POPE

Vatican City — (NC) — Graham Martin, U.S. ambassador to Italy, was received in audience by Pope Paul VI Feb. 9. It was Martin's first visit to the Pope since arriving in Rome last fall.

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