

SAN DIEGO'S FREE WEEKLY November 1 to November 7, 1973

EYE OF NEWT, TOE OF FROG

Force claimed he had played a role, witch-wise, in the indictment of San Diego's former Mayor Curran and his staff, in the Yellow Cab scandal.

—Connie Bruck—

"We are in the third hour of Mars, which is the hour of death and destruction," said Bill Lyres, black priest of a witches' coven. "I'm sure you'll think it's ironic that you should have chosen this time, on this day, to come here."

"Ironic" wasn't the word. I laughed nervously, and remarked that perhaps we shouldn't perform any rituals, given the nature of the hour.

"If you had come last night like we planned," said Lyres. "I was going to try and summon the Goddess of Beauty, to give you eternal love and beauty. But this is a bad hour for summoning."

Lyres has been a member of what he refers to as the "Old Religion," or witchcraft, since childhood. It goes back five generations in his family; his parents taught him its precepts and rituals, just as his friends' parents taught them Christianity and sent them to Sunday school. He grew up in Missouri and came to San Diego about 10 years ago; now in his mid-thirties, he has been active in covens since he was 17. Neither his wife nor his children practice his religion, though he's taught them about it.

"You'd be amazed how many people follow the Old Religion," Lyres said.

I was amazed. To some, like Lyres, it is the Old Religion, handed down from parent to child like any other religion; to others, it is being born with special powers to develop, a "sensitive," selected for witchcraft as a way of life; to still others, it is one more path along the spiritual route which runs from transcendental meditation to Raja-yoga to Zen to Krishna consciousness to astral projection — and on and on and on. But what was most singular about my witch-seeking this Halloween season was that once I began looking for that which I had never even glimpsed before — the practice of magic and witchcraft — I found it everywhere.

"I'll tell you this, it's no

landlady's religion," said Lyres to my friend Anna and me.

"You know how when you move to a new apartment, the landlady gives you about 27 'Thou shalt not's'? 'Thou shalt not have children, thou shalt not have pets, thou shalt not play the radio loud after 9 p.m.' Well, we teach indulgence in anything that will bring you peace and contentment, as long as it doesn't bring wrath down upon you and to others."

"I'm a television repairman," he continued, "so I go into a lot of homes. And I see the signs of the Old Religion in more houses than you'd believe. But it's highly secretive, so most outsiders wouldn't even know that it exists."

Lyres emphasized the difference between witchcraft and the much-publicized Satanism, with its Black Mass. The Old Religion is probably the oldest religion, he said; another word for it is "Wicca," meaning wise — thus, witchcraft, craft of the wise; and it recognizes God as the supreme being, Satanism, on the other hand, of course puts Satan supreme and began during the Renaissance — its Black Mass a deliberate defilement of whatever Christianity held sacred.

Since the high priestess had denied my request to attend a coven meeting, Lyres agreed to describe to me what takes place. His coven — which practices both black and white magic — (black magic doing harm and white magic, good) — consists of twelve women and one man, the Black Priest; woman is the center of the universe and key to the power. The high priestess, who can be appointed only by another high priestess, is the coven's absolute ruler, second to God; he will go unquestioned.

"The only clothing we wear is black robes, which the high priestess purifies under the full moon," explained Lyres. "We kneel on a baphen, a goatskin mat out of the hide of 12 goats — at the moment serving as a throw-rug in his den — and draw a circle, exactly nine feet in diameter, and a pentagram inside it. That's the only safe place to be

during the ritual, inside that circle."

"At the start, the high priestess sounds a bell and makes a recitation to the four powers of darkness — pointing in each direction with a magic wand made of ashwood, 19½ inches long — asking them to leave us in peace. Then the women drink a mixture prepared by the high priestess, and she prays to God and conjures the desired spirit, asking it to appear in a comely form."

Why comely?
"So that it doesn't come with, say, the body of a goat and the head of a frog, something too hideous to look at."

All of the foregoing does not guarantee success, Lyres added. Sometimes, only something small happens, like a glass moving across the table, or the conjured spirit might appear in smoke; if you wish it to assume a more 3-dimensional form, you can make a small cut on your finger — since fresh blood gives the spirit body.

He held out a candle, of slightly reddish tint, in a shot glass, for our inspection. Ordinary enough, except for the red, at which I ventured a guess. "Yes," Lyres replied promptly, "that's human blood. But what's really amazing is that this candle, which the high priestess made, has been burning through our coven meetings for five years. And the wax has never gone down, never been replaced."

Lyres now confessed that at his first meeting with Anna and me — over coffee at Howard Johnson's — he had been frightened. An interesting twist, I thought. What scared him?

"Yes," he said to Anna. "I think you have special powers, even if you don't know it — and suggested that she would probably make a good high priestess. 'The things I could teach you...' he mused aloud.

Lyres gave us what he had prepared for our beauty ritual: a glass, with a special inscription on its base. Gerber's jar with a mixture Gerber never dreamt of — red wine, Egyptian spices, and just a tiny bit of human blood.

"This will Diana, goddess of the moon, know you are one of her children," Lyres said, handing me a moonstone which the high priestess had sanctified by running water over it for six weeks.

"Keep it near you always," Lyres advised, "and life will start going your way."

"Here comes the green girl, here comes the purple lady — that's what I used to say to my mother and she always understood, she never put me down for it," said Oliver Force.

"People are flashes of color to me, until I look at them for a minute or so," he explained, fixing his gaze on me.

I am green and Anna is blue. We were visiting Forces in his trailer in a mobile homes court off Mission Gorge Road, where he lives with his brother, two dogs, a cockatiel, and two desert iguanas. Force was a trapeze artist in the circus, until fall 12 years ago in which he was crippled and his sister and brother-in-law were killed.

"I've seen a woman pyramid," he recounted. "I was on the top, balancing on one hand on a chair, and I fell 80 feet. Four days before, I knew it was going to happen — I warned them but I couldn't convince them." He had told me, on the phone, that he has extraordinary perception — and also that he might be able to lead me to people involved in witchcraft, which he is not.

Since the accident, Force has supported himself by giving

readings at home — \$10 for a regular, \$25 for crystal ball — and performances of psychic prowess, utilizing those talents which had earlier been a "hobby." There are three crystal balls in his living room. One of them, he told us, is from the tomb of Rameses. I and has been on exhibit at the Smithsonian.

The conversation turned to witches, and Force remarked that they usually have animals around, which "hold the magnetism of what they're working with." I considered his menagerie and glanced at him.

"Actually, I'm the head of a coven," he smiled.

Force claimed he had played a role, witch-wise, in the indictment of San Diego's former Mayor Curran and his staff, in the Yellow Cab scandal.

"A friend of mine, Judi Bohmert, who worked in the Mayor's office, was fired. She said to me, 'Boy, I'd like to see them brought up before the Grand Jury' and I said, 'Well, let's do it!' She wrote down a list of names, and I told her that within three hours or three days, they'd be indicted. Three days later, I was listening to the radio, and they announced the indictments — name for name, in order."

Force told us that his father was a Canadian Indian and his mother an Egyptian who became a Hollywood movie star named Barbara Lamar. She was murdered when he was only six — he had foreseen her death — and at eight he ran away to join the circus, where he spent his life until the accident. He was had psychic powers since he was five and he grew up, they were simply a fact of life and his witchcraft — which traces back to the Egyptians and Babylonians is a logical extension of those powers. He is also a practicing Catholic.

"Some people are horrified at the thought of witchcraft because they think you're trying to play God," Force complained. "But it demands a supreme belief in God." Force sees a growing interest in witchcraft. "Some people are turning away from the organized religions, and they want something else to fulfill their needs and desires."

Force added that he mainly practices white magic, which is almost always for the benefit of others. "If it's something essential that you know you need, then you can do it for yourself. But if you do it too much for your own gain, then you lose it."

"I believe that everyone has ESP and other psychic powers, but they've let them lie dormant and they've let them be stewed. He told us Stanford's Research Institute tested his powers and found him correct 98% of the time. Also, he said, he has helped the Sheriff's office to apprehend a man who set fires in Torrey Pines and two apartment complexes in Del Mar. Force invited me to confirm this with David Johnson, in the arson division.

"I wouldn't want to take the priest as a magician — he could transform a piece of bread into the body of Christ!" smiled Katie. She believes that her own Catholic background — with its ritualism and even, in rare cases, — exorcisms — predisposed her for a belief in witchcraft.

I met Katie, 18, and Gerri, 19, in Gerri's apartment in an old house near downtown San Diego. Gerri's room was decorated mainly in black. "People think I paint my nails black because I'm a witch — but it's just because black is my favorite color," laughed Gerri.

He had in fact sailed down from Monterey — which he set three canneries on fire — and ran aground near Torrey Pines. Yes, he did breathe fast — you see, he was

very taken by fire, he became extremely excited if you even lit a match."

"I wouldn't want to take anything away from Dr. Force," he repeated. "He did come pretty close to my partner and me as to what kind of people we are. And he seemed honest. I mean there was no witchcraft — no wands waving or black lights flashing or bats flying."

"You must be calm in yourself," explained Force, "and find a method of communicating with another body or spirit. I have a flower out here, a gardenia, and the darn thing didn't have a bloom on it. I've been talking to it, caressing it, and now look at it." Blooming — as are the poinsettias from last Christmas.

Since we arrived, I watched Force with his animals — dog or desert iguana or cockatiel — it is all the same. He kissed them, spoke lovingly. I was not surprised when he told us he has never been afraid of an animal. "I used to have an 18-foot boa constrictor that could've swallowed you whole. I had two rattlers; they were never de-fanged. I used to pick them up and kiss them."

"In the circus," Force continued, "I used to alternate between the high wire act and the animals. I was in a ring with 4 lions, 8 tigers, 2 ponies, a zebra, 4 llamas, 2 bears, and an elephant — and none of them were muzzled."

"There was a gargantuan gorilla which a lady had as a pet, until her husband threw acid in its face and it became vicious; so they gave it to the circus."

"No one could go near him," smiled Force, remembering. "No one but me. He had an air-conditioned cage, so on hot nights, I'd sleep there with him."

Force gave me a list of contacts, since I want to meet other witches and attend a coven meeting. His coven has just met at the last full moon, and it usually meets just once a year. He told me he knows a lot of black people into hoodoo in Logan Heights. I didn't ask for names.

One of the people on Force's list was a woman in La Jolla who "owns half of Ocean Beach," he said. She was hesitant, didn't want her name used, but said that witchcraft is her religion — she practices by herself, as she's not a joiner — and yes, she's known Oliver for years, and he's very good, especially at psychometry, or divining facts about a person from an object which has been near him.

"He practices, of course. It's like having a musical talent, you must practice daily to develop it. And if you come from a musical family, then you start that much earlier and it's always a part of your life. That's what it was like for Oliver."

As for her own experiences, she remarks that she has had amazing success in real estate. And it's not luck. "I've never lost a nickel," she tells me, "and I've been buying real estate for 25 years."

"As a young child, I saw the priest as a magician — he could transform a piece of bread into the body of Christ!" smiled Katie. She believes that her own Catholic background — with its ritualism and even, in rare cases, — exorcisms — predisposed her for a belief in witchcraft.

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(Continued on page 6)

NOVEMBER 1 TO NOVEMBER 7 THIS WEEK IN SAN DIEGO

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Directory

Table listing various theaters and galleries with their addresses and phone numbers.

Table listing museums and galleries with their addresses and phone numbers.

sports

HOKEY: S.D. Gulls vs. Phoenix... HOKEY: S.D. Gulls vs. Denver... FOOTBALL: Chargers vs. Kansas City... BASKETBALL: San Diego Conquistadors vs. Denver Golden Horn.

theatre

CEREMONIES IN DARK OLD MEN... THE MAGIC TOYSHOP... THE STAR-SPANGLED GIRL... JABBERWOCKY...



CLAES OLDENBURG, graphics, Jack Glenn Gallery, 424 Fashion Valley, October 26 through November 22. Phone 291-5970.

DIMENSIONS OF POLYNESIA, first major exhibition of Polynesian art to be shown west of the Mississippi...

PAINTINGS, photographs, and environmental sculpture by visual arts graduate students... SMALL CRAFT WARNINGS, Mission Playhouse...

MERTON OF THE MOVIES, a Marc Connelly comedy... COLLAGE, ENVIRONMENTAL PIECE, VIDEO TAPE, by Joel Gissman...

GRACE LAY, mixed media; Helen Pare, mixed media... EL DIA DE LOS MUERTOS, Chicanos from Centro Cultural de la Raza will show "calaveras" portraits with skull or skeletal themes...

musical

GARMEN, San Diego Opera, Civic Theatre, Community Concourse, Friday, November 2, 8:00 p.m.

CELLIST GREGOR PIATIGORSKY, assisted by cellist Nathaniel Rosen, and accompanied by the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra...

JOY BLACKETT, mezzo-soprano, Reveille Cafeteria, UCSD, Sunday, November 4, 8:30 p.m.

lectures and talks

THE NEW GENETICS: "Ethical Implications, Questions Without Answers, The Hunt for an Ethno-Science..."

UNIVERSITY TOWN CENTER DISCUSSION, Summer Auditorium, Scripps Institution of Oceanography...

THE SPACE AGE AS CREATIVE CHALLENGE, science fiction lecture by Ray Bradbury...

special events

NIGHT OF THE CANDLE, Commemoration of All Souls Day by the Indians of Rincon and Paia...

FIESTA DE LA CUADRILLA, Colorfully costumed square dancers from throughout the Southwest take part in this three-day fiesta...

SATURDAY NIGHT STREET DRAGS, Caribbean Raceway on Bonita Road...

HORSE SHOW, hunter and jumper show, Bonita Valley Farms on Bonita Road...

ICE CAPADES, S.D. Sports Arena, Tuesday through Saturday, November 6-10...

THIS EVENTS CALENDAR IS COMPILED EACH WEEK BY THE READER AND IS A SERVICE SPONSORED BY THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA FIRST NATIONAL BANK...

A Month Rich in Chamber Music

It would have helped had the piano top been raised, if only slightly; with his powerful arms, Slavic soul, ... Mr. Farkas produces sounds that can easily compare with the loudest of Baldwin concert grands.

—Jonathan Saville—

The second concert of this year's series by the La Jolla Chamber Orchestra exhibited the virtues that characterize all of this group's performance: innovative programming, meticulous and sensitive conducting, fine instrumental work, and brilliant soloists.

To begin with a disagreement, I found myself quite perplexed by the orchestra's performance of Schubert's Fifth Symphony, which I always respect them, frequently learn from them, and never come away from one of their concerts dissatisfied.

Nothing on the rest of the program showed any resemblance to the idiosyncracies of the Schubert performance. William Schuman's Fifth Symphony, wittily programmed in juxtaposition with Schubert's Fifth, was all energy and point, with a decisiveness of accent that brought out the very best in this pleasant neoclassical work.

It must be said that this style of music does not serve Mr. Farkas especially well in his performance of Bach's A major sonata for violin and harpsichord.

Advertisement for 'san diego bicycle imports' featuring a bicycle illustration and a list of products: Alloy Frame Pump \$1.50, Brake Adjustment \$1.50, Canvas Back Pack \$1.50. Also lists 'ME FEATURE LIGHT TOURING AND TRANSPORTATION BIKES' and contact information for ATALA-FOLLIS-ZEUS-CALOI.

THE U.C.S.D. CAMPUS PROGRAM BOARD PRESENTS The first of four Young Artists Series, dedicated to the fostering of new and promising talent.

Advertisement for 'joy blackett' featuring a profile photograph of Joy Blackett and performance details: 8:30 P.M. SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 4th, REVELLE CAFETERIA.

UCSD STUDENTS: Free GENERAL ADMISSION: \$2.00 (SERIES \$6.00) BOX OFFICE: LOBBY UREY HALL 453-2000, Ext. 1391 OTHER ARTISTS IN SERIES: Jean-Jacques Kantorow, violinist January 27, 1974; Jonathan Abramowitz, cellist March 3, 1974; Françoise Regnet, pianist April 21, 1974.

All performances at 8:30 p.m., in the Reveille Cafeteria

Schuman has cultivated throughout three decades of production if not world-shaking composition. Ravel's Introduction and Allegro, with Linda Wood as the excellent harp soloist, received a performance at once beautiful, refined, and vivid.

Believe the score-called for Mr. Garvey chose to conduct this symphony in a restrained, almost pastel style, which reminded me less of Mozart (whom Schubert was openly imitating) than of Delius. Mr. Garvey is a musician of intelligence, and he is certainly capable of conducting Romantic and brilliant soloists.

Pavel Farkas, a superbly gifted violinist from Czechoslovakia, gave a splendid concert at the Jewish Community Center in collaboration with pianist Lurá Herrera. Mr. Farkas, a supporter of Dubcek, was forced to emigrate from his homeland after the Russian invasion and is now pursuing his career in the United States.

The concert was rounded out with two modern pieces for violin solo, Poem of the Heart, by Mr. Farkas, and the latter teacher Andrei Ocasna, and a suite in baroque style by the young American composer William Tasker.

The Cleveland Quartet also resembles Pavel Farkas in the sense that one found oneself listening not so much to Bach as to what Bach might have sounded like had he been composing in the age of Tchaikovsky and Brahms.

A month rich in chamber music was climax by a ravishing concert given by the Cleveland Quartet in UCSD's Reveille cafeteria. Seated picturesque before the cafeteria's vast mural of tortured victims and dead bodies, the artist's tacit notion of what college students like to look at as they eat institutional food, this group of young and exceptionally talented string players performed Haydn's "Lark" quartet, the Beethoven F minor, and Charles Ives' Quartet Number Two.

mezzo-soprano joy blackett 8:30 P.M. SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 4th REVELLE CAFETERIA

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expected revelations, since this work (this opus 95) is notorious as one of the most demonic in the whole quartet literature. But the performance was electrifying; a furiously contained expression of almost unbearable tensions.

If the Bach was uncomfortably out of kilter, the rest of the concert showed a much more idiomatic understanding of style. The performances of Beethoven's "Spring" sonata and the Brahms D minor probed to the very bottom of the composers' intentions and were, in addition, stunningly exciting.

The concert was rounded out with two modern pieces for violin solo, Poem of the Heart, by Mr. Farkas, and the latter teacher Andrei Ocasna, and a suite in baroque style by the young American composer William Tasker.

The only unusual piece on the program was the Ives quartet. The centenary of Ives' birth is coming up next year, and we are already being buffeted by great blasts from the publicity machine that is the century of Ives' birth.

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Reader's Guide To Music Scene

ALBATROSS: THE DADDY O'S, Thursday to Sunday; JERRY MCCANN, Monday to Friday; 1319 Camino Del Mar, Del Mar, 755-6744.

ASPEN PUBLIC HOUSE: O.D. CORRAL, through November 9; 16 Pean. La Jolla 459-3310.

DOM TRENCHARD'S: SWEETFIRE, Thursday, Nov. 1 to Wednesday, Nov. 7, 291-5555.

THE CLIMAX: A DIFFERENT BAG, Thursday, Nov. 1 to Sunday, Nov. 4; REVELATION FUNK, Monday, Nov. 5 to Sunday, Nov. 18; 202 Market, 239-9336.

DRAMATIC ARTS THEATER: SAN DIEGO STATE JAZZ ENSEMBLE, Sunday, Nov. 4, 8 p.m.; San Diego State University, 286-6947.

FOLK ARTS: MARTIN HENRY AND R. LIP, Rockwings, Friday, Nov. 2 and Saturday, Nov. 3, 3743 5th St. 291-1786.

J.J.'S: LINDA LEWIS, Thursday, Nov. 1 to Sunday, Nov. 4; WISBONE ASM, Sunday, Nov. 4, 8 p.m.; 4025 Pacific Highway, 296-3655.

LEDBETTERS: WHISKEY CREEK, Thursday, Nov. 1 to Wednesday, Nov. 7, 5524 El Cajon Blvd. 583-4524.

MANDOLIN WIND: HORIZON, Thursday, Nov. 1 to Wednesday, Nov. 7, 308 University, 297-3017.

MONTEZUMA HALL: MISSISSIPPI BLUES BAND, Saturday, Nov. 3, 8 p.m.; San Diego State, 286-6947.

NEUTRAL GROUNDS: ASYLUM, Thursday, Nov. 1 to Wednesday, Nov. 7, 4693 University, 282-8106.

NOTSAM FLOTSAM: MOONSHOTS, Thursday, Nov. 1 to Saturday, Nov. 3; INTERNATIONAL SHAGS, Monday, Nov. 5, 417 Santa Fe Dr., Encinitas, 753-0393.

THE PEOPLE: WILDWOOD, Thursday, Nov. 1 to Saturday, Nov. 3; TOMCAT, Blues, Sunday, Nov. 5; HEWITT AND HENDERSON, Monday, Nov. 5 to Wednesday, Nov. 7, 4970 Vantage, 38-229-9773.

WALLBANGERS: STARK NAKED AND THE CAR THIEVES, Thursday, Nov. 1 to Wednesday, Nov. 7, 2966 Midway Dr., 293-3158.

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Mahavishnu Orchestra



Advice to a Rookie Bookie

Rita slipped off her cashmere sweater, unclasped her brassiere, and laid bare her naked chest.

—Alan Pesin—

Every day for eleven years a man sent Rita Hayworth one thousand dollars worth of red roses. One afternoon Miss Hayworth told the florist that she would like to meet this man who had paid her so many years of homage with the roses. The man made his appearance, and immediately Rita wanted to know where the money was coming from to pay for the flowers. Rita's admirer explained that he was a professional gambler, and the money was coming out of his winnings. "But surely you can't win all the time," was Miss Hayworth's reply. The man then offered to bet Rita that at 6:00 p.m. the next day she would have square breasts. Miss Hayworth, not without a certain amount of hesitation, took the bet for one thousand dollars. The next day at 6:00 p.m. the man arrived with his mother-in-law at Rita Hayworth's house. Rita slipped off her cashmere sweater, unclasped her brassiere, and laid bare her naked chest. The professional gambler crossed the room, and without a word, began feeling Miss Hayworth's breasts to find out if they were now square. The mother-in-law fainted. "What's going on here?" asked Rita. "I bet my mother-in-law five thousand dollars that at 6:00 p.m. today I would be fondling the breasts of Rita Hayworth," replied the gambler.

Pro football betting is even more exciting than betting on Rita Hayworth's breasts. The nomenclature is not very difficult. The line, or point spread, is the number of points that must be added to or subtracted from a team's total when betting on that team. The public line for each week is announced on Tuesday, but unless you have a wire into Nevada, San Diegans must wait until the spread is published in the Wednesday San Diego *Union* sports section. Since the line fluctuates depending upon how much money is bet on the participating teams, a later point spread can be found in the Wednesday San Diego *Evening Tribune* sports section. I find, though, that the most reliable line, the point spread consistently closest to the Sunday game-time line, is the one published in the Thursday Los Angeles *Times* sports section.

Once you have the point spread, you then can place your bet. If you bet with a bookie on a single game winner you must bet ten dollars to win back ten dollars. The extra dollar is the vigorish, the edge the bookie has on his customers. Parlays are for people who want to give their money away in return for the thrill of having more games in action. You can bet two, three, four, all the way up to ten team parlays, but despite the fact that with the point spread in operation, picking three out of three winners becomes an impossible chore, the payouts are ridiculous. Choosing three out of three winners, an actual nine to one shot, pays off at only five to one. Every other parlay payoff from two to ten has similar unrealistic odds.

Now let me show you how home town betting in San Diego Chargers this season would be a much more satisfactory experience, with or without money management than simply betting on last place team. (Money management is simply betting more than usual when you feel that all the stars are in their correct phases.)

This season's opening game found San Diego at Washington as fourteen point underdogs. As a better it is almost always wrong to give more than a touchdown (As I will show in the Charger-Steelers game), but it is just as mistaken to bet on an underdog unless you think it can actually win the game. I did not think the Chargers could win the game so I simply bet my customary penny (that translates to \$100) on them. They lost 38-0, and I was behind for the season.

The second week the Buffalo Bills came to San Diego in a pick'em game (neither team was favored). The Bills had just beat New England, O.J. Simpson was continuing off his great past season's performance, but the Chargers had stopped the Redskins ground game cold. I was happy to see the Chargers back home so I bet two pennies on them. The Chargers won 31-6, and I was up a penny.

The Chargers' third game found them three point underdogs at home against the Cincinnati Bengals. I thought it would be good to be true, the Chargers and Unites off of great games, so I took the three points and bet my team for two pennies. The Chargers, down 20-3, staged a late comeback that couldn't have won them the game, but somehow we won my bet. They fell short, lost 20-13, and I was down a penny.

The fourth week's opening line had the Chargers at an eighteen point underdog at the Steeler's Three Rivers Stadium. This is where I bet the point spread work for me. By the end of the week enough money had come in on the underdog Steelers to push the spread up to nineteen points. Since I don't believe in betting the underdog unless it has a chance to win, I was not too enthralled with betting the game, but out of home team loyalty I was willing to drop a penny. The half-time score was Steelers 38 - Chargers 0. I turned the channel to the Rams-Oilers game. What took place after I turned the channel is why I will not bet teams that are giving more than seven points. Dan Fouts came in for the Chargers, had a terrific second half against a Steeler Team that was coasting on its 18 point lead, and the final score was 38-21. With the nineteen points I got by taking the Chargers, I won a penny, and felt like I was taking charity. The Chargers were one win and three losses for the year, there was talk of team dissolution, but I was even, and that is what counted most.

I would like to skip the fifth week, when I lost on three pennies and helped boo Svare out of the stadium after watching the four point underdog Chargers lose 41-0 to the Falcons. Last weekend, San Diego at Cleveland, was a thing of beauty.

Owner Eugene Klein had put Svare's coaching job on the line depending upon the outcome of the game. Mike Garrett, San Diego's best running back, was going to come out of Svare's disfavor and finally get another chance to play. The Browns were coming off a big win against a terrible team, the Oilers. The Browns had upset the Steelers, giving the Browns a real case of division championship overconfidence. And the Chargers were eleven point underdogs. On Thursday of last week I bet three pennies on them hoping to make up for the Falcon debacle. Sunday morning I woke up at 10:00 a.m. to watch the game on TV. But because I had forgot to turn my clock back it turned out to be only 9:00 a.m. I was listening to the KNX Radio news when their 9:15 a.m. sports report gave the weather

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