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PHILOSOPHY IN MAGIC

Charles V. Stanton

If all callers at the editorial office were like the one who dropped in Friday night, I'd never get any work done. I like visitors, because I like people. Even those callers who come in with complaints, and occasionally in a fighting mood, are welcome. They all have some reason to talk with the editor and I never cease to learn new ideas from the people who call, even though they may be interested only in passing the time of day.

The caller Friday evening was unique particularly in the fact that he stayed long past the usual closing hour, and I didn't begrudge a minute of the extra time. In fact, several members of the news and advertising staffs stayed on as well.

The visitor was Mandrake, The Magician, one of the nation's foremost exponents of magic, who now is spending a few weeks entertaining Roseburg audiences.

I've seen Mandrake in action on several occasions in recent years. I never cease to marvel at his ability.

Interested In Children

Friday night, however, was the first opportunity to get acquainted with him. It was a great experience.

Mandrake is a magician, he says, because he has always wanted to be a magician and wouldn't be happy at any other occupation.

And I believe him.

The fact that he likes his work radiates from every pore. Although he must have gone through the same routine thousands of times, he cannot disguise his personal satisfaction as he gives pleasure by his magic.

He had intended to stay at the newspaper office only a few minutes. But he had an audience. So for free, he gives us an intimate performance, keeping us all baffled, and so lost himself in the doing that he was late for another engagement.

Fortunate indeed is the man who enjoys his job, and doubly fortunate is the man who finds self-satisfaction in sharing his enjoyment with others. We composed an adult audience, but Mandrake is happiest while entertaining a group of children.

Every child, he asserts, needs two experiences to round out his life. He must see a circus and a show of magic. Opportunity for today's youngsters to watch a clever magician at work is not as good as it used to be.

Not too many years ago, stage attractions drew large audiences, and a magician was one of the most popular entertainers. But it is most difficult in these late years, with all their many activities to draw a profitable audience to a stage show.

Looking For Trap Doors

But there is much truth in Mandrake's philosophy that legerdemain is an important part of a person's education. We know we're being fooled, and we learn through watching a magic show that a clever operator can make us believe in the impossible. If we properly absorb that fact we can be entertained but not fooled by today's political propagandist.

"People should relax," Mandrake asserts.

"When I give my magic show, everyone is looking for trapdoors, strings, buttons and hooks. Instead of leaning back and being entertained, the audience is always looking for the gimmick—the gimmick that makes the trick."

Just as the audience reacts to Mandrake's magic, we Americans take things too seriously. We build up tensions and conflicts over issues that should only be sources of entertainment. We push our blood pressure to the danger point "looking for the gimmick." If we could just relax, leaving it to the magicians to pull the rabbits out of hats, the world could be made a much better place in which to live.

Hal Boyle

NEW YORK (AP)—"People count themselves to death in this life," said Louis L'Amour, declining to give his age.

With L'Amour, one of America's most prolific adventure writers, keeping his age to himself isn't a matter of vanity. It's a philosophy.

"It isn't the number of years you've lived that's important," he said. "It's a mistake to measure living in terms of years. It's how you've spent the years that puts real meaning into existence."

Judged by most standards L'Amour has had enough experiences to last the ordinary man through several reincarnations.

The average adventure writer is a swivel chair dreamer who would think twice before picking a quarrel with his dentist. L'Amour not only looks like the adventure heroes he writes about—he probably could whip one of his own heroes in a fight with either fist or gun.

The big 6-foot 1-inch author weighs 200 pounds and is a judo expert as well as an authority on a desert or jungle survival. He has been a sailor, a miner, a hobo, a professional boxer (he won 54 bouts, lost 5) and an anti-tank combat officer in World War II.

At 15 he left his home in Jamestown, N.D., and joined a circus as the first step in a search for adventure that has carried him to almost every far corner of the world.

"Even then I knew I wanted to write," he recalled. "But I figured I could learn more out of school than in it. I felt I had to live before I could write about it."

L'Amour educated himself by constant reading during his years of wandering in distant places. Slowly and painfully he also taught himself to write.

"I had 200 stories rejected before I sold my first one for \$10," he recalled.

His career has now reached the jackpot stage. He has published more than 400 short stories, turned out half a dozen adventure novels,

including "Hondo," made into a movie starring John Wayne, to whom L'Amour bears a strong physical resemblance. Recently he sold a magazine serial for \$15,000, sat down and wrote another book, "We Shape the Land," in 35 hours at the typewriter in 5 days.

"Usually I don't write that fast," he said. "But writing comes easy to me. I have written about five million words. Usually I write 4 hours every morning every day in the week, and turn out about 10 pages a day."

"It makes no difference how I feel. If you feel bad, writing helps take your mind off your troubles. It doesn't make you feel any better to sit still and do nothing."

L'Amour, who never has smoked, eats candy and chews gum while he writes, and says he can write anywhere—on trains or planes, in crowded restaurants.

"The only thing that bothers me is dead silence," he said. "Some time ago I read an ad in a Hollywood paper by a writer who wanted a woman to come and merely make homely noises around the house while he worked. I can understand that. Any kind of sound is better than none when you are writing."

RECEIVES MEDAL

LONDON (AP)—Dr. Igor Sikorsky, pioneer helicopter designer, arrived Saturday by plane from New York to receive the 1955 James Watt Medal, an international award by the British Institute of Mechanical Engineers. It is in recognition of Sikorsky's life work in pioneering the development of aircraft.

Bubble Bath



Bruce Biossat

It's an old business to look at Congress about this time every year and mutter "not much done" so far. Actually, the Easter break in 1955 found things a little better in some respects, with one especially welcome novelty.

The first session of the narrowly Democratic 84th Congress can, for instance, mark up a pretty impressive record in the field of foreign affairs.

It endorsed the Formosa resolution supporting the President in whatever moves he deems necessary to the defense of Formosa and the nearby Pescadores islands. At the same time the Senate approved a mutual defense pact with the Chinese Nationalists on Formosa.

Of wider significance in the Asiatic region, the Senate accepted the Southeast Asia Treaty bringing friendly Asian lands into a defense pact aimed at blocking the southward flow of Chinese communism.

And more recently, the Senate approved with rare dispatch, the so-called Paris agreements pulling West Germany into NATO and authorizing German rearmament within the Western defense network. This step caps the military structure erected in Europe to bar the westward flow of Russian communism.

Important as these strides are, they do not represent the whole of the task to be done in foreign affairs this year. There is still the matter of foreign technical and military aid appropriations, with the technical aid program of especial value for the Asian area. And there is the controversial matter of liberalizing foreign trade law to allow our friends abroad to build more self-reliant economies by selling more of their output.

On domestic issues, the story thus far is not so bright. The main achievement up to Easter was a negative one—the successful beating down of the \$20 per person in-

come tax cut which seemed unwarranted by budget prospects. Still caught up in inexcusable House and Senate committee tangles are such vital programs as highway and school construction assistance. The country must hope sincerely that Democratic objections to President Eisenhower's proposals in these fields will not prevent passage of badly needed legislation. The nation's requirements for more and better schools and highways must be met swiftly. The programs deserve top priority.

Also meriting prompt attention are bills calling for substantial pay increases for postal and other federal workers, and statehood for Alaska and Hawaii. This Congress could further distinguish itself by beating down an attempt to restore rigid farm price supports.

The novelty in the 84th up to now has been the relative lack of emphasis on investigations, which for some years past had begun to seem like the major business of Congress. Aside from the stock market inquiry, most of the 1953 probes have been pretty modest affairs. The restoration of balance and perspective to this congressional function is a healthy sign.

If one had to sum up as of now, the judgment probably would be: Much still to be done, but better than average progress so far.

Investigation To Determine NW Oil Supply

WASHINGTON (AP)—A congressional investigation to determine if the West Coast is getting sufficient oil for a possible emergency has been asked by Rep. Short (R-Mo.). Former chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, Short now is the ranking Republican member of that body.

Short made his proposal in a resolution introduced in the House. The resolution, referred to the Armed Services Committee, asks that the committee or a subcommittee inquire into:

1. Sources of supplies of oil and other petroleum products for the West Coast for military and other requirements.

2. The quantity of oil and other petroleum products needed on the West Coast to meet ordinary military and other requirements and

3. Whether in event of a national emergency there are adequate supplies of oil and other petroleum products on hand on the West Coast to meet military and other requirements.

The investigating group would report its findings and recommendations to the House as soon as possible. The group making the study would be empowered to hold hearings anywhere in the United States and to subpoena witnesses and documents.

Senate Approves Measure Fixing Life Hospital Terms For Serious Sex Offenses

By PAUL W. HARVEY JR.

SALEM (AP)—Life terms in the state hospitals would be given to persons convicted of serious sex crimes against children under a bill approved unanimously by the Oregon Senate Saturday. It goes to the House.

At the same time, there were two tax developments as the taxation committees of both houses continued to hammer away at the revenue problem.

The House Taxation Committee agreed tentatively that if the Legislature passes a 3 per cent sales tax bill, it should be referred to a special election next Nov. 8. The committee originally proposed this election for June or July.

The Senate Taxation Committee split down the middle over the House-passed 3-cent cigarette tax bill, being unable to agree whether to recommend passage or defeat.

Under the far-reaching sex crime bill, a man convicted of such a crime against a child under 16 years of age could be sentenced to life in the state hospitals, if the judge finds that the guilty person is a confirmed sex criminal.

The State Parole Board would review the guilty person's case every two years, releasing him only if psychiatrists report that he has been cured of his tendency to commit such crimes.

The Senate was told that these tendencies rarely are cured.

The bill is modeled after a New York state law.

As to the cigarette tax, the Senate committee reversed its earlier action to tax other forms of tobacco. The committee said it feared that since neighboring states don't tax other kinds of tobacco, cigars might be smuggled into Oregon if Oregon taxed them.

Sen. Rudie Wilhelm, Portland, chairman of the committee, said the bill would be sent to the Senate floor about next Wednesday, regardless of what the committee's recommendation will be.

The committee vote on the bill Saturday was 33, with one member undecided.

Voting for the cigarette bill were Sens. Wilhelm; Lee Osmart, Salem; and Harry Boivin, Klamath Falls. Those against it were Sens. Philip S. Lowry, Medford; Lowell Steen, Milton-Freewater;

and Robert D. Holmes, Gearhart. The undecided member is Sen. Paul Geddes, Roseburg.

The Joint Ways and Means Committee recommended Saturday that the Battleship Oregon Commission be abolished, and that it be given \$3,000 to close up its affairs. This action follows the Senate's refusal to vote an appropriation for the commission.

The commission operates a museum in Portland.

The Senate sent to the House a bill to guarantee that cities would continue to have the right to levy taxes on income of utilities and transportation services.

Both houses already have passed a ban on city income taxes. Saturday's action was to exempt the utility and transportation taxes from that bill.

A bill to create a State Judicial Council, which would consist of all state judges, was approved by the Senate and sent to the governor.

France, Tunisia Reach Agreement On Home Rule

PARIS (AP)—France's government and Tunisian nationalists laid down a six-point plan here to bring eventual home rule and possible peace to the troubled North African protectorate.

The agreement in principle, reached after midnight by French Premier Edgar Faure and Tunisian Premier Tahar Ben Ammar, must still be worked out in detail before a final text is drawn up.

Then it must be approved by the aged Bey of Tunis—Tunisia's nominal ruler—and the balky French Assembly.

The Bey's approval is considered certain. But in the Assembly he agreement is certain to encounter opposition from members sympathetic to the French colonists who constitute a powerful minority in Tunisia.

HEADS FILBERT GROWERS

PORTLAND (AP)—The dean of agriculture at Oregon State College Friday was named chairman of the region's filbert control board. He is F. E. Price, Corvallis.

Navy Requesting Funds To Build Training Station

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Navy is asking Congress for funds to start building a \$12,478,000 reserve training station at Hillsboro, Ore., this year.

Details of the project were disclosed recently with release of testimony by Navy spokesmen before a House Appropriations subcommittee.

The new training station would replace facilities at Spokane, and would bring about discontinuance of three units now training at Salem.

The Navy spokesmen asked for \$8,598,000 for the station in the fiscal year beginning July 1. They said they hope to complete the project in two years. They expect to use up only about 70 per cent of the first year's appropriation in the coming year, but would need the money in order to go ahead fast enough to complete the project in two years.

They also said they regarded this as a top priority reserve project.

"A personnel survey indicates that there are sufficient interested naval reserve officers in this area to man eight reserve squadrons at full strength," they advised the subcommittee.

"Adequate training facilities for these naval air reservists is considered essential to the national defense."

Rear Adm. Kenmore M. McManes, assistant chief of naval reserve operations, said the station would be built through acquisition of the Hillsboro municipal airport and adjacent lands, covering 1,145 acres in all.

The plans call for construction of a new runway, 8,000 feet long and 200 feet wide.

The existing 4,050-foot runway at the airport would be used for an emergency cross-wind landing strip. Another runway would be incorporated into a taxiway system for the 8,000-foot runway.

Residents of Hillsboro voted earlier this week, 1,348 to 538, to make the airport available to the Navy.

Navy Will Start Second Nuclear Submarine Soon

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Navy, well pleased with its first nuclear submarine, probably will start this year the development of an atomic power plant for surface ships.

The forecast was made by Secretary of the Navy Thomas in testimony made public recently by the House Appropriations Committee.

"I think the potential for atomic propulsion is terrific," he said. "I think it is on the threshold of a great showing."

Tests of the first atom-powered submarine, the Nautilus, indicate that its power plant will be serviceable two or three times longer than had been expected. Thomas said, and even better plants are being made ready for three other submarines now authorized.

The secretary's testimony, given Feb. 11, was made public a few hours after the house had voted 323-3 to authorize a \$1,317,000,000 shipbuilding program over the next four years. The total included three additional atomic submarines, to make seven in all.

The new program, still subject to Senate approval and to the appropriation of funds, would provide for 34 new warships and the conversion of 28 other vessels.

Among the new ships would be a fifth super-carrier and five submarines with conventional diesel power in addition to the three with nuclear engines.

Purchase Of Capitol Mall Blocks Permitted

SALEM (AP)—The Oregon Senate has taken action to let the State Board of Control buy property in six additional blocks of the Capitol Mall, and to permit use of the acquired property for parking lots for state employees.

Under present law, the proposed Mall extends seven blocks north of the Capitol, but the board can buy property only in the four blocks nearest the Capitol.

The bill, approved 20-10 and sent to the House, would permit purchases in the remaining three blocks.

The parking bill was sent to the governor.

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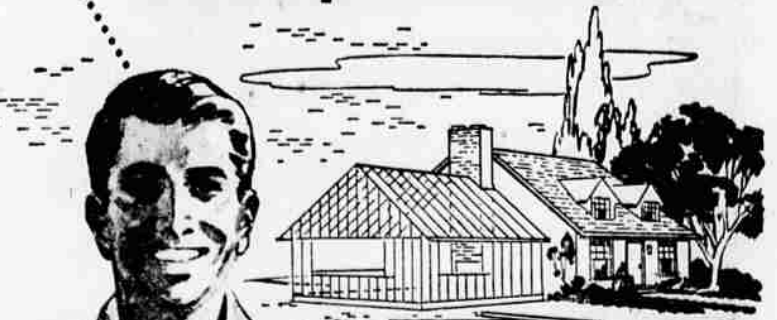
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