

'AN OVERGROWN HUMMEL'

Cyrus Prouty's Bookstore is New Addition

By Angela Zach
Emerald Reporter

It might well be called novelty row, that section of Alder between 12th and 13th. Gracing its sidewalk is a laundry, automatic; a Chinese restaurant, operated by university students; an apartment house, with bright bath towels draped on the clothesline in back. Most recent addition to the establishments is Cyrus Prouty's bookstore.

Proprietor Prouty himself with ruddy face and substantial build looks like an 'overgrown Hummel'. He speaks in the double affirmative with an "I was there, I was," or "I said he could have it, I did." Behind Prouty's front desk stretches 40 feet or so of store. The walls are lined to stretching height with orange crates a "friend brought over from Springfield in his truck, he did." And neatly arranged in these crates are books of all sizes and nearly all topics. Some are almost slick-new still; others show the ravages of small children with crayons. Still others are tattered from use that would credit a family Bible.

Under One Percent
Prouty himself confines his reading (as much as his eyes will stand) to periodicals, biographies and science fiction. He reads less than one per cent of his wares, he estimates. "Only just enough to glance through and classify, that's all."

Reads Everything
The 62 year old proprietor ad-

mits the bulk of his learning has come from reading—everything. "Didn't get past the sixth grade in grammar school," he explains. "But when my mother wanted to locate me, she'd call the public library and have 'em send me home, she would."

Home for Cyrus Prouty was just outside Syracuse, N. Y. He was the oldest of 14 children, a fact that precluded the possibility of much formal education for any of them.

"We lived in the Jewish section of town," he recalls. "There was a Hebrew school and a synagogue right behind our house." The Rabbi invited Prouty Sr. to send a son, Cyrus if he wanted to, to the Jewish school. Cyrus declined. A brother went in his stead and acquired a writing knowledge of Hebrew while Cyrus continued reading whatever he could lay his hands on.

Yen for Adventure
But Prouty had a yen for ad-

venture and it wasn't all vicariously satisfied through reading. He left home when he was 16. As a marine in World War I, he spent four years in China, two years in Panama, two more in Nicaragua, and was among the first to land at Vera Cruz. A stint in the army during World War II completed a record of 23 years in the service. While in the army, he learned quantity cookery. This skill led to a position of chief cook at the Veterans' hospital in Portland, he reports.

The book business began in New York during the depression. He started by selling volumes from his personal library to collectors in New York city.

"Before long, they were sending me want lists, they were, and I was scouting around picking up books for them. I didn't make much money, but I learned," he reminisces.

Not until four years ago did

Prouty take to handling books as a full time occupation. His first store was in Eugene on Willamette street between 12th and 13th. As his stock increased, he outgrew those quarters hopelessly and was happy to set up shop on Alder near the university campus. There he has more room and can display his merchandise to better advantage. Now he sorts and assembles his volumes by subject matter. Formerly they were grouped for convenient stacking flatwise.

After a day in his store that frequently lasts until 7 p.m., Prouty goes home to a hobby—that's right—of books. He has assembled some 300 volumes written by or about Franklin D. Roosevelt. "And I'm not a Democrat," he declares.

Shrewd Politician
"I started back in the depression," in the '30's," he says. "I ad-

mired the man and he was a shrewd politician. He must have been shrewd or he wouldn't have stayed in for so long." A lesser hobby is collecting Roosevelt stamps from India and Indian states.

To handle books, says Prouty, one must have patience and time. The first requisite he manifested several years ago when he assembled a postal history of Syracuse and the surrounding towns in New York. This project cost only about \$100, he remembers, but it took about six years.

One browsing student came on an exquisite leather-bound volume of German prose. When Prouty was asked about it, he replied simply that he didn't read German, just that "that book intrigued me, it did," an attitude applicable to all his wares. Of his business now, "It's a very pleasant way to make very little money."

Nationalism Growing Among Peruvians; People Revive Their Traditions, Folklore

By Ann Ogle
Emerald Reporter

"A strong current of nationalism is steadily growing among my people" according to Inez Pozzi-Escot, Peruvian graduate student in English.

For many years, Peru has emulated the cultures of France and Spain, Miss Pozzi-Escot said. "The Peruvian heritage was ignored. But more and more, my country is reviving her songs, folklore, and ancient traditions."

Everyone, a Little
"There is very little racial discrimination in Peru," Miss Pozzi-Escot remarked. The feeling is expressed in the Peruvian saying that "Everyone has a little of every race."

Nevertheless, she continued, there is a three-tiered social strat-

um in Peru, with the whites and mestizoes on the highest rung of the social ladder and the Negroes and the Indians on the bottom, looking up. The three races seem to stay in their respective social niches, she said, with "family" also playing an important part in the hierarchy. The population percentage of the races in Peru is 45 per cent Indian, 0.8 per cent Negro, and 54.2 per cent white and mestizo.

Each race has contributed a great deal to the Peruvian culture, Miss Pozzi-Escot remarked. A Peruvian showing special talent can climb to a higher position in the society.

"Pregon"
The Negroes have added the "pregon" to the folklore. This "pregon" was the song of the Negro street-seller. There was a different "pregon" for each hour of the day.

At 6 a.m. the milk woman came by, singing her "pregon." At 10 a.m. the tamalera came by selling tamales, with her special "pregon." At 9 p.m. the "animero," an assistant priest appeared, seeking contributions for the souls in purgatory. They used the "animero" to frighten little children who were unwilling to go to bed. A policeman was the last to appear on the scene with his "pre-

gon." (street seller song). He announced the hour until early morning, crying "Blessed Mary! It is o'clock. Long live Peru, and all is well." This "pregon" disappeared from Peruvian life in the early part of the 20th century, Miss Pozzi-Escot said.

The Negro influence is also strongly evident in the rhythmic dances of the Peruvian coast, and in the music of the country, she declared.

Foodstuffs at "Faria"
The Indians have also added a great deal to the Peruvian heritage. Most of the Indians live in the highlands of the Andes and in the jungles. Those on the coast have the booths and market places. The "faria" or fair spread was an open marketplace, where silverwork, pottery and the popular crafts were represented. Foodstuffs were also sold at the "faria."

The Indian dances are a community affair, Miss Pozzi-Escot continued. The instruments used for these dances were the native harp, a variation of the violin and horizontal and vertical flutes. Music plays an important part in the Indian life, she stated, and every community sends a group of musicians to celebrate the birthdays of Peru's patron saints.

Some of the Peruvian Indians are very superstitious, Inez noted. "There is the Indian woman who sells herbs, continuing the tradition of the medicine men. The Indians in the southern part of Peru have faith in the "ekeko," a fat doll with tiny bags of food on his back who is thought to be a good luck symbol."

Hispanismo or Indigenismo
Since July 28, 1821, when Peru gained her independence from Spain, there has been a war between "Hispanismo," the predominance of Spanish tradition, and "Indigenismo," or emphasis on Indian tradition, Miss Pozzi-Escot said. In Peru's search for a national soul, there is a strong move to combine these two dissenting factions into one word "Peruvianism." Above all, she remarked, Peru now wishes to keep her ancient culture alive.

Inez also spoke on Lima, her "home town." It always seems that the city is in constant prayer, she said. "Perhaps it is because there are so many churches, towers and bells in Lima. The plaza and church are the essence of every Peruvian town, no matter how tiny or miserable the town may be, she pointed out.

Inez cited Lima as the great South American center for bullfighting. Concha Cintron, the

world's greatest woman bullfighter (who appropriately enough just married a Portuguese lion hunter) comes from Lima, she noted.

The Peruvians regard bullfighting as the "triumph of life over death." It is like seeing a "curious mixture of ballet and sculpture."

The Peruvian people have a tragic sense of life, Inez remarked. "Death looms large in their thoughts. Perhaps that is why funerals are the only occasion on which Peruvians arrive promptly on time." In contrast, the Negroes of the coastal regions of Peru are very gay and lighthearted.

"Peruvians also have an aversion to standing in line. We just did not know how to make lines," Inez said.

At first it was necessary to hire policemen to force Peruvians to stand in line for certain things, she pointed out. Finally the congestion in bus terminals during the war years taught the Peruvian people to form lines.

Initiation Rites Held Wednesday For Phi Eta Sigma

Twelve sophomore and freshman men were initiated into Phi Eta Sigma, freshman scholastic honorary for men, at a formal banquet and initiation held Wednesday evening in the Student Union.

Sophomore men initiated on the basis of a cumulative GPA their first year of 3.5 or higher were Walter White, Thomas Taylor, Joe Gardner, Bart Koepfen and Bob Summers. Ted Goh, special student, was also initiated.

Freshman men who were initiated on the basis of 3.5 or higher GPA fall term were Gordon Rice, Otto M. Nelson, David Tang, Jack Socolofsky, Justin Smith and Bob McCracken.

W. A. Roecker, assistant professor of Germanic languages, addressed the group at the banquet on the subject of "Education and a College Career." The meeting was presided over by Bill Reeves, president of Phi Eta Sigma.

UO Catalog Librarian Returns From Korea

William F. Lindgren, former catalog librarian at the University library, has returned after a two year period of military leave, seventeen months of which were spent in Korea. Lindgren had been with the library, prior to his leave, since 1948.

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Theta Sigma Phi Pledges 5 Women

Five new members were initiated and five women pledged by Theta Sigma Phi, national women's journalism honorary, at ceremonies held Wednesday night.

New pledges to the campus chapter of the honorary are Elsie Schiller, Barbara Boushey and Janet Blom, juniors in journalism, and Lorna Davis and Angela Zach, seniors in journalism.

Women initiated by the organization are Virginia Dailey and Kitty Fraser, juniors in journalism, and Helen Jones, La Vaun Maier and Donna Pastrouich, seniors in journalism.

Announcement of the pledges was made during an informal get-together given by the honorary for women in pre-journalism. Charlene Alvord and Miss Pastrouich gave short talks on their experiences working on newspapers.

Presiding over the ceremonies and the program was Pat Choat, president of the Oregon chapter of Theta Sig, assisted by members Donna Lindbeck and Mrs. Alvord.