

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us, No Fear Shall Awe"
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A Kiwanian's Book List

The idea came to James F. Roche as he stood on the bridge of the troopship "Argentine" and wondered how many of the thousands of young Americans she carried to war had known America. With the help of fellow Kiwanians he decided to stock in the ship's library a memorial shelf of 100 books—books which tell the story of America with integrity and detachment, books permeated with the unique flavor, the strong colors, the speech and life and ideals of her people.

The list of such books was compiled by Roche from selections submitted by 2,000 well-known Americans, critics, writers, editors, teachers, college deans, historians, politicians. It is published in the January Kiwanian magazine.

It is a common failing of many book lists that their publishers tend to label them with superlatives—the 10 best, the 25 greatest, the 50 outstanding, and so on—labels which demand proof and evoke criticism. This particular list has no such grandiose pretensions. It does not claim to include all highbrow literature and it does not strive to glorify America through flag-waving apologists or drum-thumping propagandists.

Instead, it tries to photograph America from every angle through 45 works of fiction: the "little people" in "USA" by Dos Passos, the workers in "Valley of Decision" by Marcia Davenport, the immigrants in "Giants of the Earth" by Ole Rolvaag, the sharecroppers in "The Grapes of Wrath" by Steinbeck, the native aristocrats in "The Late George Apley" by J. P. Marquand, the negroes in "Freedom Road" by Howard Fast, "O Pioneers" by Willa Cather, southerners in "Look Homeward Angel" by Thomas Wolfe, the middle-class in "Arrowsmith" by Sinclair Lewis, etc.

Several authors, Willa Cather, Kenneth Roberts, Edna Ferber and Conrad Richter, are represented by two or more books. It would probably have been wiser to sacrifice their surplus books in order to include other viewpoints of writers omitted—works of Nathaniel Hawthorne, Theodore Dreiser, James Farrell and William Faulkner might have been included.

The proportion of plays and poetry seems meager. Are there only five American poets and three American playwrights worth mentioning? Perhaps this deficiency is amply balanced by the 47 works of autobiography, biography, history and miscellaneous. The list is excellent: Carl Sandburg's "The Prairie Years" of Lincoln, Carl Van Doren's "Benjamin Franklin," Claude G. Bowers' "Thomas Jefferson," "The Education of Henry Adams," Richard Wright's "Native Son," Edward Bok, William Allen White, H. L. Mencken, Louis Adams, Ernie Pyle, John Gunther, Charles A. and Mary Beard, Theodore Roosevelt, Bernard De Voto, Francis Parkman, Ralph W. Emerson, B. A. Botkin.

On the whole, this list accomplishes its purpose—the picture presented includes many sides, the ones we brag about and the ones we slough off. It is not enough to love a country blindly, Americans by birth or choice are ill-equipped for citizenship unless they understand the nation and the people. Who reads this collection of Americana must come to a more appreciative and more intelligent understanding of our country and its heritage.

Power Shortage

It takes longer now to brew the morning coffee and living room lights dim when the radio is switched on. That is because the average family uses nearly 500 kilowatt-hours more electric power a year than in 1939, two million new consumer families began buying power in 1947 and the new war-developed industries require more power than ever before in history.

The power industry is producing more, too. Operating on a very slim margin of reserve generating capacity, the industry last year generated a new record of 300 million kilowatt-hours.

But that is not enough. And nowhere is power as tight as in the Pacific northwest. Fortune magazine reports that transformers at Bonneville dam are so hard pressed that they must be sprayed with a fire hose to cool them, and the drastic federal budget cut last year was a considerable setback to adequate maintenance or needed expansion.

Oregon has three federal generating plants, 20 private plants and 11 dams above 100,000 kilowatts. There is ample water power here for 39 federal-public generating plants and four such plants are projected, according to the federal agencies operating in this area. The ultimate output of the Columbia river is 13,859,750 kilowatts (excluding private potentials)—nearly four million kilowatts more than the ultimate outputs of the Colorado, Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers put together. Columbia output is now only 1,936,930 kw.

The private power industry's five-year \$5 billion expansion program is well under way and, by 1951, will add more generating capacity than all government plants combined. No one knows how much power the nation will need—industries like light metals, electrometallurgical alloys, chemicals, aeronautics and atomic energy are growing "power hogs." The increased federal power project funds provided in the proposed national budget should encourage the northwest to plan for unprecedented industrial growth. Private industry and government projects will probably have to get along and work together as best they can to harness the mighty Columbia to meet the public need.

Alien Land Laws Impaired

Steadily the walls built on foundations of prejudice are being undermined. Monday's decision of the supreme court held it was unconstitutional discrimination to prevent an alien ineligible for citizenship from acquiring land in the name of his American-born son pretty well undermined California's (and Oregon's) anti-Japanese land laws. While the court did not declare unconstitutional the structure of legislation aimed to prevent alien ownership or leasing of lands that might be a next step. Four justices were willing to go that far now.

Oregon already had legislation to prevent aliens ineligible to citizenship from owning land, and in the heat of wartime antagonism passed another very stringent law whose purpose was to prevent Japanese from coming back to Oregon and working land. That law has never been invoked and never tested. We doubted at the time if it would pass a court test; and this late decision of the supreme court tends to confirm that doubt. It ought to be repealed.

Meantime the Oklahoma university regents moved to comply with the court's previous order by setting up in a few days' time a new law school for negroes. Of course it cannot so quickly equal the facilities afforded white students at the university, and the negroes object to the principle of segregation. The young woman who was plaintiff in the case continues to seek entrance to the established school and the case may get back to the supreme court.

It is a long, slow fight but the battle against racial intolerance has to go on.

The idea advanced by Governor Hall of letting Portlanders vote on a location for a state office building in Portland looks like passing the buck by the board of control. It's a state building, not a city building. Actually, when it comes to voting, the people of Oregon voted many years ago to locate the capital in Salem, but the mandate is only about half complied with. For this state office building in Portland, which we are not opposing, let the board of control look the ground over and then pick the best location it can find—on the west side.

GRIN AND BEAR IT By Lichty



"Customers have lost confidence in our service, Watson, since we made the mistake of advising them to buy government bonds instead of beat up used cars."

MATTER OF FACT Lull in World Strife Viewed as Part of Reds' Long-Range Plan

By Joseph and Stewart Alsop
WASHINGTON, Jan. 20.—Among the American experts, the horrified suspicion is mounting that the Kremlin has at last gained a kind of primitive understanding of American politics. The presidential candidacy of Henry A. Wallace, which the communist party obviously hopes will put a republican reactionist in the White House, is plainly suggested as such.

And now there are new reasons for believing that the makers of Russian policy will grant the world a lull—a period of relaxation of tension—while congress is debating the European Recovery program.

If true, this latter news is of vital importance. It is not too much to say that Soviet bullying and a Soviet aggression have provided the congressional majorities for every major measure of American foreign policy since the end of the war.

There were many grounds for expecting that after the breakdown of negotiations in London, the Kremlin would quickly follow Vishinsky's words with comparable deeds.

It was expected, in fact, that Dracoman measures to consolidate Russian power in the Soviet sphere would be combined with aggression against every weak point within reach of Soviet power.

In December, however, came the setbacks at Paris and Rome, and shortly thereafter followed the upset of the Greek timetable, when the Green army recaptured Komitini from the communist guerrillas. No doubt these events caused the Kremlin to reevaluate the situation.

To be sure, the lull that the world may now hope for will be both brief and very incomplete, if it occurs at all.

Preparations remain. The Preparations for more open aggression—the struggle for key positions from which to paralyze the French and Italian economies; the effort to capture the west German labor movement; the preparations for a larger guerrilla effort in Greece—are still being carried on.

High cheek bones and blond hair and a slender, bird-like face was weatherbeaten. And he wore the tunic and broad leather belt of the partisan fighter. And his face was drawn as though someone where he had received a terrible wound.

At last the meal was ready. Ukrainian borscht, which is a meal in itself, and hard fried eggs, with bacon, fresh tomatoes and fresh cucumbers, and sliced onions, and the hot flat cakes of sweet rye, and honey, and fruit, and sausages were all put on the table at once.

Under the circumstances, it might be well to consider the other alternative. This is for Secretary of State George C. Marshall to spell out in detail the vague generalities of his statement on the price of inaction.

Our very efficient and worthy district attorney is a prosecuting attorney and not an arresting officer.

A Russian Journal By John Steinbeck Photographs by Robert Capa

'They Put on a Show'—Like In America

(Editor's note — On a collective farm in the Ukraine, John Steinbeck and Robert Capa were feasted as American guests. This is their report on how they ate and what they talked about.)

CHAPTER VII
Since we have come back from Russia, probably the remark we have heard most is this: "I guess they put on a show for you, I guess they really fixed it up for you. They didn't show you the real thing." The people in this village did put on a show for us. They put on the same kind of show a Kansas farmer would put on for a guest. They did the same thing that our people do, so that Europeans say: "The Americans live on chicken." When an American farmer has a guest he kills a chicken. They really put on a show for us. They came dirty from the fields, and they bathed and put on their best clothes, and the women got out from the trunks their headcloths that were clean and fresh. They washed their feet and put on boots, and fresh laundered skirts and blouses.

Little girls collected flowers and put them in bottles, and brought them into the dining room. And delegations of children from other houses came in with water glasses, and plates, and spoons. One woman brought a jar of her special pickles, and the vodka bottles from all over the village were contributed. And a man brought a bottle of Georgian champagne, saved for heaven knows what great occasion.

Homey Kitchen Scene

In the kitchen the women put on a show too. The fire roared in the new white oven, and the flat cakes of good rye bread were baking, and the eggs were frying, and the borscht bubbling. Outside the rain poured down, so we didn't feel badly, for we were not interfering with their work in harvest time; they couldn't have been working with the grain anyway.

In one corner of the dining room, which is the same as the room, there was the icon, a Mary and Jesus, framed and gilded, under a canopy of hand-made lace. They must have buried these things when the Germans came, for the icon was old. There was a painted enlarged photograph of the great grandparents. This family had lost two sons in the army and their pictures were on another wall, in their uniforms, looking very young and very stern and very countrified.

The host was about fifty, with high cheek bones and blond hair and a slender, bird-like face was weatherbeaten. And he wore the tunic and broad leather belt of the partisan fighter. And his face was drawn as though someone where he had received a terrible wound.

Big Meal Readied

At last the meal was ready. Ukrainian borscht, which is a meal in itself, and hard fried eggs, with bacon, fresh tomatoes and fresh cucumbers, and sliced onions, and the hot flat cakes of sweet rye, and honey, and fruit, and sausages were all put on the table at once.

Civil Service Position Open

The Oregon state civil service commission Tuesday announced an open competitive examination for the position of accounts executive II, for the purpose of establishing an eligible list from which a current vacancy as chief fiscal officer with the state board of health in Portland will be filled.

Applicants must have had three years of progressively responsible experience in technical accounting or auditing work, and have graduated from a four-year college with major courses in accounting and public or business administration, or have any equivalent combination of experience and training.

Kiwanis Hears USC Law Dean

An offer to swap two weeks of southern California sunshine for two weeks of Oregon rain in the county of Salem Kiwanis club members at the luncheon meeting Tuesday in the Marion hotel. The offer was made by Sheldon Douglas Elliott, dean of the University of Southern California law school, as an introduction to his talk on fair practice acts and laws of the various states, in particular those of western states.



Mamushka preparing lunch for the American guests.

And he handed each of them a glass of vodka. When the meal was over there came the time we were beginning to expect. The time of questions. But this time it was more interesting to us because they were the questions of farmers about farmers, and about farms. Again it was clear to us that people have a curious composite idea of one another. The question how does a farmer live in America is impossible to answer. What kind of farm and where?

Difficult to Picture

It is difficult for our people to imagine Russia, with every possible climate from Arctic to tropic, with many, many different races and languages.

These farmers did not even speak in Russian, they spoke in Ukrainian. "How does a farmer live in America?" they asked. And we tried to explain that there are many different kinds of farms in America, as there are in Russia. There are little five-acre farms with one mule to work them, and that there are great cooperation farms that operate like the state farms of Russia, except that the state does not own them.

Ask of Machinery

They wanted to hear about



Robert Sayre, student forensics manager, announced Tuesday that the Willamette university speech department will hold an intramural speech tournament during the first week of the new semester which begins early next month.

A farmer asked: "What would the American government do if the Soviet government loaned American farm machinery, for that is the thing they need the most. They asked about combines, and feeders, and the cotton pickers, and the fertilizer spreaders; about the development of new grains, of cold-resistant grains, and rust-resistant wheat; about tractors, and how much they cost. Could a man running a small farm afford to buy one?"

The women in their clean headcloths leaned through the kitchen door and listened to the conversation. And the conversation turned to foreign policies, about which we know very little, and could not answer very much. The questions were sharp.

Sharp Questions Asked

Across the road, a man and woman were working in the rain, raising the timbers for their roof-tree to the top of newly built walls. And on the road the children were driving the cows in from pasture to the barns.

Wonder Aroused

The host opened the champagne and poured a little of the precious fluid in each of our glasses. Te table had become very quiet. We raised our glasses, and no one made a toast.

County DA Asked to Rule on Method of Selecting Constable

The question of whether the office of constable of the Salem district is elective or appointive is being probed today by Marion County District Attorney Miller B. Hayden at the request of County Clerk Harlan Judd Tuesday.

Charles Gratke To Address Press Conclave

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON, Eugene, Jan. 20.—(Special)—Headline list of topflight speakers scheduled on the program of the 29th annual press conference on the University of Oregon campus February 20-21, is Charles E. Gratke, foreign editor of the Christian Science Monitor and alumnus of the University of Oregon.

Gratke is being brought to the campus, according to Dean George Turnbull of the university's school of journalism, through the courtesy of the Eric W. Allen Memorial fund, to address the conference and lecture to the school of journalism. This is the second annual lectureship under the fund. The first was held last year by J. S. Russell, farm editor of the Des Moines Register-Tribune.

The Monitor's foreign editor editor has had an inside view of affairs in Europe for many years. Being in Germany when Hitler first came to power gave him a ring side seat at events which were culminated in the second world war.

money and military aid to Mexico with the avowed purpose of preventing the spread of democracy?

And we thought for a while, we said: "Well, we imagine we would declare war."

And he said: "But you have loaned money to Turkey, which is on our border, with the purpose of preventing the spread of our system. And we have not declared war."

Explanation Sought

And our host said: "It seems to us that the American people are democratic people. Can you explain to us why the American government has as its friends reactionary government, the governments of Franco and Trujillo, the military dictatorship of Turkey, and the corrupt monarchy of Greece?"

We could not answer their questions because we didn't know enough, and because we are not in the confidence of our makers of foreign policy. We told them the questions that are asked in America. The questions about the domination of Balkans by communist parties, the questions and denunciations about the use of the veto by the Russians in the nited Nations, the questions that are asked about the denunciation of America by the Russian press.

"Must Be an Answer"

These questions seemed to balance each other, and they knew no more about their foreign policy than we knew about ours. There was no animosity in their questions, only wondering. Finally our host stood up, and he raised his glass, and he said: "Somewhere, in all of this, there must be an answer, and there must be an answer quickly. Let us drink to the hope that the answer may be found, for the world needs peace, needs peace very badly."

And he pointed to the two who were struggling with the heavy beams to build a roof, and he said: "This winter those two will have a house for the first time since 1941. They must have peace, they want their house." He said: "They have three small children who have never had a house to live in. There cannot be to the world any one so wicked as to want to put them back in holes under the ground. But that is where they have been living."

Wonder Aroused

The host opened the champagne and poured a little of the precious fluid in each of our glasses. Te table had become very quiet. We raised our glasses, and no one made a toast.

We drank the champagne without speaking. After a while we thanked our hosts and drove away through the war-scarred country. And we wondered whether our host's hope was true, whether there really were people in the world who wanted to destroy the new little houses again, and put the children in caves under the ground.

On this same collective farm, Robert Capa's flash-bulbs effectively broke up an amateur play put on for the American visitors. What happened, and what will be reported here by John Steinbeck tomorrow.

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Intramural Speech Contest Planned At Willamette U.

Robert Sayre, student forensics manager, announced Tuesday that the Willamette university speech department will hold an intramural speech tournament during the first week of the new semester which begins early next month.

Intramural teams of two, three or four persons could represent any class or organization on the campus, Sayre said. A trophy will be awarded to the organization of the winning team and a \$10 prize will be awarded to the winning team, Sayre added.

The question upon which all participants will expound is: "Resolved, that a federal world government should be established."

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