

# The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us, No Fear Shall Awe"  
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## Great Reporting—"A Terrible Swift Sword"

Heywood Brown used to say that every good reporter is writing literature for some future historian. We can condense that somewhat: Every good reporter is writing literature; and most of the literary giants — from Defoe and Dickens to Hemingway and Steinbeck — have been, first of all, good reporters.

It has always been our contention that there is room for, in fact, there is need for, good writing in today's hurried and crowded newspapers. We've even ventured to suggest that today's hurried and crowded readers will yet savor literature under a press service dateline or under a local by-line. Now, at last, comes a book that bears out these ideas.

Two young history professors from Columbia and New York City college have edited an anthology of "literature under pressure from the 16th century to our own time." It is called "A Treasury of Great Reporting." Its publishers, Simon and Schuster, have honored it with a fine binding and class-A printing. Its authors, Louis L. Snyder and Richard B. Morris, have honored the journalism profession by undertaking a tremendous amount of research to bring out the story behind the stories quoted, and their aftermath and significance.

Included are some of the greatest news stories of all time written by such greats as Kipling, Victor Hugo, Horace Greeley, Mark Twain, Stephen Crane, Winston Churchill, Jack London, Woolcott, Ben Hecht, Walter Duranty, Damon Runyon, Leland Stowe, Quentin Reynolds, Irving S. Cobb, William L. Shirer, Ernie Pyle, John Hersey, Edward R. Murrow, William L. Laurence and Rebecca West.

On-the-spot reports range from a witch trial in 1587, the trial of John Peter Zenger in 1735, the battle of Lexington, the storming of the Bastille, an interview with John Brown, the disaster at Bull Run, Lincoln's assassination, the Wright brothers' first flight, and the San Francisco earthquake to the tremendous events of modern times which all of us remember. Illustrations are some of the best cartoons, drawings and news photographs of all time.

This is a serious work and should become a standard textbook; it should help make journalism a learned profession, says Herbert Bayard Swope in his preface. But the book's appeal is not limited to working or would-be newspapermen. It should be fascinating to anyone who likes their history to be not only accurate but highly readable.

This "Treasury" certainly shows, as Swope predicts it will, "why newspaper work is so eternally and irresistibly seductive." It also proves, as anyone who has read Rebecca West knows, that the art of great reporting is not senescent.

"Today's men and women of the working press are as responsive to the challenge of great events as were the star reporters of an earlier day. In the final analysis, history is news reporting in slow motion. The reporter who seeks out the evidence at first hand is marching with the shock troops in the battalions of truth. He has 'loosed the fateful lightning of a terrible, swift sword' — the truth that shall make men free."

## Take Spite Out on Korea

The only thing consistent in the action of house members voting down a \$60,000,000 grant-in-aid for Korea was hostility to the administration. Here they have been denouncing

the state department's policy or lack of policy in the far east, belaboring it as an appeaser of communism. If there is one country which needs protection against the spread of communism and Russian influence, it is Korea. The sixty million dollars was intended to help the Korean government and economy to withstand the steady pressure from the "Korean People's Republic" set up by the Russians north of the 38th parallel.

The critics have favored liberal appropriations to Chiang Kai-shek as bulwark against communism; and some favor occupation of Formosa to save it from communist clutches. But Korea; — it a fit of spite, they would drop Korea down the drain.

We have a real measure of responsibility toward Korea because we were the occupying power. We helped the new government to organize and turned over power to it. President Roosevelt also assented to the division of Korea with Russia, a most unfortunate concession. We cannot in good conscience now forsake Korea — certainly not if we have any desire to halt the spread of communism.

Surely on reflection the house will reconsider its action and provide the assistance which competent authorities say Korea needs to maintain itself as an independent country.

## Divorce is No Panacea

"The full, sordid story of America's broken homes" in a series of Satevepost articles is sure to get more attention than any amount of moralizing about divorce in the U.S.

It's agreed that the divorce rate in this country is awful and many people regard it as "our biggest national scandal." Still, it is tolerated because divorce is regarded as an escape hatch through which unhappily-married individuals can "start life over."

But do they? Are they happier after they get the decree? What does it mean to be a divorcee? Financed by the Post, a Wayne university professor set out to find the answers by interviewing a la Kinsey some 900 of the 6,000,000 American women who have been divorced. The articles now appearing in the magazine are based on 425 "intimate" — the standard come-on word — case histories.

We do not suppose that 900 women are representative of 6,000,000 women or that this survey, any more than the Kinsey reports on sex, is the final authoritative word on the subject. This report is part of the body of research on an important social problem and, as such, it will be scrutinized by the professional people concerned.

As purely human interest material, however, these articles by David G. Wittels will be of great interest to the general public which is just as curious about the lives of 6,000,000 divorcees as Mrs. Smith is curious about Mrs. Jones' quarrel with Mr. Jones. And that's where Professor Goode's research is going to do more good than all the finger-of-scorn-pointing and all the preaching about divorce.

The experience of these women who's gotten divorces and have had to go to work to support their children, who's become social outcasts in some circles or "fair game" for wolves, who's told interviewers, "Nobody knows the hell I've been going through," will strike a responsive chord. People who are not impressed when told that divorce is wrong or wicked or sinful will be more apt to listen to the tales of woe that illustrate "with complete candor and detail" that it isn't so easy to "start life over."

## Acheson Faces Grave Responsibility

By Joseph and Stewart Alsop  
WASHINGTON, Jan. 21 — It is just a year since Dean Gooderham Acheson was sworn in as secretary of state of the United States. He has already celebrated the anniversary, a little in advance, by routing his enemies on the Formosa issue. It is still in order, however, to try to assess Acheson's performance in what is now perhaps the most important single office in the free world.

The most obvious thing about Acheson is that he is outstanding. He was an outstanding public servant in other times, when the competition was more severe than it is today. On the current Washington scene, as the stature of this surrounding crowd progressively diminishes, Acheson looms larger and larger.

But although Dean Acheson has the intellectual power, the strong character and the personal and moral style of a big man, it is also true that his job might overwhelm a giant. No great foreign minister of the past, no William Pitt or John Quincy Adams, ever had to deal with human societies grown so insanely complex as to be almost uncontrollable. And even Acheson's immediate predecessors, confronted though they were with a world in ruins, labored in happier circumstances than he.

It is now very clear, in the first place, that President Truman made up his mind to a gen-

eral slowdown in defense and foreign policy, about the time of his electoral victory in 1948. In part the motive was budgetary. In part, however, the president's campaign-borne dislike of Secretary of Defense James V. Forrestal and Under Secretary of State Robert A. Lovett had also caused him to distrust their methods and councils.

For these reasons, the effort initiated by Forrestal and Lovett, by James F. Byrnes and George C. Marshall and Acheson himself, began to be materially relaxed at the very moment when it was just beginning to succeed. The foreign and defense slowdown confronted Acheson when he entered on his office.

In addition, the former close partnership between the state and defense departments was soon replaced, on the top level, at least, by the guerrilla warfare typified by Louis Johnson's Formosa intervention. The old, close collaboration of bi-partisanship in foreign policy soon broke down, so that Acheson faced a hostile congress. Even within the state department, he began to lose the help of certain of the most experienced men who advised his predecessors.

All this meant, in turn, that Acheson had to tackle an incredibly uphill job, in a state of almost incredible loneliness and isolation. The American effort might slow down, but the tempo of world events would not slow down. Day after day, month after month, great decisions have been crowded in upon Acheson, incessantly, clamorously, confusingly. Yet he was and is called upon to make these decisions in solitude, alone to convince the president of the need for painful and even dangerous action. And alone to point the way for the country. No man on earth could do all this without long hesitation.

No wonder, then, that Acheson's first year has been a year which the world horizon has om-

inously darkened. There are items on the plus side, of course. European recovery has progressed. The Atlantic pact has been passed. In the German negotiations in Paris, Acheson showed himself a brilliant diplomat. Here at home, he has just won a victory on Asiatic policy. Yet the items on the plus side are heavily outweighed, by the long, grim list on the minus side.

China has been lost, and all Asia has been brought into peril. The Soviet union has achieved an atomic bomb and has simultaneously begun to surmount almost every other major difficulty of the immense Russian re-armament program. In contrast, this country has offered the world the extraordinary spectacle of rapid though unadmitted disarmament, thus far more than negating the Atlantic pact. The British have suffered a shattering economic crisis, and although their situation is looking up for the present, no firm steps have been taken to prevent another British crisis in 12 to 18 months. Finally, the hydrogen bomb has hideously emerged as a new factor in world politics and strategy.

Such is a partial list of Dean Acheson's unfinished business. The least of these problems can lead to the severest setback in the world contest with Soviet imperialism. Most of them, if left unsolved, are quite capable of producing total catastrophe. Yet Acheson must try to solve all of them, all at once, on his own, and despite the complacent general commitment to business-as-usual.

In truth, Dean Acheson is the only sober man on a raft of drunken lumberjacks, whose bellying of "Mademoiselle from Armentieres" obscures the approaching thunder of Niagara Falls. The raft, which also carries all our futures, can yet be saved. But hardly any man in history has been so burdened with such agonizing and desperate responsibility.

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## UNSOLVED CHINESE PUZZLE



## Your Health

Written by  
Dr. Herman N. Sundness, M.D.

In some cases the problem of deafness is a very baffling one. Some time ago it was suggested that failure of nutrition—particularly a lack of Vitamin A—might help to bring about the changes in the ear which result in a gradual loss of hearing.

The testing of this idea was begun some ten years ago by the use of injections of a preparation containing large amounts of Vitamin A.

After an examination to determine the degree of hearing loss, the injections were given into a muscle twice weekly for a period of six weeks. If hearing improved in this time, treatment was continued for 20 to 22 weeks, or until tests showed that the greatest possible improvement had been reached. After this point had been reached, the patient was not treated for three months, and then treatment was started again.

At monthly intervals, the hearing was tested on all patients. It was found that in those patients who continued with the treatment there was a gain of about one-fifth in the hearing power. In those who were treated less than five months, the improvement was only about 10%. Ringing in the ears, which was often associated with the deafness, was relieved in many of the patients after less than two months of treatment.

The patients who were given the vitamin A had had difficulties in hearing over a period varying from 2 to 25 years. Large numbers of these patients were observed over a period of a year or more, and it was found that such improvement as had occurred was maintained. If the patient's hearing should become worse, starting the treatment again tends to bring about further improvement.

It would appear that patients with so-called catarrhal deafness responded best to the treatment. The correction of disorders in the nose and sinuses often aids in improving the hearing defects in such cases. However, it seems that the benefits brought about

by the vitamin A treatment are greater than those obtained merely by the treatment of nasal disorders.

From the evidence on the large number of patients treated in this way, it would appear possible that the injection of the vitamin A would be beneficial in a number of cases of deafness.

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**  
B. J.: Is poor circulation considered serious? What is the treatment?

Answer: Disturbances of the circulation may be serious. However, there is a variety of such disorders. Without knowing what type of difficulty you have, it would be impossible to suggest the most helpful treatment.

You should consult your physician for a thorough examination. (Copyright, 1948, King Features)

# IT SEEMS TO ME

(Continued from page 1.)

If not of wealth. The steeply graduated income tax so reduces the incomes of the rich that they no longer give in the same proportion as formerly.

We just can't conceive that these established service institutions and organizations like the Salvation Army should fail for lack of support. Surely the faith of old General Booth will be justified, and means provided to meet the needs of the Army and similar agencies.

But what must be done is to redistribute the load. If the rich are fewer in number or less able to give because of higher taxes, then wider support will have to be found among those in lower income brackets—from \$4000 to \$10,000 a year. And there are hundreds of thousands more in this income range than formerly.

## Literary Guidepost

A LONG DAY'S DYING, by Frederick Buechner (Knopf, \$3)

Tristram Bone, his cook Emma and his monkey Simon; his widowed friend Elizabeth, her mother Maroo and her son Leander; the novelist George Motley; and a college instructor, Paul Steitler, are the persons, and the monkey, into whose somewhat trite relationships this somewhat curious novel delves.

The story opens in a barber shop, moves to a hotel, to the Cloisters, to Bone's, to Maroo's, goes to college, and winds up in a death chamber "confounded with sunlight." Bone, fat, rich and tepid, calculating sensualist, would like, he thinks, to make love to Elizabeth; Motley, though Bone's friend, wants Elizabeth for himself, or at least wants her spirit, for he scorns "the undesirable grotesqueness of a physical relationship." Elizabeth, a little more direct at times, believes that setting is less relevant than convenience, and that a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.

If Buechner is trying to show us how futile and wasted are our lives, how petty our preoccupations, how distant from reality our practicing novelists, our art and our idle rich, then his novel makes sense. If that is his attitude, it explains the mechanical, unreal behavior of Elizabeth after she meets Steitler, of Motley after he knows of the meeting, and of Bone after Motley tattles; and it puts the monkey in a comprehensive perspective.

If not, then this is a sort of costume piece, and an empty one; take off the costumes and the characters collapse. If not, then this is an exercise in curiosa, with an elaborate Henry James style, a fantastic tapestried back-

The future of privately-supported charities, welfare agencies and institutions depends in large degree on educating those in middle income class to be more generous. Otherwise Major Durham's fears may be realized.

## Egypt Scientists Claim Invention Of Hydrogen Bomb 2 Years Ago

CAIRO, Egypt, Jan. 21—(AP)—An Egyptian scientist declared today he and a fellow scientist had invented a hydrogen bomb two years ago. For security reasons authorities asked that the identity of the two scientists be withheld, along with details of their discovery. However, the newspapers Al Zamane and Progress Egyptian identified the scientists as Dr. Mahmoud Youssef El Chawarby, chemistry professor on the agriculture faculty of Fuad First university, and Mourad Ahmed Abou Bakr El Demerdache, chemist and agricultural expert.

## Chinese Reds Deny Soviet Imperialistic

HONG KONG, Jan. 21—(AP)—The Chinese communists today heatedly denied that Russia was taking over large parts of North China or that they were Russian stooges. At the same time they themselves made new threatening gestures at southeast Asia and Tibet.

This was strangely in line with a prediction last Sunday by Yen Hai-Shan, nationalist Chinese premier. Yen said in a formal statement then that the Russians were going to give the Chinese reds a free hand in southeast Asia in return for Russian control of Manchuria, Inner and Outer Mongolia and Sinkiang.

The communist denial was aimed not at Yen, but at U. S. Secretary of State Acheson, who on Jan. 12 said the Russians were moving to take over those four large northern and northwestern areas.

**McKINNEY MARRIES**  
HILLSBORO, Jan. 21—(AP)—W. Verne McKinney, editor and co-publisher of the Hillsboro Argus, was married today to Mrs. Marion Gorman of Hillsboro.

## Hollywood On Parade

By Gene Handsaker  
HOLLYWOOD—A roving reporter and picture previewer's peevish, praises, and predictions—

Hey, what's with Ava Gardner? I drove 20 miles to an appointment she had twice okayed. But Ava walked out on it to lunch with Robert Mitchum at Actor John Ireland's house nearby. Now I learn that she has kept other interviewers waiting as long as an hour and a half. Tak, tak, Ava! And you used to be so sweet and cooperative.

I'll be unhappy if "A Letter to Three Wives" doesn't get something in the awards. It gave me my pleasantest evening in the movies this year. But people are as divided on pictures as on politics. I know one fan who thought it "punk." I recently reported Joan Caulfield to be the sexiest item now coveting on the sound stages. Then I saw

ground, a series of formal but meaningless gestures.

The novel has been exuberantly praised by advance readers: "Sheer magic," says the jacket copy, and "a literary triumph," the "work of a genuine artist." I who have a weakness for first novels found myself wondering, in some chapters, whether this jacket wasn't on the wrong book. While I acknowledge how ornate are Buechner's festoons of sentences, I don't see this as a satire on the superficiality of our times, but as a sort of old-fashioned glass ball, with a stuffed bird inside, needing dusting.

Virginia Mayo in "Always Leave Them Laughing." . . .

Metro product is improving. Samples: "On The Town" and "Intruder in the Dust." And hey, how come those bum reviews for "That Forsyte Woman"? . . . Why must some Hollywood pictures still preach? "Intruder" makes its point against discrimination beautifully, by inference, then nearly throws it away in a final minute or two of moralizing . . .

Wish more glamor gals were as entertaining as dowager-type character actress Florence Bates . . . Free advice to whodunit producers: Keep it simple, gents, keep it simple. We go to the movies to relax . . . Why switch an intriguing title like "The Octopus and Miss Smith" to a cheap one like "The Lady Takes a Sailor"? But the show's good. Watch June Haver. Gypsy Rose Lee's kid sister is going places, I'll bet, after showing her stuff in "The Story of Molly X." . . . Hollywood's most interesting person is Harold Lloyd, because he's interested in so many things—everything from flies in spider webs to kids in hospitals. . . . Most gracious actress I've met lately: Gertrude Lawrence. . . .

Of all the movie star homes, my choice is still the Dinah Shore-George Montgomery establishment. A rambling ranch house with early-American furnishings, on several sylvan acres . . . Yes, Jeanne Crain is swell in "Pinky." But I bet Olivia de Havilland gets another Oscar for "The Heiress."