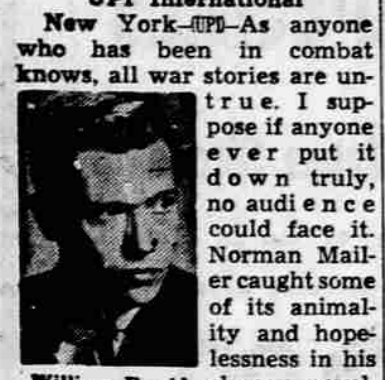


'Dark December' TV Show Said Honest in Intent But Too Predictable

By WILLIAM EWALD
UPI International



New York—UPI—As anyone who has been in combat knows, all war stories are untrue. I suppose if anyone ever put it down truly, no audience could face it. Norman Mailer caught some of its animal-like and hopelessness in his clumsy novel, "The Naked and the Dead."

A writer named Anton Myrer got some of its fatigue and despair into the closing sections of a minor novel, "The Big War." But Stendhal and Hemingway and Stephen Crane, beloved by the academicians, all botched it.

Nobody has ever really written it all down: the terrifying feeling of abandonment, the feeling of being a machine that can take no more, the unending stupidities, the wet, the filth, the unendurable tiredness, the cowardice in everyone, the constant prayer for a wound which will mean you don't have to face it any more, the savage search for loot, the panic, the dullness, the hatred every infantryman feels for those who sit fat-bellied back at division, army, corps and in the fantasy land of civilian life.

Thursday night Merle Miller, who toiled for Yank magazine during World War II, tried to get some of it down in "Dark December" on CBS-TV's Playhouse 90. He concentrated his fire on a section of the 101st Airborne trapped in a seminary during the Battle of Bastogne.

"Dark December" was a "test-we-forget" piece, honest in intent and reasonably faithful in its sights and sounds. But it missed.

It missed because it was so terribly earnest. It was too preachy, too predictable in its

course and too pat in its gallery of characters. Miller trotted out the Jewish doctor who wanted to find belief, the Protestant chaplain who feared he had lost his faith, the medic who wanted to fight, the psychologist who believed himself a coward, the charming captured German officer. I suppose this sort of thing is inevitable, but the fact is, most GIs were not types—most were basic and dull and interested only in surviving. It would be just impossible to write a truthful work about war—distilling a glob of brutishness may be an insuperable task. But I should add that Miller and Playhouse 90 gave it a good try.

As for the cast, a young actor named Richard Beymer, who played the medic, pilfered the show. He got some stiff competition from James Whitmore, Barry Sullivan, Paul Burke and Michael Landon.

Crow Lumber Price Index Up \$1.12

Portland—Crow's Lumber Price Index was up \$1.12 over two weeks ago, and \$13.20 in the past 12 months, with green Douglas fir creating most of the upward pressure. Standard and better grade random length green fir 2x4s have climbed \$4 in the last two weeks. Utility grade has not changed much price-wise, but studs are stronger. Boards are very firm. Plank and timber prices have stiffened. Dimension for water shipment is strong, with prices tilted up. Kiln-dried standard and better dimension has risen about a dollar, while some upper grade items have also gone up a notch or so.

Sanded fir plywood, quarter-inch AD grade, is steady at \$85. Five-eighths inch CD grade (sheathing) which has been in the \$110 range, is having some trouble clinging to that perch.

AGRICULTURAL note: The European corn borer destroyed more than 100 million bushels of the 1958 corn crop, according to an estimate of the U.S. department of agriculture.

The corn borer loss in 1957 was 180 million bushels.

HMMMMMM. Let's be openly cynical this time:

Is the corn borer a pest? Or—in these days of subsidized over-production designed to win corn belt votes—is it a BLESSING?

LET'S close this regrettably sarcastic screed with a thoughtful look at the financial plight of the state of Michigan.

Michigan has no money on hand with which to pay its bills. So, Governor Williams held up about 325 checks totalling more than \$100,000 for payment of the salaries of the members of the legislature, the justices of the supreme court and the judges of the circuit courts.

He said the \$5,000,000 payroll scheduled for May 7 for 28,000 other state employees, including himself, will not be met unless emergency funds are provided.

Try and Stop Me

By BENNETT CERF

NEW YORK CITY experienced a heavy snowstorm on May 1 a few years back, and the Salvation Army thought it saw the chance to shoot some fine publicity pictures for use in the following December in its annual Christmas drive.

A pretty Salvation Army lass was detailed to stand in the snow on Fifth Avenue with a tambourine and a kettle on a tripod. They got just the pictures they wanted—not to mention \$13.77 from absentminded passers-by thinking of Christmas on May first!

A cocky sailor from a carrier is boasting that he's gone clear round the globe "with Marilyn Monroe on his arm." He adds, "Best darn job of tattooing I've seen in a long time."

Variation No. 68712 of the spaceman joke: the Martian who landed smack-dab in the middle of a nudist camp and admiringly asked the head lady, "Who's your tailor?"

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In the Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

From Pasadena: Police reported that Bruce Thomas, age 23, demonstrated to two friends how to play Russian roulette.

He put one cartridge in the chamber of his revolver, placed the weapon against his head and pulled the trigger.

He died instantly.

IT'S tragic—and I'm aware that tragedy should never be treated flippantly or cynically.

But—When people insist on doing things like playing Russian roulette, and LOSE—isn't it perhaps as well, everything considered?

WASHINGTON High Princess Selected
Portland—UPI—A brown-eyed beauty named Barbara Hinchaw today was chosen Rose Festival Princess from Washington High school.

Barbara, 18, has brown eyes and brown hair, and is 5 feet, 6 inches tall.

WHERE could the emergency funds come from?

Well, there was a plan to convert the veterans trust fund—out of which veterans' pensions and other benefits must be paid, IF PAID, into cash to meet the state's fiscal crisis.

The legislature declined to do that. So the payroll can't be met—unless some other source of "emergency" funds can be found.

WHAT'S wrong?

It's quite simple. Michigan has been spending too much and taxing too little—so the inevitable time has arrived when the state has NO MONEY with which to pay its bills.

Michigan's plight at least drives home the lesson if you're going to SPEND you've got to TAX. Government-provided services don't come for free.

Revivalist Methods Of Billy Graham Said Distressing

for Christ" rather than converts.

Another Anglican prelate, Bishop E. H. Burgmahn of Canberra and Goulburn, agreed that his colleague had been unduly harsh.

"I criticize some of Graham's methods, but I have no evidence to suggest that any of their aspects are 'objectionable, dishonest, distressing or disgusting,'" he said.

In Melbourne, 350 Graham admirers boarded a special train before dawn today, bound for Sydney to attend three Graham meetings. Many of them had heard him when he preached in Melbourne.

"A man stood up and made an emotional speech, at the end of which he asked all those 'who accepted the Lord Jesus as their personal savior' to stand up," he wrote. "Naturally, the priest felt he must stand . . .

"Those who stood were counted as conversions, although they all were already devout followers of their Lord and Master. This sort of thing is both objectionable and dishonest. We should be fearless enough to say so."

In Sydney, where the American evangelist is now preaching, a spokesman for his organization said the bishop "used language a little stronger than probably was necessary."

Called 'Inquirers'
Jerry Beavan, director of the Graham organization, said people who stand at its meetings are called "inquirers who came forward for counseling" or persons making "decisions

Education Board Budget Cut Fails
Salem—UPI—An effort by Sen. Boyd Overhulse (D-Madras) to refer the \$55 million budget for the State Board of Higher Education to the Senate State and Federal Affairs Committee and slash a million dollars from it failed Thursday.

The total budget in the House-passed bill is \$55,168,787, which is \$330,772 below the amount contained in the printed budget. Overhulse, in his effort to trim a million dollars, said he knew it was hard to buck the "high executioners," that is the Ways and Means Committee, but that he was going to do so.

But the Senate defeated the motion and passed the bill which will go back to the House to consider

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AUTHOR DIES
New York—UPI—Ben Benson, 54, author of 15 published mystery novels, died of a heart attack Wednesday.

MAIL TRIBUNE, Medford, Or. Friday, May 1, 1959
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Cherries Shot Out of a Cannon?

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It didn't take very long for us to figure out that you can get more cherries per cubic spoonful in Cherry-Fudge Ice Cream by shooting them right smack out of a cannon.

We don't like to sound like we're nagging but we must caution you again that our super goopy Cherry-Fudge Ice Cream is deliciously habit forming.

Little Dairy
A Snider Cow

Sheep have two skins, separated by a layer of fat.

COMMUNIST China Signals Start of Attack on Nehru

Tokyo—UPI—Communist China signalled a concentrated propaganda attack today on Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru.

The Reds' newspapers and news agencies made it clear that the next few days will see widespread criticism of Nehru and the remarks he made before the Indian House of Representatives.

The Peiping Peoples Daily, official newspaper of the Chinese Communist party, set the line today when it advised all Chinese in an editorial "Let us all study Nehru's statement."

The newspaper even carried the full text of Nehru's remarks before the house.

Careful Study Urged
"We propose," said the newspaper, "that all factories, mines, enterprises, peoples communes, schools, government institutions, the armed forces, democratic parties, peoples organizations and others study Nehru's statement carefully and discuss it."

To make sure that all concerned would get the point, the newspaper said that its editorial board is also studying the statement "and will publish a detailed commentary within a few days."

"Is the truth of the rebellion in Tibet really as Nehru put it?" asked the daily.

"Are the facts really as Nehru has stated?"

At least one Chinese Communist newspaper jumped the gun and replied with a flat "no."

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