



**FLOOD VICTIM RESCUED**—John Johnson 15 families to flee their homes in the north is rescued from his house by a motorboat portion of Springfield, Ill. (UPI Telephoto)

**National Library Week**  
**Professor Wonders Why Talks Attended When Books Offered**

Editor's note: National Library Week is being observed April 3-9 with the theme "Open Wonderful New Worlds—Wake Up and Read." Articles on books and reading are being distributed by various media in co-operation with the sponsoring National Book Committee, Inc. The following article on "How to Learn History," was written by Garrett Mattingly, author, lecturer and professor of European history at Columbia University.

**By MARGARETT MATTINGLY**  
(Distributed by UPI)

For a good many years now I have been giving lectures about history four times a week to groups of mostly graduate students. I often wonder why anybody comes. Even more often I wonder whether their coming has anything to do with their wanting to learn about history.

It's not that I think I am much less competent than average. I even dare to wonder, now and then, why people keep on attending the lectures of my colleagues, many of whom are very competent indeed. On the whole, the history department I belong to has a good opinion of itself, but none of us, I am sure, believes for a moment that we play in the same league as the team across the way.

Across the way, on the silent shelves of the library, waiting to teach history to anyone who asks them, are all the best historians since history began from Herodotus to S. E. Morison.

**Story Told Straight**

There are the men who saw it happen and tell the story straight, like Joinville and Ernie Pyle. There are the diplomats, the wranglers, chattering endlessly in print about what they heard and said and did to make up for all those self-imposed spells of diplomatic silence.

There are propagandists of glory like Caesar with his tricky air of soldierly bluntness, and statesmen explaining what they tried to do, and why things didn't quite work out. There are speeches and letters and state papers, Oliver Cromwell's, Abraham Lincoln's, Winston Churchill's, which are the warm, living pulse of history, and there are the philosophic commentators, Hegel and Toynbee and the rest, eager to explain what everybody ought to think about it all.

Also, inconspicuous in the library is the best local talent has to offer, droplets brought to the ocean of history, little handfuls of facts it has taken each of us a lifetime to gather, tiny phials of what we hope is wisdom, carefully distilled.

Of course we don't think of competing with the great team across the way. Our main job is to introduce them, to persuade our students that history is not a collection of neatly labeled facts, pat

judgments and cant phrases, but all that man remembers and guesses of his rich, infinitely modulated, many textured past, and that the clues to that past are mostly between the covers of books.

**Magnificent Library**

We try to teach students to stop listening and start reading. There is a story about one of the great teachers of my youth. Archibald Carey Coolidge is said to have begun one of his seminars by saying, "Gentlemen, I cannot teach you anything about history. But we have a magnificent library here. And you can go to that library and read, and read and read, and browse, and browse and browse." Whereupon one student who had crossed the continent to join that seminar arose indignantly and went down to South Station and bought himself a ticket home. He had not come 3,000 miles to be told to read.

I have always hoped, though, that, if he was really interested in history and not just in getting some letters behind his name, he remembered that expensive bit of advice and came to realize that it was worth what it cost him.

Even in the middling library of a middling town he could have found a faculty many times better than any university ever assembled, and enough history for a lifetime of study. History has to be learned from books.

**Lent Described as Appointed Period for Spiritual Exercise**

**By THE VERY REV. BASIL S. GREGORY**  
Rector, St. Constantine Greek Orthodox Church Chicago  
Written for UPI

Lent is an appointed period for spiritual exercise, which looks for a catharsis of our soul and body, a new growth in faith, a return to Christ and living with Him according to His saving commandments.

It was the practice of the ancient church to instruct the catechumens, the newly-converted persons to Christianity, during Lent, in order that they may be ready for baptism on Holy Saturday and thus be able, in the newness of their life, to greet the risen Christ on Easter Sunday.

**Need of Preparation**

Also, during Lent, the early church emphasized the need of preparation to all Christians, in order that they might more worthily meet the risen Lord, and reestablish their life in the life of Christ.

For this reason, as Christians, we are called upon during Lent, to repent and work for our growth in spirit and

in knowledge of the Lord. Our church tells us that we can accomplish this by meditation of our Lord's life and sacrifice and imitation of his example, but also by a period of self-examination and spiritual rebirth and rehabilitation.

**Spiritual Valuation**

This is accomplished much easier if we are able to transfer our human attention from material need and desire to a spiritual evaluation of life and eternity.

This is the purpose of Lent today; to guide us back to Christ by living in Christ, or as in the words of St. Peter, "Grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and saviour Jesus Christ."

Mexico City—UPI—Screen star Yul Brynner, 44, was married Thursday to Doris Kleiner 32.

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