

Poets' Corner

Conducted by

Arnold Eugene Jenny

Note: Readers are invited to submit their own, original verse; or favorite poems from other sources, classical or contemporary. If found to be of sufficient merit as poetry — not just anything versified — such contributions will be considered for publication in The Poets' Corner, Medford, Post Office, Mail Tribune, 33 North First Street, Medford, Ore. Copy should be typed, double-spaced, and only on one side of the paper.

Poet on Poetry

What the dead had no speech for, when living,
They can tell you, being dead, the communication
Of the dead is being dead with fire beyond the language of the living.

-T. S. Eliot

Today's verse, says Mr. Eliot, should not be taught, but should be read only for enjoyment. To enjoy modern verse, he says, is "primarily a matter of insight" derived from a knowledge and appreciation of the poetry of the past. To obtain that, he urges emphasis on a "historical approach to English and American literature with obligatory reading of a selection of classics."

Ozymandias

I met a traveler from an antique land
Who said: Two vast and trunkless legs of stone
Stand in the desert. . . . Near them, on the sand,
Half sunk, a shattered visage lies, whose frown,
And wrinkled lip, and sneer of cold command,
Tell that its sculptor well those passions read
Which yet survive, stamped on these lifeless things,
The hand that mocked them, and the heart that fed;
And on the pedestal these words appear:
"My name is Ozymandias, king of kings:
Look on my works, ye Mighty, and despair!"
Nothing beside remains. Round the decay
Of that colossal wreck, boundless and bare
The lone and level sands stretch far away.

-Percy Bysshe Shelley

(Ditto: Hitler, Mussolini, et al.—A.E.J.)

BOOK BURNERS

Red lights, green lights, send us on our way:
"Now it's time to go ahead, now it's time to stay!"
Puppets of conformity, robots in nonentity,
Herded all, driven all, groping for identity.

Zealots enthroned in power, Socrates suspect;
Demagogues only inspiring respect.
But listen for the laughter, the laughter of the lost,
When the despots have their program and the dupes must
pay the cost.

Off with your blinder, let your blinkers be;
See the program and the future they have planned for you
and me.

Why invoke amendments? Take your stand, one and all;
Walk on your hind legs and never, never crawl.

Constitution? Bill of rights? Written by fallible men.
Mine is a constitution ancient beyond their ken:
The right of the curious mind to search where it will to learn;
Not only in timid minds the despots choose not to burn.

Red means left, green is right — or that is what they say;
But how is one to know and choose if facts are burned away?
Truth at war with falsehood — this has always been;
Put out the despots' torches then; give Truth her chance
to win.

-Carl Bjordahl
Medford

NO REGRETS

I am done with the days I already have lived,
The good days and the bad ones too,
For what can it profit a mortal to live
On the things with which he is through?
I care not a whit for the days that are gone
Or the joy or pain that they brought;
I only admit I'm a far richer soul
For the lessons experience taught;
And never a moment is spent in regret
For water flowed over life's dam,
And borne in its current youth's loftiest dreams—
I'd rather remain as I am:
Contentedly earning and sharing my bread
And always believing the best is ahead.

-Ruby Ellis Rusque
Medford

THE CROWD

Always He heard you;
For you knew Him only as the man of loaves and fishes—
The man who did marvellous things:
He Who raised Lazarus.
Healed the lame, and made the blind to see,
Fleeing from you, He sought the solace of the garden.

He must have known
That you would cry, "Release unto us Barabbas!"
And fling cruel words at Him
As He climbed to Golgotha alone,
Perhaps He knew
That some day you would build creeds about Him,
And lose Him in massive structures of stone,
With costly windows, dignified ritual, and eloquent preachers;
While, outside, He waited . . .
Sad . . . and alone.

-Irene McKeighan

WEDNESDAY IN HOLY WEEK

Man's life is death. Yet Christ endured to live,
Preaching and teaching, toiling to and fro,
Few men accepting what He yearned to give,
Few men with eyes to know
His face, that face of Love He stooped to show.

Man's death is life. For Christ endured to die
In slow unuttered weariness of pain,
A curse and an astonishment, passed by,
Pointed at, mocked again
By men for whom He shed His blood—in vain?

-Christina Rossetti

Credit the Girl Scouts
To the Editor: In reading over your paper (March 20, '61) I happened to see a piece about the Girl Scouts of Gold Hill, Troop 21. Everything was miked up. The name of the leader is Mrs. Ed (Betty) Shoemaker. It also misstated about the girls doing the tree planting, which was a community service for their Conservation badges.

On March 2 there was a writeup about the P.E. show. To the people of G.H., your Girl Scouts were in full uniform and they were asked by Mr. Mack to present the colors to open the program. The Boy Scouts from Troop 43, Gold Hill, retired the colors in full uniform.
Because of not having any publicity, (or should I say

bad publicity), some people in G.H. don't know that the Girl Scouts have been going on for the last three years. I am new in Scouting and I am glad to be part of Troop 21. My stay might be short by writing this letter, but I want everyone to know that I am proud of Troop 21, G.H. These girls bought their own flag star and their own 50 star flag and the money was from the cookie sale, the rest from dues, which are 10 cents per meeting. We might be a small unknown troop, but we want the credit due us.
Thank you for reading my letter.
Mrs. Edward Shoemaker
(Elsie)
Assistant Leader Troop 21
Gold Hill, Ore.

Communications

Letters to the Editor must bear the name and address of the writer, although under certain circumstances the use of a pen name or initial for publication is permissible. The Mail Tribune reserves the right to edit all letters with a view to clarification and condensation. Letters submitted for publication must not exceed 400 words. The letters printed in this column do not necessarily represent the views of the paper; in fact the contrary is often the case.

Religion, Schools

And Dollar Bills

To the Editor: Recently I read that Florida is taking a stand for religion in the schools and intends to fight for it.

It is just as much a necessity for children to learn of God's love and His Golden Rules, as it is for them to learn the three R's, and since some of the terrible things that are happening these days have proved that religion isn't being taught, and lived, in the homes, it is a very sure thing that the public must take over. What better way to teach it to our growing citizens in all schools?

Let everyone of us write to the most good, and remind all churches, states and to whom it may concern, that every school should open with prayer, and fundamentals of religion. Honesty and clean living as Jesus Christ taught it can be told in words that will not go against the belief of any church denomination.

I have faith that if we are unable to fight Communism alone, God can and will, with our help. Let us work with Him.

One of our communicators says he once sat on a cash register full of five dollar gold pieces, but since we Democrats got in he can't even sit on a one dollar bill.

What on earth did he try to do?

A cash register wouldn't be a comfortable seat if filled with swan's down, and trying to find a soft seat on a tiny dollar bill these years of high costs! Tut, tut.

I saw a dollar bill once, a couple of years ago when the Republicans dropped it. I kept it for a souvenir for a while day, but alas, I had to use it for a down payment on a pound of coffee.

I am glad to hear that it is in circulation again.
Pearl Speckman,
P. O. Box 33,
Jacksonville, Ore.

In Reply

To the Editor: Defending my statement of God's love for the liar, fornicator, and the drunkard: "He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings." Psalm 40:2.

You and I were just poor lost sinners, no better or no worse, than any front street drunkard. The scripture says "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God." Romans 3:23. "All we like sheep have gone astray, we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all." Isaiah 53:6.

So what is the answer? "God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16. "Behold I stand at the door, and knock; if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me." Rev. 3:20. Notice the scriptures say "any man," that includes all men, the drunkard as well as the self-righteous.

I realize that also we worship a wrathful God, who will pour out His vengeance on his enemies. (Romans 12:19.) Who is His enemy? These are His enemies: "He that believeth on him is not condemned; but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God." John 3:18. The scripture says God does love the sinner. He isn't willing that any should perish. II Peter 3:9.

In studying the scriptures I find but one "must." "Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again." John 3:7.

Donal R. Ullom
Star Rt. Box 32
Eagle Point, Ore.

3 or 4 Bucks

To the Editor: Have just read "The Medical Big Lie," by Dr. Herbert Hartley. I would like to ask the kind doctor to give me just one name of one doctor or one hospital that will take an older person to treat without demanding cash on the barrel-head.

I am past 69. I know of what I speak. I definitely do not want socialized medicine. The thing that hurts the aged, and also the younger generation, is insurance. The medical profession have soaked the insurance people, until insurance is out of our reach. And by so doing they have raised the price so high we older people cannot pay it.

I want to make it plain to Dr. Hartley that your article is not "The Medical Big Lie." I can prove that one hospital, also one doctor, had a woman in for a check up less than 24 hours, and for that 24 hours the bill was \$225. A mistake

of course, but after correcting the mistake, it was \$79. All they gave the lady in question was a blood check and a shot of insulin.

You go into a doctor's office, it's just like an assembly line, 3 to 4 bucks a throw, and with the advice to come back in one week. You come in on your own power, you leave on your own power. Why keep them coming back? I always thought a sick person was in bed. I'll tell Dr. Hartley why they keep them coming back; it's that 3 or 4 bucks.

William Stillwell,
Route 2, Box 196M
Central Point, Ore.

The Mess We Are In

To the Editor: Speaking of the mess we are in, why are we in a mess? James 5:1-6—"Go to ye rich men weep and howl—Why? Because by fraud the workmen have been cheated of his just pay, and his cry has come up before God."

Gradually through education the workmen have come to realize there is a vast difference between gross profits of industry and the percentage paid workmen.

They say we had a stable dollar in about 1935 with gold at \$35 an ounce and wages—my husband in 1936 worked haying, all day for \$2 and dinner. So in truth, everything has to come down or gold must come up.

So, the talk of competing with slave labor. Why should we compete with them, why not them with us?

Because we have nothing but industry to back up our paper dollar. As long as industry keeps going everything else will keep going. But we can't put a cow up for security and on the butcher's block at the same time. Yet we have done that with our gold. It seems less crucial to bring up the price of gold than to bring down everything else.

So maybe God is about to do something, but when the rich men start to weep and howl—remember, you will be crying too. All down through the ages the poor have wept, and there is no promise of his tears being dried until Christ comes to remove all sorrow.

So, we are in a mess. Instead of free enterprise it may soon be free monopoly. Small farmers can't make it, they sell to big farmers, who use big machinery to do a big job, and maybe low pay.

For my nickel's worth the government can take over everything and run it with big machines — operated by machines and just pension everybody off.

Then those that want to dig gold can, and the rest can "dig tourists." Trouble is everyone is digging everyone now.

Maybe going to the moon will be a pleasure.

Thelma Glad
1427 Lawndridge
Medford

Young Democrats for Education

To the Editor: We are proud of our state. For academic achievement, the Oregon school system has been rated third in the nation. There are, however, ominous dark spots already left untended too long, and there are new programs which Oregon needs to pioneer if we are to continue our progress and not further lag behind the reputation which Oregon has built for herself nationwide.

In the spirit of building for the future and continuing Oregon's unequivocal position of better educational opportunity for all, to the Legislature and the people of Oregon, we recommend:

—Appropriation of between \$150,000 and \$200,000 to provide education for the children of migrant workers so that we in Oregon need no longer participate in the Harvest of Shame.

—Passage of SB60 for an increase in minimum teacher salaries by \$600 to \$700. Oregon, which once ranked 8th in the nation for teacher salaries now stands 17th, sandwiched between the 1st, California on the south, and Washington, which also ranks high, on the north. Many of our best teachers are being lured away to our sister states by higher salaries.

—An increase in the State Basic School Support to \$125 per child and a program to boost the amount of school cost paid through the State Basic School Fund to 50 per cent within the next three years in order to finance educational improvements, cover inflationary cost rise, and provide local property tax relief.

—Continuation and expansion of special educational programs for the retarded and gifted children.

—Establishment of community colleges to provide higher education opportunities for more people throughout the state without swamping our existing institutions.

—Passage of a greatly ex-

panded SB453 for state scholarships so more top quality students will remain for their education in Oregon.

Passage of HJM8 memorializing the Congress to pass Federal Aid to Education in recognition that high educational opportunity for every student in the country is in the best interests of all Americans and is the responsibility of all.

Signed by representatives of nine Young Democratic Groups in Portland, Eugene, Tualatin, Oregon City and Sherwood, Ore.

The Cat Problem

To the Editor: I have been a resident of Jackson county for many years, and as my section seems to be one of the favorite dumping grounds for cats, I would like to voice an opinion that has been formed through actual experience.

I have had to cope with the abandoned animals, either feeding and caring for them, or transporting them 8 miles to the pound or disposing of them.

When a person who likes animals has to make a practice of this sort of thing endlessly, they can't help but wonder why some public provision is not made to take care of the problem.

It is hoped that our county court is aware of their responsibilities to make provision for not only conditions that represent moneyed interests, but that it is also their responsibility to provide for the basic requirements of a well run community.

(Name on File)
Central Point, Ore.

Wild-Life

To the Editor: Well, Wild-Life Week is behind us, the Capistrano swallows reportedly on time back at the old mission, but very unlikely due to the unusually early spring, for swallows were reported in the valley here a full month ago. Also, and good to know, E.A. is back apparently unharmed from contact, if any, with wild night-lifers back east.

Speaking of wild-life per se, a recent question was raised in regards to noise-making habits of the American Puma, mountain lion to the southwest U.S., panther back east, cat-a-mount to old-timers of the west, and cougar now here in the far northwest, a name from the Brazilian word, kow-gar, meaning large spotted cat which they are, though of a tawney color here.

Really, if one wishes to know about the cougar, study the ordinary house cat. They are the same save in color and size, unpredictable cowards in running from a little barking feisty dog, but also unpredictably courageous in standing up to a fight with a dog-pack, slashing them to dying moaning with terrible claws as fast as one gets near. And they sound off in a variety of growls, yowls and screams the same as house-cats do when occasion demands. Usually though, they tend to be silent, save for a warning deep growl to intruders, as the Gold Hills girl discovered a couple years ago, escaping harm by appearing unafraid until out of sight, as reported in the MT.

My wife well remembers the yowling of panthers (as then known) when visiting their Hukill cousins over Griffin creek way. One time when she and sister Mable, with cousins Tom and Bert, on their way to a Medford show in a fringe-top canopy phaeton, returning later, they heard a nocturnal prowler lift a wailing scream to the wooded hills of the Siskiyou mountains. Bert said, "That, girls, is a panther screaming." The sisters uttered a silent thanksgiving to the protection of their cousins and the fancy buggy they were safe in.

An old-timer once remarked to me that the cat-a-mount starts off with a throaty gangle, "Jes' like he wuz swallerin' a chunk of my laz," and ends up like a high-pitched woman's voice screaming. Henry Hukill described it much the same, often hearing them prowling their fence-building camps on the Applegate. "We never gave the critters much heed," he remarked. "Mostly they were yowling an answer to others across the canyon."

F. J. Clifford,
Route 2, Box 200F,
Central Point, Ore.

He Once Was Wrong

To the Editor: I would like to say a word to Mr. Jenny. There was a day when I too was on the wrong side of the fence like you. But I came from the wrong side with the help of good Christian people who took the trouble and time to explain our Constitution to me. Before this I was so cock sure I was right. And now thank God for the courage to admit I was wrong. I used to believe in such things as the New Deal, but have since seen and experienced the terrible damage this and similar ideas

have laid on ourselves and other countries.

Our forefathers, gave their lives for freedom; but by your interpretation Mr. Jenny, they also were "super-patriots."

Things like the House Committee on Un-American Activities (HCUA) I am behind 100 per cent. We must keep them and instead of trying to hamstring them, we should take steps to make them more effective in curbing subversives. After all, who exposed such people as Alger Hiss and Harry Dexter White? When will the people get the explanation of why White committed suicide the day before his trial?

There is so much evidence on subversives that all people have access to. Just write to their elected Representatives and Senators in Washington. For Representatives the address is House Office Building, Washington 25, D.C. For Senators the address is Senate Office Building, Washington 25, D.C. The evidence is there for them.

Just remember what J. Edgar Hoover has said: "Beyond any doubt secret communist agents have worked themselves into thousands of strategic positions, ready to step out and act for Russia when the time comes." And recall also the words of Dimitroff, head of the Communist International: "One sympathizer is worth more than a dozen communists. A university professor or writer who defends or lends himself to the interests of the Soviet Union is worth

more than a thousand party members."

Right now a serious effort is being made to repeal the Connally Reservation to the Senate Resolution providing for the adherence of our country to the International Court of Justice. Subversives are among those guiding this effort, but consider this—no communist nation holds to the World Court to any extent whatsoever; but eight Communist nations possessing 10 votes participate in electing the World Court Judges and two judges from Communist nations—the Soviet Union and Poland—are now serving on the Court. We should all remember and keep these six little words of the Connally Reservation " . . . as decided by the United States." These six little words mean so very much to the freedom of the American people.

Frank Koch,
412 South First st.,
Central Point, Ore.

Dear Doctor

To the Editor: I read with some interest the letter in communications entitled "The Medical Big Lie," in which Dr. Hartley suggested the lack of proof of statements in an earlier editorial.

If the doctor refers to statistics and affidavits to support their claims made, can it be that he is so naive as to believe that so called statistics cannot be fudged by personal prejudice and desire, in that they are biased, that they are oftentimes only substantiated by

the fact they are not disproved, like the silly question "How many hairs on a squirrel?" If the answer is questioned you are simply told to count them.

This manner of proving a contention has been used, and I suspect it will be used many more times, as an easy way to gain the point, but inversion, or inverse ratio if you wish, does not serve as criteria of truth.

Since records and statements are only written words, they are no more reliable than who write and sign them, the only "Simon Pure" evidence the editor could produce would be the living persons unable to get medical care. But it can be done.

Dear doctor, in your letter you speak, to quote in part, of "those who are trying to break down the private enterprise system." Surely, doctor, you are applying the term "private enterprise" to the functions of the American Medical Association, for in truth it does not fit in that this Association, through its members and various branches, solicits funds from the public to enhance its own research, to wit the Heart Fund, the Cancer Fund, Rheumatism and Arthritis fund, to cite only a few, and are the profits reflected in reduced rates to patients? If not this takes the "enterprise" of medicine out of the "private" and into the "public" category, and on the same plane as Social Security.

Then could it not, too, be considered "socialized medicine" in that it asks the public to "contribute now, for you may be a recipient later?" C. R. Burrill,
122 Vilas rd.,
Central Point, Ore.

Apologies Accepted
To the Editor: With all sorts of apologies.
Chicken today and feathers tomorrow (in two tones):
How oft we sit and cogitate
(That's "figger" — if you please)
Kaleidoscopic wonders of life's great pageantry;
(That's, "life's unending numbers of bright, bold patterns, see")
Whilst others are so deep engrossed
("Blowed up" is what that means)
Accumulating sustenance
(That's "gittin' bread an' beans")
That they stick around—with
their nose on the ground—
Till they die in their workin' jeans!

"Gold Hill Billy",
Gold Hill, Ore.

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