

Poets' Corner

Conducted by Arnold Eugene Jenny

Tagore

"East is East and West is West, and nowadays they meet all the time. They had better, or never the twain shall endure. Rockets with awesome warheads can bridge the enormous distances in minutes. Fortunately, so can the peaceful arts." Thus wrote Howard Taubman in the New York Times of April 3 in a review of the current play, "The King of the Dark Chamber," by Rabindranath Tagore. And the critic added: "Tagore, whose 100th birthday will be observed May 6, lived until 1941. When he died he was not only full of years and honors but had also fulfilled himself. Among his honors was the 1913 Nobel prize for literature and knighthood granted him by King George V.

Gitanjali

Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high; Where knowledge is free; Where the world has not been broken up into fragments by narrow domestic walls; Where words come out from the depth of truth; Where tireless striving stretches its arms towards perfection; Where the clear stream of reason has not lost its way into the dreary desert sand of dead habit; Where the mind is led forward by Thee into ever widening thought and action— Into that heaven of freedom, My Father, let my country awake.

(The noble rendering of this classic into English does not convey the force of the original Bengali, with its passionate, concluding prayer: "Strike, Father! Merciless, strike with Thine right hand, into the hand of this taskmaster!") This is my prayer to Thee, my Lord—strike, strike at the root of penury in my heart. Give me the strength lightly to bear my joys and sorrows. Give me the strength to make my love fruitful in service. Give me the strength never to disown the poor or bend my knees before insolent might. Give me the strength to raise my mind high above daily trifles. And give me the strength to surrender my strength to Thy will with love.

Beneath This Tree

Beneath this tree I stand without a shield To bolster me or my unhalloved pride; Now I performe most cast pretense aside And wait in nakedness what life may yield. Beneath this tree, in this neglected field, As lonely and as silent I abide (No mercy mine that is to it denied) Whatever storms the future holds concealed. Has too much wisdom brought me to this pass Where I am lost to all the vanished years? Where I must harbor in my heart, alas, The seed of life's disintegrating fears? O tree, lone tree, so sound in root and bole, Teach me your way of standing strong and whole! —Charles Oluf Olsen, Portland, Ore.

Poetry

You bring to me enrichment and release; Pain too, from which I do not ask succor. Awareness, revelation you increase; And finally and best you bring me peace. —Blanche Ellis Norvelle, Medford (The Manor)

If I can let into some soul a little light, If I am let into some dark and drear can render bright, If I to one in gloom can show the sunny side, Though no reward I win — I shall be satisfied. —Anon. (Submitted by John E. Gribble, Medford)

Stolen Property

To the Editor: To the parents of the teen age thieves: Saturday night a sign was stolen from our property, and we would like it back. So, Dear Parent, if in your boy's or girl's room you find this sign, kindly return it. It's stolen property. The sign is 2 1/2 by 2 1/2. The background is white. There is a large pink bee hive, standing at the door are two bees painted black and yellow. The hive has green grass at the base. The lettering on the sign is thus: The B's of Honey Hill Do we have to stand shotgun over our property to protect it from kids that are roaming the backwoods looking for trouble? We can if we have to, so don't make the mistake of coming back, except to return the sign, or take it to the Jackson county sheriff's department. Mrs. S. Browning, Dark Hollow rd., Medford.

Deer (Not Fish) Story

To the Editor: Chance and good luck often correct many a mistake. The truth of it was proven to me after reading the fish story from the Ashland man. I bet the Ozark fish are fast. That is why perhaps most fishermen from Missouri use a tranquilizer pill on their bait. Man slow that fish down, and enjoy your fish and meat. Let me tell you, however, what I have seen with my own eyes. One day while hunting deer high up in the Cascade region, when I had spent all my shot, I found myself unexpectedly in front of the most stately stag in the country. He looked at me as unconcerned as if he knew that my gun was empty. I hastily I charged my gun with powder and put on top a handful of cherry stones from which I had eaten the flesh as fast as the hurry permitted. I let fly and hit him right in the middle of the forehead, between his antlers. The shot stunned him. He staggered. Yet he ran off. Some five years later I was hunting in the very same forest and — lo and behold — there appeared a stately stag with a full grown cherry tree more than ten feet high between his antlers. I recalled,

of course, my previous adventure and, considering the deer my old property, I brought him down with a single shot, which gave me the venison and the cherry-sauce that goes with it, for the tree was covered with fruit more delicious than I had ever tasted in all my life. You see, one has to know how to get along in this world. I truly appreciate the wide and open forest country and her cherry-flavored venison. Grady Conner, 723 West Jackson st., Medford.

Quarantine Against Pine Moth Noted

A quarantine against the European Pine shoot moth has been announced by the state department of agriculture in the interest of prospective tree planters. The European Pine shoot moth has been found on ornamental pines in the northern Washington areas. The regulations are believed necessary to protect the native pine forests in Oregon. An enemy of the young pine trees, the shoot moth stunts and deforms them, lengthening the time to grow a merchantable crop, and decreases its value. Shipments of the trees to Oregon must first be inspected at the department of forestry, 2600 State st., Salem. Additional information concerning the regulated trees may be obtained from Richard D. Olson, farm forester, post office box 71, Medford; the state forestry department, Table Rock rd., Central Point, OR 97531-41213; and W. H. Wheeler, nursery inspector, 1025 NW Lawnridge dr., Grants Pass, Greenwood 6-4594.

Committee Approves Three Bridge Bills

Salem — (UPI) — The Senate Highways committee has given its approval to three bridge bills. One, which would cross the Willamette river as Oswego, bears a \$4.2 million price tag. One near Dayton would cost \$1.7, and the third across the Snake river at Ontario would cost Oregon and Idaho \$800,000 each.

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.

What a World!

To the Editor: Anyone born in this country this century, and still alive, has a right to wonder why human life has no more value than a cheap commodity in the eyes of power-mad ruling classes abroad who are determined to rule the world. He has had to live through World Wars I and II and the Korean conflict, and may have to face World War III.

It is a mystery to this writer why the Korean conflict, so called, is not regarded as a war. Perhaps because only 150,000 American casualties resulted from that "police action." We are accustomed to much larger totals. That shows how far the world has progressed.

Now there is Communism. Under that system of government God, religion, truth, ethics and morality are only for children, and to a limited extent. Adults don't believe in such myths. The state is supreme and where its supremacy is challenged, it is condoned and encouraged. The object of world Communism is to establish a scientific society without religion.

What a world! David Frisch, P.O. Box 292, White City, Ore.

Farm Wages

To the Editor: It is increasingly disturbing to hear remarks concerning the proposed Union picketing of farms to bring them into some sort of organized labor control. A day or two ago a woman was heard to remark: "I sure wish the unions would come to the valley and make the orchard people share up better with labor in their big pear growing profits."

Profits. What profits with continued night smudging to save the summer's pear crop? And a phone call to a valley pear grower as this is being written, brings the hard fact that some pear orchards, despite the heavy smudging, have been so damaged that red-ink is the end result. And end of this heavy smudging is nowhere within sight. The orchard people must be on the alert till June at least, remembering that the heaviest freeze in many spots of the valley came in early June some ten years ago.

Cost of oil for the pots is on the rise. Heavy pressure is put on the orchardists to change over to the new type pot at \$9 each that produces less smoke, which they are willing to do, but the steady rise in supply costs as well as wages prevents them doing this. The heavy costs of wages to teenagers for night care of the orchard heating is a welcome source of spending money for the youngsters, but the fact remains it is a case of robbing Peter to pay Paul, necessary though it is.

But there are limits to what agriculture can be forced to pay in operating costs. A few months ago in the Central Valley of California, a series of strikes and threats of more in upping minimum wages resulted in the plowing under of a reported 3,000 acres of lettuce ready for harvest. The land was seeded to crops involving less labor costs.

Today, as reported in the Mail Tribune, the Senate at Salem voted to put a check-rein on farm picketing. Sen. Lyndel Newberry from Talent grimly remarked, "when the farmer is under the gun, with the whole of his crop tied up, he is in no position to bargain."

We have been greatly encouraged with President Kennedy's resolute stand on many of the day's problems, but we cannot go for his drive in upping of minimum wages. F. J. Clifford, Route 2, Box 200F, Central Point, Ore.

The Meaning of "Fascist"

To the Editor: I had begun to think that our friend, Robert J. Howard, was getting himself out of the H.U.A.C. muddle (I still hope so), but evidently he now has become fascinated by the equally un-American antics of the John Birchers. Bob seems to think that my

reference to the "fascist" John Birch Society is "name calling." Not at all. On the basis of Robert Welch's "Blue Book," that designation is an accurate description of that organization's character. Having attended lectures by kindred Nazi officials in Hitler's Germany and Fascist functionaries under Mussolini's equally rightist and enlightened regime in Italy, and having studied many of the writings furnished me by them, the John Birchers fit perfectly into the fascist pattern—along with the Joe McCarthy's, John Pellays (of Silver Shirt Ill fame), et al, ad nauseam.

For Bob Howard's enlightenment, and that of all others harboring any illusions on the subject, I wish to quote the pertinent, emphatic and truly patriotic American comment of Dwight D. Eisenhower, while President, on this same theme, although in another context. Back in 1953, when Joe McCarthy's man Friday, J. B. Matthews, had declared in typically irresponsible fashion (like the John Birch Society, the so-called and ill-named "Christian Crusade" and "Freedom Crusade" people of today), that the Protestant churches were heavily infiltrated by communists, Dr. John A. O'Brien of Notre Dame, President Maurice H. Eisenhower of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, and Dr. John Sutherland Bonnell of the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church of New York, acting jointly for the National Conference of Christians and Jews, had wired a protest to the President against Matthews' attack on the loyalty of Protestant clergy. Mr. Eisenhower issued a blast, now become historic, from which I quote:

"... Such attacks betray contempt for the principles of freedom and decency. And when these attacks—whatever their professed purpose—condemn such a vast portion of the churches or clergy as to create doubts in the loyalty of all, the damage to our nation is multiplied. . . . The churches of America are citadels of our faith in individual freedom and human dignity. This faith is the living source of all our spiritual strength. And this strength is our matchless armor in our world-wide struggle against the force of godless tyranny and oppression."

Of course, when Robert Welch includes even Mr. Eisenhower among the subversives, I suppose his foolish followers in Jackson county or elsewhere will discount the former President's testimony. But that only confirms their own tragic befuddlement.

Arnold Eugene Jenny, Rogue Valley Manor, Medford

Economics and Civil Defense

To the Editor: Note the Government is considering a total embargo on all Cuban trade. This should have been done long ago—in order to teach Castro a lesson in economics and its importance even in a communistic regime. We have gotten along quite well without their sugar; tobacco is their next important export—and this commodity we need even less. So why aid and comfort our confirmed enemy?

It will be very interesting to see what kind of legislation, if any, our lawmakers come up with fixing the prices of milk and gasoline. If there be a Pandora's box, let's hope good emmits—not evil. The old saying—"Competition is the life of trade" is not significant today.

Oh hum! Guess there is nothing to worry about this session, as vacation day has been set, and doubt if anything can change it.

The activity in Civil Defense was well appraised in your editorial of the 27th. Its importance is probably much greater than we realize—since it is reported that Russia is very active and ahead of us in this respect. This is significant—their apparent differences with China notwithstanding. They are the only ones who really know if there is to be a nuclear war. Their

total destruction will be more difficult.

E. E. Ward, 880 Stewart ave., Medford.

The Cougar Screamed

To the Editor: I have listened to this argument about whether cougars scream or not until Mr. Klissinger said in his "Final Answer," "most likely no one has ever seen a cougar visibly out in their wild haunts screaming," and now I have to get my two cents worth in.

When I was living on my ranch across the river from the Texaco Station in Gold Hill, where the Three Jays' gally is now, we heard a cougar scream in the hill just across the irrigation ditch back of our place. It was just a while after sunset on a bright moonlight night after we had killed a beef in our barnyard and the head and entrails were still lying where it had been killed. Again we heard the scream, this time farther down the hillside.

My husband and daughter took the gun and went outly. We heard the cougar coming down through our woods pasture and I saw his yellow eyes and heard him scream as he came through the fence into the barnyard. My daughter tried to get a shot at him but he was in the shadow of the barn and after he had smelled around the kill he went through the back fence by a little patch of corn we had there.

Next morning we saw his tracks around the kill.

Another time I heard the same kind of a scream in the hills back of Parker's house by Rocky Point bridge. It sounds like the high shrill scream of a woman.

Mildred B. Engman, 1847 Stewart ave., Medford.

A Hard Pill

To the Editor: E. T. M., I agree, it is disgusting. "Take Pearl, for instance." Unquote. She's a hard pill to swallow. I never read her nonsense.

How do I know that what 'tis? I write it.

If it weren't for the durn-fool Pearls in this world, you smarter folk would turn into morbid, glum, unfunny, cantankerous oysters.

People can sit on their cash registers, too. Who wouldn't if there wuz any cash in it? (and had one.) The butcher, the baker and the candle-stick maker have their pear-picking fingers groping for it.

I'm sorry that big cat fish drug you through that Missouri puddle so fast like. An Ozark sump is about the only location where a sportsman could catch on fire while water skiing in such a sprawled out position.

Gosh, Mr. M., you worry me. You has done got the Willies. Right! Them commercials is a going to give yuh nervous prostration. Cool off a bit and think. The advertisements tell us who's got what and where to buy it.

If it weren't for them, there wouldn't be any free programs for you not to like to look at.

And if yuh hadn't been lookin' you wouldn't a saw all that 'ere huggin' an' kissin' on TV.

If you ever got a kiss, I bet you, you wouldn't keep it. You'd give it right back and then in shame-rush straight for Missouri's swimming pond and drown yo-sef.

Witness: I hereby sign, Pearl Speckman, Box 33, Jacksonville, Ore.

Help Cuban Refugees

To the Editor: There wasn't much you could do to save Hungary from the returning Soviet tanks. But you did give to help Hungarian refugees build a new life in the free world. Now the fight for a free Cuba is joined. You can do something about that. You can assure the Cuban Freedom Fighters that their families, friends and compatriots — the 100,000 refugees in our country — shall not

want for generous support and friendly assistance.

What you contribute to aiding women and children, the sick and the aged who have sought safe haven here, will reassure those who are risking their lives for a free future. Your gift will help inspire confidence in freedom's cause.

Over the past eight months, the International Rescue Committee has brought its 28 years of experience to a fast focus on Cuban refugee needs for food, shelter, clothing, jobs, medical care and understanding counsel. IRC has raised and expended a substantial part of its planned \$1 million program for Cuban refugees.

At the moment when its sustaining arm is most vital, IRC funds are almost exhausted. Large sums are urgently needed to enable IRC to continue assistance during the struggle. More money is also required to assure swift aid to new refugees who may be forced to leave other Caribbean countries if Castro and his Communist allies try to stage revolutions they have been fomenting.

Federal officials have repeatedly called for large scale private programs by IRC and other voluntary agencies to supplement limited and restricted government funds.

We ask in this critical time that you contribute generously to human needs and thus encourage the first efforts to liberate a nation from Communist domination with a real chance of ultimate success.

Nicholas D. Biddle, Chairman, Caribbean Program, International Rescue Committee, 255 Park Avenue South, New York 10, N.Y.

Trucks and Highways

To the Editor: It is my belief that Governor Hatfield must veto SB32, which provides a reduction of \$1 million per year in the weight mile taxes now paid by heavy haulers (NOT loggers) from 40,000 pounds upward. And it is my hope that the people of Oregon will emphatically support the Governor in this action.

This is strictly a special interest measure pushed through the Legislature by a skillful and well-heeled lobby. The heavy haulers have NOT demonstrated NEED; on the contrary no class of road users has benefited so much from the modernization of our major highways — as shown by their traffic reports.

The Oregon weight mile tax was designed on the principle that the heaviest haulers add most to costs (as shown in many early road tests). The heavy haulers have refused to wait for completion of the Illinois road tests this fall to see if their claim for parity with other road users can be justified.

The pressure to reduce fees on one class of road users is particularly unfortunate at a time when the Legislature seems to be engaged in competitive log rolling to issue more and more bonds to speed up construction projects in various parts of the state.

Regardless of the merit of some of these bonding projects we are in danger of accomplishing two evil results: 1. An actual SLOWING DOWN of highway progress, as DEBT SERVICE REQUIREMENTS eat into available state funds.

2. Transfer of construction policy from our very competent Highway Commission to 90 politicians of the Legislature.

With the new highway bonds which the Legislature has voted for "back-scratching" projects, the annual debt service requirements will come close to \$10 million a year — approximately ONE-FOURTH of available state funds for highway purposes.

We could very quickly work ourselves into a position where we could not match federal aid either for the inter-state system or for the normal state-federal cooperative programs. The truckers have refused Governor Hatfield's reasonable suggestion that the referendum be attached to SB32. The Governor's veto should be encouraged and supported. In 1952 the people of Oregon ratified the weight mile tax by better than 2 to 1. It should not be necessary for the people to circulate a ref-

erendum petition but they can and I doubt if they have changed their minds. William M. Tugman Gardiner, Ore.

Everyone Wuz Disgusted

To the Editor: Mr. Disgusted of Ashland: If you wuz disgusted with my letters to the Tribune, it wouldn't matter, but you wuz gettin' disgusted with everything, people, television, radio, Brush cars, telephones, rocking chairs, cash registers, sawdust burners, wrecking yards, smudge-pots, ducks and dogs. You wuz gettin' disgusted with, "WUZ."

I don't like sawdust burners, wrecking yards or smudge pots, but I like to have our saw mills running. I like to

eat pears and buy parts for my old jalopy.

The Russian scientists wuz worried because there ain't enough air on the planet Venus to sustain life. We ain't worried about that. We wuz worried about gettin' away from Cape Canaveral. We ain't done that yet.

You want us to write about wrecking yards. I don't know anything about wrecking yards, but I am more or less of a rocket expert. I sent a letter to Cape Canaveral: "If you wuz gettin' tired of shooting holes in the sand, turn the darn rockets up-side-down and see wot happens." Now they wuz disgusted.

Everett Acklin, Ashland, Ore.

Register Now. Calling All Mothers! Register now for our big Mother's Day Award. Nothing to Buy. You do not need to be present to win. On May 12th we will present the mother with the most children a big gift certificate. All you have to do is register at our shop. Come on out and see our beautiful Spring Styles. DOREEN & CLARA. TOWN & Country SHOP. WHITE CITY, ORE. Crater Lake Hwy. and Ave. G TA 6-9401

ATTENTION School Voters of the Phoenix-Talent Area! Do you know that our school board has gone overboard in the current school budget by providing an item of \$27,000.00, in addition to the \$1,500.00 spent last year, for the acquisition of a school site within the city limits of Medford, Oregon? This action will ultimately require total expenditure for reasonably adequate facilities of an estimated \$240,000.00. On present prices, installation of street and sewer facilities could easily run over \$30,000.00. The land with these necessities, basic classroom facilities, attendant multi-purpose room, gymnasium, administrative quarters, provision for reasonable expansion, etc., would ultimately cost the taxpayer at least a quarter of a million dollars on the basis of anticipated costs. Do you realize that the per acre cost for this land, including water, sewer and street facilities, will run in excess of \$6,000.00 per acre on unplatted land. This will very likely set a new all-time record for questionable spending of public funds! Do you know that our per pupil cost, estimated to be \$530.00 per pupil at the budget hearing, is one of the highest in the county? Do you realize that the proposed site is so near the freeway that our children will experience difficulty in overcoming the noises from popping and cracking of trucks and other vehicles using the new freeway? This wasteful expenditure of school tax money, when duplicating facilities are so close, is completely unjustified and must not be allowed! Tomorrow, Monday, May 1st, VOTE AGAINST This Unnecessary Spending of our School Funds! Pd. Adv. Committee for Best Use of School Tax Dollars James R. Tungate, Chairman—2441 Edgemont Drive, Medford, Oregon Mr. and Mrs. Bill Loeber, Coal Mine Road Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Wickman, Coal Mine Road Mr. and Mrs. James J. Henry, 215 N. 2nd Street, Talent Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Parker, Edgemont Drive Mr. and Mrs. Don Korth, Pioneer Road, Phoenix

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