

A Shakespearean Christmas

West Scans Immortal Bard's Works for Shopping Quotations

By DICK WEST

Washington — (UPI) — Shakespeare, they say, had a word for everything. Earlier this month, I contrived a little interview with the immortal bard to show how he might have felt about the tax cut issue soon to come before Congress. Since then I have been skimming through his works on the lookout for quotations that might be applied to the Christmas shopping. I found some on almost every page.

The phrase "brisk and giddy-paced times" sums up the season quite nicely although it may be a trifle on the conservative side. The British, you know, are prone to understatement.

I thought Shakespeare was in better form with a line that describes my wife's appearance when she comes home from a shopping trip:

"How like the prodigal

doth she return, with over-weather'd ribs and ragged sails."

My wife, I might add, is aware that "all that glitters is not gold." She is no "snapper-up of unconsidered trifles." As a shopper, her Shakespearean motto is "let every eye negotiate for itself and trust no agent."

But anyone who has encountered the "many-headed multitude" in a department store cannot help but wish "that this too solid flesh would melt, thaw and resolve itself in a dew."

I went out once to get my wife a gift, but the expedition resulted in "a beggarly account of empty boxes." The downtown traffic had me exclaiming "a horse! my kingdom for a horse!"

After 30 minutes of looking for a parking place, I said to myself "let us make an honorable retreat." I figured "I were better to be eaten to death with a rust than to be scoured to nothing with perpetual motion."

Rather than make a second attempt—"what! wouldst thou have a serpent sting thee twice?"—I let Shakespeare solve the problem for me. His gift suggestion "sweets to the sweet." I stopped by a neighborhood drug store and bought her a box of candy.

It is not only the crowds and traffic that overpower me, I object to the "straining harsh discords and unpleasing sharps" of recorded Christmas carols. "That way madness lies."

To me they sound like "the vile squeaking of the wry-necked fife." I agree with the Shakespearean assertion that "silence is the perfectest herald of joy."

As for my own voice, "I have lost it with hallooing and singing of anthems." Which leaves me with just enough breath to say with Shakespeare "enough, with over-measure."

American Airlines Hostess College Enters Fifth Year

By ROBERT J. STERLING
UPI Aviation Editor

Fort Worth, Texas—(UPI)—It was just five years ago that 44 young women walked into a brand-new, million-dollar building on the outskirts of Amon Carter airport, Fort Worth, Texas.

They had four things in common. They all were attractive, eager and somewhat scared. They also were something of aviation pioneers. These 44 girls represented the first class to enter American Airlines' unique "stewardess college."

All airlines operate stewardess schools, but American's is the only one with a building devoted exclusively to the job of turning out fly girls. It also is the only one which has the atmosphere and flavor of a real college campus—its own building, attractive grounds and even a certain amount of hallowed tradition.

Since Nov. 21, 1957, when the school first opened, about 3,000 girls have completed the six and a half week course (longest in the industry) and donned American's stewardess wings.

This "college" is a two-story U-shaped building located on 20 acres of rolling, wooded land just west of the Fort Worth airport. Three classes of 50 students each are taught simultaneously.

The rookies occupy 27 simply but tastefully furnished rooms on the second floor—four girls to a room. The main floor includes four classrooms, a cafeteria, administration offices, a beauty salon and huge reception room.

Outside is a heated swimming pool, and tennis courts. An average of six girls out of each 50-student class fail to win their wings for reasons ranging from immaturity to a realization that the course is too hard.

Marriage

Marriage, too, is an occasional cause for a "wash-out." American admits that some girls go into stewardess training figuring it will convince the "boy back home" he'd better propose but fast.

"It works sometimes, too," says training director Millie Alford. "I remember one girl got a phone call on graduation day. She hung up and ran down the hall shouting 'He proposed! He proposed!' She never did fly with us."

The students tell you the toughest part of the course is emergency procedure training. As with all airlines, American requires perfect grades in this category.

American estimates it costs about \$1,000 to train a stewardess. The course itself is free. A student pays only for her cosmetics and hair styling, plus about \$100 for her winter uniform (summer uniforms are supplied free).

The enormous turnover in the stewardess profession is the reason why American poured more than \$1 million into its stewardess college. It has about 1,500 stewardesses and loses as many as 750 a year—85 per cent of them to matrimony.

Despite the turnover, however, American requires every student to sign a pledge that she will stop flying at 32.

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