

Poets' Corner

Conducted by

Arnold Eugene Jenny

Brave Heart Now Stilled

O, John Fitzgerald Kennedy, Brave heart now stilled by mortal wound. You must, and will, live on and be Enshrined in hearts now wrapped in gloom. There to inspire the faith and hope Which were the mark of your great soul's Devotion to the nation's good, And ever challenge us anew: "Not what our land may do for you "Must be the question that you ask — "But rather, what your life can do "For country and the common task." God rest your soul and give you peace, Now that from care you've found release.

—Arnold Eugene Jenny

Sail on, O Union!

(From "The Building of the Ship") Sail on, O Union, strong and great! Humanity with all its fears, With all the hopes of future years, Is hanging breathless on thy fate!

Sail on, nor fear to breast the sea! Our hearts, our hopes, are all with thee, Our hearts, our hopes, our prayers, our tears, Our faith triumphant o'er our fears, Are all with thee, — are all with thee!

—Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

So Live

(From "Thanatopsis") So live, that when thy summons comes to join The innumerable caravan, which moves To that mysterious realm, where each shall take His chamber in the silent halls of death, Thou go not, like the quarry-slave at night, Scourged to his dungeon, but, sustained and soothed By an unfailing trust, approach thy grave, Like one who wraps the drapery of his couch About him, and lies down to pleasant dreams.

—William Cullen Bryant

In Present Dark, for Future Need: A Sonnet Sequence

Sonnet III

The tapestry of winter lingers bleak And barren of all growth, and spring is slow Cascading buttercups along the creek Where banks are strewn with rocks still capped with snow. The world is scarcely faster, for it wakes And buds, and then, when beauty nears, a war Cuts short the growth of centuries. It takes Enduring cycles to sustain the floor Of earth where man and nature walk. Both walk Alone and rarely hand in hand. But one, Consistent to the end, has need to talk; The other need to hear, before undone By ruthless self or final ice or fire The other might inflict and both expire.

—Lloyd B. Halverson

Medford

*Begun 11/17, to be continued in three further installments.

When Dusk Falls

Athwart the mountains shadows fall, The birds are hushed, the woods are stilled; Evening creatures call and call — The night is theirs, the day was filled To its demanding brim.

The thrush sings sweetly; the nightingale Pours on the dreaming air its pleading; Below there lies a darkened vale, The world beyond is fast receding, I stand as mute as any tree, In grip of things I cannot see.

—Charles Oluf Olsen

Portland, 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.

Answers Letter

To the Editor: In the Nov. 27 issue of the Mail Tribune, in the Communications column, appeared a letter from an "ashamed" lady, Mrs. Ruby G. Tungate. The cause of her redness of face seemed to be that a dance was in progress in the American Legion Hall Saturday night, while the nation was in mourning by reason of the assassination of our President.

I do not know where she got her information from which she made the statement that all of the dancers belonged to a Club that holds meetings each Wednesday in Medford.

If she was inside the dance hall she could have roughly guessed correctly, that some were present who belong to the Security Benefit Club, which is the one she describes as so disrespectful, but if she was inside the dance hall, she certainly would have paid admission, as they do not keep a free-loader's list at that dance.

If she was not inside, how can she make such a statement as she did as to the dancers all being members of the Club she insinuated against? Such a remark by her, if believed by the general public, would cause people to think the dance was being run by the Club mentioned.

And if she was inside, she could not possibly have missed notice of the occasion at 10 p.m. of the stoppage of all music and movement in the hall, for a period of reverent respect and silent prayer for the late President John F. Kennedy, and his bereaved survivors, as well as the grieving public.

Such accusations and remarks as these made by this lady might be made without malice, but such mis-statements, by inference, go a long way toward the building up the hatreds that keep good Americans apart in beliefs and cause the contentions that lead up to tragedies in many cases.

Folks in attendance at the dance in question came from Medford, Central Point, Grants Pass, Gold Hill, Ashland and way points. They come because of the good music.

Patrick Graham Program Chairman Security Benefit Club Medford

Insurance

To the Editor: For the benefit of persons who have served or are serving in the Armed Services, here is an item I happen to have learned: All military personnel are classified as assigned risks, which means they must pay top rates for their automobile insurance.

My son was paying \$135 for six months of insurance, but then he learned that he could get more reasonable insurance through the Government Employees Insurance Building, Vermont and K Streets NW, Washington, D. C. This is information you can pass on to your sons and daughter in the service.

Another item recently brought to my attention is that those in the service can check with family service at their bases as to whom to trade with in various cities like Sacramento, San Diego and San Francisco. There are repairmen in these and other cities who take advantage of servicemen and charge examination costs and high rates on repairs of such items as washing machines and radios.

Genevieve Briggs Whitewater Ranch Wilderville, Ore.

For the Needy

To the Editor: If we are going to give away our surplus, why not give them to people who really need them and will work to earn them? Allowing the Soviet bloc to have our food on credit is equivalent to giving it to them. They haven't been paying their bills. In this case the taxpayers of the U.S.A. would have to. The food would be used to further Communism.

Why give food to people who plan to eventually bury us? If their people are hungry, they have gold to buy food for them. Or would they rather build bombs to kill us than feed their own people?

There are many people in the world who will work to improve their lot by building schools, irrigation systems, hospitals and any number of useful projects, taking their pay for labor rendered in food. Why not give our surplus to them? You can do this through organizations like CROP or Church World Service.

You can give your surplus direct or cash to buy up surplus. Your church will take care of your gift.

If our economy is stagnant because of surplus, we should do something about it. But let's give it to needy people who want to help themselves and not to those whose leaders wish we'd all drop dead.

Frances Ray Ralston, Wash.

Take Heed

To the Editor: Little over 25 years ago, I was awakened late at night, and saw a man standing at the foot of my bed, and he said to me "I have got him, and I'll get you." It was conveyed to me that he was speak-

ing of my Dad, and he meant he had him unto death, then he backed away. As soon as I was able I screamed out and my dad came up to my room. I told him there was a man in the other room but he didn't believe me, but I was relieved to see him alive. Recently he came again in a night vision with great hate and determination to do me in, but I was given power of God and he could not prevail against me.

Within a year's time after that first appearance my dad went away, and he has never had a part in our family since, which I know was the will of God. Whatever it was that he had done to bind his soul to Satan and to death, he either lied or called a lie or spoke against the words of the Holy Ghost in the Bible, or directly, which are the only sins that will never be forgiven.

A certain young lady some time back said to my daughters, we don't believe in that stuff you believe about Jesus, he was just a good man. Yet her parents say "amen" at my giving of thanks to God in Jesus name, and are partakers of my sacrifice. In that I glorify Jesus, and thereby commit hypocrisy against God. There has been sickness and troubles in their house for over a year continually. Consider what the Apostle Paul wrote concerning them that were drinking of the Lord's cup and breaking of bread, unworthily for this reason a few some dead and many sickly among you, for know you not

Thomas Jefferson: "I shall need the favor of the Being in Whose hands we are, Who led our fathers as Israel of old from their native land and planted them in a country flowing with all the necessities and comforts of life: Who hath covered our infancy with His providence and our riper years with His wisdom and power, and to Whose goodness I ask you in supplication with me, that He will so enlighten the minds of your servants, guide their councils and prosper their measures that whatsoever they do shall result in you good, and shall secure to you the peace, friendship and approval of all nations."

March 4, 1853, Franklin Pierce, "Let not the foundations of our hope rest upon man's wisdom. It must be felt that there is no national security but in the nation's humble, acknowledged dependence upon God and His overruling Providence."

These quotations and countless others show the foundations upon which our country has been built. Our country has been a much better place in which to live, for the atheist and non-Christian as well as the Christian, because the majority of our leaders and our people have sought the help of God in our affairs. If the foundation had been otherwise, the atheists would not have such a Constitution to protect the rights of minorities.

If, as claimed, there are 40 million atheists in the country of approximately 180 million, 60 per cent of which are church members, the atheists are less than 23 per cent of the church population. In demanding the elimination of religious exercises from schools, are they not

Floyd R. McCabe Mt. Pitt StarRoute Butte Falls, Ore.

Foundations of Freedom

To the Editor: March 4, 1865,

denying the rights of the majority? Is this a government of the people, by the people, or a rule of the people by a small minority for the benefit of atheism, socialism and communism? Shall the tail wag the dog?

L. G. Weaver 301 Haven St. Medford

Alternatives

To the Editor: In Mr. Weaver's letter, published Nov. 18, he asks:

"Can you imagine (George) Washington ad-ocating peaceful coexistence with Communism?"

Yes, Mr. Weaver, I can. No sane informed person, in today's circumstances, could advocate anything else. It is clearly beyond our power to impose our will by force of arms, and peaceful solutions are always preferable, but today the alternative to peaceful coexistence is NUCLEAR WAR.

President Kennedy has said that nuclear war would cost 75,000,000 American lives (more than 40 per cent of our entire population) in the first 18 hours. Other casualties would, of course, be more numerous than deaths in that period, and additional deaths would follow. There would be widespread failure of electricity, water and sewers, extensive destruction of residences, stores and highways and disruption of organization, communications, medical and hospital services, and transportation. There would be contamination through radiation, of air, water, food and every object that one might have to handle. Panic, physical suffering, famine and anarchy would pre-

vail for a short time, followed by extinction or near extinction. Survivors, if any, would envy the dead.

Is this preferable to peaceful coexistence? Does Mr. Weaver hate Communists so intensely that he would elect this result in preference to the possible overcoming of Communist antagonism without resort to war? How many Communist lives does he demand? How many American lives would he be willing to spend? Who, assuming some survivors, would be benefited by such war? How would Mr. Weaver's views be advanced? Might he hope, through extermination, to become happy (?) majority of one?

In time, the tyranny of Communism and the tyranny of Christianity will inevitably come to an end, but the hydrogen bomb will not. Even with those issues closed, there will always be some new adversary available to hate. Unless human nature is radically reformed, uninformed persons on both sides will continue to denounce peaceful coexistence, and to demand nuclear war.

There is no immediate remedy in sight, but eventually we may, with enough patience, persistence and good will, bring about a permanent peace, and establish the universal brotherhood of man. Certainly we should all strive to correct our own harsh attitudes, and direct our energies toward educating and persuading others to a more generous and tolerant outlook. The need may be more urgent than anyone of us realizes.

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