

The Herald and News

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End Of An Era?

By BILL JENKINS

I'm afraid that at least one segment of the hair-raising traditions of the past is gone forever. I refer to the voodoo practices, the ancient and scary arts of witchcraft that have been a watchword over the world since the age of man.

How do I know this is ended?

Simple. I saw an advertisement the other day for a good luck charm—and it was made of plastic.

Faugh! A plastic good luck charm indeed. That sounds about like a pasteurized love potion.

I thought that a real honest-to-goodness charm, whether for good or evil, with a genuine spell on it required long hours of work by a competent witch and was a blend of bat's wings, henbane, the hind leg of a toad caught at midnight during the dark of the moon, a sprig or two of wolfsbane and possibly a small portion of mandrake root, pulled, of course, by a dog on a dark night.

Somewhat I can't adjust myself to this business of turning out the by-products of sorcery on a production line. I never heard of a witch trying to cut costs, keeping books or having to submit to Uncle Sam's sleuths from the treasury department.

Nor have I ever run across a real up-to-the-minute witch who used the newspapers, magazines and radio as an advertising medium. I thought it was always done by means of a whispering campaign. Dark rumors spread by terror-stricken peasants as they muttered together, casting fearful glances over their shoulders.

And, possibly the most crushing blow of all, can you picture a genuine witch working in a modern, air conditioned factory? Hiring great crews of men, negotiating union contracts and working out a salesmen's roster?

No, I say. That is too much. Everyone knows that witches and sorcerers work in dark caves or in haunted houses. Sometimes they can, on a small scale, use an old hollow tree or a simple hut in the darksome forest. But a real one will have a cave from the mouth of which seep the foul vapors that mark the evil work going on inside.

Sorry, but I can't go along with this business of a mass-produced charm of any sort. I'll take my witchcraft in the old fashioned way, thank you, and none of this modern stuff.

There is no substitute for the real thing.

Rock Sense

By KEN McLEOD

The Greeks and the Hindus went a long step beyond merely seeing that most of the stratified rocks of southern Europe, western Asia, and northern Africa are precisely like present-day beaches and deltas and sea floors; and therefore, presumably, were really nothing other than ancient beaches and deltas and sea floors, with fossil water creatures in them, now hardened into rock. The story was visible to them everywhere in the hills and in the rocks quarried out for building stone. All these wise and ancient people, several hundred years before the birth of Christ, saw also that if rocks, now on land, are old sea floors, if the fossils in these rocks were once living creatures in the sea, then it followed that the ocean has, at some time or other, occupied most of these districts in which ancient men were interested.

The Mediterranean country is mostly stratified rocks. Therefore, it follows most of the Mediterranean country has been under the sea. Aristotle saw this clearly, setting forth in his "Meteorics" not far from 330 B.C., that the dry land must sink locally at times and let the sea in over it, while parts of the sea floor rise up and become dry land, so that there is a continual shifting about of land and sea, all quite in the modern way of thinking about such things.

Strabo's "Geography" takes up the same tale, the first encyclopedia of geography of the Western World, written about the year 7 B.C., in the great age of Rome, when Augustus Caesar ruled the known world and Publius Vergilius reinked "sub tegmine fagi."

One thinks of Strabo as a Roman, but like in many another learned person of his day he wrote in Greek, was in fact of Greek extraction, born in Asia Minor, and his name properly is Strabon. He was a Stoic by conviction, and a man of independent means, as many a great man of science has been before his time and since, the typical gifted amateur. The "Pax Romana" in Strabo's day had made most of the known world safe for everybody; and Strabo spent his life going to and fro in the earth and wandering up and down in it, mapping and recording what he saw, picking up information from other travelers, and reading widely the works of earlier geographers, mostly Greeks—Aristotle, Eratosthenes, Thucydides, Polybius, besides that not unfamiliar to me of Julius Caesar's concerning the war in Gaul.

Strabo was a real scholar, painstaking, accurate, critical, who, after examining all possible theories that might account for the stratified rocks and the fossil shells of sea creatures in them, sums up his opinion, to quote an old translation:

"It is not because the lands covered by seas were originally at different altitudes, that the waters have risen, or subsided, or receded from some parts and inundated others. But the reason is, that the same land is sometimes raised up and sometimes depressed, so that it either overflows or returns into its own place again. We must, therefore, ascribe the cause to the ground, either to that ground which is under the sea, or to that which becomes flooded by it."

"It is proper to derive our explanations from things which are obvious, and in some measure of daily occurrence, such as deluges, earthquakes, and volcanic eruptions, and sudden swellings of the land beneath the sea; for the last raise up the sea also; and when the same lands subside again, they occasion the sea to be let down. And it is not merely the small, but large islands also, and not merely the islands, but the continents which can be lifted up together with the sea; and both large and small tracts may subside, for habitations and cities, like Bure, Bizona, and many others, have been engulfed by earthquakes."

There speaks the old Roman horse-sense, it looks straight out in front of us, and sees what is under its eyes, and puts the obvious and common-sense interpretation on what it sees. That general idea of stratified rocks being old sea floors, and the fossil shells in them the proof of former invasions of the sea, passed from Greek men of science to Arabian. One of the 10th century, Omar surnamed "The Wise," (not he of the "Rubaiyat" who came in the early 12th) wrote a book on "The Retreat of the Sea" that has quite the modern sound; and Ibn Sina, better known by his Latin name Avicenna, of the Baghdad Caliphate, the brightest light of Moslem science, only a few years later wrote on mountains quite like the latest school book.

Big Time
By HAL BOYLE
NEW YORK (U)—Charles Mercer is an unusual author.

Not merely because he has hit the literary jackpot with "Rachel Cade," a best-selling novel that stands to net him some \$300,000 when all the returns are in. What makes Mercer unusual is that he sees no reason why practically anyone who can stand being lonely can't do the same thing. Writing does require a certain bent," he said, "but anyone who can tell a suspenseful situation in two pages—even in a letter—can eventually write and sell fiction."

The difference between those who do and those who don't is largely self-discipline. Writing is an anti-social sport. Many people don't write because they can't stand being lonely. Writing is the loneliest industry on earth."

Mercer, who is a 39-year-old daily radio and television columnist for The Associated Press, married as soon as he left college for a \$25 a week job as cub reporter.

Like most newspapermen he dreamed of writing a novel. And also like most newspapermen, he did nothing about it.

During his three-year hitch as an Army lieutenant in the Second World War his wife, Alma, wrote and sold for \$250 a magazine article about the trials and tribulations of a bride in wartime.

"I decided if she could do it, I could," Charlie said. After leaving the service and returning to press association work in 1946, he started writing two hours every night.

"I turned out 20 short stories and a novel, and they were all so bad no publisher would touch them with a 10-foot pole," he recalled.

In 1949 he finally sold a short story for \$750 to the Saturday Evening Post. Then he made a big decision.

"I read everything I had written up till then, and decided it was all worthless," Mercer said. "So I took it out to the backyard and burned it—150,000 words of which I'd spent three years."

But he had at last mastered the technique of fiction writing. During a subsequent 21-month hitch in the Army during the Korean War he sold 10 stories and a couple of novelettes. He also later published two novels, "The Narrow Ledge" and "There Comes a Time," the story of a clergyman.

His real bonanza idea came during a trip to the Belgian Congo in 1954 to gather newsfeature stories. Africa had interested Charlie since he was a boy of 11, and he chose it as the locale for "Rachel Cade," a tale about a missionary nurse's search for love and understanding in defying the ancient tribal tabus of the dark continent.

Charlie wrote the novel in a year on weekends in 12-hour Saturday and Sunday sessions at the typewriter. It was an immediate hit. The Literary Guild picked it for its current selection, the Woman's Home Companion bought serial rights, and RKO snapped it up for the movies. It is being published in three foreign editions.

Their sudden leap to prosperity has made no difference in the lives of either Alma or Charlie, who plans to continue writing his daily AP column.

"Before we couldn't afford the house we were living in—and now we can," said Charlie. "That's about the only change. The neighbors seem a bit disappointed that our household hasn't gone in for more glamor. But I don't happen to want a swimming pool or an expensive car."

"Whether a novel makes a pile of money shouldn't be important, and it isn't the most important thing to me. Maybe I shouldn't admit it, but I now actually enjoy writing. It has become a satisfaction in itself."

And Mercer says all that is probably keeping you from writing a successful novel is—you.

Repeating
By JAMES MARLOW
Associated Press News Analyst
WASHINGTON (U)—The longer this campaign lasts the more President Eisenhower and Adlai Stevenson sound like phonograph records of themselves.

They've been repeating themselves—not only in their attacks, promises, claims and counter-claims—but particularly in some of the words they use.

This might be expected in a campaign and must be due to one of three reasons:

(1) They can't think of new words, or (2) they like the old ones so much they can't bear to part with them, or (3) they think using them over and over is good politics.

If this campaign sounds dull—as it does to a lot of people—it may be because the candidates are beginning to make one speech sound pretty much like another.

One of Eisenhower's favorite words is "peace." He works that one overtime, using it in practically every speech. Although he says "peace" isn't an issue in this campaign, he's made it sound like a big one.

It's not hard to guess why: The President and his advisers probably decided that—since there's no big-scale shooting in the world and the Korean War ended during his administration—it's one of his best selling points. He manages to bring Korea into most of his speeches some way.

Stevenson has publicly taken out a copyright on a few words and phrases which he bounces off the Republicans every chance he gets.

With these words, sometimes rearranged in new combinations, he accused the Republicans of "com-plaincy" and "political cynicism" and of being "stalled on dead center." He says they are "smug" and put up "stubborn opposition to new ideas."

While he says the Republicans haven't kept their 1952 campaign promises—in those words—he sometimes gives them a rest by jazzing up the same idea with a little color, such as saying the Republican promises are "checks that bounce."

Eisenhower is a great man for "facts" and "honesty" and "telling the truth." Those words prowl through his speeches as regularly as a night watchman making his rounds and punching a time clock.

Stevenson—perhaps because he has talked far more than Eisenhower in this campaign—has a larger vocabulary of standby words and phrases which he pulls out—dusts off, and plays over and over.

One of his specialties: "The Democratic party is the party of the people." This is often a preliminary for him to accuse the Republicans of being "indifferent" to the "little man" and the "little fellow," not to mention the "small business man" and the "small farmer."

He alternately accuses the Republicans of "indifference" and of an "unfeeling attitude."

The phrase which has brought him perhaps the most lively response—at least from Eisenhower—under whose skin it seems to get—is the repeated complaint that the present White House occupant is a "part-time president."

Christmas
By SAM DAWSON
NEW YORK (U)—It could be our most lavish as well as our biggest Christmas. Store buyers have been betting on it and upgrading their merchandise purchases.

Fashion and fads have been having one of their biggest years. Merchants report that their quality lines move best.

The trend has been noted all through the consumer retail business. Automobiles are an example. While our car sales as a whole have lagged well behind 1955's record volume, makers of the most expensive cars have flourished. In many instances the highest priced cars have outsold last year's total. And in the cheaper lines it has been the highest priced model with the most extra cost accessories that have moved fastest from the dealer's show-rooms.

Home builders have reported the same trend. The over-all drop in house building this year has been concentrated in the lower priced homes. People have been buying bigger houses and more expensive ones.

Taking a tip from this tendency to buy the higher priced items when they offered the desired

higher quality, merchants have stocked up this year with Christmas goods aimed at customers with upgraded incomes, according to the professional buying agencies in New York.

Women's wear sales are always looked upon as a good barometer of economic conditions. This year the dressier items are reported selling in volume. Merchants around the country are reported to have stocked upon the costlier lines—and to be confident of moving them.

The trend, merchants say, has had something to do with the increased total of retail sales this year over last. Higher prices for many goods have been credited with pushing dollar sales volume ahead while unit sales have advanced only slightly, if at all.

But part of the increased dollar volume, merchants report, has been due to upgrading, all along the line, in customers' purchases. The trend has been the increase in personal incomes. Thousands have moved from the lower income bracket to the middle income bracket. In most cases this hasn't led to the buying of more units of goods but to the purchasing of higher quality goods.

Confused
By EDWIN P. JORDAN, M.D.
L. R. writes that she is somewhat confused about vitamin B. She is particularly interested in a disease known as beriberi because one of her relatives stationed in the Far East has written her about it.

There are good reasons for the confusion. Actually "B" is not a single vitamin. It includes a number of different chemical substances with differing actions.

Beriberi is a disease which results from a deficient intake of vitamin B1 which belongs in this group.

Beriberi has been recognized for a long time even though its cause was formerly unknown. It is common among residents of Malaya, China and Japan, and is fairly frequent in the Philippine Islands, and to a lesser extent in India.

Vitamin B1 is known as the antineuritic vitamin. It is present on the surface of several cereal grains and in various quantities in beans, peas, carrots, potatoes, milk, eggs, certain meats and in yeast.

In rice eating countries this cereal has to be the principal source of vitamin B1. Unfortunately, when the rice is polished, the outer layer, containing the vitamin B1, is removed so that this important element becomes almost entirely lacking from the diet.

The beriberi which results occurs in various forms. At the beginning there are likely to be symptoms of an ordinary catarrh with pains and weakness in the limbs. Slight accumulations of fluid or edema appear, especially in the limbs. In advanced forms this accumulation of fluid can become serious.

Pains are felt in various parts of the body. Heart symptoms, such as a pounding, sensation or even heart failure, may develop.

Prevention is important. It is accomplished by making sure the diet includes enough foods containing vitamin B1. In this country symptoms of vitamin B1 deficiency are frequently found in people who are chronic alcoholics with improper diets.

Once the disease is well developed it may be difficult to treat satisfactorily. Extremely large amounts of the vitamin must be included with an otherwise nutritious diet.

Rest in bed and sometimes drugs to aid in the elimination of the excess fluid are often necessary. Stimulants for the heart and other measures for treatment of the neuritis may have to be employed.

Fortunately, residents of North America can easily avoid beriberi by including with their diets the whole grain or fortified cereals and vegetables which contain adequate amounts of vitamin B1.

Only ignorance or extreme poverty offers any reason for developing beriberi in countries which have a wide choice of foods available.

Quotes
By UNITED PRESS
SAN FRANCISCO—Col. Clarence M. Young, executive vice president of Pan American Airways, on the decision of pilot Richard Ogg to crash-land his Stratocruiser in the Pacific Ocean:

"The captain's decision to circle the weather ship until daylight and then land alongside was made with the safety of the passengers as the first consideration."

NEW YORK—Sen. Estes Kefauver charging President Eisenhower was not responsible for the "Republican gallery of broken promises."

Under the Eisenhower-Nixon team, the national debt went up \$13 million, despite the continuance of high tax for most of us.

They'll Do It Every Time

By Jimmy Hatlo



LISTENING TO THE NICKEL-NURSER WEEP IN HIS SOUP... THINK AND A TIP OF THE HAT TO THE DUD CONDI. 2046 N. ROCKLE ST. ZIONAPOLIS 20, IND.

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DR. AND MRS. PROCULO A. RODRIGUEZ

Fellowship Speakers Set

Dr. and Mrs. Proculo A. Rodriguez of Dumaguete, Philippine Islands will be the guest speakers at the meeting of the Southern Oregon Fellowship of Congregational Churches to be held here Friday evening, October 19, according to Rev. M. A. McKinnie, pastor of the Klamath Falls Congregational Church.

Dr. and Mrs. Rodriguez are among the outstanding Protestant Christian leaders in the islands, and both have been active in the establishment of Christian educational facilities and missionary centers there. Both are graduates of Silliman University and Dr. Rodriguez is a bishop of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines.

Part of the Fellowship program will be presented during dinner which will begin at 6 o'clock in the social hall. The formal program will be held in the church sanctuary at 7:15.

Representatives of Congregational churches in Ashland and Medford, as well as those from the local church, will attend the meeting.

MINOR INJURIES

EAST ST. LOUIS, Ill.—Willie Jackson, 51, suffered minor back and shoulder injuries in a mishap reminiscent of another era. Police reported a team of horses, pulling a wagon in which Jackson was riding, galloped out of control after being frightened by an automobile. Jackson was thrown from the wagon.

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Labor Effect Study Slated

The effect of migratory labor on the economy of the Klamath Basin will be studied by four Willamette University economics and sociology students this weekend.

The group of three young men, Fred Ikeda, Reynold Neufeld and Merlin Hofstetter, and one girl, Diane Dennis, will drive from Salem arriving in Klamath Falls Friday evening. They will be guests of Miss Dennis' parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Dennis, 5300 South Etna during their stay.

A meeting is being arranged for Saturday morning with women of the Oregon Council of Churches who are interested in the migratory labor situation in this area.

Saturday afternoon and part of Sunday will be devoted to consultations and interviews with growers in the Basin in order to gain a first hand picture of the agricultural economy of the area.

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