

Samuel H. Kuffmann, President. Benjamin M. McKelway, Editor.

MAIN OFFICE: 11th St. and Pennsylvania Ave. (4) NEW YORK: 420 Lexington Ave. (17) CHICAGO: 221 N. La Salle St. (11) DETROIT: New Center Building (5) SAN FRANCISCO: Russ Building (4) LOS ANGELES: 612 S. Flower St. (14) EUROPEAN BUREAU: PARIS, FRANCE: 21 Rue De Berri

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commonly recognized, in this week of hindsight, that such a book would be a welcome present for the harried parent.

All Bark and No Bite?

In once again attacking the United States and reaffirming Red China's determination to "liberate" Formosa, Premier Chou En-lai has done little more than repeat what he has said several times before.

On its face, of course, the possibility of such an attack seems to be very remote right now for two reasons above all. The first of these is that the powerful United States 7th Fleet is in the area in a combat-ready status and under firm orders to strike back with full force against any attempt to invade Formosa or the outlying Pescadores.

As Secretary of State Dulles has explained it, this commitment—a purely defensive undertaking designed to deter aggression—means that if Peiping tries an invasion, American forces will join Chiang's in counteraction of a sort that could include heavy blows against the mainland of Red China.

Yet, with all that said, the fact remains that within recent months the Peiping Reds have been going out of their way, with increasing frequency and mounting stridency, not only to demand the withdrawal of American political and military support from Chiang, but also to vow before the Chinese people and the entire world that nothing will deflect them from their "liberation" course.

Considering the role of "face" in Asia, and the importance attached to it by the Chinese Communists, there is at least a little ground for cautious hesitancy before dismissing their ruminations as mere sound and fury signifying nothing.

Tito and Nehru Speak of Peace

President Tito of Yugoslavia and Prime Minister Nehru of India, after five days of consultation in New Delhi, have joined in a statement concluding that peaceful co-existence in the world must be accepted "not merely as an alternative but as an imperative."

On its face it is difficult to dispute successfully such a grave conclusion, for the development of awesome weapons projects a picture of near-total destruction if a great global war should occur again.

On November 23, for example, he was asked about fears that Soviet Russia may be promoting peaceful co-existence as a sort of Trojan horse to lull the free world into a sense of false security.

However, these two leaders, while disclaiming any intention of forming a "third bloc" of neutralist powers, have pledged themselves to every effort toward relieving world tensions. They are strong figures whose influence has been proved not only in their own countries but beyond.

Germany Has Never Lost a Trade War

By Norman Lindhurst

BONN.—To those industrialists, politicians or just men-in-the-street who believe that West Germany, in its attempt to shake off the shackles of defeat, has overreached itself and, by round-the-clock work in factories, homes and cities, has overstrained its industrial muscles, let me—on the strength of a tour of Germany's industrial zones—remind them that there is a great deal of difference between overstraining one's muscles and flexing them.

Popularly speaking the Germans are supposed to have "shot the works" in their postwar trade offensive. From now on, say non-German optimistic exporters, the intensity of the German trade drive will slacken appreciably as the workers demand higher wages at home in an attempt to reap some of the fruits of the harvest of foreign orders and foreign good will they have helped to gather in.

As for the workers, they and their families are already receiving so many indirect benefits—mushrooming homes, top-quality goods, shop windows overflowing with a competitive variety of products that keep prices down—that they are unlikely to endanger this tide of prosperity by clogging work and output with wage negotiations.

As an example of this long-term strategy, overtures to a country ruled by one family, Yemen, have prospered to the extent that Yemen is contemplating allowing German technicians to prospect there for oil.

Ordinarily Volkswagen is viewed as a new and better competitor of British motor manufacturers. This is true. But it is also true that Volkswagen—



Night view of one of the busy steel mills in Germany's Ruhr, which is on the way toward regaining its prewar position as Europe's top industrial workshop.

thanks to its foreign plant construction—is going to get tougher to outsell as the years pass.

Volkswagen is being sold today in virtually all West European countries as well as in India, Indonesia, Ceylon, Siam, Ireland, South Africa and Brazil. Where high customs and tariffs make import of Volkswagen virtually impossible, assembly plants are being established, using local labor.

Australia, for example, will soon have its own Volkswagen plant—ultimately to produce 1,000 units a month. In Brazil and other Latin American countries, German steel experts are helping governments and private firms to streamline Latin steel production.

Letters to The Star...

Pen-names may be used if letters carry writers' correct names and addresses. All letters are subject to condensation.

Criticize Critic

I have just finished reading Day Thorpe's criticism of the concert given by the Landon School chorus and I am sorry that he found so little to praise.

I also attended that concert. I went to enjoy the singing and to find therein the spirit of Christmas. That I did completely, as did several hundred others, to judge from the applause. It was a lovely and rewarding experience which brought me such pleasure that I must defend it after this unwarranted attack by Mr. Thorpe.

1. The program included traditional Christmas carols from many lands—France, Spain, Austria, Germany, England. There were also religious songs, some sung in Latin. Is this the "excessively department store variety" of which the critic made mention?

2. I did not notice any faulty diction on the part of the boys, and their attention was unusually good. Had Mr. Thorpe been paying close attention, how could he have failed to notice that these children never took their eyes from their chorus master and his directions?

Does Mr. Thorpe take into account that these boys are not professionals? They have limited time to practice, but they and their director worked hard together to put on a program of Christmas music. It was a long program, and a difficult one for these children, and I feel that it is a cruel inaccuracy to dismiss them as "slovenly" and "querulous."

I can only say that Mr. Thorpe must have a lot to learn about the art of enjoying music and I would suggest to him that he owes an apology to the Landon boys and to the fine musician who directs them.

Betsy S. Kiernan.

On December 20, Day Thorpe reviewed a concert given the previous evening by the Landon School Chorus and Glee Club at the National Gallery of Art.

The program was described by Mr. Thorpe as "largely of the assembly-hall kind, of no great distinction or interest in all birds."

This and That...

Return of the oriole— "Late last winter," says B. B. of Bethesda, "I wrote you about a Baltimore oriole which had spent the winter in our vicinity, feeding from our back porch tray every day."

"In your reply you gave us the impression that you thought we were mistaking a towhee for an oriole. But we are very familiar with the towhees and have had them very often in our yard."

"So I took some colored snaps of our oriole in late February in order to show them to you, as we know you are interested in all birds."

"However, it was summer before the roll of film was finished. We were away all summer so did not send you the snaps—and perhaps you might never have received them at all—"

"But Sunday noon, we spied our beautiful little visitor on the trellis over the tray. Needless to say, we were thrilled to see him again. And he has been feeding regularly since then."

variety." and "of the excessively traditional department store variety." As a member of the glee club, I would like to give The Star's readers certain facts:

The first selection, "Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light," is a portion of one of Johann Sebastian Bach's greatest works, "The Christmas Oratorio." Also included was a little-used work arranged by Bach, "A Child Is Born in Bethlehem."

Another seldom-used selection was the "Christmas Rondelay," recently arranged by Ralph E. Marryott. The program also included a study in tone, "We Have Seen His Star," written by Everett Ticomont about five years ago. It was our music master, Wilfred A. Briggs, who introduced this work to the Washington area in 1950. Further, "Tell Us, Shepherds, Clear, All That You Have Seen," a Spanish traditional carol, was first performed in the District this year by the Landon Chorus. Mr. Briggs also took from manuscript the German lullaby, "Schlaf, Mein Kindlein," since only two inaccurate English editions are available, and none in German.

"What Star Is This With Beams So Bright," another carol of German origin, was first put into the Episcopal Hymnal in 1940 to acquaint people with it, since it was considered an excellent but little-known carol.

The whole group sang "Tollte Hostias," a portion of Saint-Saens' "Christmas Oratorio," which is one of his greatest works. Gustav Holst's arrangement of "Come Ye Lofty, Come Ye Lowly," effectively uses "The First Noel," as a descant.

The two selections done by the glee club alone, "Master in This Hall, Hear Ye News Today" and "The Boar's Head Carol," are used by many of the better college organizations with good effect.

The only strictly "traditional" carols were "Adeste Fideles," with a soprano descant and "Silent Night," which closed the program.

I deeply regret that Mr. Thorpe did not enjoy a program which we had a great deal of fun giving.

Malcolm Sparhawk Langford, Jr. (Editor's note: Mr. Thorpe's review contained the complete program, as set forth above.)

Case of Non-Saluting GI

The case of the Army private who was recently threatened with court-martial for "failing" to salute the flag seems to be a case of "straining at a gnat and swallowing a camel." For why would officers of the United States Army consider what seemed to be a case of ducking into the orderly room instead of coming to attention when retreat was sounded and the flag was lowered as a threat to national security? And at the same time the Army continues to cover up for officials responsible for the promotion and hurried "honorable" discharge of the Fifth Amendment Communist, Major Irving Bress?

Of course, the boy may have taken to heart some of the left-wing propaganda which promotes internationalism at the expense of nationalism, and devotion to our own country. Or he may have read the booklet recently issued by the United Nations instructing American employees to consider their first loyalty as belonging to the United Nations, not to their own country. And having absorbed this philosophy, he may have believed that saluting the flag was just "lip service" with no meaning.

If this is the case, then we are to blame, not the young man.

L. D. S.

Too Much of a Puzzle

Being an occasional enthusiast of your crossword puzzle column, I wish to bring to your attention an obvious, misleading and repetitious error that really exhausted my patience and forced me to write you this letter.

If you look in The Star of December 20, you'll notice that the eighth entry down says "The immortal Duce," which should be "The immortal Duce."

This same mistake appeared in a recent puzzle again, adumbrating "Duce of Italy." Of course, they both meant Benito Mussolini, the Armenian-Italian tragedienne of world-wide reputation of her time. Her name was changed from Armenian (Dusian) to (Duse) for professional reasons. I am aware of unavoidable, certain typographical errors that happen every now and then, but let me record this fact for the sake of historical accuracy.

V. H. Vartanian.

Burning Dwarf Stars Studied by Scientists

Ejection Forces Seen Shooting Out Gases

By Thomas R. Henry

Stars which weigh about 10 tons per cubic inch, among the weirdest objects in creation, are being studied by Carnegie Institution of Washington astronomers.

These are enormously hot, white dwarf stars revolving at speeds of nearly 100 miles a second. Some of them, according to the observations of Dr. Jesse L. Greenstein described in the institution's annual report, apparently are surrounded by thick envelopes, or atmospheres of turbulent gas.

This indicates, says the report, that there must be enormous ejection forces in the interiors of these stars from which the atmosphere must have come. The gases must have been shot out at speeds of close to 5,000 miles a second.

Only 20 Known. The white dwarfs, of which about 20 are known, are believed to be almost "solid matter." The atom, of which matter as known on earth is composed, is mostly empty space with the distances between the nucleus and the outer electrons comparable, considering the sizes, to the distances between the sun and the planets. This kind of matter exists through most of creation.

In the white dwarfs, however, a greater part of the outer electrons have been stripped away and the protons constituting the atomic nuclei pressed together so there is very little unoccupied space. There still is some left, though, or the matter composing them would be much heavier, approaching, according to some theoretical calculations, 1,000 tons a cubic inch. All these dwarfs are believed to be very old stars, perhaps in the final stage of their existence.

Dr. Greenstein also has searched the heavens for stars which apparently are on the way to becoming white dwarfs and obtained spectra which may throw considerable light on the stages through which they are passing.

Most of the white dwarfs known are in the stellar neighborhood of the sun. They may be very numerous, but for the most part unobservable, throughout the entire Milky Way galaxy.

Appetite Centers

Experiments with appetite centers in the brain, where lesions will cause rats to starve themselves to death, are reported by two Johns Hopkins University psychologists.

These centers are located in the hypothalamus, near the base of the brain, according to findings of Drs. Philip Teitelbaum and Elliot Stellar. If they are deliberately injured, the animals refuse to eat voluntarily and die of starvation in a few days. They can be kept alive, however, by artificial feeding.

When this is done, the psychologists explain, the animals regain essentially normal feeding habits in from six to 65 days.

"There is an initial period," they say in a report to the American Association for the Advancement of Science here, "of complete refusal to eat." After this animals will accept only evaporated milk or, somewhat less readily, milk chocolate.

Accept Water Later

Only later will they accept water and only after they have been drinking water will they accept the regular laboratory food. Individual differences in the time spent in each of these stages of recovery is very great, but the sequence of stages is almost invariable.

"Starvation itself is never a sufficient inducement to eat. Even after animals had been eating evaporated milk and chocolate they still refused to eat laboratory food when deprived of these special foods, to the point of great weight loss."

"It seems that the hypothalamic lesions impair an excitatory mechanism important in eating. Fat may elicit eating behavior sooner and more readily than other foods. Thoroughly recovered rats still seem to have a heightened fat appetite."

The research was sponsored by the Army Quartermaster Corps' Food and Container Institute.

Questions and Answers

A reader can get the answer to any question of fact by writing The Evening Star, Attention: Questions and Answers, P.O. Box 100, Washington, D. C. Please enclose 3 cents for return postage.

By THE HASKIN SERVICE

Q. Are business firms using the giant electronic calculators to any extent?

C. A. B.

A. As yet few of the big electronic computers are being used by business firms, but it is expected that the number will increase as their usefulness becomes better known. The cost of these machines is tremendous. One model sells for \$1 million, or can be rented for \$300 an hour. Others are leased only, the fee being about \$25,000 a month.

Q. Where does W. Somerset Maugham live?

R. S. Z.

A. Villa Mauresque at St. Jean-Cap-Ferrat on the French Riviera is the celebrated author's home. Visitors have commented on Maugham's use of the calligraphic motif on the gates and over the door of the house. The sign, which appears in all Maugham's books, was discovered in Morocco by his father a hundred years ago. It is supposed to ward off the evil-eye.

Madonna of the Poinsettias

This verdant yuletide spirit cannot fill My winter heart, I thought; but there she stood

Knee-deep in waves of red—her shadow would Have drawn my eye, so sharp it was, until

I noticed how her face was dark and still, How deep her thoughts that were so rarely good

Yet bore no roots to blossoms growing; could Triumphant color warm my winter chill?

Her shadow leaned against the field of flame A slender stem in foods of Christmas flowers,

Rich bracts of bloom upon the earth—brown bed

And where she stooped to pick, the beauty came And crowded out my loneliness—the hours

Of wanting snow—with hallelujah red. Bernice Ames