

THOMAS L. ROBINSON Publisher J. E. DOWD General Manager HARRY S. ASHMORE Editor

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4, 1947

Half-Baked Maybe, But Not Lazy

Truman's President is entitled to a preliminary... Harry Truman has made it clear that he cherishes a monumental one in the matter of art. Mr. Truman likes a thing to look like it is, and he has referred contemptuously to representative of the "scrambled eggs school of art."

It appears, however, that Mr. Truman's private prejudice has now become something of a public issue. The State Department's selection of modern American paintings, which it has about as part of its program to improve cultural relations, has moved him to join Congressional Republicans in protest. In a letter to Undersecretary Benton, the President started off tolerantly enough with, "I don't pretend to be an expert on a judge of art."

Well, the fact is that nobody in the State Department pretends to be an expert on the subject either. But, unlike Mr. Truman, State Department officials acted upon their knowledge of their own limitations: they called in critics and painters who do pretend to be judges of art.

As a long-time admirer of the Anheuser-Busch rendition of "Custer's Last Stand" or sympathy for Mr. Truman's point of view might have been considerable if he had stopped there. But he went on to condemn the artists as well as their

product. "I am of the opinion," he wrote Mr. Benton, "that so-called modern art is merely the vapors of half-baked, lazy people." A good many conventional artists might even agree to the "half-baked," but none would agree to the "lazy." Some of the abstractionist efforts may look as though they were produced by feeding several tubes of paint into an electric fan, but they are in fact the product of painstaking, creative effort. Moreover, any abstractionist of the first rank is a competent draftsman who could turn out a painting that would do credit to a mortuary calendar, or the wall of Mr. Truman's study, with one hand behind his back if he cared to. He doesn't care because he is absorbed in an effort to break through the traditional limitations of his art form, an undertaking that involves not just the financial sacrifices experimentation always entails.

It also seems pertinent to remind Mr. Truman that the paintings that have aroused his wrath are of the general type that infuriated another chief of state a few years ago. Adolph Hitler, himself branded all "modern" art as decadent and refused to allow it in the Third Reich. After he began his conquest of Europe he gave expression to his own artistic taste by ordering his own "artistic" paintings—some of them great ones—which met Mr. Truman's standards of absolute realism.

Abstractism art may not be comprehensible to Mr. Truman, but neither, we suspect, is the formula for nuclear fission. Both are products of the bold creative urge which has always been America's greatest asset and which is a little disturbing to find a President of the United States condemning it out of hand.

Toward International Understanding

A FEW weeks ago a deranged member of the Oklahoma Legislature shot down another member in the capitol building, wounding him badly. This turned out to be the biggest news story of the day in the view of The London Daily Express which played it in the right-hand column of its front-page under the head: M.P. Shot In The Senate. The New York correspondent of The Express carefully explained in the body of the story that this occurred out in the Indian country, "the land of cowboys and oil millionaires (where) even M.P.'s are cowboys."

monocles and behave as though they were written by P. G. Wodehouse. For the sad fact is that despite their common name, the average American's understanding of the average Englishman is no better than the average Englishman's understanding of the average American. This isn't any kind of a new discovery. It is the product of the hit-or-miss basis of our relations in the past. There has never been an organized effort to bring mutual understanding to the two peoples. Literature—and in late years movies—have been exchanged on a purely commercial basis. Instead of trying to provide an honest reflection of American life we have sent over those literary kommandos which would turn a pretty pound sterling; it is a small wonder that in the average Briton's mind Billy the Kid is still riding the range.

In 1945 I became a member of Alcoholics Anonymous. Then I really began to understand my own condition and the meaning of the word alcoholic. I knew that whisky does not necessarily solve our drinking problem, but they will be much better than anything else. By that I mean, if an alcoholic wants whisky, he will get it irrespective of whether it is from the whisky store or from the bartender. However, I would have a certain amount of control which you do not have at the present time. It will not only eliminate the physical effects of alcohol, but it will create competition.

Being an alcoholic, it has been my experience that whisky does not solve our drinking problem. It is a matter of the mind. The mind is the only thing that can be controlled under any circumstances. This is the purpose of the mind.

The curious thing about all this is that it has lost any national flavor. It might one have had. At best it is no more than mildly interesting, and even here in the South it arouses no feeling of contempt. The real Abraham Lincoln legend is based upon the fact that he was a native-born Southerner into secession. He played fast and loose with the Southerners in order to trick them into a bombardment of Fort Sumter and make them appear aggressors.

Here in North Carolina the ancient questions surrounding Abraham Lincoln's birth were also dragged out once again. The Lincoln cross in connection with the forthcoming opening of Mr. Lincoln's private papers, kept sealed since his death by order of his son, Robert. There is a chance that documents in the collection, now in possession of the Library of Congress, will settle once and for all the recurring legend that Nancy Hanks bore an illegitimate child, who was later to become President of the United States, after she moved to Kentucky.

Retiring from baseball, Jimmy Foss takes with him, intact, the secret of that unknown quantity, the second X.

Houses made of pressed earth will stand up a hundred years or more—and why not? So has hulls.



People's Platform

A Case History

CHARLOTTE

Editors: The News: SINCE the county election on the whisky question is just around the corner, I feel it is my duty, not necessarily as a resident of Mecklenburg County, but as an ex-GI and a decent thinking American, to write you this letter. In addition to this my conscience has been bothering me and in order to satisfy it, I am giving you my own experiences as an ex-alcoholic and drinker.

A poor way as it only stops him temporarily. The best way is to stop the person to make up his mind that he wants to stop, then when this is done if he will follow the steps that the AA have adopted, he will find it very easy to eliminate drinking altogether.

After completing my education in 1926, at which time I was 21 years old, I had been drinking for a period of two years. I began to drink more and more after I entered into the business world. For a period six years, I more or less drank moderately. Then whisky began to get me. I definitely became an alcoholic. For a period of a year and a half I was in and out of hospitals. I was discharged from one hospital and returned to another. I was in and out of hospitals for a period of two years.

Alcoholism is a disease and the alcoholic a sick person. This is a serious public health problem. It has in fact become America's Public Health Problem No. 4. And it is a rising one, for alcoholism flourishes in the aftermath of war. Yet it is a subject which has been kept taboo. Not so long ago, tuberculous labored under the same stigma. In consequence, it ranged almost unchecked.

When we were in the hospital in 1944, I went into the service early in 1942 and much to my surprise I passed the physical and during the 23 months of the service, I had a chance to do a lot of thinking and I had definitely made up my mind to stop drinking when I came home. I had definitely reached the conclusion that my case was hopeless. It looked as though the harder I tried to stop drinking, the more I drank.

Every year 12,000 people die of alcoholism. This fraction of those probable deaths per year because families will go to any lengths to keep alcoholism from appearing on the death certificate.

I am telling you the above experience simply because I am in a position to speak as an alcoholic. I know that whisky does not solve our drinking problem, but they will be much better than anything else. By that I mean, if an alcoholic wants whisky, he will get it irrespective of whether it is from the whisky store or from the bartender.

It is in our aim to help that fraction to whom liquor is like an allergy. In reference to the dris, we all know that there is a substantial percentage who profess to be dris and yet are not. We also know that there are a lot of people who are really in earnest in their desire to stop drinking.

Being an alcoholic, it has been my experience that whisky does not solve our drinking problem. It is a matter of the mind. The mind is the only thing that can be controlled under any circumstances. This is the purpose of the mind.

It is our aim to help that fraction to whom liquor is like an allergy. In reference to the dris, we all know that there is a substantial percentage who profess to be dris and yet are not. We also know that there are a lot of people who are really in earnest in their desire to stop drinking.

The secret Pennington meeting, called by Secretary of War Patterson, was attended by a number of prominent industrialists and labor leaders, including representatives of the American Electric Co., the National Association of Manufacturers, the American Association of Labor, CIO, the U. S. Chamber of Commerce, the Railway Labor Brotherhoods, the Association of American Railroads, Radio Corporation of America and the Petroleum Industry, the Petroleum Institute and others.

At the last closed-door meeting before the Senate and House joint conference finally approved the labor bill, final action was held up while the conferees debated news items.

Retiring from baseball, Jimmy Foss takes with him, intact, the secret of that unknown quantity, the second X.

At the last closed-door meeting before the Senate and House joint conference finally approved the labor bill, final action was held up while the conferees debated news items.

Houses made of pressed earth will stand up a hundred years or more—and why not? So has hulls.

Houses made of pressed earth will stand up a hundred years or more—and why not? So has hulls.

Clayton's Wool Fight

UNDERSECRETARY OF State Will Clayton is believed deeply in free enterprise and free trade. As a result of his conviction from scratch, Will Clayton has built one of the impressive private fortunes of the nation.

Now he is serving the Government as conscientiously as he once served his private business. He is not an easy one. He is trying to persuade the other countries of the world that it is possible to revive the free-trade pattern.

The State Department has a plan for the wool trade. It is the intention, but before the other nations will accept that plan they will have to be convinced by reducing tariffs and indicating in other ways that we intend to accept imports from abroad.

In April, Clayton went to Geneva, Switzerland, to promote the wool trade idea at an international conference. In the middle of that conference Clayton was threatened to be riled out from under the American proposals at the Geneva conference.

half that of the wartime support price. The Senate adopted a wool bill for a 50 per cent book in 1942. Thereafter the wool tariff has been reduced by 50 per cent. The Senate point of view will prevail that the wool tariff be reduced to 50 per cent of the wartime support price. In the House bill it will be knocked out. Even Sen. Joseph C. McCarroll, who is serving the Government as conscientiously as he once served his private business, has said he is for compromise since he is not an easy one. He is trying to persuade the other countries of the world that it is possible to revive the free-trade pattern.

READY FOR BATTLE When Clayton first returned from Geneva, he went down under an attack of an attorney administration of large doses of penicillin, he will enough to go up to Capitol Hill to battle for his goal.

What harm has already been done by the action of the House. It was an indication to the delegates of Geneva of an attitude exactly the opposite of that which Clayton was urging. Perhaps if the wool tariff had been lowered in Washington to argue his case, not with skeptical foreigners but with skeptical and resentful members of Congress.

PLAN JEOPARDIZED This is how the House put the wool trade idea at an international conference. In the middle of that conference Clayton was threatened to be riled out from under the American proposals at the Geneva conference.

ECONOMIC WARFARE This means a kind of competition that is in actuality economic warfare. It is a kind of competition that is in actuality economic warfare. It is a kind of competition that is in actuality economic warfare.

Samuel Grafton

NEW YORK

IT is a dreary world, this President's Advisory Commission on the Wool Trade. It is a dreary world, this President's Advisory Commission on the Wool Trade. It is a dreary world, this President's Advisory Commission on the Wool Trade.

Post-War Nightmare

A share in producing it. America, Russia, Britain, France, China, for the sake of the wool trade. It is a dreary world, this President's Advisory Commission on the Wool Trade.

DEAD BREAK

When this is the best that can be produced by such people as Joseph E. Davies, Harold G. Hooten, Samuel Rosenman, etc. then we know how dead break it is.

WORLD-WIDE FAILURE

That failure involves the heads of all the states which have had

North Carolina's Fourth President?

THE memory of Abraham Lincoln has been assaulted on two fronts during the past few days.

for all but the most impassioned Confederate veterans, and Mr. Holmes has succeeded in proving the chronology impossible.

In Washington, Dr. Charles G. Tanhill, a University professor, came with a charge that sounded strangely like a Chicago Tribune editorial on Pearl Harbor. The Civil War's opening engagement at Charleston, the professor said, was a date not entered by Honest Abe in the Southers into secession. He played fast and loose with the Southerners in order to trick them into a bombardment of Fort Sumter and make them appear aggressors.

The North Carolina version is more probable, if less spectacular. In a book called "The Genesis of Lincoln," published at the end of the last century, James H. Catey sought to prove that Nancy Hanks created Abraham Lincoln, who served as hired girl in the family of Abraham Enloe, who lived originally in Rutherford County and later in Swain. A strong resemblance between the hired girl's child and Enloe, according to the Catey version, started talk in the neighborhood and finally prompted the old farmer to pack the girl and her two-year-old son off in the company of some relatives who were migrating to Kentucky.

The curious thing about all this is that it has lost any national flavor. It might one have had. At best it is no more than mildly interesting, and even here in the South it arouses no feeling of contempt.

Here in North Carolina the ancient questions surrounding Abraham Lincoln's birth were also dragged out once again. The Lincoln cross in connection with the forthcoming opening of Mr. Lincoln's private papers, kept sealed since his death by order of his son, Robert. There is a chance that documents in the collection, now in possession of the Library of Congress, will settle once and for all the recurring legend that Nancy Hanks bore an illegitimate child, who was later to become President of the United States, after she moved to Kentucky.

What the Post Office has in mind in banning "Forever Amber" at this late date is hard to say, unless it's to keep it out of the kiddies' 10-cent comics.

The legend has had considerable variety, and a natural vitality since it fitted so patly into the understandable prejudice of a people who had been defeated by armies under Abraham Lincoln's command. The South Carolina version, which has been widely entered by Honest Abe in the Southers into secession. He played fast and loose with the Southerners in order to trick them into a bombardment of Fort Sumter and make them appear aggressors.

Retiring from baseball, Jimmy Foss takes with him, intact, the secret of that unknown quantity, the second X.

Houses made of pressed earth will stand up a hundred years or more—and why not? So has hulls.

Houses made of pressed earth will stand up a hundred years or more—and why not? So has hulls.

Drew Pearson's Army Quietly Warns Industry To Mobilize

WASHINGTON

ONE of the most secret meetings since war days was held behind tightly barred doors in Washington's Waldorf Astoria Hotel last night.

News Links

At the last closed-door meeting before the Senate and House joint conference finally approved the labor bill, final action was held up while the conferees debated news items.

Retiring from baseball, Jimmy Foss takes with him, intact, the secret of that unknown quantity, the second X.

At the last closed-door meeting before the Senate and House joint conference finally approved the labor bill, final action was held up while the conferees debated news items.

Houses made of pressed earth will stand up a hundred years or more—and why not? So has hulls.

Houses made of pressed earth will stand up a hundred years or more—and why not? So has hulls.

Dangerous Government Jobs

ONE problem faced by J. Edgar Hoover in keeping the FBI efficient is the relatively low salaries paid to G-men and the raids on the FBI made by private industry and other corporations constantly are enticing some of Hoover's men to quit.

nature of their work, G-men are permitted to retire at the age of 50 and receive 50 per cent of their salary.

At the last closed-door meeting before the Senate and House joint conference finally approved the labor bill, final action was held up while the conferees debated news items.

The bill came up for discussion in a closed-door meeting of the House Civil Service Committee recently, where Rep. George Miller, Democrat, of California, said he would introduce a bill, but added:

Retiring from baseball, Jimmy Foss takes with him, intact, the secret of that unknown quantity, the second X.

"FBI agents aren't the only Federal employees with hazardous jobs. You know some of the stories about the border patrols of customs and the men who are exposed to disease and danger. There's plenty of hazard to some of the work done in the FBI. I don't know if you've ever been out on the front lines in the swamps in Florida and Louisiana.

At the last closed-door meeting before the Senate and House joint conference finally approved the labor bill, final action was held up while the conferees debated news items.

"Then you've got the Secret Service and the revenue agents and lots of others. Many of them risk their lives just as much as the G-men."

Retiring from baseball, Jimmy Foss takes with him, intact, the secret of that unknown quantity, the second X.

Miller then asked a representative of the Civil Service Commission's retirement division what type of Government job he had. He said he was a member of the committee.

Retiring from baseball, Jimmy Foss takes with him, intact, the secret of that unknown quantity, the second X.

"Statistics of our division show that postal employees appear to be the most numerous group of Government employees. They get all sorts of disability from the nature of their work, but they get it without any special training. They stand through all sorts of weather. Rheumatism would be a common ailment among them."

Retiring from baseball, Jimmy Foss takes with him, intact, the secret of that unknown quantity, the second X.

The committee approved the measure to liberalize the retirement regulations for G-men, but it is now expected that the bill will be voted for next Congress.