

Vagabond

FROM INDIANA
ERNE PYLE

NEW YORK, April 3.—This is a portrait of a man whose career has been built on crossword puzzles. Meet F. Gregory Hartwick, who knows the meaning of practically every word in the dictionary and a lot that aren't in it.

Crosswords have been the backbone of Hartwick's livelihood for 13 years. He has composed thousands of puzzles. He has got all the way from \$5 to \$50 apiece for them. In 13 years crosswords have brought him around \$50,000.

"But don't ask me where it is now," he says. "For I don't know."

In 1924 Hartwick was working on the Sunday section of The New York World. The World ran a weekly crossword puzzle sent in by contributors. He had to handle it.

One morning the columnist "F. P. A." came in and whispered to Hartwick. "There's a friend of mine outside named Dick Simon. He's going to start a publishing

house, and his mother wants him to put out a crossword puzzle book and he wants you to give him your extra supply of puzzles. Discourage him. There's nothing to it. They won't last. Discourage him."

But apparently, instead of taking F. P. A.'s advice, Hartwick did just the opposite, for he turned over The World's surplus of crosswords and Simon & Schuster published the book, and they've been publishing it ever since—with Hartwick as one of the editors.

Three people edited that first crossword puzzle book: Hartwick and Prepper Burmelli and Margaret Petherbridge (now Mrs. John Farrar, wife of another publisher). The same three are still editing it. They're now working on the 4th volume.

Hartwick sees no end to the crossword puzzle books. They're still selling around 40,000 a year, counting reprints. During the first year, 1924, there were 64 competing books. Now there are hardly any.

All Puzzles Contributed

A NEW volume comes out about every three months. Each contains 50 puzzles. The editors receive about 300 for each volume, and use the best 50. Strangely, the people who make up the puzzles don't get anything for them and apparently don't want anything. Just do it for fun, and the honor.

One regular contributor is an Army captain in Panama. Another is a woman doctor of philosophy. And there are four convicts from Western penitentiaries. And a man from Woods Cross, Utah, who sends in his puzzles on the back of old law-office ledger sheets.

Hartwick says making up a reasonably difficult puzzle, good enough to — in the book, would take a good 8-to-10-hour day. But he can knock out the easy ones, such as the newspapers run, in half an hour or so.

He likes the new double cryptics, but says they're too hard ever to become a rage. They're for high-brows, he says. Hartwick is the guy who invented the diagramless puzzle.

'Xerxes' Embarrassed Him

HARTWICK and I had lunch together, and he made up a puzzle on the back of a menu, just to show me. He started out with "Xerxes," and then couldn't remember whether that was a Greek or Persian general. Was he embarrassed?

Hartwick is in his early 40s, tall and very

thin, has chestnut hair and freckles, and wears big horn-rimmed glasses at work.

He's originally Pennsylvania, a graduate of Yale, drove an ambulance in France a year and a half, and once worked on Judge.

Hartwick says nobody could make a living merely composing crossword puzzles now. Takes too long, and there isn't enough market.

Mrs. Roosevelt's Day

By ELEANOR ROOSEVELT

WASHINGTON, Friday—I signed the final contract yesterday for my radio series and discussed the first few broadcasts. There is something rather exciting about starting a new thing and one's ideas run riot. Any new subject always seems to stimulate so many new ideas. If the day ever comes when someone talks to me about something and it does not at once start a dozen trains of thought, I shall feel the real springs of life are slowing up and age is truly upon me!

With this sense of exhilaration still upon me, I went to a dentist appointment. While I received the gentlest treatment I have ever received, I know of no situation more conducive to removing that sense of exhilaration. A semireclining position with your mouth pried open and no opportunity for interchange of thought of any kind, gives one such a helpless feeling!

Excellency, Lady Tweedsmuir, Mrs. Fape and I started off for the Senate of Labor's house for a 1:30 luncheon. Our guests enjoyed Annapolis in the morning, and I think the drive down and back must have been comparatively restful.

After luncheon I took Her Excellency and Mrs. Fape to the Folger Memorial Library. Our time was limited, but we went through the library, which is completely filled with various editions of Shakespeare. We also entered the smallest of the vaults where the most valuable early editions are kept. I marvel each time at the beauty of the printing and touch with awe those books that date back, some of them to the late 1500s.

When we came to look at the editions of single plays, I was very much interested in the story that was told us about one little volume. These plays were not even bound originally, just sewed together and sold for a penny. Someone had put a paper around this particular one and some boys, wanting a target at which to shoot their arrows set it up in an apple tree, knocked it down several times and left it. It was found the next day and sent to be sold.

New Books

PUBLIC LIBRARY PRESENTS

FIRST presented in New York in 1935, the play PARNELL (Samuel French), by Elsie T. Schaufler, now comes in printed for the public.

Charles Stewart Parnell, Irish by birth and English by education, has already furnished the subject matter for several biographies, at least one drama ("The King-Maker," by Lawrence Housman) and a moving picture. His life was a dramatic one. Worshipped and feared as head of the Irish Party, in 1890 he all but succeeded in forcing the English Parliament to give Ireland a parliament and thus to grant Ireland's ancient plea for Home Rule.

During the time of his ascendancy he met Katharine O'Shea. How they met and loved, how Parnell was forced to give political favors to her feckless and cynical husband, how when it suited his purposes Willie O'Shea instituted divorce proceedings against his wife and ended Parnell's power as well as that of the Irish Party, constitute the dramatic situation of this play.

A MONG the American tellers of tall tales is one Caleb Catlum, of the Catlum family which claims to have lived all the way through American history. Caleb says, "The whole rolling shindig of American history ain't nothing but part and parcel of the Catlum saga, and I got a humdinger for every step of the way."

CALEB CATLUM'S AMERICA, by Vincent McHugh (Stackpole), is an amusing collection of "humdlers," which range all the way from the story of a Catlum's drinking of the Fountain of Youth with Ponca de Leon, to helping George Rogers Clark in his conquest of the Northwest, and fighting on both sides of the Civil War. The Catlums claim relationship to all kinds of people—Walt Whitman, Paul Bunyan, Uncle Remus, Huck Finn.

McHugh's stories remind the reader of old-time Yankee tales. They are wild flights of imagination which at times let the reader down a bit, but in general are hilariously funny.

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REMEMBER 20 YEARS AGO TODAY?

La Follette Was Berated for Forcing One Day's Delay in War Vote

(Fourth of a Series)

By RUTH FINNEY
Times Special Writer

WASHINGTON, April 3.—Woodrow Wilson played 18 holes of golf on the morning of April 3, 1917, to relax after the strain of his war message to Congress the night before.

As to what Congress would do he had no doubt. The machinery was already being greased to act at lightning speed.

Chairman Stone of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee had refused to sponsor the joint resolution declaring war, but Senator Hitchcock of Nebraska took over the task, and the measure was ready, with committee approval, when the Senate convened.

The resolution was brief:

"Whereas the imperial German government has committed repeated acts of war against the Government and the people of the United States of America; Therefore be it

"Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled that a state of war between the United States and the imperial German government which has been thrust upon the United States is hereby formally declared; and that the President be and he is hereby authorized and directed to employ the entire naval and military forces of the United States and the reserves of the Army to carry on war against the imperial German government; and the fact within our own household."

Among other things The Sun called Bryan "a straddler by instinct, peripatetic faker, shallow, super serviceable prophet of poltroonery, a craven cringing fadist, and the fox within our own household."

In Wisconsin a man was hanged for shouting "Hooh der Kaiser" and was barely saved from death. In several cities men were sent to jail for criticizing Wilson.

Wilson put Mayor John Purroy Mitchel of New York City on trial to determine whether he had accused State Senator Robert F. Wagner (now a United States Senator) of aiding and comforting the Kaiser. Charles E. Hughes appeared with Mitchel. Samuel Untermyer with Wagner. It developed the Wagner was opposed to a fortification project Mitchel favored at Rockaway Point. The legislature determined by a vote of 86 to 12 that Senator Wagner was a patriot.

SENATOR MARTIN of Virginia asked for its immediate consideration and passage regardless of rules but Senator La Follette objected. The rules required a day's delay and he insisted on it. After a fierce clash the Senate adjourned.

For this stand the Wisconsin Senator was berated next day by The New York Sun.

"Senator La Follette, thwarting by a parliamentary ruse the patriotic purpose of the Senate to adopt the Administration resolution that a state of war existed with Germany, was as mean and ugly a figure as his contemporaries have seen in Washington for a long time," said The Sun.

"In Albany the New York Legislature put Mayor John Purroy Mitchel of New York City on trial to determine whether he had accused State Senator Robert F. Wagner (now a United States Senator) of aiding and comforting the Kaiser. Charles E. Hughes appeared with Mitchel. Samuel Untermyer with Wagner. It developed the Wagner was opposed to a fortification project Mitchel favored at Rockaway Point. The legislature determined by a vote of 86 to 12 that Senator Wagner was a patriot."

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