

## The Times Book Page

THE FIRST READER—By Harry Hansen

### Nelia Gardner White Wins \$8000 Annual Award for 'No Trumpet Before Him'

"NO TRUMPET BEFORE HIM." A novel. By Nelia Gardner White. Philadelphia, Westminster Press, \$3.

"COMMUNISM AND THE CONSCIENCE OF THE WEST." By the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Fulton J. Sheen, Indianapolis, Bobbs-Merrill, \$2.50.

NO FIRST NOVELIST, but a professional writer with 17 novels behind her, wins the annual \$8000 Westminster award. It goes to Nelia Gardner White for "No Trumpet Before Him," the account of a young Methodist minister's attempt to get his congregation to live up to Christian principles.

Mrs. White is a former kindergarten teacher who has been writing novels about family life for over 20 years. She is married to a lawyer, has two children and lives near New Hartford, Conn.

It is important to mention that she is the daughter of a Methodist minister and thus may have gained first-hand knowledge of the trials described here with sympathy, comprehension and felicity.

The story of the young minister who opposes the worldly interests of an established congregation with the spirit of Christian humility and justice is not new; with variations it has occupied authors all the way from Henry Arthur Jones to James Street.

The problem is often the same: The young minister preaches the gospel in a way that embarrasses some of his people; he makes enemies among influential members of the board; he proves attractive to a young woman and tales are carried to his wife; attempts are made to get rid of him, but he stands firm—and this, briefly, is also the plot of "No Trumpet Before Him."

MRS. WHITE knows women better than she knows men, and draws a whole gallery of individuals recognizable in any congregation.

Maybe that's why her minister, Paul Phillips, seems more acted upon than acting. For he gives the impression of a static character because he does not raise his voice.

Firmness is his trait; tact is less evident. He is apologetic to his bishop and his wife, and invokes reason rather than emotion to win his case. The women are much stronger characters.

Here is Paul's wife, who finds the atmosphere ungenial and the state of a preacher's wife irksome. Here is the understanding father's wife, and her daughter, a girl who falls in love with Paul on a rebound from her husband. Here is Mrs. Brush, the veritable viper, whose bitter tongue wrecks her daughter-in-law. In these and others, Mrs. White demonstrates her sure knowledge.

THERE ARE TWO BIG RISKS in Paul's ministry. One involves over his refusal to let professor lecture on Baudelaire, because the poet is a defeatist. Do we not accept defeat and death as the master when we sing hymns to them?" asks Paul.

This is a new stand, an opposition to what Paul considers an irresponsible attitude toward poetry. I doubt that we shall be cured by reading only about sweetness and light, but Paul's object is to make the church express only positive Christianity.

The other crisis is more familiar: that of denouncing a rich man who lets her property run down because a certain race lives in it. Paul portrays her anonymously in a sermon, which seems roundabout way of getting something done.

Miss Pyne, the rich culprit, is eventually reformed by Jeanie, who has the big, dressing-down speech of the book. Paul would never have risen to such a powerful third-act climax.

WHEN I READ novels about teachers like Paul, I always wonder why they have to put in much time battling their church boards and superiors. Is opposition always under their roof?

However, Nelia Gardner White has written a fine novel inside these limitations. She has avoided both the uncouth and the sentimental, and made "No Trumpet Before Him" a credible slice of American life.

Social reform within the United States, including a more equitable distribution of the fruits of labor, are often urged in reply to the threat of communism.

But Msgr. Fulton J. Sheen, the most persuasive Catholic preacher in the country, declares that only general acceptance of the orthodox tenets of Christianity can overcome the danger of collapse in a battle between the two great material forces of today.

Communism and monopolistic capitalism. The argument is contained in his new book, "Communism and the Conscience of the West."

THE DIRT OF Western lands away from Christian orthodoxy, which has come with the rise of liberal and scientific ideas since Rousseau, is blamed by Msgr.

Sheen for the present pessimism and hopelessness.

The same materialism is also blamed for communism, which came out of Western bourgeois thinking, which makes man a social animal dependent on the economic machine. Only "the gospel in its fullness," with faith in Christ as redeemer, will save mankind, says he.

His principal attack is against a liberalism that he associates with laissez faire. He also opposes politics based on expediency rather than on moral worth and hits at polls that establish majority opinion by declaring: "The first poll of public opinion taken in the history of Christianity was on Pilate's front porch, and it was wrong."

BUT LAISSEZ FAIRE is no longer an American economic doctrine. Moreover Msgr. Sheen gives little attention to the modifications of monopolistic capitalism and imperialism now going on in the world since he condemns all political devices that do not have a spiritual or moral base.

He declares the weakening of personal responsibility has led men to lean on social and collective props; "social conscience takes the place of individual conscience."

Morality is imposed only by religion, and, according to his thesis, by belief in the guilt of man and the redemption. He is confident that if western civilization and the Soviet Union come to blows, the resulting disaster will clear the world of its materialistic bias and pave the way for a religious revival along orthodox lines.



FAUST IN ART—"Faust Sees a Vision of Marguerite," a lithograph by the great French artist Eugene Delacroix (1798-1883), is one of a number of new acquisitions for the print collection of Herron Art Museum. In its theatrical treatment of the theme, the lithograph resembles a 19th-Century stage set for the opera based on Goethe's "Faust."

### 'Mask for Privilege: Anti-Semitism in U. S.' Lifts Secrets on Dangerous Prejudices

A MASK FOR PRIVILEGE: ANTI-SEMITISM IN AMERICA. By Carey McWilliams. Boston, Little, Brown, \$2.75.

BY HENRY BUTLER

FOR A number of years Carey McWilliams has been a champion of minorities.

What's more, he has pleaded unpopular causes in his home state, California, where social tensions frequently have been severe. He has written about the plight of migrant farm workers ("Factories in the Field") doing with accuracy and thoroughness what John Steinbeck did dramatically in "The Grapes of Wrath."

Two later books: "Brothers Under the Skin" (1943) and "Prejudice" (1944) are credited with having influenced the report of the President's Committee on Civil Rights and, in the case of "Prejudice," with having lessened California hysteria about Japanese-Americans.

A SERIOUS STUDENT of social conflict, Mr. McWilliams is concerned with uncovering causes. For if the causes of conflict are known, we may be better able to ease tension before it reaches the point of violence.

Mr. McWilliams' latest book, "A Mask for Privilege: Anti-Semitism in America" is a historical and analytical survey of what is perhaps the most vicious and dangerous of all recurrent prejudices.

Anti-Semitism is vicious and dangerous not merely because of its effect on the Jewish minority, but rather because it invariably accompanies the worst kind of crackpot, rabble-rousing attacks on civil rights.

The KKK and the Columbians are too recent to be forgotten. Mr. McWilliams lists them among the more sinister and powerful movements which have threatened democracy here in the past generation.

HE NOTES also that the state of mind that produced them still exists. Rabble-rousers are still with us, drawing ample funds from mysterious sources, ready to prey on popular fears and anxieties as soon as we enter bad times again.

In his historical survey, Mr. McWilliams notes that the Jews first achieved emancipation in the United States. What rights they had been grudgingly accorded in Europe were accompanied by prejudice and hostility surviving from the Middle Ages.

But in America, prior to the disastrous "reconstruction" period after the Civil War, Jews were treated primarily as people rather than as adherents of a faith.

THE FIRST recorded dramatic instance of discrimination against Jews in America occurred in the summer of 1877, when Joseph Seligman, New York banker, was refused accommodations at the Grand Union Hotel in Saratoga Springs, N. Y. That incident, Mr. McWilliams says, marks the beginning of a steadily growing campaign of exclusion.

For some reason not altogether clear, Jews have been excluded from American heavy industry, which has acquired enormous power and influence. With large competitive Jews closed to them, ambitious Jews have turned to the professions and to what Mr.

McWilliams terms "marginal business"—the kind of business that can flourish only on the outskirts of big enterprise.

THE BEST WAY to fight anti-Semitism would be through reopening the realm of opportunity. That would mean breaking the stranglehold of monopoly. In this point Mr. McWilliams agrees with Thurman W. Arnold, the trust-busting theorist.

As long as we have more applicants than jobs, particularly in fields requiring ability and training, there will be tension. And that tension will inevitably take on an emotional coloring of prejudice.

MR. McWILLIAMS isn't too hopeful about chances of re-educating people infected with prejudice. A good many persons cannot do without the luxury of hates, contempt and feelings of imagined superiority.

The surest cure is what the soundest liberals have urged for many years: A comprehensive program designed to save and revive free enterprise, free competition. It's a tall order, but it may be the only remedy for an increasingly sick society.

Mr. McWilliams' book is undoubtedly the best recent popular work on the subject. It deserves wide reading.

DEEDY VISITS Lennie while he is "firing" tobacco leaves in the big barn and tries to get him to marry her. But Lennie is a reluctant lover. All threads of the tale are well woven together in an entertaining novel, true to the life described. H. H.

MR. NATHAN reports: "The late Maxwell Perkins assigned screen rights to the team of Ripley and Monter, who sent a camera crew to North Carolina for background and then arranged a releasing deal with Selznick."

"Matters stalled at this point, but now Paramount has taken over the Thomas Wolfe story plus the 20,000 feet of film already shot, and William Wyler is slated to produce and direct."

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### Perry Writes Lonely Heart

THE CASE OF THE LONELY HEART. A novel. By Erle Stanley Gardner. New York, Morrow, \$2.50.

DEATH OF AN AUTHOR. A novel. By John Rhode. New York, Dodd, Mead, \$2.50.

By DONNA MIKELS

THE prolific author, Erle Stanley Gardner, gets his lawyer-detective, Perry Mason, mixed up in a lonely hearts scheme in "The Case of the Lonely Heart," a latest of his "Case of..." series.

It starts off with Mason and his secretary, Della Street, writing love letters to a girl they've never seen, and goes along with a high mortality rate of the characters involved.

As usual, the smash surprise ending takes place in a courtroom by Perry pulling out legal loopholes faster than rabbits from a magician's hat. It's sure to be entertaining to ESG fans.

IT WOULDN'T seem right if each release of whodunits didn't get someone killed off in merry old England. This time it's a mousy little author in "Death of an Author."

The murder of the quiet little writer and the search for his murderer take the readers through 200 pages of not too sparkling reading.

There's a true murder gimmick involved that will make addition to any library of crime lore. Otherwise, "Death of an Author" is just average whodunit fare.

Book of Month Choice

"The Goebbels Diaries," edited by Louis P. Lochner (Doubleday) will be the May selection of the Book-of-the-Month Club. Mr. Lochner was of the Associated Press Berlin bureau from 1928 to 1942.

New Proust Study Due

"The Two Worlds of Marcel Proust," by Harold March, a new study of Proust, is announced for spring publication by the University of Pennsylvania Press.

11 A. M. Sunday

Dr. E. Burdette Backus

Presents the Last of a Series of Addresses on GREAT BOOKS

### BACK FROM WAR—Cowboy Tale Is Amusing And Frank

"TEMPER THE WIND." A novel. By Clyde Brion Davis. Philadelphia, Lippincott, \$2.75.

"SEND FOR MISS CORA." A novel. By Charley Robertson. New York, Reynal & Hitchcock-Harcourt, \$3.

IN "TEMPER THE WIND" Clyde Brion Davis tells the lively and amusing tale of Cowboy Shandy, garage mechanic, who comes back from the war to Buell, Wyo., with the idea that he can become a prize fighter.

A lightweight boxer, Pete Lopez, taught him the Ketchell shift and other bright steps while in the Navy.

Shandy gets Danny Shaw, sports writer, to be his manager. Danny doesn't know much about boxing and Ruth Cramer, Shandy's girl, doesn't approve of a fighting career, but Shandy thinks it will get him enough dough to buy a garage and marry Ruth.

THE SMALL-TOWN characters around Shandy are stumblebums. Shandy's biggest match with Trexler is an amusing affair far different from anything in Bud Schulberg's "The Harder They Fall."

"I didn't hear you say anything about going after Trexler's fat body between rounds," says Shandy to Danny. "If I thought you needed to be told anything so obvious I never would have agreed to manage you," says Danny.

LATER IT TURNS out that Danny placed a bet against his own man. "I hold that a man's a complete simpleton who bets with his sympathies," explains Danny. "My sympathies were entirely with you, but I didn't believe you had experience enough to meet a tough guy like Trexler."

While Mr. Davis makes his characters amusing, he doesn't make fun of them.

A YOUNG FELLOW of 17, working on a tobacco plantation in Kentucky, has a fairly hard time getting himself adjusted to adult ways, especially when his father has been killed by night riders and he is trying to trace the killer.

In "Send for Miss Cora," Charley Robertson, who grew up in the locale he writes about, gives a warm picture of Lennie Boggs, who is trying to make up his mind about Deedy Calhoun, the boss's daughter.

Miss Cora is the housekeeper at the Calhoun place, living there with her daughter Jessie, and everybody depends on her. She knows all the secrets and is in turn disturbed by them and eager to leave.

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PLAYING SCHOOL—One of Eloise Wilkin's drawings for Edith Oswald's "Come Play House" shows the diminutive heroine making like a schoolmarm. "Come Play House" is one of Simon & Schuster's latest Little Golden Books for children (25 cents each).

### Shanty Boat Days Depicted In 'Tammy Out of Time'

"TAMMY OUT OF TIME." A novel. By Cid Ricketts Sumner. Indianapolis, Bobbs-Merrill Co., \$2.75.

BY EMMA RIVERS MILNER

TWO WELL-DEFINED THEMES vie with one another for the reader's interest in "Tammy Out of Time."

Cid Ricketts Sumner, the author, uses a pleasing device to accomplish this end.

She permits 17-year-old Tammy to serve as a mirror to reflect contemporary life in Mississippi. Through the girl's eyes and through the medium of her quaint speech, the reader gets the picture of today.

Simultaneously, the "mirror" creates a steady flow of incidents on her own account. Some are extremely amusing causing the reader to laugh aloud and others are quite full of pathos. But all bespeak Tammy's unusual charm.

MRS. SUMNER will be remembered as having written "Quality," a novel dealing with the problem of race, brought out last year. The Bobbs-Merrill Co. published both books.

Tammy grew up on the Ellen B., a shanty boat, in the Mississippi River. With little aid but her own high heart, she contrived a home on the boat for herself and her grandfather.

"Grandpa" is drawn as an original character, a powerful though uneducated preacher. He is entirely sincere and yet has no qualms about running a moonshine still. He made illicit liquor for money for her future education.

With the news of a nearby airplane crash, the leisurely tempo of shanty boat days was

accelerated. Grandpa and Tammy rescued Pete, a victim of the wreck, from drowning. They took him to the Ellen B., warmed him, fed him and nursed him back to health.

IN THE PROCESS, Tammy fell in love with Pete. He basked in her sympathy as he described the frustration and disappointment suffered since his return from the war.

He marveled that such wisdom should fall from the lips of one so young as she. Finally departing, he insisted that Tammy and Grandpa must get in touch with him if they should need him.

That is how it happened that when "the law caught up with Grandpa" Tammy and her pet nanny goat arrived at Pete's home, Brenton Hall, an estate near Natchez, just as the family was preparing for the annual pilgrimage of visitors. There, the barefoot, downright girl creates much consternation.

And she misses nothing in the aristocratic household—the petty meanness, the jealousies, the kindness and hospitality. When she isn't blundering, she is triumphing over some very difficult situation. She crosses lances with the beautiful Barbara, "Pete's girl," and altogether has a tumultuous and bewildering experience.

WHAT EVENTUATES between Tammy and Pete, who Mrs. Sumner adequately can tell. Now and then, Tammy's speeches and her thought process suggest the novels of the late Elizabeth Maddox Roberts. And the story's otherworldly aspect at times is reminiscent of Robert Nathan and his tempo of shanty boat days was

### Job-Objective Courses

The following courses are designed to give the basic preparation for the specific services indicated by their respective titles:

Private Secretarial, Executive Secretarial, Junior Accounting, Senior Accounting, Junior Executive, Stenographic, Complete Commerce. This is the

### Indiana Business College

of Indianapolis. The others are at Marion, Muncie, Logansport, Anderson, Kokomo, Lafayette, Columbus, Richmond, and Vincennes—all accredited for G. I. Training. Alumni enjoy free personal placement service through the ten schools. Call personally, if convenient. Otherwise, by Bulletin, describing courses and quoting tuition fees, phone or write the I. B. C. nearest you, or Fred W. Case, Principal.

### Central Business College

Indiana Business College Building  
802 N. Meridian (St. Clair Entrance) Lincoln 8337

### CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Answer to Previous Puzzle

Bulgarian Minister

HORIZONTAL

17 Pictured diplomat from Bulgaria

14 Receipts

13 Run

16 Compass point

17 Talking bird

19 Golf mound

20 Slave

22 Light browns

23 Tie

24 Auricle

26 Card game

27 Overmatches

29 Girl's name

32 Area measure

30 Work unit

33 Musical note

34 Firearm

38 Hugs

42 Cover

42 Native metal

43 Egyptian goddess

45 Encourage

49 Social insects

52 Speed

53 He presented his credentials to President

55 Cravat

56 Cooking-room

58 Mother

60 Craftiness

61 Steeples

VERTICAL

1 Number