Trade Winds

BY P. E. G. QUERCUS

Split Second Exposure

NEW YORK, May 26 (SRL GRILL & PRESS ROOM—HOTEL PENNSYL-VANIA).—Taking old man Kipling for a ferry wheel ride and proving that the "East is East" and "West is West" ditty is nothing but a saucy gag, more than 300 booksellers from East and West, from North and South, met, swapped yarns, and irrigated their tonsils when the 35th annual convention of the American Booksellers Association careened into dynamic activity on the sun drenched roof gardens of the Hotel Pennsylvania last Sunday.

The two-thirty afternoon whistle on this Sabbath day was the pay-off signal for membership registration and the laying on the line of five hard bucks for feed bag fodder and diverse, but polite, entertainment. That this convention is of paramount importance to all the boys and girls in the tome business is evidenced by one of the largest turn-outs in the last six years. Booksellers from as far West as Berkeley, Cal. and Dallas, Texas, are in attendance with Mrs. R. H. Arrington (Booklover's Shop), Montgomery, Ala., and L. P. Alfriend (Whitmore & Smith), Richmond, Va., among the below-Mason-Dixon booksellers. The college joints crashed through with able representation by Marion Bacon (Vassar Coöperative Bookshop), Poughkeepsie, N. Y.; Geraldine Gordon (Hathaway House Bookshop), Wellesley, Mass.; and Marion E. Dodd (Hampshire Bookshop), Northampton, Mass.

The Sunday session, after the welcoming address by E. S. McCawley, president of the Association, went quick into the program action, with Lloyd C. Douglas, the *Green Light* illuminator, doing the addressing with a flock of fresh jokes and a twenty-minute homily on the philosophy of Mr. Douglas.

The further portion of the afternoon program was furnished by Heyday House, the Long Island game publishers, who threw a party for the guests with games, toys, and classy works of magic. Sigmund Spaeth, tune detective of radio fame, played and sang while gin punch and elegant cookies were passed around with abandon.

The evening session marched on with a parade of famous authors published by Frederick A. Stokes and called the Spring Parade of Stokes Authors. The lead-off guy, Harry A. Franck, globe trotter and writer, magic lanterned his talk on outof-the-way places of the world. FLASH!! The SRL Grill & Press Room

FLASH!! The SRL Grill & Press Room closes shop for the night.

NEW YORK, May 27 (THE SRL GRILL AND PRESS ROOM—HOTEL PENN-SYLVANIA).—Strictly business marked the opening session of the Annual Convention of the American Booksellers Association on its second and last day of the meeting. Calling the membership to order, President McCawley barked out his report of the past year and then called upon Mr. Cedric Crowell, Chairman, National Booksellers' Code Authority, to report the activities of his committee.

Getting immediately down to essentials Mr. Crowell, brought out the fact that during the year in which book code prices were in effect 34 publishers out of 35 showed an increase in business from 1% to as high as 180% with the general average being 20%. Mr. Crowell further brought out that the publishers' figures reflect themselves in the increased business in retail bookshops as well. Clarifying the distinction between price fixing and price maintenance, the speaker wound up urging his listeners to wire their Washington representatives to back up the NRA.

In continuing the program of the morning session Christopher Morley spoke on Prize Awards for Student Libraries; Eugene V. Connett of Derrydale Press on Sale of Fine Books by Tested Methods, and Frank L. Magel reported as chairman, Board of Directors, American Booksellers Association.

The afternoon session got into a huddle immediately after lunch with various book discussion problems given the important play throughout and climaxing the meeting with the election of officers.

Miss Marion E. Dodd of the Hampshire Bookshop, Northampton, Mass., spoke of the Customer's Viewpoint with Miss Sophie Kerr playing the customer role. George T. Eager revealed some unexpected information for booksellers secured through a new and recent survey; Virginia Kirkus and Frederic G. Melcher, *Publishers' Weekly*, offering additional dope that proved of great interest to the members.

With the completion of the speakers' end of the program election of officers was held with E. S. McCawley being reelected president; John Howell, San Francisco, Calif., 1st vice-president; E. A. Nichols, president of the Illinois Booksellers' Association, 2nd vice-president; Lovick Pierce, Dallas, Texas, 3rd vicepresident. Alfred B. Carhart, Brooklyn, N. Y., Robert M. Coles, New York City, and Ernst Eisele, New York City, were re-elected to their respective offices of secretary, executive secretary, and treasurer.

Book Babble: Ah, there is Polly Street of Morrow gabbing with some of the Morrow accounts . . . Miss Steloff of Gotham Book Mart, N. Y. City, greeting friends from Chicago . . . Charming Miss Ellen Ennis of D. D. (Lord and Taylor) and chairman of the reception committee hand-shaking a flock of newcomers . . . Beer and Bosely, crack book gals, sessioning in relays . . . Veronica Hutchinson, Halle book chief of Cleveland, having her program autographed . . . Anna Hyman, of Hyman's Book Shop, Des Moines. Iowa, scribbling the highlights of the talks . . . FLASH!! Here are the new directors of the Association: Cedric Crowell; Arthur Kroch, Chicago; Stanley Remington; George Jacobs, Philadelphia; and Marion Bacon, Vassar Coöperative Bookshop, Poughkeepsie, N. Y.

L. G.

The A. B. A. and the N. R. A.

As we go to press:—The Supreme Court decision throwing out NRA codes hit the Monday session of the Booksellers' Convention at 3 P. M. A. B. A. officers, getting no definite interpretation from a phone call to the Deputy Code Administrator in Washington, could not tell whether the Supreme Court decision positively invalidated the booksellers' code, hoped the intra-state character of the poultry case on which the decision was based might leave a loop hole. Later reports made this hope seem forlorn, but they hoped also that the Feld-Crawford Act, providing against the practice of certain department stores in cutting prices on trade-marked merchandise ("loss leaders"), would safeguard price maintenance of books in New York, storm-center of the price-cutting problem. Legislation similar to the Feld-Crawford Act, which became law in New York State recently, has been enacted in California and Maryland, and is pending in several other states. President McCawley appointed members of the A. B. A. Code Committee to work on the Feld-Crawford Act.

This was the situation when General Hugh S. Johnson, former NRA head, longtime friend of the booksellers in their fight for price maintenance, and guest of honor at the A. B. A. banquet Monday evening, rose to address the booksellers. The General had had only a few hours to alter his speech in line with the news, but he beat Chief Justice's Hughes's peg to first base by a safe margin, quoting and amplifying what he had intended to say "before the sick chicken decision." Highlights: "The principles of NRA I think remain and I think that a new statute can be written to preserve them".... "The scare NRA has had will help to purge it of its bad features".... Under the loss leader system a customer "can make up on his literature what he loses on his laxatives." The body of the speech was a ringing defense of book price maintenance, saltily phrased, an attack on book departments which by cutting prices have "shown losses from $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 14%." His conclusion left the A. B. A. in a fighting mood: "Because the decision has made chaos and despondency and rearmed the enemy tonight, is no reason for the friends of these principles to lie down and take it. It is a multiplied reason for ten times the courage and effort and fight that we have ever shown before."

Double Crostics: No. 62

By ELIZABETH S. KINGSLEY

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DEFINITIONS

I. Judge of the dead (Greek myth).

III. Bullied, intimi-

dated.

п.

Eating of raw flesh as a religious rite.

DIRECTIONS

DIRECTIONS To solve this puz-zle you must guess twenty words, the definitions of which are given in the col-umn headed DEFINI-TIONS. The letters in each word to be guessed are numbered. These numbers appear under the dashes in the col umn headed WORDS. There is a dash for each letter in the required word. When you have guessed a word, fill it in on the dashes; then write each letter in the corespondingly numbered square on the puzzle diagram. When the squares are all filled in you will find (by reading from left to right) a quo-tation from a famous author. Reading up and down the letters mean n ot h in g. The black squares indicate ends of words; there-fore w ords do not necessarily end at the right. when the column right side of the dia-gram. When the column headed WORDS is filled in, the initial letters spell the name of the author and the tille of the picce from which the quotation has been taken. Un-less otherwise in di-cated, the author is English or American.

WORDS

109 129 13 34 154 28 102 173 74 41 63 123

164 118 36 107 153 166 148 43 138

98 162 62 93 167 114 157 73 143 82

PERSONALS

ADVERTISEMENTS will be accepted in this column for things wanted or unwanted; personal services to let or required; literary or publish-ing offers not easily classified elsewhere; mis-cellaneous items aphealing to a select and intel-ligent clientèle; exchange and barter of literary property or literary services; jobs wanted, houses or camps for rent, tutoring, travelling companions, ideas for sale; communications of a decorous nature; expressions of opinion (lim-ited to fifty lines). All advertisements must be consonant with the purposes and character of The Saturday Review. Rates: 7 cents per word, including signature. Count two additional words for Box and Number. Payment in full must be received ten days in advance of publication. Address Personal Dept., Saturday Review, 25 West 45th Street, New York City.

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M.A., TWENTY-FIVE, teacher, with office and miscellaneous experience, desires summer or permanent position of any nature; location and compensation immaterial. Enjoys sports, writ-ing, reading, art. Miss M. E., Box 133, Randle, Washington ing, reading, Washington.

THE NEW YORK CRITICS haven't seen it. People are buying it anyhow. In fact we've just had the second printing this year. What is it? A book called "Who Loves a Garden," by Louise Seymour Jones: an anatomy of gardens and gardeners from Meleager, Virgil and Lady Montague to the present. Even if you can't read, you'll love its flowery-paper jacket and binding and its flower initials. Discerning booksellers know of it, or order di-rect (\$2.50) from The Primavera Press, 614 West Sixth, Los Angeles.

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W^E have recently published a book of Double Crostics, conceived by Elizabeth Kingsley.

The book contains Fifty Double Crostics that have never before appeared elsewhere. It is available at all booksellers or direct from SIMON & SCHUSTER, INC., 386 Fourth Avenue, New York City. Price....\$1.35 per copy.

The solution **Double** - Crostic will be found on page 23 of this issue.