

# the Phoenix Nest

## WHEN I WAS YOUNG

**W**HEN I was young, I used to find  
A light about each growing  
thing.

Or was it something in my mind  
That gave it so much glittering?

It must have been a mystic bond  
To make me feel that flowers could  
start—

In ways I could not see beyond—  
Their rootlets sinking in my heart.

A secret looked from every tree.  
Each pool lay capsized as from sky.  
And all around I used to see  
The sunsets ferry fables by.

Such beauty had the power to wake  
A sorrow for mortality;  
Such beauty made my heart to ache  
For what my eyes could never see.  
—LOUIS GINSBERG

\* \* \*

I have received a letter commenting upon my squib [SRL Aug. 20] concerning Cardinal Spellman's attack upon Mrs. Roosevelt. Despite the heat of the attack, my squib was light and in good humor. I am sorry that I cannot reply personally to the writer of the three-page letter because there is no address on it, and it is signed merely "An Old Reader of The Benét Column." It is from a sincere Catholic, and it is for the most part reasonable.

The attitude that some who did not like the Cardinal's attack have toward the Barden Bill is simply that they feel there is no reason for Federal funds being used for private schools, including parochial schools. There is a Federal aid bill in the Senate at present, I believe, which leaves the distribution of public funds pretty much up to the states. But Representative Andrew L. Jacobs, of Indiana, a Catholic, spoke in Congress in sharp dissent from the Cardinal. What I personally found rather incredible in the pronouncement of a Prince of the Church was the violence of his attack upon one of the finest and most public-spirited women in the United States. In my opinion Mrs. Roosevelt upheld her position with her usual dignity, common sense, and Christianity.

A fixed American principle is (and I quote from an excellent article in *The New Leader*) "that every member of the community is obligated to support public enterprises. Public

schools are public enterprises. Even persons without children are taxed to support public schools. But none is obligated . . . to use the public enterprises if they do not wish to; moreover, they could have a private fire department if they wanted to, and could afford to, and if the private fire department met the standards set up for fire departments. But . . . no citizen could be obligated to support somebody's private fire department or,



equally, somebody's private school." Groton and St. Paul's are, I believe, parochial schools of the Protestant Episcopal Church, which has just as much right to have its own parochial schools as has the Roman Catholic Church. Yet I certainly would not advocate that Groton or St. Paul's be allotted public funds!

I think the Cardinal will now have succeeded in preventing Federal aid for *any* schools, public or private. Two fundamental American principles are freedom for every kind of religious expression, and also the separation of church and state. Roman Catholics have every right to have their own schools, colleges, and universities, which they have in quantity in this country, and which are substantially supported by Catholics. The public schools of America, on the other hand, are non-sectarian and are supported by the whole people of the United States. THE PHOENIX NEST is without any prejudice whatsoever against Catholics, as is well known, although the attitude of its editor is that of a non-sectarian layman. I can appreciate, for instance, passages of great beauty and power in the popular "The Seven-Storey Mountain," by Thomas Merton, while privately disagreeing

with some of his statements and conclusions, and being unable to understand why one who had a slightly wild (but not very unusual) youth should have worked himself into believing that he was one of the world's greatest sinners. For one thing, it seems rather conceited! This attitude brought about his conversion—entirely through his own impulses; no slightest pressure was brought to bear upon him at any time. I cannot understand that. It may be that I am not fitted to understand it. I cannot see the Merton youth as that of a ghastly sinner, and I cannot see the human race as the ghastly mess he seems to have found it before he became a Cistercian. We all inveigh against society and against mankind; but I simply cannot follow his explication of Original Sin, even though I feel that mankind is very little to be trusted.

However, this department is no place for religious controversy or for political controversy, save in occasional tangential comment which may, I think, be allowed to be ironical, satiric, humorous, even, occasionally, angry. Neither do I believe that I am always right. But in the case of my squib I do. Otherwise I should have made no comment upon the situation at all.

\* \* \*

## LO, THE NOT-SO-POOR INDIAN

*A manufacturer in New Britain, Conn., reported today the sale of an electric blanket to a Sioux Indian in South Dakota.—News item.*

Although the night grows colder  
Upon Dakota's plain,  
The campfire's left to smoulder,  
The wind may howl in vain.

For in his streamlined teepee,  
Equipped with AC plug,  
The Sioux, so very sleepy,  
Is snoozing plenty snug.

He may dream dreams of Custer,  
His mind may still be full  
Of Little Bighorn's luster  
And wily Sitting Bull.

He may recall the prairie  
When buffalo ran rife,

## SOLUTION OF LAST WEEK'S DOUBLE-CROSTIC (No. 805)

J. D. CARR:  
(*The Life of*)

SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE

If readers wanted him to restore Sherlock Holmes to life, he would henceforward give them a sound, workmanlike job and accept as much money as slightly deranged editors were willing to pay. He might even, in a mild way, enjoy doing it.

And scalping belts were hairy  
And blood was on the knife.

But though he dreams of old days  
And smiles with proper pride,  
He knows they were the cold days,  
And unelectrified. . . .

The white man took his cattle,  
The white man did him harm,  
But, though he lost the battle,  
At least he now sleeps warm.

—RICHARD ARMOUR.

\* \* \*

The Lyric Associates, Inc. (Foundation for Traditional Poetry) has been established by Virginia Kent Cummins (Mrs. Stephen Cummins), of New York City, herself a poet. Its purpose is to encourage simplicity, clarity, and discipline. Robert Hillyer, as you probably have heard, received the first award made by the Foundation. He is joining the faculty of Kenyon College, Gambier, O., in September. The Foundation has acquired *The Lyric*, a magazine of verse thirty years old, which is now paying for accepted poems.

\* \* \*

#### UPSETTING, ISN'T IT?

What fearsome beast is this we see  
Along the highway hurtle?  
It's just a trailer—happy home  
Of humans turning turtle.

—WIN ECKHARDT.

\* \* \*

Anthony Boucher, writes me of something new. His address is 2643 Dana St., Berkeley 4, Calif.:

Knowing the predilection of the Phoenix for fantastic literature, I venture to call your attention to a new magazine, to appear early in September: *The Magazine of Fantasy*, published by Lawrence Spivak and edited by J. Francis McComas (whom you'll recall as co-editor of Random House's sf-anthology "Adventures in Time and Space") and me. What we're trying to do here is to create a new vehicle for tales of the marvelous—supernatural or superscientific—neither pulp nor slick, but simply literate and entertaining. Our hope, in short, is to do for the fantasy short what Ellery Queen did for the detective short—raise the level of the field, appeal to new readers, provide a fresh market for imaginative writers. I'd also strongly welcome suggestions of good forgotten material to reprint. We aim at a balance of reprint and original material—the first issue runs six originals and five reprints.

\* \* \*

—WILLIAM ROSE BENÉT.

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**CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS** are accepted for things wanted or unwanted; personal services; literary or publishing offers; unclassified elsewhere; miscellaneous items appealing to a special, intelligent clientele; jobs wanted; houses or camps for rent; tutoring; traveling companions; ideas for sale; communications of a decorative nature, opinions (limited to 50 lines). All advertisements must be consonant with the character of *The Saturday Review*. Ads of a personal nature are limited to an exchange of correspondence. Rates: 30¢ per word; 10-word minimum. Count 2 extra words for Box and Number. Rates for several insertions—5¢ times 22¢ a word; 26 times 24¢ a word; 13 times 26¢ a word; 6 times 28¢ a word. Full payment must be received fifteen days before publication. We forward all mail received in answer to box numbers and submit postage bills periodically. Mail to be called for at this office will be held 30 days only. Address: Personals Department, *The Saturday Review*, 25 West 45th Street, New York 19, N. Y.

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(Continued on page 42)

## PERSONALS

(Continued from page 41)

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By **Elizabeth S. Kingsley**

**By Elizabeth S. Kingsley**

## WORDS

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|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 125 | 129 | 81  | 49  | 91  | 66  | 47  | 171 |
| 17  | 110 | 132 | 69  | 136 | 126 | 82  |     |
| 114 | 147 | 158 | 103 | 127 | 19  | 83  |     |
| 140 | 73  | 10  | 85  |     |     |     |     |
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| 1   | 29  | 111 | 172 |     |     |     |     |
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