

Accident Victim Conveys Gratitude To Strangers

Coming in contact with the public under adverse circumstances is the lot of all of us at some time or other. October 28, was my turn as the victim of an automobile acci-

dent. I'm thankful for this opportunity to use the pages of your newspaper to convey my gratitude to all who were helpful to me that night.

The other people involved in the accident, the police, the ambulance attendants were all very kind to me, a stranger. This is the sort of thing money can't buy. My grateful appreciation is extended to each one of them.

ANN FALLON
St. Joseph Mercy hospital

BOOKS and REVIEWS

Women and Thomas Harrow

By John P. Marquand. 497 pp. Boston. Little Brown & Co. \$4.75.

Reviewed by
ROBIN BAHR

John Marquand might best be described as a sociological writer. In practically each of his novels Marquand has carefully studied a segment of society, usually the lower-upper class, and reported accurately on all the subtleties and intricacies of a particular way of life.

There is usually a critical comment to be gleaned from the outcome of the story, but even this plays second fiddle to his chief interest in depicting the small details of a particular way of life.

Marquand is a skilled craftsman. His books are always popular and readable and possibly will be of future value to the social historian. But his conscientious attention to detail and to the particular, limits his outlook and reduces the general or lasting significance of his writing.

IN "WOMEN and Thomas Harrow" Marquand tells the story of a talented but aging playwright unhappily married to his third wife. As is usually the case, his hero encounters a crisis at the moment of his impending bankruptcy. As Thomas Harrow tries to analyze this disaster, he reviews his entire past—in great detail. Through this flashback, we see all the forces and influences which have shaped his life and brought him to this irrevocable point.

Marquand does not seem at home in the world of the theatre as he was in the world of the banker ("Point of No Return") the general ("Melville Goodwin USA"), or even the businessman

("Sincerely, Willis Wade").

PERHAPS it is because social stratifications and the economic and hereditary factors that have created them (which Marquand has made his specialty) are not as significant or as definable in the theatre. At any rate, whatever is the essence of the theatre, Marquand has not captured it.

Marquand sees his playwright viewing everything in terms of the stage. Thus, Thomas Harrow hears conversation as good and bad dialogue, sees places and locations as settings, views his wife entering a room as a stage entrance.

Also, Marquand unfortunately demonstrates what he thinks is witty theatre conversation—first describing it as such, then proving it. The effect is disappointing. Similarly, he describes Rhoda Harrow's first wife, as funny, wonderful, or clever. And the lowly never quite deserves the label.

THERE are good passages in the flashback, and in the description of the pressures success involves. But there are not enough to meet the usual Marquand standard of good reading.

The Most of S. J. Perelman

Collected and Edited by Simon & Schuster. New York. \$5.95

Reviewed by
HERB FISHER

For almost 30 years, the rapid, like thrusts of S. J. Perelman have enlivened the pages of the New Yorker, Holiday, Saturday Evening Post and other leading magazines. With publication of "The Most of S. J. Perelman," Simon and Schuster have compiled the major output of this wildly imaginative humorist, satirist, iconoclast, lexicologist, or what-have-you.

It is virtually impossible to categorize S. J. Perelman. He is unique, remarkable—indeed incredible. He is very, very funny, but with a sting to his pen that cuts ferociously into his subject and leaves the reader wincing through his laughter. Nothing is holy to Perelman, and whatever the target be Santa Claus or a best seller, the lampoonery is smashing.

THE cliché is special prey. Let Perelman spot one dangling and he pounces, kicks it around, ties it up and then devours it mercilessly. The experience is chilling, and funny.

He plays with the English language and fits words together that just ought not to go together—but do. He reaches into a boundless store of topical allusions, and if they puzzle or bewilder the reader, this is clearly no concern of Perelman's. But this combination of unbridled fancy, dazzling wordiness and what sometimes appears like a straining compulsion to pepper every sentence with a laugh, can all add up to taking S. J. in fairly small doses.

In this collection will be found all of the Perelman favorites including "Westward Ho!" "Acres and Pains," "Swiss Family Perelman" and the "Cloudland Revisited" series. A glance at some of the other story titles give an inkling of what is in store. "Beat Me, Post - Impressionist Daddy," "To Sleep, Perchance to Steam," "To There a Doctor in the Case," "It

takes Two to Tango, but Only One to Squirm."

IT IS best to read what Perelman has to say about himself. "Butt-on, rap, rap, rap, under thin and paper poor is S. J. Perelman, whose wit, stooping figure, better known to readers, is a world of five continents than to Publishers' Row. That he possesses the power to become hostile to finance companies . . . and that he owns one of those rare novels in which butter has never melted are legends treasured by every schoolboy."

"Retired today to peaceful Erwinna, Pennsylvania, Perelman raises turkeys which he occasionally displays on Broadway, struts a little from his ambles and reports. . . ."

The Dharma Bums

By Jack Kerouac. 244 pp. New York. The Viking Press. \$3.95.

Reviewed by
TOM PHILLIPS

"The Dharma Bums," the latest novel by the so-called spokesman for the Beat Generation, is pretty dull stuff.

Jack Kerouac's earlier novel "On the Road" at least had the novelty of its relatively unexplored material to recommend it. But that vein has been pretty well mined by now. It takes more than a raw, quivering chunk of hipster life to interest the discerning reader.

"The Dharma Bums," according to the publicity blurb on the dust jacket, is the story of "two adrift young men engaged in a passionate search for Dharma, or Truth — a search that involves theft, together and separately, in a series of free-wheeling explorations, both sacred and profane."

THAT RAY Smith and Japhy Ryder are ebullient and that they are engaged in a search for something (whether it really is truth the reader must decide for himself) cannot be denied. But the trail they follow is such a long, dreary and, for the most part, completely boring one, that the reader is hard pressed to follow. Occasional glimpses of good, interesting writing appear in this book, but they usually are not directly related to the main plot and serve only to hinder the al-



Live up
and take it easy!

With longer-burning Pat'sy Stoker, you remove the clicker only half as often. Pat'sy is over 97% pure coal! It's cleaned and dust proofed at the mines in Eastern Kentucky. Take it easy this winter . . . buy smart . . . buy Pat'sy Stoker.

**FERRIS GARDNER
COAL & OIL CO.**
LI 3-2500

Nov. 13, 1958 THE BIRMINGHAM (MICH.) ECCENTRIC 7-C

ready faltering course of the plot. For those who have read Kerouac's previous novels there is nothing new to be found in "The Dharma Bums." For those who haven't read the earlier writings, this latest novel might prove interesting as strictly a literary curiosity.

The island of Corregidor is one mile wide, four miles long.

Bloused Silhouette
"The bloused form of the more easily fitted silhouette becomes larger this season, often as a palatable alternative to the chemise. The bloused back especially, or as in a number of afternoon crepe dresses the cowl-neck that approximates the bloused look, is very much in evidence; front is either straight or fitted."

PECK'S
Cleaning and Pressing
Cash and Carry
Suits—Top Costs—\$1.70
Wash, Dress, Clean
(delivery service \$1.25)
108 So. Woodward Ave.
MI 4-7724
Call now for pickup and delivery

THURSDAY-FRIDAY-SATURDAY
KRESGE'S 3 DAYS ONLY
BIG BUY SPECIAL
Save 26¢! Reg. 79¢ lb.!
Chocolate-Caramel
Cashew Patties
This Sale Only
53¢ lb.
Chocolate-Covered Caramels
Check-Full of Crunchy Cashews!
Covered your family love these rich, tempting treats . . . so buy special! Delectable for parties, for gifts and dinners, for TV watching. Enjoy them soon . . . and often. Get this treat Thursday, Friday, Saturday only!
You'll Find All Your Favorites in Our Candy Dept!
WEST MAPLE AT HENRIETTA
S. S. KRESGE COMPANY

**DRAPERY HARDWARE
DRAPERY FABRICS**
TRAVERSE RODS FOR BAYS, CORNERS, CEILINGS



- ★ Window Shades
- ★ Bamboo Draperies
- ★ Venetian Blinds
- ★ Woven Wood Shades
- ★ Curtain Rods

For Brisbane-Cafe Curtains
Complete Line of Hooks, Weights, Threads, Pleater Tapes, Etc.
CLEANING—REPAIRING

BESSENGER'S
23535 Woodward Ave.
(Near 9 1/2 Mile Road)
Lincoln 1-4936

The fellow you're Expecting Dec. 25th says!

Every Home Should Have a Desk . . .

Traditional Desks Modern Desks

and here is a Desk for every home whether it's an apartment, house, or a room at school—You'll find a Desk especially for You . . .

\$5.00 will open your
Lay Away
account
NOW
for
Christmas Delivery

Mahogany — Walnut — Maple — Lined Oak: Prices are \$29.50 — \$39.50 — \$49.50 — \$59.50

Har from HI-WAY FURNITURE MART
1532 WOODWARD AVE., BIRMINGHAM, MICH.
4 BLOCKS N. OF 14 M.L.R.D. Midwest 4-1410

Open Monday, Thursday and Friday 'til 9
30 - 60 - 90 DAYS BUDGET TERMS — UP TO 24 MONTHS

OLDSMOBILE FOR '59 INTRODUCES A NEW STYLING CYCLE...



The Conquest of Inner Space!

OLD SMOBILE FOR '59
AT YOUR LOCAL AUTHORIZED QUALITY DEALER'S

SUBURBAN MTRS. CO., INC. 565 S. WOODWARD
— VISIT THE OLDS EXHIBIT AT THE DETROIT AUTO SHOW. DETROIT ARTILLERY ARMORY, NOVEMBER 22-30.