

The Birmingham Eccentric

BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN

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SECTION
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It may afford help and comfort to remember that the whole of human existence is, fundamentally, to provide opportunities and challenges that result in the progress of human beings to more spiritual thought and action. All else, argue the wise men and women of all ages, is completely secondary to this destiny. Therefore, success and failure, problems, troubles . . . all are to test people.

Re-Appoint Zeder To UF Committee

James C. Zeder, Chrysler corporation vice president, has been reappointed co-chairman of the Fair Share Promotion for the 1959 Torch Drive, John C. Cronin, general campaign chairman, has announced. The Zeders live at 1040 Orchard Ridge, Bloomfield Hills.

Zeder, who headed the promotion in the 1958 campaign, will be responsible for reaffirming the Fair Share philosophy by developing factual information and promotional literature to be distributed to more than 15,000 business firms for use in the chapter solicitations.

THESE BUSINESS firms range in size from five to 30,000 employees who represent 3,304,000 people in the United Foundation area as leaders in the idea of equitable giving to maintain 185 community service organizations.

(When a firm conducts one annual solicitation to its employees, turns its profits over to UF as one corporate contribution, and allows no further solicitation, that firm then becomes a "chapter" participating in the annual fund-raising Torch Drive to be held this year from October 13, through November 5.)

THE FAIR SHARE plan was inaugurated in Detroit in the 1955 Torch Drive campaign by 37 business firms. The growing acceptance by management and employees alike for the one-fund appeal and

the painless 52-week payroll deduction method has been substantiated by the more than one and a half million dollars added to total Torch Drive dollars pledged. The Fair Share plan allows the individual to determine his one pledge by giving him a yardstick for generous giving geared to his current income.

Active in civic affairs, James C. Zeder is a director of the budget and finance committee of the Greater Detroit Area Hospital Council, Inc., and a trustee of the Michigan Heart Association.

Seaman Tours West Pacific

WESTERN PACIFIC — Robert W. Minkley, USN, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Minkley of 15672 Birwood, Birmingham, Mich., is serving aboard the heavy cruiser USS Rochester operating with the U. S. Seventh fleet in the Western Pacific.

Local Recruit 'Outstanding'

PORT ORD, CALIF. — Private Harold M. Bjornstad, son of Mr. and Mrs. Mikkarl Bjornstad, 1255 Long Lake Rd., Birmingham, Mich., has been selected as "Outstanding Trainee of the Cycle." He received a letter of commendation, presented by Colonel J. A. Cook, 3d Brigade Commander.

Private Bjornstad graduated from Troy High School, Troy, Mich. in 1954.

Invite Cranbrook To Design Contest

CRANBROOK — The Industrial design department of Cranbrook academy of art has been invited to participate in the Annual student design competition sponsored by the American society of industrial designers which opens in New York City May 1. Judging will be held at Pratt Institute in Brooklyn May 5, followed by an awards dinner the evening of May 6.

Charles McGee, head of Cranbrook Academy's design department has announced that Cranbrook's six participants are Robert Bullard of South Lyon, Ronald Lodge of Detroit, Robert Seeburg of Midland, Richard Haas of Cincinnati, Marc Harrison of New York and Thomas Krepf of Indianapolis.



Henderson, The Rain King

By Saul Bellow. 341pp. New York: The Viking Press, \$4.50.

Reviewed by TOM PHILLIPS

"I am a graduate of an Ivy League University . . . At birth I weighed 14 pounds . . . Then I grew up. Six feet, four inches tall. Two hundred and thirty pounds. An enormous head, rugged. Suspicious eyes, usually narrowed. Blustering ways. A great nose. I, too, am considered crazy, and with good reason—moody, rough, tyrannical, and probably mad."

That's Henderson talking about himself. He forgot to mention he was a pig-raising millionaire, 55 years old but still possessing enormous strength, and the owner of an inner voice which constantly cries, "I want, I want."

DRIVEN by the voice and a restless desire to do something really useful with his life, Henderson goes to Africa, picks up an entertaining black man for a guide and plunges into the wildest areas on foot to seek his destiny.

His first encounter is with the gentle Arnevi tribe whose cattle are dying because of lack of water. The Arnevi have water, but it is infested with frogs and the tribal religion forbids giving water with living things in it to the cattle.

Burning with a desire to help, Henderson makes a bomb and heaves it into the water reservoir. The bomb kills the frogs all right, but it also destroys the reservoir and the precious water is soaked up by the parched earth. Henderson and his man flee.

THEY next meet up with the Warri, a tougher and smarter tribe than the Arnevi but also faced with a water problem. The Warri include Henderson in their rain-making ceremony. When a deluge falls from the sky they jubilantly make Henderson their rain king.

Henderson also befriends the king of the tribe, King Dhafu, a brilliant, well-educated man who tries to instruct Henderson in how to reach peace with his soul and satisfy the voice that cries "I want, I want." But Dhafu dies tragically before the instruction is finished and Henderson goes home.

This is Saul Bellow's first novel since the enchanting "Adventures

of Augie March" and it is a worthy successor to that picturesque masterpiece.

"HENDERSON THE RAIN KING" is a better book than "Augie." It is better written, holds together better and is funnier. Its hero captures and holds the imagination throughout and there are few better things to do than to follow Henderson on his adventures.

The Great Prince Died

By Bernard Wolfe. 398 pp. New York: Charles Scribner's, \$4.50.

Reviewed by CHARLES B. RENFREW

Sometime in 1900 Jacques Morand, alias Frank Jason, will be released from a prison in Mexico. His future is in doubt, although his debt to society for the assassination of Leon Trotsky will be considered legally to have been paid in full.

"The Great Prince Died" is a fictionalized story of the murder of Trotsky (Victor Rostov in the book)—the victorious leader of the Red Armies in the Civil War, the architect and prophet of the worldwide proletarian revolution.

In this book, Wolfe, a former secretary to Trotsky during the latter's Mexican exile, writes knowledgeably of events preceding one of the most publicized but little understood crimes of the 20th century.

THE STORY builds toward the climax with increasing tension and pressure upon all of the characters, but the real drama centers upon Rostov (Trotsky) and the reasons for his inevitable death. In 1921, in ordering the massacre of the rebellious sailors at Kronstadt to serve the revolution, despite his personal forbidding, he is added in the creation of true centralism, wherein the end justifies the means.

This act made possible the police state whose fingers grasped the alpine ice axe that took his own life. However, there was more. Simply stated, Wolfe's thesis is that murder was noted in the nature of a suicide, even though subconscious.

This sacrifice was an attempt to achieve comparative intellectual peace for unleashing the cannibalistic totalitarian state. Kronstadt was the beginning and the end.

Trains To Be Reserve Medic

FORT BENJAMIN HARRISON, Ind., William L. Sheridan, 487 Vinewood, Birmingham, will begin six months active duty training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, on April 19. It was announced here today by Major General Theodore C. Riggs, Commanding General, VI U.S. Army Corps.

Sheridan is a member of the 323rd General Hospital, Army reserve, headquartered in Detroit.

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