

Most people, upon arising each morning, spend necessary time to prepare themselves to meet the day's responsibilities. They will think about things they plan to do, thus the day speeds its way and at night comes the pillow's softness for slumber. Right then could be a time to recall some of the day's pleasantness . . . and blessings.

Auto Club Head Praises State Safety Leaders

"Michigan has proved you don't have to run scare campaigns to improve traffic safety," Frank J. Howlett, Automobile Club of Michigan president, said today in congratulating safety leaders throughout the state on the 1958 record.

"We have become the traffic safety showplace of the nation by reducing fatalities and accidents sharply for the third straight year," he said. "In addition to the lives saved, last year's reduction means a savings of an estimated \$20 million in traffic accident costs."

Howlett, 1160 Hillside, Birmingham, said that other states would be wise to follow Michigan's lead in fashioning workable safety programs.

"Our leaders are not trying to scare drivers off the highway with a lot of frightening statistics or bogey-man literature," he stated. "Contrary to many states, they have rejected such negative safety measures as fleets of unmarked police cars, ticket writing organs, mass reduction of speed limits and compulsory motor vehicle inspection. They have wisely favored positive action based on the cooperative effort of many agencies."

HE SAID continued improvement in the state traffic picture stems from sound ideas, hard work, education, enforcement and enthusiasm.

He listed as major reasons for Michigan's record: development of express highways in the state which carry through traffic around cities, an expanded state police force the recent driver education law and improvement of motor vehicles.

"However, the most important factor of all is undoubtedly the voluntary spirit of cooperation shown by various agencies, as well as by the vast majority of drivers

and pedestrians, in working toward safer streets and highways in Michigan," he added. "Newspapers, radio and television in the state have done a wonderful job of instilling this spirit in our drivers."

While final figures are not completed, early 1958 estimates show the state with a 10.6 per cent reduction in traffic fatalities, a seven per cent drop in injuries and a decrease of more than 11 per cent over 29,000 in total accidents from last year.

Since 1955, the annual total has dropped approximately 640 deaths, 5,600 for injuries and 26,000 for total accidents.

Correction: No Delay on Wider Maple in 1959

West Maple this summer will be widened the rest of the way to Cranbrook, as originally planned by city and county road officials. In a story last week, The Birmingham Eccentric misread a sentence in a report by City Manager I. R. Gate and concluded the widening was to be delayed a year.

The delay, Gate reported, will be in widening Maple west of Cranbrook road to Lahser.

The county has agreed to pay 75 per cent of the 1959 widening between Westchester and Cranbrook in Birmingham.

The Ford Motor Company recently produced its 50-millionth vehicle.

BOOKS and REVIEWS

The Memoirs of Field-Marshal Montgomery

487 pp. New York. World Publishing Co. \$6.00.

Reviewed by Byron Farrell

This is an age of memoirs. Everyone is writing them. But one of the most remarkable and interesting of modern times is this forthright look by the conqueror of the Germans at Alamog.

Although not intended as autobiography—in a book of 487 pages, the author arrives at the age of 53 on page 62—the book derives much of its interest through the character of the lonely, dedicated man who wrote it.

Montgomery attributes his success to three qualities: Hard work, absolute integrity and moral courage. Certainly no one can put down his book without believing that he strove mightily to live up to those principles as he saw them.

ALTHOUGH briefly married, his first marriage was to the British Army, although he had but one son of his own, the British soldier who served under him were his sons. He served in the army for 50 years.

It is not always easy for the reader to agree with all of the opinions of this soldier, but he has been right so often that disagreement should be carefully weighed. There were few people in his life—perhaps none—with whom he himself did not disagree, and in the most forceful manner. Naturally enough, one of these men was President Eisenhower.

Much has been made of the criticisms of Eisenhower included in this book. Too much. To pick out the critical passages and not to counterbalance them with other statements is to be both misleading and dishonest. While Montgomery does severely criticize Eisenhower's leadership during the Normandy campaign, he also pays him the highest compliments.

TOGETHER with his father, Field-Marshal Alanbrooke, and Winston Churchill, Montgomery

places Eisenhower: one of the four men who had the most influence on his life.

"We did not always agree about the strategy and major tactics of the war in which we were engaged," Montgomery writes. "But history will do no harm in talking about honest differences of opinion between us, provided . . . it does so under the shadow of the great truth that Allied cooperation in Europe during the Second World War was brought to the greatest heights it has ever attained. Although it may be true to say that no man could have been responsible for such an achievement, the major share of the credit goes to Eisenhower—without any doubt."

THIS IS high praise indeed? It has also been stated, or implied, that Montgomery is so pro-British as to be anti-American. This is far from the truth. If Montgomery has some hard things to say about the American government, he has even harsher things to say about his own government. Nowhere does he say a disparaging word about Americans as people.

In fact, woven throughout the book is a strong plea for strong Anglo-American friendship.

The book is written with the shrewdness of a battle order and, while containing much slang, it manages to avoid being racy in style. But it is not for the style, but for the content, that this book is read and has deservedly earned its niche on the best-seller lists.

Exodus

By Leon Uris. 626 pp. New York. \$4.50.

Reviewed by CHARLES B. RENFREW

Exodus, the second book of Moses in the Old Testament, deals with the flight of the Jews from Egypt to the promised land. Similarly, Leon Uris' "Exodus" is concerned with the flight of the Jews, not only from Egypt, but from all the ghettos and concentration camps of Europe to their promised land (the Balfour Declaration, 1917). This fictionalized history of the birth struggles of Israel reveals through a series of flashbacks, the

trials of a restless and courageous people to establish a home.

It begins with the inflicted suffering of the Jews throughout Europe and the Middle East and the first victory in the partition of Palestine at the end of WWI. It continues with the catastrophic setbacks under the Germans in WWII. For the casual reader, infamous names like Dachau and Auschwitz will not take on terrifying meaning.

NOT ONLY were these unbelievable crimes by the Germans against the Jews, but they represent the height of man's inhumanity to man. The book describes Israel in the present—her seemingly impossible task of wresting a living from the rugged and barren land, and, finally, the successful war against a legion of hostile Arab nations, who saw in tiny Israel a threat to their own existence.

This is a violently written book. Its pages pour over with the torment of tortured souls. Yet, despite the pain and suffering, it is essentially a book of optimism. Man, it is true, is capable of committing heinous crimes against man, but he is also capable of dedicated sacrifice for and compassion toward man.

His book also contains a list of all of the club's selections from 1926 through 1957, plus some very interesting appendices in which critic and publisher opinion on the BOMC, both pro and con, is aired.

THE BOMC was founded by Harry Scherman, a Canadian. When it "began operations in 1926, it occupied a couple of rooms

ONE OF the finest moments of WW II was the action of King Christian of Denmark under the German occupation. When the Germans announced that all Jews must wear a yellow arm band with a Star of David, Christian announced to his people via the underground radio that all Danes were the same, and that he would wear the first Star of David and expected every loyal Dane to do the same.

Faced with the entire population wearing such armbands, the Germans resented the order. The lives and suffering that King Christian's action saved are immeasurable.

The main characters are set forth without subtlety, but to criticize the book on that ground is like criticizing the countryside seen from a train because of a personally displeasing billboard or two.

THE AUTHOR'S pride and respect for the story of the establishment of Israel will be shared by the reader.

The Hidden Public

By Charles Lee. 236 pp. New York. Doubleday & Company, Inc. \$3.95.

Reviewed by TOM PHILLIPS

"The Hidden Public" is the story of the Book-of-the-Month club and how it grew from modest beginnings into what some call the "best mail-order bookstore in America." Let, an associate professor of English at the University of Pennsylvania, begins his study of the BOMC with a discussion of the origins of book clubs in general. From there he traces the origin and growth of the BOMC in particular through several interesting chapters, concluding with the club's status in 1957.

His book also contains a list of all of the club's selections from 1926 through 1957, plus some very interesting appendices in which critic and publisher opinion on the BOMC, both pro and con, is aired.

THE BOMC was founded by Harry Scherman, a Canadian. When it "began operations in 1926, it occupied a couple of rooms

of a small walk-up building" in New York city. "Today, besides its large headquarters . . . it uses one whole building of six floors and basement solely for circulating, warehousing, and shipping."

"From three partners and two clerks it has grown into an organization of approximately a thousand employees. Its first selection, 'Lolly Willows,' was sent out to 4750 members. Twenty years later it rolled up an advance printing (largest in its history) of 521,000 copies of Frederic Wakeman's 'The Hucksters.'"

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Scout Troop B-32 To Hold Dinner

Boy Scout troop B-32 of the First Methodist church will hold its annual family dinner in commemoration of Boy Scout Week at 6:45 p.m. Feb. 9.

The public is invited to attend both the dinner and a court of honor when the Scouts will receive their promotions and badges.

Laymen's League

The Laymen's League of the Birmingham Unitarian church will hold its monthly dinner meeting Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the Community House. Dr. Dwight B. Ireland, superintendent of Birmingham Schools, will speak on "The Allocation of Funds for Education in Oakland County." The public is invited to hear Dr. Ireland's speech at 8 p.m.

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