

Hemingway Left A Literary Record

Few critics would dispute the assertion that Ernest Hemingway was the most imitated writer of our time. His influence on the writing of fiction, both in the United States and abroad, was profound. Yet it can be said in tribute to this American author that no imitator successfully challenged his pre-eminence during a literary career that spanned more than 30 years.

It does not follow that the critics universally approved his work—the flow of novels and short stories that poured out after his first success, “The Sun Also Rises,” in 1926. Some readers found Hemingway’s outlook too narrow, overly concerned with violence and death, not sufficiently touched with compassion. Some found his terse, direct style too. To what?

ON THE WHOLE, however, the author of “A Farewell to Arms” and “For Whom the Bell Tolls” enjoyed a tremendous reputation solely based on both critical and popular acclaim. The literary experts generally conceded that at his best he was without a peer. The reading public expressed their views by buying his books in great quantity, and a number of successful movies were based on his works.

Ernest Hemingway lived an adventurous life, wrote by preference of men under pressure, and died abruptly before reaching old age. No one can say what niche he will occupy in the literary hall of fame a century hence. But it can be said that he was a man who saw much, who wrote with brilliant art of what he saw, and who thus helped great numbers of his fellow men to see themselves more clearly.

More Church-Goers—Not ‘Moral Fruitage’

The increasing manifestations of religious interest in the United States during the past decade or so are a matter of record. Judged by outward indexes such as church membership and attendance, religious giving, church building programs and the like, this heightened interest is substantial.

From time to time, however, misgivings about the depth and significance of this religious interest have been expressed by thoughtful men. Questions as to the true meaning that should be attached to the U.S. religious “revival” have been asked by persons whose skepticism is all the more searching because they so deeply want the revival to be genuine.

THE MOST RECENT—AND one of the most disturbing—expression of misgivings emerged from the General Assembly of the United Presbyterian church. A report made to this body sums up its indictment as follows: “The ‘return to religion’ in our day has produced no corresponding moral fruitage. On the contrary, while the curvy of religious interest has been rising, that of moral health has been falling.”

The truth of that cannot be denied; the evidence is too overwhelming. The question is not whether there has been a moral decline in this country, but to what extent it may have infected our society. The study cited above finds “corrosion and disease in the moral life of the people.” The seriousness and spread of these ailments is the legitimate concern of all Americans. If our rising preoccupation with religion bears poor “moral fruitage,” something is deeply wrong.

From The Eccentric’s Point of View . . .

There seems to be little question today but that Russia’s Khrushchev believes that his country has the western nations “on the run”. At least this is what one reads and hears these days since the Soviet leader met with President Kennedy in Vienna recently. Continuous inability of the Western nations to prevent the spread of communism in Europe and Asia, and now in Cuba, only 90 miles from U.S. territory, has no doubt stimulated Khrushchev to assume his current arrogance. The Soviet strategy in this cold war is always to keep it just short of a hot one; that’s why, again, Khrushchev has demanded that the western nations remove themselves from Berlin for the high standard of living in West Berlin is too close to communist-dominated East Germany, which latter area continues to exist far below West Berlin’s better life. West Berlin’s standard of living, of course, proves that a people living under the banner of



Editorial Page

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A Free, Responsible and Aggressive Press Is Democracy’s First Line of Defense

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freedom are able to enjoy more of the fruits of their labor than those who remain shackled to the police state.

We often have said that the United Nations can and has helped in the solution of numerous international problems. We also affirmed our conviction that, when all the cards are down, the U.N. is helpless to prevent war—whether such wars be little ones or potential (God forbid!) big ones. In the recent Cuban situation, when the United States called upon non-Communist UN members to side with us to denounce Castro’s allegiance with the Soviet, not a single member did so. Not even Britain, France or West Germany, who are supposed to be our allies. Nor did India, though we have given it billions of dollars. What price Freedom?

Viewing the nations of this earth today, it must be apparent that merely giving other nations hundreds of millions, even billions, is no way of getting them to join in the preservation of freedom. Failure to see that most of these “gifts” were properly managed, so that the human values implicit in them got down to the average person in those primitive nations, is of our own U.S.A. making. Do you believe that career bureaucrats are capable of satisfactorily handling foreign aid?

Not satisfied with providing a federal government loan, grant or gift to about

everybody, the boys in the nation’s Capital are proposing that the federal treasury should provide up to a million dollars each for the two major political parties in Presidential campaigns; lesser amounts for the smaller parties. Suggestions like this reveal the extent of “pillaging thinking” that has seeped into the thinking (?) of some public officials. What, indeed, has happened to private political enterprise—the very essence of political freedom?

Apparently, it’s very good that France has Charles de Gaulle—not just for France but also for the free world. Had France’s Algerian rebellion not been quelled, France itself would have been less potent as an ally of the Western World. That includes U. S. A. . . .

For the first time during this century a Republican U.S. Senator was elected in Texas. His name is John G. Tower. A fitting name for the man who over-shadowed his Democratic opponent. Yes, Mr. Tower, “the eyes of Texas are upon you”—not to mention the other 49 States.

Just in case, say a half century from now, the then editor of this newspaper wants to know what kind of a May we had here in this Birmingham area, let’s record the fact that it was the coldest May in about a generation . . . and that some 26-ton snow fell on the morning of May 21.



Grand Rapids Mayor Stanley J. Davis this week came up with the suggestion that the Con-Con ought to hold its meetings in several cities. He says Lansing, Detroit and Grand Rapids at least should be included.

He says he’s willing to go “even farther”—and have some sessions held in Upper Peninsula.

HE REASONS THAT THIS will avoid a fight over which city is going to get the Convention. This “would eliminate possible resentment others might feel toward the city winning such a fight.” Davis argues: “The convention should be held with the least inconvenience to the general public. The convenience of the delegates or their office staffs should not be the primary consideration.”

JUST HOW THE GENERAL PUBLIC is going to be inconvenienced by having the Convention meet only in one city Mayor Davis hasn’t made clear.

In fact, it would appear that the public could be greatly inconvenienced by getting a constitution that delegates put together in their automobiles,

One Thing or Another

BY GEORGE WM. AVERILL

On trains, or in hotel lobbies. Of course, through Davis’ plan delegates would get to see a great deal of their state by holding such one-night stops. But voters might find themselves accidentally voting on Ann Arbor railroad schedules or Mullet Lake resort room rates, too. Convention delegates should decide on one town—and stay there till they’ve completed their drafting of the new constitution. Their final decision will be the most important matter presented to the Michigan electorate in half a century.

That American Revolution has turned into a flop. Look at how much taxation there is today!

- Seven reasons for remaining in your rut:
- 1) You tried it once before.
 - 2) It will cost too much to get out.
 - 3) You don’t want to try a new way to get out.
 - 4) It’s not your responsibility to get yourself out.
 - 5) You’re not ready to get out.
 - 6) You’re doing all right where you are.
 - 7) You’ll never get out anyway.

PEOPLE’S COLUMN

Needlework Guild Aids Big Brothers in County

To the Editor: Big Brothers of Oakland County is a private social agency working throughout the county in its specific job of finding a man to be a friend of a boy on a one-to-one basis. This is done through screening, training and the proper assignment of a man to a boy who has in his life an emotional void. There are times, however, when the agency needs augmentive help. One of these needs has been supplied to us through the generosity of the women of the Needlework Guild.

EACH YEAR Big Brothers of Oakland County sends a representative to the Needlework Guild an estimated idea of the amount of new clothes which will be helpful to us. In the fall at the time of the “ingathering,” these things are arranged and we go to Birmingham for them. Johnnie Smith, age 8, needs two pairs of shoes and a sweater. He has a Big Brother but his mother needs a clothes for him. It is possible, also, that his sister and his mother might need things and these requests are taken

out of our storeroom from time to time and distributed where the need is apparent.

LAST YEAR through the kindness of the Needlework Guild, our agency alone was able to help 32 area families with clothing needs. We feel that this vital building up an already disturbed morale and that it enhances the possibility of success for the Big Brother may have with his boy. Inasmuch as the Needlework Guild has also been aware of special needs which we have, a check from them has made possible through a special account—the payment of an emergency grocery bill, clothing which was not on list given us, special types of shoes, and an eye examination and glasses.

It is, therefore, most apparent that the Needlework Guild is contributing indirectly to the brotherhood of man. We of Big Brothers of Oakland County will always be grateful.

WILLIAM L. CLARK
Executive Director
Big Brothers of Oakland County

Disappointed at Showing Of the Arts in Festival

To the Editor: Birmingham Arts Festival is a very commendable idea, and all who contributed the time, money and talents deserve a vote of thanks.

As in the past so it is today that the country and the nation is appreciated by its cultural level which is expressed by the degree of development and public appreciation of the arts, fine music and fine literature.

As much of that criterion can be applied to Birmingham Arts Festival? Personally, I was disappointed in poor showing of fine arts, particularly paintings. I had hoped to see all modes of artistic expressions represented, but instead it was exclusively a showing by the group of men and women who are blind followers of Russian-born Kadinsky. Paul Klee, Jackson Pollock, Braque, Leger, Duchamps, self-proclaimed Red-dictator Picasso and a host of others who have been attempting to square the circle for the last 40 years.

THEY HAVE been trying to convince the American public that the art they produce by throwing paint on the canvas is vastly superior to the art already in achievements of past masters.

The writers and scientists do not rest but on the basis of past continue the progression. Why artist then pretends he is just emerging out of the jungle learning only how to smear the colors and make the most unimpressive scapular jumble out of junk? Perhaps Picasso’s confession be-

fore Papi, Italian critic, could partially explain this trend in so called modern abstract art.

“IN ART, those who are rich, unoccupied seek what is strange, extravagant, scandalous, I myself, since children have satiated these masters and critics, and the less they understood me the more they admired me.”

“By amusing myself with all those absurdities I became rich and famous . . . But when I am alone with myself, I have not the courage to think of myself as an artist as great as Giotto, Titian, Rembrandt, Goya . . .”

“I am a public entertainer, who has understood his time and am exhausted as best as he could the impetuosity, the vanity, the egotism of his contemporary art world. I am a bitter confessor—but sincere . . .”

Still for a better understanding of so called modern art read Hon. George Dondero’s Congressional Records: Dondero Art Shackled to Communist—Aug. 16, 1949, and Communist Conspiracy in Art Threatens American Museums—March 17, 1952.

S. OLSHANSKA
Art Supervisor, ret.

Letters from readers always are welcome. But they MUST be signed, although identities will not be divulged if the writer so requests.

Happenings of Long Ago

Bits of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eccentric

30 YEARS AGO

July 14, 1931 At the regular annual school meeting held at the school house last Monday evening a most harmonious gathering was assembled. The old officers C. H. Carter and E. R. Smith were elected to succeed themselves. The people present . . . voted to buy three acres more of land to be added to the C. W. Bruce, on Pierce Street, for the new school building.

Seats for the public at the intersection of Brown Street and Woodward avenue are not wanted by the U. P. church people or the nearby residents. The people are to build a seat, Dr. N. T. Shaw got busy and called a halt. Last Sunday night some strong right arm and sharp axe finished the board seat that had been a nuisance to the neighborhood.

The suit for Gus Skibowski, a rural route carrier, and Ira Reed, village marshal, which is to be held in the circuit court, has been set for the September term. Skibowski is suing for the return of a horse which Reed took out of his barn and hind Reid claims Skibowski traded to him for an auto.

30 YEARS AGO

July 16, 1931 The committee in charge of the celebration to be held here on Aug. 1 to commemorate the opening of the new Grand Trunk commuter service is on the look-out for Birmingham’s most beautiful girl to provide the brilliant “Pageant of Progress” which will be one of the highlights of the celebration. Nominations will be received in the lobby of the Birmingham Theater every afternoon and evening until July 20.

F. McKinley, Earl G. Potter and Joe Martz were swept into office on the Birmingham Board of Education Monday on the crest of the largest vote ever polled in a school board election. A total of 1255 votes were cast. McKinley and Potter were elected for three-year terms. Martz was chosen to fill a one-year vacancy.

The State Highway Commission began today its annual road bid on the construction of that portion of old Woodward between Little Road and Lincoln avenue along the old Grand Trunk right-of-way.

15 YEARS AGO

July 11, 1946 A proposed \$1 million off-street parking program to provide ample

parking facilities for the downtown Birmingham business section for the next 20 years was outlined to a group of 22 Birmingham Woodward and Maple avenue property owners by Charles S. Rust of the City Plan Commission at a meeting Tuesday evening in the municipal building.

Mayor Milton Malleryer some time ago has signed the first two parts of the contract between the city of Birmingham and the Federal Public Housing Authority. He stated to the Commission at Monday’s meeting. His signature will bring the matter in motion to bring 13 modest huts from San Diego, Calif. to Birmingham to alleviate the veterans’ housing shortage.

For the second year in succession Cranbrook School is going to play host to the Western Junior and Boy’s Tennis Championship. The event will be run off on the red asphalt courts of the school on July 22 to July 27.

STRICTLY FRESH

One of the most serious problems of these days is supporting the arms race and a wife on one income.

A nickle goes pretty far in this time and age. You can carry it around for days without losing anything you can buy with it.



Summer is here! You know that time of year when the officials close the high ways and open up the detours.

Inflation is not without its benefits. For example, a forty-ster can’t get sick on a nickle’s worth of candy any more.

To tell a little boy that crying won’t help may be true. But how can you tell a little girl the same thing?

City Beat

It was a pleasant Sunday afternoon. A good day for loafing, for watching the ball game on TV.

“The Tigers were losing after taking two straight from Baltimore.”

Because the baby was asleep, the TV sound was turned down low.

But the words “News Bulletin” flashing across the screen caught the eyes.

“The sound was turned up . . .”

“Accidentally shot and killed himself.”

Who? was the thought immediately jumping to mind.

“We repeat, novelist Ernest Hemingway today accidentally shot and killed himself at his mountain lodge . . .”

THIS WAS A shock.

Hemingway? The master hunter? An expert with firearms? Shot and killed? Accidentally? Then came a feeling of loss.

To realize that no more novels like “For Whom the Bell Tolls,” “A Farewell to Arms” and “The Old Man and the Sea” would come from his typewriter.

Here was a man you didn’t have to know personally to feel that you did know. You felt acquainted with him because of his books, because of his writings, because of what and how he had written.

Hemingway WAS a great writer.

To be a great writer, you have to feel, know and understand the great emotions, the joys and the tragedies that people experience.

Hemingway was a great writer. To be a great writer, you have to study and be able to discern the styles of other greater writers, then fashion your own style.

Hemingway was a great writer.

MANY WRITERS try to emulate Hemingway. This is a tribute to his talents, but it is a mistake.

There can be only one Hemingway. The world can accept only one real Hemingway.

Besides, writers who become more concerned with how they are writing than with what they are writing fail.

Hemingway succeeded. Now Hemingway is gone. The loss will persist.

Talk of the Towns

Here comes some protas. The “truffles-my-teethers list” is getting a bit long. The time has arrived to air a few of the items.

On the general side: The comment, “Just a weekly newspaper,” is becoming more and more frustrating.

That “just” involves an average of 265 hours per week put in by eight editorial staffers, seven advertising people, 10 linotype and composing men, 3 pressmen, one photographer and four engravers.

In the news department specifically, the eight persons turn out an average of 2,000 column inches each week. It takes four typewritten lines to make one inch.

In addition to writing, editing, determining headlines, designing cover pages and sizing pictures, this staff answers about 320 telephone calls per day. The calls range from point-blank criticism to praise; questions to answers.

Many times the office is considered the Birmingham Bureau of the World Almanac with queries for “Can I wear my mink in the sun?” and “what’s the capital of the Malagasy Republic?” — (the answer is Tananarive, incidentally).

Five of the eight news people cover four cities, three townships and four villages. One person handles the social side of the news; another, sports. No. 8 has the job of coordinating all of this.

To individuals involved in producing a weekly newspaper, it is more than “just a job.” It is a responsibility that for the most part is extremely satisfying.

Maybe that’s why there are more than 8,000 of them in this nation.

On the specific side: Parents who buy and set off firecrackers shouldn’t be surprised when their children develop the same casual attitude toward the law.

Fighting fire snafus; peanuckle for pinhole; grievance for grievance; peanuck for peanuck; subside for hand-hewn; consteater for consteater; subside for subside; badminten for badminten; sepulture for sepulture; shank for shank; erbs for herbs; gubernatorial for gubernatorial; partizan for partizion; typhoon for tycoon; rhythm for rhythm; or derives for hors d’oeuvres—and the classic-candle opera for candlebars.

Protests worth a laugh: Webster’s masterpiece isn’t used enough in the home. Proof of this is illustrated by words listed from various items sent here.

Zanous fir snafus; peanuckle for pinhole; grievance for grievance; peanuck for peanuck; subside for hand-hewn; consteater for consteater; subside for subside; badminten for badminten; sepulture for sepulture; shank for shank; erbs for herbs; gubernatorial for gubernatorial; partizan for partizion; typhoon for tycoon; rhythm for rhythm; or derives for hors d’oeuvres—and the classic-candle opera for candlebars.