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Home not classroom for course in good manners

Far be it from us to enter into theological debate with a worthy church journal, but when it comes down to elementary educational matters we are afraid we shall have to take exception to an editorial in the current issue of the United Church Observer.

"Modern education," says the Observer, "in addition to equipping technicians to make a good living, should also teach young people good manners even how to use properly a knife and fork in the dining room. Teaching good manners, even little things like the use of a knife and fork, is part of the job of a church university, if not in the classroom, at least in the dining room."

As if that isn't bad enough the Observer goes on to say:

"Professors' wives tell of students who accept invitations for tea or dinner, then fail to appear and send no regrets. We learn of a few ministers, up on theology, who are notorious for tactlessness and bad manners.

"University missions and evening chapel prayers, counselling by don and dean, discussion groups and talkfests have an important place (in church universities) but among the things a church college can do is to teach young men and women to eat properly, and in all other things to behave like ladies and gentlemen."

Now basically there is really nothing wrong with the suggestion that some of our young people need to be taught manners, but, by Gad sir, or madam, as the case may be, manners, deportment and the taboo of not eating peas with one's knife are not the concern of the classroom, whether it be church college, university, the high school or the elementary school.

It is the home and the parents who should be concerned that little Murgatroyd or Esmeralda do not slurp their consomme or break crackers into their clam chowder. It is father and mother who should instruct Montgomery and Stephanie that they shouldn't use their fork like a toad stabber and their knife as a dagger, not slice their roll but break it and ask for something to be passed them rather than exercise their "boarding house reach." Then there's the basic politeness of saying "please" and "thank you" instead of "I guess so."

It may be that the Observer has found that church universities are suddenly being invaded by children whose parents didn't bother to impress upon them the niceties of life or the need to behave like ladies and gentlemen. Our complaint is based on something more serious. It is hard enough in this day and age of progressive education to have our children taught the three "R's" and enough other subjects to complete their formal education without bothering their teachers with extras such as teaching junior which hand he uses for his fork and not to tuck his napkin in his belt. We have complaints from teachers as it is about the amount of "baby-sitting" they do and some teachers already have a strange quirk of substituting homework for instruction. More and more the parents are assuming the role of tutor and the students left to fend for themselves. However, the parents do spend two meals a day with their offspring and they would do well to see that manners become a part of family life, even a learn-as-you-go course in social etiquette. That will at least leave the teachers and the professors time to impart the academic knowledge needed by our youngsters. If by chance students still reach university or church college without manners, then both the universities and the world will have to resign themselves to letting them remain slobs, even the ministers.

CONSTANT PUBLIC AWARENESS REQUIRED

Kennedy to try to keep judges out of politics

President Kennedy will have this newspaper's earnest support in carrying into effect one campaign statement which has received too little attention. Last August he said:

"I would hope that the paramount consideration in the appointment of a judge should not be his political party but his qualifications for the office."

To fulfil this fine purpose the new administration will require constant public awareness and support. For the custom has been for both parties to place too much emphasis on the politics of men appointed to the tremendously important federal bench. For six years Congress has held up bills adding much-needed judges — apparently so that they could be named by a Democratic President.

Early approval is now expected of a bill creating 63 new judgeships. The relief this will bring to crowded federal dockets should be welcomed for itself. But it will be doubly welcome if Mr. Kennedy can realize his campaign "hope" — that qualifications, not party, be the prime test in appointing judges.

In the early Eisenhower years a preponderance of Republicans were selected — redressing an imbalace created in the Roosevelt-Truman years. But Mr. Eisenhower had offered to divide appointments evenly if needed new judgeships could be set up. If Mr. Kennedy can follow such a pattern now a vital step will be taken in strengthening necessary efforts to keep the courts out of politics.

Cocern for these efforts was expressed when Mr. Kennedy named his chief political manager as Attorney General — from whose office recommendations for appointments come. The fact is the same course had been followed in the first Eisennower administration did not remove this anxiety. But the spotlight did not on Robert Kennedy and his able assistants. And the final decisions rest with the President, who is squarely on the record for keeping judiciary appointments out of politics.

— From The Christian Science Monitor

NOT EFFECTIVE AGAINST REDS

Philippines feel SEATO doomed to failure

By JIM BECKER
Associated Press Staff Writer

KUALA LUMPUR (AP) — The Philippine government is ready to write off SEATO as a effective anti-Communist force in Asia.

Filipino leaders think the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization might not survive its March meeting.

This was learned when Foreign Secretary Felixberto Serano and other Philippine officials arrived in Malaya to prepare for a state visit by President Carlos Garcia to this Southeast Asian nation.

It was learned that Serrano bluntly told the U.S., British and French ambassadors in Manila his government feels SEATO has failed to meet the Laotian crisis because it has not driven back the Communists.

Serrano's government believes Britain and France have paralyzed the organization and fears that the U.S. may be bowing to its NATO allies.

Serrano, it is understood, is planning to go to Bangkok for the SEATO foreign ministers meeting next month to urge the anti-Communist nations of Southeast Asia to replace SEATO with separate defence treaties with the United States, hereby bypassing Britain and France.

Serrano may even fly to Washington before the meeting to put these views before the leaders of the Kennedy administration.

It is understood these views are shared by South Korea, South Viet Nam and Nationalist China, and possibly Thailand.

These nations are opposed to the British-sponsored plan to restore the international armistice commission for Laos composed of India, Canada and Poland. They fear it would mean a halt to American aid to the anti-Communist forces in Laos and at the same time make Communist penetration of the kingdom easier.

A Bible Thought for Today

The grass witheredh and the flower fadeth, the Word of our God endureth forever. Isiah 40:8.

The Hebrew word dabar translated WORD has more than a score of different meanings. The Bible certainly contains God's Word, although some parts are vastly more helpful than others. A dumb beast selects herbage in its pasture that it finds nourishing. We should be equally wise.

CITY AT NIGHT — The Vancouver skyline is spectacular at night when viewed from downtown Stanley Park. Photographer George Diack took this picture with a high-speed film and a 40-second exposure at F8. — CP Photo

TIME AND PLACE

By WALTER WICKS, Alderwood Manor, Washington

PIONEER DOCTORS

In a previous article in this column, I wrote of some of the old time river characters with whom I was associated in many years on the lower Skeena River, but a tribute is also in order to another type of men who worked along the coast at that early date. These were the medical men who would undoubtedly be classed as old timers, unknown by the present generation.

Volumes could be written of these professional gentlemen who worked so diligently in the medical field, but space will only allow me here to mention but two of these men who gave so much of their time and talent.

In the early summer of 1901, smallpox broke out at Inverness and North Pacific canneries. Dr. Bolton, who maintained a hospital at Port Simpson and another at Port Essington during the fishing season, found that the disease had been brought among us by an Indian family from the Naas River.

The doctor had no help other than a man known as Stuttering Hans who was a good friend of our family. The people working at the other canneries along the river were also checked closely in case the disease had spread. The doctor worked many long days and nights, and aside from an occasional steam tug to travel on, he relied on a canoe or open boat for transportation.

I well remember Hans, daily bringing food, clothing and other supplies across the river from the North Pacific Cannery where the affected were isolated and disinfecting everything that was used. He was not too particular in separating the clothing, simply boiling it all in five gallon coal oil cans over an open fire on the beach. This brought considerable protest from one Indian when he beheld his Salvation Army uniform strung out on a line to dry, and as Hans put it, "They came out all colors of the rainbow."

The doctor came to our cannery, informing us that every man, woman and child must prepare for vaccination. I was eight years old and let out plenty of squeals when the doctor scratched my arm with that needle.

All the cannery workers were asked to line up outside their summer cabins with bared arms and it seemed a strange procedure to the Indians to be so painfully scratched with a needle.

What some of those Native mothers said in their native language about the pain in their arms would hardly have improved the overworked Dr. Bolton's disposition.

The doctor was to be highly commended for he kept the disease confined to a limited area and I do not remember any deaths. Late in the summer the boats and buildings that had been used made a great fire when it was all over. With the aid of spyglasses, we could see Hans pouring on the coal oil and applying the torch. Such was the end of an epidemic that might have gotten out of control but for the untiring energy of a man deeply devoted to his profession.

And now to Doctor Kergin. He was a well-known and respected man, hardy, persevering and deeply devoted to his work. In his duties to bring medical aid to the ill and comfort to the dying, he was compelled to undergo many hardships. With limited medical equipment, these medical men were pioneers in every sense of the word.

Imagine being called to attend a patient 40 miles distant, 40 miles of travel in an open boat, and required to make the journey through storms, skirting treacherous reefs, over or around sandbars, through narrow channels of sunken rocks, bucking tides and snow storms. These were some of the conditions this man contended with, and he took them all in good stride.

Here is one situation with which Dr. Kergin was confronted. Two Japanese had been shipwrecked on Porcher Island, and after many days of privation, were rescued. When they were brought in by sailboat, the doctor decided it was necessary to remove the frozen feet of one of them. He performed the double amputation with the sole aid of George Frizzell, the Port Essington butcher.

There was one humorous incident which was credited to the doctor. He received a call to come quickly and was given the impression it was an emergency. When he arrived at the bedside of the Indian patient, he found that it was a simple case of bellyache from having eaten too much salmon.

After examining the patient, the Doctor said, "Theres nothing wrong with you."

'But, Doctor, I very sick man," the Indian complained.

"Don't gorge so freely on salmon," was the Doctor's advice.

Later, he was asked what he had done.

"I gave him an exceptionally heavy dose of castor oil that will really give him a bellyache," was his answer.

It was difficult for many old timers to express their deep gratitude concerning this man's services he had rendered, and from many of them I listened to comments such as, "That Doc knew his stuff when he straightened out my bust leg, after me draggin' it around for a couple of days. Boy, was I a near goner."

And from the little Indian, Dan Watte-Boo who said, "Docta Kergin, he smart man. Take "pow" from my belly. Sew up many place." This man had been shot through the intestines and had about a dozen perforations. It happened near the village at the time I was attending school at Metlakatla.

And then there was Alfred McKay who had split his chin in two with a rifle bullet, relating, "Doc Kergin sewed up the two halves and now I can eat as good as ever."

Many such incidents could be written of this man's marvelous achievements.

I remember my brother, Paul bringing my attention to a small boat coming down river without sail or oars. It was travelling quite fast and yet it showed no visible signs of propulsion. This was something too deep for us to understand, something almost bewildering. We asked our parents how a small boat could travel at such speed, with nothing—for to our eyes it seemed like a phantom.

"I guess that boat is pushed with one of them coal oil engines I've heard about," remarked our father.

"But where is the smoke coming out? I don't see any smoke stack," I said. I was thinking of the steam tug.

We later learned it was Doctor Kergin with what was probably up to that time, the first and only gas engine propelled boat on the Skeena River.

Such men as these will never be forgotten by those few of us who are still here.

Quote, unquote

Harry Truman:

"Decisions that the President has to make often affect the lives of tens of millions of people around the world, but that does not mean that they should take longer to make. Some men can make decisions and some cannot. Some men fret and delay under criticism. I used to have a saying that applies here — 'if you can't stand the heat get out of the kitchen'."

✦ ✦ ✦

Paul Smith:

"Too many people are afraid to put two ideas together. They are afraid it will explode. And you know, they are right—it will."

The lighter side

"My wife says that if I die she will remain a widow."

"Evidently she thinks there's not another man like you."

"No, she's afraid there is."

✦ ✦ ✦

A little tot, in church for the first time, watched the ushers pass the collection plates. When they neared the pew, he piped up so everyone could hear—"Don't pay for me, Daddy; I'm under five."

EDITOR'S NOTE—Signed articles and editorials credited to other newspapers do no necessarily reflect the views of The Daily News.

The PACKSACK

Of Gregory Clark

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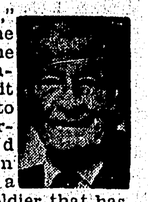
It was interesting to learn that the new head of a very thriving industry had been a private soldier in the war 20 years ago. He had never even risen to the rank of lance-corporal-without-pay.



"Well, actually," he told me, "the army was the only true education I got. And it was the chance to observe the characteristics and habits of men that I had as a young private soldier that has been more use to me in my own career in business than anything else I can think of.

"For example, I figured out the colonel complex. I don't employ any colonels now. A colonel is a man who can't possibly know all he ought to know.

"Then there is the sergeant-major complex. I don't have any ex-sergeant-majors in my business. A sergeant - major can't take criticism. He can only hand it out.

"I don't have any majors, because they all want to be colonels. As for captains and lieutenants, they are not too bad: but they are a little impressed with their rank. I don't have any captains or majors in the organization, at the moment.

"But I do have a lot of ex-sergeants, God bless them. A sergeant, it seems to me, is the perfect man. He got to be sergeant because he knew the drill, had a sense of duty, and pelnty of guts. Most of our managers and superintendents are ex-sergeants. And as an ex-private, I have great respect for them. That makes me a good boss."

ADVANCE NOTICE OF LOAD RESTRICTIONS

SKEENA WEST DISTRICT
REGION NO. 4

Some frost damage is showing up in the roads in this district and may require special load restrictions to be applied. Conditions often make the application of restrictions necessary with little advance notice.

Dated this 7th day of February, 1961

C. S. Shaw,
District Superintendent

WHY ADVERTISE?

When Mark Twain was editor of a Western newspaper, a superstitious subscriber found a spider in his paper and wrote the editor to ask if that was a sign of good or bad luck.

With his usual needle-witted appreciation of the situation, the humorist answered in the following vein:

"Old Subscriber: Finding a spider in your paper was neither good nor bad luck for you. The spider was merely looking over our paper to see which merchant is not advertising, so that he can go to that store, spin his web across the door, and live a life of undisturbed peace ever afterward".

—MAY TERESA HOLDER
in "Coronet"

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