

Strange But True

By F. H. MacArthur

Love is understood by every creature that breathes. It is our universal language, because it is the sign of God. Whenever we serve others through love, we are rendering a service to ourselves.

An inspiring story has come down to us telling of the loyalty to Christ of a group of Christian soldiers in the Roman Army. These soldiers were part of a company encamped on the shore of a frozen lake during one of the Roman army's northern campaigns.

Word had reached the soldiers that the emperor had declared himself a god and so the command had gone out that all subjects of the empire show their loyalty to him by making individual libations of wine to his honor. The emperor was fully enough to believe that he could cause all of his subjects to worship him as a god and in this way control their lives.

No doubt the emperor realized that the Christians in his empire were not loyal to him but only to their god.

When the day came for the ceremony the soldiers were lined up before an altar erected to the emperor. Each man was then commanded to kneel and pour a cup of wine on the ground as a sacred offering. The Christians, instead of kneeling merely dropped out of line.

Under the severe Roman discipline this refusal to obey a direct order from the emperor usually meant death by beheading, but in this instance the offenders were commanded to remove all their clothing and march out to their deaths on the frozen lake.

So, strange but true, the Christian soldiers, 40 in number, marched away to their deaths. At last, after silence had enveloped those on the shore, out of the fog and cold came creeping the form of a wretched, fear-stricken man. He gained the bank after much difficulty and struggling to the altar, poured out the offering of wine.

The Roman commander of the company was so deeply touched with the devotion to death of this one soldier of whom he was especially fond that he thereupon decided to make himself one of them. So removing his clothing, he walked out over the ice to take the place of the man whose courage had failed him. For a short time his words came back — then there was silence.

Despite the summer heat, a letter passed through a Montreal post office addressed to Santa Claus by a Moncton girl who wants a talking doll for Christmas. What they call a "zonker" is now in New York City's Bronx zoo. The animal is a cross between a zebra and a donkey. The zoo keepers in New York City say they

never saw such an animal before. "Great Dismal" is the name of a swamp in North Carolina. In the days of slavery it was a great hideout for runaway slaves because few persons had the courage to penetrate this jungle of snakes and wild beasts. Mistletoe abounds, and masses drape tree towering above such dense vegetation that the interior has the appearance of twilight even during the brightest days.

Although shunned by white men, it was a favorite hunting ground of Indians in bygone days.

Cluttering up the highways with billboards may pay off in safety measures to drivers of cars.

The outdoor advertising industry of the U.S.A. are going to spend half a million dollars this year in an attempt to reduce the toll of traffic accidents throughout the country.

15,000 billboards, each one preaching a lesson of safety, will be put up this winter. They will be placed along key highways from one end of the nation to the other. The billboards are to be lettered with slogans with a punch.

"What's all the fuss about?" asked Vidal Castillo of Bogota, Colombia when he calmly announced to a group of close friends that he planned to marry. "I'm only 107 years old."

Believe it or not, the hoboes who were first organized in 1908 now have more than 1,035,000 members. Incidentally, female knights of the road are called hoboets.

Hitch-hiking and riding the rails used to be their mode of travel. Now they go by bus, plane, car and train.

Last year the wandering brethren gave gifts totaling \$3,000 to hospitals, countless Xmas presents to youngsters, and thousands of dollars to underprivileged children.

Jeff Davis, the famous hobo king leader, says he started the wandering life when he was a lad of 12 and thus far he estimates that he has traveled more than 4,000,000 miles. His 1954 joggings to date are close on 60,000 miles.

Where they came by the money is anybody's guess. But the Hobo Kings say times change for his wandering brethren.

WARD'S COLLECTION

World's largest collection of original Shakespeare editions and reprints is in the Folger Library at Washington.

Retention Of Death Penalty Approved By Presbyterian Church In Canada

TORONTO (CP)—Retention of the death penalty for such crimes as murder was approved Saturday during sessions of the 80th general assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

The motion was adopted from the report of the board of evangelism and social action submitted to the assembly. The report also called for state action to relieve unemployment and condemned any extension of legalized lotteries.

The statement on the death penalty was introduced by Rev. E. C. McCullagh of Dunville, Ont., and said "We would affirm the right of the civil magistrate to impose the death sentence for crimes like malicious and deliberate homicide.

New Power Process From Oil Shale In New Brunswick

MONTREAL (CP)—A new process to produce power from the burning of oil shale soon may be put on a commercial basis in New Brunswick, Garnet G. Copeland, president of the New Brunswick Corporation of Canada Ltd., said today.

The corporation is negotiating with the New Brunswick Power Commission at present to sell the power to be produced from the corporation's shale deposits at Hillsborough, 20 miles south of Moncton, N.B., Mr. Copeland said. Tests were also being conducted on the shale as sources of alumina and potash, which could be derived as by-products of the power production.

If negotiations with the New Brunswick Power Commission are successful, the corporation will build a \$7,500,000 plant capable of generating 55,000 horsepower at Hillsborough. Mr. Copeland said. The process can produce electricity cheaper than hydro, because of a lower capital investment, he said. Consumers would also be assured of a steady output, since the process was not dependent on water flow.

"The supply of oil shale is no problem," he said. "We have 2,400 acres of land in New Brunswick. Tests have shown that there is enough shale in only 160 acres to keep our planet going for 100 years."

The state is given this right as a minister of God (Romans 13:1-17) and it shall have this right as long as it continues to disturb the social order."

Supporting the motion, Rev. M. D. Gagli of Hamilton said "the murderer is given time to prepare to meet his maker, he is given trial and the right to appeal—but what about his victim, whose life is taken without warning?"

NOT DETERRENT

Rev. A. M. Old of St. John's, Nfld., a part-time penitentiary chaplain, said he is convinced after talking to condemned men that capital punishment does not serve as a deterrent.

The assembly commended the form of evangelism in which congregations send their men out on planned visits to confront the community with the challenge of the church.

Success in this type of evangelism was reported by J. W. Crawford of Calgary, Dr. C. J. MacKay of Montreal and Rev. Russell Gordon of New Glasgow, N.S. The Presbyterian court adopted a recommendation that Kirk sessions set aside time at their meetings for instruction in church faith, policy and practice to inform and encourage church elders.

Appointment of Rev. James Barr of Edinburgh, Scotland, as professor of New Testament literature and exegesis at Presbyterian College was confirmed by the assembly.

A Country Garden

Root or Whitewort (so called from the thick white roots). In French, Spanish, and Italian it is called Soloman's Seal, the old belief being that the curious marks to be seen if one cuts the roots transversely bear the impress of Solomon's own seal.

Of all the lovely fragrances in the garden as I write, the apple blossoms hold first place. The individual blossoms have little perfume, but in the mass it is exceeding sweet, although delicate. But I think its most attractive quality, beyond even its sweetness, is its softness. To walk in an orchard of apple trees in full bloom is to be enveloped in an invisible soft cloud of most delicate yet all-pervading perfume. A great deal has been written about night-scented flowers, but lovely as they are, I think the early morning scent of apple blossom is sweetest and most pervading in the early morning. How much has been written of the plum and cherry blossom of Japan, but what can compare with the opalescent scent of apple blossom?

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That Body Of Yours

work of the famous nurse, Florence Nightingale, written in 1859, but still so much worth listening to.

"So also as to the advice shown—er so profusely upon the sick, to leave off some occupation, to try some other doctor, some other house, pill, powder or specific. These advisers are sure to be the same persons who exhorted the sick man not to believe his own doctor because 'doctors are always mistaken,' but to believe some other doctor because 'this doctor is always right!'"

Florence Nightingale goes on to

advise those who are about sick acquaintances, any news, for instance, of "a love and courtship of a really successful good act." (Reprinted in the Canadian Medical Association Journal, 1954.)

"How little the real sufferings of illness are known or understood. How little does anyone in good health fancy himself or herself in the life of a sick person!"

Mr. Citizen

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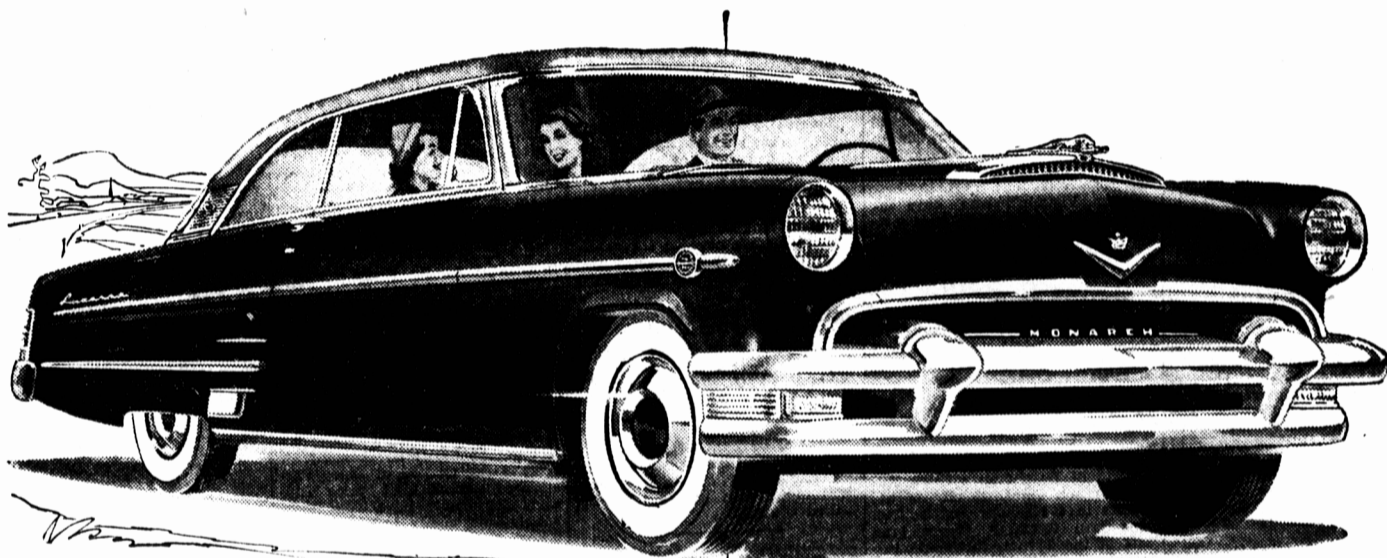
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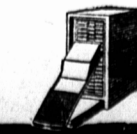
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WARNING!



There will be an interruption of electric power on our Malpeque Road line west of Hunter River on Wednesday afternoon, June 9th, between the hours of 1:00 and 4:00 p. m., weather permitting, for the purpose of changing some connections to allow us to string the new line through Norboro.

Maritime Electric Co. Ltd.