Thoughts For Our Time

By His Eminence Cardinal McGuigan

(Copyright)

ESCAPISM

Every man is to some degree an escapist. Perhaps this is inevitable. It is, without doubt, legitimate to seek temporary escape from life's more weighty problems, granted that this temporary secession from the conflict is achieved by legitimate means, with a view to a fresher and more vigorous facing of the larger issues in the future.

There are many, however, who seek escape by illegitimate means, or by addiction to means which are in themselves legitimate, with no intention of ever meeting life's important problems face to face.

Among the illegitimate means of escape the more obvious are alcoholism, drug addiction, illegitimate love. Those who have become enslaved to such means of escape as these must undergo a profound moral reform, and, perhaps, be treated by very specialized techniques if they are to be rendered again sufficiently realist to pass a sane judgment upon life's true values and to recognize their obligations to God and to Society. They are not our present concern.

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Addiction to means that are in themselves legitimate, is less criminal, but nonetheless very damaging to the development of realistic men and women who are capable of meeting life's problems head on. This type of escapism is the more tragic in that its victims are often unaware of their condition. Recognition of the existence of the unhealthy condition would be a big step toward affecting a cure. Its symptoms are the habitual cult of inanity and triviality to the exclusion of true meaning and value, and the constant failure to recognize situations where there is a call for practical charity, or friendly help.

There are the addicts of the moving-picture show, who spend several afternoons a week going to see films of no artistic worth, and consequently with no value for moral or cultural uplift, but with considerable power to dull the fine edge of the intelligence and to coarsen moral sensibility. With these may be reckoned the habitual and uncritical viewers of television programs, produced with no reference to aesthetic or moral niceties.

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Even children, who, through lack of true parental guidance, are the victims of a habitual diet of the sensational and cheap comic books, may be relegated to this class. The commercialization of recreation has resulted in the mass production of entertainment media with an eye to box-office sales and over-the-counter disposal, with no concern for the moral or cultural good of the purchaser or such entertainment.

Among women, there are addicts of the cheap emotionalism of the soap opera. The vicarious experiencing of the highly emotional crises of the characters involved, renders the addict incapable of approaching crises in her own life in an intelligent and balanced manner. In this sphere again, commercial interests play upon a weakness in the weaker member of those species with a view to sales promotion with no regard for the damage to the listener.

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There are addicts to passive sports entertainment. To a degree, attendance at spectator sports is healthy. The same may be said of listening to broadcasts or watching telecasts of such sports. When these become the sole preoccupation, the sole topic of a man's (or a woman's) conversation, however, they have become an escape.

Sport plays an important part in human life, but its value is rather that of active exercise of physical nature and the socialization of the participant, than the passive thrills of observance. The commercialization of sport has succeeded in obscuring the real and worthwhile objectives of the game in human experience. It attempts to give the customer what he demands even at the expense of prejudicing good sportsmanship and the refinements of the game.

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Some one has made the acute observation that a true friend is one who will continue a conversation with you over the back fence while his favorite television program is on the air. A personal test to ascertain whether one is a victim to any of these addictions might be to ask oneself if one could forego his Wednesday evening movie to attend a parent-teacher meeting, or miss the afternoon schedule of soap opera to help out the family from Europe which has just moved into the house across the street.

The point is that when the entertainment in question detains us when we should be concerned with more serious matters, or when practical charity demands that we come to the assistance of a neighbor, then it has become an addiction, an escape.

These forms of addiction are passed on from father to son, and from mother to daughter. Children can grow up without even having heard truly good music, or having been introduced to the field of great literature, and can regard the enjoyment of these addictions as the utimate in recreational media.

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Realism insists that as human beings we have a mind made to grasp the truth, a will designed to desire and enjoy the good. None surely will argue that these mild addictions are presenting truth, beauty and goodness to the young minds and wills which are allowed to feed upon them. They are rather being shrunk because of unrecognized malnutrition.

The role of the home in the formation of integral realistic men and women cannot be overemphasized. Parents must make it clear to their children that the value of life is to be reckoned in terms of its preparation for future life, that the human values —love, friendship, mutual respect and toleration—are always to be preferred to material values, that there are in them good impulses and bad, the former to be fostered, the latter to be curbed.

In fine, it is time an appeal, distinterested, honest, and uncompromising be made to the members of our society to reassess our current values, to ensure that we are not betraying life's true values for inanities, however harmless and pleasant they may seem.

A Country Garden

Continued from page 2

bloomer with tall sprays of pink flowers which last several weeks. When grown in a sunny window the colour in the leaves is good.

In Ecuador in 1872, at an altitude of ten thousand feet, there was found a begonia with heart-shaped leaves and scarlet blossoms. This begonia is related to all the lovely tuberous begonias now grown with success all over the country.

From Bolivia a summer bloomer came to England over a hundred years ago. This begonia has dark green leaves sharply serrate, and scarlet flowers which remind one of fuschias by their drooping habit. The basket-type tuberous begonia has been developed from this variety. Other good varieties have been found in Peru, China and Africa.

Only a few begonias are trailing in habit; B.glabra has large glossy leaves and good-sized clusters of white flowers. I have found this plant easily grown and a beautiful hanging pot is blooming near me as I write it seems to like the heat from the furnace and does not require much sun.

Begonias with spotted leaves should be grown in northeast windows, with little sun; then the leaves will be lustrous green with clear, silver, spots. There are many kinds with leaves of varying sizes. The flowers, too, are of many colors, from white to deepest rad. B.maculata found in Brazil in 1819, was the first to be introduced in Europe and from this plant, many hybrids have been obtained.

The rex begonias are old favorites. These were brought from India and recently dwarf forms have been developed. California leads in the numbers of new hybrids, thanks in part, at least, to the climate. Mexico is a good source of supply as hundreds have been discovered. Begonias make it possible to have lovely luxuriant looking house plants in the winter without much sun. I have seen beautiful plants in the window of a shut-in person and she had slipped many plants for others and given much joy to them in their lonely days.

BIG FIELD

A pasture covering 300 acres without trees in Huntingdon, England, is believed Europe's largest meadow.

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SPRING PARK VILLAGE

ANNUAL MEETING OF RATEPAYERS

The annual meeting of the Ratepayers of the Village of Spring Park will be held on Tuesday, February 2nd, at 7:30 p.m. in Spring Park Community Hall.

Signed:

J. Edmond Arsenault,

Chairman of Commissioners of the Village of Spring Park.

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THE POSTPONED annual meeting of the Catholic Social Welfare Bureau will be held at the Community Centre, Stewart Street, on Wednesday, February 3rd at 8:15 p.m.

MENT'S QUICK LUNCH. — Tuesday's Special. Chilled Tomato Juice, Boiled Corned Spare Rib, Mashed Potatoes and Carrots, Rolls and Butter, Tea, Coffee or Milk. 55 cents.

Personals

Mrs. Joseph Watts, Elm Avenue, is a patient in the Charlottetown Hospital.

Friends of Miss Ada MacKay of Springfield, will be sorry to learn she is a patient in Prince County Hospital.

BOYNE L. O. L.

The annual meeting of Boyne L. O. L. No 614, was recently held with a good attendance.

Brother, Gordon Ross of Borden, L. O. L., conducted the installation ceremony and the following officers were elected: W. Master, James V. Crabbe; Dep. Master, Norman Birt; Chaplain, G. A. Cudmore; Rec. Sec'y, Nelson Robinson; Fin. sec'y Fred Smith; Treas, Robert A. Ince; Marshall, J. K. Lacey; First Lec't Howard MacKinnon; Sec. Lec't., Clifford Keenen; First Com. Dalvey Murchison; Sec. Com., George Olive; Third com. James Coles; Tylers, Eric MacKinnon, Walter Josey; Auditors, G. A. Cudmore, Nelson Robinson.

TORONTO ROAD SCHOOL

(Monthly Report)

Grade VII: 1. Pearle Blacquiere, 2. Norma Gallant, 3. Gloria Peters.

Grade VI: 1. Mary Gallant.

Grade V: 1. Doris Gallant, 2. Betty Blacquiere, 3. Vernon Peters.

Grade IV: 1. Eileen Gallant, 2. Muriel Blacquiere, 3. Elizabeth Gallant.

Grade III: 1. Carol Doiron, 2. Linda Gallant, 3. William Blacquiere.

Grade II (a): 1. Raymond Gallant.

Grade II (b): 1. Dales Doiron, 2. Cody Gallant, 3. Mary Gallant.

Highest average for the whole school goes to Carol Doiron, 85.9 Teacher, Irene Arsenault

Card Of Thanks

We wish to sincerely thank the Boxholders on Charlottetown R. R. 6, who were so kind to us Christmas.

Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Bryenton.

THANK YOU

I sincerely wish to thank all kind friends who sent flowers, telegrams(cards and letters during my illness in the New England Baptist Hospital, Boston, Mass.

Signed

Mrs .Lorne Coles.

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NEW VEGETABLES

Do not often appear but EARLIER SUPERIOR Strains of existing varieties are being developed every year.

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Arthur Vesey

York, Prince Edward Island

Ford Ltd. To Build Plant At Regina

WINDSOR, Ont. — (CP) — Ford of Canada Limited today announced construction of a $1,000,000 parts and accessories depot at Regina early this spring.

It is part of a Canada-wide $87,000,000 expansion program by the company. A similar depot was announced last November for construction in Montreal.

The Regina depot will have 60,000 square feet of floor space. Both Montreal and Regina depots are expected to be complete by the end of 1954.

IN MEMORIAM

In loving memory of a dear wife and sister, Mrs. Neil MacKenzie, who passed away on January 26, 1952.

Though her smile has gone forever
And her hands we cannot touch,
We shall never lose sweet memories
Of the one we loved so much.

Sadly missed by husband, son Roy and sister Mattie.

IN MEMORIAM

In loving memory of a devoted mother and grandmother, Mrs. Neil MacKenzie, who passed away on January 26th, 1952.

Her willing hands we surely miss
The heart that was so true,
Since Jesus came and called her
"Come, there is rest for you."

Lovingly remembered by son Roy, daughter-in-law Mary and grandchildren Judy, Alan and Mary Lou.

IN MEMORIAM

In memory of my dear Mother, Mrs. Patrick Sweeney, who passed away January 31st, 1951.

She has gone where footsteps never grow weary,
Away from sorrow and pain,
To the beautiful Kingdom of Heaven,
She is waiting to meet us again.

They say time heals all sorrow,
And helps us to forget,
But time has only meant to us
How much we miss you yet.

Lovingly Remembered by Daughter Margaret.

IN MEMORIAM

In loving memory of my sister Miss Olive J. Adams, Sea View, who passed away February 2nd, 1946.

Her last parting wish
I would love to have heard,
And breathed in her ear,
My last parting word.

Lovingly Remembered by her Sister Margaret.

Card Of Thanks

Mr. and Mrs. John Allan MacKinnon, Churchill, wish to thank their many friends and neighbours for humbling themselves to come and celebrate the 40th Anniversary of their marriage at their home. Also we wish to thank them all for their wonderful gifts.

SLASHER VICTIM — Fourteen-year-old Muriel Boutet of Montreal, rests her bandaged leg after it was gashed by Montreal's sadistic slasher. The slasher has cut many women about the legs as they boarded buses or streets cars. Police say it now appears two slashers are at work. (CP Photo)

Interesting Career Of Former PEI Sea Captain

The magazine section of a recent issue of the Baltimore, Maryland Sun contains the following illustrated article regarding Captain William MacEwen, son of the late Mr. Horace MacEwen of Charlottetown, at one time Superintendent of the Railway in this Province, and a brother of Mr. J. E. R. MacEwen and Mrs. Edward Nicholson, both of this city.

"You've heard of people who know a subject 'from A to Z' Meet one from Maryland. He's Capt. William MacEwen, of Woolford, on the Eastern Shore. Things nautical are his Province, and he knows them from A-1 to Zonda."

"That is the range of entries in his 1,000,000-word "Encyclopedia of Nautical Knowledge," which has just been published. The book distills his own 45-year maritime career, one that reaches back to the days of sailing ships and includes visits to nearly every port of consequence in the world.

"It was two years ago that Captain MacEwen settled in the village of Woolford. Retiring, then, from the sea, he wanted a home within sight and smell of salt water, and he got it; during high tides the Litttle Choptank actually spills over the road that links Woolford with Cambridge.

Began In P. E. I.

"The 'voyage' that brought him there began in Prince Edward Island, Canada. There, at the age of 17, he shipped aboard a three-master bound for the West Indies. It was the start of a six year period aboard schooners and three and four-masted barks.

"There is a special warmth to Captain MacEwen's memories of those years .The days of the sailing ships, he says, were the freest of all days for seamen; 'We weren't tied to a certain course or due at a certain port at a certain time."

"On a sailing ship, he sums up: 'You sail when you can and don't when you don't.' His words pick up a rich Scotch burr for emphasis.

"One of the fastest sailing ships he ever served aboard, the Captain says, was the Drumeltan, a four masted iron bark that carried kerosene to South Africa and the Far East With a cargo of 900,000 gallons, she made one trip from New York to the Gulf of Siam in 96 days.

"Off the coast of Sumatra on that trip: 'A squall came up from our port beam and laid us on our beam's end. We were close to capsizing. The sails were blown to ribbons. It's a wonder we didn't lose all hands.'

"For the return trip, brown sugar was loaded at Java. With no squalls to boot her home, the Drumelta was 160 days making Philadelphia.

Joined Cunard Line

"From 1903 to 1912 MacEwen sailed on tramp steamers. Then he joined the Cunard Line for a tour of duty that saw him icebound, overtaken by a German submarine, and, finally the youngest master in Cunard service.

"New Year's Day, 1915, stands out in the Captan's mind. He was first mate on the freighter Carla, and the Carla was stuck in the ice off Archangel, Russia. Loaded with World War I munitions, the ship had plowed 30 miles up the Dvina River behind an icebreaker until two miles of the port. Then she froze solid and stayed so for five months.

"'It was so cold,' the Captain says, 'that the ship's plates contracted until they popped the panheads off the rivets. You could hear them fly against the sides of the ship like shots.'

"He remembers seeing Russian soldiers waiting at the Archangel railroad station for boxcars to take them to the fighting zone, 'in their greatcoats, lined up four deep on the ice, tramping to keep warm, a steam cloud rising from the great mass.'

"Once, in the city, he saw a horse-drawn merry-go-round . . . an old fellow playing an accordion . . . everyone having a great time . . . but never a smile in the whole crowd.'

"Spring brought fear that the ice would go out of the Dvina in a rush and destroy the ship, Captain MacEwen relates. An icebreaker stood by early in May to open a path to the White Sea, but the Carla was frozen in with her prow pointed landward. Somehow she had to be turned toward the sea.

Turntable on Ice

"Russian military engineers solved the problem by making a turntable in the ice. They sawed a circle around the ship, then fastened ropes to her. Then, still locked in a ring of ice, she was turned around seaward by manpower.

"In November of that same year, in the Mediterranean 100 miles south of Crete, the Caria was overtaken by a German submarine. 'The Germans did not waste torpedoes,' MacEwen recalled sadly. 'We sat in our boats and watched them shell her. I said to myself 'there go all my books and everything.'

In 1918, at the age of 33, came a promotion. MacEwen was made master of the Cunard freighter Pavia, the youngest Cunard skipper on duty.

"Following the war the captain served for a time on Standard Oil tankers and then in 1923 started what became fifteen years with the United Fruit Company. He ended his career at sea as master of ships like the San Mateo, San Blas San Gil and Darien.

"High and dry on the beach in 1939, MacEwen became Lieutenant Commander and then Commander in the Coast Guard, with the rank went the job of senior deck instructor at the United States Marine Service School at Fort Trumbull, New London, Conn, and finally a desk in the Marine Personnel Division at Coast Guard Headquarters, Washington.

First Book

"Eleven years ago Captain MacEwen's experience spilled over into his first book the 'Merchant Marine Officer's Manual' which he co-authored with a fellow officer from the United Fruit Company, E. A. Turpin. Used today as a text in merchant marine academies and schools this book has rung up sales of 35,000 for Publisher Felix Cornell, of Woolford.

"By 1951 the captain was back on dry land for good. He had finished a couple of years of spade work for the 'Encyclopedia' and had a huge stack of file cards to prove it. That year he and his wife moved to Woolford.

"Two more years of research, some of it done in the Library of Congress, ended with 9,000 cards filled with maritime lore. Enough to fill a 640-page double column book from A-1 to Zonda. A Zonda, if you have been wondering is a 'hot dry wind, west to northwast over the Argentine pampas in summer.'

"A man of great simplicity and mildness, Captain MacEwen has the physical marks — the bushy brows and ruddy face to match his Scotch burr. At 68 he still walks with more 'give' than the natural landlubber.

"Recently, telling of his affection for the old sailing bark, he said 'she could stand heavy weather. The schooner wouldn't stand it . . . jerking and jumping she would be lost.' The Captain looks prettty rugged himself."

Early Career

(Captain MacEwen left Charlottetown "before the mast" on the three-masted schooner "James W." built at Montague and owned by Geo. Wightman and Son of that town. The late Captain J. J Murchison was Master, Capt MacEwen received his Master's papers in his early twenties and at thirty secured the Certificate of Extra Master from the British Board of Trade while in Liverpool Eng. This was at that time the highest qualification in the British Merchant Marine.

His studies included ship construction, cargo handling, Marine and shipping laws, practical seamanship in both steam and sail and the most modern methods of ship handling and scientific navigation. His life was full of adventures in strange lands, with many narrow escapes. One of the title pages of his Encyclopedia quotes the Psalmist "They that go down to the sea in ships, that do business in great waters; these see the works of the Lord, and His wonders in the deep." Early in his seagoing career, Capt. MacEwen learned to put his whole trust in the Lord of the Sea and knows by experience the reality of the Psalmist's words.)

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AIRLINER TURNS BACK

LONDON—(AP)— A New York-bound British Overseas Airways Corporation Stratocruiser turned back 150 miles out over the Atlantic Monday after reporting an oil leak. The four-engine plane landed safely at London airport.

ANNOUNCEMENT

W. K. Rogers Agencies Limited

announce the sale of their

INSURANCE BUSINESS AND TRAVEL AGENCY

The business in Charlottetown and the eastern part of the Island, and the Magdalen Islands, will be handled and serviced by MORTON DEW at the same office, 181 Queen Street, Charlottetown, with the same staff.

The Western business will be handled and serviced through the office of R. E. Ellis & Son, Summerside.

Effective, February 1st, 1954.