

Book Review

By Doris Concha

TOIL OF THE BRAVE. By Inglis Fletcher. 547 pp. Bobbs-Merrill Co.

The long Trail of the Brave Is not lost in darkness . . .

The author of the recent *Lusty Wind for Carolina* has written the fourth book of the Carolina Series, entitled *Toil of the Brave*. The setting is Albemarle Sound, as it has been in the other books of this series, and the action occurs during the later years of the Revolutionary War.

Peter Huntley, the dominant figure of this novel and an agent doing secret work for the American forces, is an aspirant for the hand of the beautiful Spanish step-daughter, Angela, of Alexander Ferrier, Revolutionary leader. Since Inglis Fletcher has paid close heed to the use of the ingredients commonly accepted as guarantee of a popular novel, she has inserted the dashing, if somewhat doubtful, Anthony Allison, a British spy working behind the American lines. Following the usual pattern of such books, Inglis Fletcher has used Allison as a chief instigator of much of the action. Angela fancies herself madly in love with Allison until the worthlessness of his character is

finally revealed. Huntley continues to love Angela despite her feeling for Allison, and his patience is finally rewarded when she turns to him after Allison.

Peter Huntley is a realistic character of great strength. The reader is liable to develop a strong personal interest in Peter and his struggles. His attitude toward Angela, his deep, untainted affection for the attractive and intelligent widow, Penelope Dawson, and his gentleness with whom he comes in contact, all demonstrate his quality of character throughout. Angela Ferrier does not so attract the reader and her actions appear shallow until her motivation is explained.

Toil of the Brave should be of particular interest to North Carolinians, not only because the scene is set in this state, but the part North Carolina played in the Revolutionary War is much discussed. Many familiar figures of that period thread through the pages, and an important part of North Carolina history is romanticized there.

Toil of the Brave, while not a "great" book, is of interest, and the lack of continuity in the historical background is easily overlooked. The plot, despite occasional slow spots, moves rapidly, on the whole, and the book would probably provide several hours of entertainment to the reader.

Shirley Parker, "the girl with the walk," made us all quite proud of her when she captured the title of Best Posture awhile back—Perfect Poised Pedro, that is.

Freshman Frolics

By KATHLEEN FAULCONER

Two class members have been appointed to campus offices in the weekly student government elections. Mary Lee Rankin, freshman prexy, has been named to hold a BSU office—that of secretary, and Betsy Ann Morgan was elected arrangements chairman of the same organization.

Within the class proper, Alice Tuttle has been named health representative.

In mentioning committee chairmen for the class play last column, we neglected to say that Betsy Mills handled lighting. Also—that Betty Moore and Lib Jones did bit parts in "Riders to the Sea."

Organist Pat Phillips participated in last weeks' student recital series.

We've discovered a bit of news about two girls who left us at the close of the semester. First off, Irene Huopana is living in the city working for the telephone company. Secondly, New Yorker Estelle Edelman is quite enthusiastic over Stanford University, California. She's seeing a lot of the "Golden Gate City," and her spring holidays will be spent in that spectacular sight-seeing spot, Yosemite Park.

Margaret Moore has tapped Cindy Renner and Doris Concha for next year's TWIG staff.

The class party will definitely come off April 26. No plans have been made as yet.

Baseball enthusiasts Frances Williams, Mary Lou Dobbins, Elva Gresham, Ann Josey, Cindy Renner, Alice Tuttle and Dot Childress are among the girls who may be found playing the intramural ball on the Meredith diamond these days.



EZIO PINZA

Metropolitan Basso To Sing Here In March Civic Music Concert

On March 31 in the Memorial Auditorium, Ezio Pinza will appear in a Civic Music Concert. The leading basso of the Metropolitan, Mr. Pinza has in the twenty seasons since he made his debut with that organization sung more roles in more operas than any other of the company's principals.

He was born in Italy and became quite an athlete and decided to become a professional bicycle racer. Although he was a good cyclist, he was not quite good enough to win a race. His friends who had heard him sing advised him to forget the road-work and capitalize on his voice.

Pinza studied under Ruzza and Vezzani and had barely made his debut at the opera house in Sancino, Italy, when the European conflict of 1914 broke out. He gave up singing to become a soldier.

A few years after the war, he was leading basso at the famous La Scala in Milan with Toscanini conducting. It was there that he was heard by Guildi Gatti-Casazza, who engaged him for the Metropolitan, where he made his debut in 1926.

The Metropolitan has revived four operas especially for Pinza: "The Marriage of Figaro," "Don Giovanni," "The Love of Three Kings," and "Boris Goudunoff." Pinza represents that musical rarity, a true *basso cantante* and is probably the only living exponent of the great vocal tradition handed down by Edward de Reszke, Pol Planson and Chaliapin. He is thus able to interpret music generally considered outside the basso-repertoire.

Pinza is equally at ease in comic roles, tragedy, opera bouffe and romantic characterizations; and has fifty-five roles at his command. His performances are always characterized by fine acting, for he believes that acting is one of the most important elements in all opera.

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