

Poets Corner

Hail And Farewell

(By Joseph Auslander in Saturday Evening Post.)

What are the ghosts of the Old Year saying
What do they whisper from ear to ear?
The drunken dancers are reeling and swaying
In a swirl of confetti, but far from their playing
A few are kneeling and weeping and praying,
And maybe they hear—maybe they hear:

Do you remember the lad who sleeps
Under the restless coral, for keeps?
In the blood and rubble of all the earth?
(He loved warm lips and music and mirth)
In the muck and welter and blinding flame?
And what was his name? What was his name?

What say the ghosts of the year that is flying
This night to the year that is being born
Can you hear it above the din and the crying
Now in the night when a world is dying.

Now in the night when a world is trying
To rise, with terror and travail torn?

Have you forgotten so soon, so soon,
Hiroshima smashed by a falling moon?

The boys who fought, the boys who fell
Along the way from here to hell,
Dead on their feet, unmedaled, still
Sticking it out, storming the hill?

So an era dies while the bells are ringing,
And the new age stands in a narrow space;
And far from the crowd's con-

fetti-flinging,
Far from the shouting and whistling and singing
Lies the lad who tore from your mouth's wild clinging
Wide-eyed, with the stars in his face.

We will long remember; we will not forget.
When spring sets in and the streets are wet;
No matter how long we will still remember.
In the keen blue twilights of September,
In the honeyed summer, in winter's frost
We will think of them; we will count the cost

When You Smile At Me (I Hope It Means, I Love You)

Christine, when you smile at me
My heart always skips a beat,
My mind goes into a whirl.
Darling, when you smile at me
Dreams of Others fade away,
Something deep within me breaks into,

And I hope you mean, I love you
When you smile at me, it acts like remote control,
It makes me do your slightest wish.

And although I know it always gets me into a jam, keep smiling
Angel, and I'll hope it means, I love you.

At times I think you smile, just to try to be mean,
As far as being cute, you're cute without the smile.

But although I know it always gets me into a jam,
Keep smiling, Christine, and I'll keep hoping it means I love you.

—Larry M. Nelson.

Last night as I sat by the fireside
With the radio turned down low,
My thoughts were forever straying,
To the sweetest girl I know.

Her laughing voice was in the music,
Blonde hair shone in the firelight
Those blue eyes were twinkling stars,
Twinkling so soft and bright.

Her reckless smile kept haunting me,
Temping me to hold her tight.
Several times I reached out for her,
As I sat there alone last night.

Yes, I was lonesome for that darling,
My heart so sad and blue.
I never thought I'd miss her so,
With her tender love so true.

I sat there till the fire burned low,
Thru the window the moon shone bright.

I wondered then, Christine, darling,
If you were lonely, too, tonight.
—Larry M. Nelson.

Shameful Carnival

(Editorial from The Charlotte Observer)

It costs more now to make a hog of oneself. The New Year celebration was an example. Liquor was higher than ever but the people welcoming 1946 in rowdy riotousness had the money for it.
New York set the pace as usual—all the night spots crowded all night despite increased prices, more champagne and everything to satisfy animal instinct; more than that, for the animals have more sense than to harm themselves. They stop at a certain point.

Down through the cities and into homes throughout the country, the celebration set a new high in satiation of gross appetites, exaltation of the carnal, unchaining of the baser desires of men and women.

Hurrah for the New Year! Let's raise hell! They raised it, wallowed in it, absorbed it, loosed the decent bonds of convention and good sense and made much of America a madhouse, a shameful carnival of indecency and evil.

It is well that we have comparatively few holidays; they are becoming holidays.

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"RAISE IN PAY" TO WAGE EARNERS

The New Tax Cuts Are Now Effective; Many To Get Relief By New Law

Wage earners got a "pay raise" and big business a wind-fall January 1 when new tax cuts became effective.

Under the \$5,900,000,000 tax reduction bill passed in November, both big and little taxpayers benefit and about 12,000,000 people with very low incomes stop paying any taxes.

The tax collector will claim a smaller chunk of the incomes of the 35,000,000 to 38,000,000 individuals left on the tax rolls. So extra dollars will start appearing in pay-checks received on or after New Year's day—even though the pay is for time worked in 1945.

For example, under the reduced tax rates, a man with no dependents who makes \$50 a week has had \$8.20 withheld for taxes. This weekly deduction will drop to \$6.80.

Persons in higher wage brackets and those not subject to withholding will feel the difference when they file estimates of their 1946 taxes and make their first quarterly payments which are due March 15.

The new law, first general tax-cutting measure passed by congress in 16 years, is designed to reduce taxes of the automobile and boat use taxes in June will add another \$140,000,000 of relief.

At the same time, lower corporation tax rates and repeal of the excess profits tax are expected to reduce business taxes by \$3,136,000,000.

The excess profits tax, which

expired at midnight December 31, was imposed before Pearl Harbor and by 1943 had risen to a flat rate of 95 per cent. More than \$28,000,000,000 has been collected through it.

It was imposed to prevent business from getting rich out of the war and applied only to corporation earnings above "normal" as computed on a 1936-39 average. The corporations January 1 reverted to paying only the regular corporation tax of 38 per cent.

Thus, industry can keep a much bigger slice of its profits.

The treasury January 1 also started paying out \$1,112,000,000 in excess profits refunds by redeeming non-interest, non-negotiable bonds. This represents one part of the total to be refunded. Hope has been expressed that another \$5,000,000,000 may be lopped off individual taxes next year, although wars generally have left taxpayers saddled with permanently increased costs of government.

B. C.—A. D.

BY REQUEST
By MRS. THOS. S. SHARP

"Ring Out the Old, Ring In the New."

When did the Old Years "Ring Out"? The old methods of computing the years Why B. C. and A. D.? When? Christ was born four years "Before Christ," or, as we say, "B. C.!"

The Romans reckoned time from the founding of the City of Rome—"A. U. C." There was no B. C. on the calendars until the Emperor, Justinian requested a monk, Dionysius Exiguus (Exiguus, "the Short") to make a calendar reckoning time from the birth of Christ. This was in 753 A. U. C. Christianity was then the world religion—that of the Roman Empire. Dionysius made a mistake of four or five years in co-ordinating the date with the Roman calendar which the new calendar replaced. It should have been 749 A. U. C., or a year or two earlier. That is why we often hear or read that Christ's birth should be placed from four to six years earlier. This calendar was made in 526 A. D. as we would say now, using "B. C." and "A. D."

The fifteenth year of Siberaes Caesar was in the last half of A. D. 28 and the first year of A. D. 29.

John the Baptist began preaching at 30 years of age, in the 15th year of Tiberius Caesar. Tiberius began to reign alone, 765. (He had reigned with Augustus Caesar for two years, Augustus died, Aug. 29, 767, A. U. C.) Add thirteen to 765 and we have 778 for the beginning of John's preaching and 748 for John's birth. John was six months older than Jesus, so we have 749 A. U. C. as the date of Christ's birth.

The census of Cyrenius was mentioned in the "Origin of Christmas celebration." Jesus was born during the "first census," the one taken for Augustus. The disturbance among the Jews that called Cyrenius out to quell it, delayed the enrollment somewhat, it was completed 750 A. U. C., or B. C. 4-5, giving us 749 as the birth date of Christ.

Originally, the Romans had a year of ten months. Later, they divided the year into twelve months—the lunar year of 365 days—and as did the Greeks, had an occasional "intercalary month." The Roman calendar which we have known best is the "Julian." To avoid all the confusion resulting from these other modes of reckoning, Julius Caesar, in 46 B. C. (as we now say), regulated the calendar so as to have 369 days in the ordinary ear, and an extra day (4x¼ days) every fourth year or "leap year." The belief was that the length of the year was exactly 365¼ days. A mistake of eleven minutes and fourteen seconds was made.

The month of July is named for Julius Caesar and August for Augustus Caesar who made some adjustments in the calendar 39 years later.

By 1582 those extra 11 minutes and 14 seconds had amounted to ten whole days forcing the spring equinox to fall on March 11th instead of on March 21st! More confusion resulted. Something had to be done for it affected Easter and other movable feast days.

Our own calendar came down to us from the Egyptians through the Romans to Pope Gregory XIII in 1582. It differs only a little from Julius Caesars.

You hear of the Julian calendar and of the Gregorian calendar. Pope Gregory XIII called in the astronomer, Clavius, to aid him in regulating the calendar.

Ten days were deducted from 1582. October 5th was called October 15th. Then, to avoid this again, every hundredth year (1700, 1800, 1900, etc.) was not to be a leap year—only the even fourth hundredth, beginning with 1600. The difference between

calendar in each week in the year. These were kept on cards—52 in all, for 364 days. The old 365th day had a separate card. These cards were zealously guarded. The priests who kept these were called the "keepers of the days." These priests kept the records of the periodic rise of the Nile river. As you know, the Nile flooded the surrounding lowlands, leaving a rich sediment as well as providing the water both of which made the country so productive.

The fellaheen (Egyptian peasants or serf) who lived on this part of the land, had to be warned in time to be able to flee to the hills for safety. They thought that these priests had supernatural powers. It is certain that nothing was ever said to enlighten the ignorant ones. After many centuries these "packs of cards" did become the possession of unscrupulous, or, shall we say, of more unscrupulous men. That is however we have the word "gypsies," we are "old—corrupted from 'Egyptians.'" These Charlatans wandered through the then known world "telling fortunes" with these cards." God warns us in Deut. 18: 7-14, and elsewhere, about such methods of searching into the future. "Seek ye me and ye shall live." (Amos 5:4.)

The Jewish calendar still consists of twelve lunar months, as in the early periods of their history. They insert a thirteenth month from time to time to "make all come out right," as we would say, with the sun and the season. Many other ancient peoples did likewise.

The early Greeks used the real lunar months, twelve in the year, to reckon their time. Later Solon, one of the wisest and most widely known Greeks, in 594 B. C., introduced the method of alternating thirty and twenty-nine days to the month, making a civil year of 354 days. Occasionally an intercalary month was inserted to accommodate the civil year to the solar year.

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the civil and the natural year not amount to a whole day in a period as long as 3,000 years, by this method.

Calendars seem so simple don't they? We take them as a matter of course" as we do many of our other blessings. Doubtless, we do not think of the many difficulties and complications that the human race has experienced in evolving, through the long centuries, a method by which our calendars will measure accurately, our year. Even at the time, many countries were slow in making a change. France, Spain, Portugal, parts of Italy and parts of the Low Countries did adopt the new calendar practically at once.

In 1700, Switzerland and parts of Germany accepted it. In 1751 Parliament in England passed an act adjusting the calendars of England and Ireland to the Gregorian one. You have read that according to the calendars of Washington had two birthdays! He was born, according to the old MRS. SHARP'S ART Julian calendar, on February 11, 1732. This became February 22, 1732, because the difference by 1751 being eleven days it was enacted that the day after September 2, 1752 should be September 14th. We Americans came under this adjustment as we were English subjects then. Sweden also adopted this new calendar reform at about the same time. Russia and Greece do not use the Gregorian calendar.

The French Republic changed its calendar for awhile—year 1 beginning with the autumn equinox, Sept. 22, the date of the beginning of the Republic. Napoleon restored the Gregorian system in January, 1806.

There has been much discussion in recent years in regard to changing the calendar again, having thirteen months of twenty-eight days each—364 days. At the end of the year that extra day would be made a holiday. Leap year would retain its added day. There are many arguments for and against this "reform." Any day if any month would fall on the same day of the week as the corresponding day in every month of any given year.

However the calendar may be changed, we'll always have our New Year.

"I said to a man Who stood at the gate— The gate of the coming year: 'Give me a light That I safely tread Into the dark And unknown land; Give me a light to banish fear, Take from my heart This haunting dread.' He said to me, This man that stood At the gate of the coming year: 'Go into the dark And unknown land And place in God's Your trembling hand; For better than the light of day Far safer than any man-known way.' Said the man that stood At the open gate— The gate of the coming year." —Anonymous.

(Copyrighted)

Upper Broad River

Mrs. Rebecca Garrison is very ill at her home.

Mrs. Sarah White has improved some since having been very ill with the flu. These two ladies are the oldest residents of Broad River. Mrs. White being 93 and Mrs. Garrison 86.

Miss Bernice Kirstein has been spending the Christmas holidays with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. M. Kirstein.

Mrs. Ellen Garrison is very ill with the flu at her home.

Mr. Neal Whitaker is now in a veterans hospital in Mountain Home, Tenn. He served with the army for one year but now has been out with a medical discharge for some time.

The Big Horn spring, in central Wyoming, is the largest spring in the world. It has a greater flow than all other similar springs in the nation combined.

In the United States privately operated motor trucks represent 87 per cent of all trucks in use.

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