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Looks at Books

By **CONSTANCE FOSTER**

People are talking about... The Communist menace. In this connection no citizen who seeks to be well informed can duck the obligation to plough through a new 808 - page book which reads like a combined fairy tale, mystery story, Pilgrim's Progress, Dante's Inferno, and factual transcript of legal records. I'm referring, of course, to

WITNESS, by Whittaker Chambers, Random House, \$5.

As a who-dun-it, the crime was legally solved when the last jury brought in a final verdict against Alger Hiss. But this book will always remain essentially a mystery to thoughtful minds and raises more questions than you could shake a stick at. What motivated Whittaker Chambers himself? What is the fatal appeal of Communism to men's minds? Where and how is our own much vaunted way of life failing to provide a philosophy or ideal that will set men on fire not only to defend but to promote it? What makes men tick anyway? What are they really like down underneath the surface?

There is great pathos in this account of one man's descent into hell. In a sense it is Everyman's Quest for the good,—often mistakenly and in wrong directions, sometimes weakly and waveringly. Chambers speaks in a sense for all men when he says, "I was weak and vacillating. I dodged and delayed. I'm a human being." Therein to me lies the fascination of this book and the universality of its message. Everyone reading it ought to feel, very humbly and deeply, "There but for the grace of God, go I..."

The most expert of our detective story writers would be hard put to it to think up a more fantastic set of clues to the crime than real life provides in the Alger Hiss case. Oriental rugs, the old Ford, the famous Woodstock typewriter, the Leica camera, memos and bills of sale, and finally the pumpkin right out of Cinderella might almost have issued from the brain of some Hollywood script writer. But they were real. This story isn't a movie you can see and then dismiss with the comfortable assurance, "It can't happen here." It did happen here in 20th century America where you and I live,—and therein lies its horror.

Moreover it is undoubtedly a continued story and the same thing is going on under Communist cover right now as I dot this sentence. I end the sentence. But the Hiss trial didn't, won't, and can't end the unending struggle for power between two diametrically opposed forces as those

represented by the Iron Curtain and the Goddess of Liberty.

The picture Chambers paints so revealingly of his boyhood background is one that any psychiatrist would recognize as formula for trouble ahead. Poverty, frustration, and rejection... They are a perfect prescription for severe emotional conflict. Add to them an obviously superior intellect such as this man possesses and you get the type of personality to whom the idealistic side of Communism would be bound to appeal. If you doubt that there is an idealistic side, remember that the early Christian Church for at least 300 years was entirely communistic and shared everything in common.

It was in this idealistic mood that Chambers joined the Communist party in 1925. Later he was to have those ideals shattered by the Great Purge of 1936-38 and the Communist Nazi pact. He discovered, "This is evil, absolute evil. Of this evil I am a part." He admits that in his distress he turned to prayer and found a truth which Communism has overlooked to its eventual downfall,—"Man without mysticism is a monster." In many ways this book is essentially a spiritual pilgrimage if not into Paradise at least out of Inferno. For Whittaker Chambers there will always be purgatory, however. Betrayal, even at the behest of conscience, does not make for pleasant dreams whether awake or asleep.

The suspicion is strong in my own mind that with his background and personality he could not have done otherwise than he did. Guilt and fear are powerful toxins and they drove him remorselessly. Usually they breed the need for punishment, even if it is self-inflicted. Some men jump out of windows and others welcome martyrdom. Chambers' self-dramatization indicates a good deal of masochism, or pleasure in paying the price of transgressions. He once broke into tears, just reading portions of his book aloud over the radio. It may well be that he enjoys the self-pity he is able to conjure up by stewing in his own emotional juices.

But the really sad thing about The Case seems to me to be that it largely involves just two personalities, Chambers and Hiss, leaving the root causes of the disease that riddled them undisturbed. It is essentially a personal document of great human interest, brilliantly written at times. But meantime there are other Chambers and other Hisses, with different names, living similar stories and dying inwardly of the same malady. For Communism is essentially a sickness of the soul and nowhere is this made more manifest than in WITNESS.

Golf World Observes Fifth Birthday; Hale Youngster Surveys Achievements

(Crowded out last week)

Golf World, Bob Harlow's national news weekly of the game, published at Pinehurst, celebrated its fifth anniversary this week with Volume 6, Number 1, June 13, 1952.

First issue was published June 18, 1947. The first editorial stated: "The idea of Golf World is to provide those most intimately associated with the game a weekly newspaper which will publish short and entertaining reviews and news photographs."

In 1950, Harlow sold the Pinehurst Outlook and Pinehurst Printing Company to devote all his time to Golf World. He established a new Golf World plant in Pinehurst. The editor says that credit for management of Golf World (1947-1952) and the Pinehurst Outlook and Pinehurst Printing company (1937-1950) belongs to his wife, Lillian. And, adds Bob: "I have an idea it is more difficult to make a small business go than a big one. I wouldn't know. I'm just a newspaper man—editorial side."

Golf World's growth has been slow and steady. The paper now has paid subscribers in every state, the District of Columbia, and approximately 75 foreign countries and territories. More than 300 golfers in England and Scotland are paid subscribers. Total circulation, which started at around 1,500 in 1947, showed an ABC of 8,127 for the six months ending December 31, 1951, and is now close to 9,000 paid. A postal inspector said that Golf World, for the size of circulation, has the widest domestic and foreign distribution of any publication handled by the Postal Department.

After 260 consecutive weekly editions of Golf World, Harlow reports: "Our purpose was correctly stated in Volume 1 Number 1. We have to thank loyal subscribers upon celebrating our fifth anniversary. This is one publication which has survived, and prospered to a reasonable extent, because of the support of paid subscribers. Subscription money for Golf

World continues to exceed advertising revenue by 4 to 1. When we started the ratio was 20 to 1.

"We are proud of our subscription list. It is a Who's Who, not only in America, but in world golf. Two subscribers pay as high as \$1 a week, plus the subscription of \$5 per year, to receive our weekly via airmail.

"We try to do for golf what Time does for world news. Tom O'Neil, my associate, and I, have been professional newspapermen all our adult lives who happen to love golf. We are not golfers turned newspapermen. We have splendid cooperation from other professional newspaper people. Our readers and pro friends provide a constant source of excellent tips and items. Golf World is growing into a busy clearing house for golf news. This, and the fact a weekly can keep up with a fast moving sport, have produced a publication which apparently appeals to those people the world over who are closely associated with the game, as players, executives, or in the business."

For fifth anniversary presents Golf World gave itself: (1) a new linotype; (2) an Associated Press sports wire; (3) a Polaroid camera, and (4) a cocktail party in Golf World's reception room.

Miss McLean Passes Sunday

Miss Emma McLean, 73, of Ador died at Moore County hospital Sunday following a short illness.

Funeral services were held Tuesday afternoon at Marks Creek Presbyterian church near Hamlet, with burial in the family plot in the church cemetery.

Miss McLean was born in Richmond county, daughter of Angus and Sara Oliver McLean. Surviving are three sisters, Misses Kate and Fannie McLean of Ador, and Mrs. W. O. Cameron of Durham; and one brother, John McLean, of Ador.

Col. Franklin And Family Here From Germany; As Some Arrive, Others Go

New members of Southern Pines' "international - military" set are Lieut. Col. Horace A. Franklin, Mrs. Franklin and son Richard, aged 12. They recently arrived from Germany, are in one of the Knollwood apartments and are hoping to find a larger home and remain in Southern Pines. Colonel Franklin has been assigned to Fort Bragg for the next three years, when he will be working with the new psychological warfare center.

This is a return to Southern Pines for the Franklins, who were here briefly in 1942, when the Second Armored Division was stationed at Fort Bragg "en route."

Colonel Franklin spent the next three years campaigning in Africa and Europe, then was returned to Fort Riley, Kansas. He went to Germany two years ago on assignment with the Constabulary Brigade, taking his family along, and they have lived at Wiesbaden and Heidelberg. All, including Richard, are now speaking German like natives.

Richard plans to enter school here in the fall, and in the meantime will join in with the town recreation program, looking forward especially to those golf and tennis lessons. Colonel Franklin is originally from Philadelphia, Mrs. Franklin from Pelham, N. Y.

As some families come, others go—in a semi-military town such as this one, it's always hail and farewell. Mrs. W. W. O'Connor and children left a couple of weeks ago to join Colonel O'Connor in Germany, leaving their home on East Connecticut avenue rented. Mrs. Stephen Holderness and children, who lived here almost two years, while Colonel Holderness served in Korea, have moved to Washington to be with him on his new assignment. They have listed their home for sale.

NORTH CAROLINA MOORE COUNTY NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the partnership heretofore existing, wherein R. C. Johnson and Hazel E. Brown (now Hazel E. Brown Green) were partners trading and doing business under the firm name and style of "Johnson and Brown" in the Town of Southern Pines, in the County of Moore and State of North Carolina, has this day been duly dissolved by mutual consent of the partners.

This 5th day of June, 1952.
 This the 5th day of June, 1952.

R. C. JOHNSON
 HAZEL E. BROWN GREEN
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L. T. "Judge" Avery, Special Agent

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