

HYMN of the WEEK
—by—
REV. ERNEST K. EMURIAN

AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL

Every school child knows that "Columbus sailed the ocean blue in fourteen hundred and ninety-two." But very few of them know that the celebration of the four-hundredth anniversary of his discovery inspired a school teacher to write one of our noblest patriotic hymns.

In connection with this nation-wide observance, the city of Chicago sponsored the Columbian Exposition, a World's Fair of yesterday which ran continuously for several years. On the site of the Exposition magnificent buildings were erected. Every structure designed by Daniel Burnham was a masterpiece of planning, construction and beauty. Thousands of people came from all over the world to marvel at the splendor and stand enraptured before the grandeur of such a spectacle.

In the early summer of 1893, while the Exposition was still in full swing, a group of teachers and professors from Wellesley, a famous girls' college, stopped off in Chicago enroute to Colorado. Among them was thirty-four year old Katherine Lee Bates, holder of a Master's Degree from Oxford, and a professor of English. The young women were profoundly impressed by all they saw in and about "The Windy City," but they soon left Lake Michigan behind them as they continued their journey westward. Once in Colorado, they made the trip up the famous peak which was named for the American general who discovered it about 1806, Zebulon Montgomery Pike. From the summit, which towers more than fourteen thousand feet above sea level, Miss Bates "gazed in wordless rapture over the expanse of mountain ranges and the sealike sweep of the plains" that stretched before her for hundreds of miles until they seemed to melt into the misty blue of heaven.

Later that evening, the teachers were talking over the events of the day in the home in which they were staying in Colorado Springs. The discussion naturally included a comparison of the Exposition, a man-made spectacle, with the Rocky Mountains and the view from Pike's Peak. *Written by the hand of God.* Miss Bates suggested that "unless

Revival To Start At Laurel Fork March 20

On Sunday, March 20, 1955, the Rev. G. Y. Burgin, pastor, and the Rev. G. M. Reynolds, of Black Mountain, will start a revival at the Laurel Fork Free Will Baptist Church, in the Bailey Branch section, near Marshall. Everyone is invited to attend.

we crown our good with brotherhood, of what lasting benefit are our spacious skies, our amber waves of grain, our mountain majesties or our fruited plains." She added, "We must match the greatness of our America with the goodness of personal godly living." Soon the teachers were comparing the land of their day with the America of the Pilgrims and the Jamestown settlers of 1607. They spoke of the two stones that played important parts in the nation's history the Ten Commandments and the Plymouth Rock, and agreed that if their fellow-citizens could couple the daring of the pilgrims with the moral teachings of Moses, together with the ability of them both to venture into uncharted seas, they would really have something in this country that no one could ever take from them.

They mentioned the heroes and heroines of the past, from Molly Pitcher to Barbara Fritchie, and felt that it is more difficult to be a living hero in one's own day than to revere a dead hero from a former day. When one teacher showed the group a small piece of alabaster she had purchased in a souvenir shop, the others talked about "the alabaster city" where all would be joy and peace, and where people would live together with their eyes undimmed by human tears. Later that night, with the events of the trip vividly in her mind, Miss Bates sat down and expressed her dream of a Christian nation in these words:

O beautiful for spacious skies,
For amber waves of grain;
For purple mountain majesties,
Above the fruited plain.
America! America!
God shed His grace on thee;
And crown thy good with brotherhood,
From sea to shining sea.

Before she laid her pen down she had written four stanzas, each closing with a prayer for her beloved America. The stanzas were not printed until two years after they were written. In the July 4, 1895 issue of "The Congregationalist" they appeared for the first time outside her own private notebook. Quickly they were accepted, quoted, and widely acclaimed as an expression of Christian patriotism at its highest and best. Of the many musical settings, one has endured—the hymn tune "Materna" which Samuel A. Ward composed for the hymn "O Mother Dear Jerusalem." Today this tune and her stanzas are wedded in the hearts of the American people.

The author was honored with degrees from many colleges and universities. During her forty-five years as a professor and before her death in 1929, she wrote seventeen books. But she is loved and honored today as the author of one of the nation's finest patriotic hymns. If the celebration of the four-hundredth anniversary of the discovery of America did no more than inspire Rev. Francis Bellamy to write the original "Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag" and Katherine Lee Bates to write "America, The Beautiful" it was eminently worthwhile. Because the Pledge and the Poem will live as long as America lives.

With Our Boys In Service

Jimmie Carrol Green, 17, son of Mr. Lark C. Green, Route 1, Mars Hill and James D. Fisher, 17, son of Chester C. Fisher, Route 2, Mars Hill, are completing their Air Force basic military training course at Lackland Air Force Base, the "Gateway to the Air Force."

Lackland, situated near San Antonio, is the site of Air Force basic military training for men and women, headquarters of the Human Resource Research Center, and home of the USAF Officer Military School.

Their basic military training is preparing them for entrance into Air Force technical training and for assignment in specialized work. The course includes a scientific evaluation of their aptitude and inclination for following a particular vocation and career.

Fifth Air Force, Korea — A/2c Bennie J. Simmons, son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Simmons, R-1, Marshall, recently completed service

with the 502nd Tactical Control Group and has now been assigned to the 6900 Air Base Group, APO 74, in the Philippines.

Airman Simmons has been serving as a radar operator with the 606th Air-Craft Control & Warning Squadron before being re-assigned.

The 20-year old airman is a graduate of Marshall High School in Marshall.

Augsburg, Germany — Army Sgt. Geter D. Mace, son of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Mace, Route 2, Marshall, recently participated in an Army winter training maneuver in southern Germany with the 5th Infantry Division.

Cold-weather fighting and survival were emphasized on the exercise, part of the division's year-round training program.

Mace, a squad leader with Company G of the division's 11th Regiment, entered the Army in January 1952 and arrived overseas the following June. He is a 1952 graduate of Marshall High School.

Pacific Fleet (FHTNC) — Andrew Adams Jr., damage controlman second class, USN, son of Andrew Adams, Route 4, Marshall, and husband of the former Miss Annette J. Kembrell of Aransas Pass, Texas, reported aboard the seaplane tender USS Curtiss in February. He entered the Navy in 1945.

Salzburg, Austria — The following county men recently participated in Exercise Roundup, an Army training exercise in Austria:

Sgt. V. B. Shelton, whose wife, Louise lives on Route 1, Wolf Creek, Tenn.; Cpl. Bobby Peck, son of George W. Peck, Mars Hill; Cpl. Billy Flasher, son of Tim H. Flasher, and Cpl. Bobby J. Hunter, son of Tilson Hunter, both of Marshall Route 2, and Pvt. Billy Ramsey, 20, son of Zack Ramsey of Marshall.

Held under simulated combat conditions, the week-long exercise include attacks by an "Aggressor Force" of British soldiers. In anticipation of the attacks, U. S. troops evacuated the area in a test of mobility.

Sergeant Shelton, son of John R.

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Shelton, Route 1, Hot Springs, entered the Army in 1949. He is assigned to Headquarters and Service Company of the 70th Engineer Battalion.

He is a former Spring Creek High School student.

Cpl. Peck, a radio operator with Company B of the 350th Infantry Regiment, entered the Army in Sep-

SEND The News-Record TO YOUR SON IN SERVICE

tember 1953 and arrived overseas during February 1954. He attended Mars Hill College.

Cpl. Flasher is an automatic rifleman and Cpl. Hunter is a jeep driver with Company B of the 350th Infantry Regiment. Both men entered the Army in September 1953, completed basic training at Fort Jackson, S. C., and arrived overseas during February 1954.

Pvt. Ramsey, an assistant gunner with Company L of the 350th Infantry Regiment, entered the Army in September 1953 and received basic training at Fort Jackson, S. C.

Paris — Army Pfc. Curtis L. Lawson, son of Mrs. Clara Lawson, Hot Springs, recently arrived in Paris and is now serving at Supreme Headquarters, Allied Powers, Europe.

A switchboard operator in the 7th Signal Battalion's Company A, Lawson entered the Army in May 1954 and completed basic training at Fort Jackson, S. C. He arrived overseas last month.

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When you Test-Drive Ford's new Trigger-Torque power you're in for a thrilling surprise. For here is power that can get you moving in split seconds... and give you safety-fast passing ability. It has actually been measured that it takes the rear wheels as little as 7/100 of a second to react to your touch on the gas pedal. Such

Go-power can come only from engines which are more than merely new—more than ordinary V-8 engines. And that's exactly what these Ford engines are. They are the result of the most advanced V-8 engineering—a result of Ford's experience in building more V-8 engines than all other makers combined have ever built!



Tried and true

Ford's 1955 engine news resulted from 23 years' experience building over 14,000,000 V-8 engines

In 1932 Ford introduced the V-8 engine to the low-price field. And it was only just recently that other makers in Ford's field adopted this kind of engine—23 years later. Yet it is interesting to note that the majority of costlier cars were offering V-8's some time ago.

Ford's V-8 experience has never paid off better than this year. Now you can enjoy the ultimate in "Go"-new Trigger-Torque power. Now you get the greater smoothness of Ford's rigid deep-block design. Now you gain the savings of higher compression ratios. Now you

gain the power of the biggest Ford car engines ever. Come in. Take your Test Drive today. Ford has much more to offer that's new. You'll find beautiful Thunderbird-inspired styling—comfortable new Angle-Poised Ride, to name just a few.



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