

THE BOOK CORNER Reading From Left To Right —With— FRANCES GILBERT FRAZIER

good. It would be impossible to select any special passage to quote for every line in the book has its specific place and all together they make up a couple of hours' excellent reading you could want hatched out of any day.

In direct contrast to the above book, is a serious one written by Jo Sinclair, entitled "WASTELAND." The value of this book can be augmented by the fact that it was awarded the \$10,000 Harper Prize, a noteworthy fact in itself. It isn't a pleasant story but it is a novel that will give the reader a depth of insight into a matter that is usually taken as a matter of course.

Jake Brown's sister, Deborah, has suggested he visit a doctor—a psychiatrist—and most unwillingly he has consented to do so. He doesn't think he needs a doctor's advice yet he knows that there is something radically wrong (his family had always seemed sort of mixed up; his parents had really never seemed like a father and mother; of his wife whom he thought he had loved but since had begun to wonder about. His whole life had seemed to be a wasteland to him but it all cleared up as he talked to the doctor. Warped ideas straightened themselves out, and as he delineated each character to the psychiatrist, it appeared in different clothes, different status, a different light. Slowly he emerged from the wasteland in which he had lived, out into the wide open spaces of understanding. A truly great book, well written.

In our every day life, we have all met Howard Roark. Of course the names are different; in fact, they are legion. But the characteristics are all the same. Self-appointed, self-satisfied and self-satisfying to the nth degree. When he said a fact, a fact it was despite any lack of certification except in Howard Roark's own opinion. He wasn't liked... no self-reliant person is for this is a world of co-operation and the fact that one can help another makes for esteem and confidence.

Ayn Rand has written one of the most entertaining novels of the present day in "THE FOUNTAINHEAD." It shows us what a nuisance Howard Roark could make of the theory that all men may be born equal but that only a selected few forge ahead to be capable of running the machinery of this world. Peter Keating, born with an equal amount of brains, could only meekly follow in the great Roark's footsteps. Keating had everything that Roark had thrown away... friends, comradeship and like attractions... yet he swung onto Roark's coattails. But in his deepest consciousness he feared Roark and wanted him to fail.

This is a book that one will read, not hurriedly for there is too much to let sink in, with the sense of having known these characters for a long time.

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Contractors To Be Let Work On Secondary Roads

Contractors will be relied upon by the State Highway and Public Works Commission for the major part of the work on North Carolina's farm-to-market roads in the immediate future. Highway Chairman A. H. Graham said recently, in disclosing that a number of projects for the secondary roads are being prepared for a letting tentatively scheduled for March 23.

Highway forces, although in no position to do a large share of the work on these roads due to a shortage of materials and equipment and the critical needs for maintenance work elsewhere in the highway system, will nevertheless start on their share of the program on April 1, Graham said.

To Reduce Standards In order to get just as many miles of the farm-to-market roads treated as the contractors and highway forces are capable of doing, many of the finer engineering principles formerly adhered to by the commission's engineers will be discarded, Graham said.

"We won't build roads that are up to the high standards previously set," he declared, "but we are reducing these standards so that more miles of dirt roads can be surfaced or stabilized."

Not all of the engineering principles can be thrown in the discard, he said, although the construction probably will be "lighter than anything heretofore attempted." He said it would be necessary to maintain the principles so far as they concerned providing adequate drainage and bases for the roads in the proposed program.

Referring to the fact that contractors would have to do most of the work at first, Graham said the State is getting some equipment now from the government but nothing like the volume needed for its highway forces. Also, he declared that other highways have been without adequate maintenance during the war and will necessarily require some attention now.

Buying Tar, Asphalt A large share of the 19,250,000 gallons of tar and asphalt for which contracts are to be let will go into the country road program, he said. "This is the largest order ever made by the Highway Commission for bituminous materials," the highway chairman declared, "and much of the tar and asphalt will be used in treating country roads in the commission's program calling for the surfacing or stabilization of every mile possible during the next few months."

The Board of Awards of the State Division of Purchase and Contract is expected to place the orders for 18,100,000 gallons of asphalt and 1,150,000 gallons of tar at its meeting last week. Seven companies have submitted bids on the asphalt contracts, and six companies on the tar contracts.

In addition to the requirements for country roads, large amounts of bituminous materials are needed for treating roads that dried out and cracked during the war years when the materials were not available for providing adequate treatment, Graham said.

Much in a Name A little colored girl, a new-comer in Sunday school, gave her name to the teacher as "Fertilizer Johnson."

Later the teacher asked the child's mother if that was right. "Yes, ma'am, dat's her name."

FORD MEN RESUME MAKING AUTOS



SOME OF THE WORKERS at one of the plants of the Ford Motor Company in Michigan are shown busy at work getting the assembly lines rolling again. The auto-making plants have been closed since January 25 because of the steel shortage caused by the steel strike. Manufacturing was resumed in the Rouge, Highland Park and Iron Mountain, Mich., plants with 33,000 workers called back to work. (International Soundphoto)

Snap Shots Of The HUMAN SIDE OF LIFE —by— FRANCES GILBERT FRAZIER

We do not remember at the time, the exact number of cardinal sins that are listed but whatever that number may be there is one more that we think should really head the parade.

To be perfectly honest we do not know what constitutes the cardinal sins but they must be pretty awful for they are spoken of with bated breath. But not the sin we want to hold up for the attention of the public. Unfortunately, we run into the blamed thing almost every time we turn around—or get shoved around, perhaps. It speaks loudly for itself, you can well believe us.

We have reference to rudeness. Have you ever started out with the best intentions in the world, a lovely sprig of laurel in your hand and good fellowship in your heart? It's a beautiful world, the birds are singing, the sun is gleaming gold down on your up-lifted head and your soul is drifting around on filmy clouds. Alas!

The first thing you know, some one has taken up the slack on their side of the walk and have given you a resounding imitation of a battering-ram and you spin around like a case of vertigo. Do they say they are sorry? They do NOT. They glare at you as though their eyes were interrogation points inquiring why you were ever born; and if so, why you came out that day. If you followed your natural impulses the sprig of laurel would assume the proportions of the trunk of said laurel propelled through the air with the object of manslaughter.

But you compare the urge and remember that the sun is still shining as you amble along. The world is still a beautiful place although it has a black-and-blue place on one side. But that will heal... you think. You saunter into an attractive little drug store and sit down for a cooling drink. Without the formality of a "May I?" you find your single blessedness has been pushed over into the corner of oblivion and what space you can salvage is deeply resented by the interlopers. Your cooling nectar has been turned into a hot toddy of repression, depression and recession. You find conversation completely obscuring your solitude, words thrown over, under, around and at you for your absorption and delectation. You are supposed to be greatly impressed by the surrounding glamor. You certainly are anything else but!

Like all things, good or bad, the end finally comes and the pressure removed as the procession passes out. Oh, if it only would in the slancy sense! You meekly follow the parade, anxious for a breath of fresh air but even if you grab it quickly you will find the door slammed back in your face and said breath knocked out of you... Just another evidence of the indecency of rudeness.

There are varying degrees of rudeness, but all of them registering well above 90 degrees Fahrenheit. For instance how about that pest who invariably makes a parade ground right in front of you when you are conversing with some one? He has never seen the words "excuse me" in print and wouldn't recognize them if you drew a picture. Then there's that bird who rounds the corner on two wheels, cut-out wide open and horn blowing full speed ahead, as he sails into your street of conversation, ignoring all stop lights. You are forced into the curb of silence and oblivion. The pity is, that is one "road hog" the traffic officer cannot arrest.

We could go on indefinitely... but why? You have met them for they are like the hands of a clock... go around all day and every day. But if we could only turn them off like an alarm clock, we surely would have one less cardinal sin.

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Legion Oratorical Contest Will Be Held On March 30

The American Legion oratorical contest of the fifth district, originally scheduled for Hendersonville, will be held in Asheville on Saturday, March 30th.

The Legion division conference will be held at 4:00 o'clock at the S. & W. Cafeteria while the Auxiliary meeting will be held at the same hour at the First Presbyterian church.

A Dutch supper will be held at the S. & W. at 9:00 o'clock. The oratorical contest will be held on the fifth floor of the Buncombe county court house at 7:30. L. L. Fromberger is district chairman of the event.

MARRIAGE LICENSES

Joseph V. Lakerson, Jr. of New Jersey to Christine Swanson, of Canton.

Robert C. Platt of Waynesville to Ruth Lorena McCrary, of Clyde, Route 1.

Woodrow Flemmons to Mary Edith Ferguson, both of Marshall. James R. B. Gibson to Nonelene Haney, both of Haywood county.

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