

BOOK REVIEW

by HIX

The ghost of the Titanic has once more surfaced, but this time stripped of part of its legendary gloss. Geoffrey Marcus, in writing this latest book concerned with the disaster of April 14, 1912, which sent the unsinkable monarch of the ocean to a watery grave two miles below, is concerned not with whitewashing the captain and the multi-millionaires on board, but with establishing the truth.

"Maiden Voyage" leaves out nothing. It is a ruthless indictment of a captain who preferred speed to safety, leaning heavily upon his firm belief that even if the mammoth liner struck an iceberg, it would survive, and of an owner who urged him on to make a record crossing, in the face of the known and reported presence of icebergs.

The book is a chronological account, written in journalistic style, setting down the facts in precise detail, and leaving the conclusions to the reader. It is completely documented, its sources unassailable.

"Maiden Voyage" begins with the boat train from London, and ends with the legal aftermath of the various inquiries into the most famous sinking in history. There was bravery, there was cowardice, there was an entire cross-section of human nature, there were the cries of the drowning, there was avarice in believing that a bribe could insure safety, there was the incredible action of the skipper of a boat which had been near enough to help but turned a deaf ear to the SOS.

There was the woman who managed to take her suitcases with her in the lifeboat when struggling human beings froze to death in the icy waters of the North Atlantic, and the woman who was hastily accommodated in a lifeboat when she was thought to be carrying a child wrapped on her cloak. (It was her lap-dog.)

There were the men who hid themselves under thwarts in

the lifeboats when the age-old cry of "Women and children first" was sounded. The captain went down with his ship, as tradition demanded, but it was a completely futile gesture.

None of it needed to have happened. The sinking of the Titanic was a monument to greed and to a company which had economized on safety precautions, even omitting the life-boat drill on that ill-fated Sunday.

Far from being unsinkable, it had water-tight compartments which were in fact not water-tight at all, once the rising water had reached a certain level.

It was a beautiful big ship, with accommodations equaling those of a luxury hotel, but it was vulnerable to the tremendous power of the sea. Two hours after it had struck the iceberg it had sunk.

The only thing that saved the lives of those who had made it to the lifeboats, was the heroic endeavors of the radio operators who sent marconigrams as long as they had the power to transmit messages.

Radio came to maturity in that bleak hour, and Mr. Marconi, its inventor, joined the immortals.

"Maiden Voyage" is one of the new books at the Back Mountain Memorial Library.

It is as disillusioning as learning that George Washington did not cut down the cherry tree, or that there isn't any Santa Claus.

bake sale

The Senior Youth Fellowship of Shavertown United Methodist Church will hold a bake sale Saturday from 10 to 1 p.m. at two locations in the Back Mountain.

MYF members will be posted at the A&P and the Dallas Shopping Center and at Acme in the Shavertown Shopping Center.

BAKE SALE

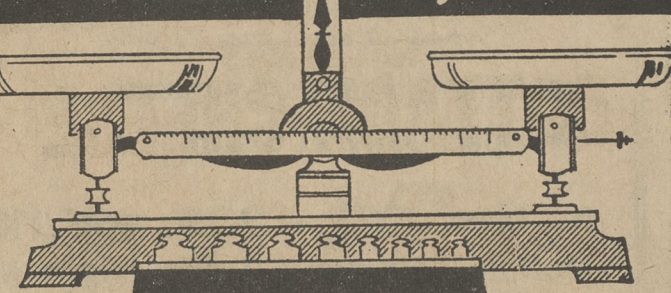
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Episcopal Women plan rummage sale

Women of the Prince of Peace Episcopal Church met for the first time this season, Sept. 17 in the parish hall. In advance of the session, the Rev. John Prater celebrated Holy Communion.

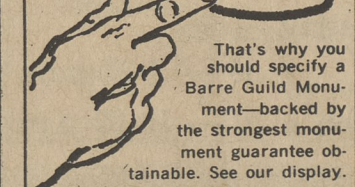
Sophie Kancher, chairman of the rummage sale, announced the event for Oct. 2 and 3 in the parish house, hours 10 to 8.

A budget for the coming year

bake sale

The Dorcas Society of St. Paul's Lutheran Church will sponsor a bake sale at the Shavertown Shopping Center, Saturday, Sept. 27. Sale will begin at 11:30 a.m., and Mrs. John Gallagher is chairman of the project.

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bloodmobile visits Dallas, Oct. 3

American Red Cross Bloodmobile will pay its semi-annual visit to Dallas Friday, Oct. 3. It will be stationed at Dallas Intermediate School, the former junior high school, from 11:45 to 5:45.

St. Andrews rummage sale

St. Ann's Altar Society of St. Andrews Eastern Orthodox Church, Dallas, will hold a rummage sale at the Acme auditorium, Gateway Shopping Center, Kingston, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, Sept. 25, 26 and 27, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Mrs. Paul Selingo, chairman, requests that the ladies of the society deliver their rummage to the auditorium early Wednesday evening, Sept. 24, or contact her for pick-up service.

Local women will staff the blood donation. A physician will be in attendance from headquarters at the blood center in Wilkes-Barre.

A new ruling from National Red Cross is going into effect for the first time this year. Donors will be accepted up to the age of 66. Heretofore, the cut-off line was 60, in the beginning it was 50.

Many persons who have given blood regularly have felt deprived upon being refused as donors because of age. Many have conveniently forgotten their birthdays, a lapse of memory which is no longer necessary. The present deadline of 66 has been considered more realistic in view of increasing longevity.

Pearle Gilroy is again coordinator for the blood donation.

obituaries

OTTIS G. CULVER

Ottis G. Culver, 61, of Lee Park, died suddenly Sept. 20 at his summer home in Bloomingdale. He was buried in the Bloomingdale cemetery on Tuesday, following services conducted from the Bronson Funeral Home by the Rev. Earl Ferguson.

Mr. Culver, a native of West Naticoke, was an employee of the Kanarr Corp., Luzerne.

Church affiliations were with Douglas Presbyterian Church, Lee Park.

Mr. Culver leaves his widow the former Elizabeth Herriotts of Laurel Run; two daughters: Edna Smith, at home; and Betty Thomas, Wilkes-Barre; two grandsons; a sister, Mrs. George West, of Westfield, Mass.

Meridian Restaurant on Main Street, Dallas.

In addition to his wife, the former Margaret Emmert of Wilkes-Barre, he is survived by two daughters, Lucy and Marilyn; a son, Ray Jr., and four grandchildren. He is also survived by the following sisters and brothers, all formerly of Dallas: Mrs. George Stolarick, Lehman; Gerald Sullivan, Wilkes-Barre; Mrs. David Eustus, Dorothy Velletri and Mrs. Clifford Schultz, Rhode Island; Mrs. Joseph Sheridan, Leroy, N.Y.; Alan Sullivan, Virginia; and Mrs. Jayson Harris, Washington, D.C.

MARIA FANTI

Maria Fanti died Sept. 18 at her home at Fanti's Park near Center Moreland.

She was a native of Italy, coming to this country 61 years ago to settle in Swoyersville, where she and her husband operated a grocery for wholesale and retail trade until 1937. For the past 32 years she operated Fanti's Park.

Church membership was with the Blessed Sacrament Church, Center Moreland.

She leaves two daughters, Mrs. Raymond Kudirka, at home, and Mrs. George Tamalis, Miami Springs, Fla.; two sons: Rudy Fanti, Swoyersville, and Dulio, Oceanside, N.J.; a sister, Mrs. Pasqua Orlandini, Swoyersville; a brother and sister, still remaining in Italy; 12 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Burial was at Memorial Shrine, following services from an Exeter funeral home Saturday in Blessed Sacrament Church.

RAYMOND HARRIS

Raymond Harris, born and raised in Dallas, died Thursday, Sept. 18, in a Baltimore Hospital.

Mr. Harris had been convalescing at home for two months following surgery. He returned to the hospital Wednesday preceding his death.

Services were held at the Hubbard Funeral Home in Baltimore, Monday, Sept. 22.

Born in Dallas in 1905, Mr. Harris went to Baltimore in 1936. A salesman for Montgomery Ward and Co. for 32 years, he sold tires to commercial accounts in the city, neighboring counties and states. He received many honors and awards for sales.

Prior to moving to Baltimore, Mr. Harris operated the

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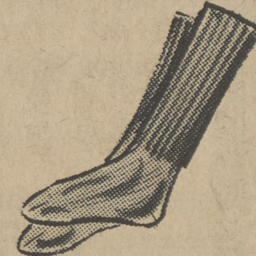
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