

The Voice

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EDITORIALS

The views expressed in these columns necessarily, a reflection of the policy are those of the writer and not of The Voice.—Pub.



by **JAMES C. OLSON**, Superintendent STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Ordinarily I don't review books in this column, but there was a book published last month that will be of interest to so many Nebraskans that I want to devote my space this week to discussing it with you. That book is *The World of Willa Cather*, by Mildred R. Bennett (Dodd, Mead & Company, New York, \$3.50).

Mrs. Bennett, herself a resident of the Red Cloud in which Willa Cather grew up, combines an intimate knowledge of the community with literary skill to describe the Nebraska environment which produced one of the 20th century's most important novelists.

Her discussion of the Red Cloud of Miss Cather's day is rich in detail—including even a floor plan of the Cather home. The real-life counterparts of many of the famous novelist's unforgettable characters—Mahailey, Claude Wheeler, the Bergsons, and many others—are identified. The life of the community with its significance for both the young Willa and the world-famous Miss Cather is given sympathetic portrayal.

Mrs. Bennett also discusses the part of Miss Cather's world that was the University of Nebraska where "people thought her independent and eccentric." It was there she abandoned her original enthusiasm for science and turned to letters. As had been true of many another budding author, seeing herself in print (in the *Nebraska State Journal*) had a profound impression upon the young Willa.

Among the book's most important contributions is the answer Mrs. Bennett supplies to the question (asked most often by Easterners), how did anyone so closely tied to a Nebraska-prairie childhood develop such a worldliness of outlook and style as to win wide acclaim as a student? "The answer," she writes, "probably lies in the little-realized fact that Nebraska frontier life of the 1880's, while rugged in the extreme, was far from the notion of barren, cultureless

Essay Contest Sponsored by Medical Association Closes on March 15th

All entries in the essay contest sponsored by the Nebraska State Medical Association must be submitted to district representatives by March 15, it was announced Thursday by Dr. C. H. Sheets of Cozad, medical association president.

The essay contest, which is being managed by the woman's auxiliary of the state medical association, is on the topic, "Medicine's Role in Preserving the American Way of Life." Mrs. R. E. Garlinghouse of Lincoln is chairman of the auxiliary committee.

Dr. Sheets said that informational materials had been sent to each high school in the state for use by pupils entering the contest. He emphasized that each of the association's 12 councilor districts is offering prizes for the best essays. The prizes, he added, are a \$25 bond for first place, \$10 in cash for second place and a certificate of honorable mention for the third best paper.

"Representatives have been selected in each of these districts to supervise the contest in their areas. All of the contest papers must be submitted to these representatives by March 15," the medical association president asserted.

Dr. Sheets also noted that state prizes will be awarded for the three best essays taken from the district races. The winner of the state contest will be given a \$100 bond and an expense-paid trip to the medical association's annual meeting in May at Omaha. Second and third prizes are \$50 and \$25 bonds.

Mrs. Garlinghouse pointed out that the contest is open to all 11th

and 12th grade students, with the exception of sons and daughters of physicians. She added that the papers should not exceed 1,500 words.

"Interest in the contest," Mrs. Garlinghouse continued, "is at a high point. Returns received already indicate that a considerable number of high school students are entering the contest. We hope it will encourage a majority of high school students to study thoroughly the role of professions and businesses in a democracy."

Leaders Present

(Continued from P. 1)

The darker peoples are looking into the United States to see what role the colored people of this country are playing in this democracy.

The feeling of the group was that the President appeared very much impressed with the consolidated thinking of prominent American Negroes representing a cross section of this country and such a varied group of citizens.

The conference with the President initiated a program of integration and recognition of the Negro citizens which the group expects to follow up on until it is carried out. Its members hope to meet soon with Wilson, head of the mobilization such top people as Charles E. program, and to put pressure on federal executive to include Negroes in their program. Through the accomplishment of their national effort they will insist upon regional and local mobilization boards including Negroes in their manpower planning.

Negroes Invited to Join Seminar To India, Pakistan and Far East

SAN FRANCISCO. (ANP). A special request inviting Negroes to participate in a summer seminar to the Far East in Asia has been issued by Dr. Alfred S. Fisk, professor of philosophy at San Francisco State college.

The seminar, to begin June 25, will take its participants to such places as Honolulu, Manila, Singapore, and Bangkok as well as to India and Pakistan. The group is expected to interview Prime Minister Nehru of India and Prime Minister Liaquat Ali Khan of Pakistan plus a number of other Eastern leaders.

Speaking of having students of all groups participate in this trip, Dr. Fisk said:

"I am very anxious to have participation by qualified Negroes."

Visitors as members of this seminar, thanks to the co-operation of the embassies and official governments of India and prominent other leaders.

They also will receive official receptions at various centers. Their visits will include historic sites and places of sociological significance including Indian villages.

The purpose of this seminar will be to get facts, observe conditions, and each member of the seminar to draw his own conclusions about Indian and Pakistan. It is designed for professional people, especially speakers, writers and university teachers.

Selected students working for advanced degrees also may attend. San Francisco State, itself, will espouse no doctrine or special position for this tour.

Most of the travelling will be by airplane, beginning June 26 in San Francisco. The trip to India will include full day stops with interviews and sightseeing in Honolulu, the Hawaiian islands, the Philippines, and Bangkok, Siam.

For the remainder of the trip, the seminar will travel through India, Pakistan, and Ceylon.

Cost of the seminar is an estimated \$1,500 for each person. The project is non profit, and any surplus at the end of the trip will be pro-rated among the members.

Persons interested in making this tour may write for more details to Dr. Alfred G. Fisk, San Francisco State college, San Francisco 2, Calif.

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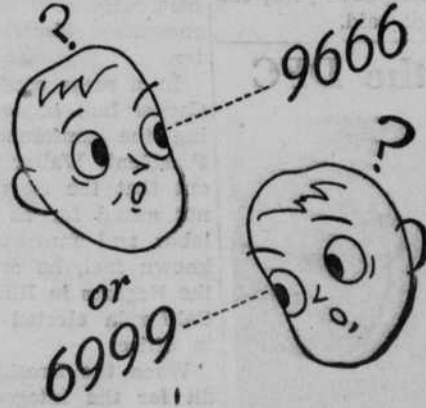
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