

Alexander's Band Reviving Ragtime

Language is fluid. As the pace of life grows faster, dictionaries need more frequent editions than telephone books. Even spelling has marched a long way from Chaucer to Winchell.

And from the title of the first of the known song manuscripts, such words as "Sumer is icumin in" have traversed the centuries to a title such as "Alexander's Ragtime Band."

In "ragtime" itself there is a wealth of etymological history. It (ragtime) has hovered in the hinterlands of America for years. Like many other American colloquialisms it literally sneaked into the ken of the populace by way of the honky-tonks.

So when "Alexander's Ragtime Band" and "Ragtime Violin" seized the popular fancy . . . the word "ragtime" became the object of profound attention.

What is ragtime

Isaac Goldberg in his "Tin Pan Alley," a comprehensive story of the musical show world says this:

"There was the old English word rag; if one could tear a passion to rags, why not tear a melody to rags? The Negro term for clog-dancing is ragging; to break down rhythm, to rag it, would simply mean to pep it up with off-beat rhythms and effects of syncopation."

Ragtime gave way to jazz (which by sound and typography draws its own picture of 'tearing things up').

Jazz hung on longest, perhaps because it was complete in definition of the American idiom. It even lived up to last week in "jitter" and "jitterbugs" — again exemplifying the effect of syncopated music upon the nerves.

Always it will be ragtime—Alexander's kind of ragtime, as so thrillingly portrayed through its career from 1911 to today in Darryl F. Zanuck's production of Irving Berlin's "Alexander's Ragtime Band," which comes to the El Portal Theatre with such stars as Tyrone Power, Alice Faye and Don Ameche Sunday, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

Ronzone's Store Is Modernized

A campaign of modernization has just transformed Ronzone's store into one of the most attractive in the city.

New fixtures have been installed and the shoe department especially is worthy of mention. Attractive show cases within the store display the styles, but the usual unsightly shelves filled with shoe boxes are not in evidence. A corridor has been left between the display cases and one wall in which the stock is stored, entirely out of sight of those in the store.

TAKE THINGS EASY

Just to remind you that not everybody has the jitters these hectic days. We rise to report that the nation's chess players will commence play in September of this year — for the 1942 national championship.

Politics Offers Youth Careers

"Never was there a more opportune time than now for a young man to begin a political career," declares Merideth Nicholson, United States minister to Nicaragua, in a challenging article on "Politics: A Field for Young Men" in The Rotarian Magazine. "The next decade is certain to be one of the most interesting and most important in history" in this field.

"As to the choice of a party affiliation, that's your personal affair," says the diplomat and author. "I suggest, however, that it is not absolutely necessary for you to enroll in the party of your grandfathers, or even of your wife's relations. Nor is it wholly wise to align yourself with a party which, at the moment, may seem invincible, in the belief that it can never lose."

Young men in politics should do their own thinking. Mr. Nicholson insists, rather than sacrifice principles in order to "keep regular." A sense of humor, tolerance, personality, and the ability to listen will contribute to the success of those who aspire to political leadership. "If you are a snob," he warns, "boil the poison out of your system before you attend your first precinct meeting."

"If I were counselling a serious young aspirant as to how to begin a political career, I should advise him first of all to make a study of some phase of government administration. And I should suggest a municipal or county unit as a good beginning. Here the abuses are often so flagrant and the need so great that his education in politics cannot fail to proceed prosperously."

The multiplication of the functions of government in recent years makes it desirable that a public servant should have a scientist's special knowledge in as many fields as possible, Mr. Nicholson believes, for "there is not merely a tendency now toward planned scientific administration; we have reached the point where we must have it. The scale of things is so vast that we can't turn engineering and construction jobs over to amateurs."

"Alexander Hamilton was well launched on his extraordinary career at 22," he points out to those young men who feel that their youth is against them. "John Randolph was elected to the House of Representatives at 26, and became leader in that body. James Madison, one of the greatest of those who gave form and direction to our institutions, was marked for a distinguished career at 24. And Henry Clay, at 22, was a member of the Kentucky constitutional convention and was elected to the United States Senate before he had attained the legal age prescribed for that dignity."

"Brains and character, not years, count."

NO TROUBLE AT ALL

Those German spies probably could have found out everything they wanted to know by mailing a self-addressed, stamped envelope to an information bureau.

German scientists have built a microscope which magnifies objects 100,000 times. It will not be necessary to import one with which to examine our public debt.

HAROLD STOCKER APPRECIATES SUPPORT

"I am sincerely appreciative of the loyal support given me in Tuesday's primary election for nomination as County Commissioner of Clark County.

"I hereby assure all the people of Clark County that, if elected in November, I will do everything in my power to give them a business-like and economical administration of county affairs.

"HAROLD STOCKER"

"TED" CARVILLE THANKS THE VOTERS

"I want to express to the readers and subscribers of the Las Vegas Age and particularly to all of the Democratic voters of Clark County, my appreciation and gratitude for Governor at the Democratic primaries.

"Sincerely,

"E. P. CARVILLE"