



By DICK MILLER
Highland School Librarian

DO YOU LIKE to read about sailing ships and the sea? Try DONALD MCKAY AND THE CLIPPER SHIPS, by Mary Ellen Chase.

When gold was discovered in California, there was an overnight demand for swifter sailing ships to carry much needed merchandise to the miners. In San Francisco eggs were selling for one dollar each, coffee at four dollars a pound, and flour at forty dollars a barrel. Sometimes a sailing ship could earn the entire cost of its construction on its first commercial voyage.

The answer to the demand for speed-at-any-cost was the extreme clipper ship, as streamlined as any fish or bird. Donald McKay was the greatest builder and designer of these handsome vessels. From his yards in East Boston came some of the swiftest and most beautiful sailing ships the world has ever seen.



DICK MILLER

THE VERY NAMES of these vessels read like a poem: Stag Hound, Flying Cloud, Staffordshire, Flying Fish, Sovereign of the seas, Westward Ho!, Great Republic, Lightning.

Every launching was a gala occasion. Schools were closed for the day and crowds gathered for the supreme moment when, to stirring music and wild applause, the latest creation of the talented designer slipped down the ways to float like a swan upon the waters.

Fitted with clouds of snowy sail, these sleek greyhounds of ocean commerce were immediately engaged in the profitable California trade --south to stormy Cape Horn, then northward to San Francisco. Frequently, there were exciting races between rival clippers. The graceful Flying Cloud once made the run to California in an incredible 89 days and 8 hours.

MARY ELLEN CHASE has recaptured the never-to-be-forgotten era of the clipper ship, the most romantic decade in American maritime history.

Born in Blue Hill, Maine, in 1887, just too late to be reared aboard a sailing ship, Mary Ellen Chase nevertheless heard enough about the sea in her youth to help her become one of America's foremost maritime writers. Her paternal grandfather and grandmother sailed together for eleven years and raised their children on the quarterdeck. From her family and her neighbors, Miss Chase gathered much of the lore to be found in her several best-selling novels and such distinguished non-fiction as her other book in Houghton-Mifflin publishing company's North Star series, SAILING THE SEVEN SEAS. In addition to being one of America's best-loved authors, Mary Ellen Chase, since 1926, has been Professor of English Literature at Smith College.

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EDUCATION ROUNDUP

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WHERE TAXES GO

MONTGOMERY, Ala. - (NPI)--Segregationist Gov. George C. Wallace pledged \$80 million in taxpayers' money to help local school districts fight desegregation. He told district officials to refuse to go along with federal desegregation guidelines and face a court order. Most court orders are less stringent than the desegregation guidelines, he claimed, adding that state funds would help the districts fight their court cases.

REINSTATEMENT

HENDERSONVILLE, N.C. - (NPI)--The local school system was ordered to reinstate 16 Negro teachers who lost their jobs last year when the system was desegregated. The Fourth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals found that the dismissed teachers had been forced to compete for a chance to retain their jobs, while white teachers were routinely re-employed. Eight Negro teachers employed before the schools were desegregated kept their jobs.

GHETTO LAG

CHICAGO - (NPI)--A study of students at the University of Illinois has revealed that this city's school system has not prepared its ghetto students for college. The survey showed that students in predominantly white or all-white high schools tended to average from B to B plus in their freshman classes, while students in predominantly or all-Negro schools tended to do D average work in college. The problem was compounded by the fact that only the very best students in ghetto schools go on to college.

TEXAS CROW

HOUSTON - (NPI)--This city's school system has been hit by a suit charging that almost total segregation is maintained. Parents of seven Negro children have gone into U.S. District court with a complaint that the system was bussing Negro children to overcrowded all-Negro schools, maintaining neighborhood school boundaries, and using other tactics to keep the races apart in the schools. Houston, the South's largest city, has the nation's sixth largest school district, with 226,350 pupils.

DE FACTO

WASHINGTON - (NPI)--The U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare has opened a new office to deal with de facto racial segregation in the schools. The section of the Civil Rights Act dealing with school desegregation "is not a very effective tool against de facto segregation," said HEW Secretary John W. Gardner, referring to racial separation in schools resulting from residential patterns.

Humphrey Hits Slumism

By LEON L. LEWIS

DALLAS, Texas - (NPI)--In speeches, conferences and panels, mayors from over 500 cities declared war on "slumism," leading up to and following an urgent keynote speech by Vice President Hubert Humphrey, before the U.S. Conference of Mayors annual meet at the Sheraton-Dallas hotel last week.

Humphrey charged, "Slumism is poverty, illiteracy, disease. Slumism is discrimination and frustration and bitterness." He went on to make a strong pitch for the administration's proposed Demonstration Cities Act of 1966. "We have the resources in know-how, in manpower, in capacity, to abolish the scourge of slumism," the Vice President said, and we have the will to do it. Our programs must aim at human as well as physical renewal."

TAKING A STAND for the present anti-discrimination housing bill before Congress, HHH expressed, unknowingly, a reiteration of a resolution passed by the Texas Association of Real Estate Brokers which met in Fort Worth a few days before.

He said, "Those who would have you think the anti-discrimination housing bill is a violation of personal liberty and rights are enemies to the overall urban progress and slum elimination."

Speaking of the Demonstration Cities Act, Humphrey said, "The initiative and solution for local problems would have to come from you. You would have to be willing and able to undertake the actions and responsibilities required of such program."

He said the proposed law, together with the anti-housing bill, would provide for adequate housing, plus education, health and social services needed to help people in slum areas to become useful, productive citizens able to participate fully in community life. He said the United States is going through both "quantitative" and "qualitative" change and now has a more than \$700 billion economy.

BUT DESPITE this prosperity, said the Vice President, "more than 30 million Americans suffer degrading poverty. Despite our laws and our national commitment, many Americans do not enjoy full first class citizenship--because of their skin color, their religion, their last name or the place they came from. Despite our housing and urban development, and education and health programs, large parts of America's cities are not fit for daily life."

"And slumism", he said, "is the enemy."
"Slumism is decay of structure and deterioration of the human spirit. Slumism is ungathered barbage and dilapidated buildings. Slumism is a family of eight in an unheated room. Slumism is danger on the stairs and violence in the streets. Slumism is rent so high, a desperate man is moved to tears and crime. Slumism is the pent-up anger of people living on the outside of affluence. Slumism is a virus which spreads through the body politic.

(See SLUMISM, page 14)

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