

**Public Library**

**Tight-Rope Walker**

In one of the side galleries at the Art institute is a small picture called the "Tight-Rope Walker." It was painted by a French artist in 1852. The coloring is most unusual and despite its small size the picture attracts attention because of its unique qualities. Haven't you often wished as you visited the Art institute or other art galleries that you knew a bit more about the fine arts? Why not visit the public library and while away a few of the winter hours by perusing art books? Among those to be found on the shelves are Leonard Richmond's "The Art of Landscape Painting," Charles Coffin's "How to Study Pictures," Henrietta Gerwig's "Fifty Famous Painters" and others of like interest too numerous to mention here. Or if having seen the recent exhibit of etchings you feel tempted to try your hand, the library has several volumes designed to aid the beginner. Find a

new hobby in art this winter and let the library guide you.

**Just Received**

- Lyric America, by Alfred Kreymborg.
- The Treasurer's Report, by Robert Benchley.
- The American Leviathon, by Chas. Beard.
- Lafitte, the Pirate, by Lyle Saxon.
- Man and His Universe, by John Langdon-Davies.
- Piloting Your Life, by Joseph Jastrow.
- Riders of the Plagues, by James A. Tobey.

**Communist Activities**

The Jan. 19 issue of the United States Daily has a supplement of interest to everyone. This is the report of the special committee to investigate communist activities and propaganda in the United States. We see and read about soviet activities in the newspapers, but this information given spasmodically is not always reliable. If you are interested in reading this 20 page report which is accurate and enlightening, ask for it

at the changing desk in the public library.

**Boys and Girls**

"I must down to the seas again, to the lonely sea and the sky,  
And all I ask is a tall ship and a star to steer her by,  
And the wheel's kick and the wind's song and the white sail's shaking,  
And a grey mist on the sea's face and a grey dawn breaking."  
Masefield.

Where is there the boy who has not had, at one time or another, a longing for the sea with all its accompanying adventures? In "Spice and the devil's cave" by Agnes Hewes, and "Courageous Companions" by Charles Finger, one lives a breathless existence from the beginning of the stories to their conclusion. The first mentioned book is a tale of the struggle between Venice and Portugal to gain control of the all-sea route to the spices of India and the Far East. The reader is introduced to Lisbon at the end of the Fifteenth century, where he finds Magellan, then still very young, but burning with the desire to make a sea-voyage. Vasco da Gama and Bartholomew Diaz live and speak in the printed page, while encounters with pirates and deep mystery lurk everywhere. This is an excellent story for older boys and girls. The fascinating wood-cuts by Lynd Ward are a most attractive feature of the book.

In "Courageous Companions" we find Magellan now grown to manhood. This tale, based on the historical documents of Magellan's cruise, follows the course of his ship through uncharted seas, into hazardous channels never plumbed before, and pre-

sents to the reader an intimate picture of these first navigators who risked their lives to chart the unknown Southern Seas. Of course, there is mutiny at sea, brave struggles with savage hosts and other adventures which flavor the tale.

"Swords on the Sea," an earlier book by Agnes Hewes, is also a tale of real adventure in the fourteenth century when Venice and Genoa were bitter enemies in war and trade.

**If You Want to Fly**

"Silver Wings" by Raoul Whitfield, is a good collection of aviation stories divided into three groups: Wings of war, Wings of the mail, and Wings of transport. To boys who "can't get enough aviation stories," this will be welcome.

A very readable book on attempts at flight in mythological lore and fairyland is "Wonder flights of long ago" edited by M. E. Barry. Among the stories included are: "Pegasus and Bellerophon," "The flying stool" and "The magic carpet."

**True Stories**

For those who thirst for really true stories, some new and attractively written books are:

- "Lives of boys and girls who became famous" by Cruse.
- "Men who found out" by Williams-Ellis.
- "Builders of Empire" by Darrow.

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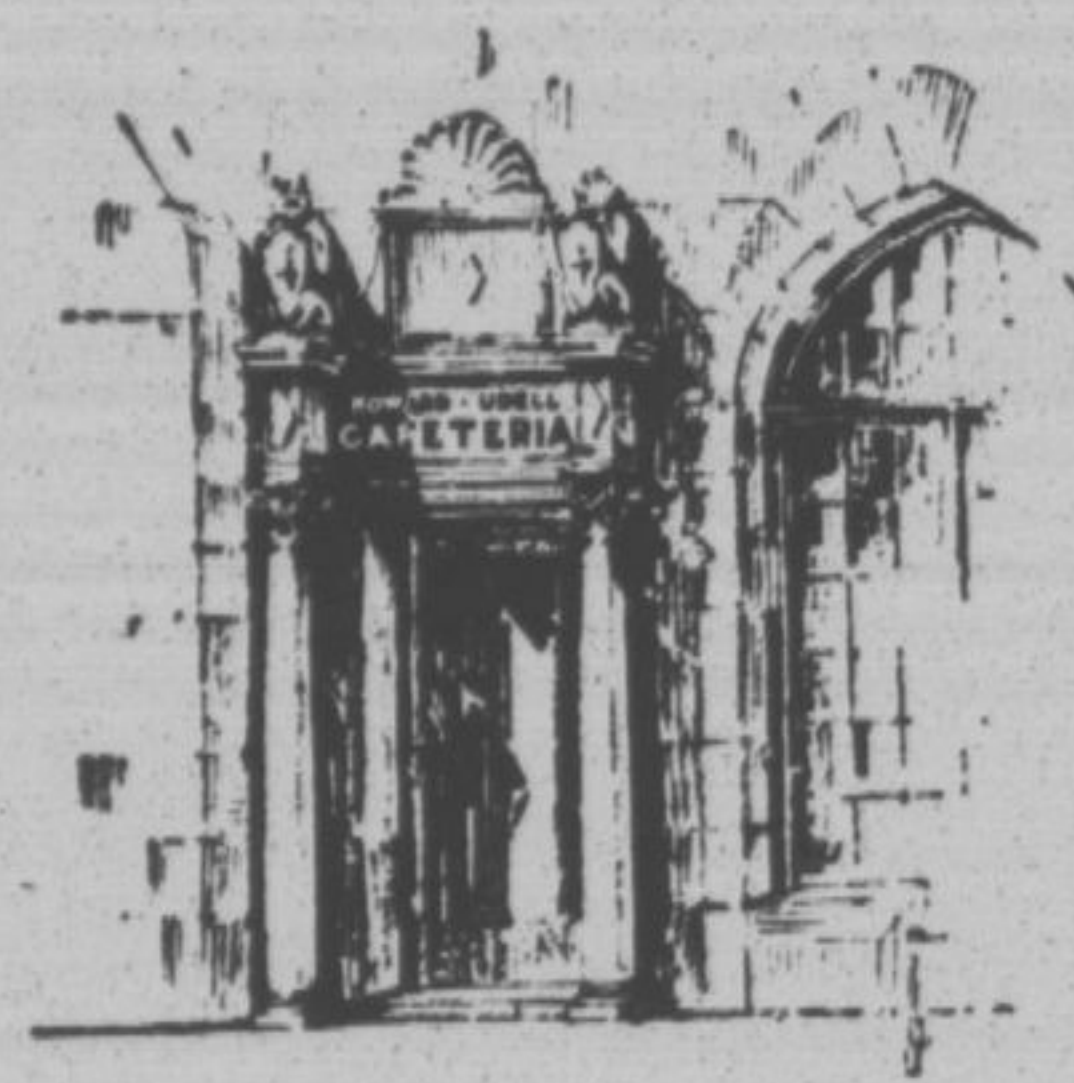
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