

and recombining old discoveries may wonder if there is anything really left to discover. He may feel that they have reached the point where they know what there is left to discover. They feel, too, that there is not much left. (For instance, we do not know what matter is. Where do cosmic rays come from? What is memory? Is this universe a chance or a law?) The feeling that all was known in the field of physics was recalled by Alfred North Whitehead. "At Cambridge, in the 1880's, there were a few tremors, a slight shiver as of all not being quite secure, but no one sensed what was coming. By 1900 Newtonian physics was demolished. Done for! Still speaking personally, it had a profound effect on me: I have been fooled once, and I'll be damned if I'll be fooled again." No subject can be considered a closed subject.

Nevertheless, to know what is unknown presents a wonderful challenge to Man Thinking and to man in general. Without the quest for knowledge this world would be a most boring, futile place. What Emerson wrote more than a century ago still applies to our society and to Man Thinking. "We think our civilization is near its meridian, but we are yet only at the cockcrowing and the morning star."

## Our National Heritage

Shirley Martin

ON A HOT summer day in 1775 in the halls of the Continental Congress, Patrick Henry's voice cried out passionately, ". . . give me liberty or give me death." Such vibrant outbursts as this inflamed the hearts of the colonists and sent forth an untrained musket brigade of back woodsmen to defeat the mighty British army. The world watched and marveled as this hastily gathered, ill-clad army of patriots repelled the "Red Coats" and gave birth to a new way of life called the United States of America.

This infant, the United States, stood up on shaky legs, reared its head, and dared to swell and grow. As the United States grew, it slipped through the Cumberland Gap into the rich green grasslands of Kentucky; it stretched with pleasure in the warmth of the sunshine until one great arm reached across the Ohio and Missouri Rivers into the desolate plains of the Dakotas. With its other sinewy arm it crept forward through the white tufted cotton land of Alabama, across the wide, muddy Mississippi and Arkansas Rivers, and cooled its slender fingers in the Rio Grande. Its huge eyes inflamed with youth and vigor roved over the golden wheat of Kansas, across the roaring Colorado, above the snow-capped Rockies, and snorted, "I will have this land until I drink of the Pacific, and make tooth-picks of the mighty redwood!"

This majestic United States swatted off the French and the British armies, fed on the red man, and conquered the plague of

Civil War. It stormed San Juan Hill, the Marne, Berlin, and it introduced the world to the Atomic Age at Hiroshima.

From its blood and sweat and tears, the United States sprang up, a mongrel race gathered from the four corners of the earth. Its spirit was mixed together with common cause, spiced with common ideals, enriched by mutual understanding, and leavened by the resounding chorus of all those who dared cry out, "Give me liberty, or give me death."

For 186 years, this mongrel race fought and died to keep the cry for liberty alive, and the torch of freedom burning as an example for all the world to follow. In the last fifteen years, however, the United States' cry has not been sufficient to defeat an equally young and vigorous foe which has spread its shadow across the whole of Asia and three-fourths of Europe. For fifteen years the shadows of these two mighty ideas, democracy and Communism, have spread across the earth in mortal combat, seeking to capture the minds of all mankind. For the past ten years the tide of battle seems to have swayed constantly toward the ideas of communism and away from those of the United States.

Can it be that the United States has grown weak and senile in the face of this new adversary? Can it be that the ideals of democracy and equality have been mocked and scourged so long on the rack of world opinion that the people of the United States no longer know what they believe?

I think not. The ideals of democracy are as strong and alive now as they were in 1776. The time has come, however, to stop and to look back over 186 years of history. How can the people of the United States expect the world to follow its example when within its own shoreline men live in poverty and filth, when men are denied equal chance because of religious intolerance?

This is the day in its history when the United States must instill in the hearts of its children a more fervent love of country. Through the vast media of radio and television (through examples like the presentation "A Tour of the White House" by Mrs. John Kennedy), by newspapers, magazines, and textbooks, by teachers and by parents, the United States must make its children aware of the great beauty of the work and talent that have become their national heritage. Only by knowing what they believe about democracy, and by taking pride and having faith in their beliefs can future generations of the United States face the threat of Communism and say, "We will not accept your reasoning! We will live as free men, or we will die protecting our freedom!"