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The Tulsa Tribune

Richard Lloyd Jones

MAKE TULSA A GOOD CITY FOR YOUTH

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Tulsa, Oklahoma, Friday, December 10, 1937

The best place on earth to live is exactly where I live so long as I do my part to make it so.
—John Sharp Williams.

OUR PER CAPITA DEBT

TWO years ago local calamity howlers became panic stricken by the fact that a handful of Oklahoma oil men had fled to Texas because under Texas laws a man and wife can file separate income tax returns and thus reduce the total income tax liability for any given family. Pessimists predicted that all Oklahoma wealth would stage a mass hegira across the Red river and that Oklahoma cities would be bereft of all their well-to-do citizens.

Of late little has been heard of these mass emigrations and a recent investigation showed that the tide, such as it was, has actually turned in Oklahoma's favor.

The reason for this has been demonstrated by L. D. Melton, research director for the Oklahoma Tax commission, who has just published a report showing that the per capita debt of Texas is twice as large as that of Oklahoma, and that a millionaire, if he moves to Texas, assumes twice the potential tax liability that he would have assumed had he remained in Oklahoma.

Melton found that the per capita debt of Oklahoma was the lowest of eight southwestern states. Here are the figures:

Louisiana	$144.42
Arkansas	103.83
New Mexico	100.44
Texas	100.16
Colorado	84.15
Missouri	83.26
Kansas	61.72
Oklahoma	49.04

If future legislatures can be prevented from embarking on senseless spending orgies wealth has less to fear in Oklahoma than in other states. Oklahoma's good position should continue to attract investments to Oklahoma, which, in turn, will provide additional jobs, salaries and markets for the average worker and farmer. This good position should be jealously guarded.

BETTER SERVICE TO TEXAS

Throughout the past week a series of petitions have been circulated among Tulsa oil executives demanding from the presidents of both the Frisco and the Katy railroads better railroad passenger service between Tulsa and Dallas and Ft. Worth.

At the present time Tulsa has only one daily train to Texas. It leaves Tulsa at 9:45 p. m., arriving in Dallas and Ft. Worth at 6:30 a. m., and it makes all the local stops. This train takes nearly nine hours to cover 260 miles in contrast to the new streamlined train service between Dallas and Houston which affords transportation over a distance of 250 miles in four hours and 10 minutes.

Tulsa has been badly handicapped by poor rail service for many years. It has no service to Wichita, none into Arkansas. Tulsa's best rail schedule to Memphis and the southeast calls for a six-hour lay-over in Springfield, Mo. Trains to Kansas City average but 55 miles an hour. But of all these, the Texas service is the most irritating. In order to meet early morning appointments in Houston oil men are forced to drive their own cars to Muskogee the previous noon in order to catch an afternoon train south.

The oil executives petition asks that the departure of the night train be delayed until 11 o'clock so that a full evening may be had in Tulsa, and that a new afternoon train be inaugurated to leave Tulsa around 4:30 p. m., with arrival in Dallas in time to connect with midnight trains to Houston.

If Tulsa is to maintain itself as the Oil Capital of the World it must be accessible to all parts of the oil country. Improved rail service to Texas is a matter of vital civic concern.

TOLERANT SOUTHBURY

Members of the German-American Bund, a Nazi organization which hates Jews, detests democracy, and is dedicated to "regenerating the United States on the order of the fatherland," have lodged a protest against the citizens of Southbury, Conn., for "intolerant" treatment of several of their members.

It seems that Southbury is a very American town with many American traditions and is full of peaceful people who are very proud that their ancestors fought in the Revolutionary war. A month ago the Bund bought a piece of land near Southbury for a Bund playground. A Bund playground is a sort of summer camp meeting to which members from New York City come for week-ends and where they dress in gray uniforms, march about behind Swastikas, sing the Horst Wessel song, and cuss America with guttural enthusiasm.

The Bund sent some advance workers up to Southbury to clear the ground for their buildings and while they were thus engaged the irritated Southbury police dug up an old blue law and arrested them for working on Sunday. So now the Bund is screaming about "persecution" and "intolerance."

Now the police of Southbury, Conn., were really being very tolerant. If a group of American citizens in Germany went out in the woods for the purpose of marching about behind the stars and stripes, singing the "Star Spangled Banner," and cussing Hitler they would neither be arrested nor fined. No, they would merely be shot.

The destruction of all alien and opposition groups is the main doctrine of what the Bund cheerfully calls "the order of the fatherland." The Bund is strangely unappreciative of the tolerance of the people of Southbury.

AMERICA'S HEALTH

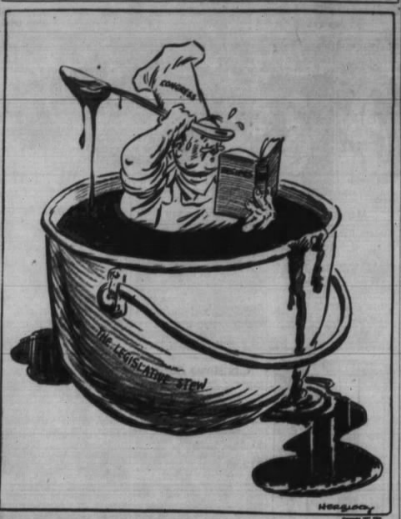
The health of the average American citizen is this year the best in history, according to a report recently published by Dr. Charles L. Christiernin, medical director of one of America's largest life insurance companies. Doctor Christiernin believes that if present trends continue a saving of 67,000 lives may be calculated in America for 1937 as compared to 1936.

"We may expect 47,000 fewer deaths this year, despite an increase in population which would have resulted in 10,000 more deaths had the 1936 death rate continued," Doctor Christiernin stated. "Tuberculosis has been declining steadily year by year, until now its annual mortality is only 50 per 100,000. The pneumonia death rate has dropped in spite of the recent influenza epidemic.

"In spite of the fact that the average age of Americans is rising it is interesting to note that deaths from such middle and old age diseases as heart ailments, cerebral hemorrhage, and Bright's disease actually declined last year. Childbirth mortality is falling rapidly as a result of more general use of competent medical care, and the campaign against syphilis has already been reflected in a decrease in deaths due to complications from that disease.

"Gratifying as these conditions are," Doctor Christiernin concluded, "there is a lot to be done. We may be pretty healthy now, but we are nowhere near as healthy as we are going to be if the present campaigns toward better health education are continued. If everyone practiced what science already knows there is no reason why the average man's life ought not to be prolonged by at least ten years."

'LET'S SEE NOW—WHERE AM I?'



"TODAY IN WASHINGTON"

By DAVID LAWRENCE

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WASHINGTON, Dec. 10.—Realignment of the two major political parties in America—or at least the first step leading to a reorganization within the ranks of both—has been brought nearer to realization by two outspoken utterances this week from leaders within the Democratic and Republican parties.

There can be no doubt that Lew Douglas, former director of the budget under President Roosevelt and formerly a Democratic member of the house of representatives from the district in Arizona, expresses the philosophy and idea of the independent Democrats. His masterful speech at the economic club in New York was heard and applauded by that venerable senator from Virginia, Carter Glass, who considers himself a true Democrat and the new dealers quite something else.

Mr. Douglas' speech was an event of political importance because it serves notice on the Republican party that they can never hope to win to their side the independent Democrats unless Republicanism abandons its high protection policies and accepts at least the principle of reciprocal commerce enunciated by Cordell Hull, secretary of state.

From a different angle, Governor Aiken of Vermont attacks the ultra-conservative viewpoint, indicating that he, like Lew Douglas, is not content to pauperize on what is needed to win the independent vote in America. The Vermont governor argues the cry that many a critic of Republican party tactics has been raising for several months, namely that the Republicans have been expecting to win purely through a negative attack on the new deal and not by a constructive program of their own. Mr. Aiken calls for "an affirmative program" and includes in it the suggestion that the Republican party "accept in general the social aims which the opposing party has had the wisdom to adopt, but has lacked the ability to put into efficient operation."

The Vermont governor says nothing about the tariff or foreign trade agreements, but does hear a challenge to Republicans to reexamine their viewpoint so as to encourage "a large volume of goods and services for more people of the nation."

Mr. Douglas, however, who has no traditional defiance about discussing the tariff or excessive protectionism, says particular emphasis on the plight of the democracies of the world which are hemmed in by more and more policies of economic nationalism in the fascist countries. His argument is not unlike that which Secretary Hull has made again and again and which ultra-conservatism has been vehemently opposing. Says Mr. Douglas:

"May I suggest that business men see the significance of the very courageous efforts which the secretary of state is making toward the widening of the markets, to understand that it is fatty of the highest order to expect a world, organized to produce and distribute a very real quantity of goods, to exist with any degree of happiness, prosperity, or freedom, within markets which have been reduced to narrow limits of national boundaries?

"To be sure, the process of enlarging markets may inflict pain on certain groups. But will they be willing to suppress their own private interests for the benefit of the public welfare? Will they not see that synthetic economic independence attained only—if, indeed, it can be attained at all—by unnatural and costly production of goods, is essentially an impoverishing movement? Will they not see that the freedom which they seek, the stable currency which they demand, are wholly incompatible with the exchange restrictions, the internal regulation of prices and activities which necessarily accompany closed economies? Will they not see that intolerance of racial origins, degradation of religious freedom, decay of intellectual ma...ty, are the handmaidens of isolation?"

Mr. Douglas might have reminded Republicans that their statesmen of past generations—Secretaries of State James G. Blaine and John Hay, and President McKinley—were the original proponents of reciprocity and that it was a Republican president of our own times—Herbert Hoover—who opposed the much controverted "favored nation clause" in our trade treaties. The former director of the budget evidently was thinking of these points when he said:

"May I also suggest that the Republican party re-examine its traditions? Will it not see that, if a subsidy is granted to one group, as a matter of ordinary justice it is impossible to withhold subsidies from other groups? Will it not realize, as, indeed, I think it must conclude, that a nation so subsidized is a nation ultimately controlled and regulated by government itself? Will it not see, as I think it must see, that an important economic treaty of real importance with the other great English-speaking nations of the world is today the most practical and effective step which can be taken toward preserving the peace of the world? May I not say to the members of the Republican party that it is no crime to change, and that the only crime is to commit it?"

Undoubtedly the Douglas crystallizes what many of them have been waiting to say to the Republicans for a long while; that which the Republicans in their national convention of 1936 ignored in the mistaken belief that Roosevelt was sufficiently unpopular to lose the election and that it was not necessary to make concessions to the independent vote in the Democratic party. What is most interesting now is that, following upon these speeches as referred to above, both Mr. Douglas and Mr. Aiken are being mentioned as presidential possibilities for 1940. The reason for the mention is clear—they have the courage of their convictions, and it—regardless of whether they create opposition and hostility among groups which disagree with them—they prefer to fight out the issue now—long in advance of conventions and coalition conferences.

A Dozen a Day

From Files of The Tulsa Tribune

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO
From The Democrat, Dec. 10, 1912

The public affairs committee of the Tulsa Commercial club was called to meet this afternoon in the clubroom to take a decided stand in favoring a federal appropriation for the Arkansas river between Ft. Smith and Tulsa. In the event that the river is made navigable for barge carrying freight, it would mean the saving to Tulsa of millions of dollars in freight rates and would make this city factories and wholesale houses by the score.

Dancing club devotees of the country club set will gather this evening at the clubhouse for another of the informal dances planned for the winter and spring season.

Just an hour and three quarters last night at the M. E. church, South, John E. Stewart of Tulsa told an interested crowd of his work among the newsboys of the world. He has spent 21 years in this work for boys and has 20,000 members in this organization founded by him.

Santa Claus is on to date. Three thousand Christmas trees in a steel freight car was a sight which greeted Tulsa shoppers this morning as the first shipment of the total tree made its appearance over the Frisco.

The efforts of two pairs of young lovers to submit their luck by making use of the fun and gayety of the Mardi Gras festival form the romance of "Louisiana Lou" which will be seen Thursday at the Grand Opera house.

Today was one of the busiest days Tulsa has seen for many a day. The prevailing fine weather had a great deal to do with the large number of shoppers in the city. The streets presented a sight very much on the order of circus day.

* * *

FIFTEEN YEARS AGO
From The Tribune, Dec. 10, 1922

Jacqueline Logan and James Kirkwood are but two of the specialist cast taking part in "Fifth Tide", a thrilling drama of the sea, which opens at the Majestic theater next Sunday.

The Hiking club's Christmas party for the 27 kiddies of Tulsa's poor families given the club by providing for this winter will be given on Saturday afternoon, in the home of Mrs. Charles E. Hales at 1520 E. Nineteenth st.

D. D. Westheaver, newly elected potentate of Akdar Temple, announced that Arthur Partner is now in Washington making reservations for house for members of Akdar Divan, patrol, band, drum corps, and the general nobility during the imperial council session in Tulsa.

F. C. W. Parker, international secretary of the Kiwanis clubs, is to be the speaker at tomorrow's meeting of the Kiwanis club at the Hotel Tulsa. His coming to this city is regarded by local Kiwanians as an event in the city's club history.

Elsie Ferguson in "Outcast" is a feature attraction at the Majestic theater today. Mr. Ferguson was seen dazzling New York gowns in the greatest role of her screen career.

Miss May McDonald, 17-year-old high school senior, was voted queen in the girls dramatic reading contest held in Sapulpa Friday night at which representatives of the ten high schools of the "Little Ten" conference competed.

The Various Scene

By GEORGE CLARK

"Quick! Put that stuff back into the bowl! Here comes Junior up the walk now!"

BOAKE CARTER SAYS

(Copyright, 1937, by The Tulsa Tribune)

The granting of an allotment of 17,000,000 cubic feet of helium to the American Zeppelin Transport Corporation means not one thing; that the German Zeppelin Company will be operating a new passenger-freight-carrying airship across the Atlantic by the middle of next summer.

An airship the size of the Hindenburg takes approximately 7,000,000 cubic feet of helium. The new sister ship, already built and now undergoing minor changes in structure to accommodate the use of helium, will take slightly more than this amount of the gas, because of its larger size.

The remainder of the allotment probably will be used for drying and replenishment at Lakehurst in the United States and at Friedrichshafen, Germany.

The Germans have used hydrogen gas all their lives and this they were able to waive off at will when the ascending because of its cheap cost. American lighter-than-air experts, with their experience in water ballast recovery, however, have added the German Zeppelin company in teaching the latter, thereby, how to eliminate much of the need of using the precious helium—precious because of its present high cost of manufacture.

Thus airships for long over-water routes stand on the threshold of their goal again—this time with the dangerous, inflammable hydrogen gone, banished forever from use in airships operating to and from the United States.

* * *

It is a goal for which a small handful of lighter-than-air men have fought bitterly, tenaciously, resolutely for years in America. It is what this column fought for before the Hindenburg disaster and immediately subsequent to that crash. It is because this writer, though a heavier-than-air pilot, a long, long time ago, believed: (1) in the principle that there is a place for everything, if everything is in its place; (2) that airships have a very definite place in future transportation over long ocean routes; (3) that possessing a virtual monopoly of the world's supply of helium, the United States was foolish not to swap helium for technical experience with the German Zeppelin Company, a private concern, and enormously lead the world in this form of transport. It was because of these beliefs that this writer, among other worthier people, appeared before the House Military Affairs Committee last year.

* * *

The action of the Munitions Claims Board in granting the allotment last year will bring no helm to the German lighter-than-air venture moving ahead behind the scenes in Germany and Europe, and to the ocean airways travel routes.

Yet, indeed, are the efforts being made to nail down their political control, by the Nazis, of the most experienced government authorities in the United States—the Interstate Commerce Commission and its ultimate detriment of an general public of the United States.

There are specifically two groups fighting for control of both manufacture of airplanes and the transcontinental operations. One group, with the support of two of the large airplane manufacturers of America—one in the East and one in California—and the Nazis, which are attempting to invigle the Maritime Commission to gin itself down to official recommendation of one type of airship to the exclusion of all else.

The first step in this quiet campaign was taken in the recent preliminary report on aviation issued by the Commission. Hurriedly to congress, damning with faint praise the two leading types except flying boats.

When Kennedy grasped his story on the report, he little realized that he was treading on thin ice. Had the report been released given some discussion to flying boats, seaplanes, and blimps and airships with comparative impartiality, none would have been able to quarrel with the document. This, however, was not the case. The report as it now stands plays down the alley of one group of pseudo-aviation experts, people who hope to wrest control of the lucrative air routes from America, Inc., and Pan American Airways and financial gravy, from the group of Wall Street financiers.

The latter group, fearful of any expansion of the Maritime Commission, because it fears Kennedy will involve its past history, during the years of the Harding administration, in the Teapot Dome scandals, which will not be forgotten, who want no more avenues to the public treasury, and preferential between the two groups.

If the Maritime Commission wants to play with oceanic air transport, let it equip itself with a committee of impartial air experts—one airship man, one large plane man, one flying boat man, one seaplane man, a technical engineering adviser and the chairman of the commission as an ex-officio member.

If, however, it continues to utilize an aviation committee which is sold on one type of equipment, to exclusion of all others, no matter how worthy some of the other types may be, it is headed for trouble and scandal.

* * *

It is interesting to note that deaths from such middle and old age diseases as heart ailments, cerebral hemorrhage, and Bright's disease actually declined last year. Childbirth mortality is falling rapidly as a result of more general use of competent medical care, and the campaign against syphilis has already been reflected in a decrease in deaths due to complications from that disease.

"Gratifying as these conditions are," Doctor Christiernin concluded, "there is a lot to be done. We may be pretty healthy now, but we are nowhere near as healthy as we are going to be if the present campaigns toward better health education are continued. If everyone practiced what science already knows there is no reason why the average man's life ought not to be prolonged by at least ten years."

FAIR ENOUGH

By WESTBROOK PEGLER

(Copyright, 1937, by The Tulsa Tribune)

NEW YORK, Dec. 10.—I see by the New York Daily News that four state universities—Iowa, Minnesota, West Virginia and Georgia—are suing the federal government to collect the amusement tax on their football tickets and are suing for the refund of $119,000, claiming that because they are state institutions their football teams are agencies of their respective state governments. This is a new one.

The football business is a branch of the amusement business, just as the baseball business, which does pay taxes, or the movie business or the prize fight business. It has more plant than any other department of sport except golf, which does pay taxes, and everything about it, from the recruiting of replacements to the sale of tickets and the ballyhoo, is conducted in commercial manner and mainly by professionals.

The football revenue is already exempt from the income tax. As educational institutions the colleges all are exempt from kicking in with a legitimate share of their profits on the strength of a supreme court ruling of a few years ago which holds that no matter how much income is made it is tax-exempt if it belongs to a religious, charitable or educational institution.

In the case in point a religious institution was given permission to claim the income tax on a commercial business in chocolate, and the president is such that anyone may organize a phony religion, take out articles of incorporation, spell a church house in an office or ex-grocery store and then start an additioned factory or a department store as a side-line, the profits of which would be free of income tax. Many of the institutions which enjoy this exemption actually do operate commercial business in competition with private dealers who have to pay not only that income tax but other taxes not applicable to their institutional rivals. The private operator may emit a faint, plaintive squawk now and then, which relieves their feelings but does no other good.

State universities with profitable football teams are doubly exempt from the income tax on their gate receipts—first under their classification as educational institutions and again as agencies of their respective state governments. A coach getting $15,000 a year (incidentally, he is not paid that too, but that is the figure he is in a position to demand) is a state employee.

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(illustration) may also claim that he is an agency of the state government and beg to be excused.

You ought to read that section of the revenue act some time. It exempts labor organizations, and that goes for organizations which themselves collect an income tax on the earnings of members who are exempted from the federal tax. Maybe the government didn't have the heart to take anything from people in brackets that low.

It goes for labor organizations which conspire among themselves to keep men out of certain lines of work by imposing prohibitive initiation fees or merely by rejecting their applications.

Cemetery companies which claim that they are not operated for profit and whose net earnings do not inure to the benefit of any private shareholder or individual also are exempt. Do you know? Some time and pretend that you are shopping for an eight-by-four patch of God's green earth in which to wait by reveille and then wonder how comes such prices if there is no profit motive. Foot footage on the boulevard in town will come no higher than some of the socially exclusive cities in a place where all men are supposed to be equal.

I am inclined to believe that Joe Sharpe had a better idea than he thought in his travesty on football and the underworld rackets which he called "Racket Rax." In the daffy little alteration a lot of bootlegs bought an old brewery, started a college and went into the football business in a huge way, but Sharpe probably didn't know that they could have started a theater, too, a chain store system, a hotel, a factory and a fight club all under the income tax immunity of an educational institution. They couldn't have taken any dividends, of course, but again as agencies of their respective state governments. A coach getting $15,000 a year (incidentally, he is not paid that too, but that is the figure he is in a position to demand) is a state employee.

HUGH JOHNSON Says:

(Copyright, 1937, by The Tulsa Tribune)

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 10.—From the beginnings of West Point, any boy who could get by the stiff entrance exams, stick out the tough ordeal of "beast barracks," avoid the double deficiencies of plebe January and plebe June,—could play football, or any other game he could stick to. He could play the full four years if he could stick them out. He could play regardless of the fact that he had played at another college before he came to West Point.

When other colleges adopted a rule permitting no man to play during the season a year after he had legally competition, West Point adopted the same rule—although it though she did follow the flock in prescribing a plebe from playing on the varsity team.

The same is true of a form of criticism. Navy changed her rules and became Army didn't. Navy discovered a contract made with full knowledge of Army's standards, and promptly set about to duplicate it.

Both the three-year rule and the anti-freshman rule had a reason. It was to prevent semi-professionals and football promoting that attitude of mind which prevents graduates from soft berths in one college to another.

West Point is no soft berth for any boy. The entrance exams may not call for the highest educational standards, but they are surely the most difficult. They are not designed to let boys in but to keep them out if they can't demonstrate what it supposed to be a great deal of mental equipment called "military."

Beast barracks is a two-month period of modified torture—mental, physical, physical—ingeniously devised over 136 years by the cadets themselves. Not as a College hazing to ram freshmen—but on some pretty exploratory idea of shaking out non-military material.

The two plebe academic gauntlets in June and June are equally similarly mercilessly calculated affirmative. They constitute the doom of all these colleges usually around, for about 40 per cent of the original candidates—footballers or no footballers. I believe that the figures show a heavier mortality among football men than others. The original idea was that footballers should have little application to this attrition.

But there is a stronger reason against it. A scholarship is not a scholarship. It's a job—a grade in the army supported by pay and allowance. The system of advancement is as fiercely competitive as any. Every step in an army causes to the day of retirement—65-odd years away—depends on what it has done at the academy.

Therefore, it has become a sort of religion that from the minute a "beast" steels his "nerve" and puts on a "plebe-cut" he is on a basis of rigid equality with neither favor nor prejudice, except such natural or acquired mental or physical endowments as he brings with him. It is training for an army. There—the physical accomplishment has a distinct failing in comparison for then standing. It seems one more reason why the handicap a boy because he has had football experience than it would be if he had prepared by taking the whole academic course—or some do. It is a disease to break down that equality.

Once remains the fairness of this to other colleges. It gives some advantage. I think it is more than fair. Only one non-honor Army tradition—no professional coach, no lightening of other duties to give time for practice, and a curriculum more than some are stiff than the wonder is that any player can stand it, or that any teamplay can develop.

Now, Army has abandoned its long stand against more than three year rule—with grim-lipped silence about the reason. One wonder why. If its stand was right before, why isn't it right now? I think the change is pure expediency at the expense of both intellectual honesty and an important principle.

QUOTATIONS

I will not be quiet. I won't stand by and hear anything against the fame of Windsor—or anybody else. Brook, duke's former chauffeur, sentenced for forcing soap-box critic of former king.

* * *

For self defense in our own country, we mothers who know what it means would not be forced to envy age sons to go. But never again to defend capitalist's interests abroad.—Mrs. Mary Beard, former president of New York State American War Mothers.

Rhymin' Time

By TOBY LAFORCE

Where Some Roads End

I get your letter today, old friend
And it was you from beginning to end
The man I knew you would ever be
With wishes well and concern for me.

With little to get and little to give
From this bright, fast life in which we live,
We shared that little away back then
And fixed the years and the wrath of men.

We did not care for the vagrant tolerance, hate and lust had thrown,
Our hearts stood high on a little hill
For we had something man never could kill.

And that was ever so long ago
Yet all those years I've been glad to know
While our separate roads have wandered on
On a green course toward setting sun
Of this brief life with its brief praise
Or our stumbling steps and death and wake
They will ever lead to that common end—
Each to the heart of the other, old friend.

* * *

Every Sunday is contributed day in "Rhymin' Time" and invited to send in your verse or your requests.

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