

PROSE and CON

BY MARY ELLEN DUBE

THIS HALLOWED GROUND — Bruce Catton.

"I saw battle — corpses, myraids of them
And the white skeletons of young men, I saw them,
I saw the debris and debris of all the slain soldiers of the war."
The poet's conception of an American Civil War battlefield and the historian's understanding are not so far discrepant as the nature of their work would suggest. Whitman's comment came at a time when the horrors of total war were still fresh in the minds of men. North and South were still divided in the aftermath of the bloody split which had racked the nation. Bruce Catton writes with the weight of evidence and the strength of time behind his words. Although he is first and foremost a historian, he manages to see beyond the dates and names and places to the "debris and debris of all the slain soldiers of the war."

Catton is the author of *A Stillness at Appomattox* and *Mr. Lincoln's Army*, and is one of the finest of Civil War historians. In late October, 1956, he published his history of the union side of the Civil War, *This Hallowed Ground*. Voluminous notes the bibliography indicate that it is a scholarly work. But in this case "scholarly" is not synonymous with "dull." In a single volume, he manages to give significance to such names as Bull Run, Shiloh, Vicksburg, Gettysburg, Chickamauga and Missionary Ridge. The names of these places have echoed upon the American consciousness for many years. To most Canadians, if fascinating, it is a confusing sequence. Well-selected and integrated excerpts from diaries, letters, official regimental histories, and personal memoirs bring to life the iron men of the war: Sherman, Sheridan, Grant, Beauregard, Jackson and Lee. Camp discipline, forced marches and actual battle are described in terms of the "little men," be he a drummer boy frosh from the Iowa cornfields or a sophisticated cavalryman raised in Massachusetts drawing rooms.

Catton succeeds in demonstrating that the interfering hand of the Washington politician, the outstretched palm of the profiteer, and the unstained sabres of many inexperienced front-line officers produced battles which increased casualty lists to enormous proportions. Early fields such as Bull Run were such a confusion of meeting, agony, and flight that only politicians had the temerity to hang a "won" or "lost" tag on the fight. Jockeying for position within the military command and the breaking of the army into three cumbersome units, assume importance early in the narrative.

The terrible, implacable march of Sherman through Georgia is seen in its context — as a mission "to wreck an economy and to destroy a faith — the economy that supported the thin fading fabric of the Confederacy, the faith that believed the Confederacy to be an enduring creation and trusted in its power to protect and avenge." From the description of the redoubtable Charles Sumner's stand on Kansas through the superb presentation of the firing on Fort Sumter, the shattered peach blossoms raining on the fearful Shiloh fields, and the death traps of Chickamauga and Missionary Ridge, to the final drama of the Appomattox tableau, the account is an exceptional piece of writing.

Catton has managed to reduce the vast panorama of five years to a readable work without sacrificing literary excellence or scholarly detail. Catton the historian, has probed to the root of the matter and the natural instinct of a fine writer has carried him from there.

CAMPI REPRESENTATIVES ON TV:



Scope host, Joe King, quizzes distinguished panalists Ian MacKenzie, Dalhousie Gazette Editor; Anthony Haynes, St. Mary's Journal Editor, and Peter Puxley of Kings College. Telecast date is December 1st, 9 p.m. over CJCH.

VIEWING FARE

CHANNEL TIME

Halifax area students are appearing on controversial T.V. programmes as part of CTV's Scope series every Saturday at 9 p.m.

Already telecast was "Behind the Iron Curtain" with Dave Mann and Hal MacKay of Dal, and Pat Furlong of St. Mary's.

On tape to be telecast this Saturday is "Freedom of Thought and Expression on University Campi." Appearing are Ian MacKenzie, Dal Gazette Editor, and Tony Haynes, St. Mary's Journal Editor. Peter Puxly represents Kings. Morelly Jackson is producer.

The programme forms a segment of the Scope series, programmes of social significance featuring the anonymous interview technique of presentation. It shows a set of circumstances that plague the individual selected, but can apply to a great deal of people.

The problems discussed are broad, not individual. It has dealt with prostitution, alcoholism, crime, and the conflicts of a mother with a normal and a retarded child. The approach is always the sympathetic, not the probing of the Mike Wallace nature.

In the first thirteen weeks of Scope university students will appear between three and four times and an equal amount in the winter and spring, a total of 18 shows out of 26.

"Religion and Morality on Campus", to be taped Nov. 24 is tentatively set for telecast Dec. 15. The fourth show entitled "Youth Looking at Socialism and Capitalism" will deal with Capital and Labour.

The students appearing on these later shows are yet to be chosen. What usually happens is that the committee gets together with Joe King, CJCH news director, dream

up topics, and fight their way to the people qualified to appear.

On the committee, dubbed the Halifax Universities' Committee by CJCH T.V., are Wally Federyk and Janet Renouf for Dalhousie; Julie White and Kelly Hanrahan of Mt. St. Vincent, and Henri St. Jean and Malcom Johnson of St. Marys. Kings is represented by Tom LeBrun. Attractive Enid Green, Dal Law student, acts as secretary to the committee.

The featuring of students on separate Scope programmes stems from an idea last spring between Tom Tsoumus of St. Mary's and Al Robertson of Dal.

The committee was set up after a meeting with Mr. Finlay MacDonald, general manager of CJCH T.V. and radio. He agreed to the idea providing the programme be of general interest with one predominating theme. The show was then turned over to Joe King, host of Scope. The programmes are presently viewed in Halifax, Ottawa, and Edmonton.

CBC radio and television is providing coverage of the 1962 British Empire and Commonwealth Games to be held in Perth, Australia, from November 22 to December 1.

Daily reports from Perth are heard on CBC radio stations CBA Sackville, CBH Halifax and CBI Sydney, to Dec. 1. Up to Nov. 30 these 10-minute reports are heard at 6:30 p.m., and the Saturday report Dec. 1 is scheduled for 12 noon.

Three filmed half-hour highlights of the games will be carried on the CBC television network, tonight at 11:30 p.m.; Tuesday, December 4 at 11:00 p.m., and Saturday, December 8 at 8 p.m.

Cadana's annual football classic, The Grey Cup, will be covered live from the CNE stadium in Toronto, Saturday, Dec. 1, on the CBC radio network.

Coverage will begin at 1:15 p.m.

and will include comments on the color and excitement of Grey Cup Week, interviews with coaches and fans, the selection of Miss Grey Cup, and portion of the big parade.

At 1:45 p.m. the broadcast will switch to the stadium for pregame ceremonies and finally the play-by-play action described by CBC sportscaster Fred Scambati.

Three members of the Dal fraternities will appear on C.B.C.'s Gazette, Sun, Dec. 3, at 6:00 p.m. Frank Cappell, former executive of Tau Epsilon Phi, and a second year Law student; Dale Dauphinee, on the executive of Phi Rho Sigma, 1961-62 president of the same, delegate to the international conference in Virginia last year, and a fourth year medical student; and Bill Rankin, past member of Sigma Chi executive, and a Science graduate now taking Education, will be quizzed on various aspects of fraternities.

The world of Jacqueline Kennedy will be explored on CTV, Sunday, Dec. 2 at 9:30 p.m. in a special hour-long program.

Telecast direct from Washington, D.C., the program will document Mrs. Kennedy's restoration of the White House with 18th and 19th century antiques; visit the homes of some of her friends in Washington, and cover the offices of Mrs. Kennedy's aides.

The majority of the program will resolve around her day in the White House as First Lady, and then explore her girlhood and womanhood in New York and East Hampton, through a series of stills and existing film footage.

The same method will be used to follow her introduction to society; her marriage; her years as a senator's wife in Georgetown, and her role in the 1960 presidential campaign.

The program will also examine her influence on United States fashion and cover some aspects of her overseas travel.

Player's Please

THE MILDEST BEST-TASTING CIGARETTE

Play SANTA with

DALHOUSIE

JEWELRY

52

ALSO Compacts • Buckles • Novelties

HILL'S STATIONERY & POST OFFICE

1526 Edward St., Halifax, N. S.

FINEST CHRISTMAS GIFTS ANYWHERE

CERAMICS - DAL TIGERS - UNIVERSITY WALL PLAQUES NITEES -

SHOP EARLY BEFORE OUR STOCK RUNS OUT!

CAMPUS STORE Monday, Friday 12:30 to 4:30 p.m.