

Was There Ever A William Shakespeare? The Ancient Controversy Still Goes On

by TOM A. CULLEN
Newspaper Enterprise Assn.

STRATFORD-ON-AVON — "I shall sit on the grave day and night if these people come and try to disturb Shakespeare's resting place," said Fred Baker, beadle and town clerk of this historic community.

Baker, like many Stratfordites, is disturbed by the actions of a group which doubts that Shakespeare was Shakespeare.

Stratford's prosperity is built on the fact that William Shakespeare was born here in 1564. Every year 170,000 overseas visitors, of whom nearly half are American, make a pilgrimage to this literary shrine.

More important still, they spend \$15 million in Stratford's restaurants, hotels and souvenir shops.

But now all this prosperity is threatened by the Shakespeare Action Committee. Not only do members of the committee doubt that Shakespeare's plays are his but they are demanding that the Bard's grave be opened in order to prove their point.

The committee makes much of the fact that none of the manuscripts of Shakespeare's plays has ever come to light. "It is ridiculous to argue that authors in those days did not keep the manuscripts of their plays and and poems," the committee man, Heston declares.

Therefore, if Shakespeare real-

ly his bishop were in favor of opening it, I would not allow the tomb to be disturbed. To do so would be to commit sacrilege, he maintains.

Other Stratfordians recall the curse inscribed on Shakespeare's tombstone: "Blest be the man who moves these stones. And curse be he who moves my bones."

That the demand to open Shakespeare's grave is merely the opening shot in a general campaign against the whole Shakespeare cult was admitted to me by Francis Carr, founder of the Shakespeare Action Committee.

The committee also challenges the authenticity of the imberbed house in Henley Street, which is known as Shakespeare's birthplace. "There is absolutely no proof that Shakespeare ever lived in the house, let alone being born in the front upper room," says Carr, who is among other things a magazine publisher and a tutor in Russian history.

Carr is what is known as a "Baconian"—that is, he believes that Shakespeare was Francis Bacon—but his committee includes all shades of anti-Shakespeare opinion.

There are, for example, some who believe that Shakespeare was Christopher Marlowe. One prominent member of the committee is Christmas Humphreys, brilliant criminal lawyer, whose



FILTER TIP — Realizing that the taste really was different, this young lad opened his cigarette to discover a five-dollar bill rolled tightly inside with just a hint of tobacco at each of the cigarette's ends.

Credit Unions Expanding Fast

One of the nation's fastest-growing and most constructive institutional groups is striving to make itself both better, and better-known.

Its members are the credit unions. These are self-help co-operatives, organized to aid members to pool their savings. They are not for-profit organizations, but rather, they are for the benefit of their members.

At this meeting was organized CUNA's National Conference (Executive Services) which is for such personnel exclusively and will, like any other professional society, devote its efforts to education, upgrading and training.

The credit union people think there is still much room for organization, despite the fact that many or even most large natural groups have been organized.

In the United States credit union activity varies greatly from state to state. More than 17 per cent of Hawaiians belong, while

less than 3 per cent of Arkansans do.

Though the movement didn't start here, more than 80 per cent of the world's credit union activity is centered in North America. Sixty-seven nations each have one or more credit unions, but none of them is as big as the United States.

Their origin is usually traced back to Germany during the liberal movement of 1848. In North America, a French journalist named Alphonse Desjardins organized the first one in 1900, in a poverty-stricken Quebec village named Lévis. The first credit union in the United States was a time, and the new financial institution started with total capital of \$28.

Later Desjardins went to the United States and organized the first United States credit union in 1909, in a parish at Manchester, New Hampshire. Then Edward A. Filene, the great Boston merchant prince and public servant, took it up. He and Desjardins are regarded as fathers of the movement, and CUNA headquarters at Madison are in Filene House.

State by state, laws authorizing credit unions were enacted, and in 1934 the original federal incorporation act was passed. The story since then has been one of quiet but continuous expansion.

Q. When a bride is writing her thank-you note for wedding gifts received, does she also write to the bridegroom's parents and to his sisters and brothers for the gifts they gave?

A. This is not necessary, if she has been able to give them her sincere, verbal thanks.

Q. The bodies of the dead and injured were strewn around the camp and smoke-choked cafeterias, tangled in twisted tables and chairs.

The final toll: 21 dead, 95 injured.

As the inspectors sifted through the wreckage, they found a small, dark, rectangular object buried under a pile of rubble. It was a small, dark, rectangular object.

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Steam Boilers Can Be Deadly Too!

By the time it reaches the north-east tip of Manhattan, the Great White Way becomes just plain Broadway, a family street characterized by middle-class apartment houses, some small shops — and the tidy, yellow-brick uptown district of the New York Telephone Co.

The air-conditioned building is only six years old, its brightly lighted interior is painted with eye-resting pastels. The nearly 500 employees — mostly women, many of them young — need only to descend to the semi-basement cafeteria for lunch.

At 12:07 p.m. one day recently there were about 100 lunches being served. Suddenly — as a waitress said afterward — "it sounded as though an atom bomb had exploded."

One of the three oil-fired pressure boilers had burst. Like a space-bound rocket weighing nearly 10 tons, the boiler shot through a wall into the cafeteria. Deflected upward by the structural steel girders, the 15-by-6-foot missile tore into the ceiling, collapsing a 20-by-12-foot section of the steel and concrete floor of the accounting room above. The boiler came off a steel beam in the roof, reduced another interior wall to rubble, and came to rest against a crumpled 14-inch steel column, some 150 feet from the boiler room.

Running out of his West 213th Street apartment, Francis Holland said: "It was terrible. We pulled two women out, then we were forced back by the heat and the steam. We could hear people screaming: 'Help me! Help me!'"

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STUDY SCHOOL LESSON

By Rev. R. B. Warren, B.A., B.D.

Why the Bible? Psalm 19: 1-11; 2 Timothy 3: 14-17; 2 Peter 1: 16-21.

Memory Scripture: Teach me, O Lord, the way of thy statutes; and I shall keep it unto the end. Psalm 119: 23.

The attitude of the writers of the Old Testament is well expressed in the lesson by the words, "The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul."

The statutes of the LORD, while objective in themselves, have a most wholesome effect on the individual who walks by them. They make wise the simple, re-educate the heart, and enlighten the eyes. They give warning and keep of them there is great reward.

The Holy Scriptures are given by inspiration of God, or literally, God-breathed. There are many good books in the world, but the Bible outranks them all. The Scriptures were written by men, specially inspired and guided by the Holy Spirit.

Recently, I heard a medical doctor of high rank in his special field, give an address from the Word of God. He had joined the church in his youth but only during the Billy Graham campaign in Toronto, did he come into a personal acquaintance with Jesus Christ as his personal Saviour. He gave us more of God's Word in three-quarters of an hour than most ministers do in four or five sermons. He really believed the words of Hebrews 2: 12, "For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

As a student he understands the purposes and potency of various powerful drugs. But here is a weapon which is the most powerful of all in reaching into the souls of men. He used it deftly and effectively.

The Bible is important because it is God speaking to us. We are going to be judged by it in the last great day. It is our road map from earth to heaven. It is said that in so many homes, dust gathers on the covers. We had better search it daily. It will uncover our sins. It will show us our Saviour and the way to God's pardon and peace in His Name. Let us read the Bible.

BIG SLEEPER — A bed which is 230 years old and more than nine feet long was specially provided for the use of President de Gaulle during his state visit to West Germany earlier this year.

Finding a "fitting" bed for the all President's visit proved one of the German organizer's principal headaches.

One German town council offered to lend the 17th, French, 18th-century bed for the occasion, but his offer was gracefully declined by the Hamburg authorities.

His height—6 ft. 3 in.—prevented de Gaulle from escaping after he had been captured at Verdun during World War I. He made five escape bids but each time the guards caught him.

"Naturally," he says today, "they always recognized me on account of my height."

An irate lawyer trying to establish a point in cross-examination demanded of the defendant: "Madam, while you were talking your dog for a walk, did you stop anywhere?"

"No," the witness said quietly. "I've never taken a dog for a walk."

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Across: 1. A small shot; 2. A small shot; 3. A small shot; 4. A small shot; 5. A small shot; 6. A small shot; 7. A small shot; 8. A small shot; 9. A small shot; 10. A small shot; 11. A small shot; 12. A small shot; 13. A small shot; 14. A small shot; 15. A small shot; 16. A small shot; 17. A small shot; 18. A small shot; 19. A small shot; 20. A small shot; 21. A small shot; 22. A small shot; 23. A small shot; 24. A small shot; 25. A small shot; 26. A small shot; 27. A small shot; 28. A small shot; 29. A small shot; 30. A small shot; 31. A small shot; 32. A small shot; 33. A small shot; 34. A small shot; 35. A small shot; 36. A small shot; 37. A small shot; 38. A small shot; 39. A small shot; 40. A small shot; 41. A small shot; 42. A small shot; 43. A small shot; 44. A small shot; 45. A small shot; 46. A small shot; 47. A small shot; 48. A small shot; 49. A small shot; 50. A small shot; 51. A small shot; 52. A small shot; 53. A small shot; 54. A small shot; 55. A small shot; 56. 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