

Christy's Death Marks End of a Pleasant Era

Howard Chandler Christy is dead. His passing removes a figure whose work captured the spirit of the early years of the 20th century, one who will be remembered as putting on canvas the gay romantic period of the early automobile, the transition period from the Victorian era to the atomic age.

There are few people indeed who do not know his Christy girl, the delightful creature who was the successor to the Gibson girl and forerunner of the modern streamlined Petty and Varga creations. Yet, how different! The pinup of the turn of the century was risqué indeed if she displayed a shapely ankle!

The modern pinup with her sarong and Bikini bathing suit must be all right for the atomic age, but we doubt if she will ever arouse the ecstatic response that the Christy girl did from the pages of the nation's magazines and the covers of our popular romantic novels of a quarter century ago.

The death of Christy means the death of an era. It marks the passing of the delights of an America growing up and heralds the emergence of a nation full grown.

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Why Pay for Milk Which We Don't Drink?

Among United States Supreme Court decisions handed down this week was one rejecting a plan by which the Secretary of Agriculture could pay for milk poured down the drain in seasons of high production.

We hope this means that America has passed through the era when destroying useful goods to maintain prices was government policy.

The problem is one that must be solved through production control and distribution, not at the expense of the taxpayer, who happens also to be the man who buys the milk.

Unfortunately, the high court edict comes a long time too late to save the little pigs Hank Wallace had plowed under.

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Puerto Rico Moves Toward Statehood

Our war with Spain for Cuba's freedom netted us the Philippines, Guam and Puerto Rico. Overnight this democratic nation became an empire. We found ourselves with dependencies, the last leaves from the once great Spanish imperial tree.

Believers in the principle of self-determination, we set about to give our dependencies a respectable position in the American family.

True, the process has been slow, but these people had had no experience in self-government. For centuries they had been slaves of the system set up by the "Conquistadores"—Spaniards on horseback who ruled with mailed fist.

The little island of Guam, a U. S. naval station since 1898, has been retained as a defense base in the Far Pacific. But the Philippines, after half a century, have earned and won an independent status.

This week Puerto Ricans adopted a new constitution which would make the West

Indies insular possession a "free" government commonwealth. If the Senate approves as expected, Puerto Rico can govern itself, under the U. S. sphere of influence.

The next step would be statehood, the time for attainment of that status subject to its progress and, we fear, to the consideration of with which party its delegates to Congress might align themselves.

For with all our fine talk about self-determination, we can't escape the fact that Alaska and Hawaii must stand outside and knock until political expediency opens the door.

That condition is unfair to our territories. It is a compromise with democratic principles.

We've gone along with "The 48 States" since 1912. The merits of applications for admission and the merits alone should determine when we make it "The 50 States" and finally, when Puerto Rico is ready, "The 51."

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Geiger Counters Perhaps To Find Lost Husbands

The congressional atomic energy committee has rejected as impractical a suggestion that radioactive golf balls be made a by-product of the AEC program.

The idea was that with a Geiger counter the golfer could easily locate his hopped-up lost pill. But the atomic experts said enough radioactivity to send out a signal would make the ball dangerous if carried more than three hours a week.

Golf widows are likely to disagree. No doubt they would like to see their husbands use equipment which would become hazardous over and above a three-hour limit.

What also might prove practical is a radioactive pill which would help in the location of lost golfers.

