

ROBINSON JEFFERS NEWSLETTER.

Number 7

Robinson Jeffers Committee
Occidental College
June, 1964

Dear Members and Friends:

The American Library Association's list of noteworthy books for 1963 includes The Beginning and The End. The Milwaukee Journal (May 7, 1964) features a four column article on Jeffers by Jay Scriba with a Philip Hyde-photo of the coast and a rare photo of R.J. It features "sign of renewed interest in his work"!

Carolyn Tyson is planning to promote a reading of the Roan Stallion by Marion Seldes to benefit the John Drew theatre in East Hampton.

Frederick Ives Carpenter has contributed an essay on "Robinson Jeffers and the Torches of Violence" to a Stetson University publication Poetry and Fiction in the American Twenties. Publication date early fall.

Donnan and Lee Jeffers write that they have seen a lay-out of the Sierra Club book and find it very exciting.

A check list of Yale's collection of R.J. is gratefully received from Doctor Gallup. We would welcome others as well.

The Los Angeles Times Home magazine of April 26, 1964 featured pictures of the Big Sur with captions from R.J.'s poems.

Phoebe Barkan reports that she is writing her memoirs of Robin and Una. They will be invaluable. She makes a knowing comment: "I think this reading age is either lazy or afraid of Robin's message."

Lawrence Clark Powell has sent us a publication of his address given at the Grolier Club of New York in January '64, entitled The Three L's. Larry, whether on a podium or at his desk, is wonderfully articulate and never fails to slip in a reference to Robinson Jeffers.

We have received encouraging news from the North Carolina University Press about our Robinson Jeffers biography and are in the process of rewriting it along the lines they have suggested. We even agree with them!

Members of the Executive Committee and National Council will be guests of the James Dickies in Carmel on June 25th - Luncheon from one to two o'clock.

As we have had very little reaction to our suggestion (in our last newsletter) to enlarge the letter to include personal memories and critical essays we feel there isn't enough interest to make it a success.

Doctor Clapp has given us permission to share with you this poem which appeared in his book of poems, Said before Sunset, published in 1938. Robin himself was partial to it, as we are.

FIGURES IN A COAST RANGE DANCE OF DEATH

For R. J.

Thrown up against the mountains and the clouds
by your eye's light
they sway like shadowy giants
wrestling with death and passion on an age's precipices;
they quiver with pain
become one with wrenching spasms in the headlands
and, through their self-imprisoning trance,
hear, under the grinding
slow scouring-away of the shore by the tides,
the impotent surge and suck-back of their fate.

Change cannot reach them in their separateness
whose kinship is with eagles and the sun
benign inbreeder of their agony.
And, when the granite tower your hands have made
lies splintered,
they still will press their eyes against the windows
of men's minds,
phantoms, but firmer than the subsiding hills
that jolt into the mutter of the rising sea.

Frederick M. Clapp

1938

We hope you will all have a pleasant and relaxed summer. We'll resume the writing of this letter in September.

Melba Berry Bennett