## **Memorable Life photographs**

## Foreword and comment by Edward Steichen

Date

1951

Publisher

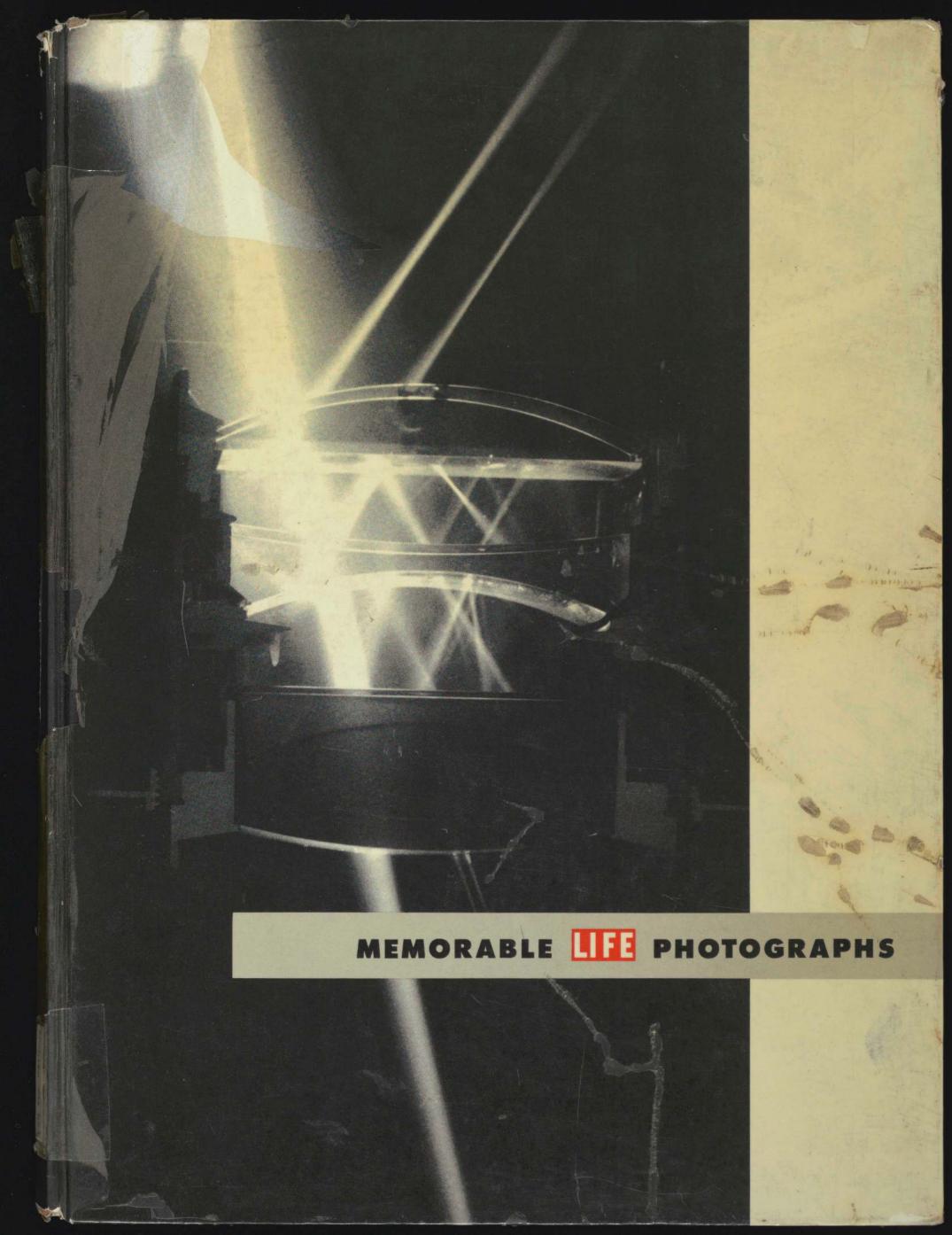
The Museum of Modern Art

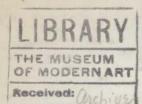
Exhibition URL

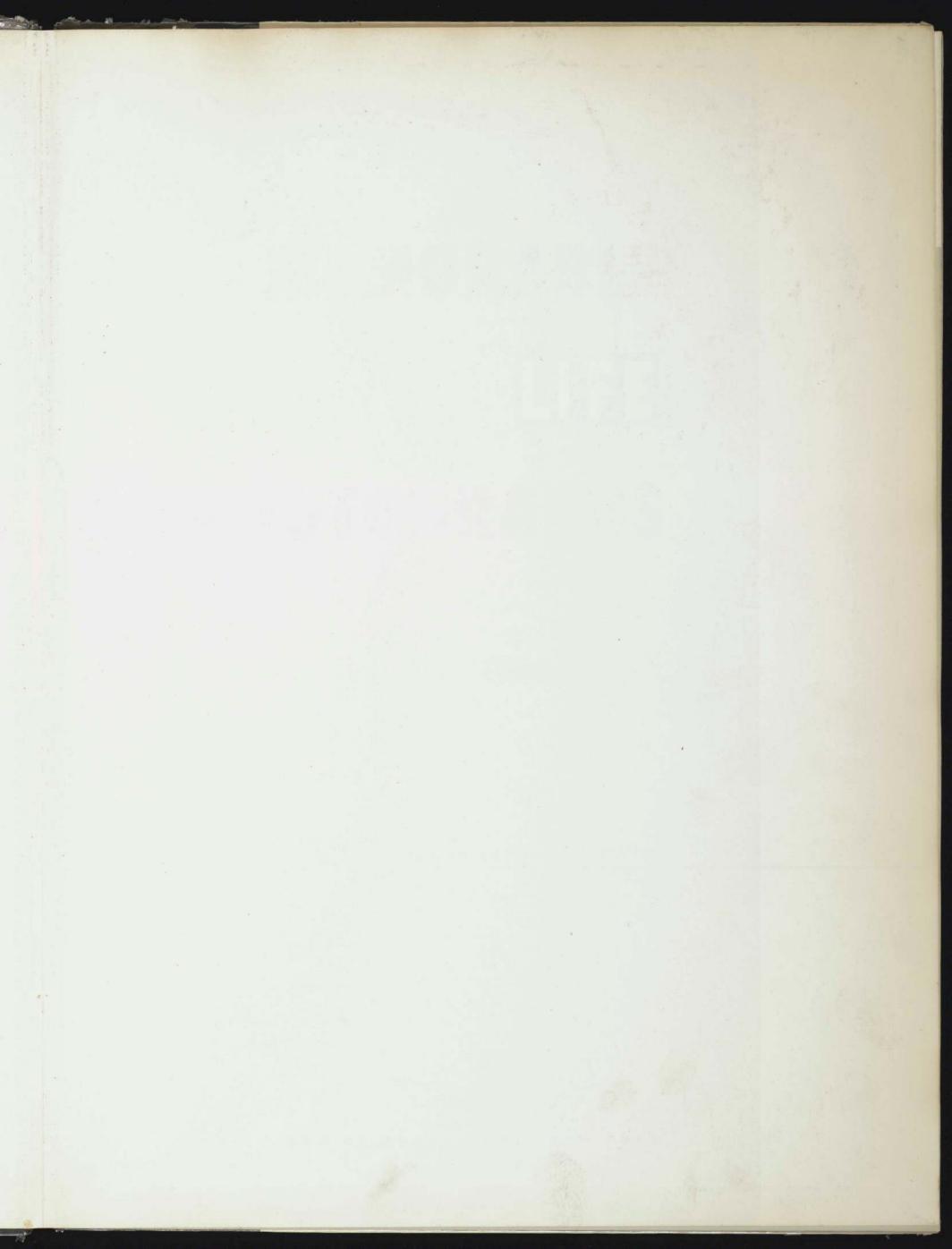
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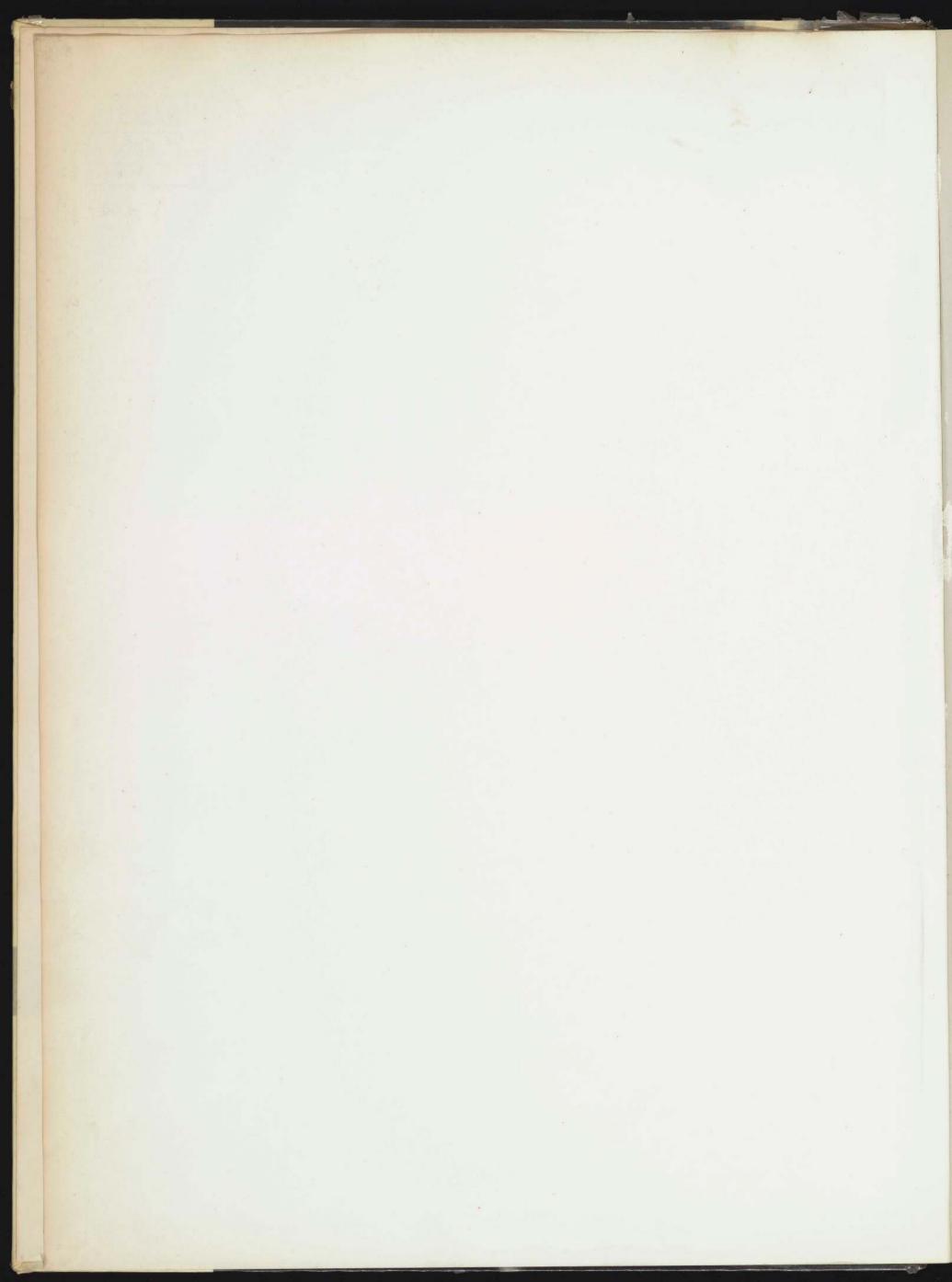
The Museum of Modern Art's exhibition history—from our founding in 1929 to the present—is available online. It includes exhibition catalogues, primary documents, installation views, and an index of participating artists.

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# MEMORABLE UEE PHOTOGRAPHS

foreword and comment by EDWARD STEICHEN

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART . NEW YORK

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

This exhibition of photographs from the first fifteen years of LIFE had its original showing at The Museum of Modern Art, New York, in November 1951. The pictures were selected and arranged by Edward Steichen, Director of the Department of Photography of The Museum of Modern Art, with the assistance of LIFE's Exhibitions Department, particularly David Rich, its art director.

Cover picture: Fritz Goro.

Archive MMA 493

# **FOREWORD**

Photographers working in the field of journalism have collectively made a major contribution to the art of photography. While much of their work is routine picture reporting, the best of it shows an exciting and revealing penetration.

Photographic journalism is generally accepted as an authoritative source of visual information about our times. It now regularly reaches audiences all over the world on a scale unheard of a decade or two ago. It is becoming a new force in the molding of public opinion, and in explaining man to man.

The photographs in this exhibition are the products of photographic journalism as practiced by LIFE during the past fifteen years. They were selected to present a cross-section of the quality, range and scope of the work done by photographers on the staff or on special assignment for LIFE.

Since the first issue of the magazine, the lenses of these photographers have looked sharply at many subjects in all corners of the globe. Neither danger, discomfort nor privation has dampened the ardent search for facts. The ultimate product of each photographer's work appears in the pages of the magazine and his ability as a photographer is measured by the overall contribution his work makes to the publication.

I believe it is important for the growth and development of photography that the public—and particularly the vast and growing fraternity of amateur photographers—has an opportunity to see a representative selection of outstanding pictures by these photographers. And it is useful to be able to study them apart from the magazine.

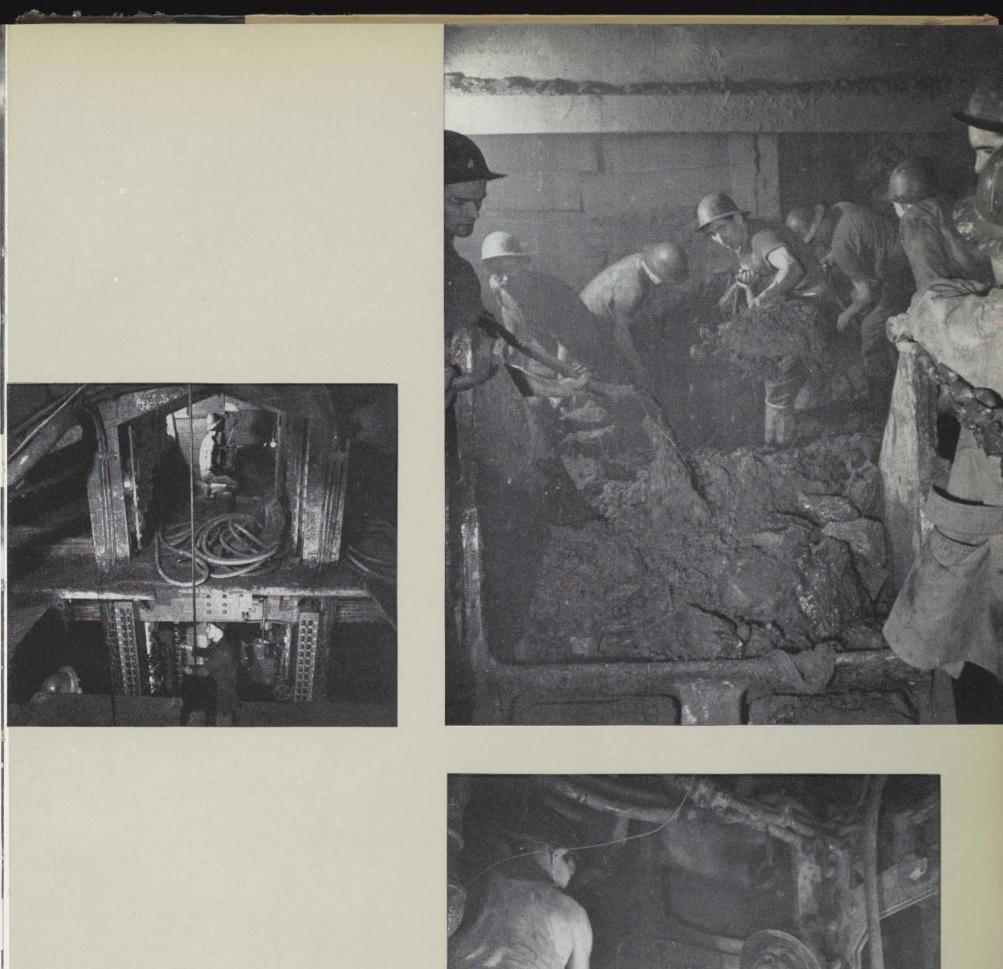
Many of the pictures have an intrinsic value beyond the immediate purpose they have fulfilled. They often manifest new achievements in photography. On occasion they create images that reach into the nebulous and controversial realm of the fine arts.

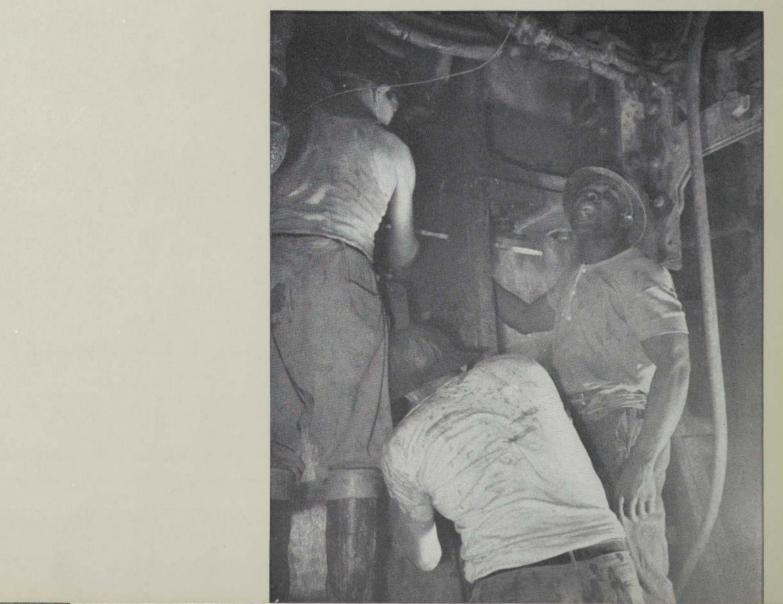
The prints on the 58 panels of this exhibition represent an impressive range of technical skills and brilliant artistry. The overall focus is on the panorama of time and space, of an historical procession where wisdom and nonsense, the ornery and the holy, the poisons of hate and the selflessness of heroism are all written into the visual record of the world we live in.

EDWARD STEICHEN

When a photographer makes a series or sequence of pictures about an event, a place, a person or a process, his basic qualities of sensitivity, perception and understanding are more apparent than they are in a single picture.

CARL MYDANS Sandhogs Tunnel under the East River (April 3, 1939)





The story of a child.

The quality and sincerity of the photographer's understanding are revealed in this precise report of the mental re-conditioning of a deaf child.

VICTOR JORGENSEN Lexington School for the Deaf (Sept. 25, 1950)



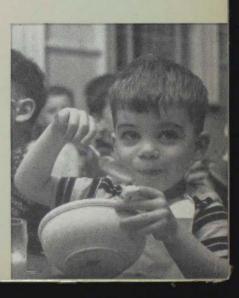








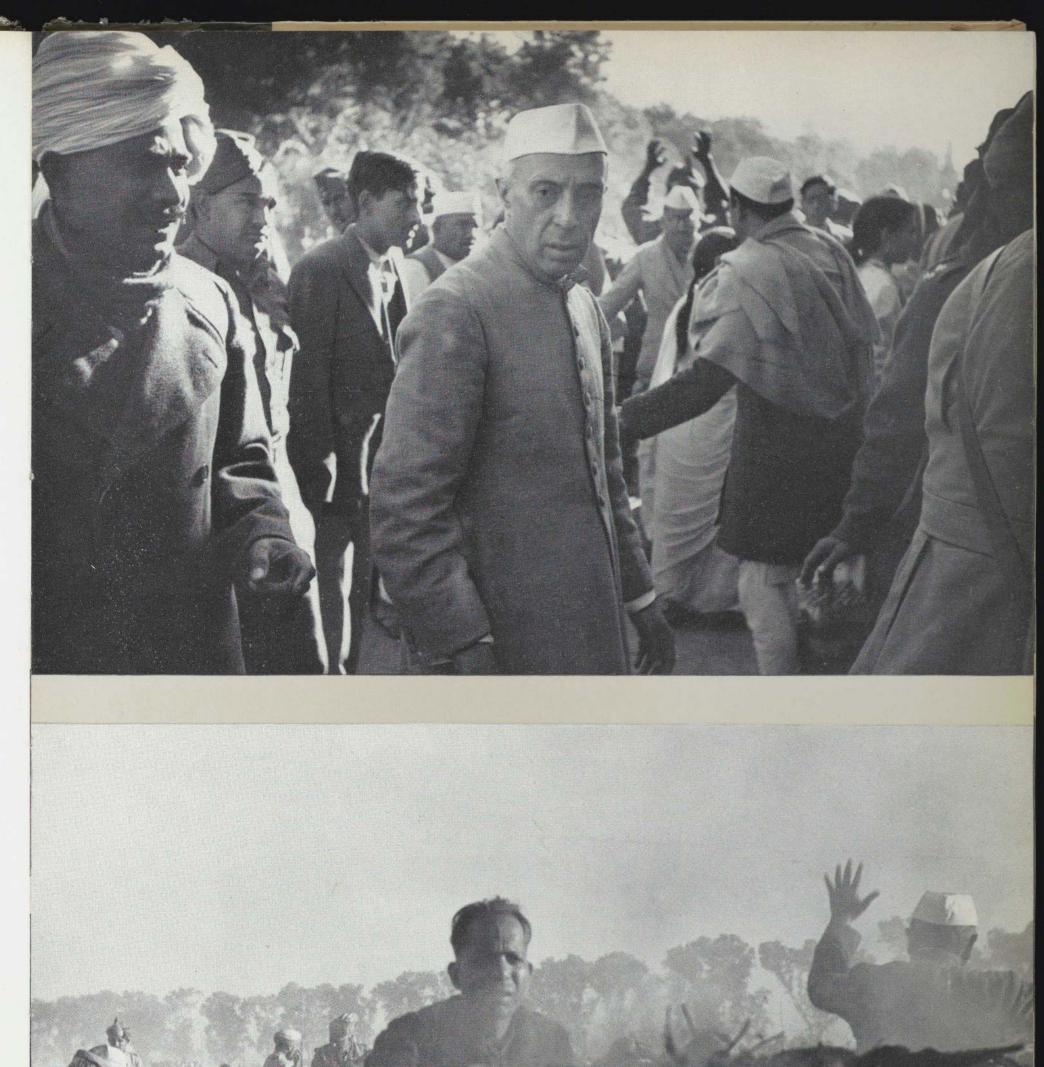




Death of a great man.

This warmly intimate report of
a grave historical event
stands as a peak achievement
in the art of photography.

HENRI CARTIER-BRESSON Gandhi's Funeral (Feb. 16, 1948)





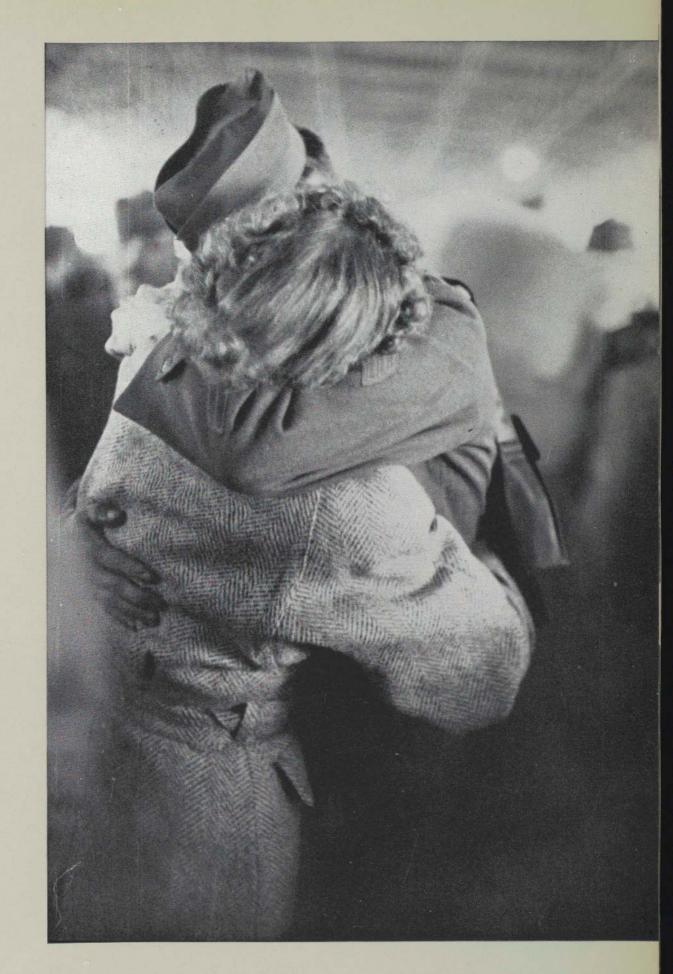
Boy and girl—
and a visual love song.

WAYNE MILLER A Marine Comes Home (March 19, 1951)



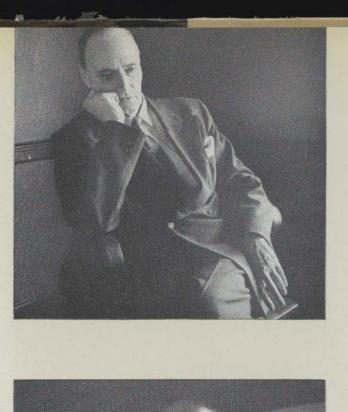


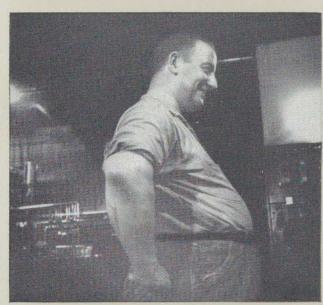


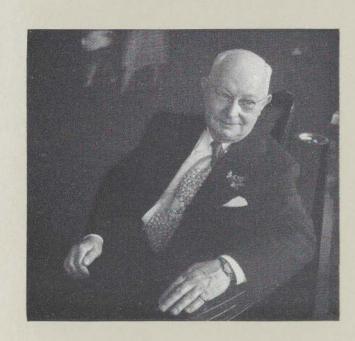


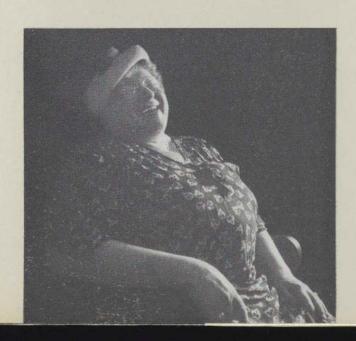
 $A\ mericana.$   $A\ fine,\ clean\ look$  at a group of Americans.

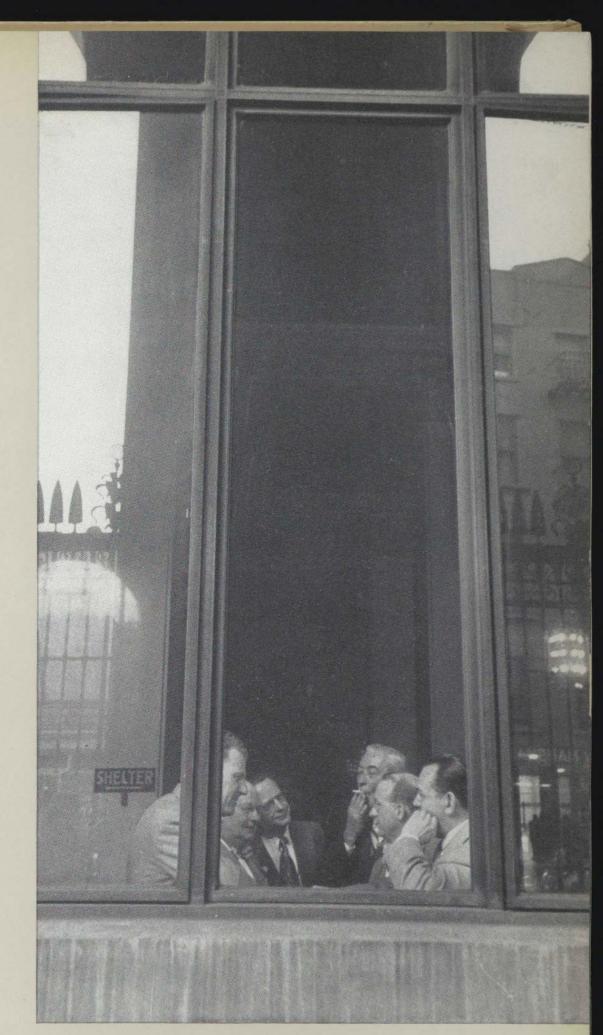
LISA LARSEN Brooklyn Grand Jurors (July 9, 1951)







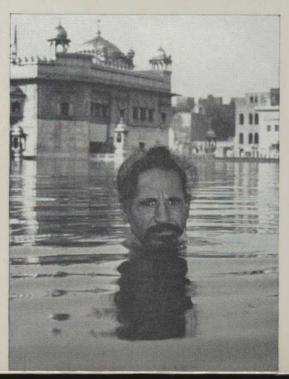




An exodus seen like marching Druid stones by an ace among camera reporters.

MARGARET BOURKE-WHITE Family Fleeing Pakistan (Nov. 3, 1947); Sikh Bathing in Sacred Waters (Sept. 9, 1946)

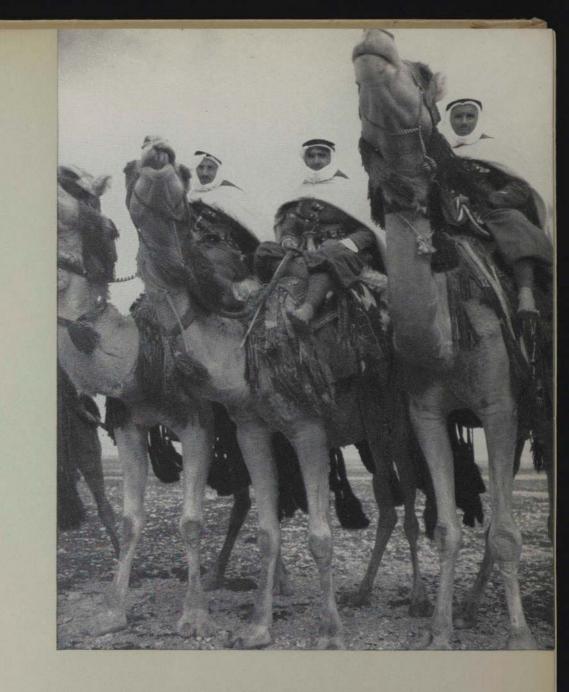


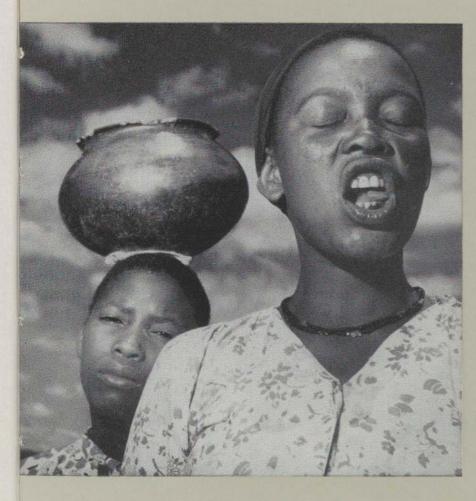


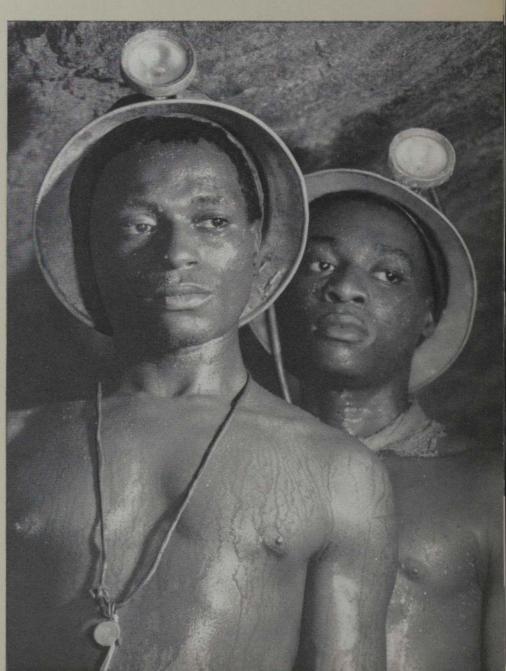
MARGARET BOURKE-WHITE Bedouin Camel Corps (May 20, 1940)

African Women of Serowe (March 6, 1950)

South African Gold Miners (Sept. 18, 1950)





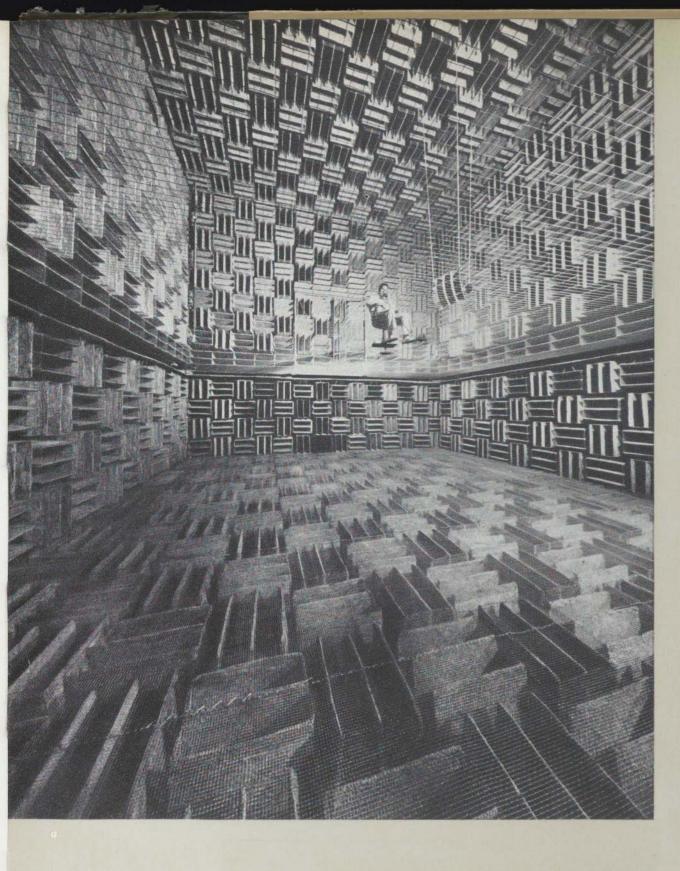


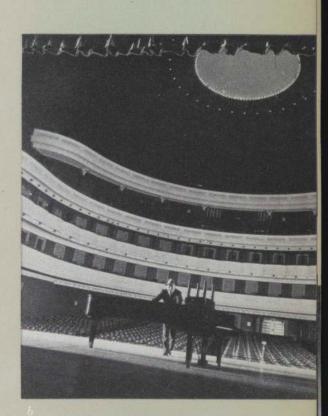


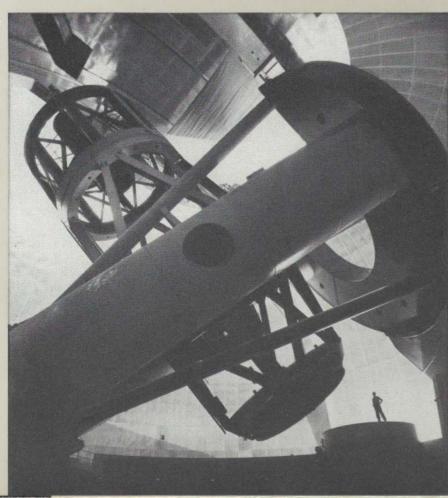


Dramatic subjects dealing with sound and light are rendered and expressed in exciting pictorial organizations.

- REFIC SCHAAL Soundproof Room of Bell Telephone Co. (Sept. 8, 1947)
- b LISA LARSEN Carnegie Hall (Feb. 7, 1949)
- RALPH CRANE World's Biggest Telescope on Mt. Palomar (Dec. 8, 1947)

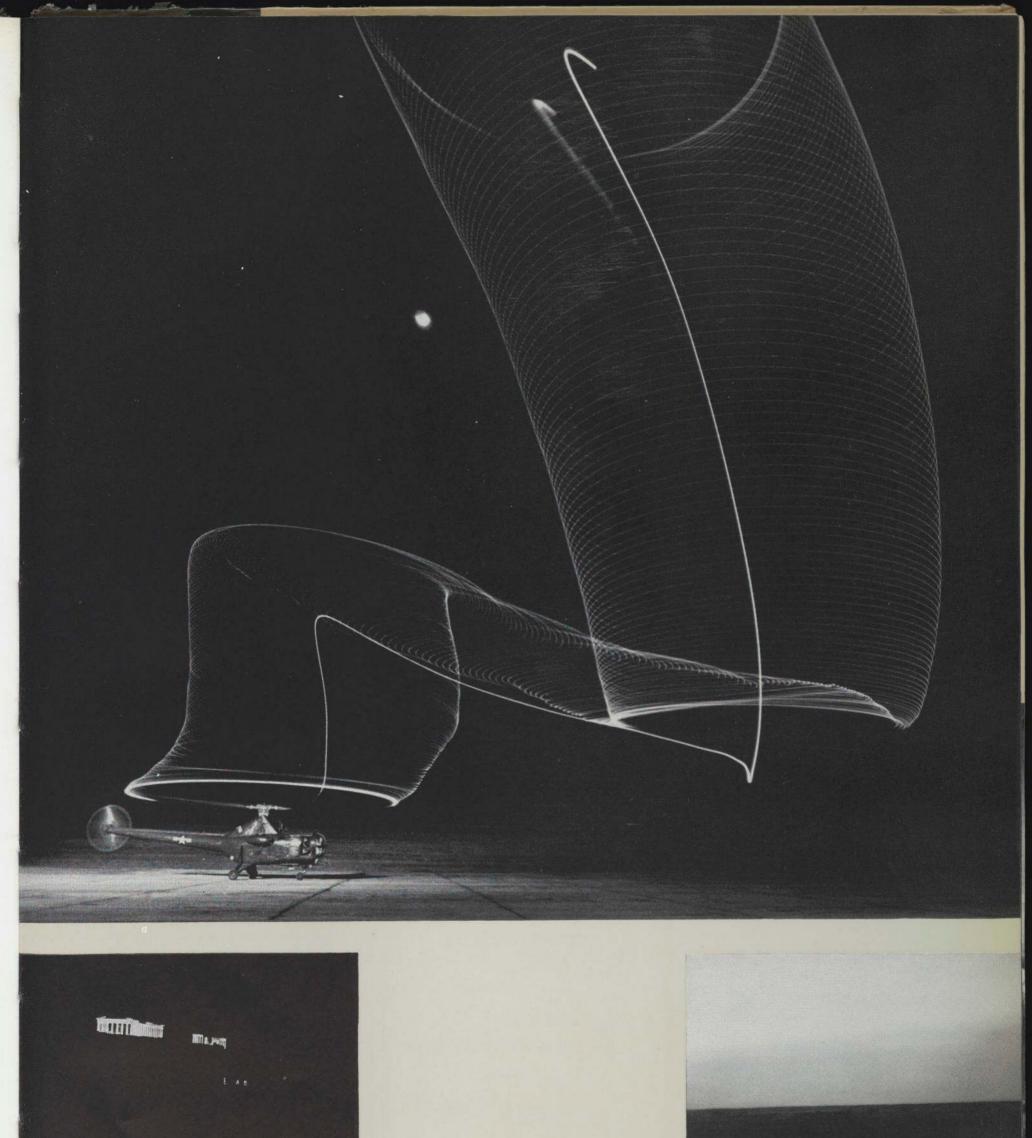






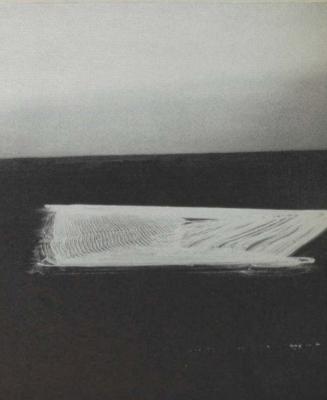
Forceful design, with patterns of light against darkness.

- a ANDREAS FEININGER Pattern Made by Helicopter Wing Lights (Feb. 28, 1949)
- b DMITRI KESSEL Café at Foot of the Acropolis, Athens (Nov. 13, 1944)
- VORIES FISHER Pattern Made by Lights of Tractor Plowing (June 5, 1944)





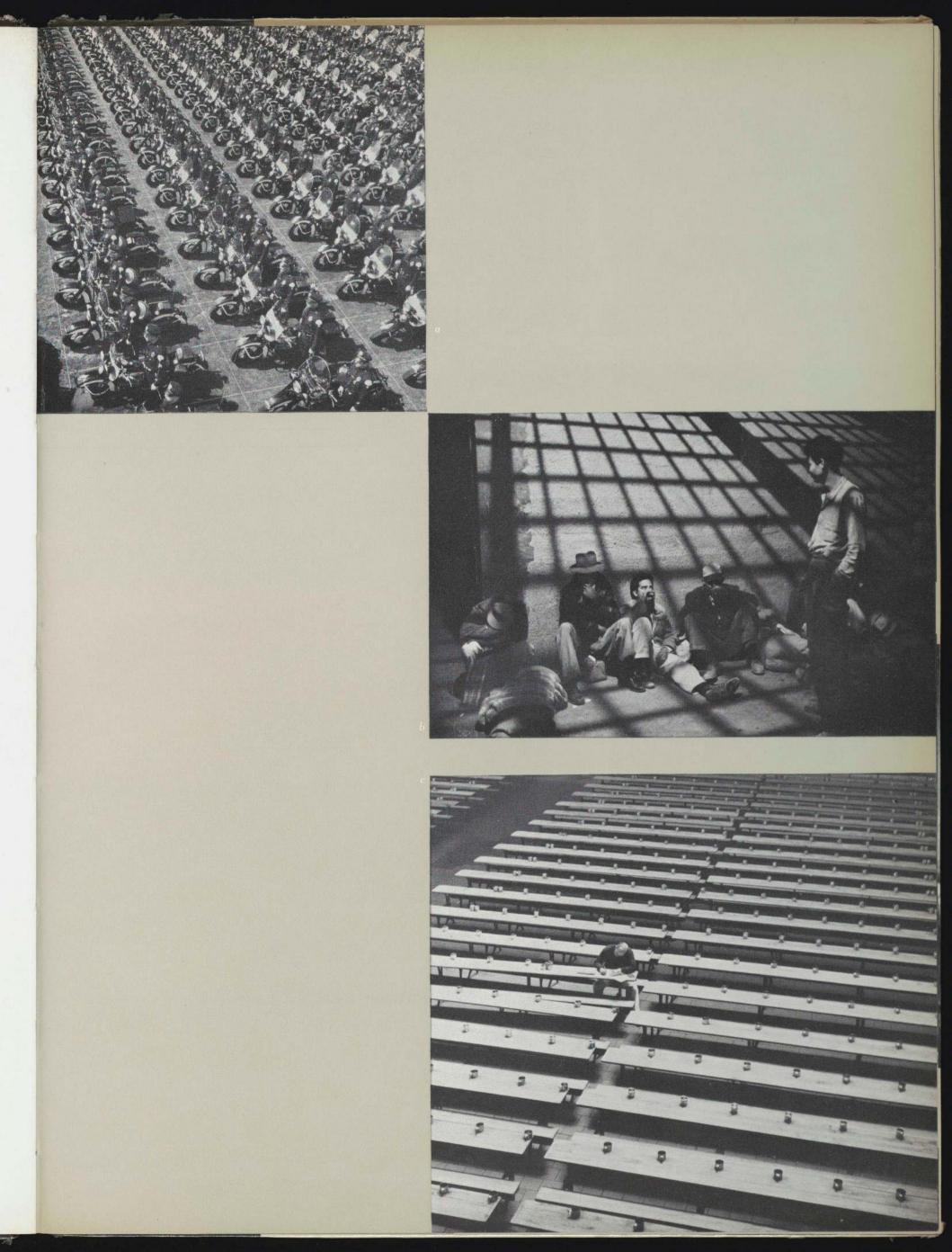




 $The\ vigor\ of\ diagonals\ .\ .$ 

a, b LOOMIS DEAN Los Angeles Motorcycle Cops (July 11, 1949); Jail at Calexico (May 21, 1951)

c CHARLES STEINHEIMER Mess Hall, San Quentin Prison (Oct. 27, 1947)



... and man-made abstract patterns caught by the camera in war and industry.

MARGARET BOURKE-WHITE Nazi Bombardment of Moscow (Sept. 1, 1941); Girl Metallurgist (Aug. 9, 1943)

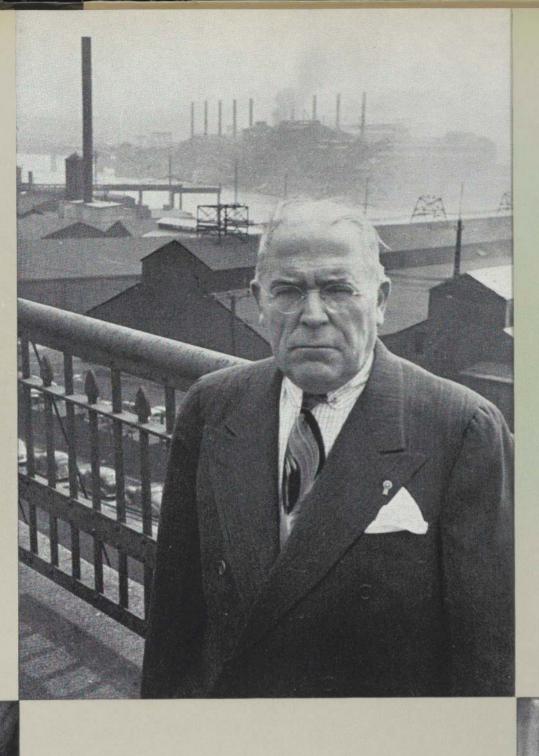




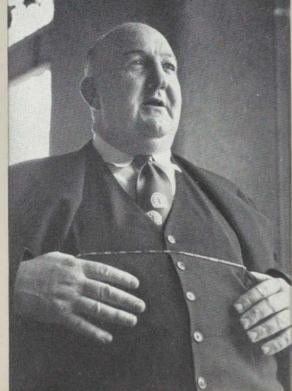
Photo-journalism has moved
us far away from yesterday's
stereotyped portraiture.
Portrait photography has become
a vehicle in the communication of ideas.
The kaleidoscope of faces and
gestures we see today
reflects and interprets a period,
as well as the individual in
relation to his period.

The faces and attitudes
of these five politicians give their
own report to the community.

**LEONARD Mc COMBE** Pennsylvania Politicians (May 8, 1950)











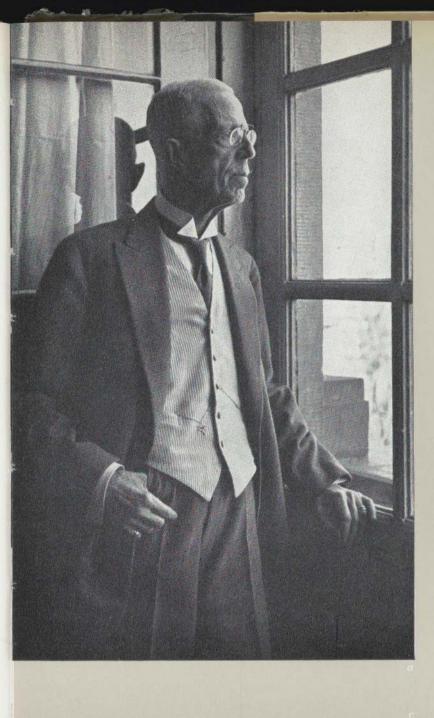
This lively demonstration of the kinetic technique in candid portraiture puts us across the table from F.D.R.

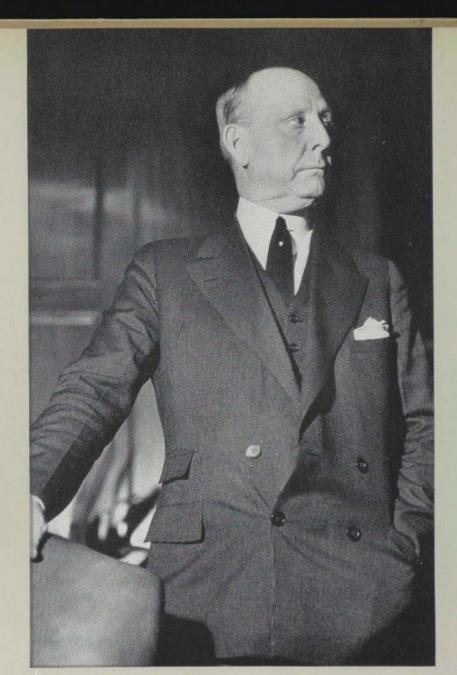
THOMAS D. Mc AVOY President Roosevelt at Jackson Day Dinner (Jan. 24, 1938)

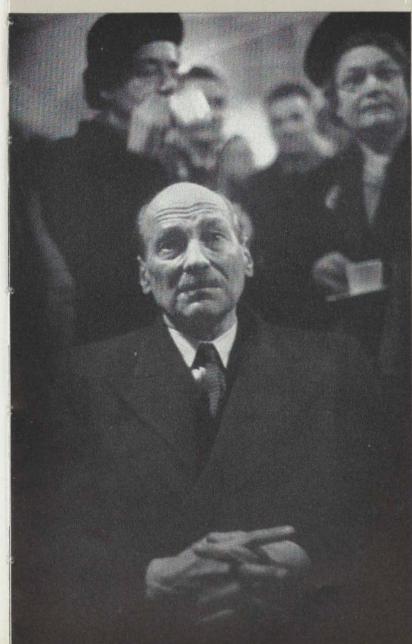


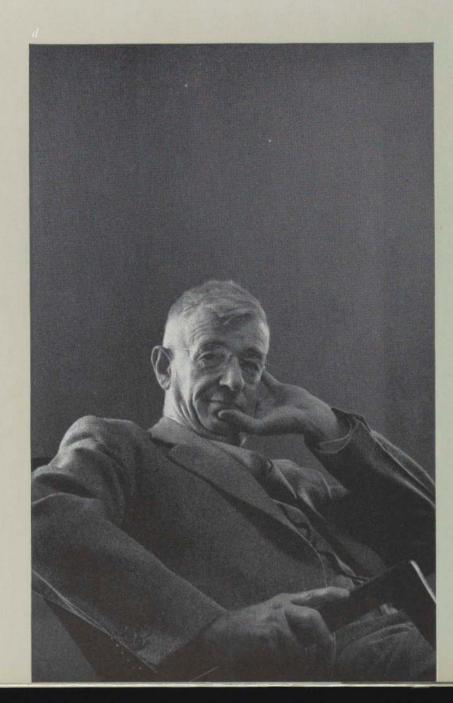
Portraits that give an instant,
powerful insight into the subject —
the simple dignity of a democratic king,
the arrogant power of a mayor,
the bewilderment of a politician,
the serenity of a distinguished scientist.

- ALFRED EISENSTAEDT King Gustaf of Sweden (July 11, 1938)
- MARGARET BOURKE-WHITE Jersey City's Mayor Hague (Feb. 7, 1938)
- W. EUGENE SMITH Prime Minister Clement Attlee (March 6, 1950)
- d ARNOLD NEWMAN Dr. Vannevar Bush (Nov. 14, 1949)



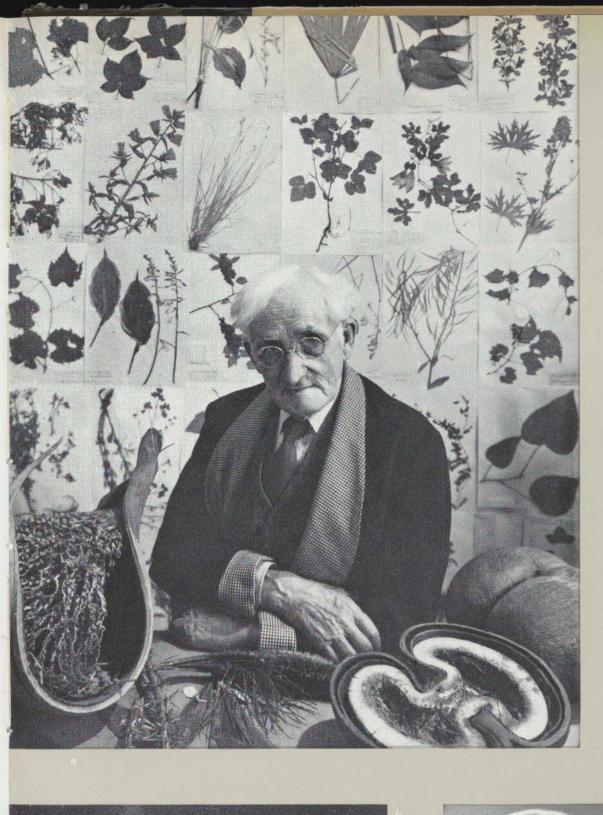




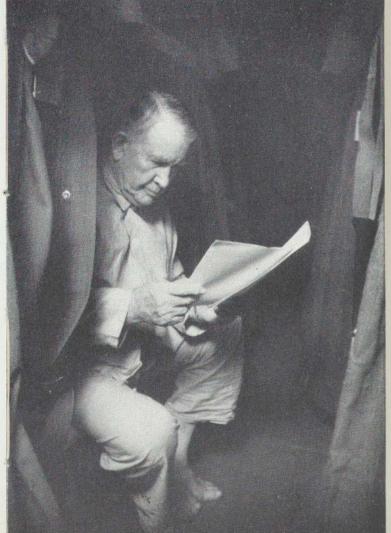


Four men, four professions
— and a new-born baby.

- a GEORGE SILK Dr. L. H. Bailey, Botanist (Jan. 17, 1949)
- b LISA LARSEN Vice President Alben Barkley (Oct. 23, 1950)
- C HANK WALKER U.S. Price Boss Mike Di Salle (March 19, 1951)
- d JOHN SWOPE Mary Swope, 76 min. old (March 14, 1949)
- e LISA LARSEN Walter Gieseking (Feb. 7, 1949)











Names in the news.

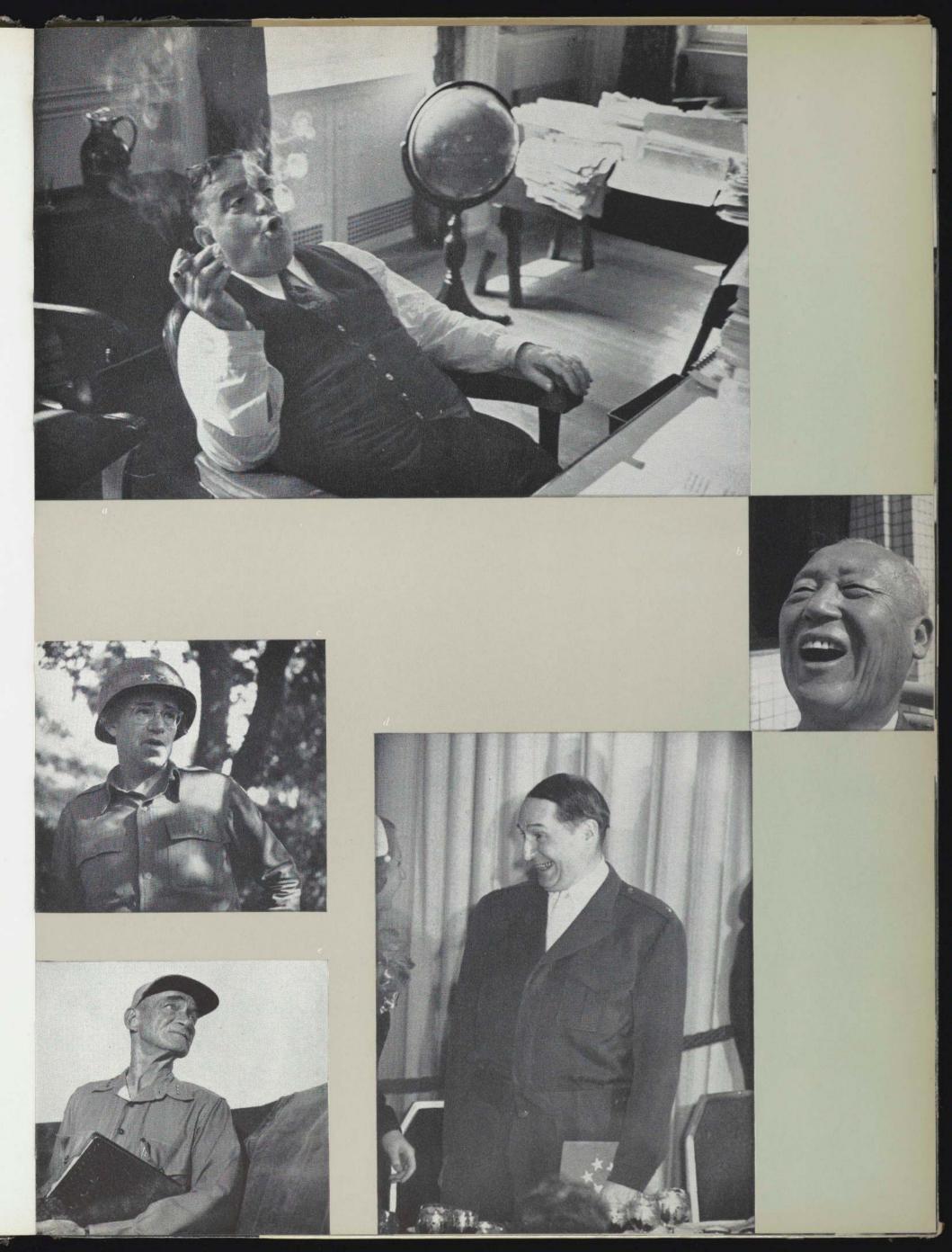
a WILLIAM C. SHROUT Fiorello La Guardia (Sept. 29, 1947)

b HOWARD SOCHUREK Syngman Rhee (Oct. 30, 1950)

ROBERT CAPA General Omar Bradley (June 6, 1944)

d PETER STACKPOLE General Douglas MacArthur (April 30, 1951)

e J. R. EYERMAN Vice Admiral Marc Mitscher (Oct. 23, 1944)



The simple human dignity of fine portraiture.

a HANSEL MIETH Sara Delano Roosevelt on her 86th Birthday with Franklin D. Roosevelt I, II, and III (Oct. 7, 1940)

HANSEL MIETH and OTTO HAGEL Emma Mieth (June 26, 1950)
Wendell Willkie's Relatives (Aug. 12, 1940)





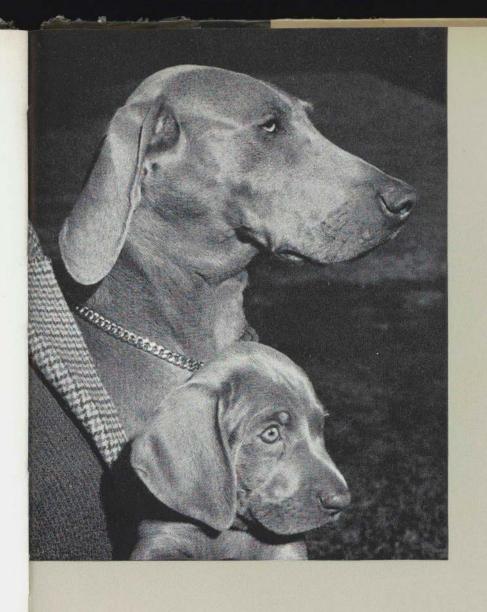


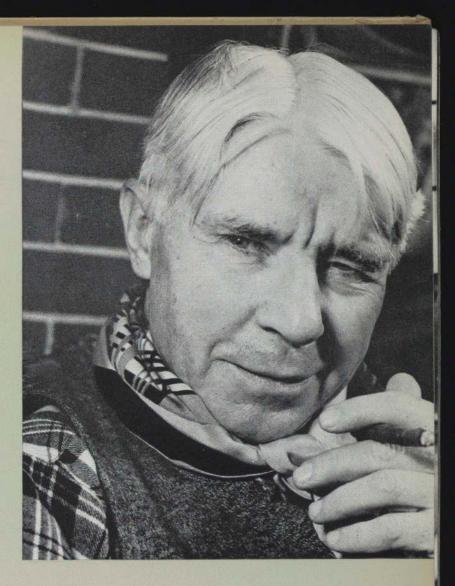
Faces and heads that are easy to look at.

BERNARD HOFFMAN Weimaraners—Mother and Son (June 12, 1950)

Carl Sandburg (Feb. 21, 1938); Harold Stassen's

Parents (Nov. 7, 1938)







 $Pompous\ panoply.$ 

GISELLE FREUND Eva and Juan Perón (Dec. 11, 1950)



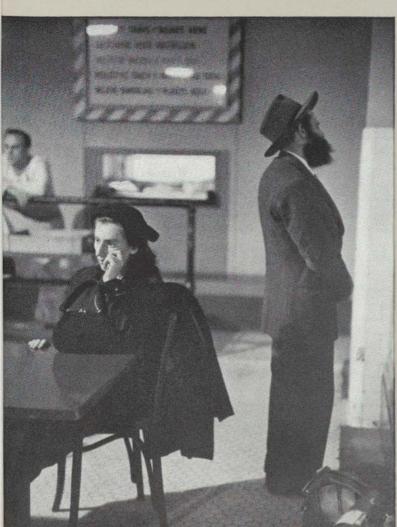


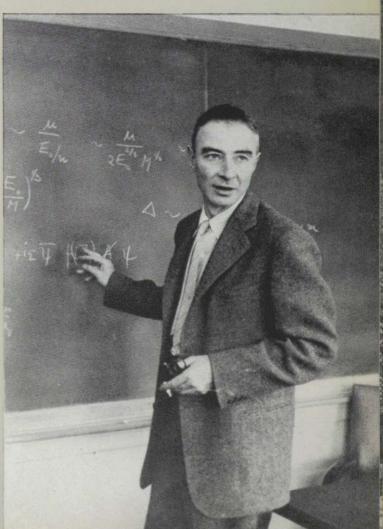


Portraits of a state of mind sullen defiance, the heartache of uncertainty,  $the \ tranquillity \ of \ a \ great \ intellect.$ 

ALFRED EISENSTAEDT Frank Costello at the Kefauver Hearings (March 26, 1951); Ellis Island (Nov. 13, 1950); J. Robert Oppenheimer (Oct. 10, 1949)

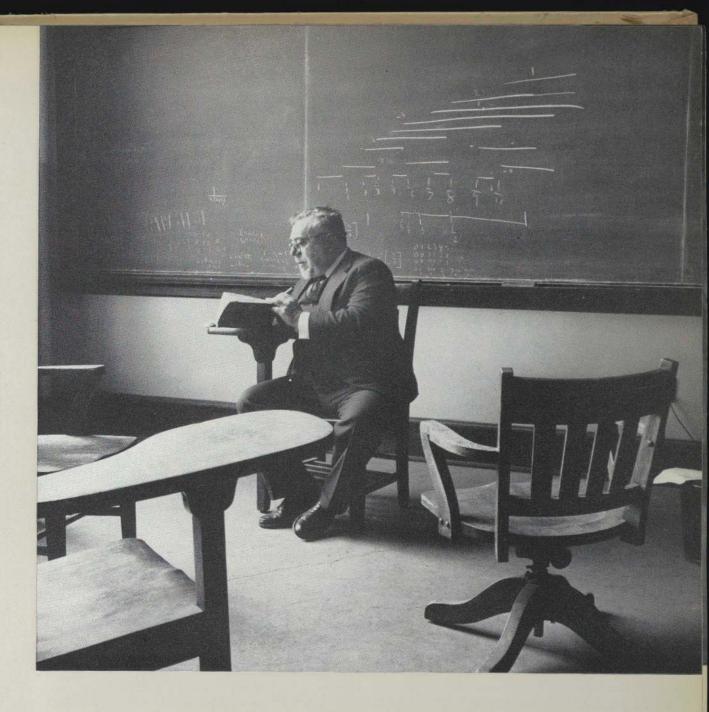


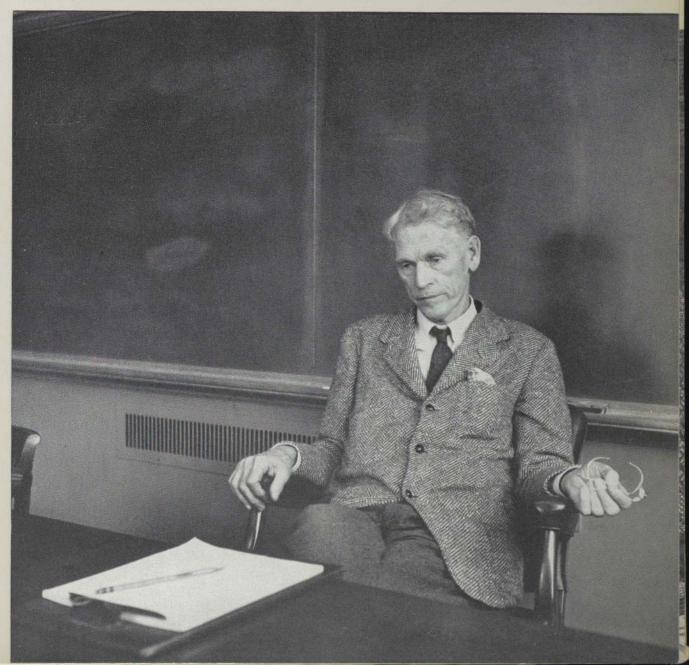




Two of the finest examples
of modern portraiture. Two
mathematicians are objectively
described and their personalities
understandingly assessed. The wall
areas and foreground accessories
are composed with an acute
sense of spatial design.

ALFRED EISENSTAEDT Prof. Norbert Wiener, M.I.T. (Dec. 18, 1950)
Prof. Oswald Veblen, The Institute for Advanced
Study (Dec. 29, 1947)



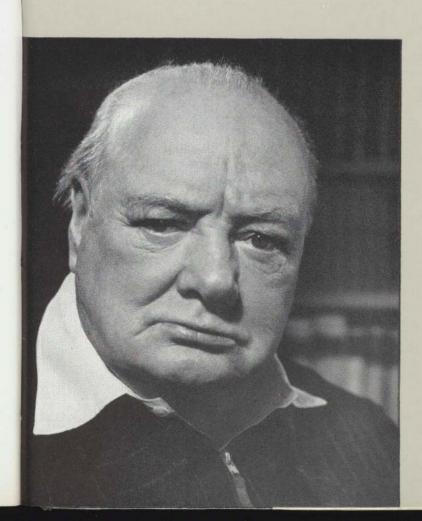


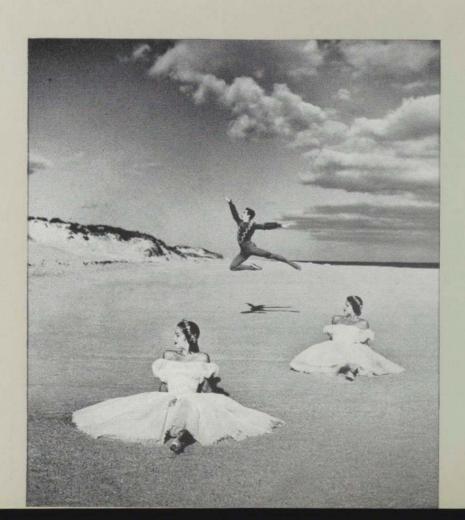
Fantasy and the fantastic conform
to the realism of the camera.
Humor is one of the
rarest elements to be found
in photography.

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PHILIPPE HALSMAN Salvador Dali (Aug. 9, 1948); Winston Churchill (Oct. 8, 1951); Ballet on the Beach (March 22, 1948)







Man looms up larger than his works.

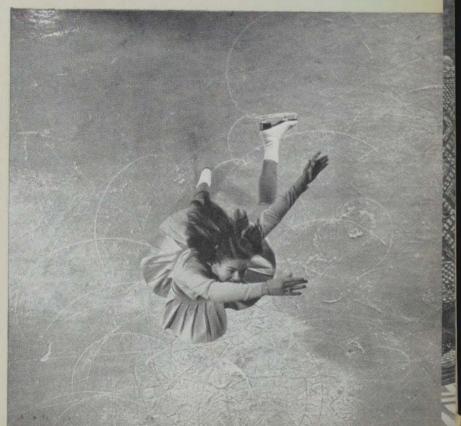
A swimmer seems to fly.

A skater whirls through space.

- a GEORGE STROCK Looking Up from an Excavation for a N. Y. Skyscraper (June 12, 1950)
- b HERBERT GEHR Underwater Photograph of Swimmer (Jan. 20, 1941)
- VICTOR JORGENSEN Ice Skater (March 14, 1949)







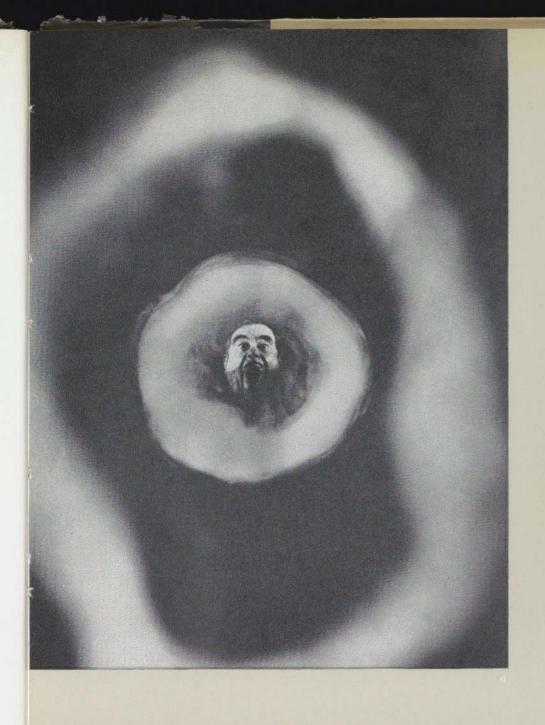
 $Fantastic\ similarities$  with fundamental differences.

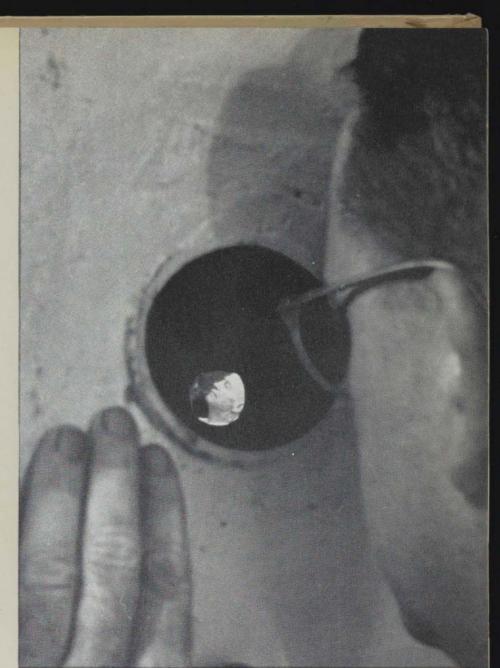
a HOWARD SOCHUREK Champion Smoke-ring Blower (Jan. 16, 1950)

6 GORDON COSTER 25-million-volt Cancer Treatment (Sept. 5, 1949)

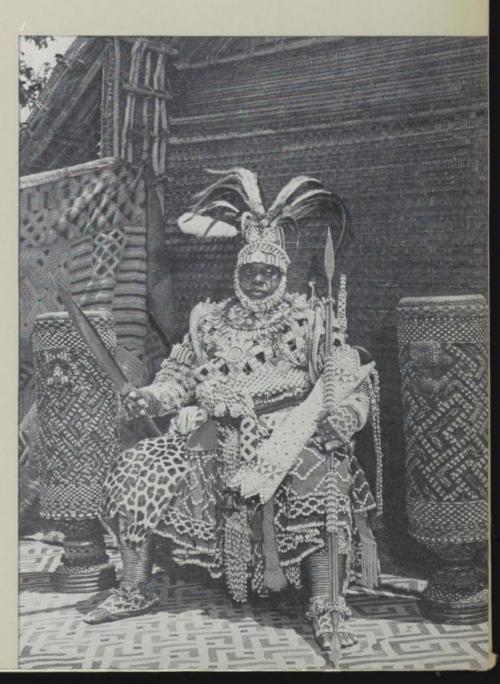
FRANK SCHERSCHEL Shriner E. W. Shepherd (May 16, 1938)

# ELIOT ELISOFON African Congo King (March 31, 1947)





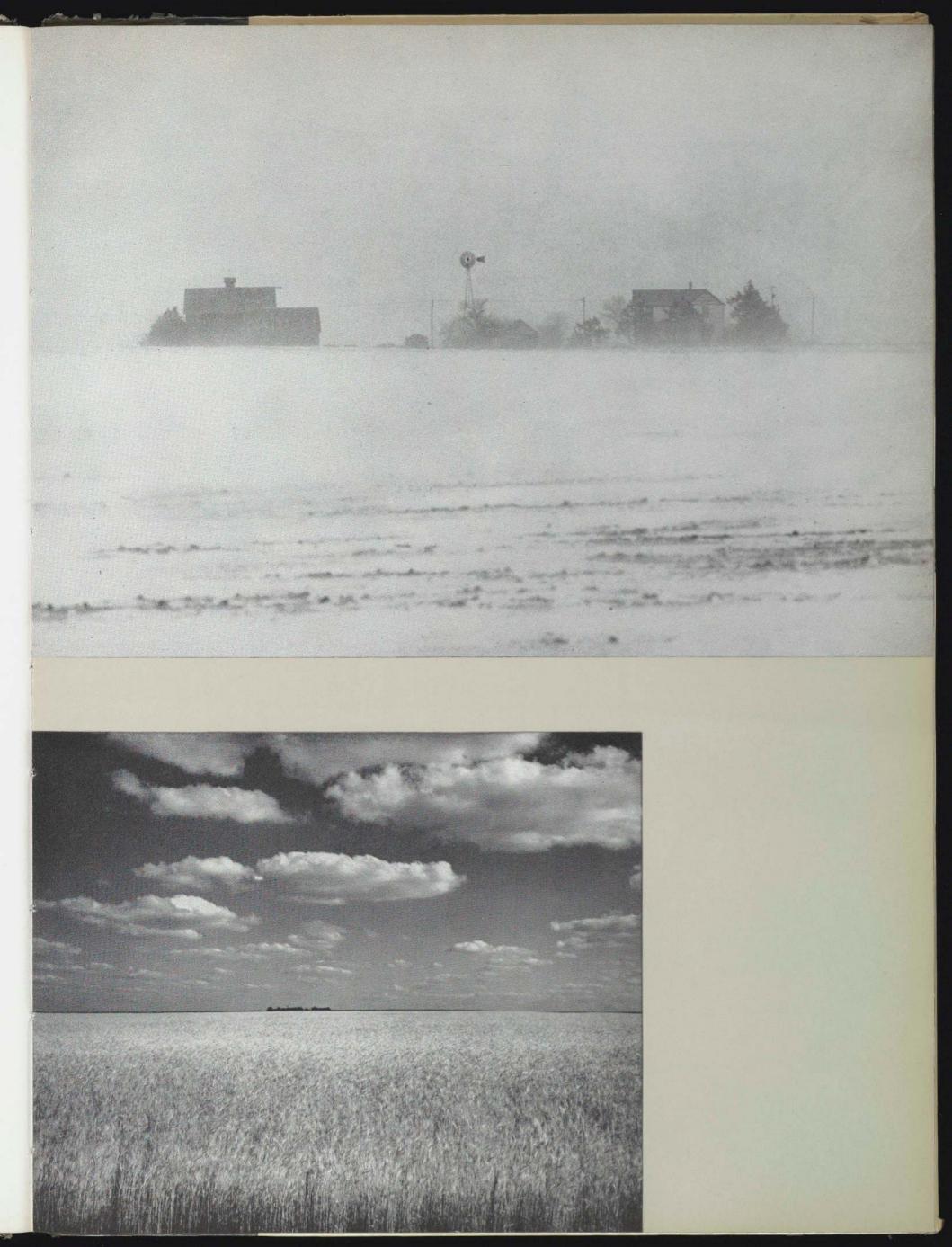




Landscape is more than beautiful scenery. Photography makes it a link between man and the land he inhabits.

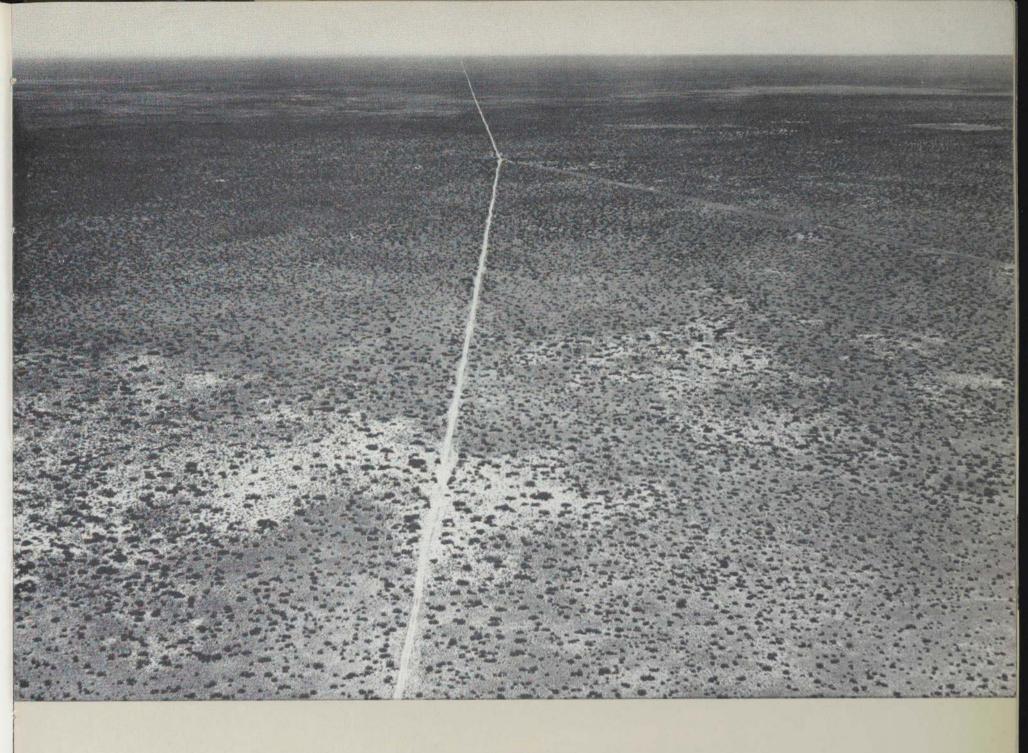
Here winter and summer are remembering Willa Cather.

DAVID E. SCHERMAN Nebraska—Willa Cather Country (March 19, 1951)



Landscape from the sky
opens new horizons in our
concept of the earth.
A road rips through the desert;
a great river bisects
a continent . . .

DAVID E. SCHERMAN Desert Highway (Sept. 16, 1940); The Mississippi River (Sept. 16, 1940)

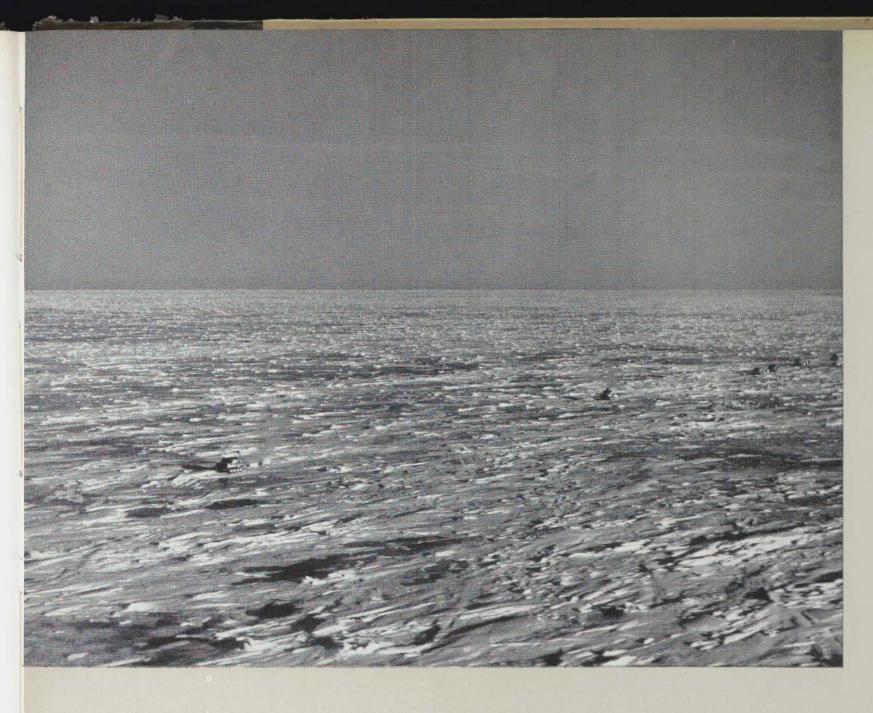




giant military machines look like little beetles in the trackless Arctic; a glacial river creeps out of the mountains . . .

WALLACE KIRKLAND Canadian Army Arctic Maneuvers (March 11, 1946)

b BRADFORD WASHBURN Barnard Glacier (Sept. 2, 1946)



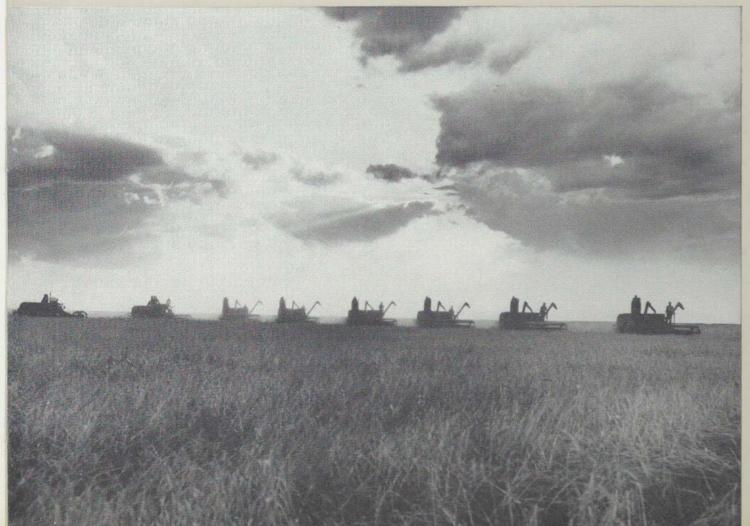


 $a \ network \ of \ tributaries \ feeds$   $a \ great \ river.$ 

a MARIE HANSEN Headwaters of the Missouri River (Aug. 30, 1943)

b JOE SCHERSCHEL Wheat Harvesting (June 27, 1949)



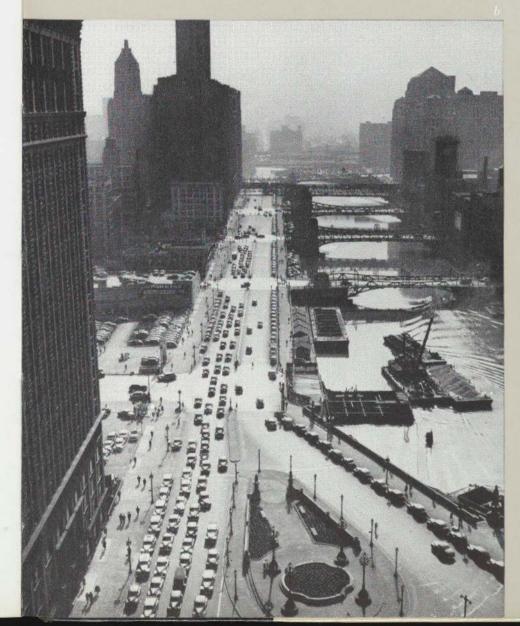


The gentle nostalgia of country lanes
and a peaceful river of great
memories — measured against the
urgent rivers and surging
traffic of great cities.

a, c OTTO HAGEL Banks of the Concord River (Oct. 14, 1940)
Detroit Parking Lots (Oct. 23, 1939)

b ANDREAS FEININGER Wacker Drive, Chicago (July 17, 1944)





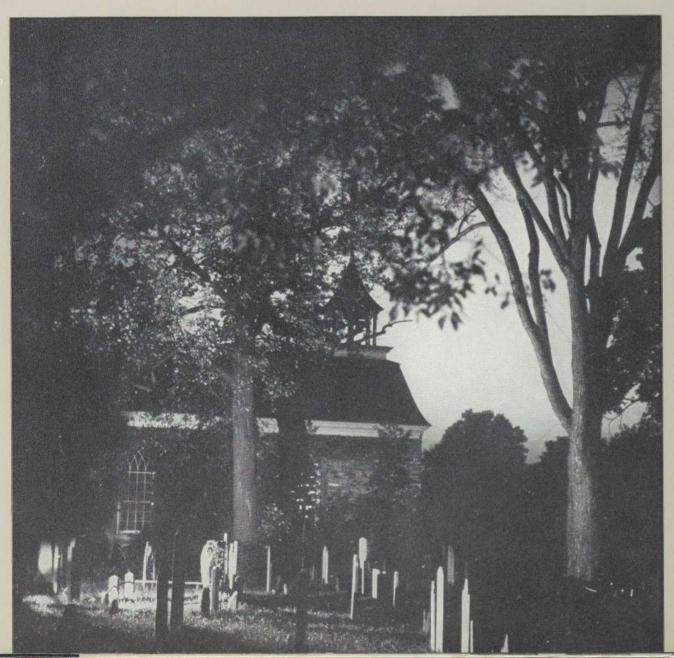


The dark and pulsating power of a great ship is contrasted with the dark and cool headstones of quiet graves.

a SAM SHERE S.S. Europa (Oct. 8, 1945)

b NINA LEEN Sleepy Hollow Churchyard (Oct. 30, 1944)





A forest of derricks sucking up oil; a forest of cars and people.

ANDREAS FEININGER California Oil Derricks (July 5, 1948); N.Y. Traffic (Dec. 18, 1950)





Clutter.

**DMITRI KESSEL** Construction of Rhône River Dam (June 26, 1950) Bomber Crew Shack in the Aleutians (March 13, 1944)





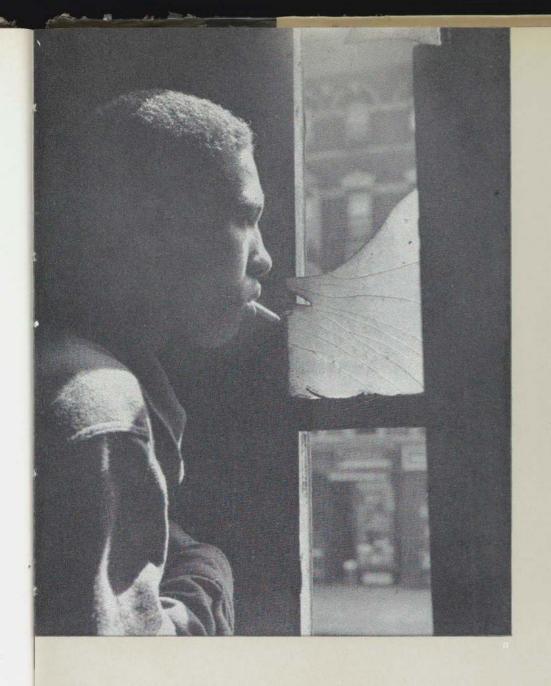
The journalist-photographer can comment as well as report.

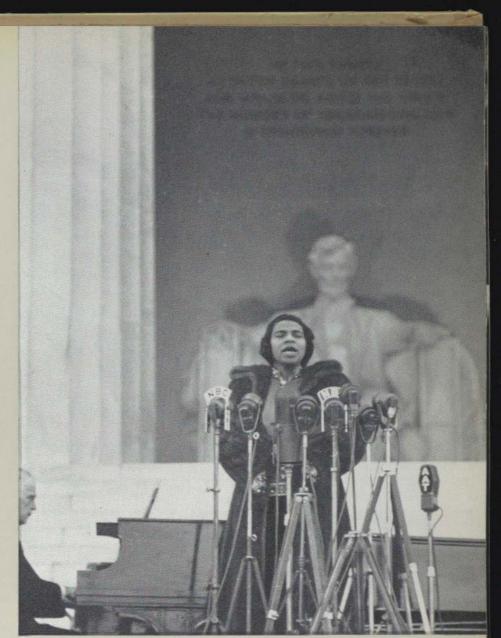
His intellectual and emotional reactions may even take his personal comment to the point of becoming a crusade.

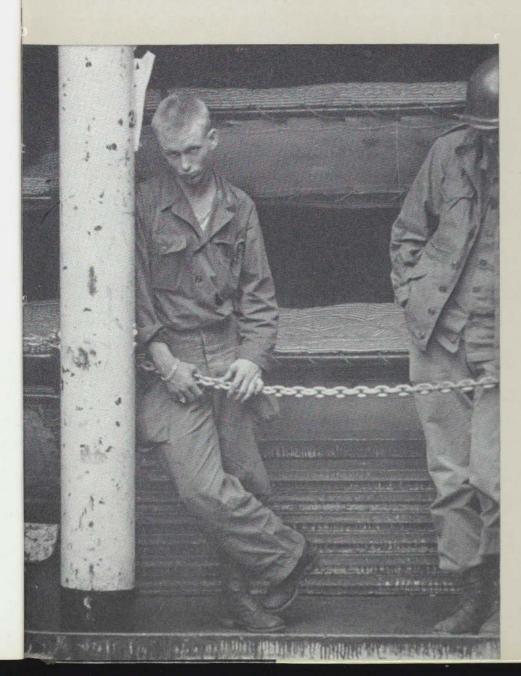
Comment on social and personal problems . . .

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- GORDON PARKS Trapped Harlem Gang Leader (Nov. 1, 1948)
- THOMAS Mc AVOY Marian Anderson at the Lincoln Memorial (April 24, 1939)
- GEORGE SILK Young Soldier Off to War (April 16, 1951)
- LISA LARSEN 4-H Boy After Selling his Calf (Oct. 10, 1949)





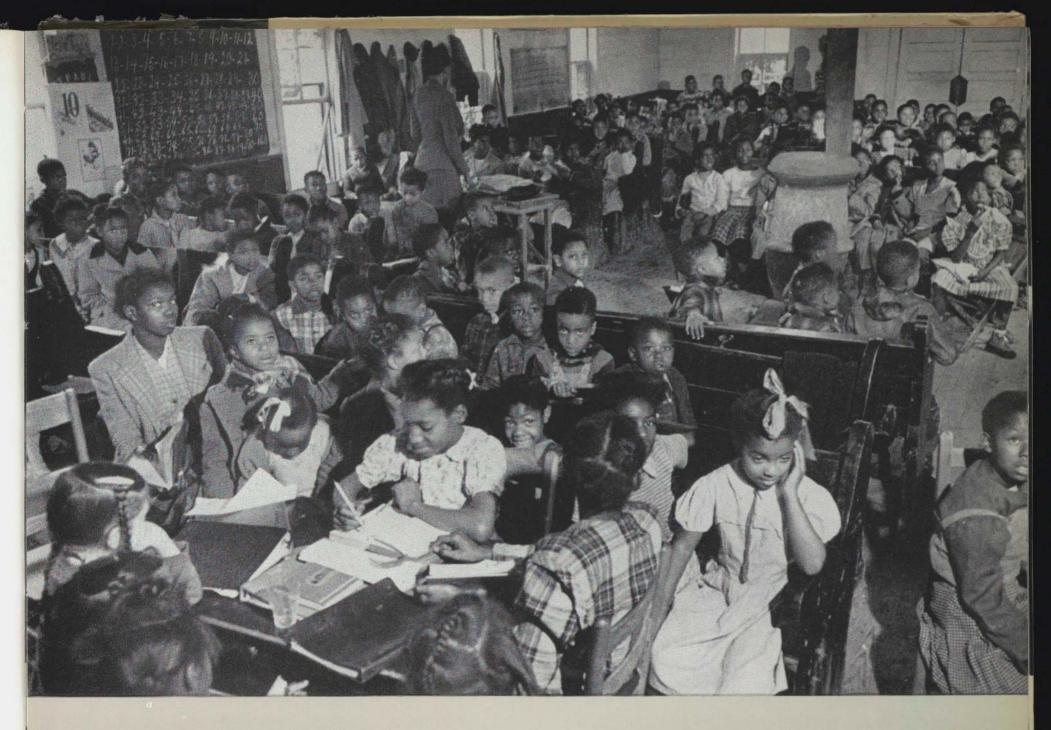


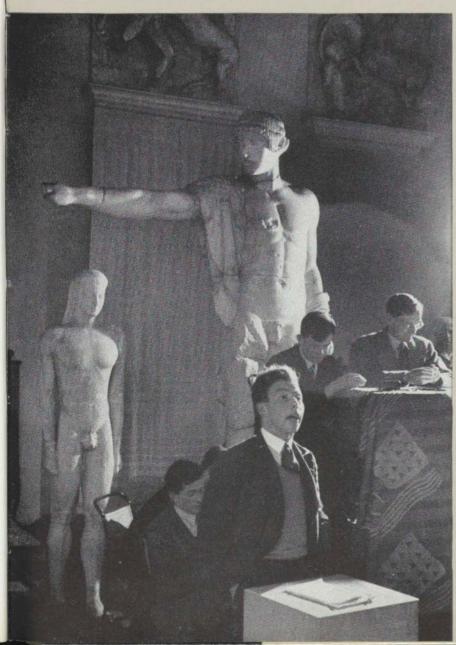


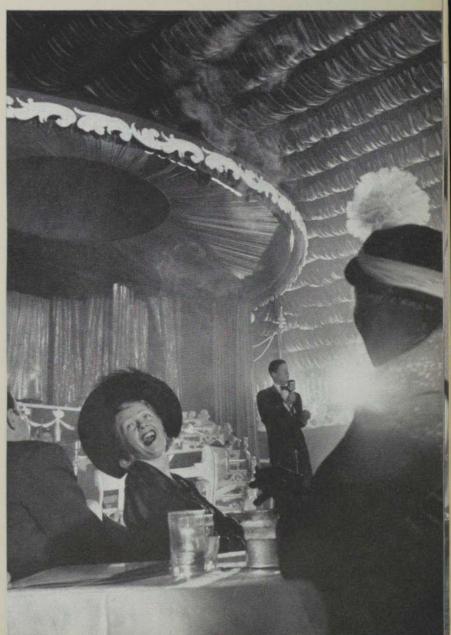
 $contrasting\ situations \dots$ 

EDWARD CLARK Children in West Memphis Church School (March 21, 1949)

b. c CORNELL CAPA British Public School Debating Class (April 2, 1951) Rudy Vallee (March 21, 1949)





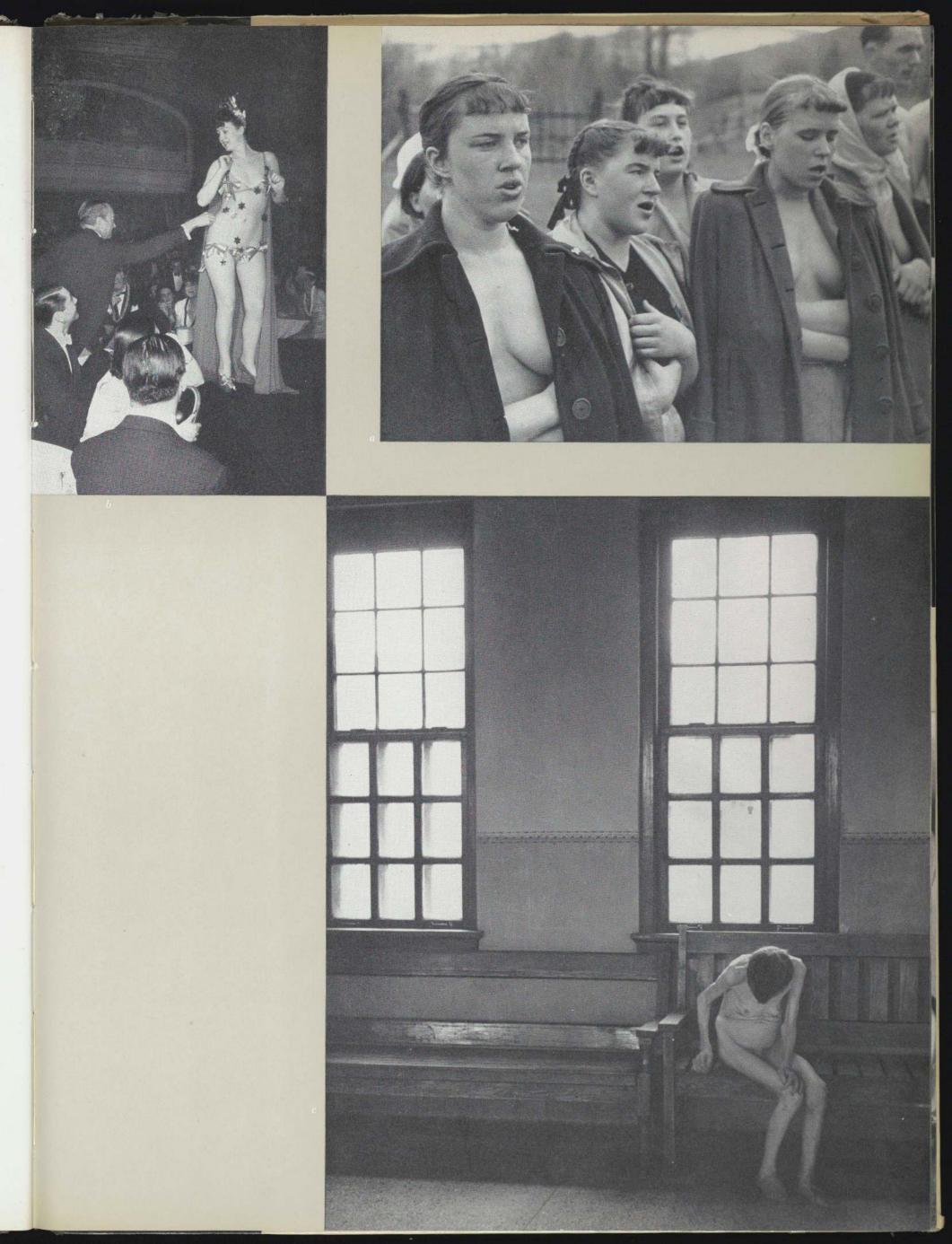


nakedness . . .

WAYNE MILLER Canadian Doukhobor Cultists (May 8, 1950)

b JOHN PHILLIPS Gypsy Rose Lee (Jan. 6, 1941)

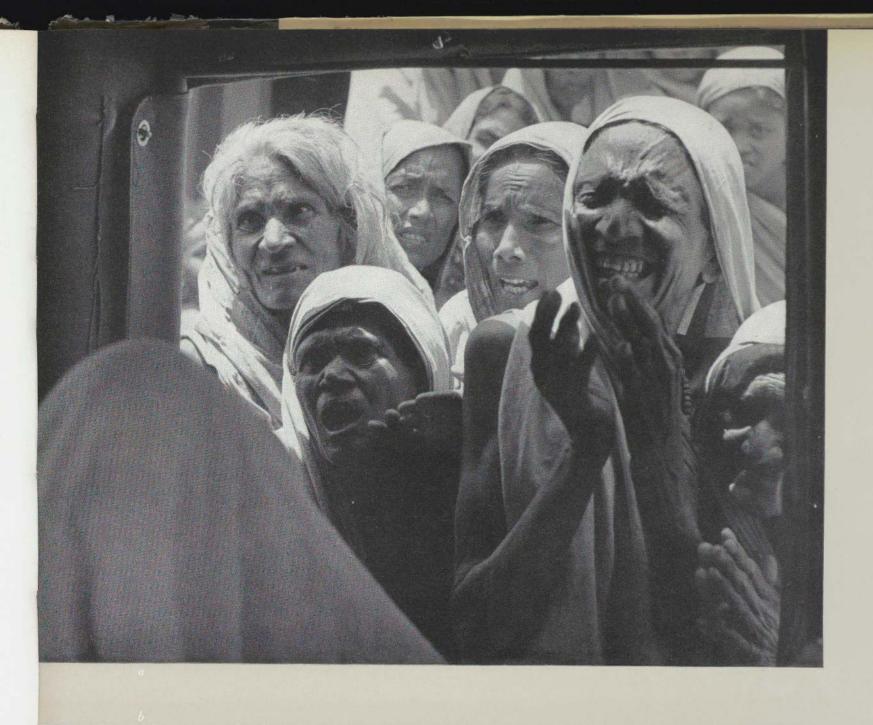
JERRY COOKE Insane Asylum (May 6, 1946)



anguish . . .

WERNER BISCHOF Indian Women Plead for Food (May 28, 1951)

ERNST HAAS Viennese Crowd Awaits the Return of Prisoners of War (Aug. 8, 1949)





youth movements . . .

a N. R. FARBMAN Red Parade in East Berlin (June 12, 1950)

b MYRON DAVIS Great Books Course at University of Chicago (July 16, 1945)





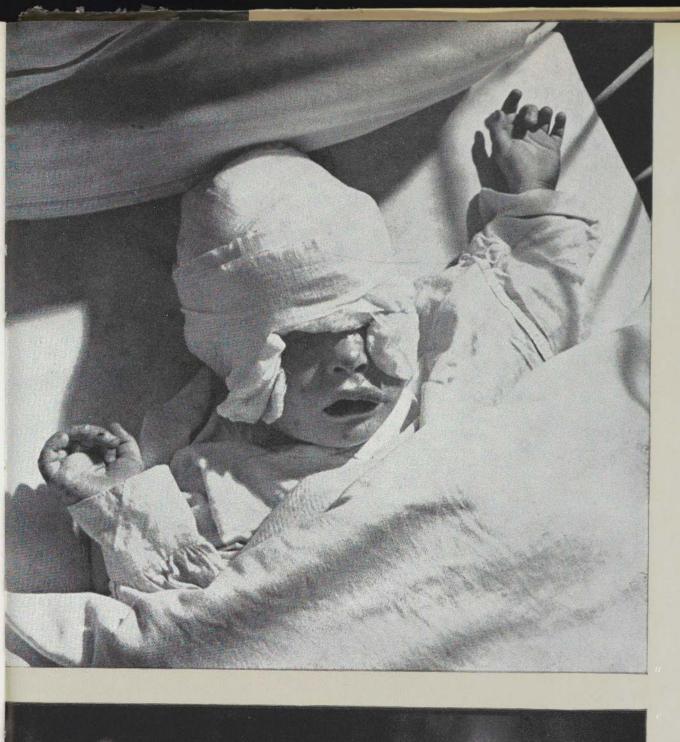
faces.

WILLIAM VANDIVERT Bomb Injuries, London (Sept. 9, 1940)

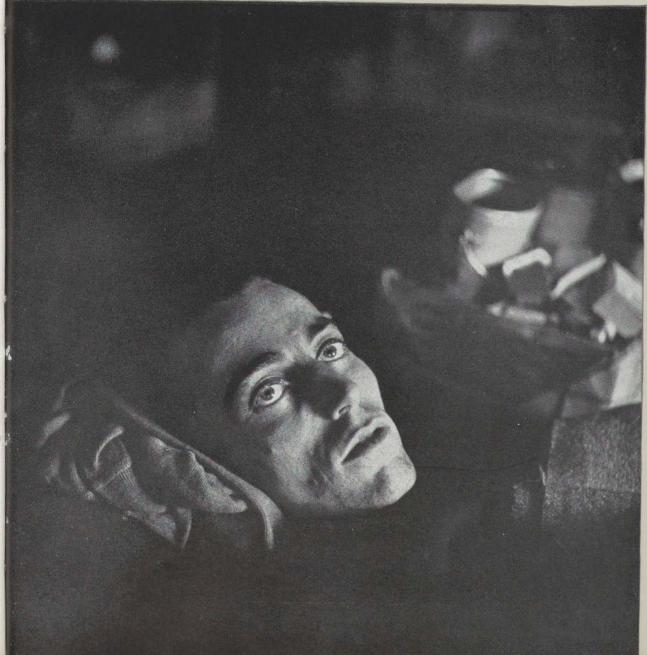
RALPH MORSE Soldier's Skull on a Destroyed Tank (Feb. 1, 1943)

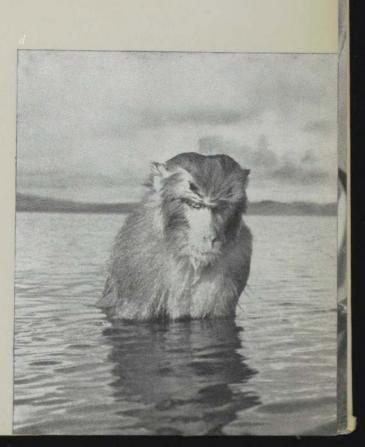
JOHNNY FLOREA American Prisoner of War, Germany (April 16, 1945)

HANSEL MIETH Rhesus Monkey (Nov. 25, 1946)





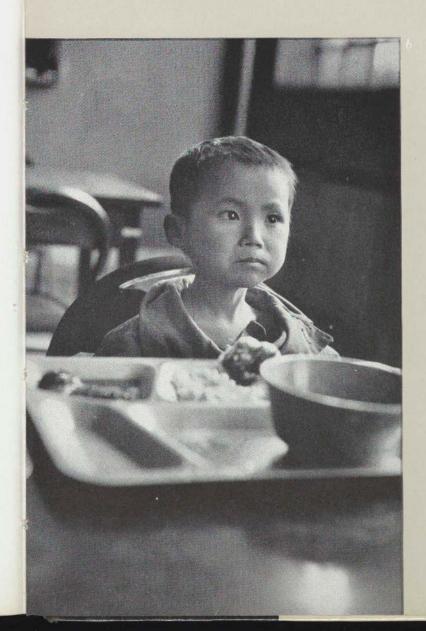


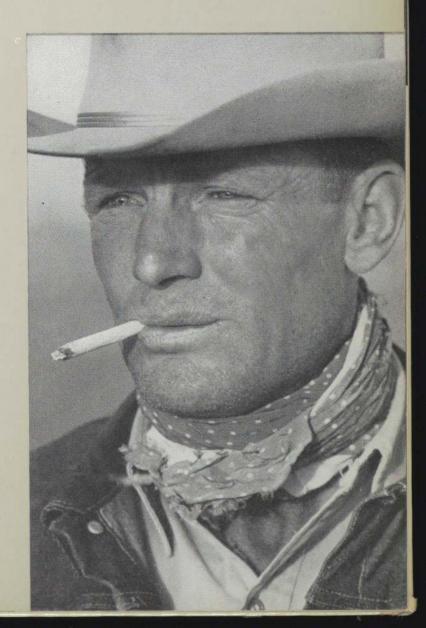


a, c LEONARD Mc COMBE Sigma Chi Inaugural Dinner (Feb. 6, 1950) Cowboy C. H. Long (Aug. 22, 1949)

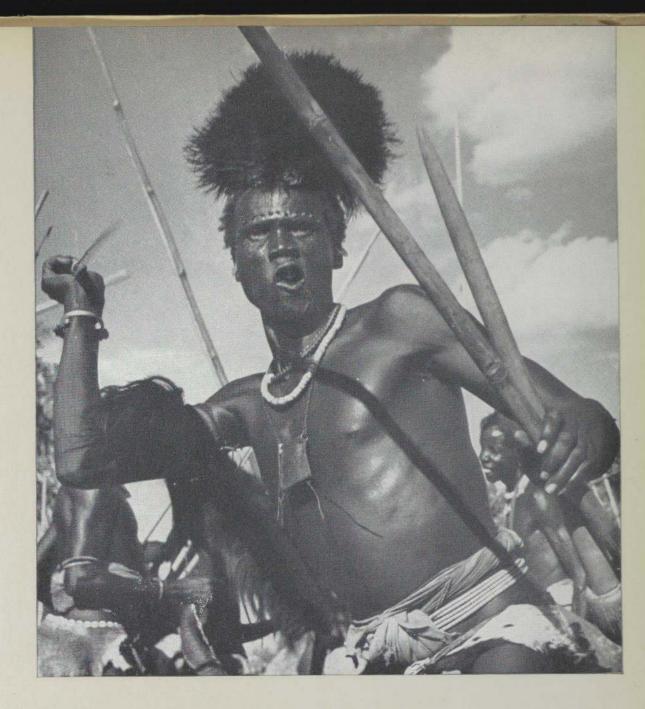
b MICHAEL ROUGIER Korean War Orphan (July 23, 1951)

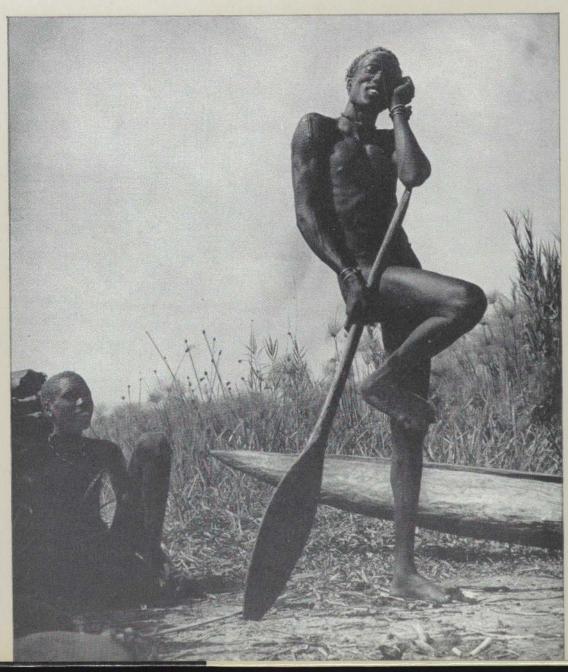


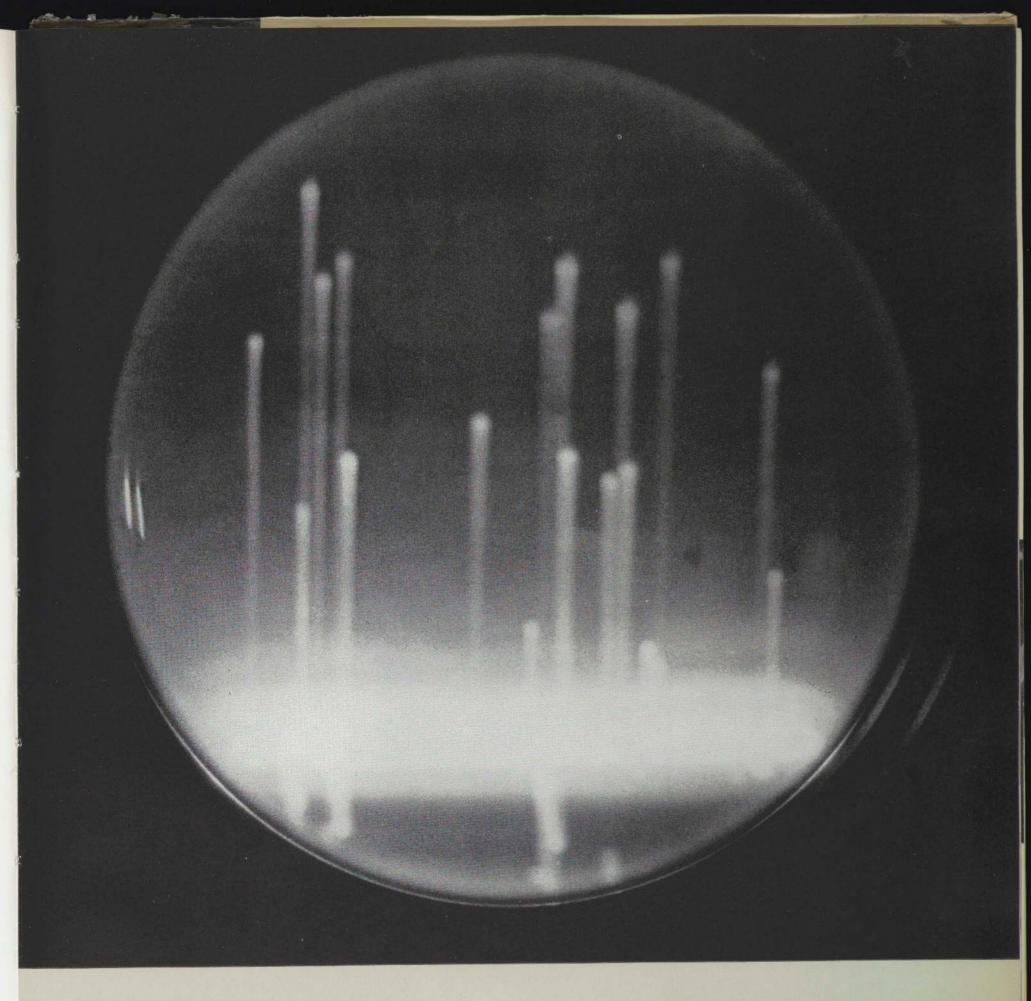




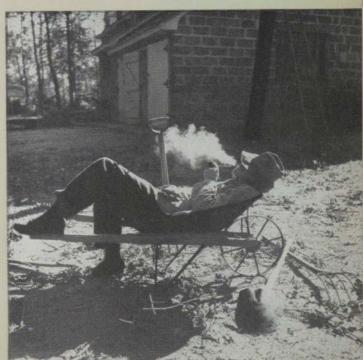
**ELIOT ELISOFON** Shilluk Warrior (Nov. 20, 1950); "Stork Man" of the Upper Nile (Nov. 20, 1950)



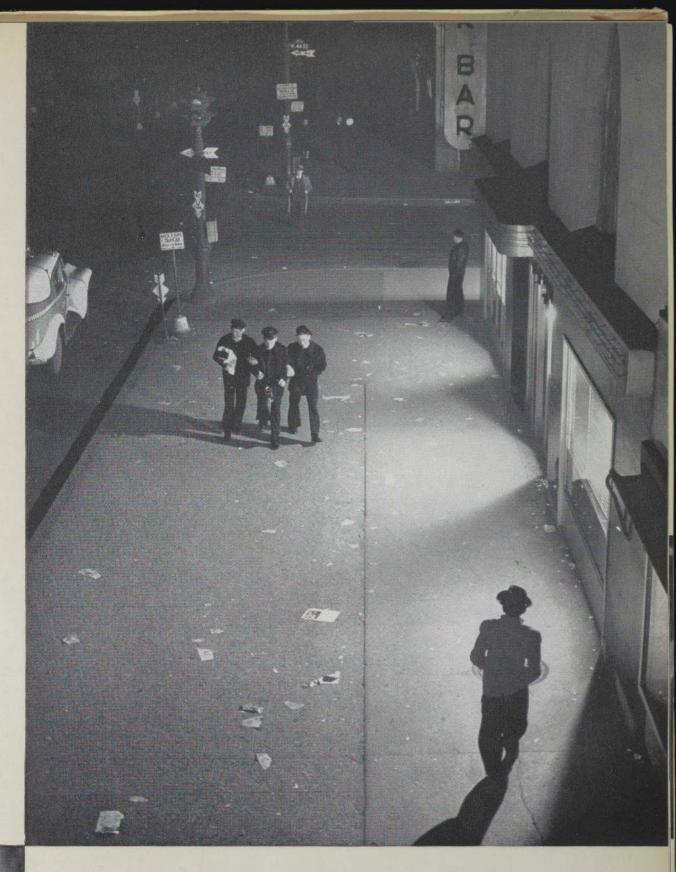




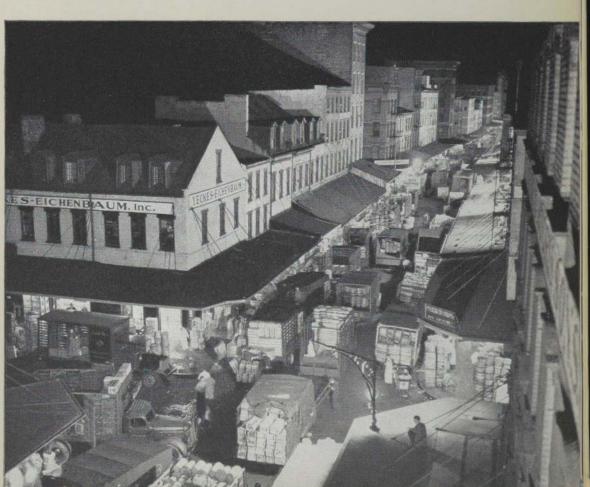




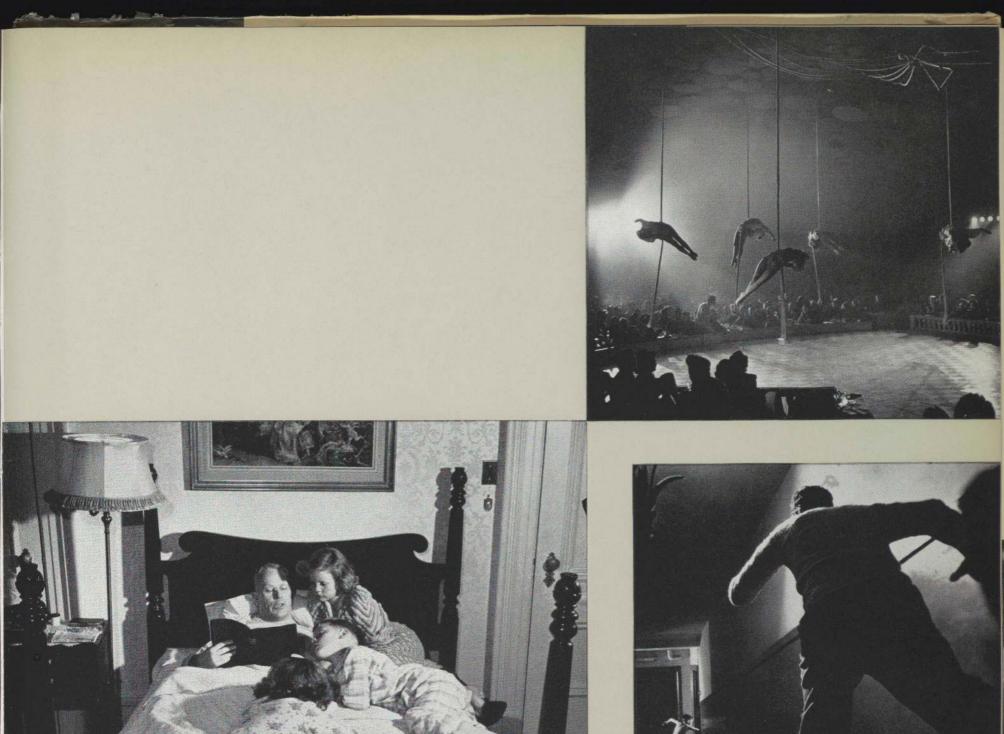
HERBERT GEHR Sailors in Times Square, 2:30 A.M. (April 2, 1945) Arturo Toscanini and Granddaughter (Nov. 27, 1939) New York Market at Night (Aug. 3, 1942)

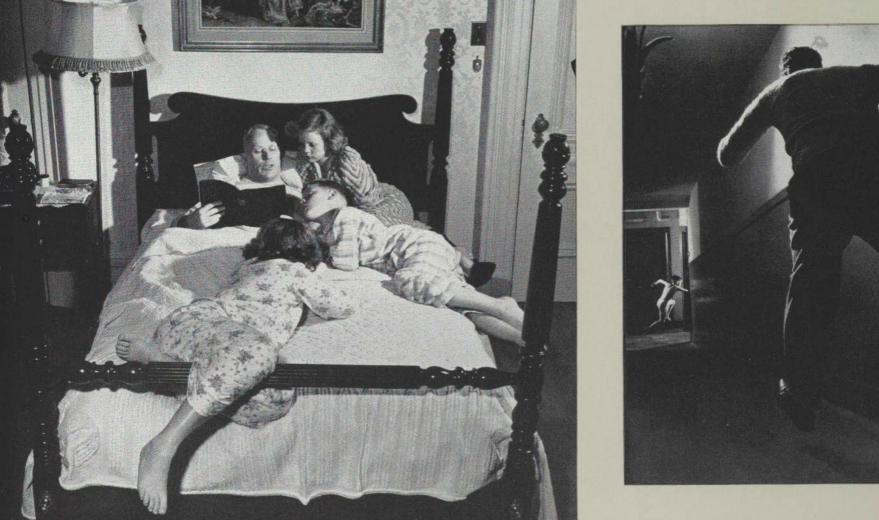




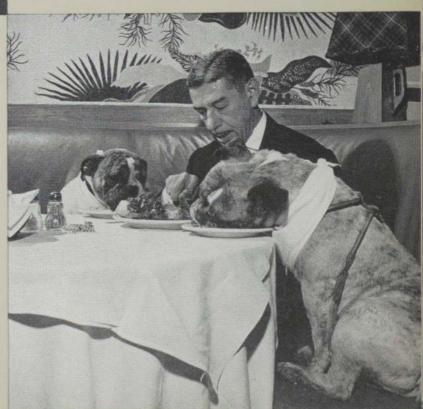


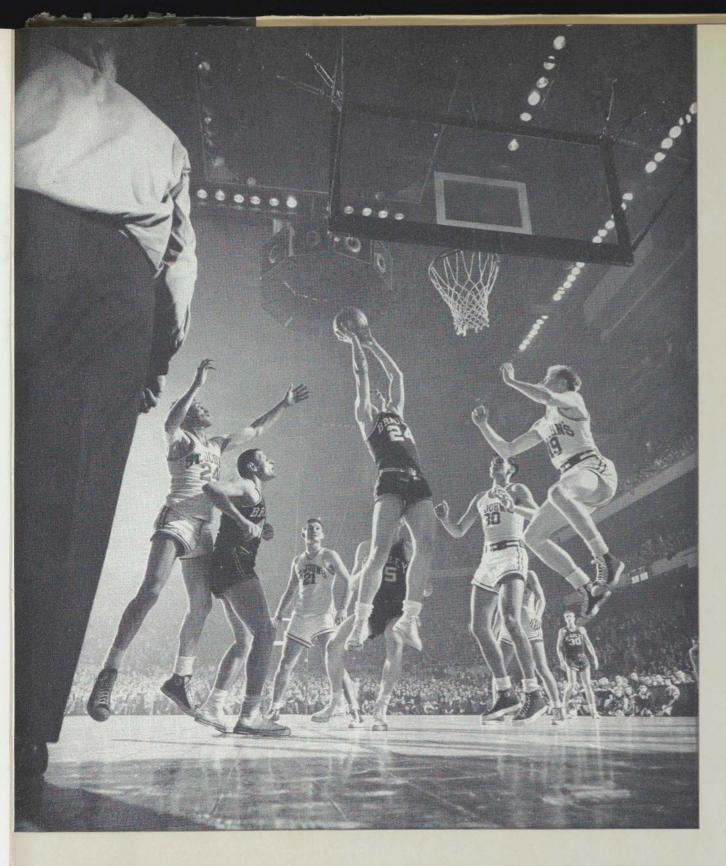
RALPH CRANE Gov. Warren of California with his Children (April 24, 1944); The Flying Herzogs (Jan. 31, 1944); Bad Boy (May 12, 1947); Mike Romanoff in his Hollywood Restaurant (Oct. 29, 1945)









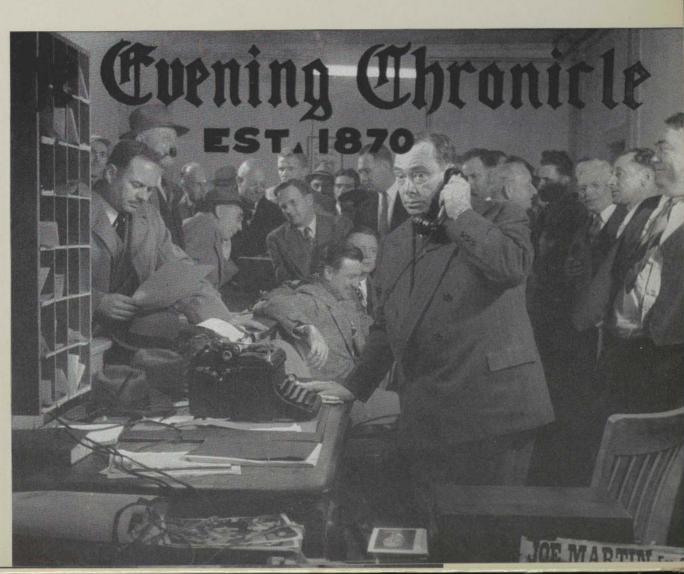




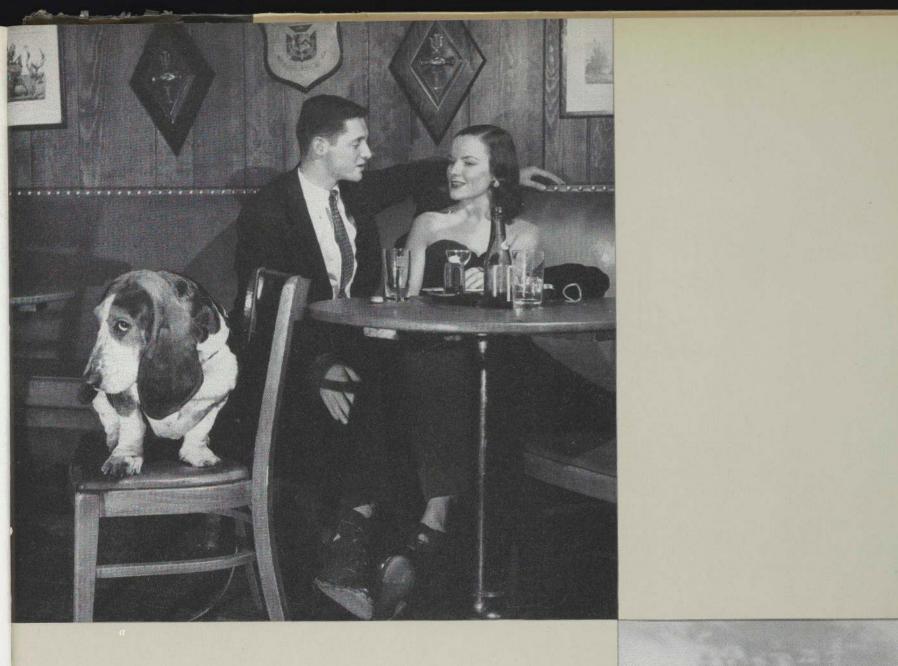
a GJON MILI Paris Nightclub (Sept. 4, 1950)

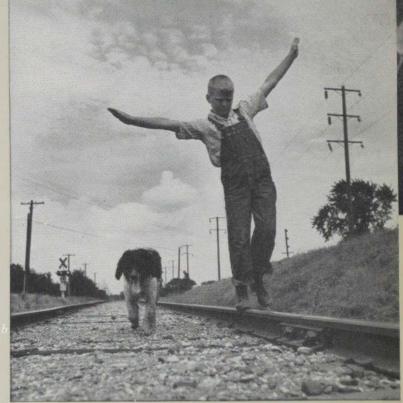
b ALLAN GRANT Rep. Joe Martin in his Office on Election Night (Nov. 18, 1946)

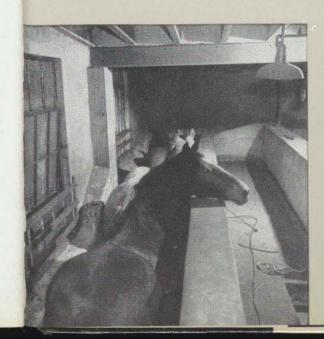


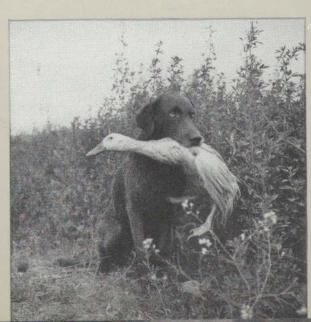


- WALTER SANDERS Television Dog Star (March 27, 1950)
- b MYRON DAVIS Boy and his Dog (Sept. 3, 1945)
- G YALE JOEL Farm Horse on a Slaughterhouse Ramp (Oct. 14, 1946)
- d LOOMIS DEAN Retriever and Friend (Aug. 1, 1949)









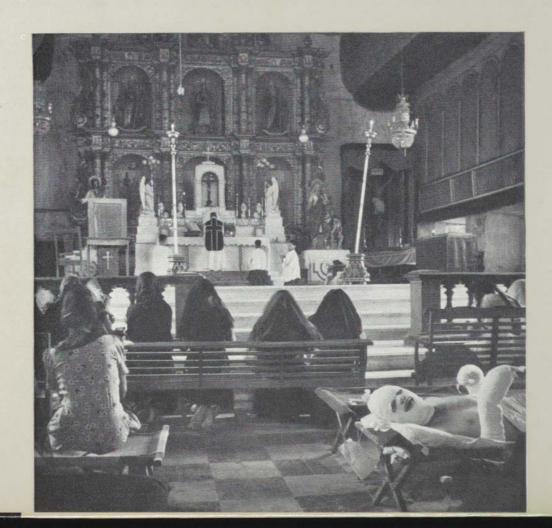
JOHN PHILLIPS Canonization of Mother Cabrini in St. Peter's (July 22, 1946)

EILEEN DARBY Nuns at Catholic Congress in Ottawa (July 14, 1947)

W. EUGENE SMITH Church Hospital on Leyte (Dec. 25, 1944)

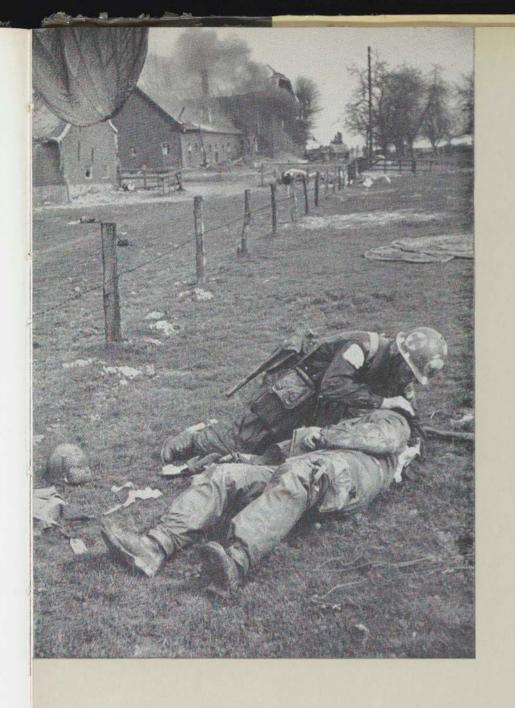






War photography. In no other field has the importance of photography been more impressive than in recording war where nobility and selfless devotion, inexhaustible endurance, terrifying senselessness and bestiality are all scrambled together. War photographers are not spectators. They are participants. They give us a feeling of proximity, the sharp intensity of actual experience.

ROBERT CAPA Wounded Paratrooper East of the Rhine (April 9, 1945) French Collaborationist (Sept. 4, 1944); Normandy Beachhead (June 19, 1944); Spanish Soldier Drops with a Bullet through his Head (July 12, 1937)



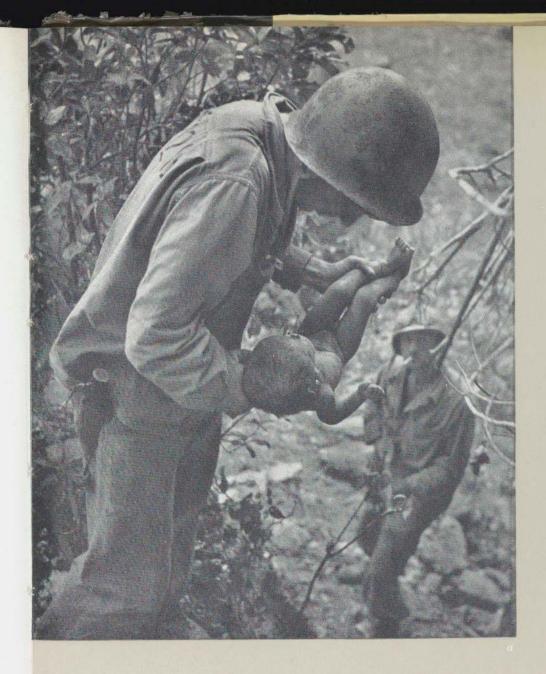




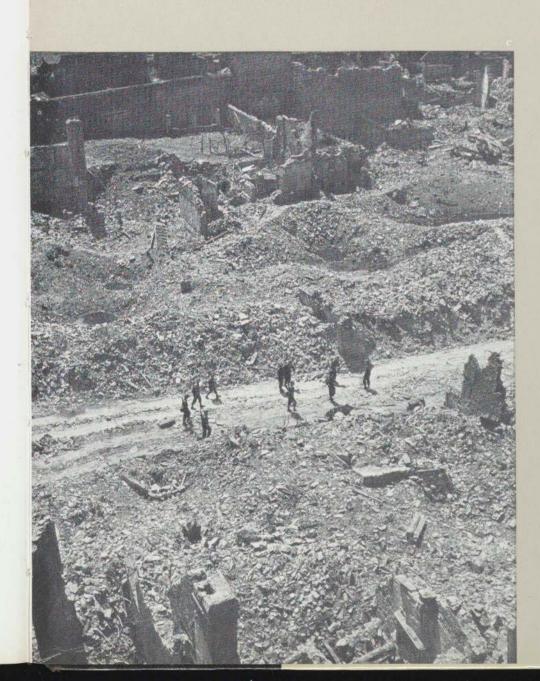


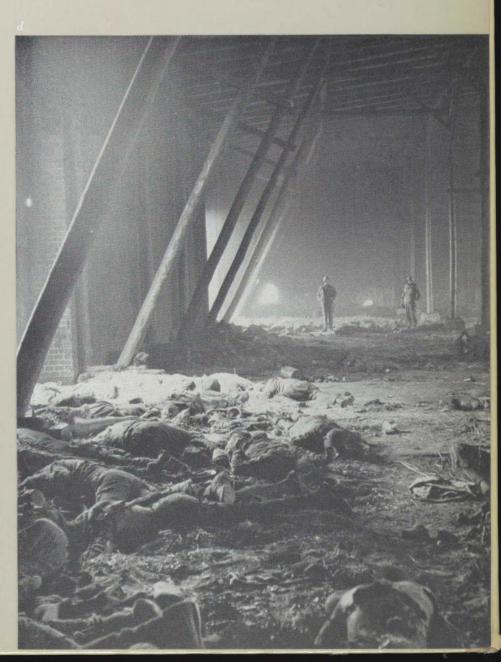
Desolation, death and destruction contrasted with the rescue of a tiny baby . . .

- a W. EUGENE SMITH Rescue on Saipan (Aug. 28, 1944)
- b GEORGE STROCK Death on Buna Beach (Sept. 20, 1943)
- FRANK SCHERSCHEL U.S. Soldiers at St. Lô (Aug. 21, 1944)
- d WILLIAM VANDIVERT Ruins of Gardelegen Concentration Camp (May 7, 1945)





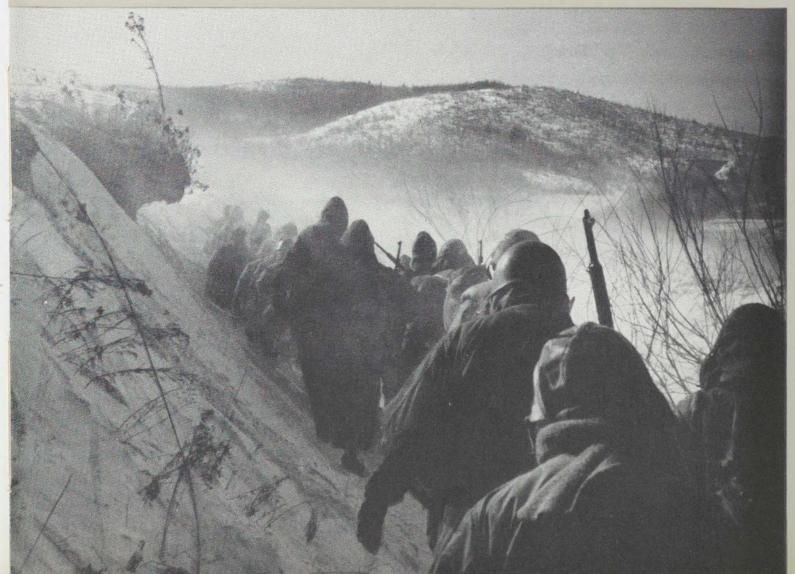




the pictorial grace of a peacetime maneuver against the deadly reality of a march in Korea . . .

DAVID DOUGLAS DUNCAN Turkish Cavalry Maneuvers (Jan. 31, 1949)
Retreat to the Sea (Dec. 25, 1950)





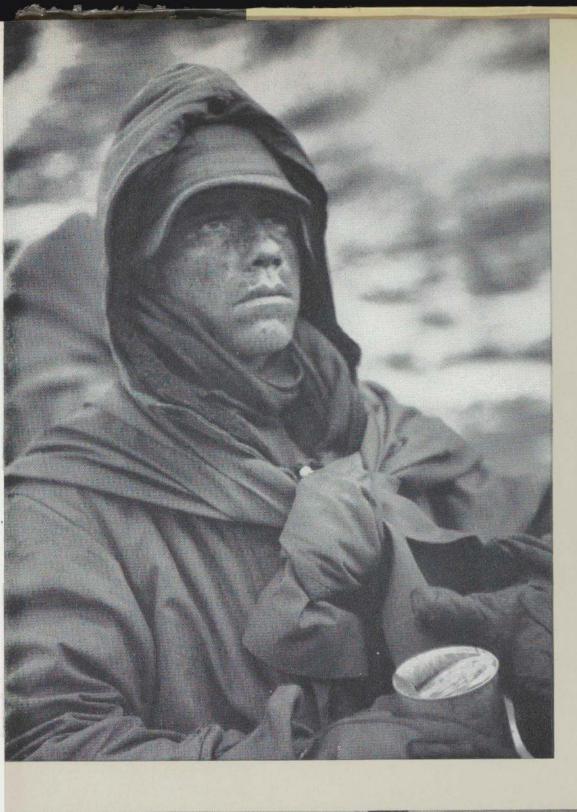
the haunting masks on the faces

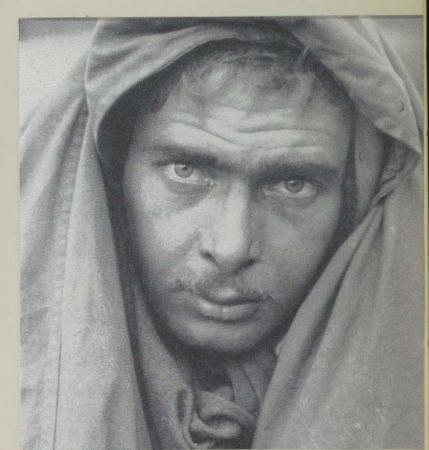
of men in the bitter cold

when the living walk

and only the dead ride . . .

DAVID DOUGLAS DUNCAN Christmas in Korea (Dec. 25, 1950)





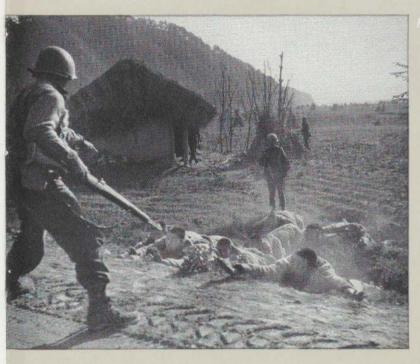


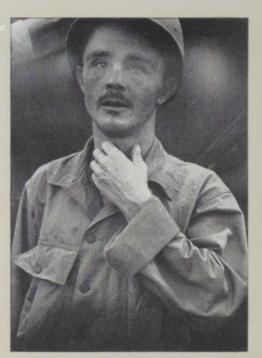
the awesome moments when dawn reveals the target, when night overtakes the homeless refugees . . .

a, b, c HANK WALKER Marines Take Kimpo Airfield (Oct. 2, 1950) Chinese Reds Surrender in Korea (Nov. 20, 1950) Survivor of Korean Massacre (Sept. 4, 1950)

d JOHN DOMINIS Night Retreat from Seoul (Jan. 15, 1951)







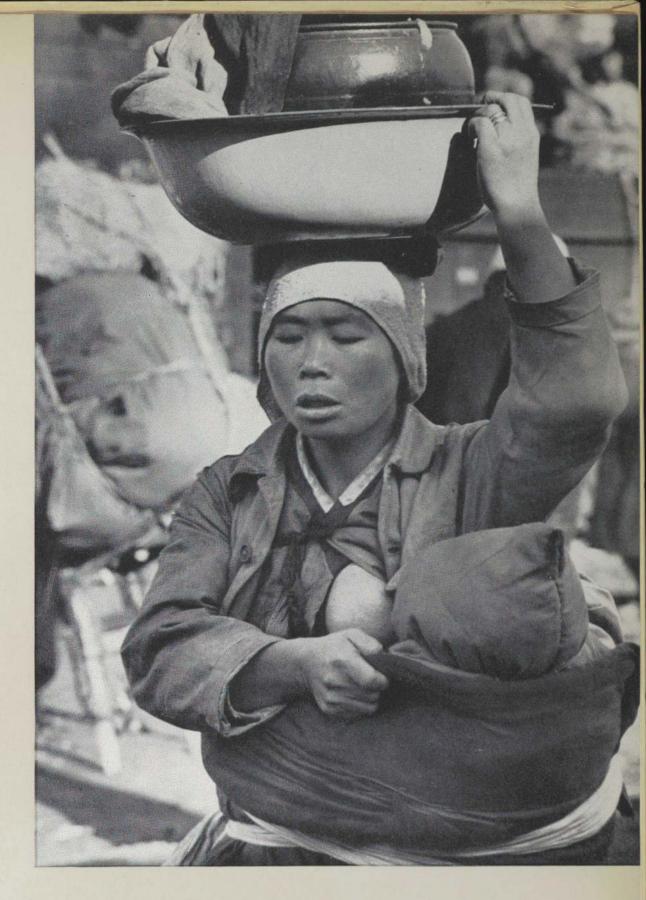


the timeless image
of a young mother nursing
her baby as again she flees before
advancing armies. The
final picture: a prayer of
faith in the brotherhood
of man.

CARL MYDANS Soldier and Korean Boy (Oct. 23, 1950)

Korean Mother and Child Flee Seoul (Jan. 15, 1951)

Wounded GI (Aug. 14, 1950)









## AGENCY CREDITS

BLACK STAR: Robert Capa Spanish Solder Drops with a Bullet through his Head (July 12, 1937). Ralph Crane Gov. Warren of California with his Children (April 24, 1944), The Flying Herzogs (Jan. 31, 1944), Bad Boy (May 12, 1947), Mike Romanoff in his Hollywood Restaurant (Oct. 29, 1945), World's Biggest Telescope on Mt. Palomar (Dec. 8, 1947).

GRAPHIC HOUSE: Elleen Darby Nuns at Catholic Congress in Ottawa (July 14, 1947). Allan Grant Rep. Joe Martin in his Office on Election Night (Nov. 18, 1946).

MAGNUM: WERNER BISCHOF Indian Women Plead for Food (May 28, 1951). HENRI CARTIER-BRESSON Gandhi's Funeral (Feb. 16, 1948). GISELLE FREUND Eva and Juan Perón (Dec. 11, 1950). ERNST HAAS Viennese Crowd

Awaits the Return of Prisoners of War (Aug. 8, 1949).

MILWAUKEE JOURNAL: FRANK SCHERSCHEL Shriner E. W. Shepherd (May 16, 1938).

PIX: Alfred Eisenstaedt King Gustaf of Sweden (July 11, 1938), Prof. Norbert Wiener, M.I.T. (Dec. 18, 1950), Prof. Oswald Veblen, The Institute for Advanced Study (Dec. 29, 1947), Ellis Island (Nov. 13, 1950), J. Robert Oppenheimer (Oct. 10, 1949), Roosevelt Hospital School of Nursing (Jan. 31, 1938), Cadets at West Point (Nov. 3, 1941), Republican Conference (March 27, 1944). Nina Leen Sleepy Hollow Churchyard (Oct. 30, 1944).

SCOPE: Victor Jorgensen Ice Skater (March 14, 1949), Lexington School for the Deaf (Sept. 25, 1950).







