

**Balancing the Books**

**Humane and Polished**

By Father John S. Kennedy

Joseph Wechsberg, who calls himself a dilettante in many fields, sketches his life in "The First Time Around" (Little, Brown, \$8.95). He has reason to think ill of the Nazis. Jewish, born and reared in Prague, he had to flee them repeatedly, and his mother perished in one of their concentration camps.

But shadows do not dominate his book. The tragic and the sorrowful are there, inescapable but muted, and probably the more affecting because of that. What comes across most strongly is Wechsberg's enjoyment of the good things which have come his way.

He knew Prague in its best days, at least in modern times, then Vienna and the world of music centering there, later had a varied career in America. He had been a lawyer, musician, journalist in Europe, and he made a new and quite prosperous life in the United States. He arrived here knowing no English, but became a most felicitous writer in our language.

He dwells on the hard work which this required, on the years of labor without success, followed by acceptance. Like so many "New Yorker" writers, he is complimented on his light touch, but he insists that the light touch is not effortless. Rather, it is the result of diligent application.

This civilized, polished, and

charming book comments wryly on the paradoxes of our time. It will delight people interested in music, anecdotes about celebrities, the discussion of good food and good drink, the vagaries of Hollywood, the case for classical education, and much else.

Wechsberg has lived in a brutal age. He has been victimized by it, instead of being one of the victimizers. But he has not only remained humane through it all, he has been refined in humanity.

Father Richard P. McBrien's book "Church: The Continuing Quest" (Newman, \$1.95 paperback) originated in the Isaac Hecker Lectures which he delivered at Wayne State University, Detroit, more than a year ago.

He argues that "the theology of the Church can only be understood in the larger context of eschatology (at root: the problems of the inter-relationships among Church, history, and Kingdom of God)."

But there are varieties of eschatology in contemporary theology, of which he singles out five for examination and evaluation. In the documents of Vatican II there is no consistent line on this subject, but unmistakable ambivalence, and theologians have gone on to further refinements since the council.

**County to Hold Rubella Clinics**

The Monroe County Department of Health will hold free immunization clinics next month to provide vaccine protection against German measles (Rubella) for children from 1 through 9 years of age.

About 25 immunization clinics will be held throughout the city and county on Saturday afternoon, Nov. 7. The locations

will be announced as soon as the schedule is completed.

Dr. Wendell R. Ames, county health director, said the goal of the clinics is to immunize 50,000 children in the hope of averting an anticipated epidemic of German measles this winter.

are most susceptible. While for them the illness is usually mild, the trouble begins when they expose mothers to the disease. If the mother is pregnant, the disease may deform or kill her unborn child.

"By immunizing young children, we hope to break the chain of infection that has caused such a tragic toll in the past," Dr. Ames said.

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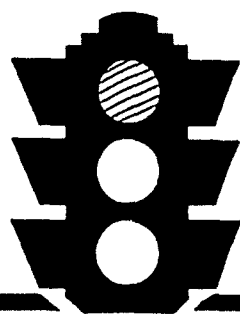
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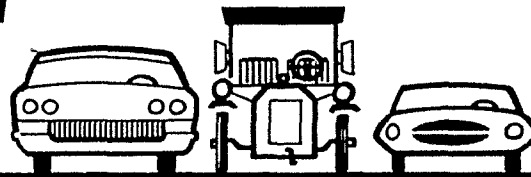
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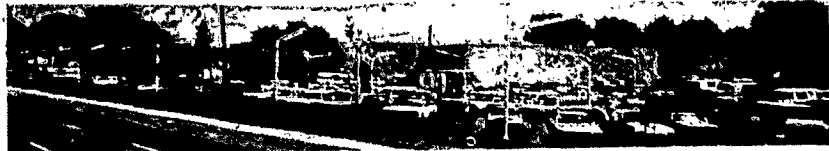
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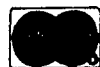
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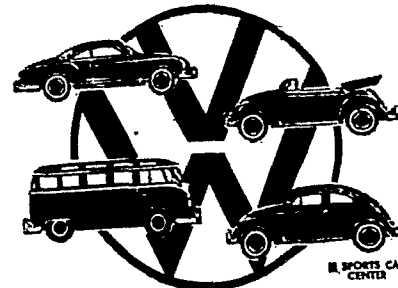
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