

A Man for Many Seasons

Cornelius Vander Starr was a creature of many parts, of many places and many seasons. Some of his friends and acquaintances knew him by only one of these, some by two or three, and some by most or all of the facets of his character and personality. But all knew him as a man who pursued his interests and lived his beliefs with zest and enthusiasm.

His was a deep well of curiosity, and the spring that fed it was no less than all the world's wisdom. He sought endlessly, insatiably, with the aid of a remarkable mind, to learn and to know all that there was to be learned. What he finally learned best was that the earth is only one home and mankind one family, sharing a common denominator of purposefulness, of dedication, of loyalty, of fellow feeling and of shared hopes. This became what he looked for in the people he encountered, what he tried to bring out and make visible when he could not see it, and to sharpen and intensify where it was already apparent.

To do this, Starr had to reach in two directions—deep within himself, as well as far outward toward the hearts and minds of others. His wealth was often no more than a convenience, an instrument by which he might accomplish some of the things he felt he must do. From him often came an outpouring of generosity so great that it sometimes seemed almost superfluous.

But it was not superfluous. Starr lived not just one successful life, but many. The only thing that might have made him a failure would have been to have given less and to have lived less thoroughly and abundantly than he did.

Some of those lives are illustrated here in pictures and in the words of his friends.