

## ATLANTIC'S EDITOR WRITES ABOUT OPAL

New Facts Adduced on Famous Diary and Author.

### KNOWLEDGE HELD GREAT

French Geography and Names and Terminology of Roman Church Used by Small Writer.

BOSTON, March 17.—(To the Editor.)—I have read with much interest a recent editorial in The Oregonian on the Story of Opal, now appearing in the Atlantic, with certain correspondence you have published sent from the University of Oregon. The general tone of your editorial is most appreciative of Opal's story, but I should like to comment upon certain statements which you make that are, as I understand the situation, not strictly correct, and which cloud the judgment of persons who are interested in the story and eager to understand its origin.

Your writer states that when Opal was a student at the University of Oregon in 1915, she spoke of Mrs. Whiteley's death the previous year in the following terms: "My dearest chum was my mother. In my love of music, art, poetry, drama, history, she was in close sympathy with me, and we had many wonderful twilight hours together."

I believe I am correct in saying that through this statement was published in your paper, it was published on the authority of a reporter who wrote his own story and did not report Miss Whiteley's actual words, although I believe he used quotation marks.

**Birds Not Collected.**

The same article (see The Oregonian for March 3, 1918), in the very paragraph following the sentence which you quote in your editorial, tells of the "thousands" of nature specimens Miss Whiteley has collected, and goes on to mention birds among them. Now the diarist has always been violently opposed to killing living creatures, and has never included birds in her collections. Still, again, the article refers to her plans of helping the children of Oregon to know more of wild life, and quotes her as saying, "They will be taught not to try to catch everything that flies, but only what is needed to help them in their understanding of nature." Here is another obvious misinterpretation, quite manifestly made. It is true, by the reporter, but still a misinterpretation giving a totally wrong inference.

In its further discussion your editorial does not state accurately the position of the editor of the Atlantic. In commenting upon the story in the March number I wrote: "About her past the editor knows a great deal. That a child may imagine a romantic and interesting origin for itself is the most common of human weaknesses. Dr. Conklin's inquiry through his 500 questionnaires circulated among Oregon parents to discover whether children have such fancies or not, seems to a layman rather unnecessary. Every other parent you meet could give the correct answer to such a question. But such imaginings seem to me altogether beside the point. The question that interests me about Opal's diary is how such a piece of pure and charming literature came to be written by a girl with such an education. It has not only naturalness but style, and it has a degree of continuity of interest that is within my experience quite unparalleled among children's productions."

**Marvelous Knowledge Disclosed.**

But the question is more puzzling than that. Granting that Opal's history is the product of her imagination, a psychologist would hardly say, I think, that her knowledge is another fruit of fancy. The child not only knows the names and dates of a great number of historical figures. She has, as succeeding chapters of the diary prove, a knowledge that might almost be called intimate of the geography of France, and what is stranger still, a considerable acquaintance with French expressions, and the French names of animals and plants. Add to this her frequent references to bits of religious service obviously taken from the Roman Catholic ritual, and you see how curious the problem is.

I should trespass too greatly upon your space to go into this matter at greater length, and I will merely add that in considering the puzzle your readers must realize that Opal Whiteley came to this office on an entirely different errand, that she neither said nor hinted anything about the diary, but that the manuscript came to light only when in reply to a direct question by the editor. Opal said that she had kept a diary but that it had been destroyed. I then telegraphed to the coast, and the extraordinary manuscript came, enclosed in a series of boxes. Of the genuineness of the manuscript no one who has seen it has any doubt; nor does its very peculiar form admit of alteration. Opal Whiteley has been working, piecing the manuscript together, for five months under my personal direction. Whether a passage struck me as either self-conscious or over-mature, I have looked it up in the original, and have in every case been entirely convinced.

**Discrepancy Is Explained.**

Regarding the discrepancy between the date of Opal's birth and the date mentioned in the diary, it seems scarcely necessary to explain that the date on the registry was, according to Opal's story, simply the date of the birth of the other Opal Whiteley, whose place she took.

It is too much to hope, of course, that all people will believe in the authenticity of the diary. I suppose nearly half of those who read Daisy Ashford still think it a fraud subtly perpetrated by Sir James Barrie. But Opal is a far more remarkable case, involving creative effort and not a mere reflection of an environment, intensifies the difficulties of believing. With these difficulties I for one heartily sympathize, but I have come to believe myself in the authenticity of the manuscript because of the overwhelming testimony which confronts all of us who have worked with it. ELLERY SEDGWICK, Editor of the Atlantic Monthly.

**School Chiefs to Attend Meet.**

SALEM, Or., March 25.—(Special.)—J. A. Churchill, state superintendent of schools, and E. F. Carleton, assistant, will attend the Inland Empire Teachers' association convention at Spokane March 31 and April 1 and 2. The attendance will include teachers from Oregon, Idaho, Montana and Washington. Mr. Churchill will give an address, while Mr. Carleton is a member of the committee appointed to report on the accrediting of high schools under the jurisdiction of the association.

## OPAL WHITELEY IN ONE OF HER POSES.



YOUNG AUTHOR COSTUMED AS DANCER WHILE AT UNIVERSITY OF OREGON.

An exemplification of Opal Whiteley's fondness for investing herself with fanciful roles is given in the accompanying picture. Although Opal did not dance, she dressed herself in this costume and had her picture taken, to make herself appear as a dancer. Similarly she arrayed herself in other costumes and had photographs made.

## WIFE DIES FROM INJURIES

CAR UPSSETS WHILE COUPLE ARE TAKING TRIP.

Husband Driving When Accident Occurs Some Days Ago About Ten Miles From Heppner.

HEPPNER, Or., March 29.—(Special.)—Mrs. Loretta S. Yeager, a pioneer woman of this city, wife of James L. Yeager, died at her home here at an early hour this morning from injuries received March 19 when the car in which she and her husband were driving turned over while they were on their way to Pendleton and Lewiston, Idaho, on a pleasure trip. The accident occurred about ten miles from Heppner.

Deceased was a native of Ohio, coming to Illinois with her parents when a child where she was later married to Mr. Yeager. The couple came to Oregon soon after their marriage and located at Heppner 33 years ago. Mrs. Yeager was prominent in church and lodge work, being a member of a federated church, the Rebecca Woman's Relief corps, degree of honor, and Woodman Circle lodges. She was aged 54 years, one month and nine days.

Her husband and five children survive her. The children are: Mrs. Mary P. Peck of Heppner, Ora W. and Ralph A. Yeager of Clarkston, Wash., H. A. Yeager of Portland, and J. W. Yeager who is a wireless operator on the U. S. S. President now on the Pacific between Seattle and San Francisco. A wireless message has been sent to him and pending a reply, arrangements for the funeral have not been made.

## EX-SLEUTH IS JAILED

Contempt of Court Charged to One-Time Dry Agent.

Contempt of court landed Frank Davis, recently a special agent for the state engaged in running down bootleggers, in the county jail for a 15-day sentence when he was haled into the district court yesterday. Davis had been subpoenaed as a witness against Barney Donnelly, recently tried on a charge of violating the federal prohibition law, and started for Portland from Baker. Money for his transportation had been lent him by the sheriff there. Davis failed to appear in court and it was later learned that he had been ejected from the train at The Dalles and locked up in the jail on a charge of drunkenness.

A deputy United States marshal was sent after him, Davis having concluded that it was too late to come to Portland. He was brought from

## IF BACKACHEY OR KIDNEYS BOTHER

Eat Less Meat, Also Take Glass of Salts Before Eating Breakfast.

Uric acid in meat excites the kidneys, they become overworked; get sluggish, ache, and feel like lumps of lead. The urine becomes cloudy, the bladder is irritated, and you may be obliged to seek relief two or three times during the night. When the kidneys clog you must help them flush off the body's urinous waste or you'll be a real sick person shortly. At first you feel a dull misery in the kidney region, you suffer from backache, sick headache, dizziness, stomach gets sour, tongue coated and you feel rheumatic twinges when the weather is bad.

Eat less meat, drink lots of water; also get from any pharmacist four ounces of Jad Salts; take a tablespoonful in a glass of water before breakfast for a few days and your kidneys will then act fine. This famous salt is made from the acid of grapes and lemon juice, combined with lithia, and has been used for generations to clean clogged kidneys and stimulate them to normal activity; also to neutralize the acids in urine, so it is no longer a source of irritation, thus ending bladder weakness.

Jad Salts is inexpensive, cannot injure; makes a delightful effervescent lithia-water drink which everyone should take now and then to keep the kidneys clean and active. Drug stores here say they sell lots of Jad Salts to folks who believe in overcoming kidney trouble while it is only trouble. Adv.

## WASHINGTON ROAD CONTRACTS ISSUED

\$353,868 Is to Be Spent on Highway Improvement.

### TWO BIDS ARE REJECTED

State Highway Commission Lets Three Grading, One Paving and Concrete Bridge Jobs.

OLYMPIA, Wash., March 29.—(Special.)—Highway improvement contracts awarded by the state highway commission today amounted to \$353,868. Included in the contracts let is one for the construction of an 80-foot concrete arch bridge over South slough in Snohomish county. Three grading and graveling contracts and one paving job were let and bids on two paving projects were rejected.

**Contracts Under Estimates.**

For grading and graveling 7.72 miles of the Inland Empire south from Chewelah Valley the contract was awarded to the Triangle Construction company of Riverville for \$85,441. The estimate on the work was \$100,454. The same company was given the contract for grading and graveling 5.99 miles of the Inland Empire highway from Springdale north to Oborn's ranch on a bid of \$81,365, the estimate being \$75,919.

For construction of the South slough bridge in Snohomish county, the contract went to the Everett Construction company of Everett for \$16,578. The estimate was \$21,475. John S. Galbraith & Co. of Seattle received the contract for grading and graveling 1.7 miles of the Navy Yard highway from Belfair to Holyoke on a bid of \$24,687. Estimate, \$25,816.

**Portland Firm Gets Job.**

For paving 3.41 miles of the Inland Empire highway, from Buroker to Dixie the contract was awarded to A. Guthrie & Co. of Portland for \$131,697, the estimate on this job being \$130,959. The bid of D. A. Williams, Tacoma, of \$189,308 for paving 4.14 miles of the National Parks highway from Muck creek to Chop valley was the only bid received on this project and was rejected by the commission, as were the bids of the independent Asphalt company of Seattle for paving three miles of the Olympia highway from the Thurston county line to Kamille. Bids were submitted on two specifications for the latter job, the estimates being "A," \$109,725, and "B," \$130,226. The bids were "A," \$116,634, and "B," \$130,306.

### BOX MAKERS TO MEET

Manufacturers to Consider Problems at Portland Tomorrow.

A meeting of all the box manufacturers of western Washington and western Oregon has been called in response to a general request of the members of the box department of the West Coast Lumbermen's association and will be held at the Portland hotel tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock. The meeting will be mainly for the purpose of drafting a uniform method of figuring cost on various operations.

Prior to the war, the manufacture of boxes was considered pretty much a side issue of the lumber industry. But the tremendous demand for wood containers of all kinds has necessitated a much greater output and has resulted in a few of the factories establishing their own sawmills to insure the output of their product and a supply of the lumber needed.

### Gompers to Address Legislature.

ALBANY, N. Y., March 29.—Samuel Gompers will address a joint session of the legislature tomorrow. Speaker Sweet announced today. Mr. Gompers plans to reply to the address delivered before the legislature recently by Governor Allen of Kansas in which that executive described the operations of the Kansas court of industrial relations.

## SURVEY OFFICE TO MOVE

Oregon - Washington Biological

Quarters May Come to Portland.

PENDLETON, Or., March 29.—(Special.)—Headquarters of the United States biological survey, predatory animal work for the states of Oregon and Washington, will be moved from Pendleton to Portland, according to the announcement today of Stanley G. Jewett, inspector. The office will be located in the federal building there. The office has been in Pendleton ever since the work was started here five years ago.

For a year the Idaho work has also been handled here, but was recently returned to Inspector Goldsmith, who makes his headquarters at Boise. Mr. Jewett will take with him his collection of boards and mammals, the largest in the northwest and one of the most notable in the United States.

### Wife Alleges Husband Lazy.

THE DALLES, Or., March 29.—(Special.)—Because she charges her husband would not work, Edith E. Allen of this city has instituted divorce proceedings against her husband, L. F. Allen. The unhappy couple were married in Waterville, Wash., January 5, 1909, and have two children, aged 5 and 4 years, respectively.

### Sunrise Easter Service Planned.

ALBANY, Or., March 29.—(Special.)—A sunrise Easter service will be held in Albany next Sunday. It is planned to hold service of the open air if weather conditions permit. The service has been planned and is being arranged by the members of the Young People's Christian Endeavor union of the city.



## One of the Northwest's Great Banks

Prestige in Your Patronage

SECOND only to the financial advantage of one's bank balance itself, is the moral benefit of being known as a customer of a bank where size, strength and service are afforded to the maximum degree.

Business today is largely a matter of confidence, and confidence is born of custom. The custom of a concern in handling transactions of large scope and small reflects the character of banking relationship maintained.

Therefore, the influence of the United States National Bank affects the customer's affairs not only directly from the inside, but indirectly from the outer world as well.

May we serve you?

The United States National Bank  
Sixth and Stark



Best in the Long Run

MANY motorists think that the outer casing holds the air. But it doesn't! It holds the tube which holds the air. And the quality of the tube spells the value of the tire in service.

The safest economy is to equip with Goodrich Red Inner Tubes in the first place.

# Goodrich Red INNER TUBES

The B.F. Goodrich Rubber Company, Akron, Ohio  
Makers of the SILVERTOWN Cord Tire

## This is an Age of GAS



## An age of gas!

What would Napoleon say were he alive today? And what would Sir Walter Scott say?

Napoleon called gas "une grande folie." Sir Walter referred to it as the project of a "madman" and declared it to be a "pestilential innovation."

Yet in the face of such superstition and prejudice, the first artificial gas company in the world was founded in London, in 1812. It was a success, although ages of tradition opposed it and public opinion was unanimously against it.

In 1814 Westminster Bridge was illuminated with gas and a lighting system was installed in the House of Commons. Immediately, gas became the sensation of the day.

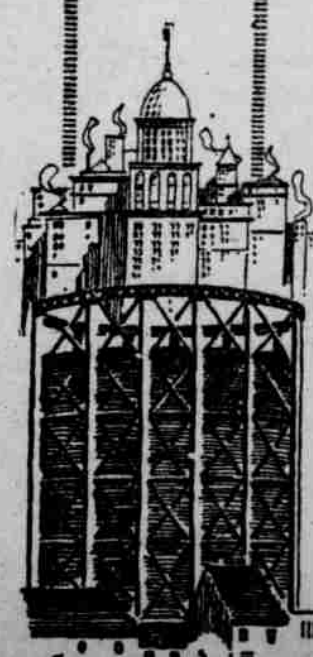
News of it quickly spread to America. Research was stimulated and in 1815 a proposition for lighting Philadelphia with gas was launched. It was in Baltimore, however, on June 17, 1816, that the first artificial gas company of the Western Continent was founded.

Today there are 1,166 artificial gas companies in the United States.

They make annually more than three hundred billion cubic feet of gas and distribute it through seventy thousand miles of mains. More than fifty million persons use it for cooking, heating, lighting and industrial purposes.

They live in 4,000 cities, towns and villages and represent approximately half the population of the nation.

The American Gas Association



### "Helpful Hints"

#### A Few Don'ts

Here are a few suggestions relative to using a Checking Account:

Don't alter a check after it is written. If you have made an error, write a new check and tear the old one up.

Don't leave a check undated. It is confusing to both yourself and the bank.