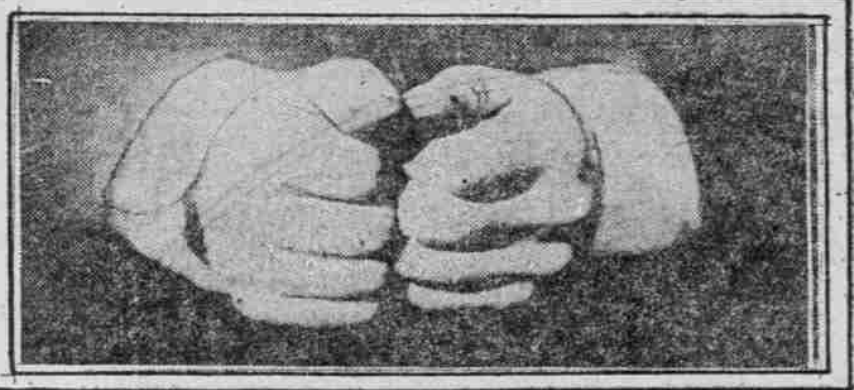
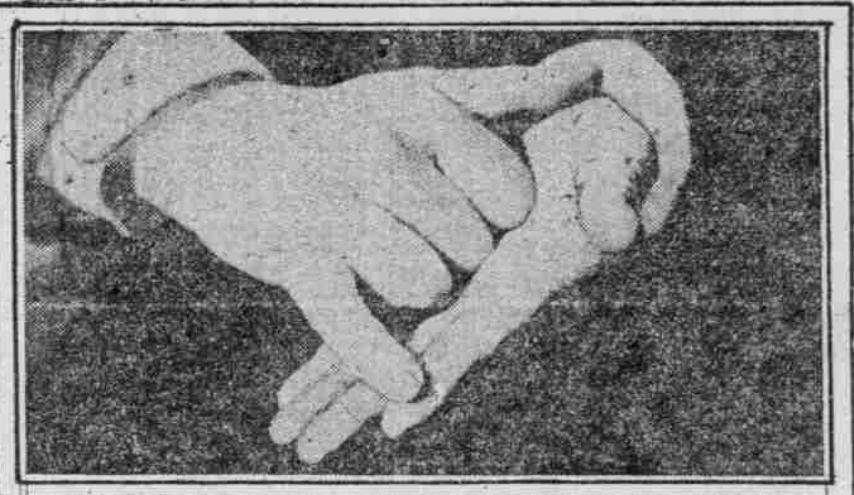


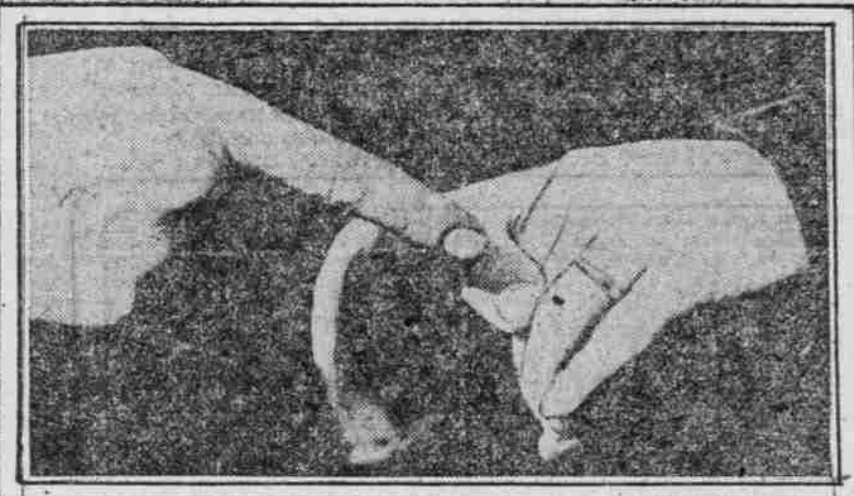
# The Bride Who Refused to Say "Yes"



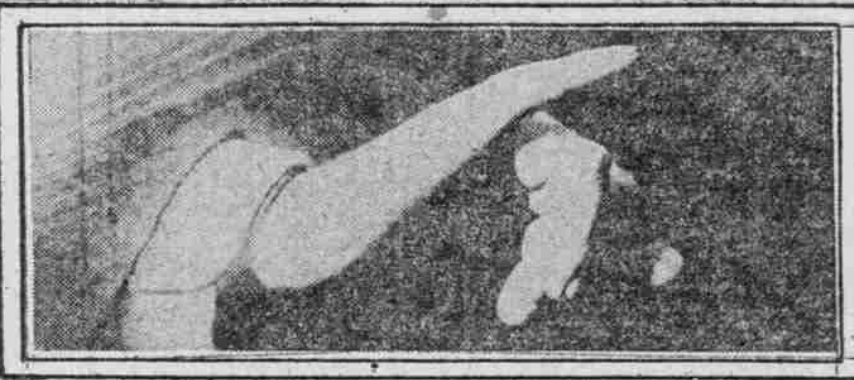
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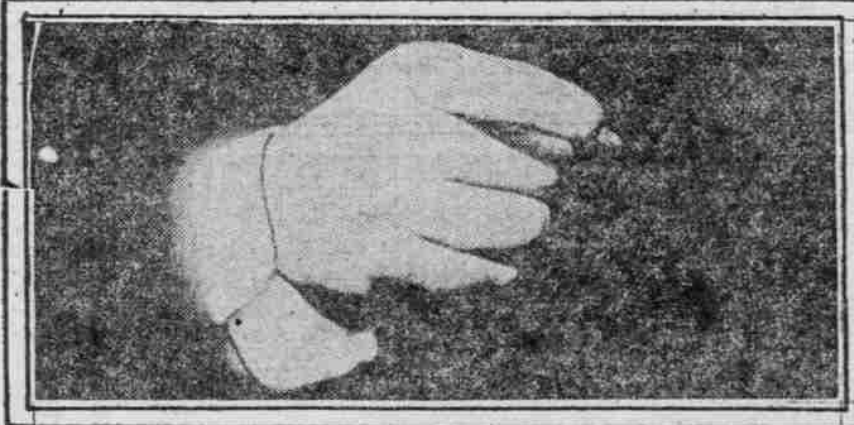
THIS



RING



I



THEE



WED"

These six photographs illustrate the sign language symbols for six very important words of the marriage service, exactly as employed by Arthur Shawl during his wedding to Miss Gillespie. Declining to commit herself to spoken words she promised to "love, honor and obey" him in the same sign language.

BY C. D. CRUDGINTON.

"Do you take this man to be your lawful wedded husband?" Amid the painful and totally unexpected silence that ensued, every eye in the little church at Akron, O., turned wonderingly toward Miss Nellie Gillespie, the bride, who stood motionless at the altar with lips tightly compressed, refusing to say one word. She was dressed most becomingly in a charming wedding gown of white, with orange blossoms that harmonized with the deep blue of her eyes and the golden sheen of her hair. At her side stood the groom, Arthur Shawl, whose wife she had promised to become.

Only a few moments before the wedding ceremony began Miss Gillespie had been chatting gaily with her attendants. There had been no indication of an impending hitch in the proceedings. If Miss Gillespie had made up her mind not to go through with the wedding ceremony by declining to answer such formal questions as the minister was required to put to her in the usual way, she had not given any signs of it. Everything had proceeded with smoothness until the very moment

when she had been asked if she would take Mr. Shawl for a husband. And at that point the bride suddenly began to act as if she had been stricken dumb.

The minister repeated the question and still there was no answer. Miss Gillespie was staring straight ahead, acting as though she had not heard a word. The groom was doing the same. Others in the church began to feel most uneasy.

Then suddenly, as if actuated by a brilliant idea, the best man stepped to the side of the minister and began in the deaf and dumb language to translate the clergyman's question into signs. He spelled out on his fingers in plain sight so that both the bride and groom could see every character:

"Do you take this man to be your lawful wedded husband?"

Miss Gillespie's look of abstract disinterestedness changed into a broad smile the moment the groomsman began. She watched his fingers spelling out the question and as soon as it was completed she answered in the same sign language:

"I do."

From that point on the wedding

Just Imagine How the Perplexed Minister and the Guests Felt When Miss Gillespie Suddenly Stopped Talking and Stayed as Dumb as the Bridegroom Throughout the Entire Wedding Ceremony.



ceremony was continued through the medium of the groomsman acting as interpreter. Every word the officiating clergyman uttered was translated into the deaf and dumb language by the interpreter for the benefit of the groom, a deaf mute, and also for the benefit of the bride, who seemed insistent that the wedding be conducted in such a manner that her husband-to-be would be able to understand every word of it.

When the clergyman asked her a question she waited until it was repeated in the sign language by the interpreter. Then she gave her answer in the same sign language so that the groom could understand everything and her answer was repeated orally to the minister by the best man.

"Why did you insist on having the wedding conducted in that way?" the bride, now Mrs. Arthur Shawl, was asked after the ceremony was ended. "Why did you refuse to say 'Yes' when the minister questioned you?" "Simply because," was her very womanly answer. "The sign language is my husband's language, but I am not as you observe. I wanted things equalized. I wanted to put myself right with him from the very beginning of our wedded life. Besides, I love the sign language, as the medium of conversation between mutes is called. I use it more than I do my own voice in conversation with others, for I seldom leave the sphere of the deaf mutes.

"I am more at home with them than among the speaking classes. Therefore, I do most of my talking on my fingers. And I wanted to start our married life as we must keep it up

during all the happy years to come—to start it with absolute equality and a perfect understanding between my husband and myself, even though I can speak and hear and he cannot."

**Why She Refused to Speak.**  
"That is why I declined to answer the clergyman's question. If I had given my answer orally Arthur would not have heard it. It is true that he understands lip reading and by watching the clergyman's lips and then mine he could have read the question and also my answer, but I wanted to be even surer than that. So I became, for the time being, a deaf mute and I didn't utter one word until after we were married.

"The best man was there to act as interpreter for Arthur only. I made him interpret for me, also."  
Then Mrs. Shawl laughed heartily as she continued: "But poor Arthur nearly needed an extra set of hands for one part of the ceremony. When the clergyman slowly and solemnly pronounced the words, 'With this ring I thee wed,' the interpreter repeated the phrase on his fingers, and when Arthur repeated what the interpreter had spelled out he was kept so busy saying it with both hands that he had to interrupt himself to place the ring upon my finger at the proper time."

**Wood, Won, Wedded Without Words.**  
The wedding of Nellie Gillespie and Arthur Shawl was the happy culmination of a romance almost without precedent. The bride was wooed, won and wedded without a spoken word. It was a wedding without parallel, at least in the history of the "silent colony" at Akron, O. In this unusual colony there are more than 700 deaf



Mrs. Nellie Gillespie Shawl and her deaf mute husband, Arthur Shawl. Although Mrs. Shawl can both speak and hear she refused to say one word from beginning to end of the wedding ceremony.



In the factory where she is employed Mrs. Shawl acts as interpreter and adjudicator of disputes between deaf mutes and other workers.

mutes, men and women, mostly engaged in the manufacture of automobile tires.  
Naturally where deaf mutes are employed in the same factory as ordinary workmen and women, many orders have to be given in the sign language or through the medium of paper and pencil. And sometimes there have been complicated misunderstandings which necessitated the employment of an interpreter to smooth out little differences and to make everything connected, with the work perfectly understandable.  
That was Miss Gillespie's job. Although born of parents who were both deaf and dumb, she was possessed of the full faculties of speech and hearing. But the sign language came to her as naturally as the human

voice. Arthur Shawl boarded at her parents' home and there the romance began.  
Although she refuses to tell just how he proposed to her, Mrs. Shawl has intimated to other speaking girls in Akron that they never can appreciate just how thrilling a proposal of marriage can be unless they receive a declaration of love in the sign language.  
And those of us who patronize the movies and have watched screen actors go through all the motions of a proposal without a spoken word can realize just how romantic and poetic a deaf mute can be when he is in love.  
Nothing is more impressive, according to "Little Nellie," as Mrs. Shawl is called, than to witness a "silent"

service where deaf mute girls sing upon their fingers.  
"If you understand the silent language of the finger alphabet," she states, "you will find it wonderfully impressive to 'hear' a deaf mute girl sing 'Nearer, My God, to Thee,' for she interprets the words and sentiments of the song both in action and facial expression and puts her whole soul into her 'singing.'"  
When the rumor that Miss Gillespie was to be married spread through the "silent" colony, great was the excitement through fear that she would leave the factory. Their guide and mentor would be lost to them.  
Gloom changed to joy when "Little Nellie" wig-wagged the news that she would remain with them for at least a year—and now the colony is happy and contented again.

## GOETHALS ANSWERS CHARGE OF FAVORING GERMAN TRADE

Shipping Board Intends Using Only Surplus Tonnage on Teutonic Routes—Powerful British Firms Already Closing Agreements.

NEW YORK, May 8.—General George W. Goethals, president of the American Ship and Commerce corporation, takes issue with the objections raised by President H. H. Raymond of the American Steamship Owners' association, over the prospect of turning over the government-owned ships to Goethals' company. Mr. Raymond, who is also president of the Clyde-Mallory line, charged that a subtle plot was afoot to use American steamships to build up German trade and then, he said, place them on the scrap heap.

General Goethals' statement, which challenges that of Mr. Raymond, follows:

"The statement of the president of the American Steamship Owners' association would appear to have been made without a very clear comprehension of the situation.  
"The question to be decided is whether the opportunity to profitably employ tonnage in trade between Germany and the United States, South America and other parts of the world shall be seized by American shipping interests or by the foreign interests who are more than ready to step into the place left vacant by the elimination of the German steamship companies.

"There is no question but that shipping facilities will be supplied the German trade. Indeed, it is folly to maintain that it is to the interest of the world to deprive Germany of the transportation facilities that are absolutely necessary to her survival as a nation which will be able to

meet the obligations she has assumed under the peace treaty.

"It is a matter of common knowledge that the powerful Ellerman & Hoyt shipping interests in England have already closed an agreement with the Hamburg-American line to take over that company's China routes.  
"The Royal Belgian Lloyd, a line owned by the government of Belgium, has made proposals in connection with the River Plate service. A Chilean company, administered by Englishmen, is bidding for the routes formerly served by the Kosmos line. A Scandinavian group has submitted similar proposals.

"All these contemplate the use of the facilities and organization of the Hamburg-American line and other German companies. If these various governments and companies feel the necessity and advisability of entering the German trade, one can readily discern their objective.

"It is not easy to understand why America, with the vast amount of tonnage in her possession and with every reason to do all in her power to provide for its suitable employment and the consequent building up of her merchant marine, should not take over as many of the lines formerly operated by the German companies as she is able to secure in competition with other maritime nations.

"The latter will not overlook the advantages which can be gained by making use of the organization built up by the German steamship companies as a result of 80 years' experi-

ence in their trades; it would be the height of folly for America to take an opposite course.

"The shipping business is international. No large shipping company employs exclusively agencies of its own nationality. The Hamburg-American line, for example, owes its present success largely to the selection of agents native to the country of their residence. The idea that American shipping companies must, in order to be successful, maintain American agencies abroad, is a new thought and not at all in keeping with successful shipping management as conducted in the past.

"Stress has been laid upon the alleged undesirability of providing German exporters with transportation facilities in competition with the American exporter. It would be an insult to the intelligence of the United States shipping board to believe for one moment that it would consider a proposition that would deprive the American exporters of facilities in order to take up the German trade.

"It is obvious that the shipping board has no intention of employing other than its surplus tonnage to take up the old German trade routes.

**Branch Banks Opened.**

MONTEAL, Que.—Fifty-two branches of Canadian banks were opened in the month of February, distributed amongst the following banks: Merchants, 4; Union, 6; Royal, 13; Standard, 3; Hochelaga, 5; Provinciale, 4; Sterling, 2; Dominion, 3; Hamilton, 2; Nova Scotia, 2; National, 3; Commerce, 5.

**Chinese Aviators Want Syndicate.**  
EDMONTON, Alta.—A Chinese student from Saskatoon is forming a syndicate here to promote Chinese flying in Alberta. He has purchased a Curtiss training plane and will attempt the flight from Saskatoon here. He is the first graduate from the Chinese school.

## PORTLAND'S BACK LOTS USED TO BE BOYS' HEADQUARTERS

Youngsters of Today Have Many Advantages Unknown to Youth Who Grew Up in City Just Few Short Years Ago.

(Continued From First Page.)

sters are allowed to bathe under the right supervision, and here they learn all manner of new stunts and the correct methods of handling themselves in the water.  
It's a far remove from the times of the past but a much better system and parents do not fear for their offspring, as was the case under the other plan of management. It is the exception for a boy to play hockey from school to go swimming with the gang on an all-day party, but the tendency to learn to spit through the teeth is not likely to ever die. Though many of the youngsters have been taught the evils of cigarette smoking, and it used to be considered the most horrible of crimes, and few firms whose heads are now regular chimneys when it comes to this practice cared to have a cigarette smoker in their employ, yet many youngsters will learn this summer, as did the boys of the past generations, the forbidden pleasure of smoking corn-silk.

**Vacation Time Due Soon.**

From generation to generation it seems as if the boys yearn for the same dissipation. Vacation time is coming next month, the enforced period of staying in school when a fellow could be so much better employed outdoors, on the present springy days will then come to an end. It used to be that most of the little fellows whose parents could not afford the trip to the beaches or mountains had to spend their summer in the city or nearby hills. Now they

find many advantages that their fathers did not possess, for organized clubs and associations will take them to a regular boys' camp, with all the sport that is so badly needed, carefully guard them and supervise their outlook, see that they come in contact with only the proper influences and give them the best of good times, all at the minimum cost. This makes it possible for the growing boy to get out and make a strong, healthy fellow out of himself. It should show results in the future of America with a better race of men.

Vagabond chaps are going. Glad in overall, playing with the gang, acting tough and imitating questionable man models seem to be passing the way of many more enjoyable, because not wholesome, practices. America today has had to stop grown-ups from doing things that injured themselves, and the tendency is to help the fellows that are growing up to a better future. Huckleberry Finn and Peck's Bad Boy will live as figures of juvenile romance, but their counterparts, unless in remote sections of the country, will be increasingly difficult to locate.

**Freight Cars Are Ordered.**

PORT WILLIAM, Ont.—Three thousand freight cars for the Canadian Pacific railway have been ordered from the Canadian Car & Foundry company, the manager announces. These will be built at the rate of 50 per day and necessitate the engagement of an additional 1600 men with a prospective payroll of \$275,000 per month. The new order will be commenced in June.