

## QUEER WILL OF ECCENTRICS

"If a man has the least element of eccentricity in his nature," said a lawyer recently, "he will show it in his will. Here is a person who has his last chance to reward a friend or take a post-mortem slap at one against whom he has a grudge. Some wills are the most amusing documents you could possibly imagine."

A woman who died recently at Rye, near White Plains, N. J., had kept a prosperous boarding house; her married life was believed to be happy and ideal. Yet after she died and her will was read it was discovered she had cut her husband off with \$1.

"Although I have lived with my husband," ran the will, "I have done so for shame's sake. He has been anything to me except a kind and loving husband, but, on the contrary has been devilishly cruel and harsh toward me. I have learned to hate and detest him."

An estate of \$20,000 left by Joseph Diderwitz of New York was devised to his wife, his children and the father of the testator. The will, which was filed in the surrogate's office, was written in Hebrew. At the bottom all the children had written that they "were satisfied with the will."

According to the document, \$2,000 was to be reserved as a wedding gift for his wife should she marry a second time.

Can one leave a mental will? Or can a knowledge of the wishes of a deceased person constitute a legal will? According to a decision of a Connecticut judge it can.

Mrs. Mary F. Rose died last year, leaving an estate valued at \$40,000. She made a will leaving her property to charity. After her death, the Rose homestead was burned to the ground and the will was destroyed.

The heirs and friends told Judge H. Wittemore Gregory of the contents of the will. He admitted the imaginary will to probate.

In a document, consisting of twenty typewritten pages, George W. Deffenbaugh, who died some time ago in Kokoma, Ind., left \$50,000 to his church if it should elect his spirit a member of the board of trustees. He also provided for his wife and children.

According to the will of Deffenbaugh, who was an adherent of Swendenborgian doctrines, believed

his spirit would continue to take an interest in the affairs of the church, and stipulated that meetings of the trustees were to be held at certain times and his spirit considered on important church affairs.

Should a certain church in Pittsburgh change its name, the sum of \$2,000, which was left to it, will go to buy potatoes for the poor of the city.

Several years ago, John Hallman, a member of the First Cumberland Presbyterian church, died. He left \$2,000 in the hands of the mayor, the interest to go toward paying the salary of the minister. As soon as the church changed its name, which the deceased member had advocated during his life, it was to get the money and use it in the unique charity of supplying potatoes.

A pathetic story was revealed in the will of the late Robert M. Marshall, of Mercer, Pa., who died in Denver, Colo., last December.

A daughter was born to Marshall and his wife, a beautiful young woman, in Pennsylvania in 1881. The wife it was charged, deserted Marshall, taking the child with her. All efforts to locate her were fruitless. Later Marshall heard that his wife had died and had given the child out for adoption. He married again, and had two children by his second wife. Both died.

Marshall owned a number of farms in Pennsylvania and Colorado, oil wells in Pennsylvania, and mines in Arizona. He spent his later days traveling about the country looking for his first child.

He knew there would be one infallible way by which he could recognize her—when she was born there was a black mole in front of her left shoulder, near the clavicle, and a red mole similarly located on the right shoulder.

In his will Marshall bequeathed the greater part of his fortune to "a young woman born in Mercer hospital, Mercer, Pa.," who could show these identical moles.

The inheritance of \$50,000 for abstaining from cigarettes—that is a provision made in a contract by John M. Barker, a millionaire lumberman of Michigan City, Ind., and his nephew, Neilson L. Barnes.

Barker is still living and has a violent antipathy against tobacco. He declared he would leave his nephew \$50,000 if he would give up the vice

forever. Barnes said he would give it up. To encourage him, Barker said he should receive \$10,000 at the end of five years, and the remaining amount in like sums every five years.

According to the will of the late Miss Mary P. Ashbridge, of Rosemont, Pa., all the members of her Sunday school class, who were faithful attendants for a year, were to receive \$100 each, and all who attended regularly for three years, \$300.

On condition that no liquor be sold, and disorderly conduct prohibited on the grounds, the woman left her large estate to the citizens as a public park. In case the conditions were violated, it was to be sold and the money equally divided among a dozen cousins. A friend was left \$10,000 for looking after her driving horse and a fox terrier.

Mrs. Mary Holcombe Pullen, of Brooklyn, had no thought of her last rest being disturbed by willing a beautiful silk dress to her friend, Mrs. Susan Delatour.

The dress was bought by Mrs. Pullen to wear at a wedding; the death of her husband prevented this, so she willed the dress to her friend. In the meantime she said that she wished it to be used as her own burial robe. When she died her friends clothed her in it.

When the will was read the relatives were uncertain as to what to do—dig up the corpse and take off the dress, or give Mrs. Delatour \$700 in cash from the estate as value of the dress. The question was presented to the Surrogate Court, of Brooklyn, who said the case was without precedent and needed serious thought.

Poets usually do not make wills, because they have nothing to will away—however, Bloodgood H. Cutter, the "poet laureat," made famous by Mark Twain, left a fortune valued at \$150,000.

When his treasure chest was opened it was discovered that he had made five wills. There were said to be more than 200 heirs, and because of the complications of the wills a contest is said to be certain. According to his latest will the greater portion of the estate is left to the American Bible Society and the American Tract Society.

An aged woman, who lived near a great hospital in Edinburgh became possessed with the idea that when she died the physicians would secure her body for dissection purposes. In her will, she left a certain sum to pay a man to watch her grave day and night. The trustees, however, were legally exempted from carrying out the instructions.

One of the longest wills on record was made by the late Frederick Stibbert, the famous art collector of London. He bequeathed his collection, valued at \$2,000,444, to the British museum, but because of the conditions imposed it was refused.

In his will he left minute instructions for the disposal of his body. It was to be treated for preservation by the best means known to chemical science, inclosed in a lead shell which he had prepared during his lifetime, and this again to be inclosed in a walnut case with glazed windows over the face, and placed in a mausoleum which he had built.

### THE COAL BEDS OF ALASKA

I have just returned from Katalla, Alaska, situated on Controller Bay, where the Guggenheims are building the terminals of the Copper River-Northwestern railroad, and which is also the terminal of the Alaska Pacific Railway & Terminal company. While there I visited the coal deposits in the Browning river district, which extends for about 30 miles northeast from Katalla. To those who are interested in the future coal supply for the Pacific coast I wish to say that while the United States geological survey published a report in Bulletin No. 284, about three years ago, very few of our Pacific coast residents are aware of the fact that anthracite and a pure smokeless steaming coal (bituminous) is found within 30 miles of deep water (Katalla) in abundance.

"I saw 15-foot veins of anthracite which can be traced on top of the ground for over a mile. I also saw a 16-foot vein of bituminous coal which we traced for over a mile and a quarter. This last vein is estimated to contain over 25,000,000 tons of clear coal, all of which is above the railroad track that will haul it to market, to say nothing about that which lies below.

Professor G. C. Martin, in Bulletin No. 284, on page 29, states as follows:

It may seem from these tables that the anthracite from Matanuska and Bering rivers has no equivalent on the Pacific coast, and that it compares favorably with the Pennsylvania anthracite. It ought to be put into the San Francisco and other Pacific coast markets at a cost far below that of eastern coal, in which case it should have no difficulty in entirely supplanting the latter. The Bering river semi-anthracite and

part of the semi-bituminous coal from Matanuska is better than anything that is being mined in the west. These coals are the equivalent of the Pocahontas, New River and Georges Creek coals of the east and are eminently adapted for use on warships and for other purposes for which a high grade, pure, "smokeless" steaming coal is required, and for these purposes will command a considerably higher price than any coal now being mined on the Pacific coast, or if offered at equal prices should readily drive the latter from the market.

Part of these coals will produce an excellent quality of coke—better, in fact (except possibly in content of phosphorous, regarding which no data are available), than coke which can be procured from any of the Washington or Vancouver Island coals and equal to the coke from Crows Nest Pass. If an important smelter industry grows up in Alaska, as now seems possible, the Alaska coaling coals should have the advantage of both quality and of transportation. The coals from other known Alaska fields than these are so situated or are of such quality that they can find markets only where excessive rates on outside coals give them an advantage—that is, their markets must be local and probably small.

There is no question about the quantity or quality of the Bering river coal, which extends over 70 square miles and which contains millions upon millions of tons of coal the equivalent of any coal mined in Pennsylvania and West Virginia. With coal bunkers at Katalla, which are now building by both the Copper River & Northwestern railroad and Alaska Pacific Railway & Terminal company, and the completion of the construction of these lines to the coal fields, Portland and all Pacific coast cities will be burning coal better than anything being mined in the west and equal to the best coal mined in the world. There is a possibility that by this time next fall this coal will be on the market in abundance, but within two years we will have coal at a cost far below the present price, any one of which is equal to two tons of the coal now in the market, for which we are compelled to pay from \$10 to \$12 per ton.

There being no shipping facilities at the mines at this time, I employed a number of men and "packed out" over 1,000 pounds, 500 pounds of both anthracite and bituminous coal.

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Breaded Tenderloin of Veal with Hollandaise Sauce.

Maccaroni Lagreaton.

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Boiled Calves Tongue, Olive Sauce.  
Spiced Pigs Feet with Potato Salad.

Pineapple Fritters, Brandy Glace.

Fried Spring Chicken, Cream Gravy.  
Potted Chicken, Potato Dumplings.  
Chicken, Hofman Sauce.  
German Pot Roast, Erb Cakes.

Roast Veal with Oyster Dressing.  
Pork with Sweet Potatoes.  
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