THE COOS BAY TIMES, MARSHFIELD, OREGON, FRIDAY, JULY 25, 1913- EVENING EDITION.



A Fable of Today

"THE CRAB AND HIS SON." N A very early day there lived a crab, some fish,' who people say "eraw who had become morbid and morose and sullen and dissatisfled with his lot. Ever since his time when a person shows up with his attributes, he is called "crabbed." That is how the name got started, but this isn't generally known, though. Now, this crab known, though. Now, this crab boy's head begins to grow faster He wasn't any worse than his feet. the ordinary boy, but his than father thought he ought to act like a man and be able to anticipate whatever he wanted done.

This boy couldn't tell to save his neck when the lawn needed mowing or when the furnace needed fixing or the ashes carried out of the cel-These things irritated the old crab very much and he was con-inually jawing the boy, and when the boy's mother undertook to take his part he jawed her. It made the household very unpleasant. About this time the boy began

to be choice in the selection of his neckties and he perfumed his handkerchief and had his hair cut pom-This made the old crab padour. worse than ever. Hardly a meal went by that the old man didn't let out on the boy. This was embarrassing, especially when there was company.

One day the boy's grandmother came to make a visit. As is nearly always the case, the grandmollies thought a great deal of the boy, and the boy thought a heap of his grandmother. Whenever you find it any different from that there is always something radically wrong with the boy or with the grandmother.

At the first meal the old crab criticised the boy in a mean, sur-castic way, because he didn't rank rmong the highest in his classcriticised him because he was tardy a few times. "He never was tardy a few times, hie life." Everybody kept still.

The next meal it was the same thing. was the boy's haircut and his Every meal it was somenecktie. thing, and if the boy undertook to make any kind of a defense, you would have thought the old crab was going to kill him. The grand-mother kept quiet all these times, but it was noticed that during these jaw-fests sometimes her false teeta would come together like a gopher trap in action. After the old lady had been there about a week, one meal old Mr. Crab, not having anything new to harp on, began to rail at the youngster because with all the advantages of education and money he had spent on him he still traveled backwards everywhere he went. This so amaged the yout! that before he had time to think he said: "Why, dad, you never set any other example before me." Of course this was on the verge of being sassy, and the old man almost had a fit. He grabbed the boy by neck of his sweater with the hand and reached for a heavy razor strop with the other, and, saying something about precept beating ex-



"LEARN ONE THING EVERY DAY"

No. 5. WOODCRAFT.

the woods, their remarkable ability to detect and interpret the signs they saw there, and to get along Man with the least assistance in all the varying moods of the forest and it is easy for them to stray country. Woodcraft was the in- from the trail and lose themselves. country. dian's life. From childhood he had been lulled to sleep by the wind when they circled and are cover-



brook; in his waking moments he had known the call of the loon, the stealthy approach of the enemy. He had seen the braves of his tribe strip and prepare the bark from the birch tree to make canoes and fashion vessels for the maple sap, and he had watched the women weave haskets from the green twigs of the willow, and mats from the reeds along the margin of the lake. He knew how to trap the wild have. and he could tell the fox's den from

that of the woodchuck or skunk. The trait is something almost instinctive that gives to a few the power to find their way through vast tracts of wooded country where it seems impossible not to become

Copyright, 1913, by The Associated Newspaper School, Inc. HOSE who are familiar with tice this giant oak, or that bend the characters of Cooper's of the stream, or yonder fallen novels have wondered at and eim, or the crow's nest in the big perhaps envied their knowledge of pine, or the nature of the country Itself, whether hilly, or low, or

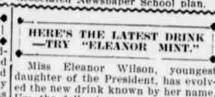
> Many people in the woods do not ever notice the blazes on the trees. Nor would they discover footprints It

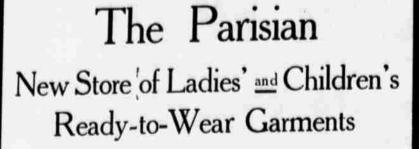


in the pines or the ripple of the ing again their own route. to know how DAYS to fill your pack so that it will carry more easily; to know when to rest, and now rapidly to walk in order to reach your destination. When camp is to be made, experience helps to choose the site, away from swamps and low ground, to select the proper boughs for the bed, and to cut the pieces that will serve many use-ful purposes about camp. It is also useful to know that birch bark or pine knots will serve well for kindling, and it should never be forgotten that the utmost care must be taken to prevent the spread of fire in the woods. Indians build a fire not more than 12 or 18 18 inches across, and always put it out on leaving.

One of the greatest pleasures in life in the forest is to come to know the trees in all their varlety, and to learn the birds, to listen to their songs, and to sit and watch the squirrels and rabbits and whatever wild things may be in the neighborhood. If one does If one does had known the call of the loon, the these things intelligently. It will shrick of the panther, the queru- be but a few years before the great, ious call of the little owl, and the green out-of-doors will hold for him a fascination that is at once intense and inspiring.

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