

KANSAS LOSES POET

Recent Death of "Ironquill" Removes State's Laureate.

Modest Verse Writer Who Assumed Pen Name for Fear People Would Not Hire "Fool Poet" as Attorney.

Fort Scott, Kan.—Kansas lost her poet laureate when Eugene F. Ware died at his summer home in Colorado and western literature lost one of its brightest geniuses.

Ware, known as "Ironquill," was a harness maker, lawyer, politician and poet. In the minds of his friends the last should come first, but personally he always belittled his ability as a poet, and instead of being proud of his success he spoke disparagingly of his verses. In this he was alone.

He came to this city in 1867 and began to work at his trade as a harness maker. A competitor was advertising, so Ware had to do the same. He went his competitor several better by writing his advertisements in verse. This attracted attention and he went to Topeka, where he wrote poetry and studied law, keeping his identity as a poet under cover. His explanation for this was: "I was afraid people wouldn't hire a fool poet for a lawyer."

There were plenty of harness makers, but very few lawyers in Fort Scott and that was the reason Ware deserted the stitching horse of his shop and took up the study of law. In his profession he was successful. As he practiced law he played the po-



etical game in a quiet, dignified way, being finally rewarded with an appointment as commissioner of pensions.

After two years in Washington he returned to Kansas and took up his residence in Kansas City, Kan. Tiring of city life, he retired shortly before his death to Sungold Section, a fine farm he acquired when he first came to Kansas, and there he told his friends he hoped "to die in the open." His plans to die on the farm failed, for he passed away soon after reaching Colorado, where he had been in the habit of spending the summers at a place he owned on the Cascade.

He was well entitled to the appointment of pension commissioner, for during the Civil war he had a brilliant career covering four years and ending as captain of a troop in the Seventh Iowa cavalry.

For one brief period Captain Ware was in the newspaper business. This was in Burlington, Ia., where for a time, he was assistant editor of the Hawkeye and started that paper on its road to celebrity as a funny paper. When Captain Ware retired "Bob" Burdette succeeded him and the paper became much quoted for its funny sayings.

Ware was born in 1841 in Hartford, Conn., and was married in 1874 to Miss Jeanette B. Huntington. For many years he was a familiar figure in Topeka during session of the Kansas legislature and his wit and humor made him much beloved, both by political friends and opponents. He was a member of the legislature in the early '80s.

When he left the office of pension commissioner he wanted to show his appreciation of 12 heads of departments under him. He bought 12 hand-some pieces of silver, exactly alike, called the 12 men into his office where the souvenirs were lined up on a table and said: "Gentlemen. You have been good to me. Help yourselves."

The appointment of Ware to be commissioner of pensions was due to Roosevelt's admiration for his poems. In 1900, when Roosevelt was on his way to the southwest to attend a reunion of Rough Riders, he expressed a desire to meet "Ironquill" and a message was sent to Ware asking him to meet the train and travel with the president. He did so and the friendship between the Rough Rider colonel and the frontier poet was promptly evident and sincere. Three years later Ware was appointed commissioner of pensions.

He leaves a widow, one son, Eugene F. Ware, Jr., and three daughters, Mrs. Abbie Neils of New York, Mrs. S. R. Nelson and Miss Amelia Ware.

Teeth and Baldness.

Paris, France.—According to Dr. Lucien Jaquet, there is a close connection between bad teeth and baldness. He declared about one-fourth of the cases of premature baldness are of dental origin.

STREETS LIKE A STAIRWAY

Picturesque Passageway Up Which Ascent Is Gained by Climbing Numerous Flights of Steps.

Algiers, Africa.—One of the oldest towns in the world is Algiers, North Africa. This city which today bears the name of Algiers is the successor of the Roman town of Icosium, which was destroyed by the vandals in the fifth century; and Icosium, in turn, was the successor of a Numidian town, which can be traced back to the remotest antiquity.

Algiers is picturesque and one of its most picturesque sights is the street of the camels, which is in the remotest antiquity.



Street of the Camels.

very heart of the oldest part of the town. This street, like others built in the same general plan, ascends by flights of short steps to the heights above, on which the great Kasba, or fort, was constructed. In spite of the steepness, some of the streets, like the Street of the Camels, may be ascended by camels. Others are only ascended to human beings on foot. The fronts of the houses on these narrow streets usually project to meet one another and the overhanging balconies are supported by rough timbers. The doorways are frequently of beautiful Saracenic design and often lead to inner courts, which are beautified with brilliant flowers and tropical plants.

A MEMORIAL TO JOHN FITCH

Monument to the Inventor of the Steamboat Has Been Erected at Warminster, Pa.

Harrisburg, Pa.—In 1785 John Fitch completed a model of a boat to be propelled by steam with side wheels, and petitioned both congress and the Pennsylvania legislature for aid in constructing a boat. In 1786-7 Fitch built a steamboat that made several successful trips on the Delaware river between Philadelphia and Burlington, N. J. He thus became the inventor of the first steamboat in America. The name of this boat was "The Perseverance," and was capable of making three miles per hour. It contained the first double-acting condensing engine



Monument to Fitch.

transmitting power by means of cranks, ever constructed. He succeeded in forming a stock company, but at the height of his experiments, his private resources gave out, his stockholders became discouraged, and he was forced to abandon his project. In 1793 he went to France to build a steamboat, but the revolution prevented, and he returned home penniless and as a common sailor. He made several unavailing attempts to secure money to perfect his inventions, and in grievous disappointment ended his life by poison at Bardonia, Ky., at which place his remains lie.

Fitch was captured at one time by the Indians, but he escaped from them and reached Warminster, Pa., where a monument, shown here, has been erected to him, on which is the following inscription:

"John Fitch here conceived the idea of the first steamboat. He ran a boat with side-wheels by steam on a pond below Davisville in 1785.

Snake Victim Shoots Off Finger.
Renovo, Pa.—While picking berries near here, Charles Smith was bitten by a rattlesnake. Having no remedies and being miles from a doctor he whipped his revolver from his pocket and shot off the end of the finger, letting out the blood and poison with a rush. The prompt act saved his life.

Quite an Egg for a Hen.

Goldendale, Wash.—One of Frank Vincent's hens has laid an egg measuring eight inches around one way and five and three-eighths the other.

SNAKES 25c A POUND

MEXICAN MAKES A LIVING BY SNARING RATTLESNAKES.

Hunter Catches Venomous Reptiles Alive and Finds a Market Here and Abroad—Uses a Forked Stick.

San Antonio, Tex.—Hunting snakes for a living may not be an occupation that is really pleasant in all its phases and it may not be attractive to all classes of men. However, there is one man in this city, a Mexican, who has made snake hunting a business for a number of years. He does not confine himself to the harmless variety, but makes a specialty of catching the cotton mouth moccasin and the rattlesnake. These are caught alive and sold to a dealer in snakes.

This Mexican snake hunter has two methods of catching a rattler. If the snake is large he places a forked stick on its back and holds it down until he can get hold of it in such a manner as to drop it into a sack. But if it is a small rattler a stick is not used. The hunter watches the reptile until it coils ready to strike and then with a swift movement of the hand catches the snake just below the head, grips it tightly and slips it into a sack.

While catching water moccasins, however, he usually goes barefoot and when the moccasin is too large to be caught with the hand it is lassoed with a small lariat attached to the end of a stick. Sometimes this is done by letting the reptile swim through the loop. At other times it is thrown over the head of the swimming snake with as much accuracy as a skilled marksman shoots with a gun.

In the winter, when snakes are hibernating, the snake hunter finds a hole and thrusts a stick down it. Then he sits down to watch. If the stick moves he knows there is something below and proceeds at once to dig out the snake. But if there is no movement after watching for a half hour or so, the hunter seeks another hole and repeats the test with a stick.

It is not an uncommon thing for this snake hunter to bag a hundred pounds of snakes in one day. These, if they be good specimens, bring 25 cents per pound, alive. While this is the only snake hunter in this city, a number of men now in the Kingville country, near the gulf, are engaged in the business and follow it all the year round.

Recently 600 pounds of rattlesnakes were shipped into this city by express from one snake hunter in the Kingville country, the man having made an unusual catch in one week. From the dealer here rattlesnakes are shipped to all parts of the country for exhibition purposes, and in a few instances shipments have been made to other parts of the world. The Texas rattler is deadly venomous and has to be handled with care.

So far as is known, but one rattlesnake hunter has ever died from the effects of a bite while capturing a snake. It is not an uncommon thing in some of the wilder parts of the country to capture a snake having 12 or more rattles, showing that the reptile is 13 years or more old, since the first rattle appears when the snake is one year of age.

STEERS SAVE IN SHIPWRECK

Two Passengers Ride Bullocks Ashore on Panama Coast While a Score Perish.

New York.—Riding ashore from a wrecked ship on the backs of steers was the way two passengers of the Tabago were saved on the coast of Panama. More than 20 of the passengers and crew perished.

A herd of steers stampeded from the hold when the vessel struck and smashed a lifeboat which just being lowered. Nearly every person in the boat was drowned, and many, as they fell, were crushed under the animals. Two passengers, however, found the cattle a godsend and rode ashore upon their backs.

According to statements made there were but three life preservers on the craft. As the boat was sinking the Cuban engineer, Perivanchi, and a Cuban manufacturer, Gregoire, though unable to swim, said they would not crowd the already heavily taxed lifeboats. When there was not a woman or child left on the ship and not another human being could be carried in the lifeboats they calmly lighted cigarettes and smoked until the Tabago settled. The body of neither was found.

DOG IS A CREDIBLE WITNESS

Kansas Court Affirms "Testimony" of Two Bloodhounds in a Murder Case.

Topeka, Kan.—The evidence of bloodhounds is accepted as credible by the supreme court of Kansas in a decision handed down in the case of Glen Adams, convicted of murdering Joseph Anderson in Graham county. The hounds took the trail at the Anderson home a few hours after the tragedy and followed it direct to the home of Adams, six miles away.

The shoes worn by Adams when he was arrested and their comparison with the tracks, was all the evidence the prosecution had except the dogs. Adams has been sentenced to the penitentiary for life and the supreme court upholds the dogs and says he must serve it.

LOCK OUT A MINISTER

RESENTED HIS NEEDLE-EYED BAN ON SELFISH RICH.

Following Eloquent Denunciation of "Bloated Plutocrats" the Vestry of Midnight Chisels His Name From Church Signboard.

Pittsburg, Pa.—Since he preached the idea that it was more difficult for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven as a warning to the congregation's trust nourished millionaires to repent of their ways, there is some doubt whether the Rev. John Milton Oakesford is still rector of Christ Protestant Episcopal congregation, Union avenue, North Side.

Following it a majority of the vestry assembled at the main entrance of the edifice at midnight. After a conference one of the party produced a painter's chisel with which he scratched from the board the following words:

"Rector, the Rev. John Milton Oakesford, residence No. 606 Sherman avenue, North Side."

When this was done a can of black enamel was produced and the space on which the name of Mr. Oakesford had stood out in gold paint was given several coats of enamel. Then the party dispersed, the members returning home. Many wealthy and prominent people belong to the congregation.

Proceeding the signboard climax the vestry had appointed a committee of four to carry out their approved plans. First the lock on the front door of the church was so adjusted that it is impossible to open it with the old key. It is fortified against the entrance of anyone except those admitted by the vestry.

Next the combination lock of the safe in the vestry was adjusted so that the safe can be opened by no one except those given the new combination by the vestry. Later the lock of the rear door of the church also was adjusted.

It was stated by members of the vestry that the action was taken because the vestry had given formal notice to Rector Oakesford that his services as rector would not be required.

APPLES BAKED BY THE HEAT

Fruit Was Roasted on the Trees Both in New York and Missouri.

New York.—The torrid heat that scorched the country deranged the ordinary course of life and caused all kinds of incidents and accidents, some amusing and some pathetic.

In Brockport, N. Y., Frank Sparlin exhibited harvest apples that were roasted on trees. Henry Renier of Missouri Point, Mo., had the same experience on his farm and adds the apples were served with cream and sugar at his own table. Gilbert Wright, a sober and creditable farmer living near Chelmsford, Conn., declares the heat of the sun's rays hatched a setting of eggs the hen left a few days before they were to mature.

Henry Herrick, an undertaker, was overcome by the heat in Hudson, Mass., while embalming a body and dropped dead.

Walcott Gregory, a farmer of Pinecroft, Mass., was imprisoned over an hour in a meat refrigerator and his ears and fingers were frost bitten.

With the thermometer registering 101 in the shade, Isaac P. Reed of Manchester, N. Y., complained of the cold, built a fire in his cook stove and put his feet in the oven. He was found dead in a few hours.

HELD MAN ON MOLTEN IRON

Incredible Ferocity of a Fighting New Jersey Foundryman Toward His Foe.

Trenton, N. J.—A horrible story of an infuriated man's cruelty was told in police court here when Ricardo Zafretti was arraigned charged with atrocious assault and battery upon Cologne Zoda. The men, employed at the Trenton Malleable Iron works, got into a quarrel which developed into a fight. They tussled about until Zafretti hurled his combatant upon the mound of a large mold with such force that Zoda was stunned and lay unconscious until the sizzling metal, just poured into the mold, burned through his clothing and began to burn his flesh. The man uttered a piercing shriek.

Zafretti was so infuriated that he jumped madly upon Zoda, witnesses said, and held his roasting body into the molten iron until Zoda was unconscious.

STEEL FISH ROD DANGEROUS.

Marquette, Wis.—Max Engles had a miraculous escape from death. He was fishing with a steel rod when he touched one of the high power wires with it. Engles was knocked unconscious and for some time it was feared he was dead. Artificial respiration revived him and he is now on the road to recovery. His right side is badly burned. It is said that 38,000 volts of electricity passed through his body.

Finds \$750 Pearl in Clam.

La Crosse, Wis.—A pearl valued at \$750 was picked up in a clam shell in the Mississippi river by William E. Russell. The pearl weighs 47 grains and is the largest found in this vicinity this season.

TEMPLE BAR TO BE RESTORED

One of the Original Gates of London to Be Permanently Erected in Epping Forest.

London.—Londoners are keenly interested in the proposed restoration to the city of Temple Bar, one of original gates of London, made possible by the recent death of Lady Meux, on whose estate it has stood since 1878.

In that year it was taken down from its position in Fleet street, and as it impeded the increasing traffic, and the late Sir Henry Meux bought it, and had the stones carefully marked and erected again at the entrance of his estate, Theobald's park at Chestnut, a little way out of London, where it has stood



Old Temple Bar.

ever since. It is suggested now to put it up in Epping forest, one of the nearest open spaces to London, and the property of the city, but some antiquarians are of the opinion that it should be brought nearer the heart of things than that, for old associations' sake.

What a "sermon in stones" the old gate could give if it could speak! Here, in the old days, the watchman looked out on to pleasant fields and country roads, while passengers passed in under the ancient doorway after their long and sometimes adventurous journeys from Brighton or Portsmouth. Here, from time to time, breathless horsemen dashed up with tales of plunder by highwaymen on the wilds of the Hampstead Heath. During the great fire at London Temple Bar was nearly destroyed, but it was restored in 1870 by Sir Christopher Wren.

WEST VIRGINIA CURIOSITY

Lincoln County Boasts of "Maul Rock," So Called Because of Its Resemblance to a Maul.

Wheeling, W. Va.—It becomes expedient for Lincoln county, West Virginia, to tell of one of her few natural curiosities. As the accompanying picture shows, this rock is called "Maul Rock," because of its similarity to a maul. The base of the rock is about 1,000 feet above sea level and is made up of large boulders. The stem of the rock is 20 feet high and will average about seven feet in diameter. The cap, or maul part, is about six feet thick and is 38 feet in circumference.



West Virginia Rock Freak.

ence. The stem is of a soft formation and is fast crumbling away, since the timber has died that was a great protection from the force of strong winds. By mounting the rock, by means of a ladder that is kept there, a magnificent view of the West Virginia hills can be obtained.

"MUMMY" WHEAT SWINDLE

Western Farmers Who Paid \$5 a Pint Find They Bought a Common Variety.

Kansas City, Mo.—Numerous farmers in Western Missouri and Eastern Kansas have been swindled by men who last spring sold them small quantities of what they called "mummy" wheat, taken from old Egyptian tombs and said to be vastly superior in quality and yield to the Turkey red wheat usually grown.

The swindlers purported that there was only a small quantity of the wheat and they sold it for as much as \$5 a pint. This quantity, they said, would produce enough the second year to seed a quarter section, which would yield from 50 to 75 bushels to the acre and would grade higher than the common hard wheat.

Farmers who planted the wheat found that it was a common variety, not as good as the Turkey red, and did not yield any better. It is supposed the wheat had been stored in a dry place for several years, which gave it the "mummy" appearance.

SERVICE FOR MUTES

Texas Church Whose Members Are All Deaf.

Crying Babies or Late Comers Do Not Disturb This Congregation—Communicants Are of All Creeds and Followings.

Fort Worth, Texas.—Sermons with never a spoken word, congregational singing without an audible note of melody, public prayers in which there is no sound, Sunday school teachers whose lips are inarticulate. All these are incidentals of the Sunday services of a Fort Worth church.

The pastor is not disturbed by crying babies, and the late comers do not take the trouble to tip-toe, but let their heels fall noisily on the uncarpeted floor. The belfry that tops the building is purely ornamental, for no member of this unique congregation could hear any bell invented.

No church in the United States is like it. It is the only church in the whole country whose congregation is composed wholly of deaf mutes.

The sixty or more deaf mutes living in Fort Worth organized the congregation, called the First Evangelical church for the deaf, in 1907. The real founder is the Rev. J. W. Michaels of Louisville, Ky., who is still the pastor, although he can make only four visits a year to his voiceless flock.

The building, a neat and substantial structure, was built solely by deaf mutes. The pulpit was carved by the Sunday school superintendent, G. W. Sheppard, who is a skilled woodworkman.

There is no church debt. None of the members is wealthy, and the congregation has had a hard struggle. But it has won because the members are very proud of having the only deaf mute church in the United States and are correspondingly loyal.

The church is interdenominational. Creeds are sunk in the common infirmity. In the roster of 40 members, a half-dozen denominations are represented. The pastor is a Baptist, but



Superintendent Sheppard Preaching.

If a convert is conscientiously opposed to immersion, he does not hesitate to use the sprinkling or pouring method of baptism.

Because of the long lapses between the visits of the pastor, a large part of the ministerial duties fall upon the Sunday school superintendent.

The service begins when Supt. Sheppard mounts the rostrum. First is roll call. With the record before him, the superintendent, by signs, calls off the name of each member, and each person present responds in the same fashion.

The Apostles' Creed is recited in unison. The uniformity of gestures is not the result of careful drilling, but comes as naturally to the worshippers as speech to the average person.

Supt. Sheppard then delivers a short sermon, taking the Sunday school text for the day for his subject. He is known as an "eloquent man" by the members of the silent congregation. His delivery has an earnestness that impresses even those who cannot understand his signs.

At times he "talks" rapidly, his facile fingers, accompanied by full-arm gestures, working with a speed that taxes the attention of his audience. Again, for the sake of greater emphasis, the words come slowly, lingeringly, from his finger tips, and one may well imagine that he is an adept in his silent art of oratory.

The eyes of the members never wander from the speaker, since, through their eyes alone, can they receive his message.

At the close of the superintendent's address the congregation "sings" in signs. Most commonly the hymn is one familiar to all the members, as the singing would be hindered by holding books. Next, the Sunday school classes take their places. The lesson goes forward as in the ordinary Sunday school, except that the questions and answers are in the sign language. The service closes with a benediction.

Often ministers from other churches in the city preach to the deaf mute congregation. A young woman, who married a mute, and so acquired a thorough knowledge of the sign language, stands directly behind the visiting speaker and acts as interpreter. As fast as the words are spoken, they are transmitted to the deaf congregation by signs.

ASSESS

COST TO TENNI

Marshal I ment M er

Marshal week serv

Tennessee council on is due ten

tion, when tage is tak

allows ten ment. Th

follows:

W. B. C

mers, \$224

50; Mrs.

Jones, \$21

50; Mrs. S

Pitcher, \$2

Walker &

er, \$203.88

M. A. M

\$100.03; S

pamy, \$180

John Mox

\$110.45; S

DeWolf, \$

25; Marion

is, \$220.75

P. Chris

parsonage,

99; C. J. I

BIG

Preparati

at the l

F. J. H

largest mi

nia distri

en years i

into camp

of severa

he visited

if he wou

Mr. Hard

there was

at the can

employed

mine, and

ing the b

distance

to first g

shape so t

ed when

Mr. Hard

oughly c

doing in

metal. O

daily. Th

Mr. Hard

than \$350

ably has

camp.

All

A Lond

formation

taining to

farmers'

and aft.

last legis

it will n

farmer to

moved by

including

even per

is defined

moved by

hicle is d

other tha

to carry o

rear. It

that pede

by power,

at night s

W

That So

some ben

cisions i

number o

Southern