Morning Register

Published by
REGISTER PUBLISHING COMPANY

FRANK JENKINS - President
ERNEST R. GILSTRAP - Vice-President

Entered at the Postoffice at Eugene, Ore., as Second-Class Matter

Published every morning except Monday. Office: Register Block, 655 Willamette.

Business Matters
Address all communications and make all remittances payable to The Register Publishing Company.

In ordering change of address, subscribers should always give old as well as new address.

Eastern Business Office
Charles E. Miller, 225 Fifth Avenue, New York City; W. H. Stockwell, People's Gas Building, Chicago.

Morning Register
Delivered by Carrier, per week....$ .15
Delivered by Carrier, per month.... .50
Delivered by Carrier, six months (in advance) 2.50
Delivered by Carrier, one year (in advance) 5.00
Delivered by Mail in Lane County one year 4.00
Outside Lane County (in advance).. 5.00

Sunday Register
One year by Mail (in advance)...$1.50

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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1925

MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE

The divorce figures for the United States during the year 1924 have just been compiled and issued, and as one studies them he is justified in doing some viewing with alarm. The number of marriages fell off 3.7 per cent from the year before, and the number of divorces rose 3.5 per cent. If that ratio continues, we shall be in a bad way in the course of time.

The number of marriages in 1924 was 1,178,206 and the number of divorces was 170,867. Contrary to what most of us would have expected, it is not the big and supposedly wicked and sophisticated communities that show the highest divorce rate. New York, for example, had only one divorce to 23 marriages, while Texas, for some mysterious reason, led the procession with a little better than one divorce to each five marriages. Men and women, if these figures mean anything, are less constant in the great open spaces than in the huddled cities.

It is extremely difficult, of course, to reason accurately from mere bald figures in a statistical report. Those who attempt that, for example, would at once set Oregon down as a place where marriage is a failure, for our ratio of divorce to marriage is by no means flattering. But the figures are affected by the fact that Oregon has a law—an utterly foolish law, experience has proved—that drives would-be brides and grooms over the state lines to be married, while the unhappily mated go ahead and get their divorces at home.

There may be another reason for the extreme discrepancy between the records of New York and Texas. The proportion of foreign-born in New York's population is among the highest in the United States, and while we are egotistically inclined to think that the foreigner is more of a law-breaker and a less moral person generally than the native, we are sadly misled there by pride. Divorce, like murder, is coming to be somewhat of a typical American failing, and the foreigner is pretty apt to be more constant in the marital relation than the American.

The divorce evil is one that is not easily abated. It may be, for that matter, that its evil portents are exaggerated. A fairly large share of the total number of divorces is to be found among the childless, and it is an open question whether the childless couple that can't get on together isn't better off apart. But just the same a constant decrease in the number of marriages and an approximately equal increase in the number of divorces is a disquieting trend. The future of this country depends quite largely upon its homes, and if the homes are to go on splitting up the prospect is not encouraging.

ON GETTING THE MONEY

Mrs. Jack Dempsey, it is announced, has 'rededicated herself to the films," in which she had won fame before allying herself with the ring champion. Does her still more famous husband follow the lead of Sheik Valentino and get all steamed up about it? Not at all.

"I never did object to Estelle's acting," says Dempsey, "and I'm glad she's going back to the screen. I don't try to meddle with her movie affairs any more than she tells me whom and when to fight. All I tell her is to take the job that pays the most money. That's my policy in arranging my fights."

It is—he speaks truly as to that. But if Estelle took her husky liege lord's advice literally, she would pick out a nice, high-paying two-reeler, say, about this year and then would slide along without getting in front of the kliegs again until some time in 1930. Jack's idea is plainly to pick not only the fight that pays the most, but one that will pay enough to keep him going, unbruised and unmarred, for about a half a lifetime.

A GOOD DEED MULTIPLIED

In 1888 a woman in New York city began forwarding her own magazines, as soon as she had read them, to some missionaries sent out by her church. From that kindly habit there developed the Periodical club of Episcopal churchwomen which now sends books and magazines to all parts of the world.

Everything seems to be wanted and used, from fashion magazines for missionary women in stations far remote from civilization, and detective stories for missionary bishops, to textbooks and fairy tales for children. The mission fields of the church are not the only regions supplied with reading matter by this club. It maintains 200 traveling libraries in rural communities in the United States. It sends books or magazines on request to all sorts of inaccessible places. It sends sheet music, phonograph records and games as well as books and magazines.

A good deal of this work is done with little expense at headquarters, for donors frequently send their packages of literature direct to the recipients, only writing in to headquarters for directions and addresses.

It is an interesting piece of work from many angles. In the first place it appears to satisfy a genuine want. It sets a good example of accomplishment without red tape and cumbersome organization. And it is interesting proof of the development of a great service from a very small beginning.

THREE MAIL ESSENTIALS

The postmaster at New Orleans has announced that 25,000 cards of Thanksgiving greetings have been held undelivered at the post-office for lack of proper postage. The rate for all mailing cards except government postcards is now two cents, but apparently thousands of persons, through carelessness or ignorance, are still mailing them with only one-cent postage.

If 25,000 cards are held up in a single city at Thanksgiving time, there is strong likelihood that the number of insufficient stamped Christmas greeting cards for the whole country will run into the hundreds of thousands.

Everyone who wants his cards and gifts to reach their destinations promptly will do well to take this Thanksgiving warning to heart and put three things on everything sent through the mail—plenty of postage, the correct address of the receiver and the return address of the sender.

Congress rejected day before yesterday a tax on gifts. Figuring, probably, that at this season a fellow is nearly enough strapped by the gift, without paying a tax on it.

A news item reports that painters are growing scarcer. The fellow who wrote that couldn't have been much of an observer of the fair sex.

A third of a million new automobiles were manufactured in November. Tell that to the fellow who is hunting a place to park.

A New Yorker shot his wife because she wouldn't help him solve a crossword puzzle. Even at that, though, she probably got off easy.

Radio isn't achieving the triumphs it might. No two fans, for instance, pronounce "aerial" alike.

Early Days In Eugene

(From the Morning Register, December 20, 1906)

Last night was university night at the Eugene skating rink and a large number of students enjoyed the sport.

The blue lodge of Masons elected the following officers: A. Lombard, W. M. George O'B. DeBar, S. W.; J. D. Hensill, J. W.; F. W. Osburn, treasurer; James F. Robinson, secretary.

A marriage license has been issued to Lorenzo Huff and Elizabeth Lajoie, both of Walker.

H. E. Wylie, who has 12 acres of orchard north of the city, has sold $1300 worth of fruit from it this year. He gathered 2800 bushels of apples alone.

Born in Eugene, December 19, 1906, to Mr. and Mrs. Alexander A. Dennison, a son.

Ray Frank and W. D. Combs went north yesterday on a big cattle deal.

Divinity professor's and student's appointments for Sunday are as follows: Professor E. C. Wigmore at Monmouth; Professor Morris at Junction City; O. E. Ames at Canby; C. C. Curtis in a meeting with George C. Ritchey at Harrisburg; R. A. Moone, and C. A. Moore at Hadleyville; W. Callison at Irving; F. W. Brook at Harrisburg; H. S. Champie at Santa Clara, and J. M. Orrick at Springfield.

E. P. Shinn and family returned yesterday from Independence where they had been visiting relatives.

Mrs. S. H. McKernan of Cottage Grove is a guest of Mrs. I. P. Inman in this city.

PUBLICITY HELD ESSENTIAL

Operates as Great Deterrent of Crime, Says Writer

See'ng an article last Sunday on publicity, I want to explain a few things the writer omitted.

She says the criminals are given to much publicity and the good that's done is suppressed. I wonder if the sister would stop to consider publicity is the thing they do not want. Suppose a fellow has a still and makes moonshine. It's the money he is wanting—not for his name to be published in the papers and sent to jail and every one saying "why John Jones was caught making moonshine and sent to jail."

Or the fellow that carried off the cash register that was mentioned in her letter—did he want his description sent all over the country? Well, hardly. Neither was he looking for publicity; he wanted the cash. If these things were not published there would be ten times the crime there now is.

In my estimation it's very essential that these things be published. That talk about publishing good might be all right for revival meetings. The theory might be all right but not the practice. Neither is it God's law to publish the good. God says, "Let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth."

If I were to get a divorce from my beloved husband, if it were possible to get said divorce without airing my troubles in the papers I am sure I would do so, as any sensible woman would. But these things must be published. That beloved husband might be in some other part of the country and would only learn of the incident through the paper. That is what our papers are for, to keep us posted on the up-to-date things. It would be a tame paper indeed that only told the goodness of some mother. Bless their hearts, we all love them; likewise the devoted couple that adopted a baby.

So if the sister will consider these things she will easily see how very impossible this suppression of crime would be.

—JANE SMYTH

AUTO CAMP HELD BIG ASSET

Arguments for Abandoning It Are Regarded As Faulty

EUGENE, Ore., Dec. 16.—(To the Editor)—Spend thousands of dollars to attract the auto tourist homeseeker to Eugene then keep him out of town!

Such would be the unwise attitude of the city in case it yielded to the pleas of private owners of auto camps and abolished the municipal camp ground. The city maintains a publicity department in connection with the chamber of commerce. The garage owner, the grocer, the filling station proprietor and other concerns which derive a benefit from the motor tourist trade, contribute to this fund. They have large investments here, pay heavy taxes to maintain state and city government and employ much help at present high wages. How would these dealers feel in case the municipal camp were abolished and the private owners of camps allowed to supply the tourists with their necessities? These camps out of town would monopolize the tourist trade in provisions, groceries, articles of dress, tobaccos, oil, gasoline, tires and parts, thus benefiting by Eugene's publicity enterprises without contributing a nickel toward the city's upkeep in the conduct of their camp business.

Abolition of the municipal camp ground on the plea that the city should not engage in a "private enterprise" has been urged. Such sophistry! As though the city were not engaged in conducting utility enterprises such as furnishing lights and water; as though it did not own an aviation field, besides entering into private contracts in municipal improvements and doing its own street repairing. That argument is trivial.

Then, again, we are told that the city, in maintaining the municipal camp is depriving the people of a much needed park. This is not true, as picnic parties at any time may avail themselves of the privileges of bathing and forest shade enjoyed by the tourists in this camp. And, besides, those who like picnics generally show an inclination to get out of town.

The time is coming when Eugene will not only appoint a standing committee to extend a welcome to all motor tourists, but will furnish to them free of cost the accommodations of the municipal camp and throw in for good measure band concerts and other entertainment as inducements for them to buy property here and become permanent residents. But if we close the camp and turn tourists over to the mercies of private camp owners, our chances of interesting them in Eugene as a place to locate will be slimmer. The tourist who has traveled far yearns for rest and a chance to stretch his legs. What is the result? Why if he is camped in the city grounds he brings his family down town to shop and in the evening they attend a picture show and patronize the cafes. If camped outside of town they remain there, buy their gas and oil and provisions in camp and when ready to depart, step on the gas and Eugene doesn't see them for dust.

Eugene residents who have been favored by visits from relatives and friends motoring from eastern states over the Pacific northwest have been advised by these tourists that the fame of Eugene's auto camp was spread all along the line of travel by motorists who had chanced to stop here. Especially were they impressed by its sightly location and conveniences, and above all, by its lovely stretch of water constituting the best natural bathing pool in the upper valley. Here the travel-stained tourist may doff his dusty travel togs and enjoy a dip in the cool waters of the Willamette.

And, yet some thoughtless people would shut the motor tourist out of Eugene while engaged in spending publicity funds in an intensive campaign to bring him here.

In consideration of all these surrounding circumstances the question naturally arises: Shall the city of Eugene allow the private auto camps to write our tickets in the conduct of municipal affairs?

AN INTERESTED CITIZEN.

Topics of the Times

Why Crime Increases.
Fighting for Murray.
How Boys Go Wrong.
Prohibition not Failure.

By J. R. CONLER

THE editor of the Register asked a question last week which was, "Why is it that business honesty is on the increase, while the average honesty of the general public, at least as measured by the crime statistician, is decreasing?" On the first page of the same issue of the Register we read a news item that said a life termer was pardoned by the governor. The item goes on to state that the youth who was pardoned had confessed to two murders, both committed while holding up people for their money.

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This youth was tried by "twelve men tried and true," and found guilty as charged. The judge sentenced him to life imprisonment. His father is a wealthy man and after a few weeks spent behind the gray walls of Illinois state prison, he was unconditionally pardoned. That shows a deep interest in the youth of our land by those in power over crime. I sometimes wonder if wealth has anything to do with these abnormal liberations of those guilty of horrible crimes. We hardly ever hear of one without wealth or influence having such good luck as having their murderous sons freed. For "manslaughter" one might expect such leniency, but for a youth without human feelings enough to spare the life of his holdup victims whom he has robbed, it looks like such leniency is unwise and an injustice to the general public some of whom may meet with the same conscienceless lad some night. This might be an answer, in a measure to the editor's question.

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Another case of unreasonable leniency came to our notice a few days ago. It was a news item which said the Linn county grand jury had found "no true bill" against a lad of 15 who had shot and killed his father because he was punishing one of his brothers more severely than he thought he ought. This youth was sent home without, as far as I know, even a recommendation for a reprimand for taking the life of his father. This precocious youth may have been justified in making a protest against inhumanly beating this lad, but it shows an abnormal condition of the boy's mind when he took the law in his own hands and killed his father. This case might also help to solve the editor's question.

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Another case can be cited that helps make criminals. Tom Murray was convicted of first degree murder by a jury for shooting and killing a guard at the Oregon state prison in order to make his escape. There is no good reason why Murray should not pay the extreme penalty for this murder. The jury that tried the case said he was guilty of murder, and the judge sentenced him to hang. But here comes an attorney and possibly for making a reputation as a criminal lawyer—for surely Murray nor his immediate friends have money in tempting quantities to cause this interference—and digs up technicalities that stop the natural course of justice. Not only is it possible for lawyers to interfere with the execution of justice, but they are able to throw a great burden of expense on the state which the honest, hard-working taxpayer has to pay.

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The same attorney that was so successful in stopping the execution of Murray, has started to clog the wheels of justice by trying to free Kelly and Willos, Murray's companions when the guards were ruthlessly murdered while on duty, from the noose. Whether he is successful in turning these murderers loose on the social world again or not, he can cause delay of justice, and add unnecessary expense on our already overburdened taxpayers.

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Let me suggest what I believe to be another reason for the surprising amount of crime committed by mere children. About a quarter of a century ago there commenced a general hegira from the rural districts to the cities. Mechanics were needed to cope with the increasing demand for labor-saving machinery, and mechanically inclined men were in great demand. Men took their families to the city and entered the employment of some machinery producing factory. The result is obvious. The father was too busy with his trade, and too busy with his lodge and clubs by night, to pay any attention to the children except to foot their bills for clothing and books, while the mother was putting in all of her spare time from household duties, in social functions and having splendid recreation times outside the home, allowing the children to "shift for themselves."

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It is easy to surmise what became of the children. The boys were invited into the back alley where they were taught such useful accomplishments as smoking cigarettes, shooting craps, and playing cards. At the movie they had seen a holdup thrown on the canvas, and out in the back alley the ease with which the holdup was pulled off, and the sensational "getaway" of the robbers were discussed, and as their "back alley" club needed money to continue crap shooting and movie picture expenses these children get the family gun that is of easy access, and the next thing we hear is that some one has been held up, the crime being done by mere youth. That might be another reason for the youthful crime wave that has been sweeping our land.

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We read with horror such news item as came to our notice a few days ago when it appeared that some Moro outlaws killed a school teacher and hung his head up on a pole as a deterrent to other school teachers. That thing used to be popular away back in the days of the cave men, but we think it ought to be stamped out of this day of civilization; but the Moro people are in their caveman period, as far as they are concerned. We are having just as atrocious murders, or even more so considering our enlightenment, as that by the Moro outlaws. We recommend a wholesale slaughter of those poor, untutored Moros so as to make society safe against their unseemly cruel and fiendish butcheries, but recommend clemency for our boys who pull off murderous stunts that would shame the Moros.

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From my point of view, all these thing I am mentioning contribute to the deplorable condition of our country, as far as the commission of crime is concerned. It is a fact that there are more horrible murders in the United States than in England and all of her dependants, France, Italy and the Balkan states. When Judge Taft was back in London on a tour of investigation, he ascertained that the English laws condemned and then did not let anything come in between justice and its immediate execution, and that surely is a deterrent. When our boys are taught to know that there will be no interference in meting out punishment for criminal acts, and that subterfuges and technicalities will not be tolerated by the attorneys, there will be a shrinking of the crime wave.

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Still another incentive to lawbreaking is the lax manner our churches declare against law enforcement. The federal council of churches was a scene of debating recently, and the debating was over the enforcement of the laws covering the prohibition act. Among Christian people, and the ministry especially, there should not be found ground for debate over lawbreaking of any kind. When the churches, or any part of them go to debating over the question of keeping the laws of our land inviolate, there is something radically wrong with the churches.

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I was pleased with the work our brother, Dr. Stivers, did in stopping the showing of a reel on Sunday which would have been breaking one of the city's laws. We had to fight for keeping our city clean, Sundays at least, and we should not allow anything, however innocent it might appear, to be done in our city if it is contrary to our laws and ordinances. Dr. Stivers is to be complimented for his interference.

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I see that Senator Edge, of New Jersey, has decided that prohibition is a failure. I suppose it is as far as he is concerned. It would be a safe wager that a search of this dear senator's premises would reveal a large stock of choice liquors, probably a present from the gang of "rum runners" operating off the Jersey coast. Such men are a part and parcel of the lawless element that infest our country, and the shame and menace to our fair land is just such men can be elected to the exalted position of law-makers. It is also a safe guess that the constituency of Senator Edge is largely made up of those benefited financially by the presence of the rum fleet, and are following the bootlegging business as a means of employment.

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There are those who say prohibition is a failure because lawbreakers and bootleggers keep a stream of liquor flowing into this country, but we can say the same of every other crime such as murder, robbery, and holdups. We have laws against murder, but men will kill people just the same; but that is no reason why we should curtail the stringency of the laws against murder. With all our laws against murder, the crime statistician informs us that there are more murders in the United States than in any country in the civilized world. Laws against robbery and holdups are broken every day and in every state. I suppose the attempt at protecting our social order is also a failure. You can go through the statute books and you will find laws covering every crime, and they are all broken by the lawless regardless of what crime they legislate against. I am told that personal liberty is interfered with in the Volstead act. I answer that personal liberty is interfered with in any law that restrains men from following their natural inclinations whether we consider them good or bad.

MANY GERMANS JOBLESS

Government Giving Idleness Doles to Total of 332,907

The general labor situation throughout Germany during the month of November was unsatisfactory. On November 1 the government was giving unemployment doles to a total of 332,907 and by November 15 this number had risen to 471,000 an increase of 138,093, or slightly less than 30 per cent, according to the European division of the department of commerce. While figures for the end of November are not yet available, it reliably estimates that by that time no less than 500,000 people were being assisted by the government. Unemployment in part time also increased considerably.

Short time work is steadily increasing in the glass and porcelain industries. This is also true of the metal industry and the engineering trades, including the manufacture of automobiles, motorcycles, sewing machines, and similar products. Many workers have been discharged from the rolling mills and glass furnaces in the Ruhr and in Westphalia, while employment in coal and other lines also fell off during the month, with the exception of the brown coal industry of Saxony where there was some demand for skilled workmen. Conditions are no different in the jewelry and watch industry in the Rhineland. Even in the chemical industry, which is comparatively prosperous, the number of workmen employed has slightly declined.

The only apparent bright spots in the situation are in farm labor and parts of the textile industry. It is reported that the sugar beet harvest has created a good demand for agricultural workers. Cotton spinning mills are still working full time while knitting and weaving mills are fairly well occupied.

According to the official figures of the federal statistical office, the average wage in the building, wood working metallurgical, printing, and railway branches is now 44 per cent above the 1913 average for skilled workers and 58.3 per cent above it for unskilled workers. This further represents an advance of 0.3 per cent and 3-5 per cent over the average for October. Although the wage indices would make it appear that the purchasing power of German labor was practically the same as in 1913, this impression is not absolutely correct. The spread between wholesale and retail prices is undoubtedly greater than before the war and in some lines the quality is poorer. In reality, the general standard of living of German labor is below pre-war although near silk hosiery, cheap jewelry, and consumption of cheap liquor are certainly more in evidence.

Too Advanced for Mother

"I hope that's a nice book for you to read, darling," said a conscientious mother to her engrossed school girl daughter.

"Oh, yes, mummy," said Miss Thirteen. "It's a lovely book, but I don't think you would like it. It's so sad at the end."

"How is it sad, darling?"

"She dies, and he has to go back to his wife."

About Epidemic Meningitis

Epidemics in Oregon.
Meningococcus Responsible.
How it Is Transmitted.
Isolate Every Case.

By FREDERICK D. STRICKER, M.D. (Oregon State Health Officer)

AS a number of cases of meningitis have been reported in Oregon it is important that everyone should be informed in regard to measures for its prevention and control.

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The epidemics have been reported, one at Cochran and the other at Klamath Falls. Epidemic meningitis was not recognized until the beginning of the nineteenth century. The first outbreak occurred in 1804 in New England states and Kentucky. Cerebrospinal fever occurs in epidemic and in sporadic form. The epidemics are localized and are rarely widespread. As a rule the country districts are more affected than cities. The concentration of individuals in large shacks or barracks seems to be a factor. Children and young adults are most susceptible. Exhaustion, over exertion, depressing mental and bodily surroundings are predisposing causes. Meningitis carriers plays an important role in transmitting the disease. The scientific name for epidemic meningitis is cerebrospinal fever.

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"Itis" means inflammation. Appendicitis means inflammation of the appendix. Cerebrospinal meningitis means inflammation of the nerve tissue of the brain and spinal cord. In its common usage inflammation anywhere means the effects of infection. Cerebrospinal meningitis means that some infecting organism is attacking the brain and spinal cord. It has been found out that there are many different microbes which do this, but a special one, the meningococcus, is accused of causing epidemics of contagious meningitis.

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Epidemic meningitis is trasmitted directly by the transfer of secretions from the nose and throat by means of coughing or sneezing, and indirectly by coming in contact with articles which have been contaminated by such secretions. The time between exposure and the first appearance of symptoms is from two to ten days, but persons have been known to carry these germs in the nose and throat for months before symptoms develop. Persons recovering from this disease also have been known to retain live germs in the system for months after they were apparently well.

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Every case of meningitis and every suspicious case should be immediately isolated and reported to the local health officer. Meningeal irritation is manifested by headache, vomiting, rigidity of the neck with retraction of the head and rise of temperature. In young children convulsions are common. Early diagnosis is of the utmost importance in the control of meningitis, and no time should be lost in calling the doctor in any suspicious case. No child should be allowed to return to school after having the disease without a proper certificate of health from the health officer or the attending physician. Colds and catarrh should receive attention because they may not only carry infection, but are sometimes associated with the disease itself.

My Line o' Talk

By Everett Earle Stanard

Winter Snows

ALL the dim trails are covered quite.
There is not a path or a way—
No sign of a track in this world of white
No help from the skies of gray;
But over the open world and the lea,
The winds keep pace through the hours
To level the drifts and shake from the tree
A wealth of snow—jeweled flowers.

And fast as a track or a trench is made,
Or the fairy print of a bird,
The leveling wind in the sun or the shade
Speaks over his magic word.
The new snow covers the hieroglyphs,
And night comes down with a bound,
To polish and glaze the feathery drifts,
And bind the world in a swound.

Where are the little winding trails,
That led to the dells in the wood?
Lost in the deeps where the snow prevails,
In a voiceless solitude.
A man must seek out a strange new way,
If he goes to the river's brink;
And ice packs swirled by the current gray
Grind and topple and clink.

But far on the hills if a man could go
Over glaze of the untracked white,
He would see the firs in garments of snow,
And silvery laces bright—
O, I little fear what the winter holds
When the wild storm-demons play:
The scrolls of beauty that God unrolls
Are the solace that over-pay.

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Tall Yarns

OF Jason Wheeler, prominent Linn county pioneer, it is told that he and a party of hunters once shot an elk, and were surprised to see that although the creature was virtually 'riddled' it did not fall over. Investigation showed that when mortally wounded the animal had simply fallen against a small tree which held it upright. This is on a par with Bridger's story to the effect that he had once tried to shoot an elk through a mountain of crystal.

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Historic Adventure

J. C. Hunter, 86-year-old pioneer now residing at Ashland, was born, raised and brought up on the site of the present Kansas City, Missouri, and as a boy he often saw the frontiersmen and fur-traders whose names figure most in history. He remembers particularly Jim Bridger, Kit Carson and Pierre Choteau.

Trading Post

Kansas City, during Mr. Hunter's boyhood, was a mere trading post and landing place for the river boats. However, the fur company maintained a warehouse there, and the traders and trappers and officials were frequent visitors at the place. In fact, Mr. Hunter's father was often in the employ of the company, and he boarded and kept the company's representative at his house when they were at this place.

"The fact is," says Mr. Hunter, "I was named in honor of Joseph Clymer, president of the fur company."

Bridger

According to Mr. Hunter's reminiscences, Jim Bridger was a tall, bony, though wiry sort of man, open countenance, square-cut features, and face well bronzed from the long continued effect of sun and wind. He was the greatest of the mountain men, and unless it was Carson there was no guide in greater demand by soldiers, pioneers, traders and adventurers.

Possibly Carson ranged over a somewhat greater area, take it on the whole, for Bridger seldom if ever ventured into the great Northwest. But his knowledge in regard to the Big Horn country, Green River valley, Salt Lake basin, Yellowstone, upper Missouri and the prairies as far as the Snake river district was intimate and reliable. As a story-teller, he has a basic in fact for an imposing array of 'yarns,' and aside from old Joe Meek, no one could hold a candle to him.

Bridger's Career

The facts of his life are fairly well known. He was a native of Washington, D. C., but as early as 1826, when he was 19 years of age, he joined General Ashley's fur trading expedition bound for the interior and Rocky mountain district. Ashley is generally named by historians as the discoverer of the south pass through which emigration eventually took its way westward to Old Oregon. As for Bridger, he was the finder of the Great Salt lake. Many years after this when the trouble came on between the Mormons in Utah and the United States government, old Jim Bridger made himself felt by acting as guide to the federal troops.

As a Farmer

It is not so generally known that Bridger in 1856-7 came out of the mountains and purchased a farm near the present Kansas City, then called Westport Landing. But is seems that he could not give his whole heart to farming. Like Daniel Boone, he wanted to be on the move, and so went back to the vast stretches of country which he loved so well. When he was finally compelled by old age to quit the mountains and plains, he came back to his farm on the Missouri. There in the year 1881, he died, being about 74 years of age.

Sir George Gore

During a three year period in the fifties, Bridger served as guide for a traveler by the name of Sir George Gore. Sir George was well equipped for his expedition, boasted some 40 men, 112 horses, 40 dogs, and 21 carts. They spent one winter at Fort Laramie, one at a fort which they built in the Powder river country, and another along the Missouri at various places finally arriving in St. Louis in 1857.

CHRISTMAS SPIRIT IS VARIED

Holiday Is Held to Be Most Diverse of All the Year

WAPATO, Wash., Dec. 16—(To the Editor)—Christmas is the most diversified holiday of the year. On Independence day we celebrate freedom and not oppression, on Memorial day we revive old memories rather than create new ones, on New Year's day we make fresh resolutions, Thanksgiving day we eat instead of starve and on the first of April we just act natural.

But Christmas, like the pendulum of a clock, works both ways. It is not only the biggest gift-giving festival, but it is also the greatest gift-taking celebration. It is not generally realized that there is a taker for every giver. A great many people are takers three or four times and are not givers at all. In spite of this, the scales balance, no matter how you tamper with the weights. The givers and takers are even by mathematical calculation—if not on gifts.

Gift giving is supposed to be a matter of spirit rather than of substance. A young man presents his fiancee with a five dollar pocketbook. She is overjoyed. On the other hand, there is a man who gives his wife a five-hundred-dollar necklace. He is overjawed. Both women really appreciate their gifts, but they realize the indivdual spirit in which the gifts were presented.

The fiancee knows that her pocketbook resulted from a strenuous saving of lunch money and the purchase of twenty-five cent neckties. The married woman understands that the money which purchased her necklace was velvet. She knows in her own heart that her husband would not deny himself an automobile, a flyer in a deadsure stock, a pleasure jaunt or any other mere trifle just to buy her a Christmas gift. Under the circumstances, she can hardly be blamed for believing that the gift came from the pocket rather than the heart.

This spirit of giving could be effectively obliterated by restoring the cheery monarch of Christmas gift-givers — the jovial Santa Claus. Why is that generous and lovable personage taken away just when we reach the age of appreciation? Very little children are told that Santa Claus brought them all some amusing toys and pretty gifts, and yet, when the youngsters arrive at the age of intelligence, man's selfishness comes crashing down on the beautiful fancy, and he proceeds to collect all the credit for the joys of Christmas.

Christmas is, indeed, a joyous time for every one. Baby's rattle makes just noise enough to interest baby. The ten-year-old boy of the household has a drum which makes just enough racket to interest the entire family—and two-thirds of the neighborhood as a side issue. The girl just out of her teens becomes childishly daffy over the candy, books and jewelry; while the mother finds great happiness in a lovely sealskin sack—her gift to father.

Poor father! He can't smoke the cigars, and he trembles at the various neckties. However, there's plenty of room in his pockets for his hands. The deliveryman, the paper boy, the shoe shine, the barber, the postman, the cook, the garbage, and the policeman never fail to give a hearty "thanks" for his remembrances.

So Christmas becomes a sort of Thanksgiving—for rather, and before the day ends he is full of thanks—a condition which cannot fail to make him thankful.

LUE F. VERNON.

Mr. Adams (to principal of school): "My wife and I were gratified to receive a letter from our boy the other day announcing that he leads his class."

Pr'ncipal: "Ah, yes! The boys march into class in alphabetical order!"

There Is Peril in Every Pinprick

The World's Strongest Man D[ies] at the Age of 42 from Bloo[d] poisoning, Resulting from Nail Scratch.

By ROYAL S. COPELAND, M.D. (United States Senator from New Y[ork] Former Commissioner of Health New York City

Here is a cable dispatch f[rom] Berlin:

DR ROYAL S. COPELAND

"Sigmund Breitbart, billed in [cir]cus and vau[de]ville progr[ams] for years as [the] world's stro[ng]est man,' d[ied] today at 42.

"Breith[art] whose exhib[itions] consisted [of] pulling aga[inst] bending ir[on] bars and tear[ing] horsesho[es] apart, s[uc]cumbed to bl[ood] poisoning w[hich] developed f[rom] a small scratch."

I just r[ead] this in a paper. It shocked [me] because I have seen this [man, a] giant at work. What he could [do] with his powerful muscles [was] marvelous. Now he is dead at [42]. He was killed by a pinprick p[rac]tically.

Everybody knows there is [such] a trouble as blood-poisoning. Ha[rd]ly a person lives, but has los[t an] acquaintance from this cause.

If blood poisoning is such a t[er]rible disease, why do you not t[ake] greater pains to escape it?

For years I have observed [with] horror the practice some yo[ung] people, girls especially, indulge [in] on every occasion. They do [not] hesitate to dig their fingernails [or] to jab a pin into the flesh of th[ose] with whom they are playing [or] scuffling.

To scratch, bite or otherwise [de]liberately break the tissues [of a] human being, except in actual s[elf] defense, is a crime against hum[an]ity. It may seem "funny," or "p[lay]ful," but it may prove fatal. T[hat] isn't so funny.

Not everybody can take di[ph]theria. Not every exposed child [will] catch scarlet fever. Likewise, [not] every damaged person will h[ave] blood poisoning.

Fortunately for us, nature [has] provided what we call "the po[wer] of resistance." Except on oc[ca]sions we are pretty well imm[une] to the harmful effects of germs. [When] we have lowered our power of [re]sistance by wrong living, we m[ay] become susceptible.

It behooves us, so far as we m[ay], to avoid scratches, tears and ot[her] wounds. We never can be perfe[ctly] confident that our resistance is [suf]ficient to give protection. E[ven] though Breitbart was the wor[ld's] strongest man, he fell on de[ath] from a mere scratch.

In every household and eve[ry]where that people gather, th[ere] should be an iodine preparation. [At] every drug store these days th[ere] may be purchased a little vial [with] cork carrying a convenient gl[ass] rod, all ready for an immediate [ap]plication of the iodine.

Apply the iodine. Then w[ash] the injured parts thoroughly w[ith] clean soap and clean water. Ap[ply] another drop of iodine and co[ver] the injured parts with cotton [and] bandage.

Don't neglect an injury, even [if] it appears to be trifling. Your sa[fety] demands care of every wound.

Answers to Health Queries

S. N. Q.—What do you adv[ise] for pyorrhea?

Answer.—Consult a dentist. T[his] requires personal attention.

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P. E. P. Q.—What would [you] advise for eczema?

Answer.—Careful attention [to] elimination and proper diet sho[uld] help to some extent. For furt[her] particulars send a stamped s[elf] addressed envelope and repeat y[our] question.

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C. A. O. Q.—What is a g[ood] remedy for goitre? Should [the] neck be coated with iodine ev[ery] night?

Answer.—Goitre requires spec[ial] treatment in each case. Your d[oc]tor should prescribe for you. [In] some instance simple medication [is] effective; in others surgery may [be] necessary. No; be guided by y[our] doctor's judgment.

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Daily Lesson In English

By W. L. Gordon

Words Often Misused: Don't [say] "the child died from diphther[ia]." Say "died of."

Often Mispronounced: Drown. Pronounce dround, not drownd[ed].

Often Misspelled: Nineteen. T[wo] "e's."

Synonyms: Prohibit, forbid, [in]hibit, restrain, debar, restrict, [pre]clude.

Word Study: "Use a word th[ree] times and it is yours." Let us [in]crease our vocabulary by mas[ter]ing one word each day. Tod[ay's] word: Heritage; an inheritance. "[A] life of good deeds is the only h[er]itage I leave to you."

Nubbins of Wisdom

Gathered by C. E. Carlisle.

"ORGANIZATION is civilizat[ion]. Without it humanity [is a] mob."

"Give the business baiter ab[sent] treatment. The newspaper, m[ag]azine or man that pounds on Am[er]ican business must be passed [up as] frappe. Big corporations are [no] more corrupt than little ones, [and] both will be purified by the gr[ow]ing enlightenment of the times."

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"If there is anything divine [in] the universe, it is the love of [a] mother for her baby."

What we want is not a belie[f in] one "immaculate conception," [but] a fixed and firm faith in the [fact] that whenever and wherever [a] mother holds in her arms a b[abe,] hugging it to her heart, croon[ing] to it a lullaby, there is God."—[El]bert Hubbard.

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"Have we not all one fath[er?] Hath not one God created us?" Mal. 2:10.

"When you meet another, [no] matter what his station in life, [his] creed or color, let this thought [run] through you: 'His life and my [life] are one, one love sustains us bot[h.']" (Acts 10:28).—The Punner's B[...]

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Black Diamonds.—Polished b[lack] coal is said to make an excel[lent] substitute for jet in the manu[fac]ture of rings. The one drawb[ack,] of course, is the prohibitive co[st.] Judge.