

MADE TIME OF GAY REUNION

"Beating the Bounds," in Virginia, at Least, Drew Together Neighbors From Far and Near.

"Beating the bounds" was a specially important duty in the colonies, where land surveys were imperfect, land grants irregular, and the boundaries of each man's farm or plantation at first very uncertain. In Virginia this beating the bounds was called "processioning." Landmarks were renewed that were becoming obliterated; blazes on a tree would be somewhat grown over — they were deeply recut; piles of great stones containing a certain number for designation were sometimes scattered — the original number would be restored. Special trees would be found fallen or cut down; new marking trees would be planted, usually pear trees, as they were long-lived. Disputed boundaries were decided upon and announced to all the persons present, some of whom at the next "processioning" would even be able to testify as to the correct line. This processioning took place between Easter and Whitsuntide, that lovely season of the year in Virginia; and must have proved a pleasant reunion of neighbors, a May-party. In New England this was called "perambulating the bounds," and the surveyors who took charge were called "perambulators" or "boundsgoers."—Alice Morse Earle in Child Life in Colonial Days.

DREADED SNAKE UNDER FALLS

According to Indian Superstition, Reptile's Breaking Loose Ended in Destruction of Villages.

Formerly, according to Indian superstition, there dwelt under Niagara falls a gigantic snake, which now and then would make its way to an Indian village and coil itself around the town. It swallowed the people, and made itself further obnoxious by poisoning the springs and wells with its spittle. The Iliwassee river, in the southern Allegheny region, is infested by an enormous leech. Occasionally a certain ledge of rock is exposed when the water is low, so that people are tempted to cross over it. Anybody who tries to do so, however, is inevitably seized and sucked down.

Near the head of the Savannah river are the famous Talula falls. It has been well known for centuries that the Thunder Spirit lives beneath these falls, and its roaring may at

any time be heard in the noise of the cataract.

One hundred miles to the southeast of Death valley (in California) is Dead mountain, which is the abode of multitudes of ghosts. At all events, the Indians so believe, though when one approaches the mountain one perceives that the spooks are merely broken and precipitous rocks shining white in the sun.

Life of Chilean Girls.

The Chilean girl's reason for being is marriage, and one of her earliest lessons is that woman's place is indeed the home and that man is ordained her master, the World Outlook says. Old maids have a particularly horrid time in Chile and most of them take the veil. There is little else for them to do, for they can't all become school-teachers and no other career is open for the young woman who does not marry. Women journalists, doctors, lawyers, stenographers and clerks are practically unknown.

Perhaps this somewhat oriental ideal of Chilean womanhood explains why the tinkling of the piano rather than the clicking of typewriter keys is the chief mechanical noise one hears at the Santiago College for Girls, and why the most important exercise is an exhibit of fine needlework and hand-painted china rather than essays on "Why the Woman Needs the Vote."

Famous Writer of Songs.

The songs that George F. Root composed or arranged during the Civil war would almost fill a volume. With George Root music was a profession. He was born in Massachusetts in 1820, and studied music both in this country and abroad. Before, during and for a considerable time after the Civil war, Mr. Root was a music publisher in Chicago.

Previous to the war he had written a number of cantatas and similar compositions, but when the war started he turned all of his attention to composing war songs.

One of the most spirited songs was "Tramp, Tramp, Tramp, the Boys Are Marching," and its composition should entitle him to rank among the makers of living national music.

Next to "Tramp, Tramp, Tramp," the most popular of Root's war songs was "The Battle Cry of Freedom."

Reputation.

A man's reputation is like his shadow, which is sometimes larger and sometimes shorter than the man.—Punxsutawney Spirit.

Blondin's Feat Recalled.

In the whirligig of momentous world events it is not strange that there should pass almost unnoticed a few days ago the fifty-eighth anniversary of Blondin's exploit of crossing Niagara gorge on a four-inch tight rope, a feat that still stands as the acme of daring and nerve. One of the thousands of spectators that lined the river bank was the prince of Wales, late King Edward. This was the first time anyone had crossed Niagara gorge on a rope. Blondin carried a man on his shoulders on one trip, wheeled a wheelbarrow over on a second trip, and on a third trip carried a stove on his balancing rod and fixed it on the rope, cooked cakes and threw them to people in small boats below on the river. Blondin was afterward killed in Paris.

He made a last in 1859, and in the following year successfully carried out his feat, October 10, 1860.

The Thirsty Sailor.

Here's one they are telling about a British sailor and a civilian host: The civilian brought out a bottle of bourbon and took a drink, neglecting to offer one to the sailor.

He did this about three times and then thought that the sailor might like to wet his whistle.

"Are you thirsty?" he asked the sailor.

"Yes, muchly so," answered the tar. Whereupon the civilian went out and got him a glass of water.

"I said I was thirsty," said the sailor, "not dirty."

Ostentatious Words.

Why cannot scientific persons who undertake to be informing to the public learn to display their learning less ostentatiously and to convey their meaning more intelligibly? One health authority tells us profoundly that "anorexia" also is present with Spanish influenza. We take this, from the dictionary, to mean loss of appetite, which really would not be a bad thing these days; but unless it is assumed that nobody but medical men are to have the disease, it might be well to give the miscellaneous lay public a chance to know what may all it.

Very Likely.

"The political and military situation this month will be in one respect like the family one."

"How so?"

"There will be a carving up of Turkey about Thanksgiving."

Legal Blanks at the Courier.

"COLLEGE" FOR MARINE FIREMEN

United States Shipping Board Establishes One in Chicago.

MEN NEEDED FOR FIREROOMS

Chicago Hotel Converted Into School at Which Young Americans by Hundreds Are Prepared for Scientifically Keeping Fires Burning on Nation's "Bridge of Ships to Europe"—Intensive Course of Study Is Laid Down.

Among the training projects of the various branches of the government that have grown out of the war, the United States shipping board announces the launching of one that has the distinction of novelty.

It is a technical school, or "college," for merchant marine firemen. Holding that the marine fireman's job is more than merely shoveling coal on a fire, the shipping board has prepared for intensive, scientific training of its firemen before they are placed behind the shovel on our bridge of ships to Europe.

One aim in this training is to secure conservation of coal. It is believed that a fireman who knows the heat value of the fuel he is handling, the laws of combustion and the principles of operation of the boilers under which he maintains fires, can save at least a ton of coal a week, as compared with the untrained man, or one who has been trained only by "rule of thumb." As there are estimated to be 7,000 American and allied ships in service at this time, the importance of this principle of saving is apparent.

Use Hotel as School.

The Chicago school for firemen was decided upon as a means of employing to the fullest the high-grade material which was coming into the fire-room service of the merchant marine in the middle West, in common with other sections.

In order that the young men should have proper care while studying, the idea of an official community was adopted. A disused hotel, in a downtown section, was secured and fitted up on the lines of a seminary, with living quarters for 500 students, and a spacious lecture hall, all under one roof.

Here, under the direction of instructors and proctors—the latter are a kind of glorified master-at-arms—the students lead a busy and wholesome life. It is a case of plain living and high thinking with them, for their time is limited at the school to one month at the outside, and there is much for them to learn. Some of the men having fired boilers before attending the school, find the instruction a valuable post-graduate course.

The main subjects are: "Materials of Combustion," "Process of Combustion," "Types of Boilers," "Boiler Parts and Accessories," and "Oil Burners for Marine Boilers."

Get Practical Experience.

There are also talks on fire-room practice and the relations of the fireman to the engineers, oilers and water tenders with whom he works at sea. Part of each day is devoted to actual firing. Some of this firing is done at power plants, and some on lake steamers, making short trips.

When a student has absorbed the "book learning" in the Chicago course he is sent to a seaport for a final course of instruction and to "get his sea legs," on one of the shipping board's 12 training ships.

Volunteers are being signed up in every state in the Union. Candidates accepted are from eighteen to thirty-five inclusive, and must weigh at least 140 pounds. The board will pay the fare to Chicago of volunteers from Ohio, Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, Minnesota, the Dakotas, Nebraska, Iowa, Missouri and Kansas, and thence to a seaport, and also give them their board at Chicago. The fare of men from other states will be paid direct to a seaport, where they will be trained. In either case the volunteer will receive \$30 a month training pay. When he gets behind the shovel at sea he will be given \$75 a month, with 50 per cent added for voyages through the European war zone.

MOTOR TRACTORS HELP

Keep Artillery Almost Abreast of Advance at All Times.

Americans in London who are familiar with late developments in army methods believe that the American success in the Soissons-Chateau Thierry counter-offensive was due to their ability to move heavy artillery forward quickly.

Artillery motor tractors, it is believed, are the answer. By use of the armored tractor they could keep their artillery almost abreast of the advance at all times. The tractor is said to be able to do six miles an hour over the roughest ground.

One Grand, Sweet Song.

Composer Baron, gallant cuss, says: "Every woman is a song," which we move to amend to read: "Every woman is a popular song."—Buffalo News.

Classified Advertising

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WOOD—Laurel, oak, fir and pine and dry pine at \$2.75 per tier delivered. R. Timmons, phone 532-J. 51tf

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LOST—Between Medford and Grants Pass, roll of scrim house curtains with brown border; also goat skin rug, unmounted; also an umbrella without handle. Reward. Write Mrs. A. Bursell, 1211 E. Main street, Medford, Ore., or call 666 M. 61

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The California and Oregon Coast Railroad Company TIME CARD

Effective Nov. 19, 1918.

Trains will run Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday

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Leave Waters Creek.....3 P. M.
Arrive Grants Pass.....4 P. M.

For information regarding freight and passenger rates call at the office of the company, Lundburg building, or telephone 131.

Fishing in Japan.

Japanese fishermen catch their fish in a way very different from our fishermen. The fisherman will sit in his little boat and have with him eight or ten ugly black birds, almost the size of a goose, called cormorants. These birds live altogether on fish. They are trained to obey their owner's voice. He makes them dive into the water after the fish and they are so quick and clever and sharp-eyed that they hardly ever come up out of the water without fish in their beak. A ring is placed around their throats to prevent them from swallowing their booty, but it is not so tight that it prevents them from breathing. When the man is through fishing he unfastens this ring and lets his birds eat some of the smaller fish which they have caught.

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