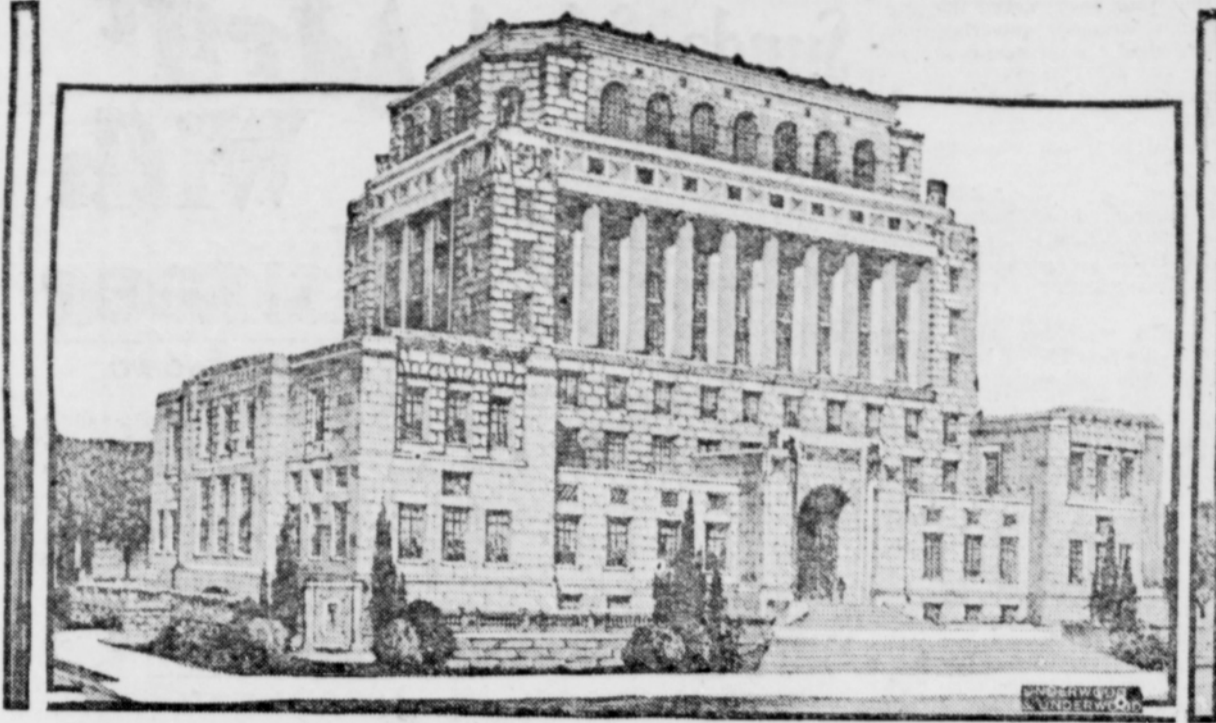


Louisiana City to Have Skyscraper Jail



Shreveport, La., will shortly dedicate a unique combination jail and courthouse, plans for which were approved by the supervisors of Caddo county. The jail is on top of the building and, to escape, prisoners will have to be provided with an airplane.

Amateur Nights Fast Dying Out

Most Amusing Feature of Theater Will Soon Be but Fragrant Memory.

St. Louis.—One of the most cherished institutions of the stage is passing, and it is only a matter of time until it is entirely in the discard. Amateur night, that most amusing feature of the theater, will soon be a fragrant memory, a memory redolent with the aroma of sizzling "hams" who indulgently permitted themselves to be "put on the pan" for the edification of an audience that laughed with devilish glee at the crude antics of those who would be actors and were willing to pay the price of public harassment to attain the goal.

Amateur night is an institution as old as the theater itself. As its name suggests, it affords an opportunity for those who have ambitions for the stage to display their skill, a none too sympathetic audience sitting as judge and jury and by its vote of approval or disapproval denoting the degree of success with which the neophyte has put over his act. For some there were resounding bravos and tumultuous applause, and for others a silence that damned.

The Announcer's Speech.

The scenes at all amateur nights are virtually the same. The regular program is curtailed and some one steps out of the wings to the center of the stage. His speech is always the same:

"Ladies and Gentlemen: We have a little something extra on the program tonight, something that we think you

Pigeons Come for Meal Same Time Each Day

Milwaukee, Wis.—Thomas Koefler, an assistant in the city building inspector's department, is certain that pigeons think.

For a year he has been feeding the birds that hover about the building, perched at times on the window ledge. He has noticed that the birds start coming to the window just before the clock in St. Mary's church, a block away from his office, strikes the noon hour.

They seem to know, he says that noon is time to eat and he has found the pigeons as good as a watch in marking the noon hour.

Koefler was curious to see whether or not the birds came around on Sundays, and made two trips to the office on the holiday. The birds did not appear either time.

BOBBED HAIR SEEMS DOOMED, BELIEF OF UNIVERSITY GIRLS

Indications Point to a Return to "Sophisticated Coiffure" With Its Braids and Hairpins.

Boston.—This year may see the swing back to long hair. Indications in that direction are seen throughout New England colleges where once bobbed hair girls are turning to the braid and the hairpin. Reports from Simmons, Radcliffe, Wellesley and Smith, strongholds of feminine independence, show that the bob is on the wane and that the "sophisticated coiffure" may supplant it.

Numerous reasons are given for the change but the most prominent one is that "we are sick of seeing ears, ears, and bristly necks." Many complain of too many trips to the barber shop; others "don't want to look like every girl we meet;" some say that long hair has more individuality, while one in-

tends to let her hair grow because the "boy friend" likes it so.

The consensus among these college girls seems to be that they consider bobbed hair not as good as they first thought. Many were of the opinion that the day of mannish fashions for women had passed, and having had their fling of freedom, are willing to revert to former standards.

Various modes of fixing the hair in the "in between" period are now being employed. This period has produced almost a new sort of coiffure in itself. The "awkward" stage has revealed the real ingenuity of the college girl to meet the change in hair styles, and in this case she has come through successfully.

Though many admit that the very thought of letting the hair grow presents a trying problem, they are willing to pass through the ordeal to regain their crowning glory.

at the inability of the audience to appreciate their synecopation.

Unable to Decide.

The announcer is speaking again: "Ladies and gentlemen: Well, I can't quite decide who wins the big prize. Seems like Margaret and Tom and Jerry and Arthur Tremont are the favorites. So I'll ask you to vote on these three."

He places his hand on Margaret's head. The audience is more discriminating this time and she gets just a ripple of applause. Tom and Jerry also fail to make their first quota, and Arthur Tremont wins in a walk.

"Arthur Tremont get the big prize," says the announcer. "Who wins the second prize?"

He points to Margaret. A few friends remain faithful, but she loses to Tom and Jerry. The announcer tells the audience as much and everybody is satisfied with the exception of Margaret's mother, who quite volubly insists that her daughter didn't get a square deal or something of the sort.

Reason for Elimination.

Such is amateur night and, if St. Louis showmen are to be believed, such nights are passing from the theater never to return. The reason for their demise is simple, if one may take the word of the musical and stage director of one of the theaters.

"There is no longer an excuse for amateur actors to make a public show of themselves in order to get a hearing," he says. "The reason is found in the motion-picture theaters, which, within the last two years, have enlarged their field to include much more than the mere cinema presentations.

"Take St. Louis, for example. Originally all the motion-picture houses in the city were just that, theaters in which motion pictures were shown with an orchestra to furnish incidental music. But a great change has come over the profession. As soon as a theater ceases to be more than a mere neighborhood playhouse it goes in for stage production.

Stage Management a Problem.

"The best of theatrical talent is obtained for these shows. Stars from the legitimate willingly go to the movie houses because they make more money, even though they have to work harder. Stage management, strange as it may sound, has been a big problem for motion-picture theater managers for some time, and the field has by no means been expanded to its limit."

All of which being true, the question is, what does that have to do with the passing of amateur night?

He answers the question readily: "Because of the fact that all the large motion-picture theaters are making stage presentations, they are naturally trying to recruit as much of their talent as possible right at home. Economic reasons, if no other, would prompt such action. The result is that in our theater, for instance, I hold semi-weekly auditions at which local performers are given ample opportunity to show just what they can do on the stage. The same is done elsewhere in the city."

The United States bureau of mines is making a movie of the copper industry of this country and Canada.

Poor Man's Judge Bars Lawyers From Court

Wichita, Kans.—A court in which no lawyer is admitted, except as a spectator, where there are no court attaches, no office equipment, no permanent records and which meets at the time and place most suitable to the litigants, is conducted here by David D. Leahy, veteran newspaper man.

The jurisdiction of the court is limited to the city, and to sums of money not to exceed \$20. Often cases involving less than a dollar are heard. Ordinarily after Judge Leahy has rendered a decision, payment is made on the spot. When a judgment is not paid he sends notice of it to the clerk of the District court and it is executed in the same way as any other judgments are executed.

The court was created by the legislature. About ten years ago Judge Leahy took it over. In less than a year he has heard more than 300 cases and not one of them has been appealed.

Around Orchard

IMPORTANCE OF PRUNING GRAPES

A small crop of fruit may be expected the third year after planting from grapevines which have been adequately pruned during the first two years in the vineyards, says J. H. Clark, assistant pomologist at the New Jersey College of Agriculture. Any time during February or early March will be suitable for this important operation.

All vines should be pruned when planted so that only two strong buds are left on each plant. After one year's growth it is desirable to prune back to two buds again. If both buds grow, the weaker shoot should be rubbed off so that the plant will use all its energy in developing one good strong cane, which will become the permanent trunk. During this second growing season the vines should have some support. This may be a stake such as an ordinary bean pole, or the regular Kniffen trellis may be erected at this time. Even where stakes have been used the trellis should be up by the beginning of the fourth season at the latest.

At the end of the second growing season the cane which is to become the permanent trunk of the vine should be pruned back to five and one-half or six feet, or to the top wire of the trellis.

After the third growing season the regular four-arm Kniffen type of vine can usually be formed by training one vigorous cane from the permanent trunk in each direction on each of the two wires. Canes on the top wire can carry about six buds this year, whereas those on the lower wire should be pruned to four or five. All other canes should be removed entirely. Another year may be necessary before weak vines are large enough to carry the four arms.

Advice on Fruit Pests Saves Growers \$200,000

Fruit growers in western New York were saved about \$200,000 in spraying and dusting material during the past season by spray information, according to an estimate made by the New York State College of Agriculture at Ithaca, N. Y., and the Geneva experiment station. The largest saving which came from the spray information was on material ordinarily used for the control of aphid or plant lice. Last spring the college saw that this pest was almost absent in most western New York orchards and that spraying for them would be unnecessary.

In previous seasons the use of an aphid killer was usually considered necessary, for although aphids are scarce in the spring, under favorable conditions, they multiply rapidly and, unless controlled, soon become destructive.

It was determined also that San Jose scale was not important enough in certain localities to need the strong lime-sulphur sprays to control it. The information about these two pests meant an average saving of about \$45 to the grower, according to figures obtained from Wayne and Monroe counties.

The college states that this spray information could not have been used so well had it not been for the organization of the farm bureau in the counties, and in local communities, and that this saving was twice as much as the year's cost of the farm bureau in the fruit counties.

Mechanical Devices for Protecting Young Trees

Cylinders of woven wire netting are among the best mechanical contrivances for protecting young trees from rabbits, W. R. Martin, horticultural specialist at Kansas State Agricultural college, believes. Poultry netting of one inch mesh made of No. 20 galvanized wire is recommended. Rolls 15 inches wide may be used for cotton-tails, and the material cut into one-foot lengths. One of the sections is rolled into cylindrical shape about the trunk of each tree and fastened at several places by bending and twisting the projecting ends of wire.

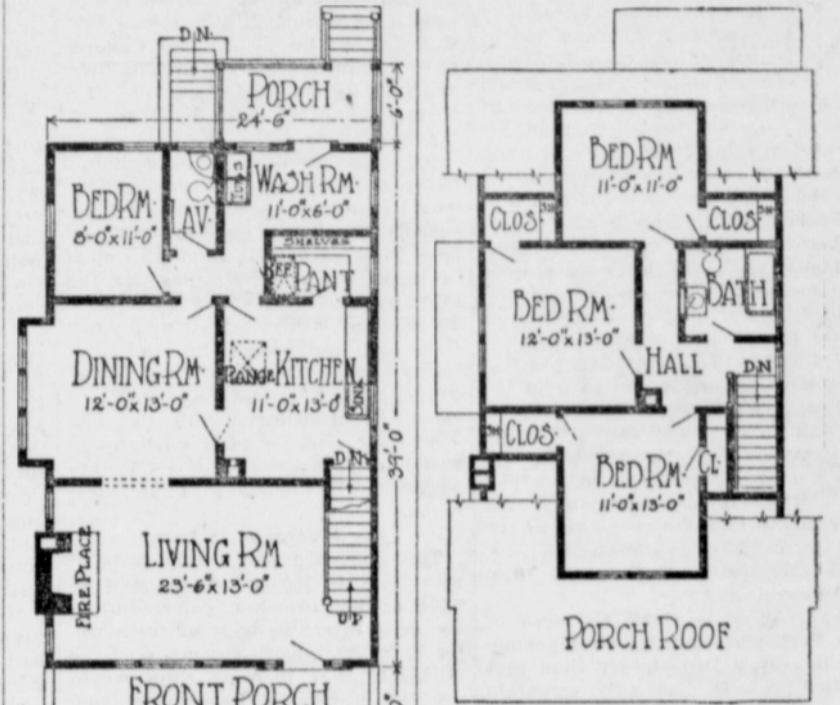
Guards should be left on the trunks as long as the trees require protection. They may be adapted to protection from both meadow mice and rabbits by using wire of finer mesh and by passing the lower edge into the ground.

Veneer and other forms of wooden protectors are popular and have several advantages when used for cottontail rabbits. When left permanently upon the trees, however, they furnish retreats for insect pests. The labor of removing and replacing them is considerable but they have the advantage, when pressed well into the soil, of protecting the trees from both mice and rabbits.

Propagate Fruit Plants

Some farmers are able to propagate their fruit plants successfully, and thus eliminate the cost of purchasing from nurseries. In general, however, this is an unwise procedure. Particularly so for the farmer who is not acquainted with the various propagation methods. This is a day of specialization, and the nurseryman who makes a business of propagating fruit plants is usually able to grow much better nursery stock than the farmer.

Seven Rooms and Wash Room Are Included in Compact House Plan



First Floor Plan.

By W. A. RADFORD

Mr. William A. Radford will answer questions and give advice FREE OF COST on all problems pertaining to the subject of building, for the readers of this paper. On account of his wide experience as editor, author and manufacturer, he is, without doubt, the highest authority on the subject. Address all inquiries to William A. Radford, No. 1827 Prairie avenue, Chicago, for reply.

A broad porch for summer and a good-sized living room for winter are two features of a home that are most desirable. They are included in this design for a seven-room house. The porch is 8 feet deep and 24 feet 6 inches long. The porch walls and pillars are constructed so that the porch may be screened. The entrance door leads into the living room, which has an open fireplace at one end and the

Wax in Liquid Form Preserves Linoleum

Proper care not only keeps your linoleum always new-looking but actually saves hours of housework besides.

The proper method of care is just this: If your linoleum is plain or inlaid, simply wax it. No scrubbing. No hot water. Spread a little wax either in paste or liquid form, between the folds of a piece of cheesecloth. Rub the floor thoroughly with this, applying the wax sparingly. Then polish it. For this purpose you can use a weighted brush made especially for this purpose or make a similar polisher yourself with a heavy brick wrapped in a soft cloth.

The result will be a soft, mellow gloss on your linoleum that you can retain always by an occasional dry-mopping and by touching up with a cloth moistened with liquid wax the places that are walked on most.

If your linoleum is printed then you should varnish it with a good, clear waterproof varnish. This protects the printed design from being scuffed or scratched. Apply the varnish in a thin, even coat. After at least a day, apply a second thin coat and your printed linoleum can be kept like new with just an occasional washing. This protective coat of varnish should be renewed once or twice a year.

When you must wash linoleum, be sure that you use a mild, pure soap with lukewarm water and wash but a small section of the linoleum at a time.

Furnishings Set Off by Good Woodwork

Conservatively it is estimated that one-sixth of the total cost of a house, exclusive of the lot, goes into the woodwork. Thus, in a \$6,000 house, \$1,000 would go into the woodwork, not necessarily expensive, but possessing beauty of design, correctness of proportion, good taste, and in harmony with the architectural design of the house, which is worth more money, if it is to be sold or rented, than the home with "just ordinary woodwork," selected without thought. It is attractive even when sparingly furnished or empty. Furnishings always show off to better advantage when set off by good woodwork.

Difficult to Decorate New Plaster on Walls

Not many types of surface are so difficult to finish as the plaster wall. There are, however, a few fundamental reasons for failure, the correction of which will do away with a large percentage of plaster painting troubles.

Much of the trouble results from painting a newly plastered wall before it has thoroughly seasoned or dried out. No plaster wall should be painted under any circumstances while it is still green. Six or eight months should be allowed for drying and a year is still better. During this time the walls should remain without covering of any sort. If the property owner is not willing to wait this length of time, emphasize the fact that the job is done at his own risk. The usual result is that the active alkali in the damp plaster acts upon the paint vehicle; the paint film softens and finally comes off.

Itemizes Cost of Each Trade on a Building

Following completion of a three-story brick apartment building, a Chicago contractor compiled a table showing the proportions of individual costs to the total construction.

The total cost of 35 cents a cubic foot is divided, according to percentage, as follows: Excavating 2, masonry 20, carpentry and mill work 33 1-3, roofing 1, plastering 7, plumbing 9, heating 6, electric work 1, tile work 1, sheet metal 0.5, painting and decorating 4, glazing 1, miscellaneous iron 0.5, finished hardware 1, cleaning and painting up 0.1, electric fixtures 1, shades 0.33, screens 0.5.

Approximately the same ratio applies to other buildings used for dwelling purposes, we are told.

Applying Wall Paper

If walls have been calmsomed one will have to wash this off with water or a solution of vinegar and water, to neutralize the alkalinity of the lime before applying wall paper. Then give the walls a coat of "size," let it dry, then you can apply the paper with assurance that it will not peel off. Use a good flour or cornstarch paste, or you can buy a paste prepared for the purpose.