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By F. O. Alexander



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The End of the Line

By AD SCHUSTER

(Copyright.)

JIM WILLIS, conductor and motor-man of the dinky street car that was known as the Crowstown Owl, whistled and changed the bell as he made his way through the deserted streets. Yet all the while his ear waited for the signal overhead to tell him that his only passenger wanted to get off. The car went its noisy way awakening loud echoes and tired residents, but the buzzer never purred.

William stopped the car, lumbered off heavily, and continued whistling as he reversed the trolley. He decided the girl must be asleep. The place to get off. "We don't go any farther!" The girl did not move.

"I say, miss, if you approached her now, if you don't get off you'll have to ride back. Maybe I took you past your station?"

"I'm not going to get off." He could see she had been weeping and that she was keyed almost to desperation. "I'm going to stay right on this car until morning."

With that the girl dropped a nickel in the hat Jim held in his hand and turned to the window. She was not going to talk any more.

"This isn't what you call a long ride, and they'll be many trips. It will cost you a dollar and more unless I forget to collect once in a while." He would have liked to help her, but the girl turned away the farther. "Oh, well, I can't kick. It's more money for the company."

There was a ten minute wait at the end of the line. The first two had dragged by when Jim returned to the girl. "I say, why don't you go home? What do you want to ride around town for?"

"I'll never go back." She was facing him now and her eyes snapping. "I left him and had no place to go. I guess it's none of your business if I'd rather ride on this car than stay home with him."

Again Jim retired. He remembered, now, he had seen the girl before. And the tall man who was with her and seemed so happy was the husband from whom she had fled. When newly-weds quarrel, he reflected, they make it out more seriously than those who have had practice. Poor girl; she was going to get tired of riding up and down the line. It was bad enough for a motor-man, but, then, he had the bell and the controller and a sense of responsibility. Jim looked at his watch. He had three minutes and would try again.

"Listen; I don't blame you. Now don't look surprised. I've seen you on the car before, you and him, and I always thought you was an ugly looking fellow, just the sort who would build a doze and be cruel to a defenseless girl, who did nothing more wrong than order up a lot of stuff he couldn't pay for. No, don't explain, I have got what you call a sympathetic heart. I understand without being told, and I sized up that husband of yours first time I saw him."

The girl stiffened and Jim avoided meeting her eyes. "He's the tall, skinny, black-haired kind, a regular sheik and a crook, too, most likely. I'll bet he swore at you something awful, and wouldn't be surprised if he beat you. Never mind, you don't need to tell me. I understand that kind like a book. The dirty hound!" And Jim hurried to the front platform, turned on the current, and started his rattling owl car on its return trip. Again he waited for the signal.

"Bzzzz!" The sound was imperative and Jim jumped to respond. There was a squeal of brakes and the girl rose to get off.

"You just wait until I tell him what you said!" Jim quailed under the blaze of anger. "I'll have you know my husband is no crook, or sheik, or hound. He—he's the best husband a girl ever had, and you... But she was running for the curb. "And me," said Jim, "I'm a good fit the fixer."

Slang Big Factor in Growth of Language

American slang, rather than being maligned and despised, should be depended on to assist in vitalizing and enriching the language, says Dr. Frederic C. Blanchard, professor of English at the University of California, at Los Angeles. Little of the slang at present ever remains, but that minimum that does not drop away is a definite and a constant factor in the growth of language to adapt itself to the changing conditions of a changing world, he adds.

"Much of the exuberance of slang is simply the indication of health, animal spirits, vitality, adaptation to new conditions of thought and action," said Doctor Blanchard. "Ben Jonson, the purist, quarreled with the slang employed by Shakespeare, but much of it has been adapted in our speech, as has some of the quaint but unorthodox expressions of Kipling.

Special Effort Only Can Give Supremacy

Strength is a matter of effort. You cannot hope for great strength, or athletic strength, or any high degree of vigor, as the result of nifty-pammy types of exercise. You cannot hope to become a wrestler by playing croquet. You cannot become a champion sprinter by the practice of walking. The piano mover has more muscular vigor than the book-keeper, and the book-keeper has more mental strength than the piano mover. Moral or spiritual strength grows with its exercise. And then again, athletic strength is acquired through athletic effort. It is almost axiomatic that the kind of strength you develop, and the amount of it, will be determined by the kind of effort and the extent of the effort put forth in training.

Bending Sound Waves

Explosions, resulting upon the firing of big guns, scientists have learned, warm the air to a height of 25 miles. Using a sensitive electrical device developed by determining the distance of velocity by their sound, observers have noticed that the explosion is, of course, easily heard close to the gun, farther away it is inaudible, but still farther on, it can once more be heard. This is said to be the result of a warm layer of air, at least 25 miles high, bending the sound waves back to earth again.

Always on Time

Lord Strathclyde, veteran barrister, claimed never to have been late for an engagement. On one occasion during a regatta on the Clyde his yacht was leading, and seemed certain to win.

Tax on Bachelors

Nish, Yugo-Slavia.—Bachelors more than thirty, hereafter must pay the Nish district government a special tax for the lives of single blessedness. All adult citizens who are not members of some cultural, educational, charitable and patriotic association must pay an even higher penalty.

3 Chinese Work on Law Book Translation

Washington.—The task of translating China's complex laws into English has been undertaken here by three Chinese students at the National University. They expect to take three years to the job, which will necessitate their deciphering a maze of Chinese hieroglyphics drawn on parchment long before the trump of Roman legions was being heard throughout the civilized world.

Oregon State News

The national parks bureau is preparing to install 300 new signs in Crater Lake national park.

Sportsmen of the Rogue River valley are organizing a movement to close commercial fishing in Rogue river.

Three state traffic officers passed out 60 tickets to McMinnville and Yamhill motorists last week for illegal lights.

About 1000 Hungarian partridges have been liberated in various sections of the state by the game commission.

A modern fireproof apartment building, and the only one of its kind in Salem, is soon to be built at a cost of \$150,000.

A special election will be held at Forest Grove April 17 to indorse the refunding of \$67,000 in water bonds issued in 1909.

The high school tuition tax of Marion county taxpayers will be increased one-third when recent legislation goes into effect.

Clatsop county will be the first county in the state to get its timber lands classified under the reforestation act last legislature.

Bruce commandery, Knights Templars, of Corvallis has decided to send a drill team to the national convocation at Minneapolis in 1931.

The Twin Round-Up held in Albany last fall aroused such statewide interest that it will be repeated this year on an enlarged scale.

The total fire loss in Oregon outside of Portland for February was \$313,219, according to the report of Insurance Commissioner Lee.

Survey work over the proposed 80 mile extension of the Great Northern from Klamath Falls to Lookout, California, is well under way.

Ben's oldest landmark, the 45-year-old Staats house, has been destroyed by fire. It was the first lumber house built over Bend now stands.

Three department heads of the Eugene high school have been ousted by the board of education because they failed to cooperate with others of the staff.

The hotel with 40 acres of land at Deschutes is offered to Deschutes county for use as a county farm for a price of \$16,000.

Mrs. Catherine Pugh, 89, a resident of Marion county since 1853, died at her home in Salem recently following a stroke of apoplexy.

TURKEY MAY LOSE PRETTY FATIMAS

Name Reform to Be Undertaken by Ghazi.

Angora, Turkey.—Fourteen million Turks are in frantic search of a family name. Warning signals have been up for some time that the ghazi was contemplating a name reform and now a commission has been formed to frame a law.

All the Fatimas, Mustaphas, Hussains and Hassans of this land where family names have never existed will be obliged to concoct a Turkish counterpart for Smith, Jones and Brown, and tag it to their given names.

The confusion arising from the fact that hundreds of thousands of women are all called by the same name of Fatima and hundreds of thousands of men by the same tag, Mustapha has brought about this next accidental reform of champion reformer Kemal.

In prescribing family names for his Turks, the ghazi is once again flouting Koranic precept. It is said that the reason for the absence of family names among the Moslem Turks is to be found in a verse from the Koran which exhorts: "Be not proud of your father's, your grandfather's or your ancestors' names. It is what you are yourself that counts."

Woman Chemist Delves Into Mystery of Coal

Pittsburgh, Pa.—The value of a lump of coal is engaging the attention of Milada Friedlova, twenty-four, research chemist from Czechoslovakia. Miss Friedlova devotes nearly all her time to the study of coal analysis and heat experimentation at Carnegie Institute of Technology. She spent nine years at the University of Prague and the last four years has been doing chemical research work in the state higher industrial school of Prague.

The young woman was among the forty or more graduates sent to the United States under the auspices of the Masaryk Academy of Work and the American-English Council for Research in the mutual interest of the homeland and the country visited.

She is an attractive brunette and has translated several scientific Czechoslovakian publications into German and English.

Writer Is Sponsor for Big Turnip Marathon

Orlando, Fla.—Katherine Holland Brown, who won a \$25,000 magazine prize in the latter part of 1927 with her novel, "The Father," believes that there are other things in life than the business of being a successful novelist.

One, she believes, is conducting turnip growing contests among the negroes of Orlando, where she maintains her winter home, and in five nearby towns.

Miss Brown offered prizes for the best "back yard" turnips grown within a limited time upon the premises of the contestants in Orlando. She based her awards upon the decisions of a trio of judges. The plan received approval of interracial welfare workers, and coincidentally with her work on another novel and a group of short stories, the author is conducting turnip contests in five towns in central Florida.

Chromium Reflector for Auto Headlights

Washington.—Chromium, which can be electroplated on steel and is more permanent than nickel, has been found particularly suitable for reflectors in automobile headlights after an exhaust test made by the bureau of standards.

The research, undertaken to study the reflecting power of chromium, was extended to cover not only light in the visible portion of the spectrum but also the ultraviolet and infra-red.

Workmen are tearing down one of the landmarks at The Dalles. It is the old brewery building at the east end of Second street, which was built in 1862.

Depositors of the defunct Astoria National bank are receiving a 10 per cent dividend. This is the second dividend. The first one was of 25 per cent.

Malheur county is jubilant over the probable construction of a cross-state railroad from Crane to Crescent Lake and one from Nyssa to Winnemucca, Nevada.

The new village at the Owyhee dam site has a postoffice, and now comes the announcement that a motion picture house and a community hall are to be constructed.

A movement is under way to connect Eagle Point in Jackson county with Fort Klamath by a broad, straight, graveled road that will attract tourists and serve farmers.

The state game commission has planted 18,000 Eastern brook trout from five to nine inches long in McDowell creek, a tributary of the Santiam near Lebanon.

That many farms in the Weston district are at present too small to be operated profitably was one of the findings at the farmers' economic conference held at Weston.

Members of the Apple Growers' association at Hood River have voted at almost unanimously for a \$75,000 6 per cent bond issue with which to finance a canning department.

A delegation from the Astoria chamber of commerce will go to Seattle to interest the Seattle chamber of commerce in the proposed bridge across the Columbia at Astoria.

A total of 161 cougars have been killed in Oregon by hunters during the current year, according to the state game commission, which has paid out \$4025 in bounties.

The bottling and sale of Ashland's famous lithia water and the development of the road to Lake of the Woods are the two major projects which the lithians will push this year.

A fertile tract of 1850 acres of agricultural land on the west side of Tulake was opened recently to homestead entry by the United States reclamation service. Ex-service men have preferential rights for the first three months.

The heavy rains in the Cascade mountains caused a landslide at Frazer, a station on the Cascade line of the Southern Pacific, 73 miles from Eugene. Dirt and rock covered a locomotive standing on a side track but no one was injured.

The Apple Growers' association started forwarding checks last week, which will aggregate \$200,000 to \$225,000, on the second cash distribution on the packed apple and pear tonnage of 1928. On January 25 growers received a total of \$275,000, and in December a \$70,000 melon on canning apples was cut.

According to K. W. Farnsworth, county water master, the water level in the streams of Wallow county is at the lowest point ever recorded at this season of the year. This fact is considered a highly favorable condition, as it shows that a large amount of the moisture is being absorbed by the soil, which should go a long way toward helping crops make a good growth.

April 1 will mark the opening of the 1929 season in the Santiam national forest, according to C. C. Hall, supervisor. At that time a small force of veteran employees will commence repair work on roads and telephone lines. Later the force will be augmented and headquarters opened at Fish Lake. Work will be resumed on Minto trail, east and south of Detroit, as soon as weather conditions permit.

Four persons were killed and 207 injured in 1803 traffic accidents in Oregon during February, according to a report prepared at Salem recently by T. A. Raffety, chief of the state traffic department. Approximately 560 of the accidents were due to carelessness, while in 238 cases the drivers failed to give right of way. Fifty-eight drivers were exceeding the speed limit. Passing on the wrong side was responsible for 148 accidents, with 14 accidents due to passing on a curve. In 64 cases the drivers were on the wrong side of the road.

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