

The Way of Life

BRUCE BARTON

COPS

As we drove along beside the Hudson River we noticed a crowd at one of the piers. A discouraged gentleman had attempted to drown himself.

Dripping and dejected, he sat on an empty barrel, while the cop who had pulled him out of the water talked to him like a big brother. Presently the patrol wagon arrived to take them away, the cop still uttering words of friendly encouragement.

At a busy corner stood a woman with a baby in her arms and a youngster tugging at her skirt, anxiously viewing the torrent of traffic, afraid to plunge in.

The cop in the middle of the street sighted her, and raised his arm with a knightly gesture. The city stopped while the timid little mother crossed over.

It was late at night. On the steps of a residence, the windows of which were shuttered, a man was slouched in an obvious state of intoxication.

A cop touched him on the shoulder. They held a brief conversation. Presently the cop halted a taxi, loaded the inebriated citizen in it, gave instructions to the taxi driver, and the taxi drove away.

These incidents, occurring within my own sight and close together, reminded me that I have long in-

tended to write a little something about Cops.

I have been a respectful admirer of them for years. They are so good looking physically, so even tempered, so courteous and so sensible.

Doubtless there is an occasional grifter among them; no large group of men in any profession is free from black sheep.

I admire most of all their self-possession and the sound common-sense way in which they go about their work. Adlai E. Stevenson, once vice-president of the United States, used to quote a friend's remark that "the Constitution of Illinois is an almost perfect document, but it should have one additional paragraph. It should provide for an appeal from the Supreme Court to any two justices of the peace."

The idea was that when all the high-priced lawyers and judges had finished their legal wrangling, then a couple of country chaps should render a final decision on the basis of simple common sense.

I recall that remark whenever I see a cop calmly taking testimony and dispensing justice in a traffic case. I feel then like adding a paragraph to my will, to read:

"In case of any dispute among my heirs, the whole matter shall be submitted to the nearest traffic policeman, and his decision shall be final."

menter recently covered 162 miles in a single glider flight.

There is no likelihood of the glider displacing the engine plane, but every flight made in one increases airmen's knowledge of air conditions and navigation and so tends to make flying safer.

MOVIES

The Motion Picture Producers and Distributors of America, Inc., which is the organization of which Mr. Will H. Hays is president, takes exception to my statement in this column recently that "Two-Gun" Crowley admitted that he got the idea of being a "bad man" from the movies.

Whether he did or not, however, does not seem to me to affect my contention that children and per-

sons of immature minds who see crime and criminals exploited in the films are much more seriously affected than they can possibly be from reading crime news in the newspapers. For one thing, the immature do not read newspapers outside of the big cities, whereas they go to movies everywhere.

I have no animus against Mr. Hays or the motion picture industry as such, but I do maintain that in presenting life as it is not in the films the movie magnates give youth a distorted impression of values and do immeasurable harm.

SPEED

The world is moving at a faster pace than ever before. A few years ago thirty-five miles an hour was considered high speed for automobiles. Four-wheel brakes and

smooth roads make 75 miles a safe speed today and many cars can do 100 miles an hour or better.

The other day the fastest speed ever made on rails was achieved by the new German air-propelled "rail Zeppelin." Driven by gasoline motors which whirl an air-propeller, the car made the 173 miles from Hamburg to Berlin at an average speed of 106 miles an hour, and for one stretch made over 143 miles an hour.

It is certain that travel at the rate of 100 miles an hour by any means of transportation will seem commonplace to the people of the next generation.

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SHIP AND TRAVEL BY RAIL



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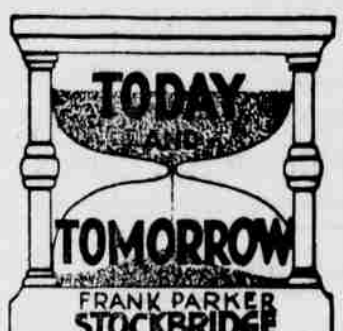
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ANTIQUES

The craze for "antiques" has reached the point where almost any piece of furniture that was made before 1890 can be sold at a fancy price to somebody. There are not enough "colonial" pieces to go around, so the latest craze is for "Victorian" antiques.

In a New England antique shop the other day I saw kerosene lamps, china dogs, walnut "what-nots" and hair-cloth-covered chairs and sofas, which might have come out of my grand-mother's parlor, marked at fancy prices as "antiques." Alongside of them were a leather-seated cobbler's bench, a home-made boot-jack and a high-wheel bicycle.

BOOKS

It is a widespread belief that Americans generally read nothing but fiction.

As this is written, the most popular book in America is "The Education of a Princess," written by the former Grand Duchess Marie of Russia. The Grand Duchess, reared as a member of the imperial family of the Czar, married a Swedish prince from whom she was later divorced, and came to America to earn her living. She got employment in a fashionable dress establishment in Fifth Avenue, and wrote the story of her life, which reveals the inner workings of the Czar's regime, at the suggestion of friends, never dreaming that it would sell so many copies as to make her rich.

GLIDERS

The nearest approach to flying the way a bird does is the glider plane, which is an airplane of special design without any engine. Once it gets off the ground it navigates on the air currents just the way the big soaring birds do, without moving their wings.

A Canadian Lieut. Lisant Beardmore, was the first to fly across the English Channel in a glider, a few days ago. A German experi-

U.B. Prifty

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