

### Custom Gives Prince of Wales Right to Risk His Neck As a Horseman

The prince of Wales has finished the hunting and point-to-point seasons with more spills than usual, but with nothing like the injuries that led to a question in the house of commons in 1924. The unlucky point-to-point season had barely begun when a tricky jump at an array meeting near Aldershot brought down his mount and left the pink-coated figure of the prince stretched on the ground, dazed and bleeding from a kick in the face.

It was the worst accident which had ever befallen this heir to the throne of an empire. And it scared the country into raising the question of his riding in the house of commons—an unprecedented step, for the heir to the throne is not ordinarily bound by the advice of ministers, and, even in the case of the king, advice rarely extends to personal habits. This season's accidents have been the ordinary spills that even hunting men expect. If they have occasioned any public concern, it is a sense of relief that a confessedly dangerous sport is over for another year without serious results.

Seven spills have come the prince's way this season, written in the New York Times magazine. He landed head first in a crowd of his horse stumbled at a fence during a run with the Cotswolds hounds January 4. March 12 a companion's horse crashed into the wing of a jump, bringing down the prince's horse, while the two were expecting the prince's hunters over the Croxton Park race course. The prince turned a double somersault in mid-air when his mount was thrown heavily during the Oakley hunt point-to-point at Risley, March 21. He won his race in the Highland brigade's point-to-point meeting at Bowland, March 29, after taking a toss at a sticky jump in a blinding rainstorm. He fell at the first fence in the Household brigade's point-to-point at Hawthorn Hill, April 2, and he toppled off the season with two more spills during the High Peak Hunt's point-to-point at Flagg Moor, in Derbyshire, April 11.

In previous seasons he has broken his collarbone twice; two of his hunters have dropped dead under him; he has sprained his wrist; he has scratched his nose so that it bled profusely, and in the latter of all these accidents, when he came down with his horse, Aldershot in 1924, he was carried off the course on a stretcher with concussion and a badly cut face.

His spills this season have been lucky, and such public concern as they have occasioned has not been apparent. This is not to say that it has not existed. But if it has existed, there has been and always will be serious difficulty in expressing it. The throne is today the sole political link of an empire of more than 450 million people and the safety of its heir is a high affair of state. It is an extremely serious matter.

**The Prince's Own Concern**  
So exacting is the public life that imperial position imposes on the royal family that by common consent their private life is kept invariably private. This also is a serious matter. It is not made serious by an enacted law on the subject, but by the traditional respect in which the royal family is held, a respect reinforced by the personality of the present king. If the prince of Wales in private life is a hard-riding Englishman, it is normally his own concern. In all the ordinary ups and downs of the hunting field it is not a matter of public comment. It is, therefore, hardly to be expected that seven ordinary spills in the course of a season would lead to any expression of public anxiety.

Indeed, there is a special reason why the ordinary risks of the hunting field should not be commented upon. So much has been said about the quality of the prince's horsemanship that the subject is regarded as one on which the prince has been, perhaps, over-tried. He has been accused so often of being a bad horseman that there is a disposition to give the subject a rest, always, provided, of course, that no really bad spill occurs to revive it. This disposition has been reinforced recently by what purports to be the prince's reception of a broadside such as the London papers issue to their newboys, which placarded the news: "Prince has a fall." These carried in huge black letters were noted by every newspaper in the London area.

spill at the seventh fence during the Oakley Hunt point-to-point, March 21. Speaking that night at the dinner of the Company of Master Mariners in London, he said: "It is but a poor man and one most certainly not worthy to be the master mariner of the navy or of the fishing fleet who cannot survive one of the slight mishaps that come to us sometimes who love to ride a horse."

**Defiant His Riding Ability**  
Another less formal but perhaps more revealing reference followed his bad spill in March, 1924. The jump was a tricky one, a stiff, built up brushwood fence with a front height of something over three feet and a sloping drop of six feet to a landing as hard as a paved road. The prince's horse took off too soon, jumping onto the fence instead of over it and floundering down in a heap on the other side, kicking its thrown rider in its struggles to right itself. The rest of the riders jumped clear, and the small crowd of spectators rushed to pick up the prince and carry him to one side, for the race was twice around the course. The prince was lying dazed on the ground with his head pillowed on an overcoat when the ambulance arrived and a Red Cross nurse began sponging the blood from his face.

"What happened?" he said.  
"You fell off, sir," said the nurse.  
"I fell off? I did not. The horse must have fallen with me."  
That was far from an ordinary spill, and the national shock found expression in the house of commons. There was no constitutional precedent for such a question, but precedent in the analysis is made and unmade by public opinion, and there is no the slightest doubt that this particular precedent was made with the concurrence of the entire country. Nor is there the slightest doubt that a similar question would be put again if the prince's passion for riding should result in another really bad spill.

This is a contingency which recurs every winter and will continue to recur as long as the prince hunts and races. It does not necessarily imply a doubt of the prince's horsemanship, but in England at least, for Englishmen know what hunting is. Well-known riders like Lord Balmory, Pat Nickalls and Captain Drummond take their losses without the quality of their horsemanship being called in question and the same might easily be said of the prince of Wales. The essential difference between the prince and all other hunting men is that the prince's neck is not his own to break.

**English Ardent Horsemen**  
All this, however, has its lighter side. It presents the diverting spectacle of the English trying to keep an Englishman off a horse. An army officer, being recalled for manifesting courage instead of caution, this indeed, is something new. There is nothing more congenially English than the month of point-to-point meeting in which the hunting season attains its thrilling climax.

Is there any Englishman who wants to prevent the prince of Wales from participating in this typically English picnic? There is not. It has its risks for every rider who participates in it, and for the prince it has risks that other riders are not called upon to face. There are crowds of spectators at every jump when the prince is racing. Many of them are women and girls, kept at a safe distance by uniformed police constables from London.

But no amount of police supervision has so far prevented them from cheering the prince, and it is possible that more than one of his spills have been due to those shouts and cordially intentioned bursts of cheering. A thoroughbred hunter, so highly strung that he is ready to jump at the sight of his own shadow in the paddock, is apt in the race to be thrown out of his stride or to refuse or to refuse to take his balance. In the take-off and being down himself and rider, all because of a sudden burst of cheering as he approaches a tricky jump.

**OLDS OFFICIALS ALTER OPINIONS**

PONTIAC, Mich.—Back in 1902 two bright young students at a high university collaborated in writing a pessimistic thesis which scornfully criticized the automobile as "a rich man's toy, a useless invention with no future."

Their thesis was based upon personal experience with several popular cars of the day, including the long-forgotten "Kaiser" which roared a lone and stalling cylinder head right up thru the floorboards.

The students experimented also with some of the first four-cylinder cars which then were having a stream of adverse advertising sponsored by the single cylinder manufacturers who drew the aging comparisons between the complexity of "handling four small horses instead of one big powerful horse."

### Look Out! Don't Land Here



CONDUCTING a campaign to reduce traffic accidents, the Better Traffic committee of Pittsburgh recently sponsored the exhibition of this miniature hospital. The display was routed over the main thoroughfares of the city, mounted on a two-ton Graham Brothers truck.

### Vice Presidential Nominations

Because of the seeming probability that Hoover and Smith will head the respective party tickets this year, early attention has been given to second place on those tickets. Both politicians and editors are discussing persons and parties to choose for the vice-presidential nominations men who, first of all, are qualified to assume the responsibilities of the presidency, but politicians are not usually guided by such admonitions. Their first desire is to win elections.

### A Dawdling Senate Rebuked

The senate didn't adjourn with a flea in its ear. It was sternly rebuked by Senator Hefflin for going home and leaving the public business unattended to. He was warning that he would move to change the rules of the senate so it couldn't neglect its duties in this way and "leave the doors of congress, adjourn and go home" without providing for a certain amount of debate.

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But the senate is incurable. Mr. Hefflin had only got to the point of "Mr. President, this is not all" when the senate knocked off work again to receive a message from the house of representatives. It was about some conference report or other, plain as the public business that Mr. Hefflin was dealing with, but any excuse will do for the senate when it wants to neglect the common welfare.

### Runaway Girls From Portland Catching Rides

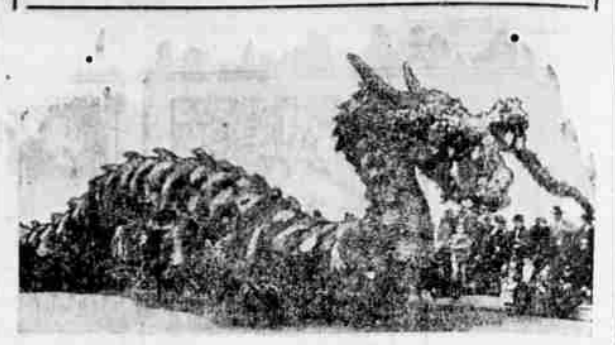
PORTLAND, Ore., June 9.—(AP) Stella Phillips, 14, and Marian Luciani, 19, who left the Phillips home Thursday night under mysterious circumstances, stayed at the Bligh hotel at Salem Thursday night, according to word received by Portland police.

The girls were later said to have left Salem for Marshfield on a truck. Identification of the girls was made by Salem authorities through photographs. It was reported.

A telegram sent Thursday night to the family of Miss Phillips was believed to have been a hoax. It read: "We have them and will send the bodies later."

Rags wanted at the Mail Tribune office. Must be clean.

### Rose Festival to Have Dragon



Thousands of Blooms—Twelve Different Kinds—Were Used in Decorating This Monster.

Coming to Portland for the Floral Parade on Thursday of the Annual Rose Festival Week (June 11-15) are many entries from distant cities. Glendale and Pasadena, California, will send a replica of the Glendale prize-winning entry (pictured above) in the Pasadena Tournament of Roses. The dragon is 85 feet long and 15 feet high. As it moves along the parade route it writhes its entire body, swishes its tail, rolls its eyes, turns its head, opens and closes its colossal jaws and blows fire from its nostrils.

The decorative scheme called for the use of Hadley roses in the construction of mouth and tongue; white carnations for teeth and red roses for the eyes. The head was of yellow Clandius de Pernet roses, violets and cornflowers. Body, tail and legs were of red carnations, yellow pom poms, calendulas and roses. 150 strings of smilax were used to define the scales of the monster.

From a small civic enterprise the Portland Rose Festival has grown to international fame. A week is now required for its presentation. Coronation of Her Majesty the Queen of Rosaria takes place Monday. Opening of the Fifteenth Annual Rose Show is scheduled for Tuesday. A Children's Pageant will be presented in picturesque Laurelhurst Park on Wednesday. The famous Floral Parade is announced for Thursday and the Merrykhama Parade headed by The Parade of the Nations for Friday. In addition the mammoth Pageant "Where Rolls the Oregon" will be staged every evening, June 11-15, in the Multnomah Stadium, where 30,000 seats are provided for spectators. These seats are also available for comfortable viewing of each Parade as it circles the massive bowl of the Stadium.

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