

BLIND TRAVELING SALESMAN TRAVELS ALONE; NEVER MISSES TRAIN

Blind!
Living in a circle of eternal darkness, nearly always alone in meditations, but asks sympathy from no one.

And yet he is a successful traveling salesman, in and out of trains, into taxicabs, looking after his own baggage, calls on his prospective customers—

And he has never lost a trunk nor missed a train. He lands an order in nearly every cotton mill of rice he visits.

That's Percy H. Howard of Hartford Conn. who came to Charlotte yesterday, called on five textile mills placed five orders and will leave tomorrow for Greensboro. He will return to Charlotte next June.

These facts he gave to an Observer reporter last night at the Charlotte Hotel. Mr. Howard was dressed in a snappy gray business suit, wore a brown fedora hat black shoes and a brown sweater vest. He carried a cane, and he wears a pointed beard similar to that of your favorite physician. He speaks with a voice that has a business ring in it, and he looks at one squarely while speaking. His soft brown eyes show no trace of their blindness.

"I have no trouble getting around," he said. "I travel without a companion. The porters on the trains, the bell boys at the hotels, taxi drivers and baggage men are my usual assistants. If I expect to make many calls while in a city requiring the use of street cars, taxicabs, or much walking, I obtain the services of a messenger boy from one of the telegraph companies.

"I left Hartford in February and I have visited nearly every city of importance in the southeast, including Atlanta and Birmingham. No boy ever leads me across the street. He usually precedes me and if we are traversing a sidewalk, I step beside him.

"I can sense a man's friendliness or hostility by vibration. The hand-shake conveys to me something of character, and this is confirmed by the voice when my prospective customer speaks. I do not play on any one's sympathy. I have an action to sell a commodity that is useful—often necessary—and I offer it on its merits alone.

"For several years after I lost my sight—and I have been blind for 10 years—I seemed to be utterly alone in a world grown suddenly gloomy, creeping here and there in pools of darkness, brooding and becoming moody. Then came the radio. It lifted me out of my depression. I found out what was happening. I was again well posted.

"Before my eyes failed me I was associated with others in the manufacturing business. We made a certain brand of rubber clothing. One day I woke up and learned that my business had failed—had been wiped out completely, my partners said.

"Would I buy me a fiddle and park myself on a street corner? Would I travel to some charity institution? Would I call on my friends for help? Not on your life. I decided to become a traveling salesman. And I did. I have never regretted it. I expect to continue this work for at least 15 years longer. I am now 54 years old—so you see I am still young."

He paused a moment. The reporter felt that the man was listening to some vibrations perhaps. Then Mr. Howard continued:

"I love the south. Wonderful people down here—kind and courteous. Some of my best boyhood and middle life business friends have deserted me. Probably they do not like blind people. But if a southerner feels that way towards me, he never lets it be known to me. It is my ambition to some day live in the south—and I like Charlotte mighty well."

Mr. Howard said he had traveled during much of his life. Before he lost his eyesight he had made a trip to Europe a score or more times, and had often visited South America. He knows his United States perfectly.

He has a son who is in business for himself, he said.—Charlotte Observer

SODOM AND GOMMORAH COVERED BY DEAD SEA

St. Louis, May 4.—Evidence of the existence of a Canaanite civilization of the early bronze age, dating about the 20th century B. C. has been found by the Xenia expedition in a tour of the Dead Sea Region of Palestine, Dr. Melvin G. Kyle, head of the party, said in a letter received here.

Dr. Kyle, who is president of Xenia seminary here, declared his explorations also had tended to confirm the judgment of earlier investigators, that the two cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, which, according to Biblical accounts were destroyed by fire and brim stone, are buried beneath the dead sea beyond the power of men to discover them.

Pottery found in the graves opened by Arab treasure hunters in the region, Dr. Kyle's letter said shows conclusively the existence of the early Canaanite civilization. He characterized it as a "pre-Moabite civilization pointing out that 'Lot was the father of Moab.'"

"This is a necessary first link in the evidence we desire," the letter continued. "For the Bible represents just such a civilization as being here in the days of Sodom and Gomorrah. Moreover there follows just here one of those expressive sentences in Bible history.

"The destruction of the cities of the Plain put out that civilization as suddenly and completely as one snuffs out a candle. Never again is any mention made or hint given or implied of a civilization in this plain after the Lord destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah. This is exactly what our researches have revealed. Thus, what seemed only negative evidence, becomes a positive evidence on the subject. The next civilization that appears is Byzantine, which comes over 2,000 years later.

Although suggestions have been made that divers be sent down into the Dead sea to recover something from the two cities beneath its surface, Dr. Kyle scents the idea, declaring the rushing waters of small rivers have brought down alluvial deposits that have been filling the bottom of the sea, making the work of divers exceedingly difficult, if not impossible.

BUCHANAN TO BE TRIED AGAIN FOR MURDER OF HARSELL

Fonze Buchanan, wanted here on two cases of murder and several liquor cases, and who had skipped his bond several months ago, was apprehended at or near Newhall, West Va. last week by his bondsmen—J. C. Greer and with the aid of Deputy Sheriff Honeycutt, was brought to Bakersville and placed in jail.

The murder cases had at the last term of court been not pressed with leave to call them up when the defendant was caught. Greer was on Buchanan's bond in a whiskey case for one thousand dollars, and had been trying for quite a while to locate him, and as a reward had been offered for his apprehension; he was arrested at the above named place by officials there, and Mr. Greer notified. He secured the services of Mr. Honeycutt and together they went after the defendant.

There are true bills against him charging murder of two men, Blaise Harsell and Sam Buchanan and it's likely he will have to stay in jail until the next term of criminal court in November. The liquor cases against him are still pending.

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against him will not likely amount to much or at least won't worry him as will the alleged charge of killing two men.—Mitchell Co. Banner.

NO TIME FOR THE PESSIMIST

The pessimist we have always with us. On every hand, in every age, are men who delight to drag a scabbard out into the street of the world and cry out to all who will listen that mankind is on the highway to perdition. Sooner or later they are run down by traffic in which gruesome fate they find complete vindication for their theories.

The world today has many vexatious problems, but what is important to note is that it has been troubled gravely before. And it has always come out scarred but sound. Ever since shortly after the dawn of things there have been reactionaries and anarchists and profiteers and greedy fellows of every type in every walk of life. They are forgotten now, as the trouble makers of today will be forgotten in another century. Many remember long those who serve their well. Nations have been overthrown before and empires have expired, but mankind kept on developing through the centuries his knowledge and faith and power.

But there is no progress through wishing. Man grows only by working. It is not enough to have faith that we shall come out of the valley of our discontent. We must have the faith that inspires work and the zeal of precept that enforces examples. If we would live again in the piping times of peace and plenty we must labor for them.—Gastonia Gazette.

LIFE (W. A. Waston.)

Life is a mystery. One comes into a world full of responsibilities that must be met, or otherwise your life's mission is in vain.
In babyhood your eyes sparkle and

glisten with rays of hope for a life of happiness if you will only grow up as God intended for you to do.

Youth comes on and the golden moments of opportunity. You then begin to shape your destiny for good or bad. Then is the time to plan for the future as old age will overtake you on the slopes of life's highway. You must not put on the brakes but catch everything on high by planning for a ripe old age.

In young manhood is the time to drive straight to the goal of success and crowned effort by laying aside every possible cent with sense for the inevitable of coming age and save endless worry as you end your days which must come to a close with all humanity.

Be prudent and wise and take a lesson from Mother Nature and keep your energy stored up in the battery for the battles of life as you go along your daily way.

Then and only then will you close your career with a testimony of achievement of which your posterity will be proud to say "he was a real man" and now lies at rest awaiting for all things and shaped his destiny while living of which all can be proud of the battle you fought for yourself and that family history can be kept straight by the marks you have made.



DAVIDSON DEPARTMENT STORE Boone, N. C.

Announcement

On May 1, 1924 we will again put in daily operation a jitney between Boone and Mountain City, Tenn. The jitney will leave Mtn. City at 7 a. m. arrive at Boone at 10:30, and leave on return at 2 p. m. and arrive at Mtn. City at 5:30.

A good comfortable car will be used with careful and polite driver.

BOONE TRAIL TRANSFER CO.
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Forty six farm women of Mecklenburg county have joined the kitchen improvement contest inaugurated in that county by Miss Bertha Profile, home agent. An oil stove and kitchen cabinet will be given as prizes to those making the greatest improvement during the period of the contest.

The use of fruit in the diets is beneficial, say extension workers of the State College of Agriculture. Fruits like vegetables, contain those vitamins needed by the body.

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