

Dale Carnegie

Author of "How to Win Friends and Influence People."



5-Minute Biographies

JOHN GOTTLIEB WENDEL
New York's Queerest Rich Family

The most talked-of house in New York used to stand at the corner of Fifth Avenue and 39th Street. For twenty years it was called "The House of Mystery." Detective stories, newspaper articles, plays, and even motion pictures were woven around its grim brick walls. Fifty thousand people passed its nailed-up front door every day for years; yet rarely did anyone ever see a sign of life behind its shuttered windows.

If you rode up Fifth Avenue on a sight-seeing bus, possibly the Wendel house was pointed out to you as the only home in the world where a yard worth a million dollars was maintained so that the poodle dog would have a place to play in.

The Wendels were one of New York's richest families. Their

real estate holdings were once valued at a hundred million dollars. Yet they loved to cling to the past. A bachelor brother and his spinster sisters lived in a house that had been built when Abraham Lincoln was still an unknown prairie lawyer out in Illinois. I walked past that house when it was being razed, and saw workmen carrying out zinc bathtubs and marble wash-stands that had been in use ever since the days of slavery.

The Wendels used gas for lighting because they believed it was easier on the eyes than electricity. They had no use for radios, for dumb waiters, for elevators, or automobiles. The only modern improvement in the house was a telephone; and that was installed only two days before the death of the last of the Wendels, so that the nurse could call a doctor.

The Wendel House was assessed at only six thousand dollars; yet the lawyer often pointed out to the family that it was costing them a thousand dollars a day to live in a six-thousand-dollar house. That was true because the land on which it stood was worth almost four million dollars, and the interest on that amount plus the assessments and taxes amounted to about a thousand dollars a day.

But in spite of all this wealth, the Wendel family lived in the past.

John Gottlieb Wendel died in 1914, up to the time of his death, he had all his suits of clothes copied exactly from a suit he had purchased at the end of the Civil War. The suit was kept in the same box in which it had been delivered forty years earlier, and he had eighteen copies of it made at one time. He wouldn't wear any fabric that had been dyed; so when he wanted a black suit, he got the wool from a firm in Scotland which supplied him with wool shorn especially from black sheep.

He carried an umbrella, rain or shine, winter and summer.

He had one straw hat which he wore year after year until it literally fell apart, but at the beginning of each season, he had it varnished a bright, new, shiny black.

He believed that all manner of mysterious diseases were contracted through the feet so he had the soles of his shoes made

of gutta percha an inch thick to insulate him against the germs in the ground.

In his day, John Gottlieb Wendel was New York's biggest one-man landlord. He grew rich simply by sitting tight and letting the city grow up around him.

The Wendel sisters were violently opposed to drink; they once refused to sign a million-dollar lease until they were promised that the first-aid kit and the medicine cabinet to be used in the building wouldn't contain more than a pint of alcohol. In spite of that, after their death, ten thousand dollars' worth of rare wines, whiskies and champagnes were found in their cellar. It had lain untouched so long that hundreds of bottles had turned to vinegar.

John Gottlieb Wendel had seven sisters, and he did all in his power to keep them from marrying. He feared that if they married and had children, the estate would be broken up. So he warned them that all men were after their money, and when suitors came to call on them, he frankly told them not to call again.

Only one of the sisters, Miss Rebecca, married; and she didn't marry until she was sixty years old. The others faded into a desolate old age and died without companions. The story of their wasted lives is a pitiful illustration of how little money, in itself, can mean.

Georgianna, the most spirited of the sisters, fought against her family restrictions until she developed a persecution mania and had to be sent away. For twenty years, she was confined to an institution for the mentally ill, and, when she died, in 1930, most of her friends thought she had been dead for years. She was worth five million dollars, but it didn't bring her five cents' worth of happiness.

Another sister, Josephine, lived alone in one of the Wendel country houses surrounded by no one but servants. The pitiful part of it is that she dreamed that the house was filled with noisy, happy children, and used to talk and play with them. She imagined that people came to see her, and she used to have her servants set six places at the dinner table. As each course was served, she would change places, pretending that she was all of the guests in turn.

One by one, as the sisters died, the rooms they had occupied were locked and the shutters closed; until finally Miss Ella left open only her bedroom, her dining room downstairs, and the large bare room upstairs where she and her sisters had passed their lonely school days. For years, she lived alone in that spooky, forty-room house with a few faithful old servants and her French poodle dog, Tobey.

Tobey slept in Ella's room in a little four-poster bed exactly like his mistress'. And Tobey ate his dog biscuits and pork chops in the dining-room at a special brass table spread with a velvet cloth.

When Ella Wendel died, she left millions of dollars to the Methodist church for missionary work; yet she herself had seldom gone to church.

She died believing she hadn't a living relative in the world; but within a year, presto, two thousand three hundred alleged relatives sprang up like mushrooms all over the earth.

John Gottlieb Wendel never made a will. He said he "didn't want any lawyer making money out of his property." Well, the joke was on him, for before the estate was settled, not only one lawyer, but two hundred and fifty lawyers, had collected fees out of the gold-rush for the Wendel millions.

DOBSON SCHOOL PROGRAM GIVEN

(Continued from page one)

Dobson and Pilot Mountain. A three-act farce comedy will be presented Tuesday evening at 8 o'clock by members of the senior class of the school. The play presents a variety of action and promises an evening of entertainment.

The final program will be the graduating exercises on Wednesday evening, May 3, with Dr. Frank P. Graham, president of the University of North Carolina, delivering the address to the graduates.

A cordial invitation is extended the public to attend.

Correct

"So you go to school, do you, Bobby?" asked the clergyman of the nine-year old hopeful of the Briggly household. "Yes, sir," answered Bobby. "Let me hear you spell 'bread'." "B-r-e-d." "The dictionary spells it with an 'a', Bobby." "Yes, sir, but you didn't ask me how the dictionary spells it. You asked me how I spell it."

KUDZU VERY HARDY PLANT

However, First Growing Season Is Critical Period for New Seedlings

ROOTS ARE DIFFERENT

Because kudzu is such a hardy plant, farmers are likely to overlook the fact that the first growing season is a critical period for newly planted kudzu crowns or seedlings, according to J. E. Trevathan, assistant agronomist of the Soil Conservation Service, in the CCC Camp area, near Dobson.

The root system of a kudzu plant is drastically reduced when the plant is dug and competition for moisture by other types of vegetation seriously retards the growth of kudzu during the first spring and summer. Mr. Trevathan pointed out. Clean cultivation along the rows is therefore extremely important throughout the entire first growing season.

Approximately 200 acres of kudzu plantings for erosion control have been made by farmers in this section during recent months and proper cultivation will promote rapid growth, Mr. Trevathan said. If necessary, weeds and grass should be hoed out of rows and sufficient plowing should be done along the rows to control other vegetation, to keep the soil well broken, and to keep the vines dragged back to a relatively narrow strip along each row.

Such a system of cultivation prevents competition by weeds and grass and also results in the development of a thick stand of plants along the rows. Cultivation keeps the surface of the soil in good condition for vines to take root at the nodes, or joints, and develop new crowns. Soil thrown on runners by the plow also induces root growth.

Where some crops such as corn has been planted in the middles between the rows of kudzu, cultivation for the row crops will control weeds and keep the soil in good condition for the establishment of kudzu plants.

Work Buys Most In Democracies

In lands where people are permitted the greatest amount of personal and economic freedom, they have more of the good things of life than their neighbors in dictator lands. Survey after survey has shown this so convincingly as to leave no room for the belief that the connection between democracy and a high standard of living is accidental.

A survey recently completed makes this point even more clear than before. Taking a number of the products most commonly used by people in all countries, it shows that the average factory employee's work buys more here than anywhere else in the world. While Americans lead in buying power, workers in other democracies as a rule followed immediately behind.

The average factory worker in the United States buys 7.5 pounds of bread with an hour's work, it was disclosed. Figures for other countries — Great Britain, 5.2 pounds; France, 5.0; Belgium, 4.9; Italy, 2.8; Germany, 2.5; and Russia, 1.9.

In the case of a work shirt, it took one hour and 28 minutes to buy one here. In Sweden, it took three hours and 36 minutes; in Great Britain, four hours and 3 minutes; Belgium, five and 49; France, five and 53; Germany, nine and 50; and Italy, 17 hours and 5 minutes.

The American workman earns 2.1 pounds of beef in an hour, and is followed by the British workman with 1.4 pounds. Lowest on the list are the Italian and Russian, with 0.5 and 0.3 respectively.

All the tests made followed this same general pattern. All showed that in lands where men are free to use their own initiative, to build for themselves, to work for themselves, and to profit fairly from that work, the highest living standards prevail.

Heart Attack Fatal To Mr. Baity

Isaac Sanford Baity, 79, died suddenly at his home three miles north of Yadkinville Sunday afternoon about 2:30 o'clock. Mr. Baity had eaten a hearty dinner and was working around his feed barn when he was apparently stricken with a heart attack. He died almost immediately.

Mr. Baity had spent his entire life in Yadkin county and he and his wife, Mrs. Mollie Trivette Baity, would have celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in June.

Surviving Mr. Baity besides his wife are six children, Mrs. Lexie Williams and Mrs. Sarah Woot-

en, of Yadkinville, Route 1, Mrs. Thelma Brown, Raymond and Shobart Baity, of Boonville, and Cebon Baity, of the home; 28 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

The funeral services were held at Deep Creek Baptist church Monday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock.

Got Right Answer

Recently a would-be chicken fancier had some difficulty with her flock and wrote the following letter to the Department of Agriculture:

"Something is wrong with my chickens. Every morning when I come out I find two or three lying on the ground cold and stiff with their feet in the air. Can you tell what is the matter?"

After a while she received the following letter from the Department:

"Dear Madam: "Your chickens are dead."

Commencement at Mountain Park to Begin With Play

(Continued from page one)

Imo Jean We'born, Thelma Irene Swift, Mary Ruth Thompson, Alma Lee Woodie, Ethel Mae Saylor, Jack Fraser Robinson, Andrew Snow, Grace Eloise Deftbaugh, Mabel Wilma Eldridge, Robert Garvey Sprinkle, Harold Ray Lewis, Minnie Lou Bowers, Mary Hazel Mounce, Nancy Jane Caloway, Thomas Daniel Lewis, Judy Dare Ellis, Versie Marie Collins, Robey Nixon, Mack B. Parks, Walter Morrison Snow, Una Mae Norman, Sylvia Virginia Norman, Gracie Lillian Sidden, Mary Elizabeth Hamby.

Dr. Chas. W. Moseley, Stomach Specialist of Greensboro, N. C. will be at Dr. E. M. Hutchens' office, North Wilkesboro, N. C., on Mondays only beginning Monday, May 1st, 1939, and on each Monday thereafter until further notice. 8-3c

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One rack ladies' spring topers in pastel shades. Extraordinary value—
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One table of sheeting, special while quantity lasts, 25 yards for—
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