

THE GLEANER

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Eavesdropping on the Other Man

By ALLEN JOHN ADAMS

RODGER MANNING walked stealthily around to the back door, and sneaked in quietly—as if he were a burglar, instead of the owner.

He grasped the handle of the living-room door and started to turn it slowly, but a strange voice from within the room stopped him.

It was unbelievable! Ruth! Of all the women in the world—untrue to him. Only this morning, she had clung to him tenderly, and she whispered that she had never loved anyone else.

But there was the irrefutable evidence again coming to his ears—that low vibrant voice that sounded just as the perfect lover's should!

It was more than he could stand. He felt very sick inside, as if he wanted to fall to the floor, and never rise again.

Then, he heard the man's voice; it was soft, persuasive; it seemed like a very intimate whisper, but he caught, "and we'll run away together, dear—tonight!"

Rodger Manning suddenly saw red; and the blood that had seemed chilled in his veins began to feel as if it were on fire.

He went into their bedroom and opened the right-hand top drawer of the dresser. Yes... it was still there, all right. He picked up the cold and dark-looking automatic, that how seemed like such a strange device to sniff out men's lives—and even women's!

He was in the stupified daze of a person whose mad rage has reached temporary insanity. Seeing his reflection in the mirror in front of him startled him.

He thought slowly... murder... death—meant separation from the only thing in this world he loved; he didn't want to live without her—her'd kill himself, too.

He examined the automatic very slowly, and carefully—like a man who had counted. Yes... it was fully loaded, and in perfect order; so he moved the safety-catch and took a firm grip.

As he turned the knob of the living-room door, he heard a slight sound from within, but got a weed. They must be in each other's arms now—to be so silent.

He put the gun in his coat pocket—with his finger on the trigger—and pointed it forward. In a moment... she would come from that pocket.

Quietly, he opened the door, and took two steps forward.

As in a dream, he heard his wife saying: "Oh, Rodger, dear, you've missed hearing the most dramatic reading ever of the new radio that fits into the radio set on today... Darling! you look so pale as death!"

Bloom of Rice Plant Varies in Localities

Temperature plays an important part in the flowering of the rice plant. Rice flowers are relatively inconspicuous, but an official of the United States Department of Agriculture, who works on the improvement of the rice crop, has studied the blooming habits of the plant in connection with the cross-breeding of varieties.

The rice plant blooms suddenly and for only a short time. One observer noted a complete opening of the flower in thirty seconds. The blooming continued for only about two hours. Rice flowers are rarely open before the sun has warmed the earth and air, and they close before the sun is far down.

Rice has a complete flower, and usually fertilizes itself. It "breeds true," and there is little cross-fertilization. The pollen from the stamens fertilizes the stigma in the same plant, usually before or at the time the flower opens.

Easy Way of Inducing Bees to Change Abode

Bees often take up their abode where they are not wanted, as in a cavity in a wall. A good way to get them out is to put a bee "escape" over the entrance to the cavity, so the bees can get out but not in.

After about four weeks, remove the bee escape and make as large a hole as possible at the entrance of the cavity. The bees will go in for the honey and carry it to the hive.

First American Flag

A standard with 13 alternate blue and silver stripes, carried by the Philadelphia Troop of Light Horse in 1775, is the first known attempt to provide a national flag.

His Way

"Don't you sometimes get lost in the woods when you go out possum hunting and get separated from your brothers?" asked a motorist in the Rumpus Ridge region.

"Nope!" replied young Banty, son of Gap Johnson. "When I don't know whur I'm at, and there hain't nobody around to ask I just pick out the way I know leads toward home and turn right around and go the other way; that always fetches me home by the shortest trail."—Kansas City Star.

Canadian Timber

It is estimated by the Dominion forest service that the only economic use for three-eighths of the land area of Canada lies in the growing of trees. This vast area of territory, while incapable of successful agricultural production, is, if permanently dedicated, protected and managed, suited to the production of a timber crop which would guarantee for all time the supply of raw material for Canada's wood-using industries.—Natural Resources Bulletin.

London's Fall Mail

The average American and Canadian tourist may have difficulty in recognizing Fall Mail, as the "Fall Mail," to which the London policeman directs him, when he asks for the famous street. It was named after the French game Fallie-mail, which was first played here in the days of Charles I.

Belling Water

Water boils at 212 degrees F. At 115 degrees a person finds water almost too hot to hold in his hand in it. Fabrics that will not be injured by water can be heated of living clothes moth eggs and larvae by being dipped for 10 seconds in water heated to 140 degrees F.

Acquaintance on Train

In a smoking compartment of the Twilight Limited, bound from Chicago to Detroit the other day, a Chicagoan and a Detroitter met and speedily became acquainted as people will on trains. Houser Massey, who is authority for the story and vouches for its truth, said the two men soon reached the point where they were trading their opinions on life and living.

The Chicagoan was cynical about women, and said so. "You can't trust 'em," he declared. "I was married once and my wife left me for another guy, a fellow I never saw. An experience like that is enough to teach you not to trust women again."

Arriving here, the two acquaintances walked up to the waiting room together. The Detroitter's wife rushed up to greet him, stopped suddenly. Her face paled. As she stopped, the Chicagoan flushed, muttered something about seeing a friend across the way, grabbed his bag from the red cap and was off.

The Detroitter didn't know that his acquaintance of the train was his wife's former husband.—Detroit Free Press.

Death Adder Fourth in List of Deadly Snakes

The Australian death adder is said to have long borne an undeservedly bad name. People said the death adder was the most virulently poisonous of Australian snakes. Now Mr. le Souef, director of the Sydney zoo, states that it is not nearly so fearsome as has been imagined.

Beneath the James river valley it is under considerable pressure, and where the surface altitude is not too great, strong artesian flows have been obtained. In fact, the artesian wells are among the greatest natural resources of that area.

Sports Improve Posture

While corrective exercises are important for improving poor posture, sports have been found even more helpful. In the case of students at Harvard, it was found that of the freshmen who were obliged to take corrective exercises for poor posture those who took part in organized athletic sports during the subsequent three years showed much greater improvement in posture than those who did not go in for sports.

Traveling Cinemas

Traveling moving picture shows are the latest cinematic development in Soviet Russia. At present there are more than 1,300 such units traveling from one village to another. The popularity of the exhibitions may be judged by their rapid growth in number during the past two years.

What Do You Give?

A New York vocational guidance expert advises people who are not happy in their jobs to save their money until they can make a change. She might say, too, that if people are not taking happiness out of their jobs they would do well to see that they are putting into those jobs everything they have to give.

Lake's Depth Varies

The depth of Lake Titicaca, the largest lake in South America, in some places reaches 700 feet, but large portions of it are shallow, and the shores, especially in the south, are lined with marshy tracts covered with reeds. The lake receives a number of streams from the surrounding mountains and discharges through the Desaguadero into Lake Anlagas, whose waters finally evaporate in the great salt marshes in the southern part of the closed basin.

Man's Food Consumption

A healthy man, with a normal appetite, who reaches seventy has eaten 700 times his own weight, according to the calculation of experts of the faculty of Paris. They have figured that in his span of seventy years the average man of 150 pounds would have eaten 15 tons of bread, 15 tons of vegetables, 7 tons of meat or 13 whole cows; 7 tons of fruit, 1,000 pounds of candy and sugar, drank 15,000 quarts of milk and 50,000 quarts of beer, in his lifetime.

Immense Brass Brain

In a room of the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey building at Washington is a great machine which answers to the name "Great Brass Brain." Its function is to predict tides with the utmost exactness at any place in the world, or to tell the state of the tides at any moment in the past.

This robot is a marvel of wheels and pulleys. Tides rise and fall with mathematical exactness, but there are a large number of forces acting upon them, such as the moon, the motion of the earth, and many other things. The machine takes into account 87 of these factors in its mechanical calculations.

Its chief purpose is to help in setting time schedules for ship movements, but it is also useful to the historian.

For instance, the delay of the British expedition which landed at Charleston in 1775, which gave Paul Revere the chance to save the countryside, has been ascribed to their waiting for low tide. Brass Brain, however, showed that the tide was low when the British landed, so that they must have been waiting for something else, probably provisions.

Vast Water Resources in Black Hills Region

One of the most productive water-bearing formations of the northern interior of the United States is what is known as the Dakota sandstone, which crops out about the flanks of the Black hills in southwestern South Dakota. The formation extends eastward and northeastward to the borders of Iowa and Minnesota.

As the sandstone slopes away from the Black hills, the water percolates northeastward and eastward through the porous rock and underneath a dense covering of thick clay shale.

However, so many wells have been driven, the supply shows signs of having been taxed about to the limit, and the force of many of the wells has fallen considerably below the original pressure.

Monarch Before His Birth

Sapor, king of Persia, probably holds the record for the earliest age at which a king has been crowned. He was crowned about two months before he was born. His father, the reigning king, died at that time, and an uncle, finding the throne vacant, organized a usurpation. The queen, anxious for the succession of her son, proclaimed a coronation ceremony and had her unborn child crowned in her own person.

Birthplace of Telephone

Among the many things for which Boston is famous is that it was the birthplace of the telephone. It was on the afternoon of June 2, 1875, that Prof. Alexander Graham Bell and his associate, Thomas A. Watson, were working in two garret rooms over the electrical shop of Charles Williams at 109 Court street, Boston, and there discovered the principle of the telephone. More than nine months later Professor Bell received from the United States on March 7, 1876, a patent No. 174,465, and thus established the existence of the Bell telephone.

Under the Stone

"Passing through a village in western India," writes a lady missionary, "followed by a friendly crowd, we stopped at a small wayside altar, the god being represented by four flat stones decorated with red paint. We said, 'There is no god here. These are only stones.' 'Oh,' said a man, 'the god is underneath.' We promptly lifted one of the stones to discover beneath it three large, hibernating frogs, whereupon a great laugh went up from the crowd, in which we all joined."

Know the Candy Man

A Baltimore policeman picked up a small girl crying lustily for "mamma." Other than that her name was "Marie" he could learn nothing about her. She was taken to police headquarters. Finally some one thought to ask her where she bought her candy when at home. She gave the name of a candy store owner without hesitation. The rest was easy. Her name was Marie Biser, aged four. She had strayed from her mother in a downtown store.—Capper's Weekly.

Consolation for Fat Fellies

Many people in middle age and beyond are the worst and most serious offenders in the fat of reflecting. Nature intentionally, with most folks, adds weight with years. The layer of fat that becomes most noticeable over the stomach is furnished for additional warmth and protection to vital organs, and to compensate for the fact that with age the body generates less warmth. A little fat, at forty, is no sign of physical degeneration.—American Magazine.

ISN'T IT SO?

Wait is a hard word to the tongue. Money talks, but it doesn't say much. Two things that cover a multitude of sins are charity and ginger ale. Age is one fire extinguisher that never fails to put out flaming youth. True charity does not wait for gratitude. It's a brave woman who can high-hat her milliner. Some turn the tables and some just turn the tablecloth. Want of principle is the principal want of many people. Guess work with a good many people seems to mean they guess they won't. When a woman begins to shop around for hats her "trying" days have arrived. Few business practices are unethical except to those whose pockets are picked. The principle the professional reformer seems to work on is that if it's fun it's sinful. The difference between a dunker and a diver is that the former only gets his fingers wet.—Exchange.

INFORMATION

Wigs were commonly worn in Egypt some 8,000 years ago. A bee produces about seven times its own weight in honey during its lifetime. The common spider carries on his feet a comb, which helps in the weaving of his web. Falconry, the art of hunting with trained birds, was known in China about 2000 B. C. The robin is the most common bird in the United States, while the sparrow comes second. Ice two inches thick will hold a man on foot, four inches a man on horseback, and from six to eight inches a team of horses with loads. The pituitary gland, a little organ no larger than a pea located just below the skull, controls growth. If it is overactive, giants are produced; if not active enough, growth is stunted.

UNUSUAL INFORMATION

A Californian has invented a compressed air machine to mix plaster and apply it to walls. Waterfalls higher than those at Niagara have been discovered by explorers in South Africa. Should the chain of a new door lock be cut by intruders it would release a gas to overcome them. An international competition for a plan for the central part of Stockholm has been arranged by that city. Research workers at Princeton university have decided that turtles and frogs are deaf to human speech. Seventy per cent of the carbon black produced in the United States is consumed by the automobile industry.

THE WORLD OVER

There are in the United States about 165 men to every 100 women. Among Negroes there are 100 females to 80 males. The distance of a thunderstorm may be determined by allowing five seconds between the flash and the thunder for each mile's distance. The hottest stars shine with an intense white light, the less hot ones with a yellowish light, while the coolest stars have a reddish glow. The five Nobel prizes, averaging about \$80,000 each annually, are awarded from a fund bequeathed by Nobel, a Swedish inventor, to the persons who have made the greatest contributions to medicine, physics, chemistry, literature and peace.

SOME STATISTICS

Dry America's "soft" drink bill for 1930 amounted to \$2,948,000,000. Nonchalcant Americans smoked 135,379,197,000 cigarettes in 1930. The New York Times reports that Manhattanites import and eat 10,000 geese a year. The United States has 65 per cent of the world's radio sets (and about 85 per cent of its stupid programs). American airplanes carried 255,910 cash customers last year. This is more patronage than the railroads got 50 years ago. An insurance company claims that the average child costs \$1,100 to raise.—The Tribune.

Historic English Mill

The relentless hand of time, aided and abetted by the heavy gunfire of modern war, and strengthened by a little final push from the wind, has brought destruction upon one more landmark connected with the early history of the United States.

The old mill at Billerica in Essex, England, from near which the Pilgrims set sail for the new land, has collapsed. Its huge beams of solid oak, which stood the strain and stresses of time and work from the days of Pilgrims down to the outbreak of the World War, have at last found their burden too heavy, and, as the foundations weakened, gave way during a storm.

The old mill was closed during the war, as the location was considered too dangerous for the grinding of the grain of the nearby countryside. Later it fell under suspicion as a rendezvous of German spies and was boarded up. Heavy gunfire was frequent in this section, and the vibrations gradually weakened the old structure.

At a house, close by the mill, was the scene of the meeting of the Pilgrim band just before it set sail for America. Close by, also, another pilgrim, but one bent upon destruction, came to the end of its journey, for one of the large German Zeppelins fell in a field adjacent to the mill.

The construction of the mill was almost entirely of oak, and the huge shaft for the wheel was a tremendous oak trunk. No nails or spikes of any kind were used in the construction.

Shakespeare's Zest in Life Shown in Writings

Shakespeare's enormous zest in life makes his earlier comedies a paradise of delight, writes Prof. Walter Raleigh, in My Magazine. The love of pleasure, if it be generous and sensitive and quick to catch reflections, is hardly distinguishable from wisdom and tact. It has no re-

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