

# Today's SMALL TALK

By MRS. RENN DRUM

EVERYTIME I TRY TO SHOW OFF I GET INTO TROUBLE and yet I never learn that showing off doesn't pay. For instance, last week in presenting the problem about the horseman going to the fairs, I let it be known that I "doted on problems," and worse than that I kidded W. R. Gary, principal of the Fallston high school, who also dotes on 'em, by allowing him only fifteen seconds in which to work the one given.

Now comes a letter, presenting two problems—which I can only classify as brain-torturers as contrasted to the usual brain-teasers—which look like trouble for both Mr. Gary and me. The letter is from Hoyle Lee, instructor of mathematics at Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island, and his closing paragraph, after stating the problem, is:

How long would you give Mr. Gary to work these? Incidentally Mr. Gary was my instructor in mathematics in Fallston high school.

(Now, look here, Mr. Lee, can't you take a joke? I was just foolin' about liking problems.)

A few questions asked about Mr. Lee revealed the facts: that he was weaned on a problem, that, as a little fellow, he ate 'em spread on his bread and that he still swallows one before each meal just to keep his digestion in good order.

Whereas, when I was a child, we only had problems as a special treat for Sunday morning breakfast, when we had plenty of time to chew on 'em.

Seriously, I did discover that Mr. Lee has a really remarkable gift for mathematics which won the respect of the Wake Forest college faculty, during his four years there, to such an extent they termed him one of the best students in that subject the college had ever had and scattered 99's and 100's over his papers like chicken feed, all of which boosts my respect and admiration for the young man, even though I've never seen him. However, it also increases my embarrassment at letting him get me out on a limb on this problem question.

The problems Mr. Lee gives follow:

"Five men and a monkey have a pile of nuts. During the night one man rises, gives one nut to the monkey (who immediately eats it) and takes a fifth of the remainder. The second man rises, and not knowing what the first has done, repeats the process. Each man in turn does this, never forgetting one nut for the monkey. What is the smallest number of nuts that could have been in the original pile? (It might be noted that nowhere is any nut divided into parts. Each man takes a whole number of nuts.)"

And this one: "The sum of the ages of Mary and Ann is 44 years. Mary is twice as old as Ann was when Mary was half as old as Ann will be when Anne is three times as old as Mary was when

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# Hollywood

Sights And Sounds By ROBIN COONS

HOLLYWOOD—Myrna Loy and William Powell have completed their long crosscountry trip, begun two years ago in New York at the completion of their sleuthing activities in connection with a certain thin man. It was Christmas then you remember, and a hectic holiday for all concerned.

In "After the Thin Man" ebullient Nick Charles and wife Nora arrive home in San Francisco all tucked out, but still gay in repartee, for a good rest over New Year's.

They don't get it. Instead, they are drawn — with that casualness which distinguishes their adventures — into another murder mystery, this time in the bosom of Nora's family.

San Francisco's Chinatown is part of the setting, but it is modern, minus mysterious Orientals.

Solution "Unethical" Some of us were disappointed in the solution, which rabid defectives might term "unethical," but Director W. S. Van Dyke, with Powell and Miss Loy and the dog Asta, recaptures the rollicking spirit of "The Thin Man" so effectively that the film as a whole atones for its essential flaw.

New Orleans, in two new films, appears to have a riverfront populated mainly by the Hall Johnson choir, which is all right with us.

"Banjo on My Knee" presents an interesting picture of Mississippi river shanty boats, a race apart. Joel McCrea and Barbara Stanwyck are the romantic pair, but Walter Brennan as the would-be Grandpappy and one-man band who goes down to N'Yaw-leens to straighten things out is the real star.

Unusual setting, effective comedy, Buddy Ebsen's dancing, and apt casting lift John Cromwell's film above the ordinary.

Romantic South Pictured In "Rainbow on the River" the Hall Johnsons are in the "romantic" south of 1873, and divide their time between the riverfront and the cotton fields. Boy soprano Bobby Breen (whose face is not a map of Ireland despite the adopted name) sings beautifully through a sentimental story of a white child reared by a former slave, played emotionally by Louise Beavers.

May Robson is the crusty northern grandmother, Charles Butterworth her phlegmatic butler, and Marilyn Knowlden is an interesting "spoiled brat." Kurt Neumann directed.

Victor Moore's comedy comes into its own in "Gold Diggers of 1937," which mingles the insurance business and backstage life for farce. Mr. and Mrs. Dick Powell (Joan Blondell) are the romancers, Osgood Perkins sparkles subtly as the heavy, and there are Glenda Farrell and dancer Lee Dixon, with a Busby Berkeley finale, for good measure. Lloyd Bacon directed.

WANTS FASTER COURT ACTION Power Plans Should Be Speeded Up Says Ingram

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Dec. 16.—(AP)—Mayor Ingram of Tarrant City, Ala., said today "Some means of speeding up court procedure on the right of cities to obtain PWA loans for power plans" would be discussed by a group of Alabama, Mississippi and Tennessee municipal officials at Decatur, Ala., Dec. 29.

Mayor Ingram, who called the Decatur rally for municipalities "interested in getting Tennessee Valley Authority power," made no comment on the United States Supreme Court decision sending back to lower courts on a technicality the Duke Power company case yesterday.

Injunctions Now. The Duke case involved the right of PWA to make loans and grants for municipal power plants. Eight Alabama projects involving \$2,549,000 are held up by injunctions revolving around the same questions raised in the Duke case, which went to the supreme court from South Carolina.

Mayor Ingram said an attempt would be made to organize a southeastern municipal ownership league, with each city in the three-state Tennessee Valley area entitled to two voting representatives at the Decatur conference.

In proposed resolutions accompanying his call of the conference yesterday, Mayor Ingram suggested congress be called upon to "investigate the extent private sources of finance have been closed" to municipalities seeking to acquire power distribution systems.

He also proposed that congress be requested to establish a permanent agency to provide funds for municipal ownership at low interest rates.

Samuel Huntington, governor of Ohio 1810-11, was the adopted son of a signer of the Declaration of Independence, his uncle, Samuel Huntington.

# Just Ten Years Ago

(Taken From The Cleveland Star - Of Monday, December 13, 1926)

With a beaming sun giving out summertime warmth Shelby was packed during shopping time Saturday with throngs of Yuletide buyers, and all stores in the city reported a rushing business.

Shelby's municipal tax rate is the third lowest among the 48 largest cities and towns in North Carolina, according to figures obtained from Raleigh.

Shelby's tax rate per \$100 assessed valuation is 88 cents. Only two towns, Wilson and Morganton, have lower rates.

Raleigh—North Carolina's cotton crop is 16 per cent larger than last year but worth 26 per cent less.

J. W. Atkins, publisher of the Gastonia Gazette and former head of the N. C. Press association, is the new president of the Shelby district Epworth league union. Mr. Atkins along with other new officers was elected at a meeting of the union held at Central Methodist church here last Friday.

Beginning this week some of the local stores will be open later at night for the convenience of Christmas shoppers. But the first of next week all of the stores will keep open at night to meet the requirement of Christmas shoppers.

Bob Eskridge arrived Saturday from Sheridan, Oregon, to spend the Christmas holidays with his mother, Mrs. Bailey Eskridge on

North LaFayette street.

Cline Hendrick, son of Mrs. F. V. Hendrick, has returned from Biltmore where he has been taking treatment for a year or more.

# Truck Driver Is Slugged On Road Near High Point

WINSTON-SALEM, Dec. 16.—(AP)—Bleeding profusely from a wound across the forehead, W. R. Grissett, truck driver, of High Point, lay for nearly an hour on the Winston-Salem-High Point highway last night between 7 and 8 o'clock, the victim of two negro robbers who came upon him as he tried to repair his truck.

S. E. Hauser, this city, found the unconscious man and Sheriff's deputies removed Grissett to High Point hospital and began a search for the injured man is reported to be not serious.

Grissett told officers that while working on his motor one of the negroes asked for a match, and when he turned aside, "everything went black." He was robbed of between \$50 and \$80 he says.

Marry Again After 20 Years Divorced

CONCORD, Dec. 16.—(AP)—Twenty years ago Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Cagle were divorced.

Each married again. In the intervening years Cagle's second wife died. And Mrs. Cagle's second husband died.

Now they're Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Cagle again.

They were remarried here by a son-in-law, the Rev. W. A. Oates.

"It's permanent this time," chorused the Cagles.

# CONVICT TAKEN AFTER A FIGHT

LENOIR, Dec. 16.—(AP)—Sheriff J. C. Tolbert held Ellis King in Caldwell county jail today after a 24-hour search with bloodhounds led to the arrest of the 22-year-old escaped convict.

King was taken into custody at the home of his grandfather in Longview after a gunfight in which three men were wounded. Glenn

Lail, 18, was reported in critical condition with wounds in his chest. His right wrist was so badly mangled doctors said they would have to amputate his hand. Paul Monday, 21, and Clyde Miller, 20, were less seriously hurt.

Sheriff Tolbert quoted King as saying the fight grew out of a quarrel over a girl at a drinking party.

The sheriff said witnesses told him King, after the shooting, held the members of the group at pistol point for an hour refusing to allow them to call a doctor to treat Lail,

who was bleeding badly. King escaped from an Iredell prison camp after serving 18 months of a two-year sentence for larceny, Tolbert said. He said King would be given a hearing in Recorder's court as soon as the wounded men are able to appear as witnesses.

Self-Inflicted BREVARD, Dec. 16.—(AP)—A coroner's jury decided Edward Ashworth, 15, found shot to death in a died from a self-inflicted wound.

woods near here a few days ago

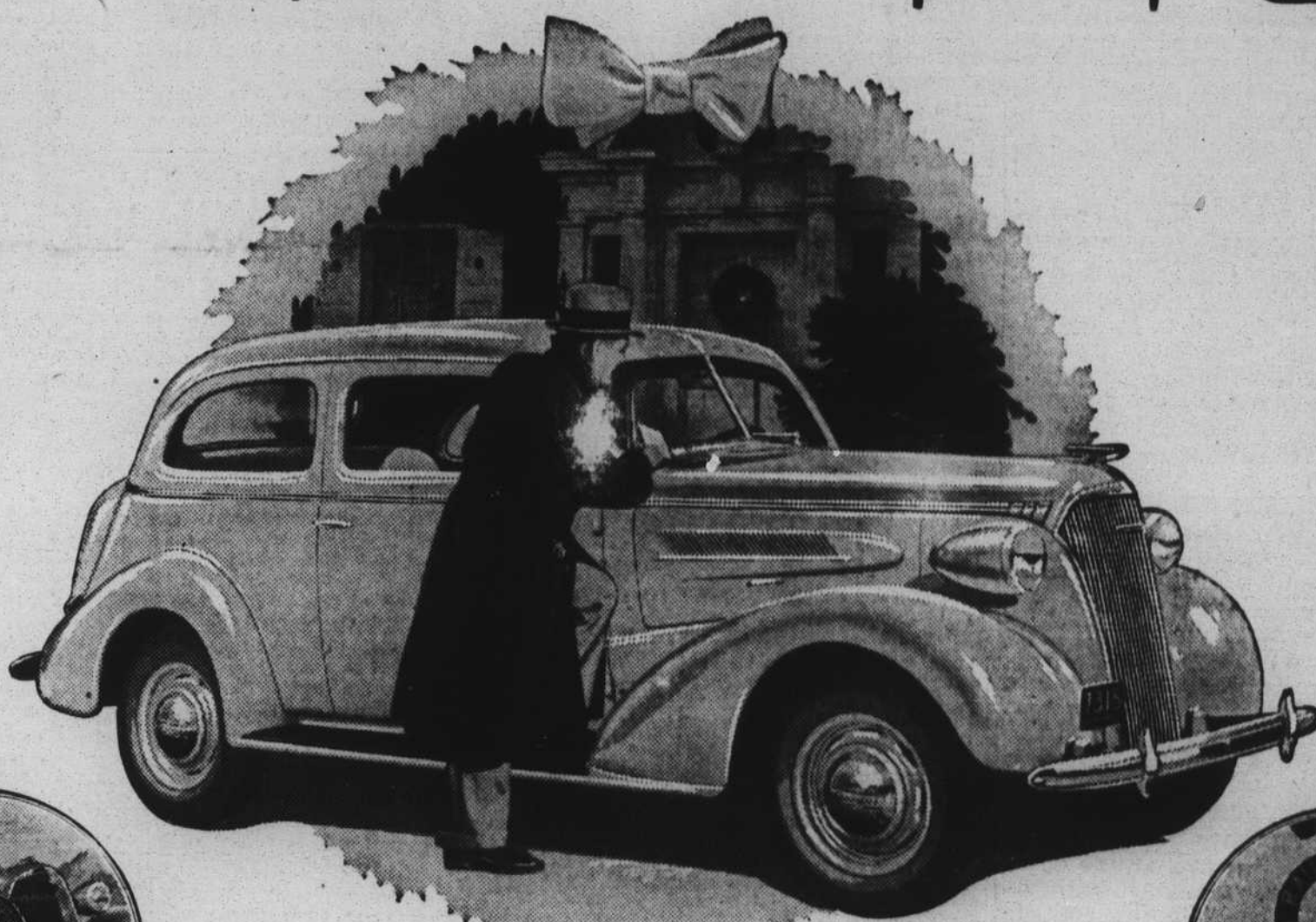
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