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RIDING A BOBBY.

History of Civilization Made by Those Who Pick the Right Kind.

From the Philadelphia Telegraph.

If you ask them off hand whether it is a good thing to have a hobby and ride it, a lot of people will tell you, "Certainly not." And if you press them for a reason, they will look at you as though they expected to see signs of softening of the brain, and perhaps pityingly explain that a person with a hobby is a crank and a nuisance to every one he meets.

Don't you believe any such thing.

Of course people with hobbies may be nuisances, and a man eating soup may make a most annoying performance for the person next to him; but one condition is no more inevitable than the other.

In the first place, what is a hobby? A hobby is something in which a man or woman is particularly interested, and which he "rides," as we say, on all available opportunities, much to the benefit and enlightenment of humanity, in numberless cases.

Why, the riding of hobbies is the history of civilization. Just pick out a hobby-rider or two—Wright brothers, Orville and Wilbur, for instance. The principle of heavier-than-air flight was their hobby; and nobody has to tell you what they did for aviation.

The theory that the earth was round, and that a ship could sail around it, at least until she reached another shore, was a hobby for many years with a Genoese mariner who most of us believe was the discoverer of the New World.

But these are instances of what the riding of hobbies has done for humanity at large. There is another side of the question every bit as important, and that is, what will a hobby do for the rider?

Well, we'll have to agree that the man who isn't interested in some one thing is a pretty weak sort of specimen. And as a matter of fact, there are more hobby riders than we suppose. Some people make business their hobby; and they ride it pretty hard, too. This is all right, and they have Bible backing, for the Scriptures say: "Seest thou a man diligent in his business? He shall stand before kings." And while this latter reward may not be such a powerful incentive in this day and land, we can take it as it was meant at the time it was written.

But a hobby outside of one's daily labors is really the best kind of a hobby to ride, because it not only tempts us to the complete change of mind and thought and action which is necessary to keep us in mental trim, but, by holding our interests, causes the pendulum to swing just as far in the opposite direction, and so keeps us from becoming mentally lop-sided.

Of course, we are talking of safe, sane, and beautiful hobbies; nothing vicious may be condoned simply on the ground that it is a hobby. But suppose that we take nature study out of doors as a hobby for the man whose vacation keeps him mainly inside, or wood-carving or carpentering for the fellow who is walking or driving about in the weather a good many hours every day.

This is the kind of hobbies to take up, the balancing kind. They

will do you good, mentally and physically.

One thing is sure: "You'll seldom find a man with a hobby hanging around a barroom or loafing on the street corner."

An Important Law.

Smithfield Herald.

One of the most foolish acts which can be committed, is the giving to children guns, pistols and dangerous explosives. Children are inexperienced and do not realize danger until it is too late. As a safeguard at this point our Legislature passed a law which we give below. If this law is enforced there will not be so many accidents to children. The fourth of July and Christmas usually roll up a large number of accidents. Let us hope the coming Christmas will prove an exception.

ACT 1913, Chapter 32, Provides: That any person being the parent or guardian of, or standing in loco parentis to, any child under the age of twelve years, who shall knowingly permit such child to have the possession or custody of, or use in manner whatever, any gun, pistol or other dangerous firearm loaded or unloaded; or any other person who shall knowingly furnish such child any such firearm shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction shall be fined not exceeding fifty dollars, or imprisoned not exceeding thirty days.

Revised March 10th 1913.

The Insurance City.

Wilmington Star.

Greensboro evidently will retain her lead as North Carolina's insurance city, for three or four well established companies are doing business there on an increasingly large scale. Greensboro made a ten strike when the movement was started in the South to organize its own insurance companies and keep its insurance money at home. That enterprising city seems to have known how and she has made a big success along that line. In that respect, the Gate City is both a benefactor and a beneficiary, since her insurance companies are keeping Southern money at home and some of that money is building up the fine city of Greensboro.

It is pretty well assured that the Jefferson Standard Insurance Company will erect the finest building in the city. It has offered \$150,000 for the Guilford county court house site, so that the county is in luck in having its property where it has immensely increased in value. No doubt the county will sell, but whether it does or not, the Jefferson Standard will build some where else in the city. It is now a big institution and is worth a great deal to Greensboro.

"Good Morning!"

When we are at our best a flood of life pours itself out in the simple old words "Good morning!"—a flood of meaning which strains to express itself in a thousand ways, but has to be content with verbal symbols. Our physical and vital energies, our love, our playfulness, our stories of gratitude for the world's past gifts, all that is calling us toward the future comes rushing out in the time-mellowed greeting. The depths of us, the concentrated and imprisoned energy of our inmost life, calls across the distance to the unseen depths of our fellows.—Atlantic

SEABOARD LOCALS.

Pastor Parker to Leave—Return From Hospital—General News Items.

Merry Xmas and Happy New Year to the Editor and the numerous readers of the TIMES.

Mrs. Grace Parker, Norfolk, arrived Sunday on a business trip instead of a holiday pleasure trip as the majority of travellers are doing now.

Mr. J. J. Darden and wife, Mauleton, returned the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. D. B. Maddrey, Sunday noon. Mrs. Darden will remain here until the condition of her mother is improved. Mrs. Maddrey has been ill with the grippe for the past two weeks. She is still confined to her bed. Her husband has the grippe also, but his attack has been less severe. We earnestly hope both may soon be restored to perfect health.

The following college boys returned to their homes here Saturday: Messrs. Kenzie Long, University of North Carolina, Dean Crocker and Jethro Harris, Trinity, Spurgeon Clark, Wake Forest, and Matt Stephenson, Randolph-Macon. It is useless to add their Xmas joy began as soon as they set foot on home soil.

Mrs. B. H. Lawson and children, accompanied by her sister, Miss Daisy Weaver, left Saturday for Vaughan, where they will spend their holiday with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. Weaver.

Mrs. H. Carlton Maddrey left Sunday for a week's visit to her parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Buffalo, Jackson.

Mr. Jno. R. Stephenson, while returning from a business trip to Richmond, stopped here Sunday and spent the day with his father, Mr. R. T. Stephenson, and sister, Mrs. R. M. Maddrey. He left Sunday night for his home, Wilmington, N. C.

There will be no Sunday School at the Baptist church next Sunday. The Superintendent expects to be away as well as some of the teachers and scholars, so it was decided to take a holiday and so announced last Sunday.

Miss Willie Stephenson left Sunday for Norfolk where she will spend her holiday in the home of Mr. Jno. T. Maddrey. Mesdames A. K. Harris and M. R. Stephenson returned Sunday night from a day's visit to Mesdames Bettie Joyner and Council Vick, relatives of Mrs. Harris, Branchville.

Miss E. Josie Maddrey, Norfolk, and Harry L. Maddrey, Butterworth, will reach here Wednesday to spend the holidays in the home of their mother, Mrs. R. M. Maddrey.

Miss Lucille Edwards, who is teaching at Warsaw, is at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Edwards, for the Xmas holidays.

Miss Eunice Howell, who was operated on for appendicitis, in Elizabeth Buxton Hospital, Newport News, some two weeks ago, is doing nicely and expects to reach home before the Xmas festivities begin.

Mr. and Mrs. Jno. Weaver, Essex, N. C., are here to spend Christmas with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Jones.

Miss Edna Long, who is teaching at Pleasant Grove, has closed her school for two weeks and will entertain several of her friends here during the Christmas season.

Quite a number of people were disappointed Sunday because

Rev. L. A. Parker failed to fill his appointment here with the Baptist church. He had written the senior deacon of the church that business in Kentucky would prevent his meeting with his church but the news had not been widely circulated. General regret is expressed at his decision not to serve the church here longer. Bro. Parker has served the church here continuously and faithfully for the past three years making a worthy under shepherd. The work of the Lord has prospered in his hands, the congregations have been large and appreciative, the Sunday School has taken on new life and the church generally is in the upgrade. He has received into the church thirty by baptism besides a goodly number by letter. By his pure life and godly conversation Bro. Parker has endeared himself to the people here, regardless of denomination, and as he goes to another field we commend him to the people among whom his lot may be cast as a worthy and upright minister of the gospel, and we, of Seaboard, assure him that our love, esteem and prayers will follow him wherever he may go, and that we will appreciate a visit from him any time it may be convenient.

Pendleton Locals.

Miss Bert Long came home Saturday from G. F. C.

Miss Eva Martin is home from Holly Springs, N. C., where she has been teaching.

Miss Eunice Martin, music teacher at Conway, spent the week-end with her sister, Mrs. R. E. Draner.

Mr. D. K. Edwards will leave Friday for a trip through Missouri where he will buy horses and mules for his stables here.

Miss Brownie Martin of Youngsville, N. C., is visiting relatives and friends here.

The ladies of our community are busy preparing a Xmas box for the Orphanage.

The primary pupils of Pendleton High School will give an entertainment in the school building Tuesday night.

Lest They Forget.

Hunt out the little lame girl,
The poor boy who is blind;
Hunt out the weary widow
Who thinks the world unkind;
Search down among the hovels
Where gladness seldom stays,
And teach the doubting people
There still are Christmas days.

You have been busy planning
To spread your gifts afar,
To add your fair love tokens
Where joys and comforts are,
But have you in your gladness
Bestowed one kindly thought
On those who sit in darkness,
Whose crusts are dearly bought?

Your heart is full of kindness,
You hear the anthems sung
And gaze up at the windows
Where ribboned wreaths are hung,
You've heard the sweet old story
With reverence retold—
But there are hungry children
Where all is dark and cold.

Hunt out the little lame girl,
The poor boy who is blind;
Hunt out the weary widow
Who thinks the world unkind;
Go down among the victims
Of chance and greed and crime
And cause them to remember
That this is Christmas time.

—Anonymous.

DENTAL NOTICE.

After January 1st all amalgam filling will be one dollar each. All gold and plate work will be the same as heretofore.

J. M. Jacobs,
Roxbel, N. C.

MARGARETTSVILLE NEWS.

Local and Personal Items Gathered by Our Correspondent.

A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to the Editor of the TIMES and all its readers!

Mrs. Jas. R. McLendon, Rockingham, arrived Friday to spend the holidays with her mother, Mrs. Johnny Stanceil.

Master Lawrence Vick and brother Lovell, left Monday for Emporia, where they will spend Christmas with their aunt, Mrs. A. A. Rothschild.

Miss Clara Bottoms, teacher of the Pleasant Hill school, is at home for the holidays.

Messrs. C. B. Vick and J. G. Bottoms spent Sunday in Weldon.

Mrs. Jordan Edwards leaves Tuesday for a visit to her relatives of Jarretts, Va.

Mr. Willie Norvell, Seaboard, was a welcome guest in town the past Sunday.

Miss Elma Peele left Monday for her home, George. We regret our inability to keep her in our midst during the Christmas holidays, but we rejoice in that her absence is not permanent.

Mrs. C. B. Vick was in Norfolk a portion of last week, a guest of her sister, Mrs. Jack Chaplin, and also, doing Christmas shopping.

Miss Clonie Bridgers, who is engaged in teaching school in Norfolk county, is at home to spend Christmas.

Miss Annie Boone, Francisville, visited Miss Elma Peele last Friday night and Saturday.

Mrs. C. B. Vick entertained quite a number of young people in her home last Friday evening at "Book." After several interesting games were played, quite a dainty luncheon was served, such as the competent hostess is equal to preparing. All present spent a most enjoyable evening.

The very interesting program rendered by the W. C. T. U. in the Baptist church here on Sunday evening was greatly praised by all present. Every feature was a success, but we expected nothing more since we have such an efficient worker as is our most treasured teacher, Miss Peele. The address by Mr. W. L. Knight Weldon, was highly enjoyed and we hope to again have him in our midst.

Mr. Frank Rayley was in Norfolk last week and saw "The Spendthrift" played at the Grand. He reported a much enjoyed trip.

Perfume and Ode.

A glue factory stands near a certain railway. Its charms are not for the nose, and, therefore, a lady always carried with her, when passing this point, a bottle of lavender salts. One morning an old farmer took a seat beside her. As the train neared the factory the lady opened the bottle of salts. Soon the whole car was filled with the horrible odor from the factory. The farmer put up with it as long as he could, and then shouted: "Madam, would you mind putting the cork in that 'ere' bottle?" —Exchange.

Her Salt Answer.

"Pray, what is there about the kiss You so enjoy?" I asked a miss. She smiled, then softly said to me: "I like the sweet monotony." —Life.

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