

even after he had cut us down. I have had a very pleasant existence. First came the happy young husband and wife. Both were beautiful and strong; both were good and earnest. Their first two children came in this room. Ah, long shall I remember the day of the first child's christening. It was a cold day. Snow lay thick on the ground. The little log church was far distant—through the woods, and the young mother feared to take her baby there for the ceremony, so the preacher and several friends were invited to come here and hold the christening. Ah, it was a glad day."

"Ah, my Uncle Jackson!" exclaimed Jack. "He is mamma's oldest brother—55 last month." ¶ "Yes, as people count time," replied the tree. "And your dear grandparents are still living, kind, good folk! Why, I hardly knew the old gentleman when he came here two or three years ago to look over the old place. He was stooped and gray—had grown old, like this abandoned house. But he is still vigorous and fine. And the dear old grandmother! Ah, I have seen her, too, during the fleeting years, and she has changed. But in memory I shall always see her as she was on the day of the christening of her first son."

The tree ceased to speak, and Jack feared it would not resume. But after a moment's pause it went on. "There was the first Christmas in this house, a glorious if a simple one. Your grandparents had just been settled here a month before the holiday, and were fresh in their honeymoon. They held a festival on Christmas eve, and all the nearby neighbors came to make merry. Only this one room was built then, for the addition was not erected till just before the third child's birth. Beside the fireplace were high-backed benches for visitors, host and hostess. Ah, those early pioneer days are glorious to remember!"

Jack sat up quickly. Something had touched him. He looked about. The room was dark, save for some light coming through the open windows. Jack arose, shook himself, rubbed his eyes. "Ah," he laughed, "I do believe I fell asleep." ¶ "All the same," smiled Jack, "I do believe the tree talked to me. But I must be going. Uncle Jackson's family are coming over tonight and I must hasten home. Believe I'll ride round by grand-daddy's and ask granny about Uncle Jackson's christening."

Then dreaming and romancing about the past, Jack mounted his horse and set off in a gallop towards the "new place," which was older than Jack's mother, to make a call upon his aged grandparents. When he came forth from their house a smile of satisfaction was on his face. "Why, sonny, I have told you many times that I wore my wedding gown at your Uncle Jackson's christening. It was a dream, my boy. Logs don't talk. But it is funny, isn't it?" So said grandmother in reply to Jack's question. But as Jack went away he smiled, for he could not recall granny's ever having told him a word about Uncle Jackson's christening. The log—part of the fine old tree—must have spoken to him as he slept, was what Jack reasoned, and he believes it to this day.

#### Home Made Moving Pictures

Gianni Bettini, an Italian inventor, has recently perfected a new device which makes it possible for almost any amateur photographer to make his own moving pictures. Not only does the new mechanism bring the cost within the means of the average amateur, but the resulting pictures are actually clearer and sharper than those produced in the ordinary way by use of a moving film of celluloid.

In accomplishing these astonishing results Bettini has exactly reversed the principal of the usual moving picture machine, in which the film travels back of the lens from spool to spool. His photographs are made in series on a glass plate, which is held rigid, while the lens itself moves.

The glass plates used in the Bettini machine measure eight and one half inches in length by five and one half inches in width. The photographs taken in series on this plate are only five-sixteenths of an inch in width by one quarter inch in depth. In this way 16 consecutive pictures appear in a line and on each plate there are 36 lines, making a total of 576 images. The photographs are taken at the rate of 12 or more a second, as the lens travels to and fro.

The cost of a plate of this kind is 4 cents, while a celluloid film long enough to carry the same number of pictures costs \$1.50. The Bettini camera is sold for less than one third as much as the regular moving picture camera and it is also used in connection with an ordinary stereopticon for reproducing the pictures, thus saving further expense for apparatus.

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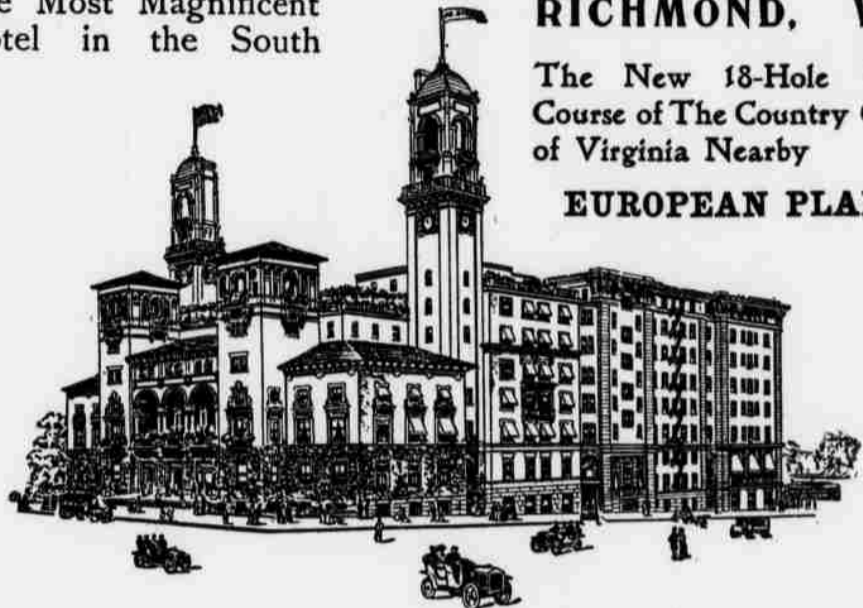
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