

Dale Carnegie

5-Minute Biographies

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



HOWARD THURSTON

The Missionary Who Got on the Wrong Train—And Became a Famous Magician

One cold night, half a century ago, a crowd was pouring out of McVicker's Theatre in Chicago. It was a laughing, happy crowd—a crowd that had been entertained by Alexander Herrman, the great magician of that day.

A shivering newsboy stood on the sidewalk, trying to sell copies of the Chicago Tribune to the crowd. But he was having a tough time of it. He had no overcoat, he had no home, and he had no money to pay for a bed. That night, after the crowd faded away, he wrapped himself in newspapers and slept on top of an iron grating which was warmed slightly by the furnace in the basement, in an alley back of the theatre.

As he lay there, hungry and shivering, he vowed that he too would be a magician. He longed to have crowds applauding him, wear a fur-lined coat, and have girls waiting for him at the stage door. So he made a solemn vow that when he was a famous magician, he would come back and play as a headliner in the same theatre.

That boy was Howard Thurston—and twenty years later he did precisely that. After his performance he went out in the alley and found his initials where he had carved them on the back of the theatre a quarter of a century before when he had been a hungry, homeless newsboy.

At the time of his death—April 13, 1936—Howard Thurston was the acknowledged dean of magicians, the king of legerdemain. During his last forty years he had traveled all over the world, time and again, creating illusions, mystifying audiences, and making people gasp with astonishment. More than sixty million people paid admissions to his show, and his profits were almost two million dollars.

Shortly before his death, I spent an evening with Thurston in the theatre, watching his act from the wings. Later we went up to his dressing room and he talked for hours about his exciting adventures.

When he was a little boy, his father whipped him cruelly because he had driven a team of horses too fast. Blind with rage, he dashed out of the house, slammed the door, ran screaming down the street and disappeared. His mother and father never saw or heard from him again for five years. They feared he was dead.

And he admitted that it was a wonder he wasn't killed; for he became a hobo, riding in box cars, begging, stealing, sleeping in barns and haystacks and deserted buildings. He was arrested dozens of times, chased, cursed, kicked, thrown off trains, and shot at.

He became a jockey and a gambler; at seventeen years of age, he found himself stranded in New York without a dollar, and without a friend. Then a significant thing happened. Drifting into a religious meeting, he heard an evangelist preach on the text, "There is a Man in You."

Deeply moved, and stirred as he had never been stirred before in his life, he was convinced of his sins. So he walked up to the altar and with tears rolling down his cheeks, was converted. Two weeks later, this erstwhile hobo was out preaching on a street corner in Chinatown.

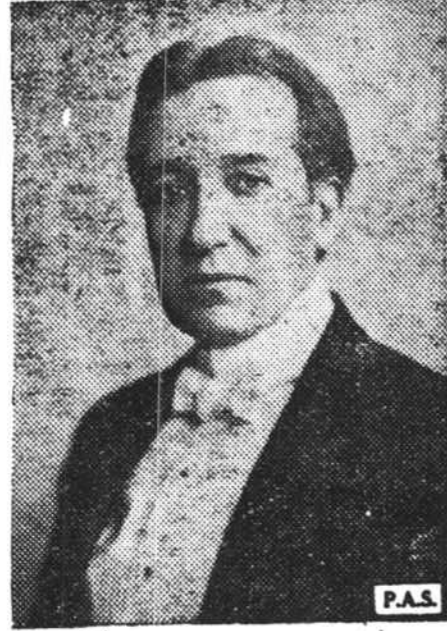
He was happier than he had ever been before, so he decided to become an evangelist, enrolled in the Moody Bible School at Northfield, Massachusetts, and worked as a janitor to pay for his board and room.

He was eighteen years old then, and up to that time, he had never gone to school more than six months in his life. He had learned to read by looking out of box car doors at signs along the railway and asking other Tramps what they meant. He couldn't write or figure or spell. So he went to his classes in the Bible School and studied Greek and biology in the daytime, and studied reading and writing and arithmetic at night.

He finally decided to become a medical missionary and was on his way to attend the University of Pennsylvania when a little thing happened that changed the entire course of his life.

On his way from Massachusetts to Philadelphia, he had to change trains at Albany. While waiting for his train, he drifted into a theatre

and watched Alexander Herrman perform tricks of magic that kept the audience pop-eyed with wonder. Thurston had always been interested in magic. He had always tried to do card tricks. He longed to talk to his idol, his hero, Herrmann the Great Magician. He went to the hotel and got a room next to Herrman's; he listened at the key-hole and walked up and down the corridor, trying to summon up enough courage to knock, but he couldn't.



He Slept on a Grating in Back of the Theater and Dreamed of Baffling the World

The next morning he followed the famous magician to the railway station, and stood admiring him with silent awe. The magician was going to Syracuse. Thurston was going to New York—at least he thought he was. He intended to ask for a ticket to New York; but by mistake he too asked for a ticket to Syracuse.

That mistake altered his destiny.

That mistake made him a magician instead of a medical missionary. At the flood tide of his fame, Thurston got almost a thousand dollars a day for his show. But I often heard him say that the happiest days of his life were when he was getting a dollar a day for doing card tricks for a medicine show. His name was painted in blazing red letters across a streaming banner, and he was billed as "Thurston, the Magician of the North." He was from Columbus, Ohio; but that is North, if you are from Texas.

His success was due to at least two things. First, he had the ability to put his personality across the footlights. He was a master showman, he new human nature; and he said those qualities were just as important for a magician as a knowledge of magic. Everything he did, even the intonations of his voice and the lifting of an eyebrow, had been carefully rehearsed in advance, and his actions had been timed to split seconds.

And second, he loved his audience. Before the curtain went up, he stood in the wings, jumping up and down and kept saying: "I love my audience. I love to entertain them." He knew that if he wasn't happy, no one else would be.

Macon Items

Mr. and Mrs. Ovid Porter of Raleigh and Mrs. John W. Smith and daughter of Bracey, Va., were visitors here Sunday.

Mr. Charles Harris, who has been sick for some time, has improved enough to be back at his work in Warrenton.

Mrs. C. M. Duner, who has been spending some time in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Russell returned to her home in Washington, D. C., last Sunday.

Mrs. Edward Bullock, who is at Duke Summer school, spent the week end here with her mother, Mrs. A. F. Brame.

Mrs. W. T. Person of Littleton is visiting her daughter, Mrs. Plummer Fitts.

Mrs. Jack Clark, Mrs. Robert Clark and son, Robert Jr., Misses Winifred Clark and Hattie Daniel, of Littleton were visitors here Tuesday.

Mrs. Alfred Rhoads and daughter, Miss Elizabeth Rhoads, arrived Monday from Wisconsin to spend some time with Mr. George Rhoads.

Patronize the Advertiser.

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

by Charles E. Dumas

God Prepares a People. Lesson for July 25th. Exodus 12: 21-28.

Golden Text: Deut. 7:6. To understand the Old Testament we must study carefully the history out of which it came. For the nation and its destiny looms large in the Old Testament. To get the full flavor of this national spirit we must turn to the writings of the prophets. For the prophet was a close student of the politics of his day. His message was determined to a large degree by the circumstances in which he found himself. "Out of them," writes one commentator, "he read the will of God and in them he saw the hand of God at work."

Thus the prophets were convinced that the long pilgrimage of the Jewish commonwealth, with all of its ups and downs, was essentially sacred. They loved to dwell on the covenant between God and Israel, the redemption from Egyptian serfdom, the divine guidance through the wilderness, and the overthrow of the heathen in Canaan.

Carlyle once said that "the Bible of every nation is its history." This is peculiarly true of the Hebrew folk. Intensely patriotic, their history meant everything to them. It is no wonder then that their Bible is soaked with a vivid national feeling. Our lesson text is a reminder of this striking emphasis. It deals with the institution of the historic Passover Festival which the Jews have always associated with the Exodus from Egypt, and which they still observe. Note that the Passover lamb was originally sacrificed and the blood sprinkled on the doorposts by each head of a family, for there was no tabernacle and no order of priests.

To Christians the crucifixion of our Master fulfills all that is signified by the Jewish Passover. "For you are free from the old leaven," wrote Paul to the church at Corinth. "Christ our paschal lamb has been sacrificed." As God saved His people from their slavery under Pharaoh, so Christ, by his death, redeemed his followers from spiritual bondage.

Farm Questions And Answers

Question: When should the laying flock be culled?

Answer: Since efficient production comes through continuous selection some culling may be needed each month in the year, but the most rigid culling should be made toward the end of the laying period. This usually occurs from July to November and the flock should be watched carefully during July and August for early molters. Hens that molt in June, July, or August should be taken from the flock and disposed of as soon as molt appears or production ceases.

Question: How long does it take to properly cure a barn of tobacco?

Answer: The time required varies from 84 to 96 hours depending upon the rapidity of the various curing processes. After hanging the weed maintain a temperature about ten degrees higher than the outside temperature until the leaf is fairly yellow. The heat is then raised 4 to 5 degrees an hour until a temperature of 120 to 125 degrees is reached. This temperature is held until the tips of the leaves are dry and then raised to 140 degrees. This will dry out the entire leaf. The temperature is again raised to 180 to 190 degrees and held until all parts of the leaf stem is dry in all parts of the barn.

Question: Should a dairy cow be given a grain ration during the dry period?

Answer: If there is plenty of good pasture available and the animal is in good flesh no other feed will be necessary, but the animal should have free access to a good mineral mixture unless the grazing is legume crops or hay is being fed. If the pasture is short or the cow in poor flesh enough concentrate should be fed to put the animal in good flesh before freshening. However, all high protein grains and corn is usually removed from the grain ration about two weeks before freshening. A good grain mixture to feed during this period is composed of equal parts of wheat bean and ground oats.

Washington, D. C.—The Library of Congress is among the largest in the world, with 15,29 acres of floor space and nearly 5,000,000 printed books and pamphlets.

Tobacco growers of Wilson county who have been planting the crop on the same land year after year report Granville wilt to be spreading over the county. Other diseases are also appearing.

A marketing center for shipping hogs from Washington and Tyrrell counties will be established soon. Plans have been completed for a dairy show to be held at Recreation Park in Buncombe County, October 8. Premiums will amount to \$1000.

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REPORT OF THE CONDITION OF

CITIZENS BANK

of Warrenton, in the State of North Carolina, at the Close of Business on June 30, 1937

ASSETS

Cash, balances with other banks, and cash items in process of collection.....	\$317,582.02
United States Government obligations, direct and fully guaranteed.....	252,620.01
State, county, and municipal obligations.....	129,897.12
Corporate stocks, including none of Federal Reserve bank stock.....	9,359.15
Loans and discounts.....	229,759.15
Banking house owned, furniture and fixtures.....	22,848.41
Other real estate owned.....	6,817.45
Other assets.....	365.07
TOTAL ASSETS.....	\$968,884.38

LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL

Deposits of individuals, partnerships, and corporations:	
(a) Demand deposits.....	\$481,564.13
(b) Time deposits evidenced by savings pass books.....	347,962.71
(c) Other time deposits.....	2,123.20
United States Government and postal savings deposits.....	499.37
State, county, and municipal deposits.....	47,043.79
Certified and officers' checks, letters of credit and travelers' checks sold for cash, and amounts due to Federal Reserve bank (transit account).....	1,413.77
TOTAL DEPOSITS.....	\$880,696.97
Other liabilities.....	5,718.47
TOTAL LIABILITIES EXCLUDING CAPITAL ACCOUNT.....	886,415.44

Capital account:	
(a) Capital stock and capital notes and debentures.....	\$25,000.00
(b) Surplus.....	42,500.00
(c) Undivided profits.....	8,968.94
(d) Reserves.....	6,000.00
(e) Total capital account.....	82,468.94
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL.....	\$968,884.38

On June 30, 1937, the required legal reserve against deposits of this bank was \$90,344.45.

Assets reported above which were eligible as legal reserve amounted to \$317,161.19. * This bank's capital is represented by no capital notes and debentures sold to Reconstruction Finance Corporation and none sold to public; no shares of first preferred stock; no shares of second preferred stock; and 250 shares of common stock, par \$100. per share.

MEMORANDA

Pledged assets (except real estate), redemptions, and securities loaned:	
(a) U. S. Government obligations, direct and fully guaranteed, pledged to secure liabilities.....	\$ 40,762.50
TOTAL.....	\$ 40,762.50

Secured and preferred liabilities:	
(a) Deposits secured by pledged assets pursuant to requirement of law.....	\$ 40,762.50
TOTAL.....	\$ 40,762.50

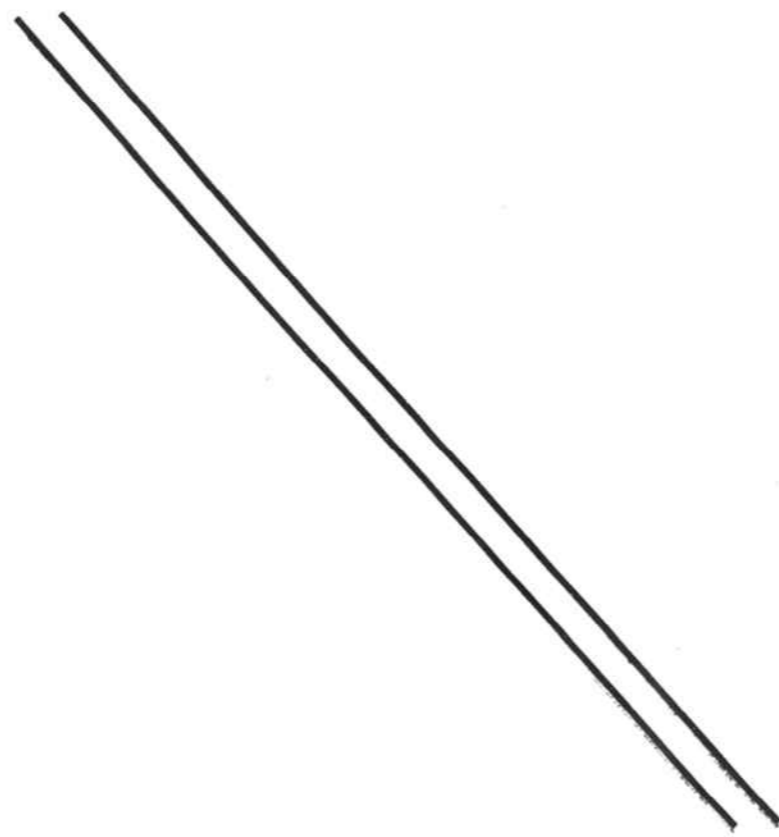
I, JOHN G. MITCHELL, Cashier, of the above-named bank, do solemnly swear that the above statement is true, and that it fully and correctly represents the true state of the several matters herein contained and set forth, to the best of my knowledge and belief.

JOHN G. MITCHELL,
R. T. WATSON,
C. R. RODWELL,
H. A. MOSELEY,
Directors.

State of North Carolina, County of Warren.
Sworn to and subscribed before me this 9th day of July, 1937,
and I hereby certify that I am not an officer or director of this bank.
My commission expires Sept 5, 1938. MARY E. GRANT,
Notary Public.

(Notary Seal)

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