

Body of Floyd Speaks Is Unburied 7 Years After Death in World War

By W. M. MOORE. Statesville, Oct. 21.—John Speaks, eccentric, of Iredell county, convinced that the world is soon to come to an end, refused to bury the body of his son, killed in the World War. Instead, he has built a little annex to his farm home to house the casket of the beloved youth and here, with his father and mother passing in and out unconcernedly about their daily occupations, all that is immortal of Thomas Boyd Speaks, aged 15, awaits the resurrection without the confining habiliments of earth.

Builds House in Yard. Speaks finally decided to build a little house in the yard, and here, on March 23, 1922, the sacred remains of the soldier boy were removed. And here they have since rested. The miniature structure is about eight feet square, neatly weatherboarded, with small windows at each end, and a little porch across the front. Molested pot flowers and neat shrubbery adorn the entrance and sides of the building. John Speaks and his wife pass in and out of this weird mausoleum as if it were the inhabited quarters of a living man.

Keeps Daily Vigil. For four years, with unabated devotion, John Speaks has been keeping daily vigil over the remains of his beloved dead. Iredell county authorities, when the fact first became public, instituted an investigation to ascertain if the situation was a menace to public health. The presence of a metallic coffin on the premises was found neither to be dangerous nor obnoxious to the public. In deference to public opinion, however, he agreed to the removal of the body from the family living room, and constructed a little one-room house in the yard to shelter it.

Thomas Boyd Speaks was killed in action in France near the Argonne forest, on October 4, 1918, a little more than a month before the armistice was signed. According to the testimony of a neighbor boy, who was in the same battle, the life of Boyd Speaks was snuffed out instantly by a German shell which passed through his breast. The body was buried in France, and remained in a French cemetery until 1921, when it was shipped to America with the bodies of thousands of other American heroes, arriving at the home of his parents on August 13th.

For seven months John Speaks slept every night in the same room with the flag draped casket. The county physician, the sheriff, and the welfare superintendent, acting on reports of neighbors, made a personal visit to the Speaks' home. They could find nothing objectionable in the presence of the casket, and there appeared to be no legal action that would hold to force a burial. But they did persuade Speaks to construct a separate apartment in which the remains might lie and to remove the gruesome object from the immediate presence of the family.

His ideas on many questions of public concern are out of the ordinary. He is a close student of the Bible, and is apparently deeply devout and religious; yet he will affiliate with neither the Baptists, the Methodists nor the Friends, all of whom have duly organized churches in the community. He discusses politics with some freedom, but does not claim fellowship with any political party. At one time he voted with the Republicans, but for a number of years he has not appeared at the ballot box. The whole scheme, both religious and political, is operated on the wrong basis, according to the conscientious belief of this man. Nobody who knows John Speaks questions his sincerity or his honesty.

He Got His Man. A man rushed up to Policeman Monahan in New York one day not long ago and breathlessly asked him to catch a burglar in a near-by house. The officer at once summoned another policeman and together they hurried to the house, that was being burglarized. Stealthily they crept into the hall and made their way along the passage. Before they had advanced many paces, Policeman Monahan heard an upstairs door slam. Cautiously he went up the stairway and opened a door at the head of the stairs. Opposite him in the room he saw the dimly outlined figure of a man and instantly he raised his gun. At the same time the man raised a gun and covered the officer.

Monahan fired two shots as quickly as he could and yelled lustily to the other policeman: "I got him." But before the words were out of his mouth there was a crash of falling glass. Officer Monahan had fired two shots into his own reflection in a mirror. The Unfortunate Bridegroom. When a young couple go off on their honeymoon they are bound to do something foolish the first day. Almost every married couple can recall some amusing circumstance (to others but not to themselves) on this never-to-be forgotten occasion. Persons who have "been through the mill" themselves usually sympathize with the newlyweds and are ready to help them, even though amusement may be getting the better of them inside. "All the world loves a lover."

Some One Blundered. Every student of English literature has read of the famous charge at Balaklava when the famous charge of the brave "Six Hundred" was made, and of the awful blunder which some one made in planning the charge. Well, that was the blunder which helped to inspire the great poet Tennyson to write his famous poem, "The Charge of the Light Brigade." But it was another blunder which inspired this article. Last week Nobles Jap Hatley, L. S. Whitworth, G. C. McManus, Bill Lowery, W. J. Cotten, Dr. C. M. Lentz, and possibly some other local members of the Mystic Shrine, sailed forth for the city of Asheville to attend the Shriner's convention. They left at an early hour in the morning (some say 2 o'clock) in order that they might arrive in time to see all the fun. They arrived in Asheville all pepped up for a glorious time, only to learn that they had come exactly a week early. As a matter of fact, the convention comes off this week instead of last, so we are reliably informed. Of course, as George Reynolds would say, the Nobles were badly "chawed," but like good sports they returned home and said nothing. But some one of the number let the story of the "blunder" drop out, in the hearing of another local Shriner who was spared by staying at home, and it was just simply too good for him to keep, seeing that the joke was on the other Nobles and unable to keep the secrets, even of a worthy brother master Mason, he hunted up the Stanly News-Herald man and gave out the facts as herein stated. But it could have been worse. Some folks have made worse blunders than that.

Between nine and ten million words are telegraphed every year over the great submarine cable connecting Canada with Australia and New Zealand, the laying of which constituted the greatest engineering feat of its kind ever undertaken. November 7th is the date now set for the world's sculling championship between Major Goodsell, the titleholder, and James Paddon. The match will be rowed on the Parramatta River course in Australia. A tournament for the women's golf championship of India will be held at Calcutta in December.

COUNTRY CORRESPONDENCE

Two men called to see Venus' old time furniture. One said he would take one of the spool bedsteads. We have four left yet. Extra fine in No. 1 condition. One rich lady in Concord bought one. We have one fine three-cornered cupboard, one walnut fall-leaf table left yet, an old time lamp and all the fixtures that go with it.

There is a crowd of fine looking young men here in Faith today putting up larger and better poles for the electric wires and taking the old poles down. They are working for the Southern Power Company, giving our town better service and fixing us up in tiptop shape. Here are their names: Leroy Simpson, D. B. Tweed, Raymond C. Putnam, Walter Graham, Precher Fry, D. B. Murray, L. S. Wallace, Clyde Mays, Charley Bassant and N. N. Durant. Mr. Putnam is a favorite among the girls and one would do well to capture him. D. P. Murray looks like a girl to Venus, and would pass for one, if he were dressed like a girl. Venus had a talk with some of them. They are from Salisbury.

Venus' birthday is October 31st. One man motored to Faith while we were at the Concord fair and got a jar of our home-made eczema salve. Two young people from Faith are going to Catawba College at Salisbury. Born to Mr. and Mrs. Hiram Brown a daughter, October 21st, 1925. VENUS.

CONCORD, ROUTE THREE. The farmers are getting through with their work fine since the rain. Hope we will have another shower soon. People are working hard in the day time and resting at night, since the fair is over. Mr. J. A. Brantley took a Bible to the fair that was 135 years old. Now Venus, if you can beat that trot them out.

Mr. R. T. Christy had a corn shucking the other night and when the corn was shucked they all marched to the house and enjoyed a nice supper. After the supper was over they had some fine music. All joined in and had an old time singing. That is the way to have an old time corn husking. Mr. Ray Krimminger has purchased a new 1925 Ford car. He visited Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Christy last Sunday. We have had three big frosts. Now is the time for the little boys to get their rabbit boxes set.

There was a large crowd at Mr. Joe Edgison's corn shucking Wednesday night. Chickens are almost afraid to come off the roost in the mornings. They are afraid there will be an axe ready to cut their heads off from the shucking that night. Mr. and Mrs. Henry Sifford spent Saturday night with Mr. and Mrs. G. G. Ellis. We are having some cool weather now. The old sweater we wore last winter comes in handy these mornings and seems much colder when we hear the old axe chip chawp. Look out for a hard winter, boys.

Mr. Wade Krimminger had a corn shucking Thursday. A large crowd was present and a nice supper was served. Miss Mary Krimminger, who has been suffering from blood poison, is getting along nicely. Everett and Marvin Moore have returned to work in Kannapolis. Mr. John Christy had a corn shucking Friday night and a large crowd was present and a fine supper was served. Come on boys with your corn shucking. We would like to hear from POLLE. BROWN EYES.

GEORGEVILLE. School began here last Monday morning with Mr. W. W. Harrington, of Taylorsville, as principal, Miss Ethel Blackweider, of Concord, and Miss Inez Shinn, of Georgeville, as assistants. The dry weather which has predominated here the past summer, was broken last Saturday. Rain began falling Saturday morning, continuing Sunday. The Georgeville Community Club will meet on Saturday, October 31st, beginning at 7:30. The program will be devoted entirely to Hallows' Eve. Short plays and recitations and songs will compose the program. After the program a social hour will be another added feature. The general public is extended a hearty welcome to meet with us Saturday night, October 31. The program appears elsewhere.

Miss Laura Maye Shinn, teacher at Midland, spent the week-end with her parents here. Mr. and Mrs. John Eudy attended the funeral of Mrs. Eudy's uncle, Mr. Howard, which was held at St. Martin's Luther's Church near Albemarle on last Saturday. Mr. W. W. Harrington, Misses Blackweider and Misses Inez and Laura Mae Shinn spent Saturday afternoon in Concord. TULIP.

The first Central Horticultural Exposition, backed by the fruit-growers of Kansas, Iowa, Missouri, Colorado, Nebraska, Arkansas and Oklahoma, will be held in Kansas City early in December. 666 is a prescription for Malaria, Chills and Fever, Dengue or Bilious Fever. It kills the germs.

FIGHT AGAINST THE RAVAGES OF TUBERCULOSIS

There is Gradually Decreasing Number of Deaths From This Cause. Raleigh, N. C., Oct. 26.—(AP)—North Carolina during the past ten years has been carrying on a victorious fight against the ravages of tuberculosis. While there were 2701 deaths in this state from the disease, in its various forms, last year—nearly one for each 1,000 population—and despite the fact that figure, being higher than the number for 1923, is discouraging to those interested in seeing the disease brought under control, a comparison of figures for the past 10 years show that there is a gradually decreasing number of deaths in this state from tuberculosis, and an even larger decrease in the ratio of deaths in comparison with population.

The figures compiled by the bureau of vital statistics of the State Board of health show that the total number of deaths in this state from tuberculosis in all forms decreased from 3,710 in 1915 to 2,545 in 1923. The figures also show that the number of deaths per 100,000 population dropped from 156.4 in 1915 to 48.7 in 1923. In 1914 there were 3,260 deaths in North Carolina from tuberculosis, or 138.3 for every 100,000 population. The next year, 1915, showed a big increase, both in the number of deaths and in the rate per population. The total number jumped to 3,710 in 1915 and the number for each 100,000 population to 156.4. Since 1915, there has been a steady decline, both in the total number of deaths and in the rate of deaths from tuberculosis from each 100,000 population. The decrease continued steadily, each year, through 1923, but last year showed an increase.

The total number of deaths from tuberculosis in 1923 was 2,545, as compared with 2,701—an increase of 156—in 1924. The rate per 100,000 population increased from 94.7 in 1923 to 90.1 in 1924. Commenting on the death rate in North Carolina from tuberculosis, Dr. P. P. McCain, superintendent and medical director of the North Carolina Sanatorium for the Treatment of Tuberculosis, at Sanatorium, gives an explanation of the high rate in this state. His statement, also may partially explain the increase in tuberculosis deaths the last year, although he does not refer to that.

He points out that there are tuberculosis patients from all over the United States at the government hospital at Oteen, and says further: "The death rate from tuberculosis in North Carolina is also considerably higher than it would be were it not for the number of deaths in this government hospital, and an account of the large number of deaths in Western North Carolina, due to the fact that it is a tuberculosis resort for people from all over the United States."

TODAY'S EVENTS. Tuesday, October 27, 1925. Centenary of the birth of Gen. John Coburn, civil war commander and Indiana congressman. The political campaign in Canada enters upon its final lap today, preliminary to the general elections next Thursday. Leaders from numerous States and from Canada and abroad will participate in the 8th annual session of the American Country Life Conference, which gets under way today at Richmond, Va.

John J. Davis, Secretary of Labor at Washington and director-general of the Loyal Order of Moose, is to speak later at the laying of the cornerstone for the new building presented to Moosehead by Senator McKinley, of Illinois. This is Navy day, annually appointed for focusing the country's interest on the "first line of defence," the date of the observance appropriately coinciding with the anniversary of the birth of the late Theodore Roosevelt.

"I should have been here long before this," said the visitor, as he entered the doctor's consulting room; "but you know how these things get put off!" Here he was seized with a fit of coughing. "A nasty cough," said the doctor, critically; "but not serious." "I just came round," resumed the stranger. "But the doctor cut him short. "Say no more," he said. "I understand your case perfectly. Just puff out your chest and say '9-90 in a deep voice.'" "It's all right, doctor," said the visitor. "That cough comes from too much smoking. But what I have to say is: nine dollars and 90 cents That's the amount you owe the gas company, and I'm their collector!"

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