

TODAY and TOMORROW

by FRANK PARKER STOCKBRIDGE

SPRING up our way

Spring has come at last up in the Neg England hills. It has been the latest season in recent years—so late that I hear many of the younger folks in our town say that this May must have been the coldest on record.

Well, I can remember one New England summer in my boyhood when snow fell on the Fourth of July! Not much, to be sure, but enough of the rain that fell all that day, and spilling our "celebration", froze under the chill Canadian north wind to enable us to see the white flakes. And I remember one Memorial Day—we used always to call it "Decoration Day"—when my sisters and I were looking for wood violets to place on the soldier's graves, we found a snow bank a foot deep in a shaded gully. And just above the snow the violets were blooming.

There is no precedent that anybody can go by in forecasting the weather. No two years are ever quite alike.

FLAGS increased sales

The Chicago Association of Commerce reports that three times as many American flags have been sold so far this year as in the first half of 1934. I don't know that that means that the reaction against Communism has set in, as the Chicago business men seem to think, but I would be glad to see a general revival of the old-fashioned "flag-raising" that used to be a regular Fourth-of July affair in the smaller communities, and even in some big cities, in my youth.

Every rural town in the East used to have its "Liberty Pole", and the hoisting of the Stars and Stripes, with a prayer by the minister, a "concert" by the local "brass band," and a patriotic speech by some local or imported big wig were fitting preludes to the sports and games and picnic feasts in which everybody took part.

There is a little hill on my farm where the Liberty Pole used to stand, up to forty or fifty years ago. The pasture around it is still known as "the flagpole lot."

If I thought anything could divert my neighbors from their holiday joy-riding to an exhibition of patriotism, I'd set up a new Liberty Pole on the old flagpole lot and invite them to an old-fashioned Fourth-of July picnic.

RADIO fine in country

I don't think that any modern invention has ever brought so much real pleasure and value to so many people as the radio. I drive around in the country a good deal, calling on neighboring farmers and friends, and it is the exception to find a country or village home where the radio is not going.

There isn't any doubt that the radio has proved a powerful influence in setting all sorts of people to thinking of social and political questions, to which they never gave attention before. It is bringing religion into many homes where people, for one reason or another, seldom go to church. Then the music, the household talks for the home-makers, the entertaining features for the children, the farm market news and all the rest of the good things that are broadcast.

WAR two sides

Listening to and reading all the anti-war talk that is going around, I am reminded of the most stirring speech I ever heard Woodrow Wilson make. It was 24 years ago, in June, 1911, at Denver, when he spoke of "The Bible and Progress," spoke as a believing and practical Christian to an audience composed of the most of the members of all the Christian churches in that city.

"Liberty," he said, "is a spiritual conception... There are times in the history of nations when they must take up the crude implements of bloodshed in order to vindicate spiritual conceptions... When men take up arms to set other men free, there is something sacred and holy in the warfare."

That was spoken more than three years before Europe went to war in 1914, more than six years before the United States went into that conflict. Nobody wanted war. But when a situation arose in which America was called upon to vindicate the spiritual conception of Liberty, as Mr. Wilson had phrased it, we went into the war in that spirit.

Don't let anyone tell you America went to war for profits or to save somebody's investments.

CHAINS and gambling

How many chain letters have you had? I've only received one myself but my wife has had four or five in the past fortnight and I think my daughter's latest score is around fifteen.

We have one very simple system of handling these chain letters. That is to throw them in the waste basket without answering them.

The chain letter craze is just one more evidence of the wide-spread gambling spirit which prevades the whole country. The trouble with this form of gambling is that the odds are so heavy against everyone who tries it.

I suggest that anybody who has

THE BOOK

the first line of which reads, "The Holy Bible," and which contains Four Great Treasures

by BRUCE BARTON

MARY OF MAGDALA

The name Mary was immensely popular in the time of Jesus because of the love of the Jewish people for Mariamne, the wife of Herod, who was murdered by him. Hence there are so many women in the New Testament named Mary that we sometimes find it difficult to keep track of them. Foremost, of course, is Mary, the mother of Jesus. Next in order of her importance is Mary of Magdala. Of her early history we know nothing except that she suffered with some nervous or mental complaint.

And it came to pass afterward, that he went throughout every city and village, preaching and shewing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God; and the twelve were with him.

And certain women, which had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities, Mary called Magdalene, out of whom went seven devils. We know the names of a few of the women who followed Jesus on that last journey from Galilee to Jerusalem and "ministered to him of their substance." Three of them were Marys. Some apprehension or expectation of crisis, some woman's instinct caused them to leave their homes and be His companions in this "last stage" of His public work.

"Crucified, dead and buried!" Terrible words. The apostolic group was stunned and paralyzed. How the eleven disciples spent the hours from night-fall of Friday till dawn of Sunday, we do not know. But on Easter morning, "while it was yet dark" (John 20:1) these women who had seen Jesus crucified came with spices to anoint His body. They did not know that Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus had already performed that melancholy service.

They reached the tomb, wondering who would roll away the stone for them, and behold, it was already rolled away. And the angel said, "He is not here; He is risen." The others hurried back to tell the disciples, but Mary stood without, weeping. "She it was who first saw the Lord.

No wonder Renan, skeptic as he was, marveled at the faith which caused her to see that vision of a living Christ and to proclaim it. He had a skeptic's easy explanation, but he said that no sane person ever saw anything that gave to the world such comfort as the vision of love that the Magdalene beheld. Peter and John ran to the sepulchre and found the empty tomb; the whole city knew of it before night.

But Mary's eyes first beheld Him and her glad voice first told the incredulous disciples. In the power of her faith and the blessing of her good tidings only Mary, the mother of Jesus, deserves to stand before this other beautiful and devoted follower of Jesus, Mary of Magdala.

Sunday School

by HENRY LESSON RADCLIFFE

CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP

International Sunday School Lesson for June 16, 1935

GOLDEN TEXT: "It is required in stewards that a man be found faithful."—I Cor. 4:2.

(Lesson Text—Deut. 8:11-18; 2 Cor. 9:6-8.)

Very often one hears the objection that preachers so often "talk about money." These critics object because the subject touches their sore point. The generous giver never worries about the presentation of an opportunity of service. If he (or she) can afford to help, even with some self-denial, it is a pleasure. If one is unable to contribute, through no fault, there is no reason for reproach. The church member whose religion can't open the pocket-book for a worthy cause should re-examine his (or her) profession of faith and love.

Certainly, to one who believes in a God who created all life, the sharing of a part for the accomplishment of His purposes is logical and desirable. To give back some part of our good fortune to benefit others less fortunate and in need is the only way we can acknowledge His ownership by right of creation. Without God and the society of His creatures, there would be no property, nor any value for it.

In the Old Testament the tithing or (one-tenth) was the measure of this religious and social obligation. Abraham gave tithes to Melchizedek; Jacob made a vow to give God a tenth and ancient Hebrews kept the tithing law of Lev. 27:30-33; Num. 18:21-32, and Deut. 12:15-18. In the New Testament the arbitrary tithing is replaced by the Law of Stewardship—all that a man has should be used for the kingdom, which includes feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, caring for the sick, and so on, as plainly taught in the separation of the sheep and goats

money to bet and the urge to get money without working for it would better wait until he can lay his wager under some controlled and well-policed scheme where he at least has a chance of collecting his winnings if luck should happen to be with him.

Robert Ross who directed Roland Young's last Broadway appearance called up the other day. "I don't like your play" was the substance of his conversation... Ho, hum. Just another 20,000 words to make the rounds of theatrical offices. But then, "Three Men on a Horse" went to twelve offices before it landed.

That private carriage on Fifth Avenue—you're only likely to see it on Sunday mornings. It's the last one in New York, I believe. And it's no affectation, for it conveys a frilly old lady who'd surprise me if she didn't wear lavender and old lace.

Each year, toward the end of school terms, domestic science students, future dietitians, future teachers, flock in droves from midnight to dawn in inspection tours of food markets—to see the huge supplies of fruits and vegetables that come into New York every day. The Erie Pier and the Pennsylvania Pier on the Hudson receive many carloads every day, freighted across from the New Jersey side of the river. And fragrant, colorful warehouses they become each morning!

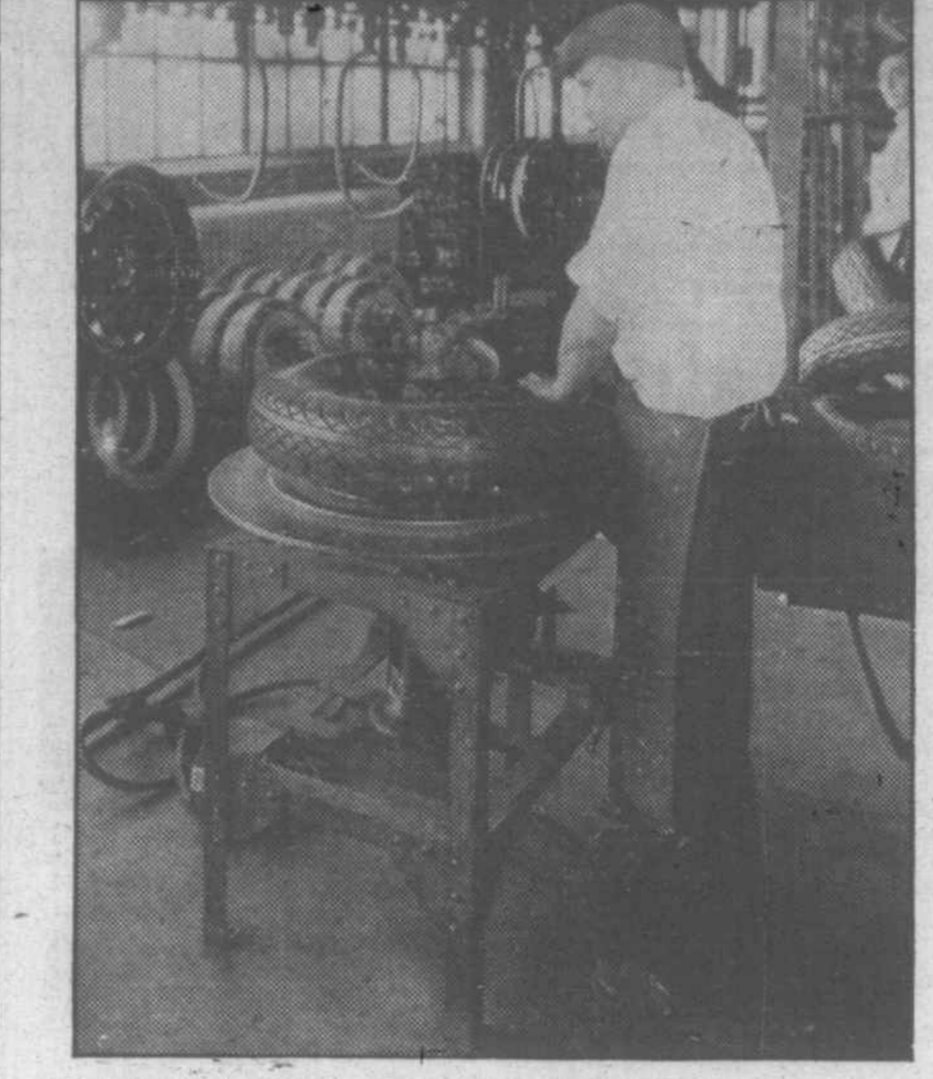
RAMBLING ROUND NEW YORK

with HUGH KENNY

Ship's visitors must be on shore fifteen minutes before sailing time. That wait of fifteen minutes to see the big greyhound of the sea pull out seems interminable. By the time the ship actually does sail, both visitors and passengers are hoarse and irritated. They made good use of the situation in a musical comedy two years ago. With all the shouting from railing to the dock, nobody can understand anybody and the irritation grows until the whistle blows. Everyone is immensely relieved when the ship moves the first fraction of an inch!

Seeing a ship off last week... Though the visitors and seers-off were merry they didn't reel into taxicabs the way they used to before repeal.

WHEN CHANGING TIRES IS EASY



Many motorists would be thankful for a machine like this when a blow-out or puncture occurs on the highway. This machine spins tire on wheels in about the time it takes you to count three. The scene is in the big Hudson Motor Car Company plant at Detroit, where activity is greater this year than in many years, due to increased demand for the new Hudsons and Terraplanes.

The NEW PICTURES

(Opinions are based upon the reports of P. S. Harrison, noted New York critic, whose reviews serve as confidential guides to theatre men all over the United States.)

"BREAK OF HEARTS" (RKO WITH Katharine Hepburn and Charles Boyer.

This should entertain the masses fairly well even though the story is the old familiar theme—a triangle drama. The production is lavish, the acting good and the musical score excellent.

"AGE OF INDISCRETION" (MGM) with Paul Lukas, Madge Evans and

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"MUTINY AHEAD" (MAJESTIC) with Neil Hamilton and Kathleen Burke. Well produced but only fair entertainment owing to a disconnected and somewhat ambiguous plot. The closing scenes are exciting and the romantic interest is pleasant.

"MEN OF THE HOUR" (COLUMBIA picture) with Richard Cromwell, Wallace Ford and Billie Seward. Just a fair program melodrama, with a few exciting situations. On the whole it is slow-moving and the story is not particularly interesting. The closing scenes are fairly thrilling. There is some human interest and romance.

"KENTUCKY BLUE STREAK" (FUBITAN PICTS.) With Eddie Nugent, Junior Coghlan and Patricia Scott. A mildly entertaining program melodrama, which should please horse-racing fans. The scenes of the big race, that of the Kentucky Derby, are made more realistic by the use of background shots actually taken in Kentucky during Derby Day. While the story is somewhat trite and slow moving, there is some human interest. The closing scenes are fairly thrilling and the romance is pleasant.

"ONCE IN A BLUE MOON" (PARAMOUNT) with Jimmy Savo. Terrible! The story is absolutely ridiculous and there is not a name in the cast that means anything to the box-office. Jimmy Savo, a fine pantomimist, has screen possibilities, but this picture won't do much for him. The rest of the cast walk listlessly through their parts.

"OUR LITTLE GIRL" (FOX) WITH Shirley Temple, Joel McCrea, Rosemary Ames and Lyle Talbot. A nice picture, with considerable human interest, but not as strong as Shirley Temple's last two pictures. The reason for it is because her environment is depicted as being unhappy most of the time, with her parents separated. The reconciliation brought about by Shirley, is touching. Good for the family.

Two Scotchmen were watching a football game; one had a bottle, the other had only a thirst. The bottle man was talking very largely about his knowledge of the game and what a fine player he was himself. During the conversation he helped himself very liberally to the contents of his bottle, whereupon the thirsty one said: "Weel, I notice ye're a fine dribbler, but ye're nae gaid at passing."—Humorist (London)

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