

# TODAY and TOMORROW

— by —  
FRANK PARKER STOCKBRIDGE

## BICYCLES . . . . . peril

There are more bicycles in use in the United States today than ever before. That is the report of the Iowa Director of Motor Vehicles; and he is talking about ordinary foot-propelled "bikes," not motorcycles. Trade statistics bear out his assertion, and every motorist must have noticed the increased number of bicycle riders who add to the perils of motoring on the highways.

I remember when bicycles were a rare novelty. I rode one of the old-style high-wheel bikes in my boyhood. The present type of bicycle, with pneumatic tires, did not come into use until I was through high school. There were no automobiles in those days, but cyclists scared horses and farmers used to set their dogs on us. Around the cities and suburbs special "cycle paths" used to be built to keep the wheelmen off both sidewalks and the main thoroughfares.

If bicycles continue to multiply it would seem like good sense to go back to the old practice of putting a narrow strip exclusively for cyclists' use along each new road built.

## DUTCH . . . . . misnomer

The government of the Kingdom of Holland is trying to get the word "Dutch" out of the English language. It sounds too much like "Deutsch," which means "German." Indeed, it was first applied to the people of the Low Countries when the line between them and the lower German Rhineland was not sharply drawn.

The proper name for Holland now is "The Netherlands," and the official name of the little colony in South America which used to be called "Dutch Guiana" has been changed to "Surinam." There are no more "Dutch West Indies." The new name for those islands in the lower Caribbean is "Curacao." The great Netherlands islands of Borneo, Sumatra, Java, Bali and numerous smaller ones, which we used to call the Dutch East Indies, are now the Netherlands Indies.

Americans will doubtless continue to refer to the early "Dutch" settlers of New York, New Jersey, and to confuse them with the "Pennsylvania Dutch" who are not of Netherlands stock but pure German. But if you address a letter to any of the Netherlands colonies under its old name, your postmaster will "get in Dutch" if he forwards it.

## EDUCATION . . . . . practical

One of the most practical educational experiments I have heard of has lately been made at Netcong, New Jersey, where 25 children from New York City schools have been spending the summer vacation in a "work camp." They are learning how the work of the world is done by doing it themselves.

Boys and girls alike dress in overalls and not only do a variety of farm chores but have undertaken to repair and put in modern condition an abandoned farmhouse more than 100 years old. They have taken to that task with enthusiasm, and are doing a creditable job as carpenters, stone-masons, plasterers, painters, plumbers and electricians.

The only education of real value that the young can get is in doing things for themselves. If they pass school age without knowing anything about the real work of the world their education has only just begun.

## FARMING . . . . . progress

From all I read and hear about new methods and processes in farming, it seems as if agriculture, or many phases of it, were entering upon revolutionary developments.

The latest is the successful attempt of a northern New York farmer to get his tomatoes ripe before the normal crop flooded the market and forced prices down. He put in a hot-water heater and carried pipes underground to warm the tomato roots. The result was larger plants with

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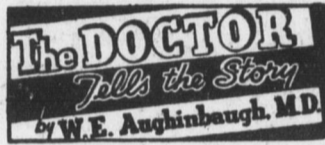
more fruit, ready to pick ten days before his neighbors' crops. In California and elsewhere commercial production of many kinds of vegetables is being carried on successfully without any soil at all. The plants, supported by wire netting or other means, send their roots down into tanks of warm, chemically-treated water. Production is reported as very high, the labor of cultivating and weeding is entirely eliminated, and picking and harvesting becomes a simple operation. That's progress.

## TOMORROW . . . . . prophets

It is an interesting occupation to predict what the world will be like in the future, and if you set your dates far enough ahead you won't be around, or your readers either, to be laughed at when your predictions turn out wrong.

The best that an honest prophet can do is not to be too specific as to when things are going to happen, nor go into too many details as to just what they will be like when they do come off, and by what means. He can only point to the trends apparent in his own time.

I have no hesitation in predicting that in the course of time the economic waste of war will have become so apparent to the people of the world that they will realize how silly it is to set up barriers between nations. That will be a long time from now; but it will be hastened by the increasing ease of communications between peoples of all parts of the world. It will not be politicians or dictators who will make the world over. It will be the scientists and technologists with new discoveries and inventions.



## Foreign Bodies

I doubt if there has ever lived a doctor, who at some time or other in his professional career, was not called upon to remove a foreign body from the interior of a human being.

It is most common to have children of all ages resort to the practice of inserting peas, beans, tacks, nails, pieces of stone, and dirt into their nostrils and ears or else swallowing them.

Among girls, hundreds, when they wore their hair long, bit off the ends and swallowed them, in time to have these bits of hair form into a ball, shaped mass in the stomach, which often required a surgical operation to remove.

General Robert G. Dyrenforth carried a bullet he received in a Civil War engagement in his body for more than thirty years. He was wounded in the chest and I removed the bullet from the calf of his leg.

An elderly murderer, recently executed at Sing Sing, for years had been swallowing pins and needles. X-ray pictures showed a great many of these dressmakers' accessories scattered about various portions of his anatomy and the strange thing was that none of them had in the least inconvenienced him during the twenty-five years he had been following this practice. Such cases are relatively common in medical history and seldom do they prove fatal.

About six months ago, however, a man walked into one of the large New York hospitals and stated that while he was sleeping in a bed, at the head of which hung a pin cushion, he was aroused by a sharp pain in the anterior portion of the left side of his chest, and told the interne he believed a needle had stuck in his body. The pain increased materially in intensity and was aggravated by deep breathing. His heart sounds were obscured by a coarse, grating murmur.

A diagnosis of needle in the heart was made and the X-ray pictures taken confirmed this. An operation exposing the heart was performed and a needle two inches long was removed from that organ, the eye portion of the needle being visible to the operating surgeon. The needle had passed through the tip of the upper lobe of the left lung and into the heart.

The man survived the operation and seemed to be on the road to recovery, when he suddenly died. An autopsy showed that the needle had punctured the left ventricle of the heart.

## Poultry Problem

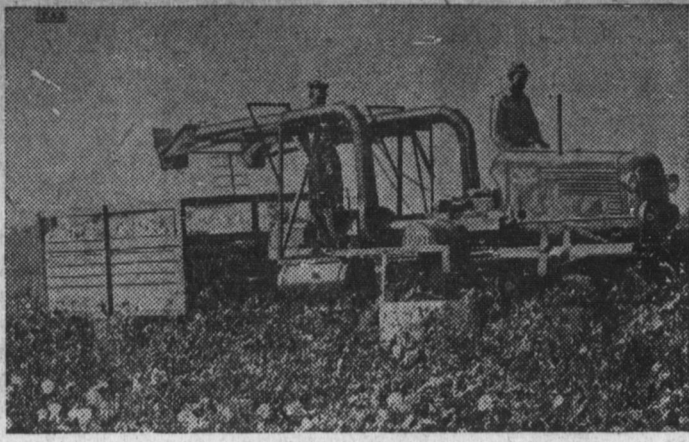
Jeany: Black hens are smarter than white hens, aren't they, mummy?

Mother: Why, Jeany, why ask such a silly question?

Jeany: Well, black hens can lay white eggs, but white hens can't lay black eggs, can they?

The greatest science in the world is that which liberates a human being from the hovel of darkness and restores him to light and knowledge.

## The Cotton Picker Goes Into Action



MEMPHIS, Tenn. . . . This mechanical cotton picker, harvesting the South's money crop, is no longer in the experimental stage. It will pick one bale, or about 1500 pounds of lint cotton and seed an hour at an approximate cost of 24 cents per 100 pounds. Hand pickers are paid from 75 cents to one dollar per 100 pounds.

When a good man falls in a community, he is like a great oak that falls in the forest—it is hard to replace him.

If a man is just determined to fly his car, the patrolmen should "de-wing" the car before he starts.

## Scratched Out

Warden Lewis E. Lawes relates that the late Judge Oakley, a man held in reverence by the bench and bar of New York, was rigid in requiring the attendance of persons summoned as jurors. Excuses, unless very good, were of no avail. On one occasion several whose names had been called stood before the bench. Among them was an insignificant, frowsy-looking little fellow, who said, "Judge, I wish you'd let me off."

"For what reason?" inquired the judge.

"Well, Judge, I don't want to say."

"You must say or serve." "But Judge, I don't think the other jurors would like to have me serve with them."

"Why not? Out with it?"

"Well, Judge," pausing.

"Go on!"

"I've got the itch."

"Mr. Clerk, scratch that man out," was the prompt order from the bench and the courtroom was emptied immediately.

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