

The Greater Offense

(From The Wilmington Star) A nine-year-old girl in New York wrote this letter Friday to her "Little Mother:" Dear Mother: Hurry up and get better. I can't eat without you. Grandma says you are still sick. She says she doesn't know whether you will be home Christmas. But anyway, Mother, here is what I want: You know the big doll you gave me two years ago. That dress is all worn. You have to make me another new dress for Dolly. I would also like to have a little doll's house. I hope you get better. Love, etc. Poor little innocent, writing that letter to the Mother she believes is ill! Sonner or later she will have to learn that the illness which is keeping Mother away is not a physical ailment, but a moral one. Dear Ol' Grandma telling the wistful child she doesn't know whether Mother will come Christmas! Grandma knows—but can't bring herself to tell—that Mother will not come this Christmas nor next nor anytime, for the Little Mother to whom this

touching letter was directed is Mrs. Ruth Snyder, and unless the Governor intervenes she will be dead at the hands of the law within a few more weeks. Little Lorraine is not old enough to understand that it was Mother, and not a bad man with a mask who had Daddy clubbed to death while he slept one night last spring. She thinks her Little Mother was made ill by the tragedy, and will return as soon as able. It is such incidents as this that add the greatest horror to murder. One may find forgiveness for the spilling of human blood. One may atone to man for such a crime and even receive a Divine pardon, but to one who so disillusioned and disappoints a little child can barely hope for clemency on earth or elsewhere. It isn't the spirit of Albert Snyder, a husband never loved too well, that will haunt the guilty wife in the shadow of the electric chair. If she is human—and one who could inspire that love and faith in a baby must possess some redeeming quality—it will be the wistful little face of Lorraine that brings the most poignant shock.

101. Flaps Wings



Grandmother Alberta Parent of George Falts Mass. celebrated her 101st birthday the other day by flying from Boston to Old Orchard Beach, Me. and told reporters she hoped to observe her 102d in the same way.

Around Our Town - By Renn Drum

WINTER AS IT STALKS ABOUT in this section sure is hard on the coal dealers. About the time a coal dealer gets ready to have a good laugh at the rain and sleet the sun comes out and wipes the smile away and puts on a frown.

FOOTBALL ISN'T WHAT IT USED to be if you care to listen to the gridiron yarn told down at the Key club by Connelly Eskridge, local grocery salesman. Some fan who attended the recent Tech-Georgia game in Atlanta was telling about the mud and rain interfering with the play when Eskridge interrupted: "They know nothing about a muddy field nowadays. I remember when football was so rough that on a muddy field you had to blow bubbles in the water to keep 'em from piling on you all day."

The story of a game between Shelby and Westminster in the old days when the back carrying the ball had to yell "down" before the opposing players would quit piling on or the referee would blow his whistle.

"Up at Westminster that day there was so much water and mud on the gridiron that when you got tackled and your face split the puddles you couldn't yell 'down' and the referee had to watch for bubbles on the water or listen for gurgles to know when he should toot his whistle," Eskridge said.

Since the hot stove league season is on in Shelby, for the baseball and football fans must fill in some way until Spring, many good sport stories are heard. One of the best ones is told by a fan who keeps up with statistics and dates back to the summer when Shelby was in the Blue Ridge League. A big pitcher, whose name the colyum cannot recall, reported here to twirl for the Shelby team, but proved a better hitter than a pitcher—another Babe Ruth as it were. This pitcher, so the story goes, was at bat 10 times here and hit 10 three-baggers on 11 pitched balls in all. The other ball was too high too hit with the proverbial "10-foot pole. That's one for the books, we say.

AMONG THE THINGS WE haven't heard is the name of the fellow who will get the Shelby postoffice if Al Smith is elected.

A METHODIST TAKES OFF time to let us know what would be real news by handing in the following clipping from the Uplift: "The Monroe Journal's story of a Methodist minister refusing fried chicken does not apply to this age. Such an event in this day would certainly be a piece of news."

OF COURSE THAT PARAGRAPH for juggling words does not compare with the one from the Rock Hill Record about dresses—and the Rock Hill editor should know as he has been located near Winthrop college and all those girls for years. Says The Record: "In other days they wore their dresses down to their insteps and now they wear them up to their step-ins."

THIS COLYUM NOTES WITH interest that "Doc Sib" Dorton is being talked for secretary of the State Fair. The movement may end up with nothing more than talk, but if the Shelby man should land the post the state may as well go ahead and charter about half of the Atlantic ocean to put the crowds in—that is if Dorton can draw them to a state fair in 1928 as he does to the county fair. And we believe he could.

PERHAPS THAT FORD WHICH tried to knock a locomotive off the track here the other night was attempting to let the new flivver know that it wasn't the whole show.

IF SANTA DOESN'T BRING you what you think he should bring why not get out a recall petition and get a new Nick?

AMONG THE NOTICEABLE omissions: Those newspapers in certain cities which do not publish the official All-State high school football eleven. Some of 'em were large cities and they didn't have as many players on the eleven as did Lexington, Shelby and some of the other one-horse towns.

"I WANT TO GIVE HIM A chance," Governor McLean is said to have said Saturday when he paroled a 14-year-old white boy from a six-year prison sentence for murder and sent him to a reformatory. A good move on the part of the governor, we agree along with Robt. A. Hoyle, who calls attention to the matter, but what about the 14-year-old negro boy who was sent to the State prison from Shelby some months back for an attempted attack on a colored girl? If he has been given a chance, or even had one in his life no one has heard about it.

"The prison is for men, not boys,"

the news story had Governor McLean saying. Of course the Shelby boy was a black one, but Alfred Denton, the boy killer from Nash county, could not have had any more meagre chance than the grinning little imp who left Shelby to stay in Raleigh almost as long as a prominent Shelby citizen will go there to stay some of these days—not at the same place, of course.

JOHN R. DOVER LOCAL TEXTILE manufacturer must have been a Boy Scout in his youth—which was not long ago if you happen to be talking near him. Meaning that Mr. Dover believes in being prepared. Not long since he said to Max Gardner "I've told the employees that I'll have the governor for speaker at our banquet after next. Now if it suits you we'll not disappoint them."

So far as is known it is the first speaking date made for Governor Gardner.

IF YOU SHOP EARLY TAKE the smelling salts along. For the store folks—it'll surprise 'em.

Funeral Story Classed As Best

Ionel Bratianu Moved Among Kings and Princes but in Death Preferred the Humble

Raleigh. — From adjournalistic standpoint, the best newspaper story of the last six months is the Associated Press dispatch of November 27 from Florica, Rumania, telling of the funeral of Ionel Bratianu, the dictator of Rumania who moved among kings and princes but in death preferred the humble funeral of the peasant, Stewart Robertson, chairman of the department of English, North Carolina State college, believes.

He made the award at his latest gathering of advance students of journalism, held one night a week, to which forum high state officials, active newspapermen, retired managing editors, prominent visitors, graduate students, and research professors and heads of State college attend.

Mr. Robertson's zeal in his favorite study—journalism—carries him far afield. He has prepared several papers from research work covering the nation's press and he combines academic study with practical finds. Holding up the first page of the Raleigh News and Observer of November 28, he read to the "class" the Associated Press dispatch and pointed to the objectivity, slow cadence, and restraint of the simply worded news story. Queen Marie appeared to the bottom of the dispatch.

"I am afraid that had the funeral been held in this country, a number of writers would have had Queen Marie all over the story," he said. An AP correspondent present, answering inquiry, said an American wrote the dispatch, as Americans write all foreign "stuff." The item in question began: "Six huge white ovens, led by fifty priests in medieval robes, today bore the body of Ionel Bratianu from the funeral train to its last resting place in the little, Byzantine church which the late Premier built here himself."

Several teachers in the class said they had read the story in their current history classes. Mr. Robertson brought out that the interview form of writing "is an American invention of but several years ago" and is a great step in behalf of independence of the American press.

MURDER AND THEFT FILLING UP PRISON

Liquor Dealings Take a Back Seat; 74 New Inmates Received in November

(News and Observer) Liquor dealings had little to do with repopulating State's Prison last month. Killing and stealing was responsible for getting the majority of the new inmates behind the bars. Most of the prohibition law violators draw short terms and serve them on county roads or in county jails.

Negroes showed more success in staying out of prison last month than did white people. It wasn't the black who did most of the killing and stealing.

In all 74 new prisoners were received in November. Superintendent George Ross Pon reported. Of these, 49 were white. One was a woman, unmarried. Thirty of the white men were married, and thirteen of the 25 Negro prisoners were married.

Rutherford county, which sent down a bus load of 13 prisoners just when cotton picking time was at its height, led the counties in the number of inmates. Guilford sent over five, and Wake only two.

Ten of the new prisoners got in for manslaughter and seven for second degree murder. Nineteer were caught in the larceny net. Whiskey dealings accounted for only seven. Violation of the state banking laws accounted for one.

Of the 74 November initiates, 27 gave their occupation as laborers, 14 as farmers, 12 as textile workers, and the others various occupations including nothing at all.

If our souls enter animals when we die, the slain pedestrian must find a grim satisfaction in being a porcupine.—Washington Post.

PARENTS SHOULD BE COMRADES OF YOUTH

Unwise To Attempt To Arbitrarily Dictate To Children, Says Writer

New York.—Today's parents must learn to be comrades to their grown children instead of keepers and judges if they expect to get happiness and satisfaction out of their jobs.

That, at least, is the opinion grown out of the experience of one of them, Albert Payson Ternune, noted author.

In brief, Mr. Ternune asserts, times have changed since today's 50-year-old were 21, and to the requirements of parenthood have changed with them. Parents who fail to realize this, he holds, are doomed to be embittered by their children's reactions toward them.

"If we insist on remaining parents and in exacting the reverence and obedience that were ours when our children were babies, we shall not get what we demand," he says, writing in the Shrine Magazine—"and we shall lose everything else

worth while that our grown offspring could and would otherwise give us.

"When we parents were young, the world was rolling at a leisurely pace and mankind was working ten hours a day. Now the world is spinning at top-speed and mankind somehow has more leisure than ever before.

"When we parents were young there were few theatres, no picture houses, no motors, no golf, almost no country clubs. A trip to England was more unusual than is a world cruise nowadays. The home bulked big and so did the church. Both home and church were mightily on the side of parental authority. There were few places except home and church where the young could go for recreation and help. Hence in those days parents had everything their own way."

But today's youth, having learned self-confidence and the ways of a rapidly moving world at an early age is likely to become resentful of the parental restraint to which youth of preceding generations was subjected his Shrine article asserts.

The better today's parents do their job of bringing their children through the early years to a point where they can master life's

problems "the sooner the children are in a position where they longer need their parents," he points out.

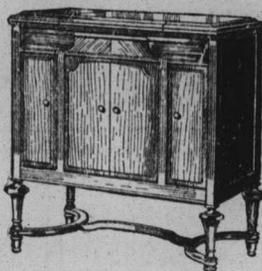
"Then father and mother are out of work as parents. Of old the renewed their parent days helping to bring up their own children. But the mother of today is too wise in the modern bringing of children to let grand or grandma spoil them or give the unhygienic coddling.

"But even if we can no longer be reigning parents there is a million fine and comforting things we can be. Once let our grown children rid themselves of the idea that we are keeping disapproving tabs on them and let the discover that we are more human than parental and there are good chances of real chumship and mutual good times.

"Meeting on terms of equality and with parental authority gladly and mutually joined there is a brilliant chance for friendship which shall brighten our fading years."

The tobacco flea beetle can be successfully controlled by the use of the trap bed. If the beetles or bugs are kept from the young plants and killed, they are not so likely to attack the crop in the field.

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CALIFORNIA MAY TAKE ON NEVADA

Some Opponents Hold, However, California Now Is Too Large

Los Angeles—California proposes to reduce the United States to 47. There is a strong desire to incorporate more territory within the state's boundaries. This ambition need not cause Mexico worry.

It is Nevada that patriotic realtors have their eyes on. Annexation of Nevada is a dream that more than one Californian hopes may become a reality.

Stephen Barson, California state real estate commissioner, is one of the most outspoken advocates of the plan which would dissolve one star from Old Glory's firmament.

"Nevada stands as a barrier to California," he says. "Our splendid arteries of highways reach to the borders of her sand and mud. Our private capital and credit would transform those barren wastes into cultivated fields and our highways would extend another 500 miles eastward to the very treasure vaults of Utah."

No state in the union has annexed so much territory.

Nevada is sixth in size among the states and the least populous. Settled in 1850, and admitted to the union in 1864, it is officially credited with 77,407 population, which is much less than one person to the square mile.

However, there have been boom times when the number of residents was much greater. Nevada probably has more "ghost towns" than any other state.

There is sectional criticism of the proposal by persons who feel that California already is too large; that division of its present territory into two states is necessary.

The claim that a combination of California and Nevada would produce a commonwealth too unwieldy to administer efficiently, is met with the rejoinder that the combined areas of the two is only slightly larger than Texas' 265,000 square miles.

"California still has large sections of unsettled or sparsely settled territory," critics further contend.

Annexationists point out that large chunks of El Dorado territory have been set aside as national parks and forests, and thus are closed to settlement.

In Nevada there are nearly 1,000 acres to each inhabitant; in California less than 29. California's population is estimated by the census bureau to have increased from 3,480,000 in 1920 to 4,316,000 in 1926.

The annexationists feel that the combine would be of benefit to the entire union, by promoting settlement of land that is virtually idle, and increasing national wealth; by providing employment for countless persons; by reducing the cost of government while increasing tax revenue; by developing thoroughfares that would make trans-continental travel easier.

There is, however, no false optimism over the likelihood of the annexation being accomplished. Opposition of Nevada's officeholders and political parties is to be expected.

The whole matter now is mostly "talk" but advocates of the proposal hope to see it develop into something concrete within a year or two; and eventually into the biggest real estate deal since the Louisiana purchase.

ONE OWL PUTS THREE TOWNS IN DARKNESS

Palestine, Tex.—An owl that sat on a high-power line and pecked at another with his beak before dawn was responsible for darkness in three towns in the early morning.

The owl shorted the wire, which burned out, leaving Elkhart, Grape-land and Crockett in the dark, and it took the greater part of the day to repair the lines.

A plane has been invented to fly straight up in the air. It will be used at the navy department when Admiral Magruder writes another article.—Virginian-Pilot.

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