Tidbits of Kentucky Folklore

BY Gordon Wilson, Ph.D.
WESTERN KENTUCKY TEACHERS COLLEGE
BOWLING GREEN, KY.

THE MAIL BOX

A hundred years ago Thomas DeQuincey immortalized the English mail coach, which represented to him and his generation the far-reaching romance of the British postal service. I want to add a small chapter today on the same romance, this time as applied to our rural deliveries of mail. If I could visualize the whole country, I could be a real romancer, for probably no governmental agency so effectively reaches all of us as the postoffice and its servants.

In the days of my own boyhood the mail came to our little post office only three times a week. The mail carrier was not loaded down even then, but probably you who have always lived in a city can hardly imagine how important the few letters and pulp magazines and advertisements were. Every one in the community was reading a dozen continued stories in Comfort or The American Woman or some other monthly magazine printed at Augusta, Maine, on very cheap paper. Who cared for the quality of the paper, though, when there were a dozen guaranteed fits of weping in each issue? For a long time there were no individual mail boxes along the road. We sometimes could hire the mail carrier to bring our mail for us, either by paying him a small sum or by having something good to eat as he returned from his journey to the little country store-post-office at Fidelity. The mail was carried then and now past my old home by a star route, but it seemed unnecessary then to have deliveries of mail. By and by we could put up a mail box down at the big road and leave letters to be mailed. Since the trip to the postoffice and the one back were about two hours apart, it necessitated two journeys to the road. How important we felt as we walked down past the neighbor's house with real letters to be mailed or with all the fresh-smelling new papers and magazines! Sometimes we got a big catalogue, for mail-order houses were already reaching out into the country. No encyclopedia in a library ever ranked more highly than did our big catalogues, showing what the big world was eating or wearing or riding in or using to decorate their houses. Only recently some costuming companies have had recourse to those same catalogus that delighted us in order to find just what people looked like forty or more years ago, just what was fashionable or the latest fad.

The mail box became the living symbol of the government. Even the bad boys hesitated to do violence to a mail box, however much they may have thrown rocks at everything else in sight. They seemed to regard the boxes as the inviolable property of Uncle Sam. The wrens did not share this fear, for then and now every mail box that has lost its door (and most of them have) has been an invitation to build a bulky nest of sticks and feathers. Fortunately, the average Bewick or House Wren can live in a mail box very little disturbed by the daily commotion of inserting the letters and papers. Few people are cruel enough to try to expel the intruder and feel a proprietary interest in the wild little fellows who seek such a symbol of civilization as a mail box for a home.

Nothing exists by itself. The mail box, often battered up and unsightly, ties the remotest places to the big world and, by its daily delivery of newspapers, makes the ends of the earth meet right at our own front-yard gate or at the big road down the lane.

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IMPROVED UNIFORM INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL Lesson

By HAROLD L. LUNDQUIST, D. D.
Dean of The Moody Bible Institute of Chicago.
(Released by Western Newspaper Union.)

Lesson for March 17

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CALVARY: TRIUMPH THROUGH SACRIFICE

LESSON TEXT—Matthew 27:33-50.
GOLDEN TEXT—He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief.—Isaiah 53:3.

At Calvary, reverent and thoughtful readers of God's Word stand speechless, and confess themselves to be powerless to explain or to expound the awe-inspiring story, and yet just because it is such a story, because on that cross the divine Son of God gave Himself in sacrificial atonement for sin, we must do our utmost to understand it, to explain it, and certainly to declare it to all mankind. For when He who knew no sin became sin for us, it was for our sin that He died. Here alone do we find redemption.

We approach this scene therefore with reverence, and with the prayer that we may so present the dying Saviour to dying men that some may believe and be saved. We center our thoughts around three expressions taken from the text.

I. "They Crucified Him."

All of the gospel stories are remarkably reticent when they speak of the cross. Details of surrounding events are given, but when they speak of the cross itself, they can only say that He was crucified. Let us look at the One who hung on that sacred tree, for He is the Saviour of the world. Refusing the stupefying potion (v. 34) and facing death fully conscious, we hear Him crying out of the darkness which covered all the land, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" That cry indicates the depth to which our Saviour went for us.

Does it not seem that the Father in that darkest moment of history turned His back upon the One who knowing no sin Himself had become sin for us? And yet we know that it was God who hung upon the tree, God the Son. Here is divine mystery, the meaning of which we cannot fathom, but we know that it was for us.

Then came the cry with the loud voice, "It is finished!" This was not the death of the languishing martyr. The Son of God, having wrought out redemption on the cross, cried out in powerful tones of victory, "It is finished!" and yielded up His spirit.

II. "They Watched Him."

III. "He Trusted in God."

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Scouts at Both Fairs Again

Boy Scouts participate in the New York World's Fair and Golden Gate Exposition at San Francisco. Top view—New York World's Fair Boy Scout Service Camp. Others show Scouts at both expositions.

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(Elizabethtown News)

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MONEY TALKS

Frederick Stamm, Economist Director of Adult Education University of Louisville

A by-product of this war which has not attracted a great deal of attention and made the newspaper headlines is the refugee industries which are fleeing Europe and locating in the United States. Some of these companies are fleeing Europe because of fear or oppression, others because of their expanding market in North and South America. Many of these companies are small and would fit into the economic life of a small community.

To illustrate, The Continental Elastic Company of New Bedford, Mass., began the manufacture of elastic braid last year and now employes some 50 people. The original plant was in Switzerland. The Sun Shoe Mfg. Co., whose owners came from Germany, is located in Chicago. This plant manufactures a line of women's shoes and employes around 150 workers.

Another interesting illustration is the Marum Knitting Mills of Lawrence, Mass., owned by two Germans who formerly operated a hosiery plant in Sobernheim, Germany. Their product is a cable-stitch hosiery which was formerly imported by Americans. After two years of existence the company operates forty machines 24 hours a day and employs 70 persons.

These industries represent job making productive investments which are an asset to any community. Many more European "refugee" companies are coming to the U. S. and it seems to me our small mid-western and southern towns with a good supply of intelligent and stable labor, low tax rates, good factory sites and excellent transportation to nearby markets would be ideal locations for these new plants.

This is a project for local Chambers of Commerce to look into. Undoubtedly the U. S. Department of Commerce would aid you in contacting men interested in locating their factories in this country. A new plant brought to your town may bring thousands of dollars in wages and products over the next decade.

This is a golden opportunity which should not be overlooked.

U. Of Louisville Conducts Research

If recent research at the University of Louisville, Louisville, Kentucky, may be taken as standard over the entire nation, the more wealthy a college student is, the more maladjusted he is and the less purpose he has in life.

This finding was the result of an inventory conducted by Dr. Laurence Whisler, head of the research department at the University of Louisville.

The survey shows that families that are prosperous, particularly the newly rich, frunish the University with more than their quota of students who are immature in purpose. Their relationship with the school is half-hearted.

Wealthy families are listed generally as those who own property, stocks, a fairly new car and who hire domestic help. These usually possess an annual income of from $1500 to $3000 or upwards.

"A student with an inadequate purpose," said Dr. Whisler, "is one who has no major purpose in life.

Outlines Care Of Lawns In Spring

Suggestions for the spring care of lawns, given by N. R. Elliott, landscape specialist for the Kentucky College of Agriculture.

Leaves and trash should be immediately removed, if they were not removed in the fall.

The average lawn needs grass seed during February or early March. A high-grade Kentucky Bluegrass seed spread 3 to 4 pounds to every 1,000 square feet of surface is best.

About the last of March, lawns should be seeded with White Clover, an ideal companion plant for Bluegrass.

The severe freeze in January left the ground rough. It should be rolled as soon as it is dry enough.

Where crab grass killed Bluegrass last year, the dead grass should be raked up and removed. Then give a heavy Bluegrass and White Clover seeding. Additionally, during the last of March a light sprinkling of Italian rye grass will give a covering for the ground, and serve as protection for the other grasses.

The application the last of February or shortly thereafter of a complete fertilizer, 3 to 4 pounds per 1,000 square feet of surface, will benefit damaged lawns. Top-dressing with good soil also will aid. If soil is used, it should be applied after the lawn is rolled, in late March or early April. Ten bushels of top-soil per 1,000 square feet of surface, scattered from a shovel, is desirable.

Woman, 96, Boasts She Is Oldest Hitch-Hiker

Mrs. Nancy T. Pinson, hardy resident of Inez, West Virginia-Kentucky border district, is 96 and she's still thumbing rides.

"I'm probably the oldest hitch-hiker in the country," she says proudly. "At least, I don't know of any that are older than I am, and people who have given me rides say the same thing."

Mrs. Pinson, born in Mingo County, West Virginia, lives on Black Log Creek, four miles from this Eastern Kentucky mountain town.

She is the widow of a War Between the States veteran, Thomas Pinson, who died in 1907, and is the mother of eleven children. Seven of her sons are living.

She has traveled throughout this section, "usually hitch-hiking, but when I can't get a ride I just walk."

He does not finish work he starts and he would like to quit what he is doing for something else. Work is tolerated as a means to an end but it is not enjoyed for its own sake. He expresses non-realistic day-dreams, wishes for thrills, romance, wealth, and luck."

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NEWS OF KENTUCKY

Eugene V. Elder, 71, merchant at Richmond for 47 years, died at his home Friday of a heart attack.

Louis J. Wald, 38, bricklayer, was killed in a fall from a scaffold at Newport.

Fire destroyed two tobacco warehouses with an estimated damage of $235,000 at Paducah Monday.

Suit has been filed at Greenville to oust L. B. Knight as Mayor for alleged violation of the state laws for selling the ... a truck.

Frank Washer, 60, was killed Sunday when he was struck by an automobile driven by William Miller, negro, at Louisville.

A committee was appointed at Maysville Monday to work with civic organizations to secure a flood wall of five miles at Maysville.

J. Cloud Bosworth, 77, prominent Fayette county farmer, died Saturday at Fort Meyers, Fla., where he was spending the winter.

CCC camps at Morehead, Nigh, Elizabethtown, Sebree and Russellville will be discontinued July 1, it was announced Monday.

Fire of unknown origin Sunday destroyed the Hardin Lumber Company near Glasgow with a loss of $35,000.

The body of George Williams, 55, missing from his home at Hopkinsville for a week, was found in a stream near Hopkinsville.

An outbreak of rabies in Knox, Whitley and Laurel counties has led to strict quarantine measures against dogs in those counties.

Horace Colwell, 71, father of thirty children, died at his home at Yerkes, Perry county, of a heart attack. Fifteen children and his third wife survive.

Alice Joyce Brummett, 3 years old, was killed when a tree which her father was chopping down near their home in Shelby county fell on her.

James B. Finnell, 70, for forty years a member of the Scott county bar, died Thursday of burns received when he fell against a stove in his room in Georgetown.

The U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals at Cincinnati Friday upheld the validity of a $280,000 road bond issue voted by Pulaski county in 1880.

Albert F. Wheeler, 69, engaged in the furniture business in Lexington for 42 years, died at a Lexington hospital Saturday after a long illness.

Following a previously established policy, Federal Judge H. Church Ford had women and negroes summoned for jury service in federal court which convened at Frankfort Monday.

Maurice T. Collins, 43, of Louisville, insurance man, shot and killed himself at the home of his father-in-law, Barnard A. Fallon, in Lexington Sunday.

James Peyton, 26, and his brother, Ray Peyton, 24, were shot and seriously wounded Sunday afternoon by James Lynn, 25, when the brothers attempted to enter Lynn's home in Casey county.

M. E. Gilbert, McCracken county farmer and former attorney, Monday filed declaration papers for the Democratic nomination for United States Senator.

Burglars forced their way into the McKinney Deposit Bank in Lincoln county Sunday night but fled after cutting two holes in the door of the vault when they failed to obtain $4,000 in cash in the vault.

Governor Johnson Monday signed the soil conservation act, once the center of stormy legislature debate.

Official Dickinson system ratings for the 1940 Central Kentucky Conference basketball season, released Monday, placed Harrodsburg first in the Conference with Lawrenceburg second.

William E. Faulkner, 65, executive vice president of the Third National Bank at Ashland, died Sunday in a hospital in Orlando, Fla.

Arville Wheeler, of Paintsville, has been elected superintendent of the Ashland public schools to succeed Dr. W. L. Brooker, who resigned.

William G. Gash, 51, Mercer county contractor and farmer, was burned to death late Thursday afternoon when his clothing ignited as he was burning weeds in a field on his farm.

Benny Polly, 21, and Leonard Bumgardner, 20, were held to the grand jury Friday on charges they were members of a band that robbed six stores and set three on fire at Campbellsville in recent weeks.

Legislation appropriating $8,295 as compensation for injuries sustained by six residents of McKee, Jackson county, June 6, 1937, when the automobile in which they were riding was struck by a CCC truck, was voted in Congress Thursday.

James Pace, 27, and Bertrand Wells, 27, fluospar miners, were killed Saturday in a cave-in at a fluospar mine near Salem, Crittenden county.

Three prisoners dug through a concrete floor, a substructure of brick and dirt and a brick wall to escape from the Powell county jail at Stanton.

Walter Hatcher, 49, vice president of the First National Bank at Pikeville, shot and killed himself along a highway several miles from Pikeville Monday.

The Kentucky Jackson Day dinner committee has turned over to the Democratic national committee approximately $10,000, Chairman John E. Buckingham announced Monday.

Lloyd Chambers, 30, died in a hospital in Danville Monday of a bullet wound alleged to have been inflicted by Leonard Clark, 24, at Mitchellsburg, home of both men, Sunday.

Fire of undetermined origin caused damage of $10,000 in the offices of the Mason & Hanger Company, contractors, in the Herman building in Lexington Monday morning.

H. G. Rogers, Frankfort, was reelected president of the Bluegrass Council, Boy Scouts of America, at the annual dinner meeting of the organization at Lexington Thursday.

Mrs. M. B. Bradley, 85, died at her home near Kentontown, Robertson county, Thursday. Mrs. Bradley and her husband celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary before his death in August of last year.

Because of ill health, Dr. John W. Gaines, president of Bethel Woman's Junior College at Hopkinsville, resigned. Kenneth R. Patterson, superintendent of Mayfield schools for 18 years, was appointed to the post.

Tobacco growers of Grant county who were dissatisfied with their tobacco base allotments for the year met at the court house in Williamstown Monday in a protest against their quotas.

Mrs. Nannie Faulconer, for 16 years superintendent of Fayette county schools and who organized the first consolidated school district in the state during her administration, died at her home in Lexington.

County Judge John A. Stewart, of Harrison county, announced Monday that all the right of way on the proposed 7.25 miles of new road on Highway 27 north of the present concrete road and extending to the Pendleton county line has been obtained.

Claude L. Hammons, representative in the state legislature from Knox county for the past three terms, was one of twelve persons indicted by the grand jury at Barbourville on a charge of operating slot machines. Hammonds is the owner of a string of restaurants.

Charles Joseph Sweeney, 31, who was bookkeeper in the closed Commercial Bank at Liberty, Casey county, pleaded guilty in federal court at Louisville to misappropriating $50,000 of the bank's funds and was sentenced to four years in prison by Judge Miller Monday.

Seldon Pelfrey, 45, disabled World War veteran, was burned to death and Lester Carpenter, 40, was burned critically when the bedding in their cell in the city jail at Jackson ignited Monday night. The two men had been arrested a short time before for drunkenness.

A new calculating machine valued at $500, an adding machine valued at $300 and 25 cents in cash was stolen from the office of the Cardinal Dairy in Cynthiana.

Charlotte Ann Miller, 3 years old, was burned seriously Sunday at her home in Danville when she fell into a pan of hot water.

Washington school, one of the five consolidated schools in Mason county, may be closed at the end of the present term because the prospective enrollment figures for next year are below the minimum of sixty set by the State Department of Education.

Four men were injured, one critically, when a scaffold on which they were working at Cynthiana collapsed, plunging them twenty-five feet to the ground. Hayes Lilly, carpenter, was injured critically.

Mrs. Porter Walsh, 33, of Menifee county, is in a serious condition at the hospital in Mt. Sterling suffering from a bullet wound in her breast and right arm alleged to have been inflicted by her husband at their home in Menifee county. Mrs. Walsh, mother of three children, said her husband came home drunk and shot her.

Time To Start Good Hog Herd

Right now while hog prices are low is the time to start good herds, declares Grady Sellards of the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture. However, he fears that many farmers will do just the opposite—sell out, and then go back

Sportlight

by GRANTLAND RICE

LOS ANGELES.—Two youthful, venerable, sprightly, ancient members of the sporting fraternity are setting a new record in California this spring. Both are on active duty and their combined ages reach the tidy total of 154 years.

Grantland Rice

Their names are Connie Mack and Amos Alonzo Stagg—Connie and Lonnie.

As Lonnie Stagg starts spring practice for his College of the Pacific football team, Connie Mack starts a new year as manager of the Philadelphia Athletics.

Connie and Lonnie are each 77 years old. Both have been highlights in competitive sport for over 50 years. Both go well back into the eighties for their start, so far back that only a fading few today remember the period that happened to start them off and away on the long, long trail.

About Connie Mack

The amazing point concerning Connie Mack is the youthful spirit and the youthful keenness he still holds about his job of managing a ball club.

On this spring trip to Anaheim, Calif., he gives you the impression of a young manager anxious to make good. Yet Connie Mack has won at least nine American league pennants, and he has packed away

CONNIE MACK

more than his share of World Series triumphs. He has been in baseball as player and manager for 60 years.

He Knows the Game

THE GARDEN

WHITE POTATOES I

By John S. Gardner, Kentucky College of Agriculture

Potato planting time is almost here. Records long kept at the Experiment Station indicate that for the latitude of Lexington, it lies between March 15 and April 10. For the counties at the northern edge of the state, these dates are one week later, and for those along the Tennessee border, 10 days to two weeks earlier.

To plant potatoes before their time is dangerous because of freezing risk, and if enough extra soil covering is given to protect the seed, the delay in coming up that results, may easily put them behind potatoes planted later but covered more shallowly, the cold being no longer a factor.

On the other hand, if potatoes are planted too late, their time for setting tubers may come after the spring rains are over and the yield will be light. However, the unpleasant consequences from late planting may be lessened somewhat by covering the seed pieces just enough to keep sunlight off them, filling the seed furrow at the first cultivation. But, it does appear that the potatoes planted on schedule give the more satisfactory crops.

In discussing the features that constitute satisfactory potato raising it is difficult not to become superlative about each, for all are important and interdependent, but for this time only the soil is to be the topic. The matter of seed, its quality and treatment, and the rest, will appear in later columns.

Ideal potato land is sandy loam, with enough humus to keep it from drying out and baking. But, "ideal" land is not an absolute necessity, as hundreds of acres of potatoes annually testify, whose soil runs the gamut, from distinctly heavy clay, up. It appears to be a matter of management, rather than of soil type, provided there is humus.

One way to start is to plow in the fall to secure the benefits of winter freezing, but turning under a heavy coat of stable manure. Another is to break in February (six weeks before planting), turning under a generous coat of green manure, a cover crop, or stable manure.

Plowing should be deep, 10 inches or even deeper, to make reservoir for the moisture a heavy crop of potatoes uses.

Breaking done at a time when freezing weather is soon to follow, may be distinctly wet and "slick," but those whom such opportunity has escaped must wait, to "catch" a time. Of these, this year, the number is legion, for winter breaking opportunities have been few.

Suggests Holding Tobacco Growing To Market Needs

Time To Spray Trees And Shrubs

THE SOUTHERN SOLDIER'S RETURN

(Elizabethtown News)

The movie, 'Gone With the Wind," seen by thousands of Kentuckians in recent weeks, recalls the tribute paid the soldiers of the South by Henry W. Grady, of Atlanta, in his notable address before the New England Club in New York in 1886. Mr. Grady said:

"Dr. Talmadge has drawn for you, with a master's hand, the picture of your returning armies. He has told you how, in the pomp and circumstance of war, they came back to you, marching with proud and victorious tread, reading their glory in a nation's eyes. Will you bear with me while I tell you of another army that sought its home at the close of the late war—an army that marched home in defeat and not in victory—in pathos and not in splendor, but in glory that equaled yours, and to hearts as loving as ever welcomed heroes home. Let me picture to you the footsore Confederate soldier, as buttoning up in his faded gray jacket the parole which was to bear testimony to his children of his fidelity and faith, he turned his face southward from Appomatox in April, 1865. Think of him as ragged, half-starved, heavy-hearted, enfeebled by want and wounds, having fought to exhaustion, he surrenders his gun, wrings the hands of his comrades in silence and lifting his tear-stained and pallid face for the last time to the graves that dot the old Virginia hills, pulls his gray cap over his brow and begins the slow and painful journey.

"What does he find—let me ask you who went to your homes eager to find, in the welcome you had justly earned, full payment for the four years' sacrifice—what does he find when, having followed the battle-stained cross against overwhelming odds, dreading death not half so much as surrender, he reaches the home he left so prosperous and beautiful? He finds his house in ruins, his farm devastated, his slaves free, his stock killed, his barns empty, his trade destroyd, his money worthless, his social system, feudal in its magnificence, swept away; his people without law or legal status; his comrades slain, and the burdens of others heavy on his shoulders. Crushed by defeat, his very traditions are gone. Without money, credit, employment, material, or training; and beside all this, confronted with the gravest problem that ever met human intelligence—the establishing of a status for the vast body of his liberated slaves.

"What does he do—this hero in gray with a heart of gold? Does he sit down in sullenness and despair? Not for a day. Surely God, who had stripped him of his prosperity, inspired him in his adversity. As ruin was never before so overwhelming, never was restoration swifter. The soldier stepped from the trenchs into the furrow; horses that had charged Federal guns marched before the plow, and fields then red with human blood in April were green with the harvest in June."

That is the word picture drawn by a Southern orator, a citizen of Atlanta, twenty years after the close of the war. It becomes more realistic to those who have seen the epic movie, which depicts the old civilization of the South and how it was destroyed.

50 eggs under the old armor covering. After wintering in this stage, the eggs hatch in the latitude of Lexington about May 20, depending upon the season. The newly hatched young crawl about on the twigs for a few hours before inserting their mouth parts into the tissue of the plant. After feeding starts, the process of developing a covering is begun. Within a few days, the young insect is pretty well protected by this newly formed armor. It continues to develop under the covering and becomes mature in late summer. There is a single generation each year.

This insect can be controlled by applying a spray of 2 per cent

I. B. Ross, Atty. 2-29-3t

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Paragraphs.

More accidents happen in the home than anywhere else, so statisticians say, but the folk of the great outdoors are not immune. The Benton County (Mo.) Times reveals that "for the second time in 12 months Jim Allison has broken a toe as a result of kicking a hog."

If a recipe calls for sour cream and you have none, use sour milk and two level teaspoons of butter instead of the sour cream.

To Make Your Home More Liveable

Nothing will add so much as clean, bright, cheery wallpaper. The spring and housecleaning seasons are at hand. Make your selections while our brand new 1940 line of paper is still complete and lay it away until you are ready for it. Prices and patterns to fill every demand.

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