CRUCIBLE

A story of circumstance and its near-disastrous consequences . . . by

BEN AMES WILLIAMS

Running serially in these columns, the story of a Boston merchant whose family was torn asunder by the lurid word, "Murder!" Ben Ames Williams takes John Sentry to the electric chair . . . and then comes a surprise.

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Get the One Who Can Help You Sell Your Goods

WE have the ability to help you sell your goods and we can do this at a reasonable cost to you.

Economy and standardization are the watchwords here. We use Hammermill Bond, the standard, economical, business paper and we turn out a grade of printing that brings results for our customers.

LET US SHOW YOU

Wouldn't it be awful

—if there were no comics to lighten the cares of a troubled world?

Especially, such laugh-provoking comics as

S'MATTER POP?

Here is good clean American humor, the kind that appeals to every member of the family.

"S'Matter Pop?" is a regular feature of this paper. Watch for it.

Dog-Gone Tired?

For weeks on end, a million little voices all over that body of yours, begging you to lie down and rest?

You haven't been treading the light fantastic into the wee small hours, either!

Well, it's time to visit your good friend, the doctor. Unexplainable fatigue is an early sign of tuberculosis.

Remember, there's a way of solving the mystery.

UNCOVER TUBERCULOSIS BY MODERN METHODS

Let the doctor be your guide

The world has seem few statesmen, but only politicians who will sacrifice a nation's future to fatten themselves today.

Cairo . . . Automatic telephone exchanges were first introduced in Cairo, Egypt, in 1932 and in subsequent years at Alexandria, Port Said, Tanta and a few other important provincial cities, including Guizeh, near Cairo. The policy is to extend gradually this system over the entire country, according to the American Commercial Attache at Cairo.

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Hollywood . . . When Hollywood wants extras, it gets them by telephone. The switchboard of a central casting bureau there handles as many as 30,000 calls a day, bringing actors and producers together.

* * *

Buenos Aires . . . Argentina's principal telephone company, the United River Telephone Company, in Buenos Aires, has just recently completed 51 years of existence. Starting in 1887 with a handful of employees, 11 years after Bell's invention, the company has grown as rapidly as the country until it now has 302,000 subscribers. Argentina has 48 per cent of all the telephones in South America. In the international field the company has made it possible for Argentine subscribers to be connected with 32,000,000 telephones in 65 countries.

* * *

Philadelphia . . . Telephone operators are less susceptible to throat ailments than are stenographers or almost any other type of woman employee, according to a noted Philadelphia surgeon. "I've never treated the throat of a telephone operator who talks quietly all day—there is no need to shout into the telephone." Records of the telephone companies reveal that cases where it is necessary to relieve an operator from duty because of voice or throat ailments are extremely rare. This is attributed to the fact that each operator is given a course of training in the proper use of the voice and how to speak clearly and without strain.

* * *

Jerusalem . . . A dial telephone exchange with approximately 3,500 lines was recently inaugurated at Tel Aviv, Palestine, and it is reported that a similar type of exchange to serve the same number of subscribers and capable of ultimate extension to 8,000 lines has been ordered for Haifa. It is expected that the Jerusalem automatic exchange will also soon be ready for service, according to the American Consulate General there.

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New York . . . Although the telephone is now sixty-two years old, more than two-thirds of the telephone plant in service in this country has been built since the Great War.

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Delhi . . . That Delhi, India, is rapidly becoming more telephone-minded is borne out by reports that over 400 new subscriber lines were added during 1937, which necessitated the transfer of some lines to the Connaught Place system. The two existing Delhi exchanges, Lothian Road and New Delhi, are already overloaded due to the ever-increasing demand for service, and the third exchange at Connaught Circus, which is designed to care for 5,000 lines, will accordingly be increased to facilitate an additional 5,000, according to the American Trade Commissioner at Calcutta.

* * *

Baltimore . . . When a Baltimore, Md., plumber mailed an advertisement to 300 customers recently, he expected a large number of replies from the self-addressed postal card which he enclosed. None of the postal cards was returned, but he did receive twenty-three orders, to the amount of $1,400 from the advertisements. They came by telephone. He had placed his telephone number on the return postal card.

ORPHANS' COURT

Bond of Roy H. Snyder and Florence S. Clapp, executors of Carrie H. Suyders bond of Bertie Bennett Sweet, executrix of Ellsworth N. Sweet; second and final account of R. J. McCauley, administrator of Effie J. Whitmore; second and final account of R. J. McCauley, administrator of Effie J. Whitmore.

A statesman thinks in terms of the nation. A Congressman thinks only of his section and darn the others.

In youth he is proud of being out late; after that he deducts an hour or so when you ask what time he got in.

England is thoughtful. She always goes a piece of the way to get us well started before she turns back.

Yes, Roland, life's a gamble, and every man has a chance—unless he's a Wall Street lamb.

Witchcraft Is Old, but Evil Attracts Attention

The notion that some people have the power to work an oppressive or even destructive influence upon others by the power of incantation or reliance upon some fanciful alchemy is as old as recorded history. It has been encouraged at times into a system of knowledge and employed by the crafty and mendacious to prey upon the ignorance of the people. At times it has been devoted to crusades against religion and spread so widely that masses of people have been cast into frenzies by the fear of witches. In Germany more than 100,000 people were executed as witches in one year, and even in the American colonies death sentences for witchcraft were executed.

The obvious protection against witchcraft is education, asserts a writer in the Indianapolis News, but when the belief fastens itself upon credulous people, the law must deal with the fact of their belief, not its causes. Defense under the law usually takes the form of suits for damages or criminal action to protect the good name of persons whose standing is injured by the effect of loose accusations of witchcraft, but despite all that can be done, the evil erupts at times and attracts the attention of people who have not forgotten the literature and lore of their childhood.

Cocker, Small Gun Dog, Known in Sports of 1387

The forerunner of the cocker, smallest of gun dogs, first came into the literature of sport in 1387, when all dogs were "hounds" and spaniels in general were just one kind of "hound." Count Gaston de Foix, a French sportsman, wrote of these dogs of Spain as having been taught to be "coucher," driving quail and partridge into the hunter's net.

It is believed by some authorities that the cocker developed from a cross of the larger spaniel with the King Charles spaniel, a toy, relates a writer in the Cleveland Plain Dealer. For a time the cocker and the field spaniel were separated at bench shows only by weight, above 28 pounds it was a field spaniel, below that weight a cocker.

The cocker hunts both fur and feather, but is used less on rabbits than on pheasant and woodcock. He is easily taught to retrieve from water and on land. In the field his tail moves incessantly, the increasing tempo informing the observant sportsman when game is near. No pointing dog, the cocker dashes at his quarry, driving it from cover to be brought down by the gun.

The beauty of the cocker, with his affectionate disposition, variety of colors, silky and abundant feather, has gained him his popularity. In addition he is of "convenient" size, weights from 18 to 24 pounds being allowed by the standard. He may be black, red, liver, and parti-colored.

Rats and Mice Are Cunning

Rats and mice are notoriously cunning, and many stories are told of their smartness in getting out of difficulties or adapting themselves to changed circumstances, says Tit-Bits Magazine. Rats, for example, have been known to turn themselves into living lorries. They have actually been seen to turn on their backs and clutch with all four paws an egg that is too difficult to carry in the ordinary way while a companion in crime drags them away from the scene of the robbery by the tail. This same tail has also been used to extract refreshment from otherwise burglar-proof bottles. It is hung down inside the neck, and after extraction its owner sits down and enjoys refreshment. Both mice and rats have been trained by electric shocks to find their way to the center of complicated mazes without a mistake.

"Hub of the Universe"

The nickname "Hub of the Universe" was suggested by a humorous quotation in the sixth paper of Oliver Wendell Holmes' "Autocrat of the Breakfast Table." Holmes wrote: "Boston State House is the hub of the solar system. You couldn't pry that out of a Boston man if you had the tire of all creation straightened out for a crowbar." The satirical remark referred to Boston as a self-satisfied community, composed of people who regarded themselves superior in wisdom and culture. Boston's downtown is often referred to as the Hub from the fact that the streets of this district form a wheel, radiating from several squares lying between the State house on Beacon hill and the old State house on State street.

Chief Wawatam

Wawatam was an Ojibway chief who befriended the English trader, Alexander Henry, at the time of the massacre at Old Mackinaw in 1763, says a writer in the Detroit News. He had shown a strong friendship for Henry, had warned him as plainly as he dared, and had tried to get him away. After the massacre he appeared before the chief who held Henry prisoner and pleaded successfully for the life of his "brother." Henry was concealed by him until all danger was past. In later years Wawatam became blind and he was accidentally burned in his lodge at Ottawa Point.

Friday, the Thirteenth, Held to Be Unlucky Day

Few adults seriously believe that a four leaf clover brings luck, that spilled salt must be thrown over the left shoulder, that if the sun shines through rain the devil is beating his wife or that warts come from touching a toad, but aversion to the numeral 13, an aversion centuries old, lingers still and strongly.

A 13 anywhere, except 13 trumps in bridge, is held to be unlucky. Any Friday similarly is a day of ill omen. Thus when both come at once, a double hex is cast. Both beliefs antedate Christianity, stretching back into the days of the early Norsemen when Frigga was goddess of the sky and Baldur, her son, was god of justice and the sun, writes Marcia Winn in the Chicago Tribune.

Friday, named for Frigga, was a day sacred to her, and those audacious ones who pursued their own fancies on that day, ignoring her festive worship, were doomed to ill fortune. Thus began a fear persisting through the ages and perpetuated with the crucifixion of Christ on Good Friday. "Friday's moon," goes the legend, still repeated, "come when it will, it comes too soon."

Fear of the mystic 13 also is credited to the Norsemen, who had 12 aesirs or demigods. Into their midst, at a banquet in Valhalla, strode Loki, the evil one, making 13. Shortly thereafter Balkur, the beloved, was slain.

In American history both 13 and Friday have played pleasant roles. Columbus set sail on a Friday, sighted America on Friday and landed on a Friday. The 13 colonies chose a flag with 13 stars and 13 stripes.

Thousands of Canoes in Great Lake Erie Battle

Thousands and thousands of canoes were massed together for what might have been the first great battle on Lake Erie.

It was fought between the Eries of the region south of the lake and the eastern tribes off the coast of what is now Buffalo about 1625. The Eries and these tribes of eastern America despised each other.

As the Indians were without guns, a great deal of the fighting was carried on with the canoes side by side, where the redskins could slash each other with tomahawks. From stories handed down through the years to Indians of this region, the battle was terrific, relates H. J. Carr in the Cleveland Plain Dealer.

The lake must have been a dull, sickly red from the blood of the dead. Some canoes were upside down, others were shattered by tomahawk blows. Finally the Eries won.

For about the next quarter of a century, five eastern tribes, the Oneidas, Cayugas, Senecas, Onondagas and Mohawks prepared for another battle with the Eries. And then the five tribes returned and practically annihilated all the Erie warriors in one great battle.

One Inch of Rain

An acre of ground contains 43,560 square feet. Consequently, a rainfall of one inch over one acre of ground would mean a total of 6-272,640 cubic inches of water states a writer in the Indianapolis News. This is equivalent to 2,630 cubic feet. As a cubic foot of pure water weighs about 62.4 pounds, the exact amount varying with the density, it follows that the weight of a uniform coating of one inch of rain over one acre of surface would be 226,512 pounds or 113¼ short tons. The weight of one United States gallon of pure water is 8.345 pounds. Consequently a rainfall of one inch over one acre of ground would mean 27,143 gallons of water. This is equivalent to 603 barrels of 45 gallons each. A rainfall of one inch on a roof of 3,000 square feet would mean 432,000 cubic inches or 250 cubic feet available for the cistern. This is equal to 1,870 United States gallons, or 41.5 barrels of 45 gallons each. Ten inches of snowfall equals in water content one inch of rain.

Rheumatic Fever Attacks Young

Rheumatic fever is known to the public as inflammatory rheumatism but its principal effects may not be on the joints which become temporarily inflamed and painful but on the heart which is sometimes permanently weakened by inflammation. The disease occurs most frequently among children and adolescents. It is quite likely to strike an individual again and again. In its recurrences it becomes more and more serious and annually kills at least 40,000 persons in the United States. The average age of its victims at death is only thirty years.

Cartier Founded Quebec

Quebec city was founded by Jacques Cartier, the St. Malo adventurer, in 1608, and since that time has written its epic story in battlements, and monuments, in churches and universities quaint houses and winding cobbled streets. Two structures overshadow the entire city—the Chateau Frontenac and the Citadel. Both are perched atop precipitous Cape Diamond overlooking the St. Lawrence and side by side they contrast the graceful architecture of a Norman chateau with the grim bastions of a fort designed by the duke of Wellington.

ENTRY LIST IS OPEN FOR TEN-TON TOMATO CONTEST

Tomato growers of the State will have an opportunity to participate this year in the Ten-Ton Tomato Club contest, which is being conducted for the eleventh consecutive season, it is announced by Herman A. Hunter, specialist in canning crops for the University of Maryland extension service. The contest is free and open to all growers who produce two or more acres of tomatoes.

Mr. Hunter states that the contest is divided into two groups and gold watches or other suitable prizes will be awarded the winners in each group.

Growers producing from two to five acres of tomatoes are included in one group, and those having more than five acres make up the second group. Prizes are given for the highest yields per acre.

In addition, all growers producing ten or more tons of tomatoes to the acre will be given certificates of membership in the Ten-Ton Tomatoes Club by the University of Maryland. The four winners will be given free trips to the annual canning crops conference at College Park in February, at which time the prizes will be awarded. The prizes are contributed by commercial concerns interested in the canning industry.

The contest is sponsored by the University of Maryland extension service in cooperation with the Tri-State Packers' Association. Its object is to stimulate interest in more efficient methods of producing canning tomatoes. Larger yield per acre generally results in better quality and greater profit.

Any growers who desire to enter the contest may do so by notifying their county agent prior to August 1, Mr. Hunter states. He urges those who enter to keep receipts of all tomatoes sold, as yields are determined from these receipts and acreage measurements.

The largest yield made in the contest to date is 17.6 tons per acre, which was made by Clarence D. Cullen of Cecil county in 1936.

PUREBRED BEEF CATTLE INCREASE IN MARYLAND

At least 25 new Aberdeen-Angus herds were started in Maryland during the last year and the growth of the association representing that breed continued steadily and logically, according to Joseph M. Vial, specialist in animal husbandry for the University of Maryland extension service. Only a few years ago he states purebred beef cattle in Maryland were negligible.

Mr. Vial says that Maryland stood sixth in 1937 on the list of all states in the number of purebred Aberdeen-Angus cattle transferred to it. Official records show 604 animals transferred to breeders in this state and it is estimated that approximately 200 purebred animals of that breed were sold and shipped out of the state in that period.

Interest in breeding beef cattle was evident among breeders of Herefords, also. A number of outstanding animals were brought to the state and a Hereford Breeders' Association was formed.

Eric the Red

Like his father, Eric the Red, famed Norse colonizer of Greenland, Leif Ericson, was an explorer and was the first known European to discover "Vinland," or Vineland" in North America, observes a writer in the Washington Star. In 1000 A. D. long before Christopher Columbus was born Leif, with 35 men and a small ship, sailed from Greenland to the west, and after many days of exposure sighted land. Going ashore, Leif called this new land "Vinland" or "Vineland" because of the abundance of grapes and fruit found growing and spent the winter there. Some historians believe that his party landed in Nova Scotia and came as far as the New England coast. Unfortunately the Norsemen left no evidence of building forts or settlements. The facts regarding the voyage however are recorded in the Norse sagas which are widely accepted as being trustworthy.

American Indians Not Nomadic

The American Indians were not nomadic in the sense that they roamed about without a regular home. According to the United States Bureau of American Ethnology, every tribe and every congeries of tribes, with but few exceptions, laid claim to and dwelt within the limits of a certain tract or region, the boundaries of which were handed down by tradition and not ordinarily relinquished save to a superior force.

Even a crook may take his liquor straight.

New rules of sportsmanship: Foul your man at the start. That costs you the round, but cripples him enough to make the rest of the fight easy.

If the lawn is to be watered, soak the ground thoroughly once a week is the advice of Walter R. Ballard, extension horticulturist of the University of Maryland. The daily light sprinkling so often practiced is of doubtful value, he declares.

CAMPAIGN AGAINST MOTHS NEED NOT BE EXPENSIVE

A household safety first campaign against the clothes moth need not be expensive to be effective, according to Miss Helen Shelby, Clothing Specialist for the University of Maryland Extension Service.

She says that the simple, inexpensive method of thorough cleaning and careful packing is still among the best for protecting winter clothes and blankets. Dry cleaning, washing in soap and water, thorough brushing, airing, and sunning are effective and cheap ways of destroying moths. And firm, unbroken paper with edges tightly sealed will prevent moths from reaching these cleaned garments while they are stored for the summer.

Napthalene, paradichlorobenzene and gum camhpor in the form of familiar moth balls or flakes will give added protection to stored articles by evaporating fumes which penetrate fabrics and kill any moths in them. But such fumes must be concentrated to be effective and should be used at the rate of one pound for each 100 cubic feet of enclosed space. The mere odor will not spoil the moth's appetite.

Miss Shelby points out that in a test conducted by the U. S. Department of Agriculture moths were found to eat heartily in an atmosphere scented with cedar, dried lavender, tobacco, tar, pine oil, or even insect sprays or camphor. The entomologists also found that the odor of tar or cedar oil in paper clothes bags has no deterring effect on moths.

MARYLAND FARMERS AMONG LEADERS IN BUILDING UP SOIL FERTILITY

That Maryland farmers are taking the lead in building up their soil fertility under the Agricultural Conservation Program is indicated by the fact that this state stood third in liming of conserving crops in 1937, according to Paul E. Nystrom, state supervisor for the AAA. In that year, the quanity of lime oxides applied per acre of cropped land in Maryland was exceeded in only two other states.

Mr. Nystom points out that liming was only one of several soil building practices that were encouraged by the conservation program. He gives the following figures as to accomplishments during the year 1937: Legumes and grasses were seeded on 457,286 acres; green manure crops were grown on 66,473 acres; forestry planting and thinning were done on 171 acres; 13,359,665 pounds of superphosphate and 1,564,418 pounds of potash and superphosphate were applied.

The conservation program, Mr. Nystrom states, is an organized, national effort to solve the problem of conserving soil fertility, and the payments to farmers which it provides assists them in carrying out the practices designed to save and build up their soil.

More than 18,000 farmers in Maryland participated in the program in 1937 and it is indicated that the number will be considerably larger in the 1938 program.

IMPROVEMENT IN GRAIN CALLS FOR QUALITY SEED

Plant only pure seed, properly cleaned and treated, and of an adapted variety, is the advice to Maryland wheat and barley growers who desire to improve their quality and yield by John W. Magruder, specialist in agronomy for the University of Maryland Extension Service. Quality seed, he declares, is particularly important during years of low wheat prices. In his opinion, many farmers will find that replacing old seed with officially certified or listed seed is desirable.

Mr. Magruder states that 58 farmers in Maryland have applied for certification of their small grain this year, and field inspection indicates that much of the seed will be eligible. This seed can be purchased directly from the growers in some cases and others local seed merchants will handle it. Names of growers of certified or listed seed many be obtained from local county agent or from the Maryland Seed Certification Board, College Park, Maryland.

The total value of agricultural commodities officially inspected and certified by the Maryland State Department of Markets in 1937 was approximately $1,982,916. These included sweet potatoes, fresh tomatoes, canning crops, Irish potatoes, apples, peaches, strawberries, cantaloupes, eggs and dressed poultry.

The number of livestock on Maryland farms on January 1 this year was not materially different from recent years. Greatly increased interest in producton of some kinds of stock has been evident, but it has focused more particularly upon improvement in quality, rather than on largely increased numbers.

You can always tell an envious community. Business men dress sloppily to keep customers from thinking them prosperous.