

# THE MIDLAND JOURNAL

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY MORNING BY

**EWING BROS.**  
 RISING SUN MARYLAND  
 Entered as Second Class Matter at Post Office in Rising Sun, Maryland  
 Under Act of Congress of March 3, 1879

INDEPENDENT IN POLITICS AND ALL OTHER SUBJECTS

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION	
ONE YEAR, IN ADVANCE	\$1.50
SIX MONTHS	\$1.00
THREE MONTHS	.50
SINGLE COPY, 2 CENTS	

ADVERTISING RATES FURNISHED ON APPLICATION

Foreign Advertising Representative: THE AMERICAN PRESS ASSOCIATION

FRIDAY, JANUARY 5, 1940

## RID THE HOME OF ACCIDENT RISKS

Why not a New Year's resolution to rid the home of those accident-producing hazards?

The suggestion is offered by the National Conservation Bureau, accident prevention division of the Association of Casualty and Surety Executives, which reminds us that last year the home came within an eyelash of equaling traffic as a producer of fatal accidents.

"We are accustomed to seasonal house cleanings, and even painting and renovating campaigns," the National Conservation Bureau points out in a safety bulletin. "Then why not an equally vigorous cleaning up of those conditions which cause falls, burns, cuts and other injuries, which always result in pain and sometimes in death.

"A better New Year's resolution, and one that is easy to keep, could not be made.

"Are floors slippery, the stair treads worn or cracked? Are there piles of rubbish in the backyard or basement? Are fireplaces protected, sharp tools safely stored away? Are poisons kept locked, beyond the reach of small children? Are there any loose sockets, frayed electrical wires or leaky gas appliances? Are cleaning fluids and matches used with due caution?"

"These are a few of the items a safety-conscious householder will check if she wants to enter the New Year on a safer foundation in the home. Most home hazards can be removed at little or no expense; usually the only thing needed is a reasonable degree of resolution.

"Every family head should include in his or her list of New Year's resolutions one to let home accidents take a permanent holiday."

## "ONLY FINLAND PAYS"

How often in recent years has the above caption marked the unique position of Finland among the 13 nations which contracted debts with the United States growing out of the World War?

Left prostrate and starving after gaining its independence of Russia, shipments of relief grain and foodstuffs were made to Finland under a loan authorized by an Act of Congress, February 1919. Not once has Finland defaulted in her financial obligations. Contracted to meet a dire situation, Finland regards the payment of this debt as sacred.

Now, though compelled to resist an attack by the same power, as a brutal and aggressor nation, heroic little Finland deposited \$234,693 to meet her payment due December 15, 1939. President Roosevelt instructed the Secretary of the Treasury, Henry Morgenthau, Jr., to hold this sum in a special account until he has the opportunity to ask Congress's permission to return it to Finland.

Rep. Frank E. Hook of Michigan has said he will introduce legislation making Finland's debt payment available to her.

The amount Finland was reported to owe the United States at the end of November 1939 was \$8,233,000.

Moses L. Annenberg publisher of reputable newspapers in Miami and Philadelphia, but who, it is claimed, made most of his fortune by furnishing the race-track entries and results upon which millions of dollars were daily bet illegally on horse-races, in pool rooms and bookmakers' establishments throughout the United States, is under indictment on a number of counts in Chicago. He is charged with income tax violations, conspiracy to defraud the United States, violations of the lottery and conspiracy to impede the administration of justice.

Many of us become too self satisfied with our surroundings and then it is well to take a look at what the other fellow is doing a few hundred or a few thousand miles away.

The United States is served with the greatest number and the highest type of country newspapers in the world—in fact, there is no other country where reports of current events are so plentifully distributed to the people.

Savings of the British population have been increased every year for the past seven years at the rate of over \$1,500 every minute of every hour.

## A MAN FROM MISSOURI

By J. E. Jones

The interests of the small towns are championed in a neat communication from R. W. Brown of the Missouri Farm Bureau of Federation, and the letter is published officially by the Wage and Hour Administration in Washington. After expressing his sympathy with the purpose of the Wage-Hour Law Mr. Brown says that he has "always felt and still feels that a gradual approach to a goal is less distributing, and therefore tends to greater stability, than a sudden or arbitrary approach." He goes on to express the thought that the relocation of such industries as manufacture shoes under a method of "compulsory uniform wage rates in the United States will tend in the direction of centralization." And "centralization" is not a belief that the Missouri man is converted to. "Whether that (centralization) will make for stability or whether the result will be an improvement in social and economic conditions in this country remains to be seen," he says in indicating that he is from the "show-me" land.

The same thought has actuated the opposition throughout the South, where Governors of states have insisted that the Carolinas, Georgia, Mississippi, Louisiana, and other states, have certain natural advantages in the way of climate and cheaper living that is their heritage, and which a "centralization" process is likely to take away from them.

## Conserving the Country's Energy

When William Jennings Bryan was running for President in 1896 he sowed the seeds of grand ideas about Government ownership. According to the great Commoner the Government should manage, control and do a lot of things instead of leaving everything up to individuals to look after.

However, we suspect that Mr. Bryan was conservative, as compared to liberalism as it exists today.

Now, we have a report of the National Resources Committee which recommends the conservation of the country's energy resources and the wise use of these resources. In the past such measures have included the protection of public interests in water power, lighting, public utilities, and transportation. The coal mining industry came along a little later and then there was agitation in behalf of protecting natural gas. There is now a hysterical demand in behalf of proposals to submerge all individual efforts in the production, use and management of petroleum.

If there has been any better-done job the history of civilization than that carried out under the Rockefeller family with reference to petroleum, let some wise statesman, professor or businessman name it. And still there are men around administrative and legislative hall in Washington that think they know all about petroleum—presumably because they have used oil and gas in their automobiles.

The Federal Natural Resources Committee has made many valuable recommendations and we have no desire to minimize the importance of any of them. Yet, there is history to consult—current history to consider. Does it not all point to the fact that the oil interests are living up to the laws, and obeying all the rules and regulations of the Federal Government and the states? Kansas, Wyoming, Arkansas, New York, Ohio, West Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, Illinois, Texas, Oklahoma, California, Louisiana, Pennsylvania and other states have been able to maintain their economic health through regulating private enterprises in the oil fields, and the indications are that the old rule of letting private initiative alone is a very good policy to follow.

## Shaking The Old Apple Tree

An apple a day is good for anyone, especially if it keeps the doctor away. But when our good Government starts in to feed free apples to 4 million needy people through relief agencies in nearly all states, and keeps up the process of buying millions of bushels of surplus apples every month at a price of about 70 cents a bushel, the inquiring public wonders why. It really does seem

## FARM-GROWN FOODS HAVE HIGH NUTRITIVE VALUES

Whether food production on the farm for use on the farm is worth while from the money angle has been debated widely. Soil, climate, and type of farming make real differences as between farm regions.

Looked at from the health and nutrition angle, as Hazel K. Stiebling and Callie Mae Coons discuss it in the new Yearbook of the Department of Agriculture, the case for gardening, orcharding and dairying for home consumption is clearer.

"Few appreciate fully," say these food economists of the Bureau of Home Economics, "the nutritive contributions of farm-furnished food to the family diet—nutritive values worth more than the amount of money involved and not ordinary purchased even when there is plenty of money. If, as studies indicate, relatively more families have diets that can be rated as good, this must be attributed to the use of home-produced food."

In 1938, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics estimates, farm families produced approximately \$1,250,000,000 worth of food and fuel for home consumption. The estimate is based on prices at which farmers could sell the food, not at the prices the farmers would have to pay in buying similar supplies. In 1937 with market prices generally higher the money value was somewhat larger although the season was less favorable for gardens and orchards. "But," the food economists point out, "a decline in market values does not diminish the use-value of these goods."

## BAD MOTORING WEATHER

In anticipation of bad motoring weather due to ice and snow, Keystone Automobile Club points out causes of skidding, with a warning to motorists to be prepared.

"Every motorist knows the helpless feeling caused by skidding," said George E. Keneipp, Manager of the Club, "but not every motorist knows what to do when his car goes into a skid. Insurance against skidding by a set formula is impossible, but information regarding causes is available so that skids may be avoided.

"Perhaps the most important factor in skidding accidents is condition of tires. A good tread will hold the car on the road under conditions that would be disastrous to a car equipped with bald tires. Although not guaranteed to prevent skidding, chains are a valuable adjunct. With or without chains, careful driving will result in skids.

"Slow driving on ice-covered streets, gentle application of brakes, using engine in gear as a brake, and careful rounding of curves and corners is the best advice we can give motorists. If a skid occurs while a car is being driven as described the consequences will be far less serious than if the machine is traveling at a speed that would be reasonable under dry-road conditions.

"The proper action when going into a skid is to steer in the direction of the skid and step cautiously on the gas instead of the brake. Sudden use of brakes, frequently a cause of wheel lockage, will continue the skid. Driving power of the rear wheels is needed to bring the car out of the skid. Steering in the direction of the skid and coincident acceleration will straighten out the car. In any event don't steer in the opposite to the skidding motion, for this results in the car describing a circle, with great risk of crashing into approaching traffic."

In co-operation with highway officials, the Keystone Automobile Club urges motorists to slow down and observe the rules of caution in passing road construction, repair and line-painting projects.

Lives of highway workers, it is asserted, are constantly endangered by drivers who fail or refuse to heed "Men Working" and other signs indicating the necessity for slow and careful operation.

"Aside from the human aspects of the situation—which in all conscience should be enough—the motorist should observe the rules of safety from a selfish standpoint, realizing that the workers are out there in hazardous positions to make the highways safer for his use," said George E. Keneipp, Manager of the Club.

that they are putting up pretty strong opposition to the other owners of land who grow plums, cherries, grapes, citrus fruits, and even vegetables, big as pumpkins and as lean as celery.

Our Agricultural Department has been given the go-sign on control of all crops, but does that mean that a few party chiefs in Washington are going to centralize the process of eating, as cited in the case of apples? The Agricultural Department would say no—and it would be correct, because it has picked out very many other "surplus commodities," which are being backed up with food stamps as extra gifts to person on relief rolls. The plan is spreading rapidly and is one of the many ways individual responsibility and initiative are being undermined.

## Shock of 2,300 Volts Fails to Kill Workman

Speechless and unable to move was the way C. M. Lane, 43-year-old lineman of Stillwater, Okla., described his experience of receiving a 2,300-volt shock.

Lane accidentally came into contact with a live wire while atop a 30-foot pole. Quick thinking by fellow workers was credited with saving Lane's life.

The men are employees of a local power company. Lane, recovering from body burns, told this story of the incident:

"I knew what I was into immediately, but I couldn't call out and I couldn't turn loose. I felt as if I were swelling and choking. I could think of what I wanted to do, but I couldn't do it.

"I wanted to buckle my legs and get away from that wire, but I couldn't move. It's a pretty bad feeling to be able to think, but not act.

"Then I heard my helper who was on the ground, yell: 'Hey, your breeches are on fire.'

"I tried to answer him and tell him to get help, but I couldn't get any word out. Soon, however, I saw another worker coming on the run.

"By that time I must have become a little groggy. I do remember hearing the helper on the ground yell, 'His safety belt is broken.' When I heard that I knew very well that it wasn't my safety belt that had broken, but that someone had cut it to let me down. About the time they started letting me down, I passed out."

His fellow-workers filled in the rest of the story.

One of them unhooked his own safety belt, climbed down from his pole and ran to the pole on which Lane was perched. At the top of the pole he threw a rope around Lane, lassoed the cross-beam on the pole, then cut Lane's safety belt. With the aid of the rope he let the then unconscious Lane safely to the ground where he was given first aid, then taken to a hospital.

## Tub Replaces Bass Viol in Texas Hillbilly Band

Homer Wilson, El Paso, Texas, better known as "Smokey," couldn't buy a bass viol for his three-man hillbilly band, so he made one out of a tin washtub. Now he and his "Pecos Cowboys" fill engagements wherever a string band is in demand, and where they go "Smokey's" "tub-zula" goes along.

The contraption is made from household hardware and musical items—a square washtub, a broom handle, two bolts, a hinge, a hook and a standard bass viol string. "Smokey" invented the tub-zula in Phoenix, Ariz., two years ago, and since then has worn out three washtubs. It costs \$1.75 to buy another, and it's got to be square—"has a better tone than a round one," he explains.

The Pecos Cowboys turn out music from range ballads to the late popular songs, with "Smokey" beating out the bass on his stringed laundry-aid.

To get music from the contraption, Wilson turns the tub bottom-side up, uses the hinge and bolts to fasten the broomstick in an upright position at one edge, and stretches the viol string from the top of the handle to a hook fastened in the center of the tub bottom. By moving the broomstick back and forth, "Smokey" changes the curvature of the tin and the tension of the string and gets any note in the scale. Then he slaps the bass and the tub-zula does the rest.

## Sidewalk News Ticker

Probably the only sidewalk news ticker in the city has just been installed at the main entrance of the Associated Press building in New York city. The ticker, exactly like that used in newspaper offices, press associations, and other news gathering agencies, is attached, at times, to the 285 miles of leased wire of the Associated Press which services some 1,400 newspapers throughout the country. Each minute, about 65 words flash through the news ticker. Directly opposite the ticker will be installed shortly an Associated Press wire photo machine, which will print news photographs while the passersby watch. It is the same type of machine that sends photographs to news gathering agencies of the association in 60 cities throughout the world.

## Early U. S. Justice

Great respect for a stranger's time was shown 300 years ago by Massachusetts Bay colony. The WPA historical records survey found that the colonial laws of June 6, 1639, provided that the governor or deputies could hear and determine all actions concerning strangers, either by jury trial or otherwise. This was to dispatch speedy cases of visitors who could not remain to attend ordinary courts of justice.

A rabbit foot may not be lucky, but four of them are a great help to the rabbit when a dog gets after it.

America has many social problems, most of which disappear when everybody is working and too busy to talk.

Never judge a woman's smile by her teeth. Both may be artificial.

## 'Miracle Drug' Advanced In Fight on Influenza

The possibility that medical science at last has found a method of conquering influenza has been disclosed by the U. S. public health service.

The new "miracle drug" called sulfapyridine, already widely used in treating pneumonia, may come to be used as a preventive of the flu, according to Miss Margaret Pittman, a associate bacteriologist at the National Institute of Health.

An eight-months old baby gave the clue to the sulfapyridine method of controlling the disease, said Miss Pittman in her report. The infant developed an inflammation of the eyes and ears and pneumonia. In addition to pneumonia germs, he had a heavy infection of the flu germs in his lungs, throat, eyes and ears.

Dr. J. H. McLeod, of Washington, who reported the case, administered sulfapyridine immediately.

"Within 24 hours the child showed marked improvement, followed by a rapid and uneventful recovery," Miss Pittman said.

Such success led institute scientists to begin immediate experiments on mice. Their results were summarized in these statements:

1—Sulfapyridine was effective in protecting mice against experimental infections of none-type-specific hemophilus influenzae (the bacteria which causes influenza).

2—The drug did not keep the bacteria from entering the blood stream, but it apparently retarded their increase in the blood until the natural defense forces could overcome the germs.

Two groups of mice were infected with the bacteria. One group received no sulfapyridine. The other group received varying amounts of it. All the untreated mice died promptly, and some of the treated mice succumbed. In the treated group, the number which lived was directly proportional to the amount of the drug administered, Miss Pittman said.

None of those which received only one milligram of the drug survived the experiment. In some experiments in the series, 100 per cent of the mice which were given as much as eight milligrams came through alive. They apparently were not affected by doses of the germs 100 times greater than the amount ordinarily needed to kill them.

## Astronomical Distances Must Be Re-Surveyed

Discovery of a special bending of starlight near the time of sunrise and sunset, due apparently to peculiar waves on top of Earth's atmosphere, has been announced at Columbia university.

The discovery affects the basic measurements as astronomical distances. It shrinks the estimates of the size of the Milky Way, and indicates that many stars familiar to the naked eye are two or three times nearer than has been believed.

About 5,000 stars are affected. They are the stars whose distances were supposed to have been accurately measured by ordinary engineering surveying methods. The nearest of these, such as Proxima Centauri, the closest star, distance four and three-tenths light years, are only slightly affected. But the error rises rapidly with increasing distance.

The discovery was made by Prof. Jan Schilt, head of Columbia's Rutherford observatory.

It has long been known that bending occurs when light passes from empty space into the atmosphere. But Professor Schilt has found a new bending.

The twist affects astronomy's measurements of star distances because many of these are taken near sunrise and sunset.

Accurate measurements of these distances are astronomy's yardstick for calculating the distances to the millions of other stars too remote for surveying.

## Spaghetti Consumption

Forty-five million Italians consumed more than 3,000,000,000 pounds of spaghetti in 1938, according to Agostino Agnesi, so-called spaghetti king of Italy. His factory turns out enough spaghetti every 48 hours to girdle the globe. Made solely of wheat flour, spaghetti has leaped into greater prominence in Italy than ham and eggs in America. Between 9,000 and 10,000 factories are turning out spaghetti at a mile-a-minute clip from the north to the south of Italy. Made of the hardest kernel wheat, Italian spaghetti claims more vitamin E content than any other food. Italian food experts have given it more than 100 different designs, with gastronomic appeal second to none in Italy.

## Canadian Feminine Fitness

Comparing the records of all students since 1904, Canadian investigators learned that only 25.8 per cent of the women in 1904 were found fit for all physical exercise, while 96.1 per cent of this year's class were fit. Furthermore, the 1904 girl was only 62.7 inches tall and weighed 119 pounds, while her 1939 sister is 63.9 inches tall and weighs 125 pounds.

If all men describe her as "so understanding," it is a safe bet she has no man of her own to understand.

## Inventor of 'Death Ray' Will Not Reveal Secret

It is possible that "death rays" may some day be used as an awful weapon of war, but Dr. Antonio Longoria, wealthy Cleveland, Ohio, scientist and inventor, who in 1923 perfected a "death ray" apparatus, will have nothing to do with recreating such a machine.

This Dr. Longoria made plain in a recent interview. He recounted that his apparatus had killed pigeons on the wing at four miles, and that he then destroyed the machine because of its danger.

"It's quite possible that someone may stumble across the particular electric wave I used," Dr. Longoria said. "I found it accidentally myself, and I certainly am not proud of the discovery. The machine killed small animals, and it could kill human beings just as easily.

"The ray lies in one of the unexplored frequency bands in the vicinity of the X-ray. It kills painlessly, without burning, by changing the blood to a useless substance—ars light changes silver salts in photography. But I don't like to talk about it, because it could wreck civilization. I'll have nothing to do with it. My hands will be clean."

Dr. Longoria said he first demonstrated his ray while working in California on a colored motion picture process, showing a group of scientists that the ray could kill rabbits even when the animals were encased in a thick-walled aluminum case.

Later, in Cleveland, he demonstrated that the ray would kill pigeons, he added.

"I could assemble such a machine again," Dr. Longoria said, "but I never shall. I have no drawings. The plans are in my head alone. My inventions have brought me wealth. I am interested now only in doing something to help civilization, which seems to be going backward instead of ahead."

## Dickens' Manuscript Is Purchased by American

The autographed manuscript of Charles Dickens' "The Life of Our Lord," which he wrote exclusively for his children in 1846, was sold recently for \$1,400 (\$6,552) to Philip H. Rosenbach, of Philadelphia, after a bidding duel in a London auction room. Rosenbach outbid Mrs. Gladys Storey, author of "Dickens and Daughter," who said she was "terribly annoyed" because she had intended to purchase the script for the British museum.

The manuscript has been a possession of the Dickens family for 93 years, and was offered for sale by Lady Dickens, widow of Sir Henry Fielding Dickens, the eighth of the author's 10 children. Sir Henry was born three years after his father had devoted a summer vacation at Lausanne, Switzerland, to penning the narrative so that his children might have a simple and straightforward story of Christ.

After Sir Henry's death in 1933, his widow accepted an offer for serial reproduction of the work in many newspapers throughout the world, and it was translated into 13 languages. The manuscript fills 46 closely written quarto pages in 10 chapters, and will be brought to New York.

## Champion Ship Models

Twenty-six-year-old John Stanley Warren of New London, Conn., claims the world's championship for making ship models, with 67 to his credit, 55 of which were completed in 1936. A New York widow of a sea captain and expert ship modeler started him on his career in 1932 by giving him her husband's books on the subject. His 1936 record left him with doctor's orders to stop the work or risk seriously impairing his eyesight. A long rest and he is back at his work again. In 1936 he often made a model a week, and averaged five a month. "But it takes system," he said, "like everything else. I map each model out on paper, make my own blueprints, and then follow them closely."

## Oklahoma Invaders

Two boys on one horse heard a lot of shooting out on an Oklahoma hilltop. They galloped the horse down a ravine and out into the line of fire of a dozen barking 37-millimeter guns. The firing was part of maneuvers of the second battalion of the 160th field Artillery, National Guard. Soldiers stopped firing when they saw the mounted "invaders," but not before a few shots whistled close to the scared boys. The boys, about 12 years old, and dressed in overalls, said they lived on a nearby farm. They would not give their names because they feared their father would "tan our hides."

## Tradition of Kites

According to tradition, kites were invented by Archytas of Tarentum four centuries before Christ, but they have been used by savage tribes of Asia from time immemorial, and kite-flying has been a national pastime of the Chinese, Japanese and other East Indians. The origin of kite-flying is obscure, but it is generally ascribed to religion. The Koreans attribute its origin to a general, who many hundred years ago, inspired his troops by sending up a kite with a lantern attached. The soldiers believed it to be a new star and the sign of divine help.