

**GUNSTON HALL HOME OF GREAT AMERICAN**

**Built by George Mason, Far-Seeing Statesman.**

In 1750, at a plantation in Maryland near the Potomac river, a wedding took place, and to it flocked the planters and their ladies from miles around in Maryland and Virginia, writes Mary Mayo Crenshaw in St. Nicholas. It was the marriage of George Mason, fourth of the name in this country and scion of a very ancient family, to Ann Ellbeck, sixteen years old and already a great belle and beauty. Mason, then twenty-five years old, was described by a contemporary as "young, wealthy, handsome and talented."

Soon after the wedding the young couple began to build their now famous home, Gunston hall. It was named in honor of George Mason's ancestral home in England. They threw themselves wholeheartedly into the task. Mason himself was the architect. He had woodcarvers come over from England, and for three years these worked on the classic designs which lend such charm to the home, and which have been copied by some of America's greatest architects. At the end of this time the stately mansion was finished and a house-warming was held. Scores of guests came from miles around in their gilded chariots and quaint coaches, or in boats from the Maryland side. Two of the nearest neighbors, Lord Fairfax and George Washington, must have been there to drink the health of the young pair—Washington then a tall young man eighteen years of age. And we can imagine the pride of the slender young wife in her beautiful new home, and seem to see her in the soft candlelight dancing the minuet or the Sir Roger de Coverley.

Mason was destined to become one of the most famous statesmen of America. He lived at Gunston hall during the remainder of his life. John Este Cooke in his delightful history of Virginia has said:

"Mason was called upon to draft the Virginia bill of rights and constitution, and did so. The former is the most remarkable paper of the epoch, and was the foundation of the great American assertion of right. Jefferson went to it for the phrases and expressions of the Declaration, and it remains the original chart by which free governments must steer their course in all coming time."

All of it found its way into the Constitution of the United States, and the first ten amendments of the latter were taken bodily from the bill of rights.

The year 1925 is the 200th anniversary of the birth of George Mason. Proper observances are to be held on October 26 at Gunston hall. But there is a perpetual memorial, not limited by time, not temporary, but unceasing, to this great man, in the country he helped so much to found and in the reverent hearts of a whole people.

**No Eggs for the Band**

"Once on a western tour," Mr. Damosch relates, "we struck a town where the hotel accommodation was very, very poor. A dozen members of the orchestra had to put up in a hotel where the rate was \$1 a head for dinner, bed and breakfast. It didn't seem to be worth more, either."

"When the men went down to the dining room for breakfast in the morning they were led to an untidy table by a frowny maid. The maid was busy taking their orders when the proprietor put his head in at the door and called:

"Lizzie, no eggs for the band!"

"This speech," Mr. Damosch ended, "spread among the orchestra, and for the rest of the season, whenever some demand was made upon me that I couldn't grant, the men would smile and shake their heads and repeat: "Lizzie, no eggs for the band!"

**"Stinging Snake" a Myth**

The biological survey says that the "stinging snake" myth apparently originated more than 200 years ago and is reported to have been first published in an old "Report to Lords Proprietors of the Carolinas." John Clayton also mentions this myth in a letter to the Royal society of London in 1683. In the first mentioned report it is asserted that there lived in the Carolinas a snake whose tail was a poisoned horn or spike. This account refers to the horn or stinging snake, which is harmless. The horn snake is bluish-black with a few red bars across the belly. The tail of this snake tapers to a fine point having the appearance of a horn or spike, but it is quite incapable of piercing or stinging anything.

**Reason for Joyfulness**

The day seems to be arrived when there is really so much to make us think well of the destiny of mankind; such fair reason to rejoice in the mere fact of existence; so large a promise of ever-extending human knowledge and insight; such general softening of manners, spreading of intelligence and enlarging of average happiness, that it appears more becoming for man, the chief at least of animals, to be singing with the lark in the sky than croaking with the frog in the swamp.—Sir Edwin Arnold.

**ODD CHANGES MADE BY MOTHER EARTH**

**Some of Them Are Worrying Her Many Children.**

Queer things have been happening to Mother Earth of late. Her ague quakes probably have not been unusual, though America is prone to think them so because so many have happened in this land. But a new shoal, with rock coming within a few fathoms of the surface, has been found in a region where the ocean was supposed to be 2,000 feet deep; a new island is being built by a volcano in the Mediterranean, and the Humboldt current that chills the west coast of South America even as the Gulf stream warms the west coast of northern Europe has ceased to flow.

This last is by all odds the most amazing and important development recorded. The Humboldt current, coming out of the Antarctic ocean with the chill of ancient ice in its waves, and flowing up the west coast of South America to the neighborhood of the equator, has always kept low the temperature of the whole region. But that has not been its chief effect. Thanks to this drift of cold water, the ocean has been cooler than the land—therefore, winds setting landward got warmer as they went, and consequently were never chilled into rain.

There are places on the coast of Peru where rain has not fallen for 50 years, but it has been coming in torrents this year. The cold current is gone, why or whither no one knows; wind blowing over the hot equatorial waters is chilled as it strikes the coast, and there has been one thunderstorm after another.

If this condition persists, a host of changes will result. The nitrate beds of northern Chile and southern Peru have been saved by the absence of rain. A dozen years like the present will wash most of the nitrates into the sea. A thousand miles of coast land is now absolutely barren for lack of water. Rainfall like that prevailing for the last six months would make it a garden. One can understand why special commissions are heading for South America to learn, if possible, what has become of the Humboldt current.

**Watch Growth of Embryo**

For the first time in history the development of the embryo of a warm-blooded animal has been carried on under such conditions that it can be watched continuously. This feat has been accomplished by two scientists at the University of Leyden, Drs. J. P. M. Vogelaar and J. B. van den Boogert, who have placed common hens' eggs, with the shells removed, in small glass dishes in an incubator, and have succeeded in keeping the embryo alive and growing for five days. Hitherto the only way in which such embryos could be studied has been by placing large numbers of eggs in the incubator and removing and opening them one by one at intervals. By this older method it has been possible to study closely spaced stages of development, but not to observe the growth as a continuous process, now made possible by the new way.

**Stealing Peggy's Act**

A man and his trained dog were appearing at an Indianapolis vaudeville theater. The dog's ability to count was being displayed and her master was selecting patrons in various rows as subjects.

He pointed to two very small children on the front row and said:

"Peggy, how many little boys are there in this row?"

A hush fell over the audience as the dog prepared to tinkle a bell by way of answer. Then suddenly a shrill, childish voice piped out:

"Hey! I'm not a little boy!"

After the roar of laughter had subsided, Peggy was called on to distinguish on her bell the number of little boys and little girls on the front row.

**Too Late! Too Late!**

"Years ago, when I considered myself quite the debonair youth around the home town, I always raved at the shirt of those days that I had to pull over my head," said a salesman in a Detroit hotel. "The operation nussed up my hair and I was forced to spend a lot of time recombining it. In later years, the now prevalent coatshirt came along, with all its virtues. But by the time it had arrived my dashing days had been curbed and I had lost most of my hair. So I'm not quite as grateful for the idea as I should be if the inventor had gone to work a few years before and turned out his product when it would have saved me a lot of grief."

**Setting the Date**

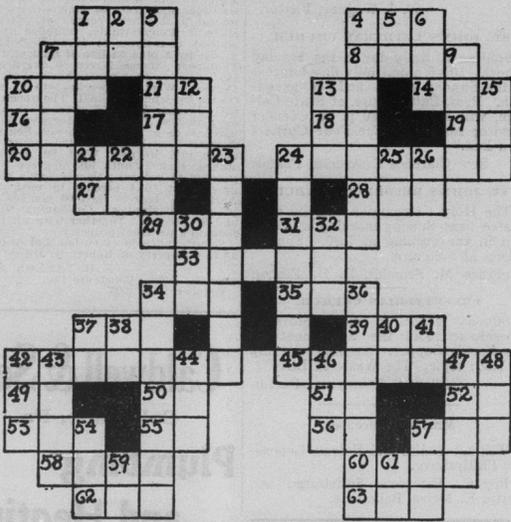
The stranger rushed up to the corner, where a group of villagers were discussing things. He waited for no introductions or invitation to speak, but burst forth with, "What's all the excitement about?" The group of villagers eyed him in silence for a moment. Finally one native removed his pipe from his mouth, spat to leeward, and replied, "Bout a month ago."

**Didn't Stop in Time**

A cabman in London made more than \$1,000 by selling tickets for a fake concert, which he said was to help crippled and aged cab drivers. Just as he was selling the last ticket he had printed in his fraud scheme the police arrested him.

**HOW TO SOLVE A CROSS-WORD PUZZLE**  
When the correct letters are placed in the white spaces this puzzle will spell words both vertically and horizontally. The first letter in each word is indicated by a number, which refers to the definition listed below the puzzle. Thus No. 1 under the column headed "horizontal" defines a word which will fill all the white spaces up to the first black square to the right, and a number under "vertical" defines a word which will fill all the white squares to the next black one below. No letters go in the black spaces. All words used are dictionary words, except proper names. Abbreviations, slang, initials, technical terms and obsolete forms are indicated in the definitions.

**CROSS-WORD PUZZLE No. 3.**



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- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Horizontal.</b>  | <b>Vertical.</b>                            |
| 1—Possesses   | 1—Strike                                    |
| 4—To drink sparingly  | 2—Indefinite article                        |
| 7—Skating surface   | 3—Master of a fishing vessel                |
| 8—To become rapid   | 4—Ghosts                                    |
| 10—Head piece   | 5—Middlewestern state (abbr.)               |
| 13—East Indian (abbr.)  | 6—To work at a trade                        |
| 14—Personal pronoun   | 7—Overhasty in action                       |
| 16—Part of "to be"  | 9—A baron                                   |
| 17—River in Italy   | 10—Belonging to that man                    |
| 18—Man's title of address   | 12—Part of the foot                         |
| 19—Right (abbr.)  | 13—Australian bird                          |
| 20—Confidant man  | 15—Member of American Indian tribe          |
| 24—Self-destruction   | 21—Preposition                              |
| 27—To fasten with a knot  | 22—Smallest state in union (abbr.)          |
| 28—Twenty hundredweight   | 23—Symmetrical                              |
| 29—Torn cloth   | 24—Flexible knife for spreading drugs, etc. |
| 31—Donkey   | 25—Company (abbr.)                          |
| 33—One of a series of ornaments in the shape of a frustum of a cone | 26—Preposition                              |
| 34—Note of scale  | 30—Fast time                                |
| 35—Shoshonean Indian  | 32—Took a seat                              |
| 37—Part of verb "to be"   | 34—Two or more                              |
| 38—Small (Scottish)   | 36—Perfume                                  |
| 42—Conference with African natives                                  | 37—Boy's name                               |
| 43—Storehouse of ammunition   | 38—Sun god                                  |
| 45—Preposition  | 40—Personal pronoun                         |
| 49—Printing measure   | 41—Indefinite article                       |
| 51—That is (abbr.)  | 42—Small particle                           |
| 52—Note of scale  | 43—Long, narrow inlet                       |
| 53—Highway (abbr.)  | 47—Native of Arabia                         |
| 54—Indefinite article   | 48—Permit                                   |
| 57—Devour   | 49—Unit of work                             |
| 58—To arrest  | 53—Note of scale                            |
| 59—English (abbr.)  | 61—Prefix meaning not                       |

Solution will appear in next issue.

**FARM NOTES.**

—Tulips, hyacinths, and any bulbs for winter forcing should be potted during October and placed in a cool cellar. Allow several weeks before bringing out to the light.

—Get the poultry flock into the laying houses. If any of these birds are sick, look for worms. In nine cases out of ten, say Pennsylvania State College poultrymen, that will be the trouble.

—Dahlia bulbs should be dug and stored in a safe place as soon as it starts to freeze, or they will start new growth at once. Since this weakens them it should be avoided. Be sure the main stake is securely fastened to each clump.

—Such action made it necessary for the Pennsylvania officials to establish their quarantine. This State is an important market for Texas live stock and poultry products and likewise all rail transportation of these products to the important eastern markets must pass through the State.

—Weevils in grain show up badly about this time of the year. All grain to be held in bins over the winter should be fumigated with carbon bisulphide, say entomologists of the Pennsylvania State College. During fumigation hold the temperature above 60 degrees. At temperatures below this point the fumigation will be ineffective.

—Ton litters, 400-bushel potato crops, tested cows, ton geldings and 1000-pound calves are all contributing toward better agriculture. Pennsylvania farmers are pushing forward in all of these practical methods of producing more and better agricultural products from fewer units or in a shorter time than by the old way. It is good procession to join. Don't follow; lead.

—Since the first outbreak, which was reported in August, the disease has occurred on a few adjoining ranches but the State and Federal authorities were making excellent progress in the control work, until local interests began to block the work and even go so far as to secure a temporary injunction against the authorities, preventing them from enforcing their quarantine and disposing of diseased animals.

—It is better to leave the cool crops like beets, carrots, celery, and cabbage in the field until danger of severe freezing approaches. If these crops are put in storage now, warm days in October are likely to make them heat and spoil. Keep such crops in the field as long as it is safe to do so, but do not get caught by a sudden freeze such as ruined much celery last season. Have a place all ready for storage of your latest vegetables and provide a handy covering for unexpected cold nights.

—Pennsylvania is not taking any chances with the outbreak of foot and mouth disease in Texas. The quarantine against the movement of live stock, live stock products and other possible carriers of the diseases from Texas into Pennsylvania, made effective September 21, 1925, was prompted by the indifference and the lack of cooperation of local interests in the infected area with State and Federal authorities, and not by any serious spread of disease, Dr. T. E. Munce,

**Solution of Crossword puzzle No. 2.**

FINALE FINISH  
R ERA ARSON A  
ITEM GNU GNAT  
GOD LODGE SIT  
IN TON AGO ME  
DILATE LORD R  
CUB GUM  
F GLAD GRADES  
RA ERE ION SA  
ARC CARVE SAC  
NEAT LEE SASH  
CRIMED POIE  
ENDEAR BALLET

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