

## Preserve Historic Telegraph Key

Washington.—A new national heirloom has been added to the White House collection.

It is the gold nugget and marble telegraph key which five Presidents have used to open celebrations, tunnels, canals, newspapers, fairs and bridges throughout the country.

The key was given to President William H. Taft, June 1, 1900, to open the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific exposition. Mounted on its five-inch marble slab were 22 nuggets of Alaskan gold taken from the Klondike August 16, 1896, when the precious metal was first discovered there.

The gold was offered for the key by George W. Carmack, discovered of the Klondike fields. Its original value was \$500 but its historic value has been trebled and quadrupled by the ceremonies in which it has taken part.

The first ceremony was held in the

East room nearly 22 years ago. Present were Mr. Taft and all the dignitaries of the cabinet and diplomatic corps. The key was mounted on a table, connected with a special wire to Seattle where the exposition was being held. Manipulating it was E. W. Smithers, White House telegrapher.

After Taft had pressed it, giving the signal for opening of the exposition, Smithers induced the President to let him be custodian of it. He has guarded it since. Recently it has been kept in the White House safe, as if it were a crown jewel. Smithers says he intends to leave it there to continue its historic career, although now it is his personal property.

In the entire key there is but one small point which is not gold. That is the contact point for transmission of the electrical impulse.

Among the famous occasions upon

which the key has been used by Presidents are:

1913—Opening Gambo dike, Panama canal. 1915—The California exposition. 1927—The Holland tunnels under the Hudson river, New York, and the Moffat water tunnel outside Denver, Colo. 1928—The Hawaiian fair, the impulse being transmitted across the ocean by wireless; the Cascade tunnel. 1930—The Hoover-Longview bridge, Washington.

### SOFT PLACES

By THOMAS ARKLE CLARK  
Dean of Men, University of Illinois.

Wulf and Smid were talking together and plotting to marry Hypatia to the Amal, and Smid was hanging back, hesitating to take the dangerous step.

"Well, well," he admitted finally in explanation of his momentary hesitation and weakness, "wise men are like moorlands—ride as far as you will on the sound ground, you are sure to come upon a soft place at last."

I have had little experience in riding over moorlands, but I remember the prairies. They looked as even as a floor, as smooth and safe almost as



a macadam road, and covered with short grass they spread out as far as the eye could reach. Sixteen miles we could see to the southeast over an unbroken plain to where a single cottonwood stood. But there were soft marshy places one found if he set out to ride far; there were gopher holes, and uneven dangerous spots where prairie wolves had burrowed into the ground or where groundhogs had slept during the winter. One had to be cautious and to remember that the apparently unbroken surface of the prairie had its uneven places where a horse might stumble and the rider's life be in danger.

But in spite of its spots the moorland is a very beautiful place; in spite of its gopher holes and its wolf dens the prairie had its fascinations; it was wonderful, impressive, romantic and satisfying.

It is not strange that when we examine the lives and characters of human beings we should find them like the moorland or the prairie—soft places, occasionally gopher holes, marshy spots, and it should not detract seriously from the strength and beauty of their lives to find that they were not perfect—nothing human is. Recent biographers have seemed to take most delight in emphasizing the soft spots in the lives of the great men about whom they have written, rather than the beauty and the strength and the wide expanse of solid ground.

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### Living Creatures on Mars and Venus, Belief

Cambridge.—Contrary to belief of other eminent scientists Dr. Leon Campbell, Harvard astronomer, believes that there is life on other planets in our solar system. He thinks it ridiculous to believe that the earth is the only inhabited planet, and that at least two more, Mars and Venus, support living creatures.

### STYLISH IN COLOR



In excellent taste is this spring suit of dotted red and white crepe, with novel collar and cuff version in starched white linen. A complement of dress trimming on the brim of the white linen bakou hat is suggested for style's sake.

### Mississippi Farmer's Hog and Dog Are Pals

Columbus, Miss.—Sweet Lanier, farmer near here, has a dog and hog that are fast friends. Lanier says the dog and hog are inseparable and roam the fields together.

## Community Building

### Personality Big Part of Community's Assets

Four requisites are needed for the creation of a desirable community. Dr. Charles Thompson, dean of the school of commerce of the University of Illinois, points them out as follows: Diversified, prosperous industrial life; honest, efficient, economical local government; widespread education, and personality.

The last requisite in his list is one which many communities overlook or ignore. Yet it is a quality which gives a distinctive touch to a community and sets it apart from others that have identical advantages in population, industry, government and schools. Community personality is not built in a day, neither can it be made to order. It is one of the qualities which a city unconsciously acquires as its citizens cultivate lofty principles of good government, culture and refinement.

The men and women who reside in such a city carry with them to other communities the evidences of this community personality. Mere mention of the name of the old home town suggests to new friends and neighbors the qualities in which it excels. Community personality is created by the men and women who claim the city as their home. Their idealism and their efforts to attain it are the factors that give a good name and a fine reputation to a city.

The cultural aspects of a community are worthy of intensive cultivation.—Richmond Paladium.

### Fireproof Building Not Always Fire-Resisting

"With the introduction of fire-resisting construction there developed a more or less false sense of security," Herbert E. Maxson writes in an article in the American Architect, in pointing out the layman's mistake of taking "fireproof" construction too literally.

Many buildings commonly called fireproof, he writes, have walls and interior partitions of materials that will burn. Another fallacy common to the layman is the belief in the strength and dependability of steel under fire. Uncovered steel standards, Mr. Maxson says, are among the things that lower the percentage of fire resistance in so-called fireproof buildings. Bare steel may cause the fire-resisting properties of a building to drop from 20 to 80 per cent.

The greatest fire hazard to buildings built of some so-called fireproof materials comes during construction. It is then that damage may be done which, because of the state of the building, costs several times what it did originally. The Riverside church in New York, while being built, suffered damage from a scaffolding fire to the extent of 200 to 300 per cent of the cost of the parts damaged.

### Home Buyer's Requirements

A plea for a wider individuality in home design is made by Chris Paschen, Chicago, building commissioner, who says:

"Buying a home is one of the most important decisions in every man's life. It is the culmination of years of working and saving—it represents the place of his greatest happiness. Naturally, a home to him must not only provide the cold assets of light and heat, good streets, adequate transportation and other similar facilities—it must represent to him a definite creation for which he has hoped and planned and of which he has dreamed.

"Some builders fail to understand this psychology of the home seeker and wonder why he reacts adversely when shown the supposed advantages of a box-like structure, similar in every cut and design to the surrounding homes. The influence of the woman in home buying also is either unrecognized or, at least, the developer does not know what a deciding influence real distinctiveness of architectural design will have upon the feminine mind."

### Plea for Vegetable Gardens

O. L. Moore, secretary-treasurer of the Union Set Dealers' and Growers' association, said at a meeting at Chicago:

"When prosperity abounded home gardens were given up even by small town residents who had ample room to plant the seeds sent them by their congressmen.

"Now, however, we can safely predict that suburbanites, men with city lots and residents of small communities are going to renew back-yard agriculture to supply the family table."

### Plan "Smokeless Town"

The building of a "smokeless town," a residential community of 200 homes in New York city, which will use gas for all service purposes, including house heating, is described in the Appalachian, issued by Appalachian Gas corporation. Health Commissioner Wynne of New York recently stated that the smoke evil costs New York \$30,000,000 yearly.

### Beauty of Old Brick

The paramount lesson of old brick structures is an appreciation of the mellowed beauty that comes inevitably with the years. No other type of exterior wall material insures it or approaches it in artistic appeal to such an extent.

### Stole Detroit's Tax Receipts



One of the most daring robberies of recent years resulted in the capture of one thief and the escape of another with \$3,000 in cash and \$25,000 in checks which they had taken from a cashier's cage in the city hall of Detroit, Mich. Theodore Crowley, captured (right), told how he and an accomplice had cut the wire caging and taken the money, mostly tax receipts, from the cage during an unguarded moment, although police assigned to guard the city treasurer's office stood less than 50 feet away.

## Prowling Owls Lured to Death

Chicago.—When the big horned owls and other feathered predators which prey on valuable game and song birds fly low through the Ogemaw forest of northern Michigan, they are apt to see several barnyard pigeons doing a swaying, intriguing dance about 15 inches above the ground.

These dancing pigeons are not

placed in the forest for entertainment, says the conservation department of the Izaak Walton league. They are traps for the bloodthirsty predators, invented by Blaine Brannon, keeper of the Ogemaw refuge above Bay City, Mich.

Brannon took an ordinary barnyard pigeon and had it mounted with its wings spread. Then he fastened a slim coil of wire from the breast of the bird to a wooden base. This wire is just strong enough to support the mounted bird and a spring trap which rests on the back and wings of the bird. A chain from the trap leads to a stake in the ground.

When this outfit is placed in an

open place in the woods or around a farmer's barnyard, the wind will cause the bird to sway and tremble. It will catch the eye of a large owl or bird killing hawk. The would-be killer swoops to seize the stuffed pigeon, thrusts his claws into the bird and open trap, and thus is caught.

### POTPOURRI

#### The Glacial Period

The glacial period was that immediately preceding that of man. Ice covered 8,000,000 square miles of the earth's surface, sometimes a mile thick. The ice mass was over 2,000 miles long and half as wide, half of which was in North America. The Ohio and Missouri rivers mark its southern boundaries and all of Canada was included.

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### Father Sage Says:

Just because a man profits by his own mistakes is no reason why he should keep on making 'em.

## LIGHTS OF NEW YORK

By WALTER TRUMBULL

A zoological park is a great educational medium. There are many kids whose parents cannot afford to take them around the world, or even around the country, but they can go to the zoo and see strange animals from all parts of the earth. The other day Bugs Baer was walking through Central Park at dusk, an hour when many of the police have gone to supper. He heard a commotion in the direction of

the buffalo pen, and paused to investigate. There were four or five small boys and a much annoyed buffalo.

"Get hot, Maggie," they would yell, and wham! one of them would sock her with a rock. Maggie got very hot indeed. If she could have broken out of that pen she would have made matters warm for the kids, but she could only glare and kick. Thus the youth of New York studies natural history.

### COLLECTED FREE RIDE



Simon Fishman of Greeley county, Kansas, went west thirty-five years ago and planted several thousand acres of wheat in the middle of un-cultivated plains. At the time he predicted to L. M. Baldwin, president of the Missouri Pacific railroad, that that railway would some day carry 1,000,000 bushels of wheat for export. Baldwin's reply was that when that happened Fishman could "get into my private car and go anywhere you wish on the system." Fishman has just been collecting the free ride, accompanied by his wife and daughter.

I am told that the largest hand-tufted rug ever woven in a single piece is now being made by a firm in Czechoslovakia, which has furnished carpets to the White House and the royal courts of Europe, for the main lobby of the new Waldorf. The size of this adaptation of a Persian garden carpet will be 70 feet 2 inches by 49 feet 11 inches. I regret that they skipped that extra inch in width. They could just as well have made it an even 50 feet; but, at that, it will be a grand rug to drop ashes on. I don't see how a fellow with a cigarette could miss.

A girl became engaged to an aviator. He was starting a flight and she and the family went to see him off. The plane got away well and then the pilot circled around, flew above the heads of the family, rolled the ship and waggled the wings in salute. His fiancée began to cry.

"What's the matter?" they asked her.

"Can't you see?" she replied indignantly. "The poor darling's seasick."

Young people of today have plenty of courage. An art student on the Pacific coast married a girl of about his own age. Their assets consisted of a battered Ford and about \$300. They drove the car East, where the girl had relatives. They decided that the girl's best chance lay in his studying art in Paris. He therefore took the bankroll and sailed for France, leaving the girl and the Ford with the relatives. She expects to get a job

while the husband is away and feels sure that, on his return, they will be prosperous. How he is going to live over there and get back on that capital is a bit of a mystery, but neither of them appears to be worried about it.

A Brooklyn man recently stabbed his wife 16 times because she nagged him about coming home late and wouldn't let him go to sleep. The evidence would seem to indicate that she certainly got him wide awake.

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### CLEVELAND'S "FIND"



Joe Vosmik, the young Cleveland outfielder, who has been the biggest sensation of the major leagues to date. Up from the Cleveland sandlots, this youngster has been hitting brilliantly and also has starred in the field.

### Country's Storm Centers

The middle and northern plains and the region of the Great lakes have ters as New England.

### STRANGE AS IT SEEMS—By John Hix

A GIANT CACTUS IN LOWER CALIFORNIA IS 80 FEET HIGH



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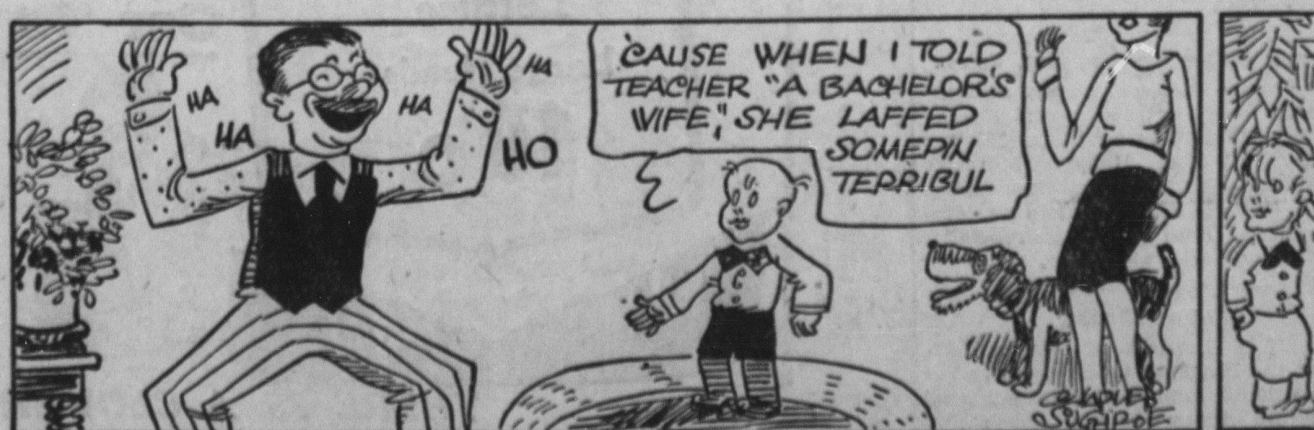


GUS LOWENSTEIN, TEEING OFF NO. 1 BADLY, MADE A HOLE-IN-ONE IN NO. 7 CUP HYDE PARK, JACKSONVILLE FLA.

A TOY BALLOON, RELEASED BY O. C. INMAN, NASHVILLE, TENN., WITH HIS NAME ATTACHED, WAS FOUND 3 DAYS LATER IN LAVONIA, GA. AFTER TRAVELING 300 MILES

(WNU Service.)

### SUCH IS LIFE—Wrong Twice!



By Charles Sughroe