

Irving Bacheller Tells How To Conserve Youth

(Continued from first page)

A man knew more at that age than he would ever know again, that his mind was then apt to be filled with fear and worrisome uncertainty as to the future. The editor insisted that I should write for him an essay on this theme. I did it and now present its substance to you.

If it seems to be a boastful and courageous undertaking I venture to hope that you have learned to bear with the follies of the young. When a man tries to tell, as did David, what God has done for his soul he faces a difficult problem.

At 55 Washington said that he felt too old for the responsibilities of public life. Edison is young and engaging in new enterprises at 81. Washington had felt the weight of two tremendous burdens—war and the hard times created by war. For ages men had been ground between these upper and nether millstones—war and hard times. The sense of youth and the joy of living could not long endure in Europe the English idea of representative government, in Great Britain, Switzerland, and the Netherlands, contended with the Roman idea of absolute despotism as exemplified by Philip II in Spain and Louis XIV in France. Men knew not peace or rest in the mighty turmoil. They were ever struggling against the despotism of the crown or that of the barons and the church. Almost the last little in the long struggle of humanity was fought and won by Washington. But roots of the old Roman idea still remained in the soil—human slavery and another great war tore them from the earth. We cannot wonder that Washington and his people, that Lincoln and Jefferson Davis and their followers were old at 55.

The noted author resumed by showing how the Roman idea returns to Europe now and then and thrives for a season. This idea, he stated, is the greatest peril that the world has had to contend with. He calls it "the arch enemy of youth."

Such, briefly, declared Mr. Bacheller, is the background of man's extended life and of the art of growing young. In practicing that art, the first thing for one to do is to find his task. It is largely a matter of faith—faith in oneself. Now a well founded faith in oneself is not conceit. It must have grown out of much self-work until at last it comes the faith of others.

Then comes a wonderful clearing of the way. Some call it good luck. But the fact remains that to every one who hath shall be given and all things work together for the good of those who love—the truth. The truth is indeed the Lord.

Adventurous Youth
The lecturer continued by relating a number of the personal experiences which befell him during his youth and showing how they influenced his life.

My youth, I confess, was largely misspent. My father had moved into the village six miles from his farm back in the hills. He had a competence.

In the time of my boyhood there was sure to be in every village of the kind a patent-right man. He was always dreaming of an easy short cut to wealth. He had been too indolent to get an education or to turn his hand to useful labor. He dived well and his person was enveloped in an atmosphere of opulence. He had great conceit, boundless optimism and unusual ingenuity. He was generally the best looking and the most genial and interesting human being in the village. He looked respectable. He was the only member of his family that did. The tailor, the butcher, the grocer and the baker had a lively interest in his prosperity.

He was not a bad man. He believed himself—an almost incredible achievement. He convinced my father that the way to sudden wealth was to buy an interest in one of his patented inventions and endorse a note for the cost of manufacturing and selling it.

I, when a lad of fourteen, saw hard times and much ill luck come to our house. I tried to help in the general problem on this road to easy riches. I didn't know how. I made matters worse. I got the reputation of being reckless. It came from such wild adventures as this of which I tell you.

When a boy of fourteen I made my first trip on the cars to the Fourth of July celebration in Ogdensburg with a lad of the name of Otis. We rode on a platform

car in a shower of cinders. I was not much impressed by railroad travel.

We had to do something to give ourselves a share in the greatness of the city. We felt reckless. We decided on a small venture in depravity. It would be a drink of lager beer. We choose it because it had a reputation and was inexpensive. We would buy one glass. He would drink half of it. I would drain the cup of evil. We would know what it was to be sunk in iniquity, to taste the deadly poison of which we had heard so much. I think that nothing was so ably advertised in the land we knew.

We went to a bar and paid five cents for a big glass of beer and drank it although astounded by its bitterness. The result was not pleasing. It had a bad taste. With a deep sense of guilt—momentarily grateful—we went and bought some big cigars and sat down in the park. The cigars looked right in size and shape but they wouldn't "draw." We sucked hard. We sucked so hard that we began to perspire. No air would come through them. They were solid. We wouldn't give up. Otis had a piece of wire in his pocket. With this he punched a fine lengthwise in each cigar. Thus we were able to get action and reaction. We settled down to enjoy our crossing the pale of respectability. The cigar didn't seem to like me. It sputtered and complained. A curious taste came out of it. There was a lack of congeniality in my relations with that cigar. It was immediately apparent. I have always thought that it had an abdominal system. I hulked it from me. After that day cigars were in my view like Indians—hostile and friendly.

Suddenly I found myself. It was no great discovery. Still, I was rather pleased with it.

Then, Mr. Bacheller went on to relate how he found the task for which he was best fitted. While tending one of the billiard tables at the Address House in Middlebury, Vt, he became acquainted with an old would-be poet who took the lad to his home for the night. That night the old gentleman while in an inebriated state requested Bacheller to keep him company in bed. He lay, for a long time, repenting blank verse to the boy.

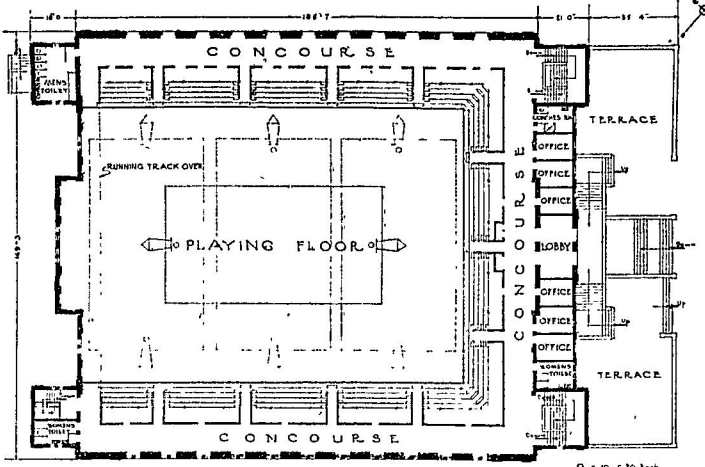
I had discovered a new kind of fun. I had taken the first step toward the work that has been mine. I had entered the gate of the great show of human character. Thereafter, I was like a boy at the circus.

I had begun to have a deep and increasing interest in men, and to find amusement in their peculiar traits and follies. I saw, as I had not seen before, the richness of my background—lonely people of the edges of the forest, mighty hunters, brawny ironmen and lumberjacks—French, Irish, Yankees—who had their own way of thinking. They were the people of whom Lowell said, "They have the divinely illiterate fashion of speech." Before I was eighteen, I discovered what he called the blood warmth, the vigor and originality of their idioms, and I began to have some command of them. Their talk thrilled me.

One thing I had in my youth which has been, I think, a most important factor in keeping me young and free of worry. It was a sense of chivalry—an inviolable regard for decent womanhood. Many boys of my time had it. There is nothing so sure to bring the shadow of death into the heart of man, nothing so certain to cloud his sky and humble and debase him, as the lack of a sense of chivalry. It is really a lack of respect for human dignity and decency.

No man can grow young whose anticipations are not enticed by every year that he lives. He must have faith that he is still, and always, a mere boy in school, slowly preparing himself for better things, for going forth to adventures more amazing and beautiful than any he has known.

Floor Plan of New Physical Education Building



With the contract calling for completion before September first, the Recreation Building is rising rapidly, the entire steel framework having been completed for several weeks. At present the cement work is being rushed. The structure will seat seven thousand.

CATHAUM MANAGEMENT SCHEDULES "FOUR SONS"

Unknown Actress Plays Leading Role for First Time in Big Production

More than sixty years of age, white-haired, and stooped with the burdens of her many years, she had struggled to earn the necessary means of livelihood by work as an "extra" in the movies at Hollywood Opportunity— which is said to come to everyone at least once—had apparently passed her by. And then—

"Her chance came! No, this is not fiction, but the true story of Margaret Mann, who, as Mother Barlow, in "Four Sons" has won the plaudits of most critics by her marvellous portrayal of unaffected naturalness in this great picture. An unknown, she was cast for the leading role, and she has demonstrated that when opportunity knocked, she was alert to seize the opening.

Second Big Showing
"Four Sons" comes to the Cathaum Theatre on Monday and Tuesday as the second of the big productions arranged for the Summer Session. Like "Street Angel," its local showing will be the first anywhere at less than \$2.00 prices. In but four of the largest cities—New York, Philadelphia, Los Angeles and San Francisco—this picture has been shown, yet it is hailed as one of the biggest successes of the past ten years. "Four Sons" has been recommended as high class screen entertainment by every critic in the cities where it has been shown.

BOSTON DIRECTOR TALKS ON VOCATIONS TUESDAY

Mr. Robert O. Small, director of the division of vocational education in Boston, Mass., will continue the weekly lectures on vocational education in Old Chapel Tuesday night at eight o'clock. "The Massachusetts Program of Vocational Education," will be Mr. Small's topic. This is the third of the six weeks series of talks that are being offered for the guidance of vocational teachers.

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Iota Lambda Sigma To Hold First Initiation

(Continued from first page)
zation, a representative of Iota Lambda Sigma stated that the ritual was in process of formation while the question of membership is still tentative, although it was originally intended that the members should be industrial teachers taking work at Penn State during the Summer Session.

It is believed that Iota Lambda Sigma will be an excellent drawing card as a factor toward causing students to return to Penn State summer sessions year after year in preference to other institutions. In addition to Kilius who was elected president, Eugene Knerr was named vice-president, while George Resides, assistant professor of practical mechanics, was selected secretary-treasurer.

CABBAGE CROP ATTACKED

One of the worst outbreaks of cabbage maggot in years has been experienced this season, according to Guy F. MacLeod, assistant extension entomologist of the College. Radishes, mangels, melons, cucumbers, and cabbages have been attacked by the pest. In some cases as many as fifteen maggots have been found in a single plant.

STUDENT HYPNOTIST TO GIVE CLASS INSTRUCTION

Group Meets Tuesday Night for Opening Session—Will Hold One-Hour Periods

Joseph E. Armstrong Jr., Penn State's hypnotist, who attained statewide prominence last semester with his demonstrations, announces the opening of a class for instruction in this art.

Among other feats performed before audiences, comprising both of students and faculty members, was one by which Mr. Armstrong hypnotized a subject over the telephone. It is said that his audiences were thoroughly convinced concerning the reliability of the art.

The class will meet for the first time at 173 McAllister street Tuesday evening at six-thirty o'clock. The membership will be limited to fifteen persons.

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PROF. CLOETINGH WILL GIVE DRAMATIC READING

Prof. Arthur C. Cloetingh, of the English Literature department and director of the Penn State Players, will continue the weekly series of dramatic readings in Old Chapel Thursday afternoon at three o'clock.

Class of 1922 Forms Local Alumni Society

Purposing to form an organization in order to become better acquainted and to assist in entertaining members of the group who return to the College from time to time, local members of the Class of 1922 held a meeting recently in the Alumni office at which time a number of committees were selected.

Tentative plans were made for a picnic and reunion during the first part of August for which a committee comprised of W. H. Weaver, C. J. Irving, R. C. Miller, A. H. Holtzner and J. F. Kern will complete arrangements. The problem of sending campus news to other members of the class was also discussed.

AGRICULTURAL SCHOOL DISTRIBUTES BOOKLET

Citing opportunities to be found in an agricultural career and the advantages in having definite training for such work, a free booklet has just been issued as an information guide for prospective students of agriculture. The bulletin, entitled "Your College of Agriculture," is being distributed from the office of the dean of the School of Agriculture. It is illustrated and describes the facilities for instruction in each of the twelve departments of the School.

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