

Vest Pocket Essays

By GEORGE FITCH
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STENOGRAPHERS.

A stenographer is a young lady who takes down the hard think thoughts of her employer in a notebook and afterwards edits and improves them on a typewriter, as soon as she has done up her cuffs, revised her hair, manicured her nails and modified her complexion.

There was a time when there were no stenographers, and business offices were gloomy places, in which men swore and wore hats, smoked cigars and kept their feet on the tables and their coats on hooks in the closets. Then the cheery stenographer was invented and through her coming, most of the gloom had been dispelled.

Stenographers are manufactured by business colleges out of shop girls, farmers' daughters and assistant housekeepers, with now and then a high school graduate as a prize package. They have good educations and can spell almost any small word by ear. However, the memory of the average stenographer is somewhat defective, which makes it almost impossible for her to understand her notes after they have stood for a few minutes.

Stenographers are great linguists and are forever inventing new words and phrases. A stenographer will write "Supreme Cuff," "snuborgination," "Witnesses be noses and says" and other remarkable improvements on the language, without giving it a thought. Indeed most of them are very modest over these achievements and will take half an

hour of their employer's valuable time to convince him he is entitled to all the credit of the improvement. Stenographers get from \$3 a week to \$10,000 a year and earn less and more than this. A poor stenographer is dear at \$3 a week, while there is always a waiting list of eager employers for the \$150 a month stenog-



They sometimes spare a moment to typewrite a letter or two.

rapher who sharpens her pencils in her spare time, and writes letters which can be "signed but not read." Stenographers should always dress modestly and refrain from anything but business conversation during office hours. Unless they do this, they are very likely to become million-aires' wives, or to meet some other equally terrible fate.

Make Most of What You Have.

Shakespeare says, "You can't turn the wheel with the water that is past." The modern age says, "You can't excel in fitness when you spend the hours in idleness." Dreams of the glory that is to be are largely dreams still long after the days are past that should have witnessed the crowning. But life is more than dreams. Most folks have learned to their sorrow that it is a rather stern reality. It promises much, but it's always conditional. It teaches men that in the using of what they have they become the heroes of the days that are to be. It's the filling of present hours that brings the full hours of the future. It's folly to mourn the past. It's all made in the present and today passes so swiftly into tomorrow that we scarcely realize how swiftly go the speeding hours.

Fortunate Is Our Country.

It is stated that the United States has 5 per cent of the world's population and 33 per cent of its wealth. In other words, one-twentieth of the people and one-third of the money of the whole world.

Appropriate Look.

Robert had lost his little pet dog and felt bad about it. His father told him poor little Fido must be dead or he would return home. His mother sent him on an errand, when he met a woman friend of his mother's who asked him if he was ill, as he had little to say. "Oh, no," he said, "but my little dog is dead and I am wearing a black look."

Dark Thought.

Wisdom is oftentimes nearer when we sleep than when we soar.—Wordsworth.

Sleep and the Brain.

It used to be thought that sleep happened because the circulation of blood through the brain grew so feeble that this, the seat of consciousness, could work no longer and sleep took place. Many years ago a surgeon studying the subject watched the falling circulation of the brain through a hole in the skull of a sleeping animal. Yet this is only effect, not cause. The brain has less blood because it sleeps; it does not sleep because it has less blood.

His Ruling Thought.

One hears a great deal about the absent-minded professor, but it would be hard to find one more absent-minded than the dentist who said soothingly, as he applied a tool to his automobile, under which he lay: "Now, this is going to hurt just a little."

The Lee Family.

The Lee family of which Gen. Robert E. Lee, commander of the Confederate army during the Civil war, was a member, was of English origin. One of his ancestors emigrated to Virginia in the reign of Charles I, and the family was prominent then, during and after the Revolutionary war.—Columbus Dispatch.

Time Is Money.

In Korea, both among prosperous Christians and among those to whom money is a hasty and infrequent visitor, a favorite subscription blank is one which says: "I promise to give — days to church work this year." The days thus given are devoted to evangelistic services or to the building of churches and schools.—World Outlook.

Ordering One's Life.

Take time to scrutinize your life. Try to define just why you are "run" and decide for yourself that if you are going to be ruled, as most of us are, it must be by something or somebody well worth the arduous sprinting we are all indulging in. If the goal toward which we are being steered is worth while, only then can we look back and feel that the race has been well run.

How Could He!

"I'm terribly worried! I wrote Jack in my last letter to forget that I had told him I didn't mean to reconsider my decision not to change my mind, and he seems to have misunderstood me."—Life.

The First Gas Respirator.

The first apparatus to enable persons to enter a noxious inflammable atmosphere was called an "aerophore" and was the invention of M. Denayrouse, a French inventor and scientist. It was first tested at Chatham, England, 44 years ago, and was reported successful. Vast improvements on this device, which comprised an air-pump, lamp and flexible tubing, have since been made and these have saved the lives of hundreds in mine accidents and other disasters where rescue work would be impossible without their use.

The Candle in History.

The cult of the candle plays a large role in Roman, Jewish and Eastern ecclesiastical history; and many are the customs that have their birth in some magical or ritualistic use to which the candle has been put. In some parts of Ireland, for instance, it was usual on Christmas eve to burn a large candle which no one was permitted to snuff except those who bore the name of Mary.

The World Is Cheerful.

Doctor Johnson's old schoolmate said that he could not be a philosopher because "cheerfulness was always breaking in." Our world of mankind cannot be that kind of a philosopher, either for the same reason. It may have its moods and depressions, or prove to the utmost the reasonableness of despair; but there is an inexhaustible well-spring of vigor within it, and vigor is another word for joy.—From the Unpopular Review.

Rusty Steel.

To clean rusty steel, well oil the rusty parts and set aside in this state for two or three days. Then wipe dry with clean rags and polish with emery or pumice stone. When very rusty and a high polish is desired rub the article with a little slack lime.

Test of Woolens.

One test is to cut off a bit of the selvedge and touch a match to it. If it shrivels up, but does not burn, it is wool, but if the fabric burns with a flame it is cotton. Another way is to put a bit of the cloth in a test tube or other glass receptacle with a solution of caustic soda. The soda will eat up the wool, leaving that which is not wool.

Fateful Days.

Certain days have been marked ones in some persons' lives. Nearly all the chief events of Thomas a Becket's career, including his murder and the translation of his body—occurred on a Tuesday, Henry VIII and his three children—Edward, Mary and Elizabeth—expired upon the same day of the week—Thursday.

Burning Truth.

Said the facetious feller: "These golf fanatics get a lot of satisfaction out of reduc'n' their strokes from last season, but the real joy of life comes from bein' able to reduce the number of tons of coal from the winter before."—

Invisible Airplane Wings.

Wings of cellulose acetate, being transparent, make an airplane invisible at the height of a few thousand feet, also increasing the operator's field of vision. Sheets one one-hundredth-inch thick are about as strong as the ordinary wing cover, and the weight of nine ounces to the square yard is but slightly greater. The rapid spread of a tear when started is a disadvantage that may be overcome with a re-enforcing of loosely woven silk.

Failure.

When a man lacks principal he naturally fails from lack of interest.

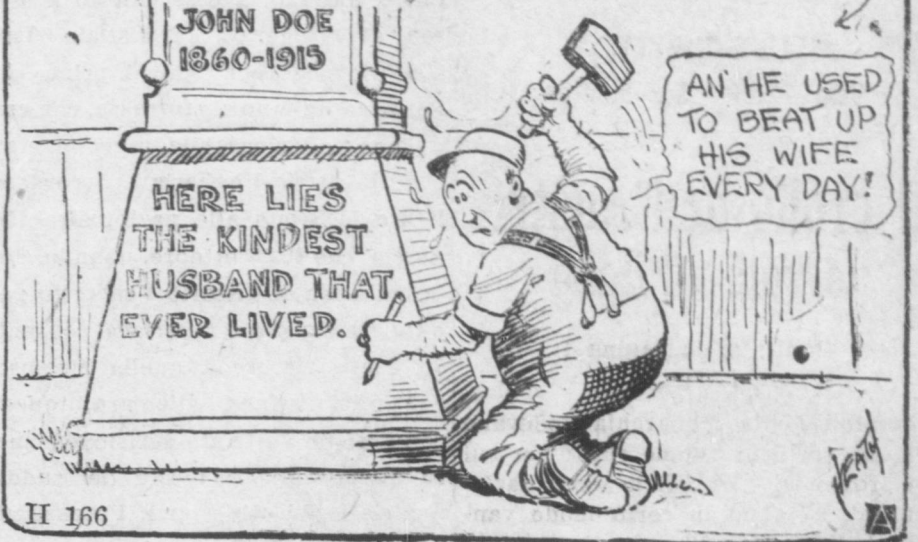
Preferred "Motorhouse."

In England during the early days of motor vehicles, there was a decided preference for the name "motorhouse" rather than "garage."

DAUGHTER, I WANT YOU TO STOP TRAVELING AROUND WITH A MAN OF THAT TYPE—I UNDERSTAND HE'S MADE QUITE A BUSINESS OF MONUMENTAL LYING!



BUT THIS IS HOW HE DID IT,



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Important Rivers.

Just as Egypt has been made by the Nile, so Mesopotamia has been made by the Tigris and the Euphrates. The view put forward with some authority that the rivers should be kept exclusively for irrigation and not be depended upon for transport is challenged on many grounds, one of which is that irrigation and navigation can be effectively combined, and indeed made mutually advantageous for many years to come.

Dark Ages.

The term is applied to a portion of the Middle Ages, including the period of about 1,000 years from the fall of Rome to revival of letters in the fifteenth century. It is generally regarded as beginning with invasion of France by Clovis, 486 A. D., and closing with invasion of Naples by Charles VIII in 1495. Learning was at a low ebb during this period.

Size of the Foot.

The foot should be as long as the ulna, or chief bone of the forearm—that is, from the small head of the bone to be seen at the wrist to the point of the elbow should be the length of the foot.

Disapproves Old Adage.

In spite of the old adage to the contrary, some things done by halves are done most satisfactorily, as for example the much-used Quinsigamond bridge at Worcester, Mass. Here traffic suffered a minimum of interruption by completing and putting into use one longitudinal half of the new structure before the other half was built.

Mineral Lake.

A lake near Biggar, Saskatchewan, has been found to be saturated with sodium sulphate, and the deposits under the lake and alongside the edge to be nearly 97 per cent pure sulphate. The mineral is used extensively in the manufacture of sulphuric acid, in photography and other industrial purposes.

Use Reason.

You've got to leaven your work with some planning and thought. A fireless cooker doesn't do the business until heat is applied.

Psychologically Tested.

Psychological tests are being used by the United States employment service in New York to aid in determining the work for which applicants are best fitted.

THE DOINGS OF DOROTHY

