

THE SOWER

A Weekly Department of Religious and Secular Thought Contributed by REV. JAMES A. TURNER, Pastor, M. E. Church, Patton, Pa.

THE PEW.

The late Editor of the Richmond Christian Advocate, Mr. J. M. Rowland D. D., who was one of Methodism's most eloquent speakers, wrote the following:

"We know a church where members of the congregation always take back seats, leaving a lot of empty wood as No-Man's Land, over which the preacher must shoot to hit them. Nothing cools the ardor of a preacher like empty seats before him.

We know another church in which the congregation always occupies one side of the church, leaving the other empty so that the preacher feels as though two tires on one side are flat and the other two are pumped up.

A report from Texas says a choir out there insists on whispering, looking around and primping while the preacher offers the pulpit prayer.

A brother traveling up North says he worshipped at a church where a prominent member always sat in the front of the preacher, but never looked at him. He covered his face with his hands most of the time.

In one big church, there is a member who sits in his pew and reads something gall the time the preacher is preaching.

We heard of a church down South where the members rush for the door before the preacher finishes the benediction and they are always complaining because theirs is an unfriendly church.

We know a Methodist Layman who sits on a cushioned pew and sleeps through the service when he is riding on a five cent fare and not a Pullman rate.

And there is the congregation with some brethren and sisters who rush to see the new preacher and sit on the front seats for a few Sundays; when they have not paid any attention to the former pastor for the past nine months.

We have heard of Methodists who spend half of their Sundays visiting friends and relatives, keeping them from church and not going themselves.

A pastor reports members of his congregation who seem weather proof in their own affairs of business and of pleasure, but seldom get to church because it is either too hot, or too cold too dry or too wet.

We once visited a church where the hymn books had been written on and otherwise defaced.

But there are many fine church people who have fine manners, as well as those who have unpleasant ones. There are those whose manner is always to speak to visitors and be friendly.

We recently preached in a church as a stranger. At the close of the services almost every soul present came forward and spoke to the visiting preacher.

We know Methodists who are always in their places at their churches unless they have a valid excuse, or legitimate reason for not coming."

The Newark News carried the following lines under the title, "Some Who Do Not Go to Church":

"Mr. Speeds will clean his auto, Mr. Spurs will groom his horse, Mr. Gadsds will go to Coney, With the little Gadsds, of course, Mr. Flite will put carbolic On his homing pigeons' perch, Mr. Weeds will mow his biuegrass, Mr. Jones will go to church.

Mr. Cleet will drive a golf ball, Mr. Tiller steer his boat, Mr. Popper in his cycle, Round and round the state will note Mr. Swatt will watch a ball game, Mr. Stake and son will search Through the bosky wood for mushrooms, Mr. Wilks will go to church.

Do you ask me what's the matter? Do you wonder what is wrong? When the nation turns from worship, Sermon, prayer and sacred song? Why do people rush for pleasure, Leave religion in the lurch? Why prefer a padded auto? To the cushioned pew in church?

Reader, well I know the answer, But if I should speak aloud, What I think is the real reason, It would queer me with the crowd. You'll be popular, dear reader, When you wield the critic's birch, You'll be safely in the fashion If you blame things on the church."

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PATTON METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

James A. Turner, pastor. Church school at 10 a. m. Preaching at 11 a. m. and 7:30 p. m. Mid-week class on Wednesday at 7:30 p. m.

The adult Bible Class met in the church parlor on Tuesday evening, the 18th, with the following present: Mr. and Mrs. Eli Steir, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Steir, Mr. A. C. Winslow, Mr. and Mrs. John Steir, Mrs. V. A. Murray, Mr. and Mrs. David McConnell, Mr. and Mrs. John Johnston, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Jenkins, Mr. and Mrs. John Morgan, Mrs. Fred Kinkead, Mrs. Thomas Lowes, Mrs. William Lowes, Mr. Peter Delpierre, Sr., Mr. and Mrs. James Blake, Mrs. Anna Gregory, Miss Mabel Johnson, Mrs. Margorie Steir, Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Mertins, Mr. Leslie Hamilton, Mrs. I. H. Hicks and the Rev. and Mrs. James A. Turner and daughters, Dorothy and Lois. After having partaken of a splendid banquet of good things prepared by the ladies, the business meeting was held, and followed by addresses by the teacher of the class, Mr. Eli Steir and Mr. John Johnson, welcoming the pastor back to his field of labor.

People seek happiness and comfort, through authoritative assurance regarding the future, more zealously than any other thing. Because many do not attend church, do not a message in the churches or do not understand it, they pass by the Bible and seek comfort in "isms," "cults," "star gazers," "horoscope artists" and what-not, to whom they pay vast sums of money for nothing. Tragic circumstance! Systematic Bible study would have saved them, mentally, spiritually and financially. Come to the mid-week Bible class.

FRANCISCAN CLERIC EXPIRES AT LORETTO

Rev. Brother Francis Yunk, T. O. R., 72, member of the Franciscan Order for many years, died last Wednesday at St. Francis Monastery, Loretto, after an extended illness.

Known in the world as William Yunk, Brother Francis was born in Minnesota January 5, 1867, the son of Joseph and Mary (Bruning) Yunk.

As a member of the Third Order Regular of the Franciscan Brotherhood Brother Francis labored 20 years among the Indians in Minnesota before entering the Franciscan Monastery maintained at Spalding, Neb., from where he transferred to Loretto when the Spalding monastery was discontinued.

Funeral services were conducted at 8 o'clock Friday morning of last week, in the college chapel at Loretto. Solemn requiem high mass by Rev. Father Edward P. Caraher, T. O. R., college president, followed the chanting of the office of the dead. Celebrant of the mass was assisted by Rev. Father Francis King, T. O. R., and Rev. Father Eugene, T. O. R. Master of ceremonies was Rev. Brother Timothy Shannon, T. O. R., with the sermon preached by Rev. Father Vincent, T. O. R. Interment was in the Franciscan cemetery.

SALES IN STORES YIELD \$105,612 IN HIDDEN TAXES

Families shopping in Patton pay an estimated \$105,612 in hidden taxes annually on their retail purchases alone, a survey by the National Consumers Tax Commission showed today.

This burden, the report stated, is paid as a concealed part of the cost of food, clothing, fuel, medicine and other



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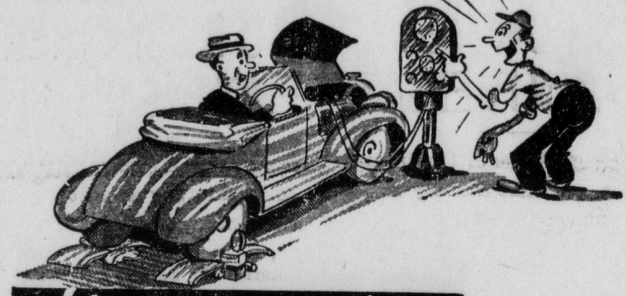
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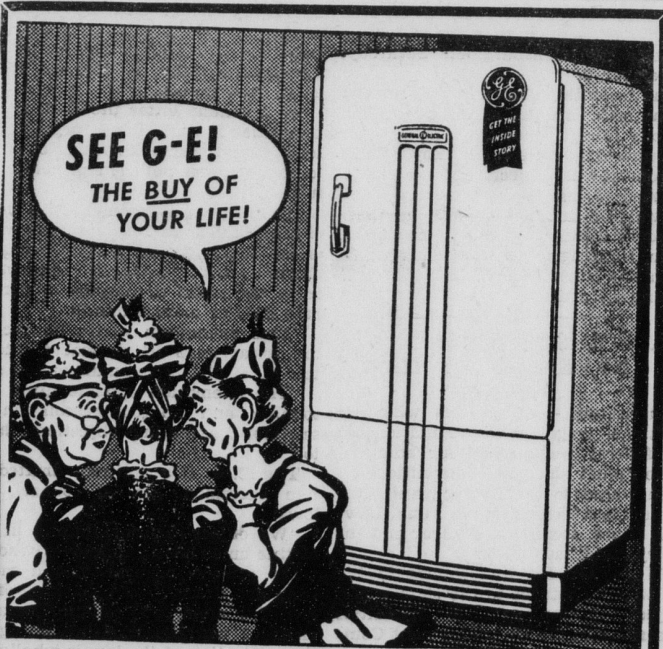
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Strangler, a 15-foot anaconda snake, who started to fast upon his arrival at the Philadelphia zoo last August, was finally forced to eat despite himself. Roger Conant, zoo curator, used a ram rod through the snake's open mouth, pushing food through a tube in its throat. It took 10 men to hold Strangler during the forcible feeding process. Rabbit meat was served.



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