

My Typewriter Talks

by the Rev. Charles H. Gilbert

My Respects to VanWert, Ohio

A phone call came in the other day from a new family in the Dallas area. Someone was reading *The Dallas Post* and stumbled into this column long enough to see the name of the former hometown and wondered how this writer knew anything about Wheaton P. Webb. I'm wondering what Wheaton will say when someone from the Kiwanis Club of that town tells him he got into print in Pennsylvania!

Perhaps I should have had a copyright on that oxskull in the tenth chapter of my new book, "The Twelve Labors of Wim-pole Stout." More to the point maybe I should have had the method patented which I used to make this skull turn out to be sure-fire way to scare the wits out of The Howly Three!

Well anyway, I'm glad to say hello through this column of the lucky newcomers to Dallas area who had the good luck to be acquainted with the Rev. Wheaton Phillips Webb of Van Wert, Ohio.

Meanwhile some of you readers might either buy the book published by the Abington Press of Nashville, Tenn., or maybe ask your local library to get it on its shelves.

A Nighttime Visitor
One dark night recently, Catherine heard Tuffy making a racket on the front porch as if he was tangled up with his rope or the porch swing or all three. She went out and discovered a very meek looking young opossum huddled on the edge of the swing. Tuffy did not have the nerve to attack a thing he didn't know too much about. We got Tuffy into the house so opossum could get away without fear.

It was good that the opossum was not a porcupine. I've heard terrible things happening to dogs through too close a curiosity to the animated pin cushion. And one time Tuffy found out to his sorrow what happens when you want to come near a skunk!

Why Does Tuffy Howl?

Two things will make Tuffy stick his nose toward the sky and howl. One is when Catherine or I make anything we call music of a personal nature. By personal nature I mean by our own performance. Tuffy can listen to actors who bellow and prima donnas who sing on TV or radio. He seems not to know it. But if I begin to toot my recorder, or Catherine begins to loosen up her vocal cords with a warbling of Mozart's Alleluia or something by Bach, Tuffy just about throws his own high tones to the heavens above. It's awful!

Or it may be there's some stranger in the community—I don't know how far off, whom he wants to meet and fall in love with. He sends out a long-drawn-out howl to the sky and will keep it up way into the night, scratching to come in for a few minutes only to whine to go out—at one, or two, or three or four or five o'clock in the morning and Catherine patters

Back To That Meeting

There was one lady there who was bubbling over with fun and good cheer. She is on my mailing list, I had met her before, and Catherine had known her more. I just had to get around and ask her, "Do you love life itself as much as you seem to? And enjoy living?" She agreed that she did and I commended her for being that way. And the president of the organization did her thing so nicely, with cheerfulness and orderliness that I got her name and frankly complimented her for being so good a president.

So Many Nice People!
Yes, I know there are people who are—anything but. I enjoy finding so much kindness and cheerfulness and purity of life. I'm glad the world has so many fine people in it.
In Africa! In Mt. Zion!

tension important
Tension is necessary to control the threads that inter-lock to form the sewing machine stitch. A perfectly locked stitch is one in which the two threads are drawn into the fabric to the same degree. The upper tension controls the thread from the bobbin, explains Mrs. Ruth Ann Wilson, extension clothing specialist at the Pennsylvania State University.

learn to care for plants
Winter is here—And chances are you'll be buying new plants for your home or trying to revive your old ones. To grow nice plants, it's important to understand the culture of plants removed from their native habitat and grown in the confines of human dwellings.
Plants help create a pleasing home atmosphere and provide relaxation for the person caring for them. Important to their care is providing an environment as natural as possible for their culture.
The Pennsylvania State University offers a correspondence course designed to teach good horticultural practices in over 200 plants suitable to growing indoors. Discussion in the eleven lesson course includes: propagation; care; containers; selection; forcing bulbs; plants for full or semi-full sun; and plants needing greenhouse conditions.
Neglect and lack of know-how can cause plants to fail at achieving their ornamental purposes. To help you avoid house plant failure, send \$4.65 to House Plants, Box 5000, University Park, 16802. Make check or money order payable to Penn State.

downstairs to let him in. Only for a few minutes is this satisfactory. Then right close at her ear he begins to cry like a baby and up she gets to let him out, perhaps to howl at three, or seven or eight!

His unrequited love subsides after a couple of weeks of this sort of thing. Then he eats food like anybody. And sleeps in peace. So do we!

Africa Travels

No we don't have to go across the seas to get acquainted with Africa. All we have to do—when convenient—is to load our projection screen, projector, slides, a wooden drum, a fancy dress, a few extra curios into the car, and take Dottie to some dated community where she tells the gathered people something they have heard about in *The Gilbert Story with Jots from Dot*. The people who come out to see and hear are some who have a financial stake in what's going on over there in Central Congo. She tells stories, gives her views of things, shows pictures. One picture shows her listening intently to her radio when the astronauts headed out for the moon—and landed there. But what this particular crowd of black people was most interested in was this strange looking creature with white skin who had somehow come from far away somewhere to see and give medicine and kindness to these gathered people. These had never seen a white person!

She looks awfully pale in such pictures!

After the Program

Come Questions

One kind faced lady came and sat down beside me before she headed toward home. She was so sorry for those black people, they were so backward! Yes, they don't have the simplest conveniences, so say nothing of the pleasures I have in my humble home. They don't know the simplest health measures. They think most of their diseases are caused by witchcraft, or evil spirits, or some other thing. Yet some of them are far enough along in spiritual life that when travelling in a crowded truck (in this country we would say 'bus') and it came time for church they could start a church service, take care of the singing, praying and preaching in commendable fashion. Backward? I suppose so.

But how silly I am sometimes when, while having a delicious dish of ice cream, I have been heard to say, "I'm sorry for St. Paul, because he never had a taste of ice cream." Slurp, slurp, and I smack it down. St. Paul never had ice cream! No, but I never in the world could have written the Love Chapter, I Corinthians 13! And I never could say, "I have been crucified with Christ."
St. Paul was backward! But his letters are immortal, written with a quill! I write with a typewriter and eat ice cream. St. Paul was backward? Indeed!

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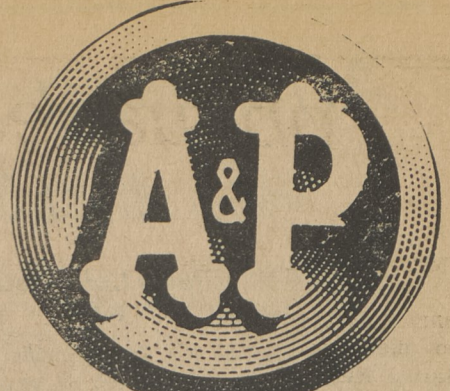
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