

The Farmington Enterprise

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Editorial

THE "JENNYS"

Some residents of Farmington, at least, must have experienced a few shivers last Saturday afternoon when there was brought to the Heeneys undertaking parlors the body of one of two young aviators whose plane crashed to earth on the Plum Hollow golf course. For Farmington has seen a good deal of old "Jenny" planes such as the one in which the double tragedy occurred Saturday.

While the "Jennys" that abound in fields near Grand River avenue have not been so numerous of late, their pilots still fly over Farmington occasionally, a few hundred feet above the ground. They are a menace to the safety of all below, as well as to their passengers in the planes.

The hazard is a double one, for in addition to the fact that the planes are often obsolete and condemned, the flights are frequently instruction flights, as was true in the tragedy on Saturday. An old plane is had enough in experienced hands—operated by a beginner it is surely dangerous.

In addition to the menace to life, there is the fact that the owners of these "Jenny" planes are usually factory employed men, who fly in their leisure hours. Probably few are of sufficient financial responsibility, if the plane should crash into a building, to be able to pay for repairing the damage—if they live to see it.

Regulatory and police powers are already taxed in every branch of government, and surely more burdens should be added with any the utmost care. But some steps should be taken to protect the innocent person on land from the unrestrained enthusiasm of men who want to fly, but haven't yet the means or experience.

THE 'FARMINGTON PLAYERS'

An endeavor that is well worthy of the community's support, is that of the Farmington Players, who are planning to provide Farmington with a cultural influence in the form of dramatic presentations.

One of the elements most frequently lacking in smaller communities is dramatics that keep abreast of the new developments, of modern play-writing, acting, technique. On the other hand, many communities suburban to the larger cities have had marked success with just such endeavors as the Farmington Players represent. The result has been enjoyment and culture for the community and an opportunity for development to the players.

The Farmington Players deserve, and it is hoped they will have the unqualified encouragement of the entire community.

A similar undertaking, which also should be supported by all, is the presentation next Friday and Saturday of "Rosetime," by the Farmington Woman's Club. The first musical comedy to be presented in Farmington in some time, should attract more than enough to fill every seat in the Town Hall on both nights.

THE CONQUEROR STOOPS

From an advertisement in the Rochester paper, we read of the inauguration of a "Travelling Horsehoofers" service. One Fred May and his son have a truck which "will call at farm homes," all fitted up for shoeing horses. This would seem to mark the last step in the gradual extinction of the horse—when they get so scarce that men must travel around the country in motor trucks in order to find them! And yet may this not mark the highest position in the social scale to which the horse has yet attained? For in all centuries of his history, when has so much solitude been shown him? When, before 1928, has the farmer stepped to the telephone and called a number, in response to which a completely-equipped motor truck rushes out upon the highway—to do service to the lowly horse, who once trudged many miles into town on his old shoes when he had to have new ones?

THIS IS TOO MUCH!

A Farmington citizen, who insisted that his name be not used, was equally insistent this week that we print a suggestion he has offered. The suggestion is that Farmington citizens read over three editorials appearing recently in the Enterprise, relative to Farmington's progress.

We were sufficiently astonished to learn that anybody read them once—but to ask anyone to read them over again—that's more than we would be willing to answer for!

Picked Up At Random

By Contributor

The Ubiquitous Match

September 22 last was the 100th anniversary of the birthday of the match. The birthplace, Stockholm-on-Tees, England, has just celebrated the occasion in fitting style and the world has stopped for a moment in its amazement over the wonderful changes made in the conditions of living by the utilization of electricity, the combustion engine and the radio, to consider the lowly and ubiquitous match, one of the first inventions to herald the dawn of a new era. It was on the 22nd day of September, 1828 that John Walker, a chemist of Stockholm-on-Tees, invented a "percussion powder" which placed on the end of a stick relegated the old-fashioned tinder box to the archives of the historical museum and lightened the task of kindling the morning fire.

The history of the match from the day that John Walker, with his crude percussion powder, first "struck a light" to the perfected article of today is an interesting story of which the rapid and wonderful development in the process of manufacture to meet the demand, forms a fascinating part. It is now estimated that 6,000,000 matches are lighted every minute throughout the world, requiring many thousands cords of wood in the manufacture. John Walker little dreamed of the extent of the fire kindled by that first lucifer.

Some years ago, the writer was a fellow passenger with a prominent match manufacturer on a stage-coach in Northern Michigan. The manufacturer was making a survey of the lumber districts with a view to utilizing in the manufacture of matches a part of the vast amount of pine wood then going to waste through the saw mills. He informed the writer that he found that the waste represented a great economic loss. Through his efforts he succeeded in getting many of the mill owners to grade the "slabs," sending to the "burners" only those which had no value for match wood. The plan proved highly profitable to the lumber manufacturers and produced an abundance of cheap and excellent wood for matches.

The success of the experiment led other manufacturers of articles requiring short lengths of wood, such as shipping boxes, shingles, lath, etc., to look to the waste for material, with the result that in a few years the blaze of fire from the great burners along the Michigan shore of Lake Huron which represented an awe-inspiring sight soon was considerably reduced some years before the State was completely vanishing of its magnificent stands of Norway and white pines.

A pioneer is a fellow who can remember when bobbed hair and skirt skirts meant a neighborhood scandal.

English-Students Buy

Butter by the Yard

There is at least one place in the world where butter is sold not by the pound, but by the yard. That is Cambridge, England. From time immemorial the dairymen of Cambridge-shire have rolled their butter into lengths, a length being a yard and weighing one pound. Neatly wrapped in strips of clean white cloth, the cylindrical rolls of butter are packed in long, narrow baskets made for the purpose and so conveyed to market. It follows, therefore, that the Cambridge butter dealers have no need, as they preside over their stalls, of weights or scales for determining the quantity of their wares. Constant salesmen with a stroke of the knife to divide the butter into halves or quarters with almost mathematical precision.

This curiously shaped butter finds its chief purchasers among the people of Cambridge university. It is claimed that the "yard butter" is eminently adapted for the peculiar needs of the students in the daily commons. Cut into convenient sized pieces and accompanied by a loaf of wheaten bread, a stated portion is sent every morning to the rooms of the undergraduates for use at breakfast and tea.

Portland Light Long

Beacon to Mariners

Portland head light, at entrance of Portland (Maine) harbor, has been a beacon since 1791. Over the keeper's desk in the tower is a framed copy of the commission issued to the first keeper of the light in 1791. The keeper was Joseph Greenleaf and the commission was signed by George Washington.

This picturesque beacon was the first lighthouse to be built in Maine and is also one of the oldest on the North Atlantic coast. On Christmas eve, 1886, the bark Annie C. Maguire, with a cargo of iron from the East India for Portland, ran full tilt in a fog on the rocks of Portland head within a stone's toss of the light. The crew was saved but the vessel was a total loss.

First Street Lighting

Some form of artificial light must have been in use for domestic purposes from the very earliest times, but though large cities and a high state of civilization existed among the Egyptians, Greeks, and Romans, the systematic lighting of streets was unknown to them. From the writings of Libanius, however, who lived in the beginning of the Fourth century after Christ, we may conclude that the streets of his native city, Antioch, were lighted by lamps, and Edessa, in Syria, was similarly illuminated about A. D. 500. Of modern cities Paris was the first to light its streets. In the beginning of the Sixteenth century it was much infested with robbers and incendiaries, so that the inhabitants were ordered, in 1524, to keep lights burning after nine in the evening, before all houses fronting a street.

Horrible!

The professor had for some time been profoundly occupied with problems in higher mathematics. He had therefore richly deserved the noon-time nap he had taken.

But shortly after falling asleep, heart-rending cries were heard from his bedroom. His wife rushed in and found him in a half-awake and bewildered condition.

"But what's the matter with you?" she inquired solicitously. "Ah! where—I've just had such a dreadful dream. I dreamt our little Pete was a negative fraction under a cube-root sign, and I couldn't get him out from under!"

First Glass in America

Early American glass usually means glass made during the Colonial or Revolutionary times. The first glass makers were brought to Jamestown, Va., in 1608, but the industry was not really successful here. Salem, Mass., had a glass house in 1630. William Penn alludes to a Quaker glass house in 1683. The Dutch opened a glass manufactory in Brooklyn, N. Y., in 1754. A German colony of glass makers started a factory in Glensboro, N. J., in 1775. Massachusetts started the first really successful glass factory in 1787.

DIFFER OVER POINT IN HUMAN DESCENT

Neanderthal man, whose low-browed skulls and crude stone implements have been found in a number of caves and other sites in Europe, was a separate species of the human genus, quite distinct from modern man, asserts G. Elliot Smith, British anthropologist, writing in Nature Magazine, one of the leading English scientific periodicals. He cites the recently published investigations of a compatriot, G. M. Morant, in support of his views. This opinion is at variance with the views of Dr. Alex. Brucke, famous American student of the development of the human race, as expressed in his recent Huxley lecture in England, where he received the award of the Huxley medal, the highest honor within the gift of British anthropologists. Doctor Huxley advanced evidence to sustain his contention that Neanderthal man was a part of the main line of human family descent.



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