

LAS VEGAS AGE

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SUNDAY MORNING, MAY 24, 1931.

HAPPY EMBARRASSMENT

THE EDITOR of The Age was happily embarrassed by the kindly little editorial the office force wrote about him on his birthday. Because, knowing them all so well, we understood that they would say much which was not written or printed, but which just simply shines from between the lines.

And then, after all the handshakes of congratulation and good wishes from the immediate family and close associates, came another from an old friend, a fine true friend who walked over through the heat of the day to bring a gift to the Editor at the office, and add his kindly wishes to the sum.

It is pleasing to know that in these days of hard reality and stress the same old kindly human sympathies; the same strong ties of friendship as were so dear to our youth still are among the strongest forces of life, and that greed, and avarice and selfishness have not entirely immersed our times.

PRAISE AND ABUSE

THE AGE has observed within the past few days some special paeans of praise of the wide open, independent, unafraid attitude of Nevada on the one side, and some paroxysms of pusillanimous abuse on the other.

One of the latter, especially violent in tone, is an editorial in the Dos Palos Star, a California weekly.

Dos Palos, we assume, means two sticks. If so it would seem that the editor got his two sticks crossed, at least in this particular case.

Now we do not know just where this two sticks place is. But if we could just drop in this Saturday evening, we probably would find the Editor with some of the boys in a back room of the Two Sticks hotel, deeply immersed in a game of ten cent ante and a bottle of bum gin. Or perhaps—but we better stop right here or we might really tell something about this Two Sticks gent which would hit home, and we would not hurt his feelings for the world.

What we were driving at, in brief, was to say in our clumsy way that even in a remote and lonely town like Two Sticks, they can hardly concentrate all the pristine purity of the earth in one spot. It is quite possible that Nevada contains just as large a proportion of upstanding, straight forward, high charactered manhood as California, and perhaps more, considering some of those Californians who assume the haughty pose.

Just now a fellow interrupted to tell us that Palos means "a suit at cards," so it may be that we are right about that Editor's game of penny ante after all. And we better stop right here before this Two Sticks Game of Cards gets too complicated.

CURRENT MURDER

LOS ANGELES is never quite natural without a murder or two. Just now she is happy in the possession of a murder mystery of such prominence as to almost eclipse Aimee and Clara. It is some murder which can put those two girls off the front page!

WEeping WILLOW TEARS ARE FALSE

MADISON, Wis., May 23. (AP)—Scientifically the right of the "weeping willow" to its name might be challenged.
If the willow really tried to weep, some of its tears would be just puffs of gas instead of pure, sappy, sob stuff.
The truth is that the willow is one of the plants which always

has gas in its hydrostatic system. This fact is reported to the American Association for the Advancement of Science by Prof. J. B. Overton of the University of Wisconsin in a study of tree health.
In the willow the tiny woody vessels which in spring and summer and fall carry the sap, never become completely filled with liquid. The year round they retain at least a small portion of the gas, which helps to fill them in their normal winter condition.

Leave Your Address With Western Union

Classic To See Latest of Motors

INDIANAPOLIS RACE TO SEE 2-CYCLE, NO VALVE SIXTEENS

By CLAUDE WOLFF
INDIANAPOLIS, May 23. (AP)—Cliff Durant, wealthy sportsman and Leon Duray, veteran driver have brought the newest thing in automobile racing to Indianapolis for the annual 500-mile grand May 30—a pair of two-cycle, 16-cylinder motored cars.

The conventional race car and all passenger automobiles are powered by four-cycle motors. The new type racer's pistons make only two movements to complete a power stroke. Instead of four-movements as made in the conventional type.

Duray, who holds the speedway track record for one lap—an average of 124.018 miles an hour—will drive one of the cars and Durant will handle the steering wheel of the other.

The driver's and mechanic's seats in each will be only eight inches from the ground—lower than any other car ever entered in an American automobile race.

The Duray-Durant entries have the cylinders in two parallel rows of eight and the two opposite pistons go down on their power stroke at the same time. They have a common combustion chamber. The engine has no valves.

The gas instead is forced into the cylinders from the carburetor by a positive displacement type supercharger—the only kind of supercharger permitted.

The cars, in Duray's opinion, either will develop great speed and stamina, or will be the biggest flops ever to come to the speedway.

He said he believed the motors are capable of engine speed of from 7,000 to 10,000 revolutions a minute. No race car engine in history has turned 10,000 times a minute. Each engine has 242 cubic inches piston displacement.

Durant said if the new type engine functions satisfactorily he might manufacture them for passenger cars.

There will be several other 16-cylinder cars, built on more conventional lines, in the race. One of them will be driven by William (Shorty) Canton of Detroit and it is claimed to be capable of 200 miles an hour.

Another will be driven by Louis Eyer, 1928 and 1929 American driving champion. He drove it into fifth place last year.

Eight-cylinder motored cars will predominate the field of forty cars which will be permitted to start, providing they meet the qualifying test.

THE BROADWAY STAGE

By MARK BARRON
NEW YORK—Constance Collier, once one of the stage's most popular actresses, is now exceedingly busy in front of the footlights. Her directorial hand has aided a half-dozen plays this season, besides assisting Deems Taylor in his operatic version of "Peter Ibbetson."

Now Miss Collier has revived the play based on the famous Du Maurier work, a play that belongs almost as much to her as to the original author. It was Miss Collier who discovered the dramatization, revised it and then played the original Duchess of Towers opposite John and Lionel Barrymore.

In the current production, the title role is placed in the very capable hands of Dennis King. His striking appearance, like that of the operetta hero he is, fits him well in speaking the ultra-romantic lines.

A BIT VICTORIAN

As it is now the play is remarkably entertaining, although its heavy-handed production makes it seem a bit Victorian and dated.

The story is well known, that of the man who poses as the uncle of his own son, having betrayed the boy's mother. When the son discovers this he turns on his uncle and strikes him with a cane, killing him. In this scene an unfortunate accident happens on opening night.

The cane was supposed to be sawed nearly in half so that it would break easily when King struck Charles Coburn, the uncle. Someone forgot this little detail and Coburn received a scap wound that almost proved serious.

LOVELY DUCHESS

Jessie Royce Landis, last seen here as the charming French lady in Booth Tarkington's "Colonel Satterstree," is the new Duchess of Towers and a lovely one, too. Miss Landis becomes an increasingly attractive actress with her every new play.

"Dracula," that sturdy mystery play now four years old, is stopping over on Broadway again before beginning another trek across the land. This weird tale of the evil man has proved as popular as "The Bat," and reports are that movies are still required at every performance to care for nervous onlookers who are inclined to become hysterical.

MAY LATINIZE CHINA TONGUE

LENINGRAD, May 21. (AP)—The Institute of Eastern Culture at the Academy of Science has been commissioned to Latinize the Chinese language. The work is in charge of Professor Vasily Alekseyev, who is one of the greatest Sinologists (scholar of Chinese) in the world.

Tremendous political importance is attached to successful Latinization of the Chinese language. It is also very difficult for the average Chinese to learn Chinese writing at the present time. It is therefore very difficult to spread literacy among the Chinese masses.

GREAT INFLUENCE
The reduction of the Chinese sounds into a very few alphabetical elements will exert a tremendous influence on the cultural and political fate of this nation of 85,000,000 people, or nearly one-fourth of the population of the world.
The work of Latinization is being done under the auspices of the Mongol National Republic, popularly known as Outer-Mongolia. It is alleged that the Chinese generals and other conservative elements in China are vehemently opposed to this reform and regard it as a bolshevik propagandist stunt.

A New Yorker AT LARGE

By MARK BARRON
NEW YORK—Race tracks around New York have an atmosphere all their own, a grim, businesslike determination that seems to derive from commercial citadels of Manhattan.

At the meets in Kentucky, Florida and Maryland one encounters a certain holiday feeling, gracious social gestures, colorful interludes that persuade one, indeed, that this is a sport for the purple.

There is something missing when you watch the nags run at Belmont, Jamaica, Empire City or Aqueduct.
True, nowhere in the world will you see finer horses or better races. True, too, that you will brush shoulders with world celebrities, society's royalty (this especially at Belmont) and underworld characters.

All the ingredients for romance and adventure in real life, but it isn't there.

OUT FOR THE CASH

New York race crowds are grim folk, who take their races rather than horses seriously. They are there to bet, and when Masked Ball romps home to win it appears to be of greater significance than a wager collected than that a game pony turns in a thrilling victory.

Saratoga is the one New York track that is different, flaunting an individuality of its own that attracts one of the most faithful and enthusiastic turf cliques in the world. For one month every year Saratoga is really New York City. Everyone goes there.

Although one would prefer a bit more frivolity and light heartedness around New York tracks, rac-

KANSAS OFFICERS TO ATTEND CLASS

WICHITA, Kan., May 23. (AP)—The first training school for Kansas policemen, under sponsorship of the League of Kansas Municipalities, will hold sessions here June 1 to 6.

Eight one-hour lectures daily are on the curriculum, instructing the officers not only on new laws, but also on subjects ranging from the appearance of an officer to abnormal psychology.

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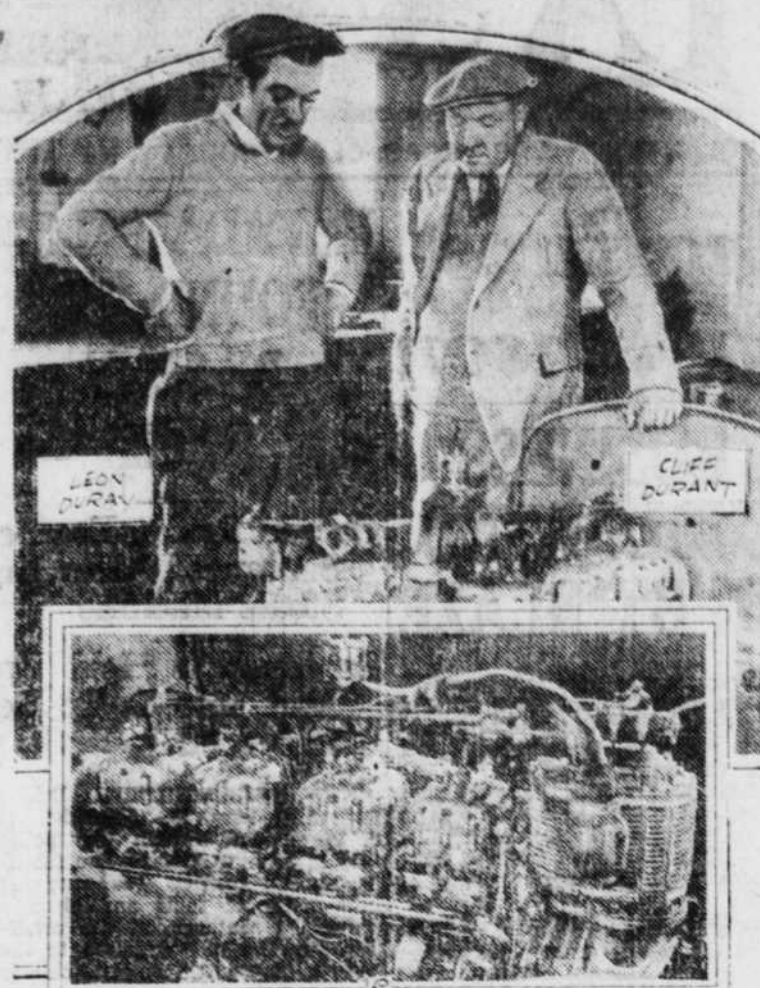
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Leon Duray and Cliff Durant look over one of the two 16-cylinder, two cycle motored cars they'll drive in the 500-mile speed classic at Indianapolis, May 30. Below is a closeup of the "freak" motor, showing the cylinders quartered into four blocks, and the supercharger in front. Two movements complete a stroke in each cylinder. Conventional motors require four.

HAITI RELICS TELL OF TREK NORTHWARD BY LOST TRIBES

WASHINGTON, May 23. (AP)—Evidence that the Indians Columbus found in the West Indies were the "backwash" of a great migration northward from South America has been discovered by Herbert W. Krieger, scientist of the Smithsonian Institution.

He has returned from Haiti, where he unearthed many relics of a succession of ancient peoples and studied mixed-blood Indians who may be descendants of the Arawak tribes found there by the first white men.

The migration, which is believed to have occurred at least 700 years before the arrival of Columbus, was comparable to the great migrations of Asiatic tribes into eastern Europe, Krieger says.

Its influence reached into Canada, and some of the wandering tribes actually may have reached the north Atlantic coast, he believes. The migration may have been caused partly by raids of the Caribs when the first men arrived.

TAILOR UNIONS MERGE

LONDON, May 23. (AP)—Forming one of Britain's largest trade unions, three groups in the tailoring industry will merge January 1, 1932 into one union to be known as the National Union of Tailor and Garment Workers. It will have 100,000 members.

A WASHINGTON BYSTANDER

By KIRKE SIMPSON
WASHINGTON—The international Chamber of Commerce convention did President Hoover the



KIRKE SIMPSON

courtesy of referring in his resolutions to the subject of reducing armament burdens. It did not stress that particularly, it is true; but since Mr. Hoover had not even mentioned the other subjects it was interesting in, like debts and taxes, probably it was too much to expect more than a passing convention gesture about armaments.

Meanwhile, Mr. Hoover had mobilized the civil and military high commands of the army for a week-end conference at his Rapidan camp on cutting army costs. It is the second time he has tackled that problem. The first occasion was in July, 1929, when the late Secretary Good and General Summerall, then chief of staff, were similarly the President's guests.

This time two much younger men, Secretary Hurley and General MacArthur, chief of staff, headed the army contingent. The stories from the Rapidan front in 1931 had a striking similarity to those of 1929. Studies were to be set foot to lop off military costs without cutting the size or efficiency of the army.

SUMMERALL BALKS

By General Summerall's order, in 1929 the war department staff plunged into a flurry of activity. The story got about at that time, however, that General Summerall had proved himself a remarkably able spokesman. The burden of defending the army from drastic retrenchment fell on his shoulders. And when the next army appropriation bill rolled along he appeared to have made good, for no notable reductions came to light.

There is this difference between (Continued on Page Five)

THE LITERARY GUIDEPOST

By RICHARD MASSOCK
NEW YORK, May 23.—Lincoln Steffens' muckraker's articles in the magazines of three decades ago were a national sensation.

Now the story of the political dirt-digger is out in a two-volume book and is by this time at the peak of spring biographies. "The Autobiography of Lincoln Steffens" is really more than that. It is a rich record of reportorial research into bossism, as well.

MUCKRAKER'S PROGRESS

Steffens is undeniably American. He was born in San Francisco and reared in Sacramento. He returned from his European schooling with some foreign airs, as he readily admits, but he soon forgot them.

Journalism proved to be his field and it was because he failed as a reporter of corruption, then as a war correspondent. He was an interviewer extraordinary.

Beginning with the investigation of city governments, made famous by "The Shame of the Cities," he enlarged his field to include the states and the national capital.

He had a peculiar knack of getting inside stories out of the bosses themselves. As a Wall Street reporter he had boldly invaded the office of J. P. Morgan, Sr., and he baited Theodore Roosevelt from the time they first met while Roosevelt was New York police commissioner.

Delightful stories are shot through the book. For instance, his encounter with "Boss" Cox of Cincinnati, his many anecdotes of Roosevelt, and Steffens' settlement of the McNamara dynamiting case in Los Angeles.

Steffens' practice was to find out all he could about graft in Cincinnati, for example, and each morning take his tales to Cox, who would correct errors. Usually the correction was more damaging than the original.

In times Steffens became sympathetic with the "bad boys" of politics and business. He became convinced that they were more honest than reformers.

OF CURRENT NOTE

Our own times are reflected in John Drinkwater's biography of Carl Laemmle, the movie magnate, and a volume on the European cult of nudism, or naked kultur.

Drinkwater, the English poet and dramatist, of course, defends his latest writing in a rather sharp retort to curious critics, among them his "friend," Hugh Walpole.

Frances and Mason Merrill, a young couple, went to Germany and France and lived in the "right parks," or woods where undressed sun-worshippers freely gambled. They were all for it, after the first self-conscious feeling.

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— GOOD PRINTING PAYS —