

LAS VEGAS AGE

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SATURDAY MORNING, MAY 30, 1931.



WASHINGTON BYSTANDER
 BY KIRKE SIMPSON
 WASHINGTON, May 29.—If gossip in New York art circles has it right Andrew W. Mellon is going to buy the portrait of Hamilton, the first treasury to have a Trumbull head, to lock down upon him from his picture studded walls. For he is said to have acquired the painting at auction for \$15,000. Whether this means that Uncle Andy takes seriously a description of him as the "greatest treasury secretary since Hamilton," or whether he merely is picking up another "old master" for his already amazing collection of famous paintings, does not appear.
 The Mellon collection is rated by art experts as among the greatest privately owned groups of the works of master painters. Nobody but Mr. Mellon himself knows what it is.
 So far as the Bystander knows, Mellon may have a collection of Hamilton portraits. Even so, the Trumbull work, erroneously ascribed to Vanderlyn according to the experts, is of unusual interest.

DUELISTS PRESENT
 The portrait was done by Hamilton's order for presentation to the surgeon who attended at the famous Hamilton-Burr duel, and has been among family treasures of descendants of the good Doctor Hoak ever since.
 It is a bit fortunate for Secretary Mellon's peace of mind that the report of the acquisition of the Hamilton portrait came while congress was out of session. Had various senators like Jim Couzens, of Michigan, who has engaged in various legal and verbal duels with Mellon, noted the report of the transaction while senate sessions offered them a chance to express themselves in the Record, further sarcastic references to Mr. Mellon probably would have been inspired.

TACTFUL POLICE
 The Bystander has been inclined to agree that a policeman's life in Washington is not a happy lot. What with legally exempt diplomats whirling about in cars; big and little cabinet officers, assorted and various government officials, and half a thousand senators and representatives mostly all claiming special traffic privileges of some sort, it takes a man of tact, to "get by" as a Washington traffic officer.
 Congressional folk, or some of them, have for some years used a special auto tag bearing the word "congressional" in addition to the regular number board.
 Washington traffic authorities provide "diplomatic" tags for the foreign folk to avoid embarrassing incidents.
 Not that the "congressional" tags actually have had any authority. They have a sort of bluff. Presumably the theory was that traffic officers would never risk bawling out the driver of a "congressional" tag bearing car.

ROAD PROJECTS START IN NORTH
 CARSON CITY, May 29. (AP)—Starting of work on one road-rolling job and the probable commencement of work next week on a similar project was announced today by the department of highways.
 Jack Casson, contractor of Hayward, Cal., began Wednesday oiling eight miles of road between Carson and Mound House on the Carson-Virginia highway. The road was graded and surfaced in the early spring. Oiling will take about two weeks and will cost approximately \$20,000.
 A 3 1/2 mile stretch between Elko and Death will be oiled as soon after June 1 as possible. Cost of the project, which will take from fifty to sixty days to complete, will be about \$70,000. U. B. Lee of San Leandro, Cal., has the contract. The road was graded and surfaced last fall.

INDIAN 'DRIFTER' HIRED BY STATE TO TEST CURRENT
 CARSON CITY, May 29. (AP)—A Plute Indian in a birch bark canoe who does nothing more than drift all day with the Humboldt river current is performing a service that is expected to prove of inestimable value to agriculturists of the Lovelock valley section.
 He is Bill Joaquin and has been employed by the state to test the rapidity of the Humboldt's water movement from its upper reaches into Lovelock valley. State engineers say this will enable them to determine at what time water will be available for distribution to water users there.
 Joaquin now is testing the rapidity of the stream's flow from Death to Pailsade. He previously had drifted from Pailsade to Lovelock. He was actually adrift fifteen days, but thirty-three days elapsed before he arrived at Lovelock.
 Next year, when the stream is at flood, the state will send the Indian down the Humboldt again.

OLD GLORY

MEMORIAL DAY is each year becoming more dear to us. We can recall the days of our youth when the veterans of the Civil war marched in solemn array with flags flying to honor the memories of the boys who fell from '61 to '65. And each anniversary since then we have seen them march—the thinning ranks of the Civil and Spanish war veterans for many years—then the sudden influx of the veterans of the World war—the youth and strength of the country.

Always with Old Glory held proudly at the head of the marching columns, each year teaching us new love for the flag and new respect for the nation for which it stands.

We are, perhaps, too apt to forget things. Too willing to sneer and belittle our government. Too eager to attribute some dishonor to our officials.

Nevertheless, we know that Old Glory stands for the greatest and finest nation in the whole world. It stands for honor and justice. It stands for liberty and equal opportunity.

And we know, too, that if our country is again forced into war we will find our best manhood, the flower of our youth eager to go to the defense of the flag.

Our hearts bleed in pity for the young men who have given their lives for their country. But we know that there are worse things than death. For example, to sneer at and besmirch those who are true to our flag; to be false to the ideals upon which our government was founded and by grace of which it has become so great.

And in this age of cynicism we find Old Glory still becoming more dear to us—more deeply enshrined in our minds and hearts as the symbol of all that is great and noble. And we know that those who sneer and deride are a foolish few for whom we can feel only pity.

Our country is great, our government staunch. Through all turmoil, by the grace of God, we shall keep it safe.

HOT WEATHER

THE HOT WEATHER, which so far this season has been rather coy and retiring, has at last stepped right to the front of the stage and, doubtless, will hold a large place in our thoughts for the next two or three months.

Yesterday, you will notice by consulting the box on the front page of The Age, the temperature rose to 105 in the shade.

That is, the government thermometers, exposed according to the government regulations in a white shelter of slats five feet above the ground where the breeze can freely circulate and far enough from surrounding objects to be free from the effects of radiated or reflected heat, registered 105 at the hottest moment of the day. The maximum generally comes about two or three o'clock in the afternoon.

Now 105 sounds fearfully hot. Yet we all went about our regular business yesterday knowing that the temperature was high but feeling no ill effects from the heat. And we know, of course, that the temperature in exposed places was higher than the government thermometer registered.

Because of the extreme dryness of the atmosphere, it is only on rare occasions that the heat in this region becomes oppressive as it does in the east or the middle west. In Chicago, for example, the temperature of 85 is bad and 95 almost unbearable and people are stricken down by the combined heat and humidity. Here in Las Vegas, so long as it keeps in the vicinity of 105, we can be in good health and be pretty comfortable.

So, please, you folks in Minnesota or Kansas or New York, don't feel sorry for us when you read in The Age that it was 105 yesterday by the government thermometer.

EVERYDAY MOVIES



Memory Lane

HUNDRED YEAR OLD DEBT PAID

READING, Pa., May 29. (AP)—Debts contracted 100 years ago were paid off here recently when seven mortgages totalling \$2,419,764 against the old Schuylkill Navigation Company were cleared.
 The oldest of the mortgage debts was recorded on December 15, 1833. It represented money loaned the company by Stephen Girard, nineteenth century Philadelphia capitalist. The sum of \$230,850 was paid the Girard Estate to satisfy the old debt.
 The other mortgages were dated 1834, 1842 and 1870 and were paid to the estates of New York and Philadelphia capitalists through metropolitan banks.

New 100 Yard Record Set
 PHOENIX, Ariz., May 29. (AP)—Harry Tompkins, Phoenix high school track star, closed his prep school career this year by establishing a new southwestern record of 9.8 seconds for the 100 yard dash. Tompkins has won every event in which he has been entered, which, in itself, is a record.

Live Toad Found in Rock
 RENO, May 28. (AP)—Two Elko prospectors assert that they recently found a living toad imbedded in a sandstone slab at the bottom of a fifty foot shaft in the old Bull Run mining district. The toad was very much alive and was apparently as surprised as his rescuers. Blinking his eyes he hopped from his bed and disappeared in a nearby crevice.

Watch Salesmanship
 WASHINGTON, May 28. (AP)—George Marshall, lawyer of Marlboro, Md., was called recently by county police to question three young Newark N. J. men who had been arrested when twenty-eight watches were found on them. After convincing Marshall that they merely were dealers in second-hand watches they departed.

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FORBID GANGSTER MOVIES
 WORCESTER, Mass., May 27. (AP)—Talkies with plots involving gangsters, racketeers and the like have been banned permanently by police from the screens of local movie houses. Such films are demoralizing, authorities have decided.

LESS HOT AIR
 President Hoover has decided to remain in Washington for the summer. Even the heat will not be so bad with congress out of the way.
 —Indianapolis Star.

DONATE SEEDS TO IDLE
 BEAVER DAM, Wis., May 27. (AP)—Unemployed families of Beaver Dam have been provided with seeds and ground and will raise their own supply of vegetables for next winter. This garden project is expected to relieve the city of considerable expense.

OLD LIFEBOAT EXHIBITED
 CHICAGO, May 27. (AP)—The sea scout boat, Dauntless, exhibited at the first Chicago world's fair in 1893 as an exhibition of progress in cast guard equipment, will be exhibited again at the 1933 century of progress.

A New Yorker AT LARGE

By MARK BARRON
 NEW YORK, May 29.—Central park is one of Manhattan's most alluring free attractions, if you like a circus or the passing show.
 Where else could you see a retired business man, in spats and carrying a stick, from one of the large apartment hotels directly facing the park, on one bench and ragamuffin Third avenue kids on the next?
 Or park cops sneaking off their posts to take a ride in the motor launch on the big lake. Society dapper strolling with grandchildren and eating ice cream together out of a paper cup.
 A chic debutante trying to row a 50-cents-an-hour boat and bumping into a boat clumsily piloted by a pair of holidaying Italian laborers. And comparatively clean lawns despite the fact that a million people visit the park every week-end.

COLORED 'REDS' FEW
 Communists claim they have 5,000 colored members in Harlem. Not long ago they staged a demonstration for the Scottsboro negroes who were condemned to death. Harlem has unquenchable optimism.
 Nevertheless, the district around Lenox avenue is mostly Republican. The colored folk do not take readily to the drab preachments of communism. They are by nature inclined to be tolerant of things as they are and agitators have no easy field here.
 Life looks pretty good to Harlem residents. There isn't much evidence of fabulous wealth, but there is a surprising dearth of poverty.

NO 'FIXING'
 "A Tammany hall contractor, active in the organization, received a police summons for parking his car overlong and took it to his district leader.
 "Sorry," said the latter. "I can't help you. We are not taking care of 'tickets' any more."
 In the old days—prior to the Seabury investigations into New York City government—any well connected Tammany partisan could avoid going to court on petty charges of this sort. Today the district leaders are taking no chances. Politics are keeping a safe distance from the judicial and governmental machinery.

A theatrical producer thought he was being very clever and economical when he substituted four wax dummies for four live actors who were supposed to sit in a cafe scene in his play. The labor union maneuvered a neat revenge for the quartet of discharged actors.
 The producer is compelled to pay salaries to two extra stage hands—to carry the models on and off stage.

HORSE FRIGHTENED, DIES
 STERLING, Mass., May 27. (AP)—A horse, standing in a pasture here, dropped dead as a railroad train roared by. Herbert L. Kneeland, owner, believed that the horse, unaccustomed to loud noises, succumbed to excitement.

King to Get New Coach
 STOCKHOLM, May 28. (AP)—A new royal railway carriage will be built by King Gustaf of Sweden, to be used both at home and abroad. Aside from a bedroom, a saloon and a reception room for the king, it will contain three compartments for his entourage and two for valets.

Petrified Tree Found
 NAPER, Neb., May 28. (AP)—Jess and John Boetcher, farmers living near here, have unearthed a giant petrified tree. The trunk measures three feet four inches through and the petrified trunk stands over eight feet high.

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