

# Blind and Deaf, She Plays Piano

Kansas Wonder Girl Is in Class With Helen Keller and Willetta Huggins.

## "FEELS" MUSIC WITH FEET

Baking Angel Food and Writing on Typewriter Among Her Other Accomplishments—Masters Difficult Classical Music.

Olathe, Kan.—After 25 years in the dim world of those who are sightless, deaf and dumb, Miss Helen May Martin is finding her way out. She has chosen the least "reasonable" method of expression imaginable for one so afflicted. It is music.

Before a large audience in the Methodist church here, Miss Martin played what is probably the first piano recital in the history of the world to have been given by a person with neither sight nor hearing. It cannot now be said that she is without speech, for she articulates even unfamiliar names accurately and understandingly.

The intricacy of the method by which a person whose sensations are practically limited to those of heat and cold, pain and taste enters a whole new world is not comprehensible to the normal person. Miss Martin might possibly have been taught to place her fingers on certain of the piano keys and press them down by note, but that would not explain her ability to grasp rhythm, nor whatever the sense is that tells her when she is about to make a mistake in time to avert it. She never has heard, and has never been able to recognize objects. For a few years after birth she was able to distinguish between light and darkness, but never more. For 20 years there has not even been that travesty on sight.

### "Feels" Her Music.

Miss Martin is able to "feel" her music best by placing the ball of her foot against the bottom of her upright piano, her mother, Mrs. Helen May Martin, says.

At the church, however, she did not want to risk scarring the instrument she was using, so she got approximately the same result by holding her left foot under the "soft" pedal.

Gounod's "March Pontifical," the "Don Giovanni" minuet of Mozart, Morrison's familiar "Meditation," Lang's equally familiar "Flower Song," the first two movements of Beethoven's "Moonlight" sonata, and Carrie Jacobs Bond's "A Perfect Day" were the numbers used. The precision with which the young woman picked her notes out of completely blank space, struck them, and managed ritards, dynamics, and pedal were marvelous. All the pieces were taken deliberately, of course, but the distortions that would have been evident had she learned entirely by rote were absent.

In the second movement of the sonata the rhythm is not simple. But neither was it too much for Miss Martin. At the end of her program, she repeated the "Flower Song" for an encore.

Experiments with the piano were begun a good many years ago by the young woman's mother, but only in the last few years have they been pressed. Never has there been available a teacher who understood both the methods used for the sightless and those for the deaf. Miss Andrea Granger, who sat on the platform with Miss Martin, is by a coincidence her first and latest teacher. When Miss Martin was a small girl, Miss Granger was with her for a short period, and now she is completing the work begun then.

### Has Other Accomplishments.

In addition to a repertoire of 30 piano pieces, Miss Martin has many of the accomplishments of the average girl. She reads Braille, and now learns her piano music by reading the notes in "point" for each hand separately,

afterward fitting the parts together. She does weaving, and more remarkable yet, she makes "tatting" that is even more perfect than that of the average person with sight and hearing. The other day she wrote a story for an Olathe newspaper on the typewriter. And she writes her own bank checks.

While Miss Martin was completing in five years a course at the Kansas State School for the Deaf, in Olathe, that usually takes deaf but sighted persons eight or nine years to finish, she found time to learn to cook and do much housework. She bakes angel food cakes and pastries as well as cooks all the staples. The last five years she has had a teacher for only one hour a day, since there is no state institution in Kansas for persons with neither sight nor hearing.

While on a visit in Lincoln, Neb., her birthplace, recently, she talked for an hour with Helen Keller with a great deal of pleasure.

## Flag Sunk in Battle in Berlin Museum

Berlin.—The flag of the German cruiser Scharnhorst, which was sunk in the battle of Falkland, has reached the Berlin Naval museum after a romantic journey. The captain of a Brazilian coasting vessel found the body of a German sailor washed ashore on the southeastern coast of Brazil lashed to a sea chest containing the flag. A German resident, hearing of this, bought the flag and offered it to the Navy department on condition that he be reimbursed for his outlay.

But funds were lacking until recently, when a private collection furnished the means to acquire the flag, which is now on exhibition alongside the model of the cruiser Gneisenau, likewise sunk in the same battle, and other mementos of Germany's naval past.

## HERE IS THE WATCH CAT



This wildcat, captured as a baby and reared in civilization, has ousted the family watchdog from a Los Angeles home because of its superior ability as the guardian of the family. The watch-cat is not only as alert as a dog, but has the added quality of inspiring terror in a prowler.

### Bear Cub Born in Park Zoo.

Chisholm, Minn.—The Chisholm park zoo has a new arrival, a bear cub, born at the park. According to Superintendent Phillips, few cubs born in captivity live long. Several years ago a bear cub was born at the park, but was killed by the male bears. This time the cub was discovered in time to be lassoed and taken out of the bear pen. It is being raised on a bottle.

### Buy's Own Coffin.

Spokane, Wash.—With the premonition that he had only a few more days to live, Fred W. Miller, an aged and well-to-do cabinetmaker of Hillyard, purchased a coffin for himself that had caught his eye a year before and bargained and paid cash for all funeral expenses, including the embalming of his own body. He died next day.

# NEBRASKA NEWS IN CONCISE FORM

State Occurrences of Importance Boiled to a Few Lines for Quick Perusal.

Alliance is to have a new fifty barrel flour mill.

Falls City is to have a community mixed chorus.

Craig will celebrate July 4th on an elaborate scale.

An even 500 students will graduate from Omaha high schools.

The Southeastern State Press Club will meet in Falls City June 5.

The State Funeral Director's association will meet at Omaha June 6-8.

Holdrege business men are agitating the organization of a Rotary club at that place.

Fairbury will begin at once the construction of a large amount of paving and sewerage.

Colored Baptists of the state will hold their annual conference at Omaha June 14 to 19.

The State Pond of the Order of the Blue Goose will hold its annual meeting in Omaha this month.

Pierre J. Baker came all the way from Honolulu to Seneca, in this state, to wed Miss Irene Inman.

Ak-Sar-Ben racing at Omaha June 3 to 17 promises to be the biggest sporting event of the central west.

The Rev. Father James is president of the Broken Bow Golf club, recently organized with forty members.

From 300 to 500 delegates are expected to attend the meeting of the Masonic Grand Lodge at Omaha June 3.

Dan Morris was elected president of the State Chamber of Commerce at its annual convention at Columbus last week.

Yegmen robbed the Bank of Waterbury and escaped with \$3,500 in cash and the contents of a number of safety deposit boxes.

McCook lodge 1434, B. P. O. E., initiated a class of about 100, making the membership of this new lodge of Elks now about 350.

While a laundry truck was parked near the Omaha police station, someone relieved its contents of \$25 worth of newly cleaned blankets.

Robert Kelley of Nebraska City was awarded a gold medal at the graduating exercises in that place, for a standing of 97 per cent in a history contest.

Joe Garner's horse reared up, lost its balance, and toppled over backwards, at Callaway, and Garner was crushed beneath the animal, suffering serious injuries.

One hundred and five different species of birds were observed by the Nebraska Ornithologists' union, at its twentieth annual field day held at Lincoln recently.

Chicken thieves have raided almost every hen house in the Blair vicinity, and no clues as to their identity have been found. Hundreds of chickens have been taken.

John W. Hann's residence at Wauwata was struck by lightning and the damage by fire and water ruined the building. Volunteers saved furniture and household effects.

The State Sunday School convention will be held at Fremont, June 13, 14 and 15. Arrangements for entertaining one thousand delegates are being made by local committees.

Frank E. Turner, of Harvard, is in a critical condition, his left side being paralyzed, his tongue swollen and for a time he could neither talk nor swallow, following the stings of a poisonous insect.

A meeting especially in commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the first religious service ever held in the upper Loup valleys was observed at the Seventh Day Baptist church at North Loup, May 20.

A crowd estimated at from 1,000 to 1,200 witnessed the performance of the pageant, presented by the pupils of the St. Edwards school as a feature of the twenty-eighth annual commencement exercises of the local high school.

The committee in charge of the fiftieth annual encampment of the United Spanish War Veterans, to be held at Hastings, June 12 to 14, is using every effort to make the affair the most interesting in its history.

Seeking fish in Wood River near Grand Island, three small boys "caught" five gallons of whisky cached in the bank. They called police, who found two gallons more and now the latter are searching for the owner.

Bernice Branson, 7, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. C. B. Branson of Lincoln, may lose her foot as the result of a panic on a Capital Beach street car when it caught fire, and she was thrown to the ground.

R. T. Willard, a laborer, while working in the basement of an Omaha theater, at a depth of six feet, struck, with his pick, a purse containing a Russian silver coin, about the size of a dollar, and dated 1725.

Tentative plans are being discussed for the organization of a northeast Nebraska high school association to promote athletics and track work.

Federal Judge Woodruff signed an order directing the return of large quantities of malt, hops, bottle caps and cappers seized by federal prohibition agents at a grocery store in Omaha, on the ground that the search warrant was issued without sufficient testimony to support the finding of probable cause made by the commissioner, and secondly, because it does not describe sufficiently the property to be searched for and seized.

Growers in the cabbage belt, between Kearney and Gibbon, report their fields ravaged of plants by rabbits.

## AN IMPORTANT DECISION.

Affecting Building Trades Craftsmen Over the State Under Compensation Act.

Lincoln.—Very recently the Nebraska supreme court handed down a decision in a compensation case that is of importance to building trades craftsmen all over the state.

Up to the time this decision was handed down the Compensation Commissioner held that where building trades mechanics did repair work on homes they were protected by the compensation law.

In the case of Kaplan vs. Gasbill, appealed from Douglas County, the Supreme Court says: "Where a person engaged in the general business of buying and selling junk and dealing in second hand automobiles, owns a small store building and two or three houses, which he rents to tenants, held, that the labor or services, which were required to be furnished or performed by him (the owner) in the handling of and caring for those properties, does not amount to a regular business or occupation of the employer, within the meaning of the Workmen's Compensation Act. The work, rendered for such person by an employe in the repair of one of such buildings, is not work which is within the usual course of any regular business or occupation of such person, and the employe, in the performance of that work, does not come within the operation of the Compensation Law."

This decision means that carpenters, painters, plasterers, lathers, electrical workers, bricklayers and such other mechanics who do repair work or alteration work directly for the owner of the property, are not protected by the Compensation Law.

If the owner lets the work out to a contractor and the contractor hires the men to do the work, then the contractor is liable for compensation to injured workmen under the Nebraska law.

For further information regarding the decision you should write or call at the office of the Compensation Commissioner at the State House, Lincoln, or the Court House, in Omaha.

Robert Shepard, 14 years old, was drowned while bathing in Manst's lake near Falls City.

Mrs. Irene Cleveland Buell of Ashland has been admitted to practice law in the federal courts.

Vandals entered the city library at Friend and destroyed the foliage plants in the corridor of the building.

Shoemen of the Burlington at Havelock, who were laid off on account of coal shortage, have resumed work.

Twenty-six carloads of live stock were shipped from Coleridge during last week, the greatest number in months.

The fourth annual state conference on vocational education will be held at the State College of Agriculture in Lincoln in June.

While trying to kill a cat in his yard in Lowell, Lee French accidentally shot himself in the breast with a 22-caliber revolver. Death was almost instantaneous.

A herd of 15,000 high grade Hereford cattle purchased by a group of Nebraska stockmen were shipped from Midland, Tex., last week to their sand hill pasture in western Nebraska.

The Nebraska school of irrigation has closed for the summer vacation, this being the end of the first full school year of the branch of the state university. The fall term will open September 11.

Monstrous spiders, of a dark green hue, have appeared in Nemaha county. They are so large that they prey on chickens, killing the fowls in most cases. In many ways they resemble the tarantula.

Paul, 10, and Harry, 12, sons of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Lager, near Alliance, were killed when a sand-bank caved in and smothered them. The boys had dug a hole in the sand bank and crawled into it.

The Nebraska state fair track events, September 3 to 8, will be an interesting number of races. Already the early closing speed events have listed a number of fleet horses for the trots, paces and running races.

The Plattsmouth Turn-Verein, organized in 1887 by prominent residents of German descent, primarily for a continuation of their athletic training as carried on at that time by the national turn-verein in Germany, has been disbanded, the hall being sold, while all athletic equipment has been donated to the public schools and the wall cases and other material given to the local post of the American Legion.

Fifty-six students, the largest senior class in history of the Central City high school were graduated May 26.

Life passes will be granted all University letter men, regardless of the spirit in which they have won an "N," according to announcement made at the office of the director of athletics. These passes will admit the owner to all home athletic contests in which the University of Nebraska is represented.

Plaster which fell from the ceiling overturned a gasoline stove and the B. Benjamin Millinery store at Fullerton was badly damaged by fire. The stock was a complete loss.

One of the biggest real estate deals ever consummated in Morrill county was completed when the 7,000 acre farm of Jerry J. Postle, on Lawrence Fork creek near Redington, was sold to William E. Hecker and Cary Ott of Mound City, Mo., for the price of \$210,000.

A total of \$2,500 in rewards has been offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the bandit responsible for the killing of Charles E. Siefken and his son, Robert, 16, in an attempted holdup of the Nicholas Oil corporation's filling station at Omaha a week ago.

# YOUNG MOTHER NOW STRONG

Her Mother's Faith in Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound Led Her To Try It

Kenosha, Wisconsin.—"I cannot say enough in praise of Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound. My mother had great faith in it as she had taken so much of it and when I had trouble after my baby was born she gave it to me. It helped me so much more than anything else had done that I advise all women with female trouble to give it a fair trial and I am sure they will feel as I do about it.—Mrs. FRED. P. HANSEN, 502 Symonds St., Kenosha, Wisconsin.



A medicine that has been in use nearly fifty years and that receives the praise and commendation of mothers and grandmothers is worth your consideration.

If you are suffering from troubles that sometimes follow child-birth bear in mind that Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound is a woman's medicine. It is especially adapted to correct such troubles.

The letters we publish ought to convince you; ask some of your women friends or neighbors—they know its worth. You will, too, if you give it a fair trial.

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## Laxatives Replaced

By the Use of Nujol

Nujol is a lubricant—not a medicine or laxative—so cannot gripe.

When you are constipated, there is not enough lubricant produced by your system to keep the food waste soft. Doctors prescribe Nujol because its action is so close to this natural lubricant. Try it today.



## HOW HE ESCAPED ARREST

Uniform of Italian Colonel Protected Fuad Pasha From Threatened Indignity.

In 1913 Fuad I, the new king of Egypt, was an unsuccessful candidate for the Albanian throne, after having been colonel of artillery in the Italian army. When he became sultan of Egypt his role under the protectorate of England was not always easy to maintain.

One day a messenger of the British Resident asked him to sign an ordinance against the Egyptian nationalists. He refused. And the messenger of the Resident signified to him with the utmost courtesy:

"I shall then to my regret have to arrest and imprison your highness."

"Permit me," replied Fuad Pasha, "to go for a moment to my room to reflect."

A few minutes later Fuad came back in the uniform of an Italian colonel.

He was not arrested.

Few ever find out what would be the result of not getting into discussions.

## Sure Relief FOR INDIGESTION



## VICTIMS RESCUED

Kidney, liver, bladder and uric acid troubles are most dangerous because of their insidious attacks. Heed the first warning they give that they need attention by taking



The world's standard remedy for these disorders will often ward off these diseases and strengthen the body against further attacks. Three sizes, all druggists. Look for the name Gold Medal on every box and accept no imitation.

## Cuticura Soap — The Healthy — Shaving Soap

Cuticura Soap shaves without stinging. Everywhere.

## Old Time Court House Guttled by Fire



Firemen in Auburn, New York, fighting the flames, which gutted the Cayuga county court house, a venerable building of classic beauty erected in 1836. The cupola, roof and courtroom were totally wrecked.