## Letters From Our Readers

## POOL HALL AND BILLIARD HALL DESTRUCTION

Editor The Monitor:

Most people of our race complain of not having places to go to for enjoyment. We have no place of this kind. By this I mean a place where no one would be ashamed to go and have a nice quiet time and be respected and not be molested in any way. How can we when some of our most popular leaders who have the money and means to erect and support a place of this kind for moral purposes will not do so? Those who do have the means only think of erecting a place to make more money in questionable ways. These places most usually are pool-halls, billiard halls or saloons. They are of no advantage to our men and boys. Boys as young as thirteen years are permitted to enter these places and spend their money. Boys without the protection of a father receive little attention. These boys should be watched more carefully than other boys. Men running these places are not apt to allow boys who have a father's protection to frequent their places as much as a boy who hasn't.

True, boys need places to enjoy themselves, but pool halls are no places for them to go. Playing pool is, in most cases, the first, step in gambling. What mother would like to see her son lose his week's or month's salary playing pool? None, I am sure.

Some poor helpless mothers have strong opinions of their boys going to these places, but for the sake of modesty refrain from going in them to see for themselves. But if the mother goes to these proprietors some of them will try to shoo her off with some soft story that her boy does not come to his place and that he does not allow minors in his place. Every place of this kind in this city is strictly forbidden to allow boys in their places.

If the older generation does not try to portect the younger one how do they expect them to progress? Dice playing is another step to destruction. Men and boys have been seen playing dice in broad daylight at the corner of Twenty-fourth and Patrick avenue, by a large tree. To think of our men and boys playing dice right on a street as popular as Twenty-fourth street, where passersby both white and colored, are at liberty to see our folks indulge in such disgraceful sport.

Right there that man or boy may have spoiled a good position not only for himself, but for some other boy or man who may need a position worse than himself. The white business man passing by thought right away: "Well, if I hire one of those I can't trust him." If he hired one of those boys who play cards and dice and he should lose his money that would mean either a jail sentence, a lost job, a good job spoiled and possibly a term in prison. There most certainly should be a stop put to this embarassing and disgraceful business. I think of the people who run these places and allow minors in them are properly punished it won't be long before a stop will be put to it. Long trousers are all these boys need for these keepers to prove an alibi. It matters not if they be ten years old. I certainly did catch one of my boys in a pool hall at eleven o'clock at night, a time when all boys should be at home in bed. I think a great many mothers and wives would do exactly right if they would watch these places. A great many boys are supposed to be at moving pictures and can easily be found at a pool hall.

Pool halls are a menace to wives as well as mothers. Some of these places have regular games played for money.

Patient wives and mothers, open your eyes and look at these things and see for yourselves.

Respectfully yours, Mrs. Lucy Gumm, 1809 North 23d St.

Omaha, Neb., Sept. 7, 1916. Rev. John Albert Williams,

Editor Monitor,

Dear Sir:—It gives me great pleasure to send you herewith my check for \$2.00 for the renewal of my subscription to your well-edited and instructive paper, which I read with interest and profit each week.

Wishing you well-deserved success, believe me,

Very sincerely yours, Ed. F. Morearty.

(Mr. Morearty evidently believes that our subscription price ought to be \$2.00 instead of \$1.50. Thanks. —Editor.)

## SOUTH SIDE

The dedication of the new Baptismal Pool for Bethel Baptist Church was postponed from Sunday, Sept. 24, to Sunday, Oct. 1, at 3 p. m. Rev. T. A. Taggart, pastor, and officers did this in order that they might assist Rev. J. H. Nichols Sunday, Sept. 24, at 3 p. m. in his last effort before he leaves for conference. Rev.Mr. Nichols and his congregation thankand appreciate this very much. We respectfully invite and urge all our friends to come over and help us.

Mr. Ralph Agee, of 4801 Parker St., who last week underwent an operation for appendicitis at South Omaha hospital, was taken home Wednesday very much improved.

Mrs. Alston, of 2628 Jefferson St., died Thursday, Sept. 21. Mrs. Alston, who is but recently from Texas, has been in poor health since her arrival in Omaha. She leaves four sons and two daughters here in Omaha and other children and relatives in Texas. No arrangements for the funeral have yet been made.

Little Miss Ruth Adams, of 4421 South 26th St., has been unable to attend school this week on account of sickness.

Mrs. Marie Gray, of 4222 South 24th St., underwent an operation at the South Side hospital Monday, Sept. 18. We are glad to say she is getting along nicely.

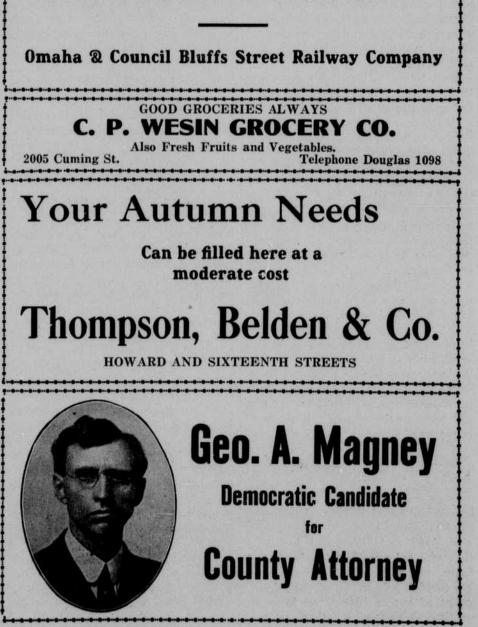
G. WADE OBEE LEAVES FOR LOS ANGELES

Saturday morning G. Wade Obee, his older son and mechanician, left Omaha with two automobiles on a drive to Los Angeles where he and his family will make their future home. M. Obee came to Omaha about nine years ago and established his undertaking business, meeting at the very outset the determined hostility of the local white undertakers. But he showed fight, pluck and determination and fought opposition until the Colored undertaker was accepted as a permanent addition to growing Omaha, and now there are three successful firms here. Mr. Obee was an aggressive and progressive citizen of Omaha anxious to see business enterprises developed among the race. His friends will be pleased to hear of his making a success wherever he may go. Mrs. Obee and younger son left by rail.



## **Assist Us In Preventing Accidents**

We appeal to passengers to exercise care in geting on and off street cars and when crossing streets on which cars are operated. Carelessness in this respect often results in serious accidents.



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