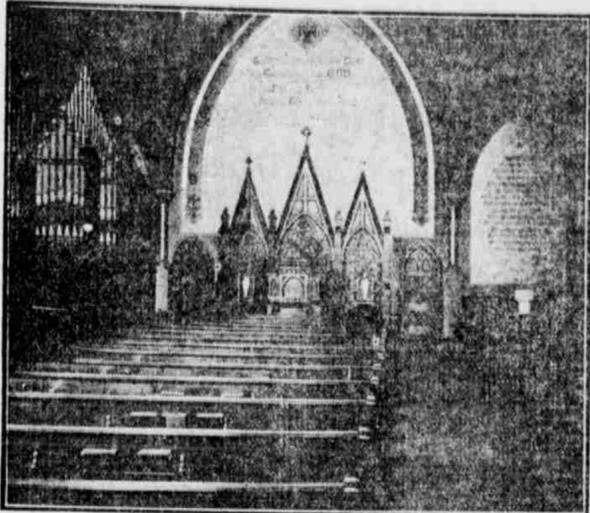


WHERE TAFT ATTENDS CHURCH



Copyright by Walden Fawcett.

Interior view of the Unitarian church at Washington, of which the Republican presidential candidate is a member, and which he regularly attends when official duties do not interfere.

SEA OF OIL ABLAZE.

MEXICAN GUSHER HAS BEEN BURNING MANY DAYS.

Estimated Daily Loss Is \$38,000—Only Hope Is That Fire Will Automatically Smother Itself—Heat Prevents Approach.

Mexico City, Mex.—At Dos Bocas a gusher of the Pennsylvania Oil Company has been burning now for many days at an estimated daily loss to the company of \$38,000.

The flames leap hundreds of feet into the air, illuminating a large expanse of territory at night and veiling the landscape with dense volumes of smoke by day.

When a well catches because of an uncontrolled overflow of oil into some fire or flame, usually the very furnace of the boiler which has been used in boring the well, there are but two alternatives left for the owners. One is to smother the fire by means of a heavily weighted draw, which is pulled across the mouth of the well, shutting off both the air from the outside and the flow of oil from within.

In this way the fire dies of its own accord from lack of fuel and the well is then easily controlled.

Falling in this expedient the only hope is to allow the well to burn, relying upon it to clog itself after a time. Usually on low pressure gushers the accumulation of soot and lampblack from the burning oil will so clog the aperture of the well in two or three weeks that the flow of oil is cut off and the fire is automatically smothered. Oil well fires are never of long duration.

The product going to waste is so valuable that expensive measures are justifiable to stop the flame—and money can accomplish most things.

Preparations are now on foot to smother the fire of the Pennsylvania oil well at Dos Bocas. Heavy drags are being constructed which will be drawn across the mouth of the well by special machinery, and the well will again become the servant of man. At present it runs riot and acknowledges as master no one.

So intense is the heat generated by the thousands of barrels of oil that go up in smoke every hour that no one can approach within less than 200 meters of the fire and remain for more than a few minutes at a time. Added to this are the fearful fumes and gases generated by the burning oil.

The new oil well caught fire July 4 from the furnace of the boiler used in boring the well. The oil in the well had been struck some time before, and while preparations were being made to break the cap rock and cap

the well the pressure of oil and gas from below blew out its capping and became unmanageable.

The oil was shot to a distance of 300 feet into the air, carrying the derrick and other machinery with it.

The primary loss of the company boring the well is estimated at \$200,000.

The oil has overflowed the entire surrounding plain, and is now practically a burning lake of oil, flooding the country with flame.

The shaft of oil which shoots up from the interior of the well, only to become immediately ignited, transforming itself into a fountain of fire, acts as a huge torch for the entire surrounding country. The flame is plainly visible for 50 miles and one steamer captain has reported having seen the fire at sea a distance of 80 miles from the well.

So brilliant is the light that at a distance of ten miles it furnishes light sufficient to admit of reading.

The well has been burning 30 days, making the loss more than \$1,000,000.

GOES MAD OVER HIS GUILT.

Young Spaniard Becomes Maniac When Shortage Is Discovered.

Guaymas, Mexico.—Driven mad because he had been caught in stealing \$270 from the postoffice, a young employe of the Altata office is now a raving maniac.

The work was done with the purpose of concealing the crime for some time, though ultimately it had to come out. Some one bought a postal order for \$100, and while the draft and the notification were all right, the stub and the books showed \$10. This order was on El Fuerte. Others followed on Rosario and Mezatlan. The maritime inspector of Altata, who also inspects the postoffice, found all accounts straight, and not until the postal orders and reports were compared in the main office in Mexico was the defalcation discovered. When the inspectors faced the young man, Martinez de Velasco, with the evidence of his guilt he begged for a moment and hastened out to secure the money. He went, instead, to the pier and threw himself out into the water.

He was rescued, however, and when released wallowed in the dirt. Then he began to draw pictures in the sand, and later, when people came to take him away, he began to show signs, and later broke out into a series of violent fits.

He was relieved somewhat with drugs and placed in prison, the inspection being continued. The young man is a Spaniard and stood well in the community.

Sixth Wife Seeks a Divorce.

Utah Man, Aged 65, Has Varied Matrimonial Experiences.

Salt Lake City, Utah.—Six wives, five of whom divorced him, and the last one now suing him, is the record of Charles Smith, whose age is 65. The one who is suing him is Margaret Mattie Smith, who is 77 years of age. They were married in the summer of 1907. Smith was before the court recently to show cause why he should not pay his wife temporary alimony pending the trial of the case.

During his examination by his wife's attorney it was explained to the court that he had had other matrimonial experiments.

"Well, I won't consider those now," replied Judge Morse, with a smile, "as I hardly believe that they are assets which can be considered in awarding temporary alimony."

The wife's attorney endeavored to elicit from the aged man whether he owned the house in which he lived at East Ninth and Garfield streets.

Smith declared that he really didn't know who owned it, and that the matter concerned him very little.

He said that he was a bookkeeper and earns \$40 a month at odd jobs. He and his 13-year-old son cook their own meals.

"I live on very plain foods," he said, "and I cannot eat meat, because it

would mean that I would get into the grave, and I don't want to die.

"Everything I own is what I have on my person," he continued, "and if I knew where I had \$100 in this world I would gladly give the lady half of it."

After some more sparring with the attorney he was ordered to pay \$15 temporary alimony and \$30 attorney's fees.

Lost Ball, Took Baby.

Freeland, Pa.—Annoyed by having a baseball driven against the side of her home, Mrs. Andrew Solenski picked up the sphere and hid it in her home. The ball had come from a nearby field, where two local teams were playing a match game. When the fielder arrived looking for the ball he was ordered off the premises. All efforts to conciliate proved futile, when one of the boys conceived the idea of kidnapping the Solenski baby.

The scheme was approved and quickly executed. When Mrs. Solenski discovered her child was gone she became frantic and hastened to the office of Justice Buckley and Burgess Hartman, Patrolman Walsh, who was sent to the place, soon solved the trouble, and by diplomatic means secured the return of the child in exchange for the ball.

MOONSHINERS' PLAY

MADE OUT OF EVENTS THAT SENT THEM TO PRISON.

Author is Man Accused of Selling Liquor Without Federal License—To Be Presented When Men Are Released.

Frankfort, Ky.—A jail for a theater, the cells for dressing rooms and the corridor for the stage form the equipment that the federal prisoners in the county jail here, practically all of them moonshiners, are using in rehearsing a play that will be staged when they are out of confinement again.

The play is called "The Moonshiners" and was written by Sam Sheppard, who is accused of selling liquor without a license from the federal government. He conceived the idea of writing the play and rehearsing it to occupy the time until the date of his trial.

The actors have met with such success in their rehearsals that they have determined to put the play on the stage as soon as they are released from jail. They are to meet in Corbin on December 1 to have their last rehearsal before the opening of the season in the mountain towns. The court houses will be used as theaters, and the members of the troupe will not be far from home if they get stranded.

The plot of the play is laid among the hills of Harlan county. The first act opens with a lot of moonshiners sitting around a still, drinking the white whisky and playing cards. During this act every detail in making moonshine whisky will be exhibited. A spy discloses the still to the revenue men, who raid the place, and the curtain falls amid revolver fire.

The second act deals with the burial of mountaineers who were killed in the moonshine raid. While the ox-cart hearse is absent in the rehearsals there is a place for it in the play. The mountain preacher, who never condemns the making of moonshine, because the moonshiners contribute to his living, has his part in this act, and sings the funeral dirge, while the men dressed as women gather around the casket to mourn.

The third act deals with the chase of the revenue men after the moonshiners. Some of the moonshiners are captured and marched into a court house. The daughter of the mountain judge pleads for their release. Her beauty impresses the revenue men, especially a young member of the party, and while she engages him in a conversation, three of the shiners make their escape. The session of court breaks up in disorder, and in the last scene the young woman, rifle in hand, leads the moonshiners in a battle with the revenue agents, who are routed, and she gives her hand to one of the bravest of the shiners.

In the fourth and concluding act of the play the spy is captured and the moonshiners hold a court and sentence him to death. He is hanged as an example of what will happen to moonshiners who give information to revenue men.

The actors and their characters are: Sam Sheppard, mountaineer of Whitley county; Ol Whittington, revenue man of Whitley county; W. S. James, bootlegger of Rowan county; E. D. Ritchie, stiller of Knott county, who is serving a term in jail for making moonshine; Sunland Meyers of Rowan county, bootlegger; Dan Trout, revenue man of Pulaski county; Henry Boulden, bootlegger of Harlan county; Ezekiel Anderson, whisky peddler of Leslie county; Will Sturgeon, spy of Floyd county; Wick Terry, mountain judge of Rowan county; Thomas Magee, mountain preacher of Laurel county.

Magee was selected as preacher because he has been converted since he came here to jail and may join the Salvation Army after the theatrical season is over.

WATCHING THE SALTON SEA.

Engineers May Learn Formula for the Evaporation of Water.

Los Angeles, Cal.—If plans which scientists in the employ of the government are now carrying into effect are successful, engineers will have, within the next few years, what they have never hitherto had—a formula of evaporation of water under given conditions. The field of study of the scientists is the Salton sea, the inland body of water near the Mexican line which was, in ages past, a part of the Gulf of California.

The government proposes to keep from six to eight men on the ground for two years. These men will study the supply of water to the sea and will attempt to determine the recession of the body of water—how much is taken by the atmosphere in a given period.

Pro. F. H. Bigelow of the United States weather bureau has been assigned to take charge of the work, and he will be assisted by the local weather bureau members.

Scared to Death by Lightning.

New York.—A bolt of lightning frightened William M. Sherwood to death. The victim, 71 years old, an old-time section boss on the New York Central road, lived with his daughter in the Bronx. He had been suffering from heart disease and was lying on a sofa when a thunder storm broke.

Lightning struck a tree in the yard, and a blinding bluish light filled the whole house. At the crash and the vivid glare Sherwood sprang from the sofa and instantly fell back on it dead.

Physicians Recommend Castoria

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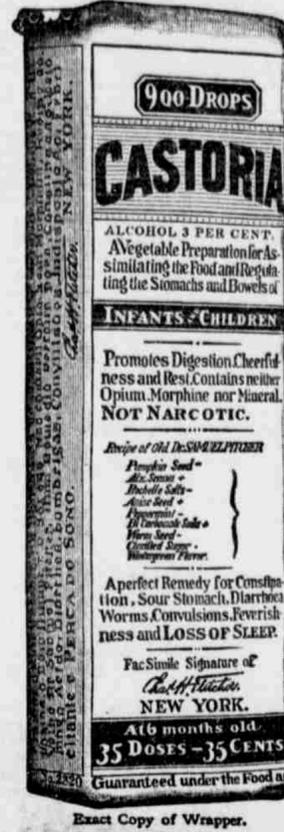
Letters from Prominent Physicians addressed to Chas. H. Fletcher.

Dr. B. Halstead Scott, of Chicago, Ill., says: "I have prescribed your Castoria often for infants during my practice, and find it very satisfactory." Dr. William Belmont, of Cleveland, Ohio, says: "Your Castoria stands first in its class. In my thirty years of practice I can say I never have found anything that so filled the place." Dr. J. H. Taft, of Brooklyn, N. Y., says: "I have used your Castoria and found it an excellent remedy in my household and private practice for many years. The formula is excellent." Dr. R. J. Hamlen, of Detroit, Mich., says: "I prescribe your Castoria extensively, as I have never found anything to equal it for children's troubles. I am aware that there are imitations in the field, but I always see that my patients get Fletcher's." Dr. Wm. J. McCrann, of Omaha, Neb., says: "As the father of thirteen children I certainly know something about your great medicine, and aside from my own family experience I have in my years of practice found Castoria a popular and efficient remedy in almost every home." Dr. J. R. Clausen, of Philadelphia, Pa., says: "The name that your Castoria has made for itself in the tens of thousands of homes blessed by the presence of children, scarcely needs to be supplemented by the endorsement of the medical profession, but I, for one, most heartily endorse it and believe it an excellent remedy." Dr. R. M. Ward, of Kansas City, Mo., says: "Physicians generally do not prescribe proprietary preparations, but in the case of Castoria my experience, like that of many other physicians, has taught me to make an exception. I prescribe your Castoria in my practice because I have found it to be a thoroughly reliable remedy for children's complaints. Any physician who has raised a family, as I have, will join me in heartiest recommendation of Castoria."

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Chas. H. Fletcher. The Kind You Have Always Bought

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How Hammer of Death Struck James. The old parish church of Plumstead, which has just been reopened, is probably at least 1,000 years old. The picturesque churchyard, a cherished haunt of the poet Bloomfield during his visits to Shooter's Hill, contains a delightfully choice "derangement of epitaphs." One of these, on "Master James Darling, aged ten," teaches a lesson of moderation during the present cherry season to the youth of other places besides Plumstead. Speaking from his tombstone, Master Darling exclaims: "The hammer of Death was given to me For eating the cherries off the tree."

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W. N. U., OMAHA, NO. 37, 1908.

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