

Life of Contentment Led by Recluse in Iowa Hills

Former Hoosier Barrister and Journalist, Once Co-Worker of James Whitcomb Riley, Cummunes With Nature in Seclusion, Eking Out Living by Hunting—Is 70 and Still Plods On.

BY ROBT. WORTHINGTON DAVIE.
"Seventy years old and as spry as can be," said Marsh. "Rather agrees with a fellow out here in this neck of the woods." A neck of the woods it was—a veritable forest, literally speaking, and the hermit plainly exhibited its effects and its associations.

WILL RADIUM AT LAST OPEN THE DOOR OF THE GREAT UNKNOWN?

If you are sick and want to Get Well and Keep Well, write for literature that tells How and Why this almost unknown and wonderful new element brings relief to so many sufferers from Constipation, Rheumatism, Sciatica, Gout, Neuritis, Neuralgia, Nervous Prostration, High Blood Pressure and diseases of the Stomach, Heart, Lungs, Liver, Kidneys, and other ailments. You wear Degen's Radio-Active Solar Pad day and night, receiving the Radio-Active Rays continuously into your system, causing a healthy circulation, overcoming sluggishness, throwing off impurities and restoring the tissues and nerves to a normal condition—and the next thing you know you are getting well.

Between two hills, dense with the native shrubbery of Iowa's diminutive wilderness, a lane winds from a low but rolling level heavenward into a grove and away to the north where a hermit's home is built. It is simply if not crudely designed but congenially arranged, and invisible to the eye of a casual observer, since it reclines in the side of a hill, above which logs are laid, and these are imbedded beneath several feet of earth. "Warm and cozy and comfortable," quoth Marsh. "Close to earth and close to God." He—Marsh Willis, a native of Indiana, former lawyer and general philosopher, certainly seems to thrive in his secluded habitation, and lives a hundred years behind the times—but a thousand leagues beyond deception and illusion.

"Just huntin' for a squirrel; thought he disappeared off in this direction," replied the recluse in response to a question. "Heard the dogs barking and took my gun and started out."

He carried a long barreled shotgun which suggested much aversion to kindness and seemed to perturb the mind with thrilling visions of Kentucky pioneer life, and bore distinct traces of usefulness and wear, while the stock revealed a number of notches to elucidate its record, perhaps—gruesome, gallant and chivalrous—and to mark it as a faithful, trustworthy, less than inanimate friend of many, retaining the fiction of numerous escapades and mysteries, but

Uni of Omaha's Musical Bandit Brigade



Here's the bandit brigade of the University of Omaha.

All the girls in the picture, armed with nickel-plated savings banks and a disarming smile, are members of the public school music class at the university, and have pledged themselves to raise \$300 toward a fund for the purpose of buying records and music.

If you meet 'em on the street, your only chance of escape is to dig up all the pennies out of the family wallet

said Marsh with a smile—"Durned pesky critters just can't leave an old man alone. But I'm here to obtain what's mine and I don't ask favors from anyone."

"Me bees do fairly well," he continued as we approached a buzzing sound arising from a small barrel which he lifted from its position while the atomical being skirted about him in a friendly manner. "No gentler creatures in existence," he declared, and pointed out a number of hives in and beneath the trees. "My honey and vegetables and tobacco supply nearly everything that I require. During the winter trapping brings in a trifle, and there's lots of small game around these parts. I keep a few of my favorite books—sent the rest back to Indiana two years ago. When its cold and blustery I read considerable, and in this manner the winters pass rapidly."

"Yes," he added, replying to an interrogation and chuckling softly, "I was born in Indiana and raised there. You've heard of Whit Riley—James Whitcomb Riley? Well, Whit and I

and deposit them in one or other of the traveling banks.

From left to right they are Lorne Sleeter, Fernie Shoup, Mildred Shinn; Johanna Anderson, teacher; Mrs. Ella Woodward, Mary Gorton and Kathleen Shaw.

were boyhood friends; we played together, bunned together and worked together. I recollect an incident that happened while Whit and myself were pushing pens for the Greencastle Banner. The editor was absent at the time, business was somewhat slow, and we got it into our heads that we could increase the circulation. Finally we decided to offer prizes for the best sketches written by home folks concerning local scenes. Our scheme evoked much comment and several excellent sketches were produced. Strange as it might seem, we received more than two thousand new subscriptions, and I remember vividly Whit's broad smile of satisfaction the morning after the contest closed."

Marsh Willis, according to his own words, was in the past connected with various publications of Indiana and Ohio. He has met and associated with celebrities who have come and gone, leaving marks which will forever endure. His recollections are tinted with zest, and portray the

spirit and enthusiasm of one who has lived for something higher than materialism. "Opportunity has crossed and recrossed my path," he said, and in the ensuing silence he seemed to intimate that he had not failed to appreciate a single endowment or chance, but with the attitude that he preferred seclusion and an understanding of life from the viewpoint of an individualist.

Marsh appears to be an intellectual person, strange as the truth is, and a direct contrast to the realm of his choosing. "I was admitted to the bar when 19 years of age," he added, "commenced my career as a lawyer, pleaded one case—a murder case as it happened. My plea consumed but 5 minutes time, and the opposing attorney argued for more than a day. I have had many reasons to be grateful for that acquittal, and the man concerned is one of the finest citizens of our state. He has shown his gratitude by proving himself worthy of his freedom. Law did not appeal to me, and I sort of drifted away until I found myself here and went to work building my humble abode."

Thus has he resided in tranquility at times, although he has been disturbed occasionally by the presence of mysterious strangers who come and disappear in the night, leaving traces of their intrusions. But he avers that solitude affords contentment. The variable weirdness and indescribable voices coming from out the intense darkness are greeted with the placid unconcernment of a hermit. Close to the primeval he dwells; artificially he is unknown to him; strong and straight he stands, his features hidden behind a beard of several seasons. Unkept but natural, Marsh Willis plods on, eking out his living from the hills, eking out his religion earth and sky, is mind is rich with the wealth of glorious reminiscences, exuberant with variegated memories, and he exists, he declares, without regret and in the midst of all his desires.

Housewives Can Less Fruit Each Year. Claim Special Dispatch to The Omaha Bee. Columbus, Neb., Sept. 22.—Grocers here announce that the average housewife can save less fruit from year to year, saying that it is especially true of preserves. There has been probably 50 per cent less fruit canned in Columbus than previous years, if sales on fruits are any indication. Dealers declare that women no longer like to stand over hot stoves in the summertime and that the greatest amount of canning is now being done in the fall instead of summer.

mer. The price of sugar during the summer months is also blamed for the reduction in canning.

Railroad fares in Germany are to be increased by 300 per cent for first and second class passengers and by 250 per cent for third and fourth class accommodations.

ADVERTISEMENTS

"77" FOR COLDS

Humphreys' "Seventy-seven" is for Grip, Influenza and for all kinds of Colds. To get best results take a dose at the first Sneeze or Shiver. If you wait till your bones begin to ache, it may take longer. Medical Book mailed free. Price, 30c and \$1.00, at Drug Stores, or sent on remittance to C. O. D. Parcel Post Humphreys' Home, Medicine Company, 156 William Street, New York.

HAYDEN'S FIRST

Monday's Sales of Silks and Velvets

Featuring the Wanted Colorings and Weaves in the Textures in Demand for the Fall Season

Canton Crepes \$2.65 Values to \$4.00 All colors, extra heavy silk quality, 40 inches wide, specially priced.	Silk Duvetyne \$3.50 Values to \$4.50 For suits, dresses, wraps in black, navy brown, specially priced, \$3.50.	Silk Crepes \$3.65 Values to \$5.00 Extra quality in black and all colors, specially priced, \$3.65.	Chiffon Velvets \$4.95 and \$7.50 Two remarkable grades in black and colors, soft finish, rich and lustrous.
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Replenish Your Bedding Needs in Monday's Sale

Cotton Batts Cheese Cloth Covered Comfort size cotton (72x90) weight 4 lbs. each. Biggest values seen in years, this sale, each— \$1.98	White Wool Filled Blankets Large double bed Blankets, edges bound with fine pongee, blue or pink borders, the best \$7.50 value, this sale only, pair. \$5.00	Bed Spreads The large size (84x96), this is the best grade Crochet weave (\$4.00 value). Seldom seen at this low sale price— \$3.19
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Furniture Savings for Monday

\$185 Genuine Walnut Dining Room Suite 8 Pieces \$138.50 Queen Anne period designs. The Buffet measures 60 inches and has drawer lined for silver. Table is 45 inches wide and extends 72 inches. Chairs are upholstered in high-grade tapestry; priced— \$138.50	 \$200 3-Piece Tapestry and Velour Living Room Suite \$112.50 Consist of Davenport, Rocker and Chair; all the three pieces have loose, spring-filled cushion seats, priced..... \$112.50	\$195 Cane Davenport Suite \$137.50 The Davenport opens into a double width bed when open; gives you an extra bedroom. Upholstered in high-grade velours; only a few left at, the suite— \$137.50
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Monday Shoe Sales

Grover Shoes
Soft Shoes for Tender Feet
Ladies' Grover black kid, hand turn Oxford, rubber heel, \$7.50 value **\$5.95**
Brown kid **\$9.90**
Black kid **\$8.90**

Black kid Grover 2-strap hand turn Pump, military heel, **\$5.45**

Stetson Shoes for Men or Women, **\$9.90**

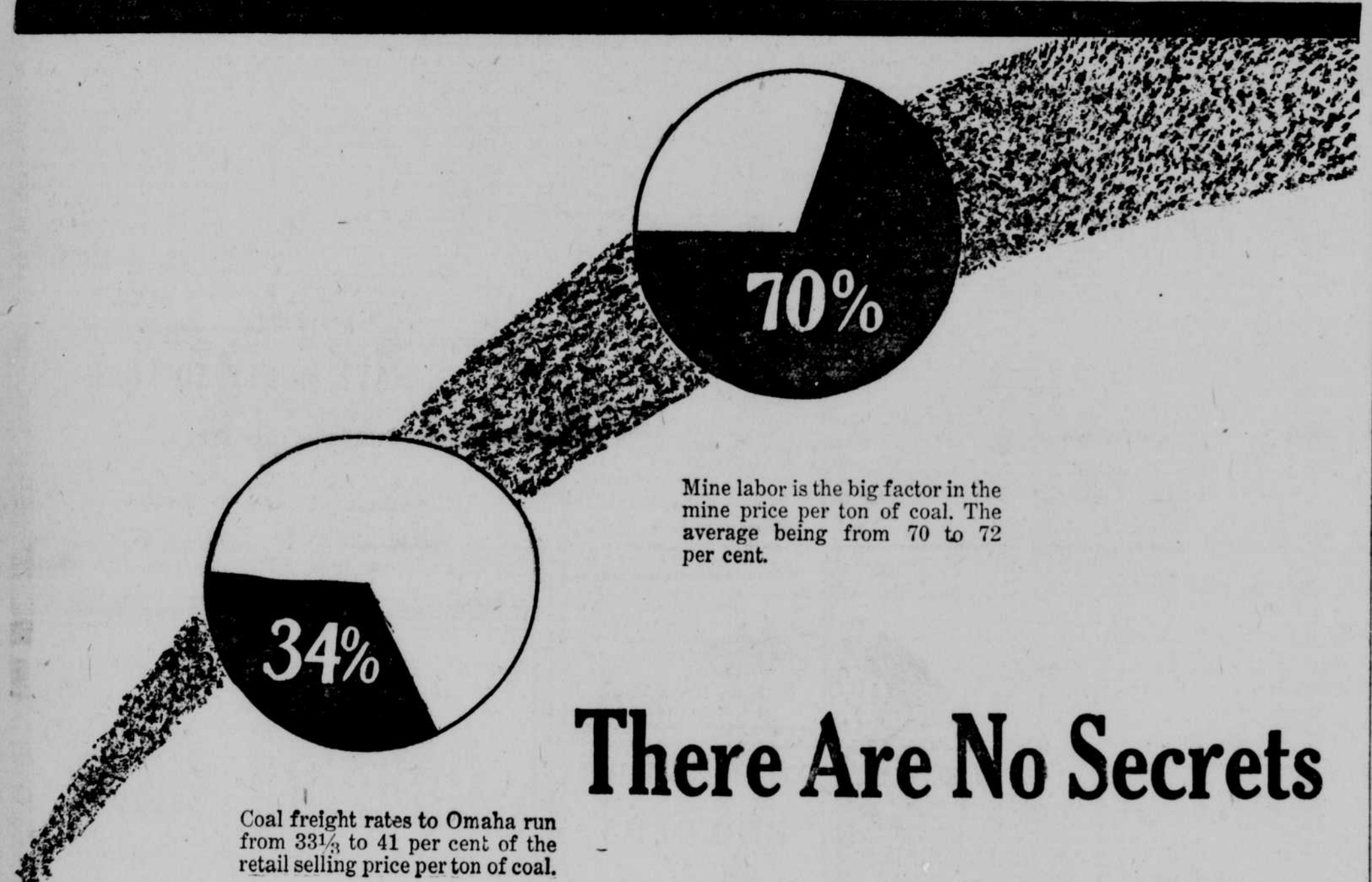
Hayden's Old-Tyme Comfort

Oxfords
1-Strap and 2-Strap
Pumps
Not these—but this for COMFORT

These shoes are made especially for Hayden Bros. under our own construction. We positively guarantee more wear out of these Comfort Shoes than any other shoe made for the price, Monday... **\$2.95**
Sizes complete B to EE, 2 to 9

Hardw're and House Furnishings

\$1.00 value Nail Hammer, adze eye, bell face, special for Monday, **69c**
\$1.50 Value Hatchet, black forge steel, special for Monday, **90c**
\$1.75 Value Hand Saw, 26-inch, high grade, special for Monday, **\$1.19**
\$2.75 Value Family Scale, weighs 24 lbs., special for Monday, **\$2.25**
\$1.75 Value "Fit-all" Electric Iron, cords 6-ft. with all attachments, very special for Monday at... **\$1.19**
Basement.



There Are No Secrets

Coal freight rates to Omaha run from 33 1/3 to 41 per cent of the retail selling price per ton of coal.

Seventy-two per cent of the price of a ton of coal at the mines goes to pay mine labor.

There are but few exceptions in all the coal sold in Omaha where the freight per ton is not greater than the mine price of a ton of coal.

Anthracite Coal from Pennsylvania costs \$8.60 loaded in the freight cars at the mine. The freight on this car per ton is \$8.95. In this case Pennsylvania Anthracite Coal laid down in Omaha costs more than 81 per cent of its Omaha selling price.

Other coals are sold on similar margins by Omaha retailers, yet the retailer has to pay for handling of distribution, credits, selling expense and absorb the loss by shrinkage. Consider the narrowness of this margin, and consider, too, that the coal industry is not a twelve-month-per-year business.

Talk with your retail coal dealer—ask him for the facts about his costs—he will gladly tell you anything you may wish to know. There are no secrets.

THE ASSOCIATED RETAILERS of OMAHA