

Jewelry Box

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Spring 2017

A newsletter from

Joseph's Jewelry

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By Joseph Mirsky, Gemologist and Proprietor

www.jewelrynewsletter.com

Your community Jeweler for 30 years

Back to the Future

"No sir, the telephone will never become a competitor of the telegraph...The coming long-distance telephone will be a plaything, nothing more. Put a mark on the assertion." — The Advocate, Huntingdon, Quebec January 14, 1886, quoting the Cincinnati Commercial Gazette

"We are already on the verge of discovering the secret of transmuting metals...Before long it will be an easy matter to convert a truck load of iron bars into as many bars of virgin gold.

In the magical days to come there is no reason why our great liners should not be of solid gold from stem to stern; why we should not ride in golden taxicabs, or substituted gold for steel in our drawing room suites. Only steel will be the more durable, and thus the cheaper in the long run."

— Thomas Edison, the Miami Metropolis, June 23, 1911

"The coming of the wireless era will make war impossible, because it will make war ridiculous."

— Guglielmo Marconi, Technical World Magazine, October, 1912

"...for after the rocket quits our air and really starts on its longer journey, its flight would be neither accelerated nor maintained by the explosion of the charges it might then have left. To claim that it would be is to deny a fundamental law of dynamics, and only Dr. Einstein and his chosen dozen, so few and fit, are licensed to do that."

— The New York Times, January 13, 1920, commenting on rocket pioneer Robert Goddard's plan to send a rocket to the moon.

"Unless all the economic experts are off their trolleys, the spring of 1930 will see a tremendous flood-tide of prosperity, because the slight depression of the fall of 1929 was due to lack of confidence rather than economic reasons."

— The Literary Digest January 18, 1930, quoting The Emporia Gazette (Kansas).

"Most of the routine affairs of the world can be carried on by brainless robots, and why shouldn't they be? There are so many other more interesting things for

humans to do."

— America's Tomorrow, An Informal Excursion into the Era of the Two-Hour Working Day by C. C. Furnas, Funk and Wagnalls 1932.

Clifford C. Furnas (1900-1969) was the author of 11 books, Olympic athlete, taught chemical engineering at Yale, was an expert on guided missiles, president of SUNY Buffalo, and Assistant Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering.

But sometimes the graduate in futurology earns honors. I want to say one word to you. Just one word. Plastics:

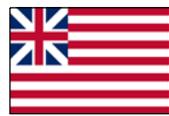
"So enthusiastic are the leaders in the plastic industry that they are already talking of the 'plastic age.'"

— The Literary Digest, January 2, 1932, quoting Barron's Weekly.

I refer you to my *Deep Thought* — Wisdom is knowing when smart people say dumb things.

The Star Spangled Banner

Listen up Vexillologists*, the original stars and stripes didn't have any stars to spangle. The Grand Union flag with the



British Union Jack in the upper left corner was hoisted by George Washington at his headquarters in Cambridge, Mass. January 2, 1776. The flag with stars was authorized by a resolution of the Continental Congress June 14, 1777, which didn't specify the stars in a circle. (That flag first appears in the 1779 portrait of Washington by Charles Wilson Peale.)

The famous painting of Washington crossing the Delaware December 25, 1776 was painted in 1851 and anachronistically uses the stars in a circle flag.

The stars didn't officially spangle until 1931 when President Herbert Hoover signed the law making The Star Spangled Banner the national anthem. Francis Scott Key's 1814 poem was set to the music of *To Anacreon in Heaven*, theme of the Anacreontic Society, an 18th century British club for amateur musicians named after bibulous 6th century B.C. Greek poet Anacreon, written by composer John Stafford Smith circa 1771.

* Vexillology is the study of flags.

The Stream of Time Rolls On

This year marks the 30th anniversary of Joseph's Jewelry. The store opened July 17, 1987 in the back of the mall and moved up front in 1991. This is also the 60th newsletter. The first one was in 1997.

So how old an old guy does this make me? Let's just say that Roosevelt (Franklin, not Teddy) was in Washington when I arrived in Philadelphia and I'm told I toddled in the VE Day parade. (Thanks, you're looking pretty good yourself.) The secret is designer genes.

Since it was so long ago, all the articles in this newsletter are from long ago, like half the book of the newsletters: Now and Then Again, The Way Were Were and the Way We Are.

You can get both halves of the book for \$16 at the store, \$16.95 on Amazon, and \$9.99 as an ebook. Links are on the top and bottom of each page of the web site.

Congress Bloc-Heads Meet in Conference

Headline reported in an article titled *Unintentional Humor in the Newspapers* in the Literary Digest January 10, 1925

What to Do With Your Down Time

"A strange place to play cards—the diving bell has been abandoned on the Thames in favor of the diving dress, principally because the men employed were found, while the Westminster Bridge was being built, to spend their time at the bottom playing cards, and there was, of course, no effectual means of keeping a check on them. It is not easy to play cards in a diving dress, alone, however, and the remedy has proved very satisfactory in its operation."

— American Artisan and Illustrated Journal of Popular Science May 16, 1866



14 karat white gold ring with tanzanite, 1.11 carat and diamonds, .21 carat total. \$795. See it in color on the web.

The Ugliest Angel

Nicknamed "The Angel" as a child for his angelic face, Maurice Tillet was born in Russia to French parents in 1903. His father died when he was young and Maurice and his mother emigrated to France in 1917 during the Russian revolution. He developed acromegaly from a pituitary tumor when he was 19 which caused grotesque deformation of his face and body.

He served in the French navy for 5 years, getting out in Singapore in 1937 where he met Karl Pojello (Karolis Požėla), a Lithuanian professional wrestler, who mentored him in the wrestling business. The two went to Paris for training. Tillet wrestled in France and England as "The Angel" for two years and did very well: "England's Ugliest Man Wins 180 straight Wrestling Matches" was the headline in Life Magazine September 4, 1939.

Pojello was born in 1893 in Lithuania and went to St. Petersburg to join his brothers in a pharmacy in 1906. He was the Russian amateur national champion and in 1913 he won an international tournament in Breslau, Germany (now Wrocław, Poland). He served in the Russian army in World War I and was wounded.

He learned ju-jitsu from a Japanese instructor in Shanghai, went to Japan in 1923 and won a ju-jitsu championship at Yokohama. Later that year he went to the United States and became a citizen. He was popular and successful, wrestling all over the country. In 1928 he won the world light heavyweight championship. He went to Europe in 1932 and won the heavyweight championship at Nottingham. He went back and forth to Europe and America several times, returning for good in 1940 with Tillet. They were in Italy when the war broke out and sailed for the United States on the Italian liner S.S. Rex on January 2, 1940, arriving in New York January 12. Pojello became Tillet's manager.

On January 24, 1940 Maurice made his debut at the Boston Garden. Harvard scientists were in the audience and asked him if he would submit to being measured. He was 5 feet 8½ inches tall, weighed 276 pounds and had a 47 inch chest, a 19½ inch neck and a huge face. "The collar bones and rib cage are the most massive I have ever seen", reported Time Magazine March 4, 1940 quoting one Harvard investigator.

Maurice held the American Wrestling Association World Championship title from 1940-42, going 19 months undefeated until he lost to Steve "Crusher" Casey and again in 1944 when he defeated Casey. Maurice was billed as the highest paid sports star by the Sandusky Register-Star News April 20, 1946. In 1947 he became a U.S. Citizen. There is a wonderful photo of him holding his certificate joyously grinning as a citizen of the greatest country on earth.

Jack Pfefer, a wrestling promoter, created the "Swedish Angel" and other "Angels" of various nationalities appeared on the scene, forcing Tillet to change his moniker from "The Angel" to "The French Angel". When Pfefer went to Tillet's dressing room in 1942 to arrange a match with the Swedish Angel, Tillet was so annoyed that he slapped Pfefer who then sued Tillet for \$30,000, saying the slap probably "caused brain concussion", but the court only awarded \$250 and the wrestling commission fined him only \$50, both minimal awards seen as secretly sympathetic to Tillet at the time.

Inseparable friends, Maurice and Karl with his wife Olga bought a mansion in Chicago, turned it into a boarding house, and lived in adjoining rooms on the first floor.

Maurice began deteriorating in 1945 and in 1953 he lost his final match in Singapore. On September 4, 1954, Karl Pojello died of lung cancer. Maurice, already suffering from heart disease, had a heart attack when he heard the news and died later the same day. They were buried next to each other on September 8 at the Lithuanian National Cemetery in Justice, Illinois with a common headstone.

It has been suggested that Maurice was the model for Shrek. An anonymous blogger who worked in the art department of Dreamworks while Shrek was being developed said that he had pictures on his wall of odd people including Maurice. Shrek did not reply to questions concerning his ancestry.



The Hills are Alive with the Sound of Music

William J. McConnell (1839-1925) was a farmer in the Payette River valley north of Boise in southwestern Idaho in the 1860's.

The Pickett Corral Gang were horse thieves and dealers in bogus gold dust in the area. McConnell organized the Payette Vigilance Committee which put the gang out of business, with McConnell fearlessly leading from the front. He then became a senator and governor of Idaho.

In 1903 he published a book, *Early History of Idaho*, a well-written straightforward account without the verbosity of many 19th century authors that details his exploits, modestly writing about himself only in the third person as the captain of the vigilance committee.

Occasionally the book is poetically eloquent. He describes the effect of an influx of emigrants from Missouri and Arkansas to Idaho in the summer of 1863:

"It was immediately noted by the young men that the rivers and the brooks which had heretofore gone silently on their way, made sweet music as they traveled over their pebbly beds; the birds sang more sweetly; even the clouds which swept the summer skies bore laughter on their wings. The magic which wrought such marvelous changes was a bevy of girls."

Splitsville

Gary, Indiana was originally supposed to be named Corey after William Ellis Corey, president of U.S. Steel which founded the company town in 1906 for its new plant. But Corey was in the middle of a messy divorce extensively covered in the press. This "unnecessarily alarmed sensitive capital" reported the Lyon County Reporter (Iowa) Jan 13, 1916.

After two trips to New York by a judge in the new town, Elbert Henry Gary, one of the founders of U.S. Steel was persuaded to give his name to the town.

Corey's wife Mabelle chose Reno, Nevada to file for divorce. After the required six month residency (now six weeks), she was granted the divorce July 31, 1906. The publicity of the divorce then made Reno the quickie divorce capital.

Deep Thought

No man's feet can ever be made to look so neat as a fashionably shod girl's, but they are always happier

— The Searchlight, Hardin, Montana
January 21, 1925

Old Wives Tale

Matrimonial Maxims

Addressed to the Fair Reader

This was the title of an article in The Montreal Gazette June 7, 1827. Eleven rules of the road for wives were given, summarized below.

1. Be good to yourself
2. Don't try to manage a husband
3. He's only human, so smile when he acts like a jerk.
4. Misfortunes are part of life and not his fault, so stop complaining. "It is the innate office of the softer sex to soothe the troubles of the other."
5. Always be cheerful and if you have a problem, don't take it out on him.
6. Don't argue with him, even if you're right.
7. A henpecked man is a disgrace to both of you, "implicit submission in a wife to the will of her husband is what she promised at the altar."
8. A woman's happiness "has no other foundation than his love and esteem."
9. Don't spend too much.
10. Never make him jealous.
11. "Let not many days pass, without a serious examination of your conduct as a wife."

Actually, most of this was cribbed from Benjamin Franklin's *Rules and Maxims for Promoting Matrimonial Happiness Addressed to all Widows, Wives and Spinsters*, some of it word for word, published in his Pennsylvania Gazette October 8, 1730.

But the article was too squeamish to put in this Franklin maxim:

"Let the tenderness of your conjugal love be expressed with such decency, delicacy and prudence, as that it may appear plainly and thoroughly distinct from the designing fondness of a harlot."

Fast forward two centuries; see Gender Bender below and Mad Woman right column.

Gender Bender

"Speaking of sex equality and who hasn't? ... a bride-to-be recently gave her friends a 'smoker' on the eve of her wedding, just as millions of 'Benedicts-to-be' have given their farewell stag parties."

"To continue this reversal of things, the bridegroom's friends then gave him a 'shower', such as is conventionally tendered brides."

This is from an article titled *Sex Equalizers Would Give Brides Smokers and Grooms Showers* in the San Jose News June 8, 1926.

The article tells of "George" and "Alice", a Manhattan couple. A dozen friends surprised "George" with gifts for

his shower: tools for household repairs, a house jacket, slippers, smoking needs, and "suspenders and garters in the new gala stripes, dots and dashes, modernistic desk odds and ends and a couple of fancy leather holders for novels."

Meanwhile, "Alice" hosted her friends, most of whom lived in the same building as her Greenwich Village studio, and they "strolled about in their smart pajama lounging suits, or 'smokers' as they are called now that they have a cute, separate coat."

In a "modern chatterfest" they talked of "why and how moderns are superior to the oldsters", whether they would have to give up friends the husband doesn't like, and "whether one should be a Lucy Stoner* and refuse to change her name after marriage."

"Alice" said she didn't have an urge to give "George" a diamond and anyhow she couldn't afford it. But if she wanted to give him a "blazing stone" and could afford it, she would.

* Lucy Stone (1818-1883) was an outspoken advocate for women's rights. She kept her own name after she married.

Lonely Suits

Semi-Ready "Lonely" Suits and Overcoats

Here is a sale worth while. For the discounts are clipped off as clean as the coupons from a gold bond.

The sale price shows an actual saving, not just an imaginary crossed-out price.

— Ad for men's suits, Quebec Telegraph, January 13, 1916.

The Semi-ready Clothing Company of Montreal furnished suits and overcoats to stores that were almost ready-to-wear. With "our system of physique types", the customer supplies a few measurements and the appropriate size is chosen at the final fitting stage of a tailor-made suit. Final alterations are made at the store and finished in a few hours. Price is half of a bespoke suit.

The company even had its own Canadian-made "Blunoz serge" cloth made exclusively for it.

The key is that rather than have one tailor make a suit, 35 or 40 specialists work on the various parts — "collars, sleeves, stitch-moulding, shoulders, interior construction, sleeve holes, etc."

"Lonely" suits are "odd suits and broken lines." The sale prices are at least a third off. And you would know it's "not just an imaginary crossed-out price" because the real price was on a label sewed into a pocket, typically \$15-\$35 (\$11.55 - \$27 U.S., \$185 - \$432 today.)

The Semi-ready company seems to have started its distribution around 1898 and was also registered in New York and New Jersey as early as 1902.

Mad Woman

An Advertising Man Who is a Woman — Title of an article in Printers' Ink, "a journal for advertisers", December 24, 1902.

Lillian Gertrude Keyes was in charge of advertising for the Semi-ready company (see *Lonely Suits*, left). This was so novel for the time that the article had to emphasize her femininity: "Not that she is a 'new woman' by any means, for the feminine note is strong in her dress and manner, and her personality is very far from severe or 'mannish'". And that she is "an advertising manager for men's clothing, and a very good advertising manager at that, the innovation is altogether suggestive and startling."

Keyes was in New York to oversee advertising for Semi-ready's first U.S. store at Broadway and 11th street with a hundred large hardwood wardrobes of suits and overcoats.

In Canada, Semi-ready sold to men who have never worn ready-made clothes. But when Keyes consulted Dun and Bradstreet for custom tailors with good ratings, she found very few, far less than in Canada. "Ready-made clothing is being perfected in Yankeeland and the custom tailor is being driven out of business." She said the New York store had been "remarkably successful" in the month it has been open.

Lillian Gertrude Keyes (1873-1915) was made head of advertising for a large Canadian Department store in 1899, also a first for a woman, before attaining that position for Semi-ready. She married James Hiram Collins, an editor at Printers' Ink in 1903. They had one daughter.

James Hiram Collins (1873-1966) remarried in 1918 after the death of Lillian. He went on to a career in journalism, working for the Saturday Evening Post and the Philadelphia Public Ledger as South American correspondent. He worked for the government for the Emergency Fleet Corporation and the United States Shipping Board during World War I. He wrote a number of books. Including *Human Nature in Selling Goods*, *The Story of Canned Foods*, and *The Great Taxicab robbery*,

Printers' Ink was founded in 1898 as the first national trade magazine for advertising. It went out of business in 1972.



Ring in 14 karat with rubies, .80 carat total and diamonds .11 carat total. \$699. See it in color on the web.

4/10/17 4/11/16 4/10/15

Gold	1250	1255	1208
Silver	17.94	15.56	16.55
Platinum	938	981	1171

You can get live precious metals prices on the web site.
Joseph's buys old gold for cash

The Times They Are a-Changin'

The Stream of Time

BY A.G. GREENE, ESQ.

"The ceaseless stream of Time rolls on"

Another of his years is gone,
To join the deep and boundless sea—
The ocean of Eternity.

Hour after hour, sun after sun.
Year after year—the stream rolls on.
Unnumbered myriads in the vast
Uncertain track of ages past,
Have lived, the creatures of a day;
The stream rolled on: and where are they?
Down to the dust in silence gone—
And still the stream of Time rolls on.

Millions, to Rome once bowed the knee,
Rome, ruled the world: and where is she?
A name, an empty name alone—
And still the stream of Time rolls on.

Those conquering nations, whose array
Once made earth tremble: where are they?
Kings, satraps, monarchs—they are gone:
And still the stream of Time rolls on.

— Farmers' Journal, and Welland Canal
Intelligencer, St. Catherines, Upper Canada,
April 19, 1826

Albert Gorton Greene was born in Providence, Rhode Island in 1802. He graduated from Brown University in 1820, studied law in a law office, and was admitted to the bar in 1823. He practiced law for ten years and then held a number of positions in the city government of Providence. The stream of Time rolled on for Albert Gorton Greene January 3, 1868.

After pondering eternity for an eternity, I asked Emily, my high-mileage used dog, to read the poem and she said it means we should live in the moment.

His Homeliness

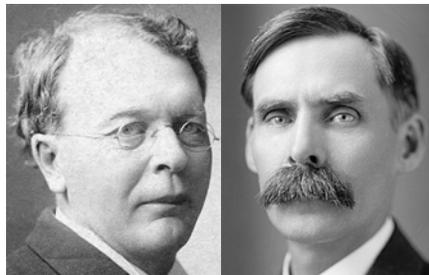
The homeliest man in Congress is Mr. Eddy, of Minnesota, and he rather prides himself on this fact. Some of his political adversaries once accused him of deceitfulness and hypocrisy, but he rose to the occasion. "They say I am two-faced," said Mr. Eddy, "Now, gentlemen", looking mournful and homelier than usual, "do you believe that, if I had two faces, I would be wearing this one?" This did up all his critics. — Friends Intelligencer and Journal (Philadelphia) first month 27, 1900

All Eddy needs to do is to get down there and smile. He has such a homely face that nobody can forget it when once they see it.

— New Ulm Review (Minn.) July 10, 1901

A January 20, 1904 article in the St. Paul Globe gives him the title "His Homeliness Frank M. Eddy."

Frank Eddy (1856-1929) was a Republican Congressman from Minnesota who served from 1895 to 1903. He was succeeded by Andrew Volstead, the father of Prohibition, who wasn't a looker himself. He looks like he needs a drink. See right.



Frank Eddy

Andrew Volstead

HOURS	
MON - WED	10 - 6
THU - FRI	10 - 8
SAT	10 - 6
SUN	Closed



14 karat white gold earrings. Sapphires .28 carat total, .02 carat diamonds total. \$250. See it in color on the web.

Wet Your Dry Whistle with This

The Volstead Cocktail

- 2 Parts Rye Whiskey
- 2 Parts Swedish Punsch
- 1 Part Orange Juice
- 1 Part Raspberry Juice
- 1 Dash Anisette

Fill a shaker with ice cubes. Add all ingredients. Shake and strain into a chilled cocktail glass.

"This cocktail was invented at Harry's New York Bar, Paris, in honor of Mr. Andrew J. Volstead, who brought out the Dry Act in U.S.A. and was the means of sending to Europe such large numbers of Americans to quench their thirst."

— Barflies and Cocktails, Harry McElhone, 1927

Fiddler on the Hoof

Rattlesnake rattles are put into violins to keep out insects, who are repelled by the rattle's smell.



Insects? Violins were often kept in a shed or barn rather than the home because it was the devil's instrument, an old superstition derived from puritanical beliefs about dancing to their music.

Violin virtuoso Niccolò Paganini (1782-1840) was widely rumored to have made a pact with the devil. Because of this and that he refused last sacraments a week before his death as premature, he was denied a Catholic burial by the church.

The devil is a virtuoso fiddler according to legend. Composer Guisepe Tartini (1692-1770) composed the Devil's Trill Sonata after he had a dream in 1713 in which the devil played his violin marvelously. In the Devil Went Down to Georgia, a 1979 bluegrass song by Charlie Daniels Band, Johnny the fiddle-player outplays the devil, keeps his soul, and wins the devil's golden fiddle.

Some say the rattle gives the instrument a sweeter tone. The father of bluegrass, Bill Monroe (1911-1996) kept a large rattle inside his mandolin to improve the sound by collecting dust and cobwebs by generating static electricity.

Protect your fiddle and your soul: \$14 for a mini rattle, \$25 for a large one online. Necklaces and earrings also.

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