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TAKE IT FROM DAD

By Frank H. Cheley

Is Real Recreation Ever Wrong?

"Bob, where are you off for tonight? This is a school night isn't it?"

"Yep, Dad, going to a little dance, but I'll be home early. All the gang are going. I won't be too late."

"How late, son?"

"Oh, I don't know—perhaps eleven or twelve."

"Went once before this week?"

"Yep, I did, Dad."

(A bit impatiently.)

"And once last week?" (All this in a quiet tone.)

"Sure, why not, a fellow has got to have some recreation when he's working and going to school."

"All right, son, run along. I'll be waiting for you. I have a good deal of reading to do tonight."

Bob looked at Dad a bit uncertainly and half reproachfully as he went out the door.

Mr. Smithough settled himself comfortably, but not to read as he had thought, but to think. The social pull had been pretty strong all the year. Bob, because of his friendly good humor was much sought after and was always in demand, and Mr. Smithough was certain the boy was quite badly overdoing his recreations to his detriment.

It was just twelve-thirty when Bob stepped in noiselessly and was at once embarrassed to see his Dad still waiting for him.

"Why didn't you go to bed, Dad? I'm sorry I'm a bit late."

"Waiting for you, son."

"Aren't angry with me are you, Pop. I got away as soon as I could."

"Not angry at all, Bob. Not at all—only concerned. You see it wasn't more than a thousand years ago that I was a popular young shik myself in high school, and I know perfectly what you are up against. This social pull is tremendous and all I'm anxious about is that you do not overdo it. Physical and nervous bankruptcy are very serious things and they overtake us before we realize it. I know you well enough to know that moderation is not one of your strong points and so thought we'd better talk things over. Bob, two dances 'till twelve, school and job is too much for you or any other growing boy. It means that instead of your fun being recreation that it is a steady drain on capital of strength and nerves—not enough sleep, not enough relaxation, too much excitement and a general lowering of vitality and poise."

"But, Dad, is real recreation ever wrong?" asked Bob, seating himself opposite his father. "I don't mean to argue with you, I really wish to know."

"The whole matter hinges on an intelligent understanding of just what true recreation is. I doubt if you have analyzed the thought carefully. There is a deal of difference between recreation, fun and amusement. Amusement in its popular sense is not a very worthy word. We Americans have gone amusement crazy with the coming of electric lights and mechanical music."

"Now, of course, we all need diversion from our regular routine in order to keep our balance and to keep from getting into a rut. Every man and boy, too, should have a constructive hobby that he pursues enthusiastically, but being certain that time and money so invested pays dividends in rested and re-invigorated bodies and minds—and Bob, what is recreation to one may be very far from it for another."

"True recreation re-creates, makes over, refreshes, revitalizes. Because there are many types and temperaments of people there must be as many types of recreation and each man must be his own judge. If he is fair with himself and is really in dead earnest about making his life count and finally coming into a worthy accomplishment he will watch his recreations to see that they do not de-vitalize him physically, mentally or morally."

"It is the unquestioned right of youth to be exuberant and happy. Such is the result of good health and a clear conscience, but happiness that abides is a by-product, son. Seek it deliberately and it vanishes."

"Your main job just now is getting your training for what you are to do and be in the future. That should be your consuming passion. Your ultimate success will depend upon a sturdy, well regulated health of body and mind and spirit. Recreation is only justifiable therefore as an assistant to what you desire to become—which means moderation."

"Perfectly all right to dance; to go to decent shows; to play cards occasionally; to shoot a game of pool in surroundings that are decent and respectable, but when everything else becomes subservient to your love of recreation and work so you can 'get drunk' it's all bad. Gradually you have increased the pace. You're tired to death this minute. You are more irritable than you were. Take it from Dad, boy, slow down!"

"Dad, you win. Thanks again. I see your point. What I need is a time table for my trains and to quit running so many 'fun specials.'"

"Righto, my boy, now let's go to bed."

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My Favorite Stories by Irvin S. Cobb

For Purposes of Concealment

NOT so very long ago the military attaché of one of these flywheel republics in Central America, where they are always having revolutions, came up to New York from the legation at Washington on important official business. Calling upon a military tailor on Fifth Avenue he explained his mission. There had been a change of administrations in his country—the first one, it would seem in nearly nine months—and the new government had decided to alter the uniforms of all branches of the national defense.

It was the visitor's purpose to give the contracts. He had brought with him special designs, hand-colored in the chosen effects. There ensued a busy time in the tailor shop. It would seem that the fancy of the Central Americans ran to startling contrasts in color and to much use of braid, buttons, rosettes, festoons and plumes.

Undress and full-dress had been selected for the navy, for the officers and men of the infantry, and for the artillery. Next, the attaché produced a drawing for a costume more gorgeous than any he already had shown. There was a cocked hat, rather resembling the kind worn by the Knights Templar in this country excepting that it was bright red in color with an adornment of vivid green parrot feathers floating out behind. There was a double-breasted blue coat heavily embellished with gold lace on the cuffs, sleeves, breast, collar and skirts. There were baggy, crimson riding breeches also, belaced down the seams. There was a pair of shiny black, patent-leather riding boots with an adornment of silver spurs and, for final touches, massive bullion epaulettes and white crossbriets finished off with bright buckles.

"Ah," said the dazzled tailor, "how very striking! I presume this uniform is to be worn by your cavalry?"

"Oh, no," said the attaché. "This is for our secret service."

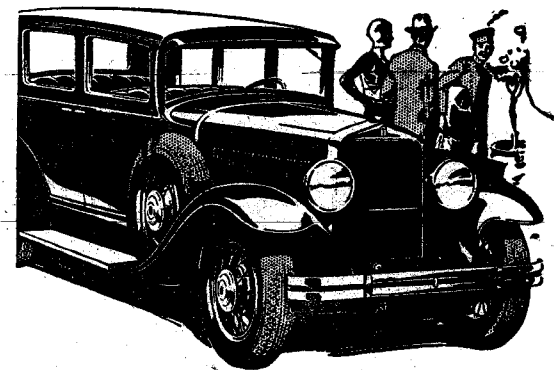
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NEW ROAD TO PHOENIX.

Officials of the county highway department have completed obtaining rights of way for Part 1 of the Fulton-Three Rivers state highway, to be placed under contract by the state highway department early this season.

Grants of land for the route were filed in the county clerk's office last week and everything is in readiness for the state department to proceed with obtaining bids and awarding the contract.

Last year the state department awarded a contract to the Rochester Construction company for building Part 2 of this highway and the work was started last fall.

The entire length of the highway to be rebuilt is about ten miles. Part 1 extends from the south city line of Fulton to the town line between Volney and Schroepel. Part 2 extends from the village of Phoenix to the Volney-Schroepel line.

The Rochester company will resume operations on the contract early in the spring. The only work done is grading for a new section near Phoenix, which will make it possible to eliminate two grade crossings on the Empire State railroad. Arrange-

ment has been made whereby traffic over the highway will be maintained while construction is in progress.

The only other state highway work that will be under way in Oswego county this year, as far as known at present, will be rebuilding the Route 3 through the town of Mexico. This is under contract.

NOTLEE-SHAFFER.

Announcement has been received in this city of the marriage of Miss Mildred L. Shaffer, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Torrence Shaffer of 416 Keystone avenue, Sayre, Pa., to Clifford A. Noltee, son of Mr. and Mrs. William H. Noltee of Jersey Shore, Pa., at the First Baptist church parsonage in Sayre on Thursday, Jan. 23d.

Mrs. Noltee formerly held a position with the Ingersoll-Rand Company at Athens, Pa. Mr. Noltee, since last August, has held the position of assistant manager of the Metropolitan store in South First street, this city.

They will make their home at 215 Utica street, this city.

ADVERTISE IN THE PATRIOT

MORE CHURCH MEMBERS.

Farmers who have seen rural churches almost dry up because of good roads leading from their communities into towns and cities, are often prone to think churches over the country are growing smaller in membership each year. A recent survey shows that Christian churches in America are in a very healthy condition and according to Federal census figures in the period of 1916 to 1926, there has been an increase in membership of more than 29 per cent.

The greatest gain in membership was made by the Roman Catholic church, which was closely followed by the Lutheran body. Each of these gained approximately over three million members in that period. The Baptists come third with a gain of a little over a million and a quarter and the Methodists came fourth with a gain of little less than a million.

Just a few of the denominations lost members, but the total showed a considerable gain.

However, the church still seems to have quite a field to work on when it is considered that less than one-half of the population of the United States are members of any Christian church.