

EVENTS IN THE COUNTIES BORDERING ON BAY OF SAN FRANCISCO

PERRY ANALYZES AMERICAN HUMOR

Editor and Critic Says Fear of Being Ridiculous Is One Explanation

Frontier Tavern Joke Springs From Same Source as the Society Bon Mot

BERKELEY, April 18.—The fear of being ridiculous of themselves, or their home town being out of tone with the prevalent conditions and culture of other parts of the country, is one of the penalties Americans pay for democracy, and is one of the reasons for American humor being what it is. Such is the opinion of Dr. Bliss Perry, the noted editor and critic, as expressed this evening at Hearst hall in his lecture on "American Humor."

Doctor Perry's international eminence makes his views of wide academic interest as a contribution to the literature on humor. This novel phase of current criticism is emphasized in periodicals of the United States and England. Editors and essayists are trying to identify jokes, new and stock, as belonging to one or other of certain catalogued kinds; critics are trying to analyze examples of humor to determine the ingredients or the elements that make for mirth and categorically to label in permanent fashion the various varieties of humor. Prominent in this kind of literature was Bergson's book on "Laughter," and Doctor Perry in his lecture tonight once or twice cited the great French philosopher in support of his own views.

LAUGH AT EACH OTHER

American humor, like American romance, had birth in the peculiar conditions of America. Doctor Perry insists Americans learned to laugh at each other before they learned to laugh at things. The man from Missouri, or from Oshkosh, laughed at because of his home and home customs, is therefore heir of the weals and woes of his backwoods or town bred ancestors. As Doctor Perry views it:

"The conception of humor as incongruity is particularly applicable to a new country. On the new soil and under the new sky in new social groupings, all the fundamental contrasts and absurdities of our human society assume a new value. We see them under a fresh light. They are differently focused. The broad humors of the camp, its swift and picturesque play of light and shade, its farce and caricature no less than its atmosphere of comradeship, of sentiment and daring, are all transferred to the humor of the newly settled country. "If it is true that the new country offers endless opportunities for the humor which turns upon incongruity, it is also true that the new country offers countless occasions for the humor which turns upon the sudden glory of superiority. The backwoodsman is amusing to the man of the settlements, and the backwoodsman in turn gets his full share of amusement out of watching the 'tenderfoot' in the woods. It is simply the case of the old resident versus the newcomer. The superiority need be in no sense of taunting superiority, although it often appears to be so. The humor of the pioneers is not very delicately polished. The joke of the frontier tavern or grocery is not always adapted to a drawing room audience, but it turns, in a surprisingly large number of instances, upon exactly the same intellectual or social superiority which gives point to the wits of the most cultivated and artificial society in the world."

HUMOR SOCIAL CENSURE

"There is another sort of American humor which has been of marked historical importance and which has never been more active than it is today—the humor, namely, of local, provincial and sectional types. Much of this humor falls under Bergson's conception of humor as social censure. It rebukes the extravagance, the rigidity, the unawareness of the individual who fails to adapt himself to his social environment. It takes the place in our categories of humor of those types of class humor and satire in which European literature is so rich.

"The mobility of our population, the constant shifting of professions and fixed class types of humor. We have not even the lieutenant or the policeman as permanent members of our humorous stock company. The policeman of today may be mayor or governor tomorrow. The lieutenant may go back to his grocery wagon or on to his department store. But whenever and wherever such an individual falls to adapt himself to his new companions, falls to take on, as it were, the colors of his new environment, to speak in the new social accents, to follow the recognized patterns of behavior, then the kindly whip of the humorist is already cracking round his ears."

ASSESSMENTS FOR PIEDMONT TREBLED

PIEDMONT, April 18.—After a canvass of all property lying within the confines of this city to readjust the assessments, Hugh Craig, president of the board of trustees, tonight presented his complete report of the board. It recommends that the city assessments for the coming year be made on the basis of an \$11,000,000 assessment, as against one of \$2,542,000 of last year. It recommends that the tax rate be reduced from \$2.83, the present rate, to \$1.09.

The property affected includes 1,100 acres, or the entire territory of Piedmont. Craig took action on obtaining a new appraisal after the passage of a resolution by the board of trustees authorizing him to do so. He selected a number of experienced contractors and master builders to assist him in appraising dwellings. They found 672 dwellings, 80 garages, 43 stables and 10 shacks. These were appraised at \$3,048,125. The appraisal on the same buildings last year was \$1,111,700. The committee found that at least 1,020 acres of the total land territory was undervalued. The assessment had been made at \$2,000 an acre, while the land could not be purchased anywhere for less than \$8,000 an acre. The report states that at the same time land which was subdivided into lots was selling at \$28,000 an acre and that the small lot owners were carrying the heaviest burden.

Pianist and Singer Who Are on Program For Women's Concert



Pupil of Kubelick's Teacher to Give Recital With East Oakland Musicians

OAKLAND, April 18.—A treat is being prepared for music lovers by the women of the Church of the Advent of East Oakland, who will give a concert at the Home club the evening of May 1. The concert will be under the direction of B. Walker Bours, musical director of the church, and will be followed by a dance.

Many brilliant instrumental and vocal numbers are promised. Miss Helen Patterson of Berkeley, the first American girl to study under the teacher of Kubelick, Otakar Sevcik, will be one of the artists. Austin Sperry, bass soloist of St. Dominic's church, will be heard in a selected number. Gilbert Coleman Farley will recite Longfellow's "King Robert of Sicily." Alfred Chaplin-Bayley, composer and organist of the Church of the Advent, will play Rossini's overture to "Barber of Seville."

Margaret Bradley, Jessie Murray and Henry L. Perry, all East Oaklanders, will contribute to the program. Miss Bradley will play Liszt's "Hungarian Rhapsody." Miss Murray will give two choice selections, and Perry in Schumann's "Two Grenadiers." Vail Bakewell will sing "The Springtime of Love," and Mrs. Perry, "The Passage Bird's Farewell." Miss Eva Gruninger and Miss Helen Allen will sing and Miss Mattie Walton and Edmund Leslie Taylor will assist as accompanists.

CALL ON HAZEL CAUSES SORROW

Mrs. Voshall Testifies She Wept Three Days When She Caught Husband

OAKLAND, April 18.—Three days' steady weeping was Esther Voshall's sole recourse when she said she found Frank Voshall making a Sunday afternoon call on a girl named Hazel. Frank was talking confidentially to Hazel, and Mrs. Voshall did not like it, according to her complaint for divorce. Voshall, in a cross complaint, accused his wife of hitting him on the head with a club and of neglecting their children. Voshall had his head bandaged in court today, but the injuries were due to a collision with a Key Route train, and not to Mrs. Voshall. Judge Murphy took the case under advisement.

An attack on the front door with an ax was the prelude to a general onslaught with the same instrument on the furniture when the door yielded, according to testimony by Georgiana Bell against William Bell. She said that he knocked her down while she was wheeling a baby carriage; that he hurled her against a hot stove and collected a crowd in front of the house by smashing a bottle of whisky on the sidewalk. Mrs. Bell got an interlocutory decree of divorce for cruelty.

WILD FLOWER DAY SET FOR SATURDAY

OAKLAND, April 18.—Wild Flower day at the free library is to be held Saturday. Expeditions have been made by the children of 40 schools and their floral gatherings placed on exhibition in the children's room at the library. They will remain in position, plainly labeled, from 9 o'clock in the morning until 3 o'clock in the evening. This custom has been in vogue each year since 1904, with the exception of the year of the fire in San Francisco.

OAKLAND THEATERS

BELL
SPECIAL MATINEE TODAY—LADIES ONLY ADMITTED. An opportunity for our Lady Patron to see the best of the season.

BOARD CHAIRMAN MAKES CHARGES

Majority Directors Accused of Partisan Politics and Thwarting Bunker's Efforts

BERKELEY, April 18.—Dr. William Conger Morgan, president of the board of education, speaking at a mass meeting at the Oxford school tonight, charged that the majority directors, against whom the recall has been directed, have embarrassed Superintendent Frank F. Bunker in his work when opportunity offered, and that the two socialist directors, Herman I. Stern and John A. Wilson, went on record in the beginning of the school controversy as determined to dismiss Bunker because he did not stand for socialistic principles.

Doctor Morgan charged Mrs. Elinor Carlisle particularly with thwarting the superintendent, saying: "The reasons why I am working against the re-election of the majority school directors are as follows: "For more than two years I have seen Director Carlisle endeavoring to embarrass the superintendent when favorable opportunity occurred, and, in my best judgment, I believe that this director has encouraged and abetted those fancying they had grievances, in order that friction might develop both in the department and outside."

"I have heard Director Stern state that he would oppose the retention of the superintendent because he did not represent the ideals that socialism stood for, although he admitted that Bunker was an exceptional organizer and executive officer and that he (Stern) approves of the policies which Bunker has introduced into the department. This statement was made in the presence of Director Wilson, who did not offer any objection to it, nor has he done so since. If any political party attempts to control the schools anywhere for the purpose of propaganda, political spoils and other reasons, with intelligent, right minded citizens everywhere I am against that party, whether it is branded or misbranded socialism."

Others who spoke at the Oxford school and other meetings for B. J. Bither, Mrs. Annie Little Barry and Samuel C. Haight, the citizens' candidates, were Dr. E. P. Lewis, Dr. E. E. Boone, Miss Fanchon Morse, Fred G. Athearn, Dr. Clifton Price and Charles B. Marks.

The majority directors held a mass meeting tonight at Athens hall, College avenue and Stuart street, where Mayor Wilson and Director Stern were speakers, and a precinct meeting at Mrs. W. A. Hunter's home, 1614 Grant street, where H. Cummings and Vincent Surr, spoke.

ALLEGED CIGAR THIEF JAILED BY DETECTIVES

George Thomas Said to Have Had Part in \$500 Robbery

OAKLAND, April 18.—Trailed from Niles to Oakland by Inyo county Sheriff Hodgkins and Thomas Gallagher, George Thomas was arrested today at Seventh street and Broadway on a charge of robbery. He is suspected of being one of two men who broke open a freight car near Niles a week ago and stole cigars valued at \$500, which had been shipped by the Franklin Gertz company, 510 Clay street, San Francisco.

Hodgkins and Gallagher had been working on the robbery, and found a number of caches between Niles and Oakland. The cigars had been hidden by the thieves under culverts along the right of way.

When Thomas was searched at the police station several boxes of the stolen cigars were found upon him.

WOMAN SCARES BURGLAR AWAY

Thief, Betrayed by Cough After Raid on Pantry, Is Forced to Flee

BERKELEY, April 18.—Burglaries continue despite the shooting two nights ago of Frank Ward, a burglar who broke into Dr. C. J. Frederick's home at 3036 College avenue. Ward is lying at Roosevelt hospital with four bullet wounds.

Two burglaries were committed last night, the boldest being at the home of Mrs. F. L. McCoy, 2229 Ellsworth street, where the thief was frightened away. The burglar, who was awakened by Mrs. McCoy, who switched on the electric lights. At this the intruder fled.

University Women Elected Members of The English Club

MISS CAROLYN WAITE



Occident and Pelican Staffs Are Named by Literary Society of Students

BERKELEY, April 18.—Nineteen members were elected and the staffs of the Pelican and Occident were organized for the coming year by the English club of the University of California. This is the foremost dramatic and literary organization on the campus. Its last venture was the Shakespearean festival produced this month, in which three high schools united with the university actors for a great Greek theater presentation.

The Occident is the monthly magazine of the university. The new staff, as designated to the English club, consists of L. A. Myers, editor; V. P. Collins, literary editor; Harmon Pohl, manager; associate editors—Roswell Ham, Kenneth Perkins, Harold Frasier, L. L. Levy, Deborah Dyer and Harriet Parsons; literary board—Evelyn Steel, Margaret Hodges, Margaret Glass, Dr. George A. Smithson, C. R. MacMinn and Rose Gardner; assistant editors—Doris Hutchings, Helen Cornelius, Mildred Hodge, Erma Taggart, Dorothy Kent, F. S. Faust, A. V. Amet and T. G. Luke.

The Pelican, the college comic paper, will be conducted by R. W. Jeans, H. A. Fletcher, L. A. Myers and A. R. Pohl. Of the new members, Prof. R. F. Scholz of the history department was made an honorary member and the following elected to regular staff: Alice McComb, Luita Stone, Maryly Krusi, Deborah Dyer, Carolyn Waite and L. L. Levy, who have been student actors; H. A. Fletcher and R. H. Pohl, who have been college journalists; Margaret Hodges, Evelyn Steel and Margary Glass, who have been women leaders in literary work; Dorothy Fish, V. F. Collins and F. H. Partridge, who have assisted in publishing the Occident and Gold; Milton Marks, J. G. Sweet and T. B. Kittredge, debaters, and Miss Grace Weeks, one of the cleverest art students at the university.

MANY CONTRACTS LET FOR WORK ON STREETS

OAKLAND, April 18.—The city council, upon the recommendation of W. J. Bacus, commissioner of streets, today awarded 13 contracts for several miles of street improvements. Most of the work will be paid for under the district assessment plan.

STREETCAR HOLDUPS HELD FOR THE COURTS

SAN LEANDRO, April 18.—Willie Dutra and Bert O'Brien were held to answer in the superior court on charges of holding up a streetcar by Justice Tronfemeir today. They confessed that they had robbed the motorman and had also attempted several other burglaries besides planning to rob the First National bank of San Leandro. Bail was fixed at \$5,000, in default of which they were remanded to the county jail. Dutra and O'Brien have confessed, but Daniel Joseph, whom they implicated denies that he took part.

DISAPPEARANCE REPORTED

Oakland, April 18.—The disappearance of Joseph Tyrone was reported to the police today by Fredrick Ott. Ott, a 16-year-old boy, described as 16 years old, 5 feet 5 inches in height, dark complexion, black hair, brown eyes. He had applied for a job but had been refused because of his small stature.

WOMEN PREPARE TO BEAUTIFY OAKLAND

Prominent Members of Clubs Organize a Committee to Conduct Work

OAKLAND, April 18.—The first steps toward the beautification of Oakland and its environs for the coming of the Panama-Pacific exposition in 1915 were taken here this afternoon, when a number of prominent clubwomen of this city met in the rooms of the Chamber of Commerce and formed the city central civic beauty committee. The meeting was attended by 25 women known in the club and social world of Oakland.

Those elected to fill the offices of the organization were: President, Mrs. Cora L. Jones; secretary, Mrs. Zoe Green Radcliffe; and treasurer, Mrs. John J. Valentine. The president of every woman's organization in the city will be a vice president of the committee. The meeting was called by Mrs. Thomas Hogan, who acted as temporary chairman. Addresses were made by Secretary A. A. Denison, O. A. Prager, Mrs. Paul Holmes of Upper Fruitvale, Mrs. J. E. Spencer, president of the Federated Women's clubs, and Mrs. N. C. Lane. Secretary Denison advised the women to form a strong organization and work to gain the co-operation of the city council and officers, the Chamber of Commerce and every civic organization in the city.

SITE CHOSEN FOR BURBANK GARDEN

OAKLAND, April 18.—Following a visit to this city of Luther Burbank, the "plant wizard," announcement has been made that the Burbank seed and plant demonstration station is to be established in Oakland. Burbank came here to inspect the site and arrange for its purchase under an agreement by which he is to be relieved of the disposal of his plant novelties and left free to devote his energies to creative work.

The site selected consists of seven and a half acres in the Broadmoor tract on the new Melrose extension of the Southern Pacific company near the boundary line between Oakland and San Leandro. It will be made the central depot, propagating plant and demonstration depot for the Burbank creations, and the work of laying out the grounds and constructing the buildings will proceed without delay.

The station will be thrown open to the public without charge, and the attention to visitors that has been lacking in the Santa Rosa retreat of the Burbank garden will be given freely here. It is intended to make the Burbank demonstration in Oakland equal in scientific interest to the famous Kew gardens in England and Shaw's garden in St. Louis. The grounds will be laid out in lawns, with flower beds, fountains and experimental gardens, and are expected to attract tourists at all times, and especially during the Panama-Pacific exposition. The site was selected through the Oakland Chamber of Commerce, in co-operation with Burbank.

CIRCUIT BUYS SPRINGS

SAINT LOUIS, April 18.—Louis Criples of San Francisco has taken a lease of the Kawana springs property, just outside of the city limits, on Taylor mountain, and is preparing to open it as an up-to-date summer resort May 1. The property was formerly known as White Sulphur springs.



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We have lately purchased two large tracts of land within the City Limits of Oakland, which we are preparing to place on the market, and we will soon have a most interesting announcement to make in this connection.

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