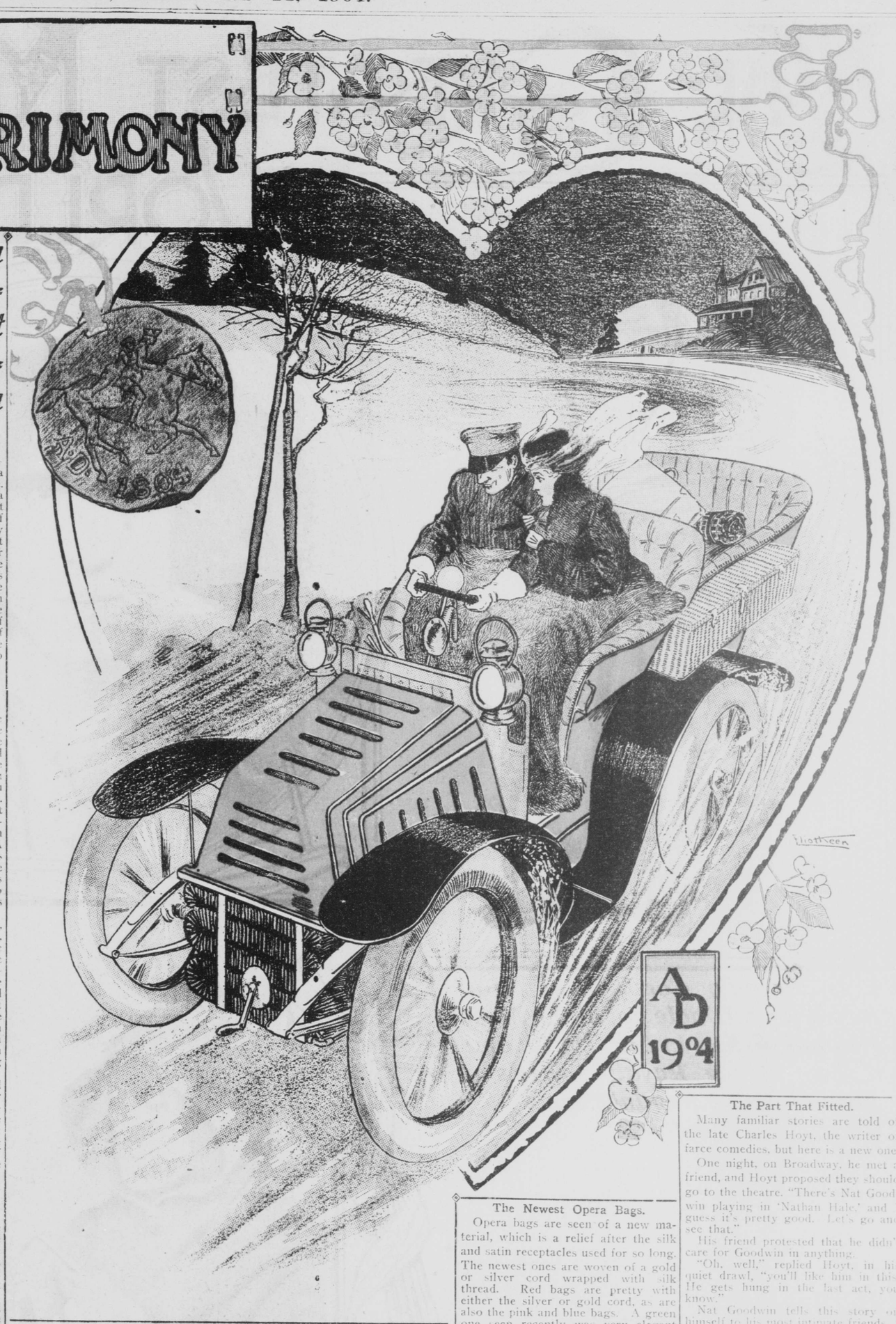
MOTORING to MATRIMONY

Undoubtedly the Automobile Is Playing a Large Part in the Affairs of the Heart---It Is Also Becoming An Important Factor in Honeymoon Happiness---Something About the Accessories of a Honeymoon Tour



THE motor car is not alone making its manufacturer a millionaire. It is the latest matrimonial promoter. It is responsible for the beginning of many a romance since it began its career of streaking along American highways, to the amazement of the man in the fields.

The part that the automobile is playing in affairs of the heart may be accounted for in several ways. Perhaps its possession by the young man is a strong argument in behalf of his ability to take care of a wife in a highly creditable manner. Perhaps its fleetness insures no interruption to the proposal. And still again, perhaps, a red touring car has the same romantic fascination for the young lady in question that the red sled of her school boy sweetheart exercised over her when her dresses reached only to her knees.

A Society Matron Says More Romances Are Made in Motor Cars Than in Drawing-Rooms Nowadays

But whatever the cause, more romances, according to a well-known society matron of New York, "are begun in a motor car than in the drawing-room these days; and, really, every time I see a big touring car standing in front of a house where I know there are girls of marriageable age, I now look for the announcement of an engagement a little later on."

To all couples so brought to matrimony by its aid, the motor car is a serious essential to honeymoon happiness. It is to Jack and Janet in 1904 what the pillion or the post-chaise was to Edwin and Edwina in 1804, only it is a lot more comfortable, more speedy and more really romantic than any of the old style conveyances favored of lovers.

In other words, the matrimonial motor car is just about the acme of cosy luxury and a realization of what the poet meant when he talked about being borne away on the wings of love.

That is, of course, provided you get a first-class car and have it fitted up in the completest style, and map out your road itinerary with judgment and an eye to the beauties of nature, and take the woman of your choice and of your heart into the secret of your plans with you.

The Groom Must Tell the Bride of the Motor Honeymoon for Trousseau Reasons

Do not, as you hope for happiness, attempt to spring a motor car honeymoon on your newly-made bride. She won't fall in with your ideas, or even step into your car, if you do. You must, on the contrary, confide to her, in the early weeks of your engagement, made in the very same one, perhaps, in which you hope for a honeymoon tour, that you scheme of bliss is to whirl her away from the altar your twenty horse power automobile and spend at least a fortnight exploring, in her exclusive company, the queer lanes and highways new of some particularly beautiful part of the country.

She will like that, because she can plan her wedding and her trousseau accordingly, because it is just about the most fashionable idea going, and because she really relishes the prospect of flashing through the country, at the rate of thirty miles an hour, at your side.

Of course, there are, then, two means open to you by which you can gratify her fancy and your own. You can rent a guaranteed machine and a chauffeur warranted to know the roads and never look behind him. Then you can sit in the roomy tonneau and enjoy the society of Janet to the brim.

But that is not the enterprising nor the modish way. You should rent or own your car and run it yourself, and you must devote at least three weeks to active preparation for the trip.

If you don't know how to steer, brake, pack, oil, clean and mend a horseless carriage, you should learn, and furthermore, you should let your bride-to-be learn also. She will wish and demand to be taught, because on the tour she is sure to want to take turns with you at the wheel. In a couple of weeks she can get such an intelligent grasp on transmission, jump sparks, splash lubrication, carburetters and claw couplings that you'll wonder whether you are not about to marry a mechanical genius.

She will also learn how to slide into a set of overalls and crawl under the chassis and investigate any mechanical difficulty, and in the end, if she is just the right sort, you will hardly ever need the assistance of a repair shop man when she is by your side.

Take Care to Start With the Automobile in Tip-Top Condition

But, provided both you and your fiancee are expert motorists, you must still devote some little time and some trifling expense, prior to the opening of the honeymoon, to putting the car in special touring order. If your car is a possession of some months' standing, it is necessary to send it to the shop for tuning up, no matter how excellent its condition may be.

Order every inch of the machinery examined and the brass trimmings burnished and lacquered. If the upholstery is only tarnished the least bit and the body varnish merely touched here and there, you are still justified in having the whole body recovered and repainted.

In case you are a motorist of reputation and abundant cash, and you are purchasing a new car with a view to honeymooning therein, you need only hint to the car's manufacturer of the first use which you wish to make of it, and he will send your new, grand, low-swung phaeton to your father-in-law's door, on the wedding day, looking like a mighty steed that has been groomed to the point of perfection.

For spring honeymoon tours, it is the fashion this year to paint the cars gray green with gilt lines sparingly introduced, though white and gold is a standard combination ever in high favor.

The upholstery in a car of the first mentioned color is of leather, in a tone that matches the body, and the bride lets the color of the car predominate in her choice of a going-away gown.

There Must Be Plenty of Room in the Tonneau for the Bride's Luggage

When your order goes forth for the purchase of a powerful and handsome new car, or the retouching of your old one, it is of vital importance to consider its special arrangement with a view to accommodating luggage. There is no third party shipped for a honeymoon tour; the passenger list includes only two, and the state of their minds is such that they usually prefer to sit side by side on the front seat. Therefore, the tonneau is your baggage-room. The bride's little wicker trunk goes into that. It is made of materials to match the basket-work used elsewhere for lunch baskets, tool cases, etc. Her little wicker trunk just fills the bottom of the tonneau, and it holds a change of clothes and a hat, all of them suitable for wear at hotels that you repair to along the route for dinner.

The Honeymoon Costume of Bride and Groom Is Warm and Comfortable

On top of the bride's trunk goes the suitable rugs and rain overalls and the dust coats for both of you. There are always three weights of rugs supplied with a well-equipped motor car. The fur set is Siberian dog, unless you aim to follow the style, and then you adopt the more expensive coon skins. A coon skin rug for a really smart car is left undyed and shows a handsome decoration of dangling coon tails at intervals along the sides. A coon-skin coat with tail decorations on the collar is what the masculine motorist wears, to accord with his costly rug, and a Daniel Boone cap and coon-skin gloves completes his outfit.

The bride at his side wears a long, green cloth coat lined with coon skin, which, however, overflows on to the exterior of collars or cuffs. Or she can be still more bride-like by wearing ermine, a French motor cap of the white fur and a double curtain veil of chiffon. Her muff is always a part of the rug over her knees, because she thus aids in holding the fur robe in place. To keep her little feet warm she puts on moccasin-shaped high boots of fur that have tops reaching clear to her knees.

All these details for comfort and convenience the owner of the motor supplies, and he also bends his intellect long and painstakingly upon the question of the tour itself. He must know where he is going and how, he must also be sure to get the use of good roads and the privileges of the best hotels en route.

The Best Man Has Important Duties in the Arrangement of the Tour

As the best man of the average groom is a motorist of experience, he conspires with the benedict over the itinerary, with a view to selecting a route that will be safe and pleasant and sufficiently retired from the track of the average tourist.

A honeymoon motoring tour should not last longer than one week, and the course laid out for the car is kept a profound secret from all the rest of the world—even from the bride.

The best man, who knows how to inspire real gratitude, has the whole tour beautifully mapped out by an expert on a big sheet of stout, white glazed linen. This he has bound in heavy parchment covers, on which he orders etched the name of the bride and groom beneath the sentence, "Our Wedding Tour."

HERE'S A JOE JEFFERSON STORY

ONE of the many stories told of Joseph Jefferson is that of an interview he had with some children in Detroit, Michigan. Three little girls of ten years or more old were incurably stage struck. At home their yearnings were not greatly encouraged, so that the trio had become a mutual consolation society.

When they heard that Mr. Jefferson had come to town they resolved, in solemn council assembled, to ask his aid and advice. For several days they made good their escape from their homes, not wishing to confide in the unsympathetic, and hung about the stage door. Discouraged by not catching a glimpse of the actor, they wrote him a letter explaining their ambition and their trials. His reply, telling them to be at the stage door after the next matinee, sent them into paroxysms of delight.

When he appeared they were so breathless that they were hardly able to acknowledge their identity.

As they walked along by his side toward the hotel, he asked them several questions and listened to the replies with the utmost gravity. Then he turned to them.

"Do you know," he said gently, "that the first and most important thing is for an actress to have a splendid education? The more she knows the better chance she has of being a great actress. You girls are much too young to think of the stage yet, but you are old enough to read and study."

For many months the memory of those words acted as a spur to their energies, and now after years have passed two recall the interview clearly and affectionately. The third girl was in a fair way to realize her histrionic ambition when death overtook her.

Had Mr. Jefferson made fun of their confession, they would have gone away hurt and unsatisfied. Instead, he taught them in a few words a lesson they never forgot—that long and earnest preparation is the only pathway to success.

A MISLEADING CABLEGRAM

The senior partner of a Chicago brokerage firm was traveling abroad, while the junior, his brother, was spending the summer in a Wisconsin summer resort. One day a cablegram came from the former, and the man in the office opened it. The words made no sense to him, and he turned immediately to the firm code. He was startled to find that even with the code he could make no translation of the words. He spent several hours in a diligent search through all the ciphers which might possibly have been used. But at last, chagrined and worried over his failure and the delay, he called up the junior member over the long distance telephone.

An hour or more passed before the connection could be made, each minute of which found the confidential man more annoyed and unhappy over the delay. Even a short time might mean great loss if the business were important.

At last his chief's voice responded to the call.

"Have you and your brother a private code?" questioned the employee anxiously. "I can make nothing of his message by the firm or any other cipher."

"Read it," was the reply.

"'—— Norway, Pancakes Good.'"

A roar of laughter came from the wire.

"That's no code," said the junior partner. "I was in that same town one summer, and I told them if they missed the pancakes there they'd miss the finest thing in Europe. He's just letting me know they didn't."

The Newest Opera Bags.

Opera bags are seen of a new material, which is a relief after the silk and satin receptacles used for so long. The newest ones are woven of a gold or silver cord wrapped with silk thread. Red bags are pretty with either the silver or gold cord, as are also the pink and blue bags. A green one seen recently was very elegant with the gold cord interwoven. These bags are lined with India silk of a contrasting color, and they come in all shapes, sizes and colors.

The Part That Fitted.

Many familiar stories are told of the late Charles Hoyt, the writer of farce comedies, but here is a new one.

One night, on Broadway, he met a friend, and Hoyt proposed they should go to the theatre. "There's Nat Goodwin playing in 'Nathan Hale,' and I guess it's pretty good. Let's go and see that."

His friend protested that he didn't care for Goodwin in anything.

"Oh, well," replied Hoyt, in his quiet drawl, "you'll like him in this. He gets hung in the last act, you know."

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