

This Rock Of Ours

By Bill Gibb



George Eliot, (Mary Ann Evans), once wrote: "Blessed is the man who, having nothing to say, abstains from giving in words evidence of the fact."

I'd like to have that sentence printed in bold face type and hand it in to the editor on days like this. He'd probably say, "Amen! But columnists are supposed to be damned rather than blessed so get on about your job of turning in some copy."

They tell me that gambling (bo-
hita) has been closed down for a few weeks up at Marathon. I'm told that it was a voluntary closure on the part of the operators who felt that prudence was the better part of valor until after the May primaries. This may be true but an awful lot of Key Westers are going to be provoked. Now they have no way to look forward toward getting rich except through Saturday's Cuban lottery.

I'm neither for nor against gambling. It appears to me to be mighty foolish to get worked up over the illegality of various chance-taking games when the State has a good argument because it takes a whopping big slice of all bets placed. If you and I were able to pass laws, I guess we'd adopt the same attitude — we'd be 'agin' anything that didn't funnel a little cash into our pockets. To heck with the moral laws which we attempt to shove down our children's throats!

When I was a kid at the Key West high school, we went through a short stage of playing poker in an abandoned house where the Dairy Queen store now stands. It was a "short stage" because those

old mean teachers at school soon found out about our lunchtime activity and put a stop to it. However, in those days, Key West was wide-open. Any kid over twelve years old could go into the gambling halls along Duval St. and get into a Black Jack or Umbrella game. (Kids under twelve didn't frequent these places because they couldn't reach over the top of the gambling tables.) These conditions probably led to the formation of the above-mentioned poker games at school.

It must be puzzling to the younger generation of today — just as it was to us — to be denied the right to gamble from a moral standpoint and yet know that the State sanctions it legally if you're over twenty-one years of age and donate a portion of the "pot" to the same said State. The situation is as idiotic as the State's privilege to tell a young man that he is old enough to fight and kill but still too immature to cast a vote and therefore determine under what conditions he is going to do this fighting and killing.

For that matter, what drastic change distinguishes a twenty year old youth from a twenty-one year old so that the latter can drink beer while the former has to be content with asparilla? The mentally mature man of eighteen can indulge in alcoholic beverages when the same stuff is dynamite to the man of forty with an adolescent or immature personality.

Don't ask me what the answer is to these kind of problems. I guess lines of demarcation have to be drawn and our civilization hasn't reached the point where it can do

so justly. The trouble is that any hope for a solution to these problems in the future must come from our educators and we've never been too particular about giving these men and women proper assistance with their work. As a matter of fact, we have a tendency to stymie their efforts by doling out niggardly salaries and laughing at what we call their idealistic, impractical suggestions.

Incidentally, and aside from the above meandering, the Masons are sponsoring Public Schools Week at this time in Key West. Gerald Adams has explained the objective as, "to acquaint all our people with the programs and accomplishments of our public educational system." We have reason to be proud of the advancement and growth of our schools here in Key West. The folks responsible for this improvement are still working under terrific handicaps and are faced with the immense task of trying to take care of an ever-growing school-age population without having the necessary physical equipment such as buildings, etc., to do so properly.

You readers who want to see a better Key West might take the time out to investigate our local educational problems.

Bandleader's Life Story Is Based On Fact

"The Glenn Miller Story," Universal-International's Technicolor production of the great bandleader's life-story opening Thursday at the Strand Theatre, is one of most factual biographies ever filmed.

Of the top 27 speaking roles in the picture only three are fictional — a pawn-shop operator, a girl singer and an Army officer. Producer Aaron Rosenberg, who gathered together almost all of the actual personalities who shared in the 20 last years of Miller's career, says:

"We used three fictional characters only because we couldn't run down the identification of these people. Actually, they do represent real-life persons."

Those three were the pawn shop owner where Miller actually hocked his trombone before getting his first big chance with Ben Pollack's band in 1925; a girl singer whose lackadaisical style spoiled the public debut of Miller's celebrated "Moonlight Serenade"; and the officer in the Army dispatcher's office at Orly Field, France, who first revealed that Major Glenn Miller was missing on that ill-fated military flight across the English Channel in December, 1944.

James Stewart, the popular choice of Miller fans for the title role, plays Glenn Miller, with June Allyson co-starring as his wife, Helen. Charles Drake portrays Don Haynes, Miller's manager, and Henry Morgan acts the role of Chummy MacGregor, Miller's piano-playing pal. The real-life Haynes assisted on the script and MacGregor acted as technical advisor. Ben Pollack, the bandleader, Gene Krupa, Louis Armstrong, Frances Langford, The Archie Savage Dancers and The Modernaires make appearances in the picture as themselves.

Real-life Glenn Miller effect used in "The Glenn Miller story" include an exact copy of Miller's rimless eyeglasses, the maestro's own trombone and the Miller Orchestra music stands.

There are about 1,900 million acres of land in the United States.

An early Hindu law code made a person deaf from birth incapable of inheriting property.

Tattoo Suggested To Denote Any Drug Allergy

By ALTON L. BLAKESLEE
AP Science Reporter
CLEVELAND (AP) — Suppose you're one of the many people who becomes dangerously allergic to penicillin or some other drug.

And suppose you're hurt and knocked unconscious. Could a doctor unwittingly give you the drug which is bad for you?

A little tattoo — put in a place which even a bikini bathing suit wouldn't reveal — could be your vital protection, a physician suggests.

The tattoos, perhaps the size of a penny, could be squares or triangles or other symbols or letters of the alphabet, representing some specific drug or condition. The meaning of each symbol would be known, by prior agreement, to all doctors.

Identification cards in your wallet or pocketbook, or dog tags around your neck, could do the same thing. But you might lose the cards or forget to wear the dog tags on the day of some disaster, or automobile accident.

The tattoo system could be a more scientific way of carrying your medical warning against a drug or treatment which would give you a very bad reaction or might even cause your death, said

Escaped Convict Is Sentenced For Murder Of Youth

FLORENCE, S. C. (AP) — A 38-year-old Negro escaped convict was sentenced yesterday to death in the electric chair for the murder of a youth whose body was found in a well with the severed head of his young girl friend.

An all-white jury was out 1 1/2 hours before finding Raymond Carney guilty. At the end of the one-day trial, State Circuit Judge Steve C. Griffith set the execution May 7.

Police said Carney admitted the double slaying of H. B. Allen, 22, of Latta, and Betty Clair Cain, a pretty 15-year-old schoolgirl, near Pamplico. The couple disappeared while on a date Dec. 6.

The girl's headless body was found the following day. Two days later, Allen's body was found in a well three miles away. With it was the girl's head, wrapped in a coat.

Officers quoted Carney as saying he grew panicky while attempting to rob the couple as they sat in a parked car and shot them. Police said Carney told them he cut off

Glad For Arrest

WATERVILLE, N.Y. (AP) — At his arraignment on a charge of speeding, Richard C. Wolff of New York City turned to Deputy Sheriff Arthur Pughe and said:

"I want to thank you. You may have saved my life and perhaps the lives of others. I had been to a sports show in Syracuse and was driving back home to attend another. I guess I just was not thinking. But thanks for arresting me. I guess I'm lucky you did."

Peace Justice Basil Crandall fined Wolff \$10.

the girl's head to prevent identification.

Carney was tried only for the Allen slaying. He had pleaded innocent. After the verdict, Le said, "I ask only for mercy, that's all." There was no indication whether he would appeal.

Sheriff John Hanna testified Carney made his confession shortly after his capture near Johnsville Dec. 19 because "he wanted to get right with God."

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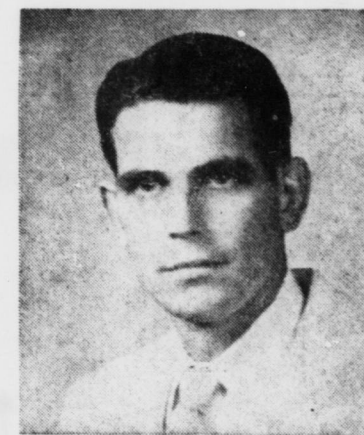
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