

Home Town Helps

SLABS PROTECT THE GRASS

Ornamental Garden Walk of Peculiar Design Has Been Found to Serve Purpose Admirably.

An old Dutch method of making ornamental garden walks was to form tessellated patterns by the use of concrete slabs in combination with the grass sod. The owner of extensive grounds at Colorado Springs has used this method for the construction of



The idea of "Watch Your Step" Has Been Used Literally by a Western Gardener in Laying Out His Walk. Stone Slabs Have Been Placed in the Middle of the Turf.

what he calls a "watch your step" walk. The slabs are placed in the turf so that they correspond to the footsteps of a person walking along the garden path, and it is possible to traverse the whole length of it without stepping on the grass.—Popular Mechanics Magazine.

SCENERY MARRED BY SIGNS

Public Justified in Taking Strict Measures to Put a Stop to Growing Nuisance.

Everywhere the motorist travels the natural beautiful scenery is marred by glaring signs, not only small boards but immense structures often a hundred feet or more in length and twenty or more feet in height.

Just at a bend in the road where the tourist expects to have a fine view sweeping over a broad valley the scene is completely cut off by a monstrous and offensive structure covered with a glaring advertisement.

At some points both sides of the road will be lined with these unsightly and ugly advertising walls.

In England the disfiguring of fences, buildings and other places with signs is prevented by law on the ground that the good taste of the people is offended and the landscape disfigured.

Some of the worst offenders are manufacturers who are interested in the development of motoring. They have boarded up the roadways along the whole eastern part of the United States, much to the annoyance of motorists and the disfigurement of the landscape.

If the nuisance cannot be stopped any other way, motorists can at least agree not to patronize any concern aiding in detracting from the natural beauty of our country and the pleasure of the public.—New York Sun.

Writer Waxer Sarcastic.
The trustees of the city of Roseville, Calif., have clearly no eye for art. At first, it may seem as if they were justified in refusing permission to a certain advertising firm to erect billboards within the city limits. But then there were no ordinary billboards—at least, so the advertising firm declared. They were in fact, "beautiful panels, real works of art." Yet the city trustees refused. Worse and worse, the women of Placer county, in which Roseville is situated, have banded themselves together to prevent the erection of any more billboards in Placer county, whether in the form of "beautiful panels" or otherwise. It seems strange, but then some people are notoriously blind to their privileges.—Christian Science Monitor.

Woman in Civic Affairs.
There is promise of better things for Connecticut in the fact that the League of Women Voters of that state has sent out a questionnaire befitting the slogan, "Know Your Own Town." This should be well worth doing for the information to be obtained, intended for the local communities, and as a basis of future state legislation. But no doubt the most important factor in the activity is, as the workers seem to think, the awakening among women of an interest in civic affairs. The neighborhood is certain to hold interest for anyone, and so is a good starting point.—Christian Science Monitor.

Seattle Saves Money.
Seattle, Wash., is saving its citizens approximately \$1,000,000 a year by reason of the lower rates it enjoys for electricity through its municipal plant. The retail rate is 6 cents per kilowatt hour, whereas the rate under private ownership was 8½ cents.

TOO STARVED TO BE HUNGRY?

There Comes a Final Stage in the Horror, When Taste for Food Is Lacking.

I cannot quite bring myself to tell tales of famine horrors—the monkey-faced, pop-eyed babies tugging hungrily at the cold breasts of dead mothers lying on the frozen ground; the piteous old women and the stoical men; the incredibly deformed starving waif whom I picked up outside of the city of Tsing-kiangpu; the boy on the wall of Chinkiang who was carrying home a starved cat for food, and in response to a query, tried so hard to sell it to me as a delicate morsel, and such general concomitants as the incidence of smallpox plague with the famine.

One of the unexpected aspects of work in the famine camps came when I was accompanying Mrs. Paxton of Chinkiang as she made rounds to distribute medicine to the sick among the hungry. As a matter of fact, relatively few persons ever die in a famine directly from actual hunger, but rather from diseases induced by malnutrition.

Obligingly, Mrs. Paxton freely translated for me as we went along, and we found, in pathetic paradox, that the commonest request of these starving creatures was for medicine to give them an appetite! Even when they succeeded in getting a bowl of food from the relief station, ran the repeated tale, they could not eat it, having no taste for food.

To us this meant, obviously, that the sufferers had reached the final stages, where craving for food had passed away. They were not hungry, because they were starving!—William T. Ellis in the Outlook.

NEW TOY FINDS MUCH FAVOR

Parisian Children Hail With Joy Idea Which Has Been Imported From Central Borneo.

The latest toy which Parisian children are buying, and which threatens to displace the scooter in popular favor, is a modern form of the old "jumping stick."

The new "jumping stick," which is called a "pogo," is more scientific than its predecessor, which was nothing more elaborate than a single stilt with two rests for the feet.

It is made with an india rubber pad and with a strong spring, which enables its possessor to take a series of leaps without jar.

The pogo was first found in use, in a primitive form, among the Dyak natives of central Borneo, who gave it that name. It was a stick with a cross-piece, on which certain favored young men used to perform a kind of dance at sacrificial ceremonies.

As the chiefs took charge of the pogos after the ceremony, hiding them until the next occasion for their use, it was very difficult to obtain them, but a French traveler who saw the dance in progress, described them on his return to Paris. From his rough sketch the new Paris toy has been made.

"Mounties" In With Dominion Police

Under an act of parliament the Royal Northwest mounted police of Canada was merged with the Dominion police May 1, 1920, with jurisdiction throughout Canada, and known as the Royal Canadian mounted police.

The Dominion police was a small body of men, the uniformed members of which were employed largely in guarding the parliament buildings, the mint and other government structures in Ottawa. To it was attached a number of highly trained experts, skilled in dealing with international criminals and their schemes, and having knowledge of the finger print system. These are now all members of the Royal Canadian mounted police, under the command of Col. A. Bowen Perry.

The force is now recruited to its prewar average of 1,200. Canadian government officials hope soon to be able to increase it far beyond that number, but the dominion's war debt has to date made that impossible.

Facts Concerning Eels.

Whence the eel comes and whither it goes is the text for an erudite piece of which American Consul Dennis at London claims authorship in a cablegram to Secretary Hoover.

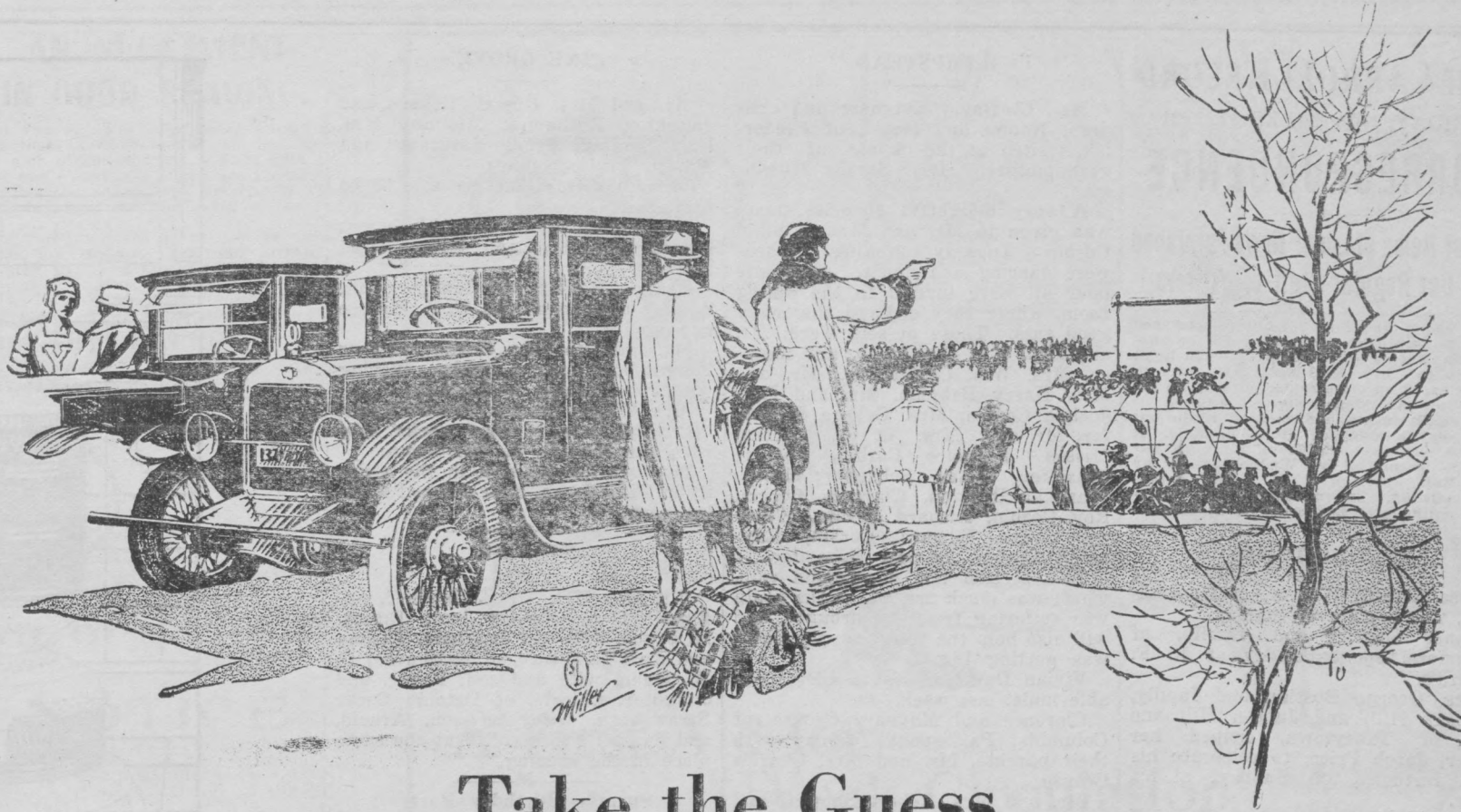
Quaint belief that the eels were miraculously born of horsehairs dropped into ponds from horses' tails is entirely dispelled by Mr. Dennis, who comments upon research work by Doctor Smith, Danish scientist.

The eel's life history, an unfathomable mystery twenty years ago, thus for the first time is made a wide open book, and Mr. Dennis warrants these facts:

The eel lives up to eight years in fresh waters. Adult eels, living their life span, go down to tidewater, where they spawn and die. Newly hatched eels live in a cold and gloomy depth of 500 fathoms. They reappear in late winter.

Bear Island's History.

Midway between Norway and Spitzbergen, Bear Island thrusts its head, known as Mount Misery, above the cold waters. The whole island, save for moss and lichens, is almost destitute of vegetation. Long ago it was joined with the Spitzbergen archipelago; the continental shelf upon which the island sits shows a drowned valley deepening to 200 fathoms; this marks the course of an ancient river system that must have drained an area larger than the present basin of the Volga.—Scientific American.



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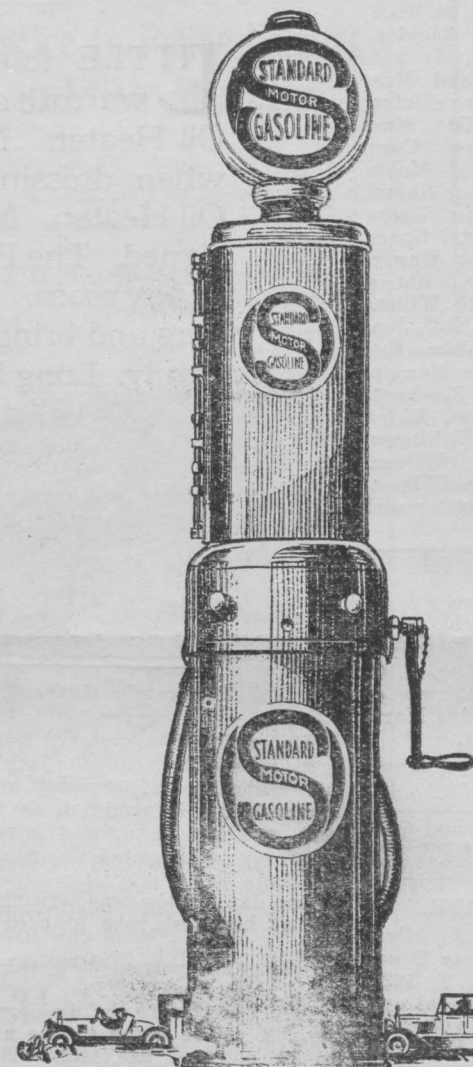
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