

BETHEL COLLEGE MONTHLY

Newton, Kansas

June, 1934

ALUMNI EDITION



A Further View of the Varied, Interesting
Occupations of Bethel Graduates and
Former Students



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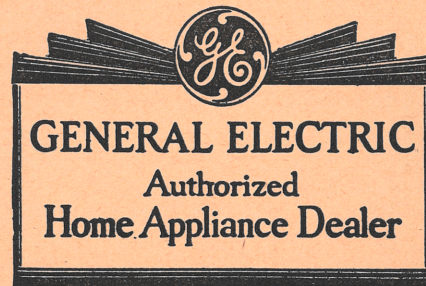
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A New College Era

Edgar Schowalter
of the Kansas City Kansan.

Education is a necessity. It is also a luxury. Without an education the individual is seriously handicapped in this day against the obstacles of life; hence, education is essentially a necessity. But with the current upset in economic conditions resulting in circumstances which may leave more or less permanent difficulties in the way of earning the funds required for schooling an education also becomes a luxury.

It seems to me that Bethel College is one of those modest, unassuming, yet sturdy institutions most capable of reconciling this paradox. The large and wealthy colleges and universities have many advantages over the small denominational schools. Of this there is no doubt. But I hardly think they are more capable of merging the necessities and the luxuries of an education.

A review of history reminds that modern education was fostered by the church. It is denominational schools such as Bethel that developed higher education in America. But there came a time when the privately endowed schools and the state supported schools gained advantages of a kind; at least advantages that permitted those non-denominational schools and colleges to outstrip their smaller neighbors in physical size—in buildings, in equipment, in faculties, in students, tho never in spirit.

I mention these facts to illustrate a situation that became very real, tho many of us disliked facing it. There came a time

when our Bethel Colleges were in danger of submergence. Had the riotous 1920s continued the youth of America would have turned up its collective nose at small denominational schools and insisted on spending their fathers' money in big schools. It was a sort of phobia.

And it was difficult to deny that a Harvard, or a Yale, or a Columbia, or some great state university held advantages. Why even the smallest state-owned college in Kansas in 1929 spent as much money in its annual budget as the physical property of Bethel was valued at that time!

Thus it was that easy income and notions of greatness created a situation that took many young people past the doors of our Bethels and to the campuses of wealthier colleges. But now things are different. There isn't a college in the country whose student body hasn't felt the pinch of the times. This has grown to a point where the financing of an education is a serious problem even in the homes of the more well to do. Every source of credit has been touched to aid needy students; even the federal government has been called upon to help students from losing their college opportunities.

All this may change in another twelve months. I am no prophet and so cannot predict that far ahead. But it does occur to me that our Bethel Colleges, with their nearness to the soil, their proximity to many humble homes, can perform a great

and noble task of educating youth at small cost.

There is the secret—the small cost. For after all costs of attending college increase as one goes farther from home. I have had ample experience regarding that and so have many of my friends with whom I attended Bethel. So while I do not decry the educational advantages in institutions both big and little I do want to suggest that a new era, once seemingly all but closed, is opening for the small denominational colleges, an era in which the modest home may afford sufficient assistance to aid a son or daughter to acquire a fine college education in a modest school—the necessity may be met despite the threat of luxury.

* * *

THANKS TO CONTRIBUTORS

A word of appreciation is hereby tendered to those Bethel College alumni who so generously responded to requests to contribute special articles for two numbers of the Bethel College Monthly this year.

The first number in which any of the articles appeared was that of last January. Several appeared in subsequent issues and now in this number appear all but a few that simply could not be included because of the limits of space.

It is not at all incorrect to say that the alumni publication committee in charge of these two alumni editions was embarrassed by the response from those who were invited to contribute articles. Everyone responded who was asked to write something; hence more material came than could be used conveniently in the space allotted. There arose the inevitable editorial necessity of selecting and arranging, something not at all difficult to the hard-boiled editor elsewhere but mighty embarrassing to an editorial board desirous of conveying appreciation to its contributors.

So once again, thanks to each and every contributor and please accept our apologies if any delay occurred in the publication of your offering. Every contribution was good, unique and different; each is representative of a Bethel background.

Archeology and Life

E. W. Haury

Another who spent his boyhood days in local surroundings and turned to the far West is Emil Haury. His is the field of archaeology. He attended Bethel Academy and College six years, received two degrees from the University of Arizona and his Ph. D. from Harvard.

Mention of the word archaeology brings an attitude of attention from the average individual. This general interest in the study, which has man and his works as its basis, is not undeserved because the human factor, above all others, does evoke your and my attention. The desire to know how man lived centuries ago, what he made, and how he met his problems, is responsible for the fact that archaeology is one of the ten leading subjects treated by the press. New discoveries in distant lands and at home usually receive front page space, as witness the lengthy descriptions of the luxurious furnishings found in the tomb of old Egypt's king Tutankhamun, the recent findings in and around Persepolis in Persia, and the recovery of dazzling gold jew-

elry in Monte Alban, Mexico. Not always, however, are the dispatches of such a spectacular nature as the cases just mentioned. The news item may briefly recognize the discovery of a very ancient village whose occupants were on a comparatively low cultural and social plane, or perhaps only brief mention is made of the discovery of tools manufactured by man, or even man's bones, found in association with the remains of animals long extinct. In many respects these latter finds are even more interesting and illuminating than those of a more striking nature, because they push back far into the dim past to enlarge our viewpoint of the development of the human race.

Archaeology is the word applied to the

line of work which makes a specialty of studying these ancient remains; it deals with the remains of man, such as his tools, his houses, ornaments and things used religiously. But archaeology is only a branch of a field of learning which encompasses the whole study of man, namely anthropology. Anthropology is the study of man, ancient and modern, his works, his physical remains, and his sociological achievements. Other branches of anthropology are: physical anthropology, which attempts to work out problems of race and race mixture through the study of the skeletal remains of ancient man, and the bones plus the soft parts of the body of modern man; ethnology, which studies the living peoples, analyzes comparatively their activities, thoughts, and social institutions; and ethnography, which is primarily a descriptive study of the people of the world. The last two branches deal with peoples still in existence; archaeology takes up the thread at the other end of the scale and studies what ancient civilizations have left behind them.

My own interest in archaeology dates from boyhood. Inspired by magazine stories and historical accounts, the Indian became an idol. I longed for an Indian companion to teach me woodcraft; objects of Indian manufacture were coveted. Thus it happened that the finding of an arrowhead became a memorable event. Additional magazine articles, describing work in the cliff ruins of the southwestern United States, and the opportunity to handle real material recovered from some of these ruins quickened my interest to the point of a desire to engage in the further study of the same. Yet, the possibility of actually participating in this type of work seemed very remote because the attracting ruins lay far to the west. Little did I realize that in our back yard, literally, were camp sites and places of interest which might have satisfied that early desire.

A fortunate set of circumstances made possible a trip to Mexico City in 1925 where I was thoroughly introduced to archaeology by Dr. Byron Cummings, then carrying on extensive excavations for the National Geographic Society on an old and imposing structure situated at the southern edge of the Valley of Mexico. Dr. Cum-

mings later saw to my education along archaeological lines at the University of Arizona. Since that time, teaching, further study, and finally, the opportunity to engage in the unravelling of the past have absorbed the intervening years.

Occasionally, every branch of learning should pause for an inventory to see whether a reorientation is necessary, to see whether maximum benefits are being attained. Archaeology is especially subject to this since it is one of the newer lines of research. To some people archaeology may seem to be a sportsman's game, one of the supernumerary flourishes of our times; yet, such an attitude is hardly justified. It is true that archaeology has not been openly admitted into the category of a science, but with the development of precision in methods, the growing demand for adequate data upon which to base conclusions, emphasis upon more complete and careful observations, and through the coordination of efforts it is fast becoming a science, if it has not already attained that standard. What does archaeology really try to do? The chief purpose, of course, is to reconstruct the evolution and development of past civilization; it does not have as its purpose the accumulation of vast stores of objects to be exhibited on museum shelves.

To accomplish this aim, detective methods must be employed in recovering the tools of man from the ground so that the past may be properly read. It is not enough merely to dig up an earthenware pot. Nothing must be overlooked in regard to the circumstances of its occurrence, or as for the character of the articles with which it may have been found. Only with adequate information is it possible for archaeology to trace the development of any one specific thing produced by man, whether this be a design on pottery, the first use and development of metals, or the invention, spreading and changing of the alphabet. One of the commonest methods for determining the order of changes in such things, or for finding the relative standing in time of one group of people to another, is by what we know as stratigraphy. This means that when the remains of one group of people are found upon those of another an elapse of time is implied. If there has

been no rearranging of the soil in which the objects of human manufacture have been deposited those articles occurring in the upper layers will be younger, or more recent, than those deeper down. For an example let us turn to the kitchen. In the making of a layer cake, the bottom piece provides the base for subsequent layers. Perhaps only a few seconds or a minute elapses between the times when one layer is placed upon the other, but when you eat the cake you know, although you probably do not think of it, that the lowermost layer is the first or the oldest one and the uppermost the last or youngest from the standpoint of the time consumed in the making of the cake. Now apply this to a deep deposit of earth containing the objects made by successive occupations of people. The lowest strata represent the oldest cultures, and coming up through the accumulation, the nearer the surface is reached the nearer the objects therein will be to the present time in point of age. Through the careful study of such a deposit, archaeology has one method for arriving at some of its conclusions on cultural evolution and the relationships of one people to another.

But does the gathering of information of this sort justify the sending out of costly expeditions and the bringing into circulation of just as costly publications? Thinking individuals will unhesitatingly answer in the affirmative, although the contributions may be difficult to determine because they are not of a material nature. Our knowledge of past events has been tremendously enriched through an active spade. Traditions have been varified; stories familiar to you and me have found a basis in fact. Great changes in peoples, migrations, the development of great kingdoms, and their downfall have been disclosed, and in many instances the causes for these changes have been determined. Facts of daily life, habits, customs, edifices raised in the name of religion, are constantly being called to our attention by new discoveries. All of these interest us, perhaps only momentarily; they should give us a longview on life. Too often we take these as a standard with which to compare our modern civilization; the scale hangs heavy on our side and the arising attitude

is one of complacency and superiority. We feel that the achievements of the past century have made our life what it is, that our inheritance from the past is small, but this is only partly true. We forget that thanks are due to barbarians of thousands of years ago for some of the most commonplace, yet fundamental things in our life. To dispense with the radio would be much easier than to give up the metals and glass of which it is built; the written language is absolutely indispensable, yet writing based upon an alphabetic system dates from the second millenium before Christ, and hieroglyphic writing can be traced back at least two thousand years earlier. Of what inestimable value to mankind was the invention and development of agriculture, including the cultivation of wheat and barley, and the domestication of animals, as cattle, sheep, and swine, all of which have been known for not less than 7000 years. Due to the emphasis on thoughts of this kind, I think archaeology does tend to subdue our self-inflicted ideas of superiority, to give us a breadth and perspective in our outlook on life which we otherwise would not have.

In perilous times such as we are now experiencing, there is an impulse to turn back to see how people of past ages met their problems. Perhaps it is even thought by some that the current crisis is unique to our civilization. This may be true to the extent of degree but not to kind. Many of the present troublesome problems have been the concern of man for millenia past. For an example let us take the liquor question which has been in the forefront for the past year. Intoxicating beverages are by no means peculiar to our civilization. Sherry wine and beer were consumed with delectation in Mesopotamia earlier than 2000 B. C. Even at this early date special dispensaries were already on hand as well as regulations governing the times these could operate and the behaviour of patrons therein. In other words, the liquor control problem is one of long standing.

My early notions as to what archaeology really was, like my boyhood ideas of the Indian, have undergone profound changes. As already intimated, the collection of arrowheads, axes, pots, and other articles

made by man is only one phase of this line of inquiry. Stopping here we should know nothing but the physical facts presented by the specimens. It is far more important to arrange them in a series in respect to time. This step, in a roundabout way brings in the historical angle, for, if differences in time can be shown we have the beginning of a chronology, and chronology—the sequent recording of events—is really the basis of history. Thus it is that archaeology and history are allied branches of learning. Archaeology deals with a stage in the rise of man when there were no recorded dates, whereas history takes up the thread with the first appearance of recorded dates. History, I must confess, was never my delight while in school; dates were bothersome. Yet to-day, I may speak about a ruined apartment house or pueblo dating from A. D. 919 to 1130, or say that a room in a certain cliff dwelling was constructed in 1343, 150 years before Columbus set sail. And all of this takes place in a region where the first recorded dates begin with 1539, marking the entry of Fray Marcos de Niza into the American Southwest. How is this possible? By what process of reasoning are dates obtained for ruins whose builders did not write and in a district where actual dates do not begin until several centuries later?

The answer to this brings us to the greatest contribution ever made to Southwestern archaeology—a contribution which enables the substitution of fact for fancy concerning the age of many ruins and one which has done more than any other one thing to crystallize years of research into an intelligible picture. This is a method of dating, based on tree growth, devised by Dr. A. E. Douglass, an astronomer of the University of Arizona. What connection is there, you ask, between an astronomer, tree growth, and musty Indian ruins? Briefly this, and the relationship is not as remote as it at first seems. Interested in the sun, and believing firmly that the sun influenced terrestrial weather, Dr. Douglass began studies, as far back as 1901, of tree-rings—the thin layers of wood added annually by each tree—to seek evidence for this belief. Since the welfare of a tree depends chiefly upon moisture, variations in the amount of

growth from year to year, owing to varying annual amounts of precipitation, should be indicated by large rings for wet years and small rings for dry years. This was found to be the case when tree growth was correlated with actual weather records. It was also found that all trees growing in a similar environment gave similar patterns of large and small rings. Now, if the sun influenced weather, the solar cycles, should be reflected in the growth of a tree. Since records of solar variation gained from observation represented a comparatively small number of years, trees—the oldest living things in the world—were called upon to take up this record where man's observations ceased.

Years passed, during which painstaking studies were being made and the technique of counting and recognizing rings was constantly being improved. Old trees were sought so as to extend the ring records as far as possible; the sequoias of California were called into service. Then came the idea that the beam in the roofs of our southwestern cliff dwellings might be put to use, for it was known that these were cut before the arrival of the Spaniards. The obvious implication was that, could the ring records of the beams from ruins be related to modern tree growth, the ruin supplying the beam could be dated. This was naturally only a by-product to Dr. Douglass's researches but of inestimable importance to the archaeologist as he could then speak in terms of actual dates for prehistoric ruins. More years passed, progress was slow although not discouraging. Meanwhile Dr. Douglass had become tremendously interested in the archaeological angle and efforts were doubled to carry on the dating side of the problem. The undertaking was finally crowned with success in 1929 when a certain weak area in the ring record was bridged, making a continuous tree-ring calendar from the present back to A. D. 700. At once the classic ruins, as Pueblo Bonito, the Mesa Verde Cliff dwellings and similar structures in Arizona, were dated in terms of the Christian calendar. I count it as one of the highlights of my experiences to have participated in a minor way in the search of the wood which made this achievement possible. It was

my further privilege to spend an entire winter working under Dr. Douglass in learning the dating technique and endeavoring to apply the method specifically to archaeological problems. Aside from the professional benefits derived from this contact, I cherish the acquaintance with Dr. Douglass, astronomer, scientist, and above all a man of great personality.

During the past three and one-half years I have been connected with Gila Pueblo, a privately endowed research institution situated near Globe, Arizona. Under the auspices of this institution further tree-ring studies have been carried on, chiefly in the dating of ruins in central Arizona. Two weeks were spent during October, 1931, in company with a cowboy, searching for cliff ruins in the mountainous country about 30 miles southwest of Globe. At each dwelling samples of the beams used in supporting the roofs were taken, later to be studied in the laboratory. Eighteen cliff houses were visited, ranging in size from 4 to 75 rooms. It was found that all of those which provided any wood were constructed in the last few decades of the 13th and the first half of the 14th centuries. One of the ruins was so inviting for excavation that several weeks in July, 1932, were devoted to this end. This pro-

vided an opportunity to thoroughly study the architecture in relation to dates derived from structural beams. For example, it was found that the major roofing logs in one room were all cut in the year 1343. As these beams were still solidly built into the masonry, just as the builders of the house left them, it is inferred that they were not only cut in 1343 but that the room itself was actually constructed in that year. In my own estimation, the date given for this dwelling is as secure as though the year had been carefully inscribed on a cornerstone. We learned further that the entire communal house, numbering nearly 60 rooms and two stories in height, was constructed from about 1325 to 1350. Excavations here netted us many pieces of cotton cloth—some with elaborate patterns—basketry, sandals, and wooden tools, all preserved because of the extreme dryness of the cave. The dating of the ruin also dates this material. Through this means we have some idea of how the people dressed and what they made during the 14th century in this particular locality. By extending such studies to other areas and by including ruins giving a wide range in time, many new pages will be added to our store of knowledge of the American aborigines.

Wyoming Echos

Sherwood Stacy

Sherwood Stacy, '25, a civil engineer, has climbed steadily to his present position as Assistant State Engineer in the Commonwealth of Wyoming.

When the N. H. S. Senior Class of 1921 was a guest of the Bethel freshmen at a banquet that year, they saw to it that one part of the program was very well executed; namely, that we all go to Bethel. However, this part only lasted about fifteen minutes, as I recall it, and although comical and all in fun, I cannot help but feel to this day that it had a direct bearing on my enrolling at Bethel the following fall. During the course of the after-dinner speeches, I remember well that one speaker made a very colorful plea in behalf of the smaller colleges, stating that it was well and ex-

ceedingly wise for every student to attend a small college the first two years. He gave many good reasons for this opinion, his chief one being that it gave a person a better chance to adjust himself to the change in learning and receiving individual help when needed. Statistics show there have been too many students with promising capabilities sent home from the larger schools, who under adverse conditions just couldn't make the grade. I was sold on the idea and liked it so well that after two years at Bethel I remained to graduate with the class of '25.

Fortunately, at that time economic conditions were much better than they are now and all the members of my class were very fortunate in obtaining good positions according to their several likings. I was tired of routine things. I wanted diversion and action, and why shouldn't a young man feel enthusiastic? According to the old saying, "It is a sign of advancing age when you enjoy a fixed routine." I figured that although a rolling stone gathers no moss, it does however, receive a good polish providing it rolls fast and far enough. I also reasoned that in one sense of the word success is doing what you want to and making a living at it.

Shortly after graduation I assumed my awaiting duties with the Marland Oil Company of Ponca City, Okla. After three months I became so dissatisfied with the working conditions, promotions, and suffocating Oklahoma heat, that I equipped my old model 'T' for a long trip to the Rockies where the air is cool, fresh and clear, and the sky is the limit.

Being inclined to lean toward engineering, and incidentally, it was through my ability to successfully operate steam and gas engines during the Kansas harvest seasons that I was able to see myself through Bethel; I at once applied for a job with the U. S. G. L. O. in Denver and was immediately given work with a survey party in Estes Park. This was more to my liking; in fact, running an imaginary boundary line around the Rocky Mountain National Forest with plenty of lofty peaks to look up to, together with annoying tourists to ask questions, was a most interesting experience. Our cook kept our table well filled with speckled trout that abound in the clear cold mountain streams.

I regretted very much when snow forced our party to leave for lower altitudes and sunnier climes. At Denver, where we disbanded, I learned that I had been transferred to Santa Fe, New Mexico. Here I learned that my work was to carry me further south into the hot desert, and since this did not appeal to me I proceeded to fill old 'Lizzie' with gas and headed out over the mountains to Albuquerque. I picked up as a companion on this jaunt a native Indian plus his inseparable Navajo blanket

which was in much need of laundry service. At Albuquerque, where women operate the street cars, fortune again smiled on me and my request to fire a locomotive for the Santa Fe was fulfilled. My run was from Albuquerque to El Paso, a very colorful desert country, just about as up to date as it was when Coronado dashed up the Rio Grande on his way to Kansas. Being raised in a railroad town I came by my desire to railroad naturally. It is a most fascinating game and one that still makes my pulse quicken every time I see a locomotive under steam. I soon realized that I had delved in books too long to ever reach that coveted seat on the right hand side. That, together with the fact that larger engines were replacing the ones then in use, which meant fewer men would be needed to operate trains, caused me to give up railroad-ing.

Spring found me again in Estes Park helping correct surveying mistakes that had been made in 1888. By mid-summer, one year after graduating from Bethel, our Estes Park work was finished and I again became obsessed with the desire to go and see. Casper, Wyoming, the gateway to the famous Salt Creek oil fields and the home of three large oil refining companies, became my next abode. Here my knowledge of chemistry and physics acquired at Bethel College stood me good. I became affiliated with the Standard Oil Co. of Indiana in the Combustion Dept. laboratory. My duties consisted of flue gas analysis in order to determine the proper combustion of fuel; softening water from the North Platte River suitable for power house boiler use, determining the B. T. U. values of oil and gas, determining the coefficient of engines, and experimenting with many other things that pertain to the refining of liquid gold. This was a most interesting work and I enjoyed it very much. After a year I was slated to take charge of a similar department in a smaller refinery but it never materialized. The big lay off of 1928 caught many in the drag net. The refining industries all over the country were hard hit and for a time a heavy morgue-like atmosphere hung over them.

However, only four days elapsed until I was associated with the Wyoming State

Highway Department at Casper. I worked hard, showed an interest in my work, and spent long hours on the job. It was all in a days' work to travel 250 miles in a one day inspection trip. In engineering, time and the elements play a great part and man must ever be on his guard to protect his work. Here in Wyoming one may encounter many varied conditions as you would expect since the state encompasses the plains and part of the majestic Rockies. I found that mastering basic principles while dealing with small matters now proved invaluable while in charge of larger projects. This line of work required initiative and I fairly lived my work, since man is happiest when he is doing the work for which he is best adapted. It has been my privilege to help build roads out of the raw rugged open places that literally take in any and all kinds of conditions.

Promotion and advance were my reward for diligent and consistent work. After a couple of years in the field I was given an opening in the State Highway Laboratory at Cheyenne as Ass't. Materials Engineer, where I am now located. Here we test all materials going into the State roads. It is our duty to see that all cements, sands, gravel, iron, paint, water, bridge timbers, road oil and the like meet State specifications. We are continually experimenting and trying to improve and better our present roads within reasonable limits that will warrant such expenditures on the types of road that are needed throughout the high plains.

So much for my work. Since marriage, with the additional responsibilities of a family, I have taken on a more sober minded attitude towards life. I have come to realize that a job is something like an investment. The jobholder, like the investor, must have patience. The average fellow fails because he lets go too soon. He gets the idea that he is bettering himself if he can make a few more dollars by changing jobs, but nine times out of ten he is merely kidding himself. He seems to lose sight of the fact that every time he takes on a new job there is an entirely new environment to which he must adjust himself before he can become efficient. Also he forgets that the company for which he worked

before had a certain amount invested in him and that he had a certain amount invested in the company. Most employers prefer to let men inside the ranks work up into the better positions. That is why it pays to stick to one company. It is a good living insurance to build up a satisfactory seniority with one concern. Then, and only then is a person warranted in building his own home.

Since I have tried to follow the above given advice, I drew the plans and specifications as well as supervised the building of our home. I did not have the opportunity to study this type of practical engineering in Bethel, but I was instructed in a sound classical education with the old fashioned emphasis on language, mathematics, history, economics and the sciences. To me the exercise and discipline of the mind is education. In other words education may be defined as being able to do what you've never done before.

Now for a few words about Wyoming. Most people imagine it is next door to the North Pole. However, I can truthfully state that the year around climate is enjoyable and mild. Wyoming may well be remembered nationally as the first state to pioneer woman suffrage. To the many tourists that frequent the Rocky Mountains during the summer in quest of relief from the oppressive lowland heat, she will be better remembered as a vacation land supreme, encompassing the marvelous wonders of the Yellowstone Park, the Grand Tetons, the famous Jackson Hole country known to every world sportsman and hunter, the Big Horn mountains and many other attractive retreats.

The West's most famous Dude ranches are to be found all over Wyoming. They grew out of the ever increasing demand for her varied sports and pleasures. They not only offer a haven of rest but give one the thrills of splendid adventure and the delight of real western life.

Wyoming is recognized as one of the greatest livestock states in the Union. It is also a successful dry farming state. Federal Government statistics show that nowhere in the United States does irrigated land produce a higher average yield of general farm crops over so widespread an area

as that contained in Wyoming. The fertility of the soil which is constantly renewed by good farming methods and nature's processes, is of high average and the low cost at which lands in this section can be procured offer inducements which are rapidly attracting new settlers in considerable numbers.

Cheyenne is situated in the southeast corner of the state at an elevation of 6063 feet. It is known the world over for its famous Frontier Days' celebration held annually the last week in July. Here one may review the colorful pageant of the West including Indians, cowboys, and sol-

diers from Fort Warren, which is located near Cheyenne. This fort is the second largest maintained fort in the United States. Cheyenne is also at the intersection of two transcontinental railroads and on the Lincoln Transcontinental highway. The city is an important point on the United Air Mail route and its airport boasts an A1A rating.

In closing let me extend a cordial invitation to each and every one of you to visit Wyoming, and when in Cheyenne don't fail to stop at 3914 Warren Avenue, near the Airport, where I shall endeavor to execute the hospitality of the West.

The Value of History to the Layman

Dr. O. H. Wedel

Oswald Wedel grew up on the campus. Through his father, the first president of Bethel, he was introduced intimately to the life, habits, and customs of students and teachers alike. He attended Bethel College, was granted his Ph. D. at Leland Stanford, and spent some time in historical research in Vienna. He is connected with the University of Arizona.

We are living in an age in which events are challenging our interpretative powers so constantly that to form an intelligent opinion is becoming more and more difficult. Has history an answer? I believe that history can and should be of some help in the matter.

What is history? Is it a mere collection of facts? Should history prove anything? Does history teach a lesson? If so, what? Here at the outset we must establish some basis from which to proceed.

The historian if he is true to his calling is not interested in anything but the truth. To find out what really happened is the first article of his creed. To follow truth no matter where it may lead is a doctrine that he holds with the scientist. The historian is not trying to prove anything. He is merely trying to find out what happened and why. Only then is he in a position to pass judgment.

We are all a product of our background, training and environment. The historian must constantly keep this factor in mind. It would be manifestly wrong to judge events in Russia by our standards. We must first of all attempt to understand the

particular and peculiar background and environment of the problem or event we are attempting to evaluate. The historian attempts to see events not with his own eyes but through the eyes of the participants themselves. To do this he must necessarily attempt to evaluate his own background and training, for no civilization can be judged fairly by the standards of another. He must bear these things in mind or he will go astray. The degree of success he achieves along these lines will determine the ultimate value of his judgment. Such a mode of procedure is as possible for the layman as for the historian, consequently one can be historically minded without being an historian.

The way to understand a problem is to see how it came to be a problem. So the study of history should contribute to the better understanding of present day civilization and help us form a more thoughtful opinion of public affairs.

The past is a living past. Things are as they are because of other events which came before. If this is once recognized we soon come to see that there is nothing really abrupt, or even unique. The his-

tory of the past lives on in us, it determines our customs, our training, our points of view, it determines trends or a series of trends which continue to affect our lives. We begin to see that we have the same desire, the same difficulties, the same aims as other people had. We should, therefore, be in a better position to evaluate, to judge, than they were since we have the accumulated experience of past ages to guide us. In fact not until historical knowledge is really used will humanity solve its serious problems. There is little wisdom in starting on hazardous experiments simply because we argue that any action is better than none. The old adage, "when you do not know what to do, do nothing", is far safer than blind experimentation. To-day we seem to be living in an age where the most far reaching decisions are being blithely taken. "Nothing can be worse than the present state of affairs" is the answer one hears on every hand. Is that so obvious? Not to the historian. A glance at previous experiments, lightly undertaken, does not prove the statement. Only ignorance of past history can justify such opinions.

But what can be done? Possibly nothing! History offers no cure-all for human mistakes. At no time in the past has any social group escaped the consequences of its own folly. It is certainly better to realize this than to pile folly on folly in the belief that somehow this will bring about a solution.

Judging present events from the historical point of view one must conclude that what we see happening is frequently an unintelligent attempt to escape the unescapable results or consequences of past follies. What is Hitlerism but an attempt to escape blunders perpetrated by the previous generation. Human beings are often admirable as individuals but in the mass they are frequently bad blunderers.

History also teaches that reliance on the masses is merely one of the delusions of democracy. Wisdom is never found in the mass. The judgment of one wise man is often better than the mass opinion of a multitude.

Can the historian afford to disregard such a philosopher as Spengler? It is at

least worth noting that he sees no hopeful future ahead. Then we have Ortega Gasset who wrote "The Revolt of the Masses". He, also, sees the future in none too rosy a light. Are such men as these mere pessimists? No, they are simply visualizing the future as students of history and the future just at present looks none too bright. History, then, is not entirely optimistic; yet if we intend to judge events intelligently, there is no better guide than the accumulated experience of the past. A thoughtful study of the past may yet prove a guide for future conduct, but before we try a cure should we not try to understand the present?

This brings us back to our starting point. Our first task is to become historically minded. It will enable us to apply the test of past experience to present day happenings. Everywhere we see social groups in the inexorable grip of historical forces. A whole world order is being challenged, challenged in different ways it is true but nevertheless challenged. All this has of course happened before. It is so much easier to destroy than to build up. Everywhere the historian sees revolt raising its head. There is but little realization of the immense effort that has gone into the building up of what we have. There is little appreciation of past striving; there is but little applause for past achievement. Everything is relative and until we compare what we have built up, with the conditions out of which it grew, there can be no realization of where we stand and consequently only slow progress if any at all.

A knowledge of history then may be of value in teaching us patience, humility, and it may tone down our intellectual arrogance. "To understand is to condone", is a bit of wisdom that history is anxious to impart. We, the legatees of all the ages, should not cast this lesson aside lightly. History has no magic formula to give us, she is not the casual optimist we may wish her to be. But then history is weighted down by the weight of centuries of blunders, of "New Deals" lightly begun and often ending tragically. How can she be an optimist? Yet she does offer a solid basis on which to rear the future. Will she be heeded? Time alone will tell.

In view of all this, our historically minded layman will view events with a greater tolerance though possibly also with less enthusiasm. He may incur the scorn of the ignorant who sees progress in more motion without judging whether or not it may be retrogression. He can not help but note that many times in the past some magic formula has been heralded as the coming of the dawn. "Liberty, Equality, Fraternity", "The Equality of Mankind", "Democracy", "Socialism", "Communism", "Social Justice", all panaceas that have developed feet of clay. On the other hand he will also be impressed with the capacity of the human race to absorb punishment. He will note that a good social order has ex-

isted under a multitude of different systems. If past formulas have not always lived up to expectations they have also not justified the fears expressed at the time.

Our historically minded layman then, may learn to look into the future with a degree of equanimity not possessed by his neighbor. He knows that the future will never be an abrupt break with the past; it must be the continuation of the present; it may change its dress, it may develop new slogans, but no matter what they may be they can make no absolute break with the past. In short, he will develop a philosophy of life which will protect him and guide him in passing judgment on a changing civilization.

Comes Now the Plaintiff

Adolf J. Krehbiel

spent four years at Bethel, graduating in 1923. For several years he edited the Mennonite Weekly Review; then he completed a law course at K. U. He is now an attorney in Clayton, N. Mexico.

If variety is the spice of life, then the life of the average country lawyer is probably better seasoned and more interesting than that of his specializing metropolitan brother, for the small town attorney concerns himself with nearly every field of human endeavor.

By relating a few of my own experiences I shall attempt to portray something of the varied life of a country lawyer.

Last summer a new activity sprang up in this cattle country where I live and practice law: the building of a livestock sales pavilion. As city attorney I was consulted when the erection of this structure was first being considered. A number of months later the pavilion organizers determined to incorporate their business, then a going concern. Again legal aid was necessary. And this time I made wider contacts—with the corporation commissions of New Mexico and Texas.

At the last session of our New Mexico legislature there was enacted one particularly offensive law. It provided for the sale of real estate for taxes within an unreasonably short time after delinquency. The protest from taxpayers the state over was instant. In the county the local taxpayer's

association employed me to bring suit for the purpose of preventing the holding of the sale pending under the new law. The audience which packed the court room during that trial reminded me of the persons who filled the Bethel chapel in the Spring of 1923 when C. W. Griffith, then attorney general of Kansas, gave an address. The usual collegiate group did not hear Mr. Griffith; instead, the fathers came.

Those present during the tax suit trial were the heads of families with homes to protect. The depression, coupled with an unwise law, was threatening their possessions. Excitement ran high, feeling was intense, and rumor was that violence would result, should tax officials try to sell the property. But when the threatened sale was permanently enjoined, the clouded atmosphere cleared.

Several years ago, during the period I served as assistant district attorney in this judicial district, a woman came to my office demanding that something be done about the slanderous things she understood her neighbor was saying of her, and particularly about the defamatory remarks the other woman had directed to her in a letter.

The matter was really not of the conse-

quence the injured woman imagined, but she certainly insisted she wanted something done. She was determined to show the neighbor that she could not get away with writing her such a letter.

Realizing that any public agitation of such a matter would only make bad feelings worse, I told the complainant that I would write the other woman a letter. That assuaged the wounded feelings, for she had gotten "the law" into action. But, inasmuch as I considered it very doubtful whether the writing of the rather insulting letter was legally actionable, I merely wrote that the communication in question had been brot to the attention of the district attorney's office and that we advised her not to write any more such letters.

Some months later the complainant again came to my office, thanking me for my assistance. The admonition had served the purpose and the difficulty was settled without publicity.

Seldom the day passes but the average lawyer has an opportunity to pour oil on troubled waters. Not infrequently this becomes necessary in a probate case. Unfortunately, children often become jealous of each others in the settlement of a parent's estate. If the attorney who is handling the case is enuf of a diplomat, he has the chance to do something more than merely attend to the routine of probate.

Occasionally the district attorney finds it necessary to prosecute where the chances of securing a conviction are small. For instance, I recall the case of a woman who was charged with having stolen a horse. As much as we disliked this particular prosecution, the evidence appeared so strong that we felt impossible to exercise the state's attorney's prerogative of failing to take action.

On trial we made what seemed a very strong case for the state. Nevertheless the jury returned a verdict of "not guilty." After the trial one of the jurors came around to me and said:

"Of course the jury didn't question for a minute but that she stole the horse; however, that old horse wasn't worth enuf to send anybody to pen, let alone a woman."

Exciting moments often attend the actual trial of law suits, particularly criminal cases, as these involved the liberty or

possibly even the life of the defendant. And sometimes the chance turn of a bit of otherwise rather routine testimony has a grave bearing upon the outcome of the case.

Last fall I was defending a man charged with murder. Fortunately for my client, he bore a most excellent reputation for peace and quietude, whereas the deceased was known as a bad man; in fact, he has served a term in the penitentiary for shooting a man.

In the trial of my client the sheriff had been a witness for the state. As a character witness for the defendant we placed upon the stand a widely and favorably known ex-sheriff of this county. He testified not only as to the good reputation of the defendant, but also as to the dangerous character of the deceased. Upon cross-examination the district attorney asked our witness:

"Can you name one single person whom you have ever heard say that he considered the deceased a dangerous man?" The witness leaned forward, glanced across the court room to the man who had but shortly testified for the state, and said:

"There sits the sheriff. He told me only a couple of days ago that he had always considered Archuleta (the deceased) a dangerous man." That chance bit of testimony was a body blow to the prosecution.

Speaking of trial incidents reminds me of a certain liquor case in which we had on the stand as a state's witness a federal prohibition officer who had cooperated with our local sheriff's office in the capture of a still and a quantity of whiskey. Some of the liquor found was in half-gallon fruit jars, four of which had been preserved as evidence.

In proceeding to prove that the liquid in the jars actually was whiskey, I first asked the federal officer the usual questions regarding his previous experience with whiskey, whether he had ever tasted whiskey, whether he knew whiskey when he tasted it, and, finally, whether he could state what these four jars contained. To my surprise the federal operate replied:

"I don't know; I forgot to sample them." I handed him one of the jars, told him to open it, taste the contents, and state whether he could determine what it contained. The defense attorney was on his feet in-

stantly, objecting to any such procedure. 'Twould be highly prejudicial to the rights of his client, so he argued to the judge, to permit of any such demonstration in open court before the jury.

However, the objection was over-ruled, and there, in the presence of the jury, at the suggestion of the prosecuting attorney, and at the express direction of the district judge, the witness drank from each of the four jars, declaring the contents to be moonshine whiskey of a rather inferior quality. A legal drink, if ever there was one.

Marital difficulties have a way of finding themselves being aired in some lawyer's office. Sometimes the attorney is able to assist in smoothing out matters and effecting a reconciliation. And again, whatever may be his personal views regarding the much discussed divorce evil, he frequently finds himself in court asking relief in connection with a marriage which has gone upon the rocks.

Only a few days ago a young Spanish woman inquired concerning the possibility of securing a portion of her husband's separate property, should she sue him for a divorce, illustrating a common situation, namely, that no matter what may have caused the separation, property rights frequently become the crux of the court battle.

Sometimes the country lawyer has business which takes him to his state capital—perhaps this business is pure, unadulterated politics; again it may be to argue a case appealed to the supreme court, or possibly it is to interview the state tax commission.

For example, about a year ago I was retained for the purpose of straitening out certain taxing irregularities which were working an injustice upon several local ranchers. Before the desired result was accomplished I had appeared not only before the local district court but also before the state tax commission.

School boards occasionally need the help of a lawyer. I have been called upon a number of times to conduct the legal proceedings connected with the voting, issuance, and sale of bonds for the erection of a new school or for the floating of a refunding issue. And this in turn brought me into contact with the state board of education, our attorney general, the bond house which purchased these securities, as well as its firm of Denver attorneys who passed upon the validity of the issue being offered for sale.

Now and then an attorney's work leads him to foreign countries, by correspondence, if not in person. A client of mine wanted to buy a piece of land owned by a Bulgarian who had returned to his native land after a residence of some years in the United States. I wrote the Bulgarian a number of letters (usually answered by a priest, but sometimes by an attorney), and after considerable negotiation the terms of the sale were agreed upon. A contract was drawn and sent to Sofia, where the seller signed and acknowledged same before the American consul. When the executed contract was returned, it was recorded forthwith.

Later, because of a misunderstanding on the part of the Bulgarian, he refused to perform according to his contract. We filed suit asking our district court to aid us in getting title to the desired land. A Bulgarian attorney at Sofia prepared and filed an answer which was one of the most curious legal instruments ever to come into my hands. The language was highly stilted and obviously of foreign origin. And the pleading concluded with these words:

"With best regards, John Costadinoff.
Sofia, June 2nd, 1931."

Thus, the average country lawyer finds his practice highly interesting, in that, despite the vast amount of routine and office detail with which he daily contends, his contacts and range of activities are as varied as the problems of his community.

« « Alumni and Ex-Students Notes » »

Born to David S. Pankratz (C '23) and Ruth Harms Pankratz (C '24) on April 15, 1934 a daughter, Geraldine Ruth.

Orville Haury, Halstead, Kansas was married to Miss Lucreta Parker of Wellington, Kansas on April 25. The ceremony

IN MEMORIAM

William Harvey Ebersole (C '26) "beloved mathematics and science teacher in the high school" of Newton, Kansas passed away on May 11 following an illness of agranulocytosis, which is a reduction of the white blood cells. The illness seems to have come as the culmination of an extended period of ill health. Mr. Ebersole served as teacher in the Newton schools for thirteen years. At the time of his death he was sponsor of the Hi-Y boys of the high school. The funeral services were conducted from the Methodist church of Newton, with Dr.

J. W. Kliewer and the Rev. Paul Erb officiating. The church was filled to capacity, high school having been dismissed. . . "in his school and church activities he manifested a firm faith and confidence in the youth of today. His own manhood and integrity of character seemed naturally to lead him to expect the noblest in others". Mr. Ebersole leaves his widow and two children, Margaret, eleven, and Carl, seven, and his aged parents, who made their home with him, and many relatives and friends to mourn his too early departure

For all contributions thus far received hearty thanks. Keep us informed about yourself or other Bethelites whom you know. This will give variety to our news column.

Helene Riesen Goertz, Alumni Editor.
Bethel College, Newton, Kans.
Phone: 13K11.

was performed at the Mennonite parsonage at Halstead by the Rev. H. T. Unruh. They will reside on the Haurly farm north of Halstead.

Ella Ediger and her parents left on May 5 for a three weeks trip to California. They planned to visit the Grand Canyon on their way. While in California they expected to spend most of their time with Ella's sister Esther and her husband, Willard Dettweiler, in Upland.

On April 23 plans were made at the home of Miss Gladys Mitchell (C '30) to organize a Whistling Club. Miss Mitchell has studied the art of whistling under Mrs. Ed Love of Newton and was recently heard at a program given by Newton authors and artists.

Mrs. D. R. Krehbiel announces the marriage of her daughter, Louise, to Mr. Charles F. Turner of Hartford, Kansas, Thursday, April 12. Mrs. Turner is a senior in the department of Home Economics at the Kansas State College at Manhattan and is also a member of the Alpha Xi Delta sorority. Mr. Turner is a senior in the department of Commerce at Kansas State.

After commencement, their home will be in Baldwin, Kansas where Mr. Turner will take charge of the University Book store which he has recently purchased.

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Miller of 331 East Eighth St. Newton, Kansas are the parents of a daughter born on May 3, 1934. They have named her Marilyn Jane. Her mother is the former Thelma Francis (Ac. '26).

Miss Elizabeth Haurly (C '32) has been employed to teach the fifth and sixth grades and direct girls' athletics at Walton, Kansas, for next year. For the past two years she has taught Bible in the Halstead grade school.

A baby girl was born to Mr. and Mrs. Lamont Smith on April 6, 1934.

August Schmidt (C '25) received his A. M. degree in history from Oklahoma University at Norman, Oklahoma in August 1932. During the past year he has been teaching in the Orienta school while living at Fairview, Oklahoma.

Solomon Mouttet (Ac. '16) and Mrs. Mouttet are the parents of a son born some time in April.

Albert D. Schmutz (Ac. and Mus. '07) recently finished a musical composition for symphonic band called "Choral Suite". Mr. Schmutz is at present a member of the Kansas State Teachers College faculty and his composition was given its first performance at a Symphony Band Concert at Emporia on May sixth.

Mrs. D. F. Jantzen (nee Elizabeth Dyck

Ac. '24) recently arranged for a prenuptial shower for her sister Hulda Dyck who is soon to be the bride of Walter Jantzen.

Luella Smith (Ac. '25) a member of this year's graduating class, is to teach home economics and history in the Derby, Kansas high school next winter.

Rose Mary Stucky (C '24) has been busy as "visiting housekeeper for the County Welfare in Hutchinson" with her address at 14 E. Sixth St., Hutchinson, Kansas. For next year she has secured a position as home economics teacher at Kiowa, Kansas high school.

William A. Schroeder ('17) has been "appointed secretary of the local Community Chest" according to a news item in the Wichita Eagle.

Howard A. Johnson (Ac. '20 and C '24) and Katharine Wiebe Johnson are the parents of a baby girl, born some time in April. They live at 235 N. Estelle, Wichita, Kansas.

Selma Schmidt (C '30) has been teaching school in her home community near Pawnee Rock, Kansas.

Gustav Frey (C '21) is "at present aspiring to be county superintendent of public instruction in Marion County, Kansas."

Albert Eck, (C '31) Ringwood, Oklahoma, from 1931-24 has been engaged to teach in the same place for next year.

Albert Claassen (Ac. '10) is now in city mission work in Portland, Oregon.

Henry T. Neufeld (Ac. '11) is at present finishing his college work at Phillips University, Enid, Oklahoma.

Esther Bestvater (Mus. '29) who has been teaching at Turon, Kansas, is changing

to Sublette, Kansas, where she will teach music and English.

Walter Spooner (Ac. '10) came home to Newton for his mother's funeral on May 23. Mr. Spooner's daughter, Mrs. Rudy Heise, of Los Angeles, California, had come to be with her grandmother a week before she died. Mr. Spooner has been in California for some years occupied with his automobile business.

Menno Kaufman, superintendent of schools at Lehigh, Kansas, during the past season is to go to Hanover for next winter.

Carrie and Lena Schmidt have been teaching in their home community at Pawnee Rock, Kansas.

Jonas Graber (Ac. '14), State Compliance Director of the NRA or code director, recently spoke to the merchants of Newton, Kansas on the administration of the NRA codes. Mr. Graber is also State Director of the National Emergency Council.

Fay Ann Molzen, who has been teaching in the schools of Newton, Kansas, is to be married soon and her friends remembered her with some prenuptial showers. On May 22 she presented her pupils in recital at the Kansas Good Will room.

On April 2 Mr. and Mrs. Paul Wenger arrived at their mission station in Korba, India. The next morning friends had their welcome for them. Among the missionaries that had come to Korba for this occasion were the following Bethelites: Mr. and Mrs. P. A. Penner (Ac. 1897), F. J. Isaac (C '12) and Anna Penner Isaac, and P. J. Wiens (Ac. '04).

Jacob R. Duerksen (Ac. '15) and C. '24) and Christena Harder Duerksen (Ac. '23)

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are the parents of a daughter, Lois Augusta born August 8, 1933.

Rev. Arnold E. Funk (Ac. '21) delivered the evening lecture at the closing exercises of the Hillsboro Bible Academy on April 27 on the subject: "The Value of Religious Education for the Church".

John P. Suderman (C '22) of Oraibi, Arizona, preached to the Upland, California, church on April 17. He had gone to Southern California in the interest of the Indian students from Oraibi at the government Indian school at Riverside.

Melvin Landis (C'25) has a charge in an Evangelical Church at Enid, Oklahoma, at the present time.

Mr. and Mrs. D. P. Ewert of Hillsboro

are the parents of a daughter born April 5. They have named the little girl Grace Marie. Mrs. Ewert was formerly Lydia Ann Siemens (C '27).

William F. Unruh (C '25) is the leader of a Bible School in India. At the commencement exercises in March there were

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two graduates. Pauline Schmidt Unruh "is at Landour now" where the Woodstock school for missionaries' children is. Their son Willis Orié is in school there.

Mrs. P. J. Wiens (nee Agnes Harder Ac. '04) is at Landour, India, now where her girls are attending the Woodstock school for missionaries' children.

Donald Isaac, son of Mr. and Mrs. F. J. Isaac ('12), is in "the Boarding" at Landour, India at present.

Mr. Paul Wenger (C '33) recently took his son Laurence up to the school for missionaries' children at Landour, India, where so many of the other sons and daughters of

some of the Bethelites are getting their early education.

Christena Harder Duerksen (Ac. '23) is starting her son (Joseph, if we remember correctly) out on the Calvert course. This course is carefully planned for home instruction and Joseph "likes the work".

* * *

CORRECTION

P. 9 of Bethel College Monthly for May 1934.

Last sentence on page 9 should add the words "other than" so that it reads:

"If that downfall comes by other than peaceful means our cherished ideals of..."

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