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THURSDAY, JUNE 24, 1926.

Observations of 'The Golden West'

By George Rodgers Averill

SPEAKING OF "IMPROVEMENTS"
With something of a feeling of
futility, I am forwarding you lines
to you folks back home—the "futility"
arising from the fact that these
observations are about the work of
Nature's own handiwork, untinged
by the petty differences that so
often make unobtainable the work of
materialistic man. To one who has
lived much within the confines of
industrial cities where "improvements"
are paid for by "special assessments,"
the sight of mountains, canyons,
rushing rivers, and the like, would
live the sky-line of your vision
that would almost set you dizzy
contemplating the intricate work of
design; you would see an ever-changing
panorama of colors and designs
that would make your soul grow
giddy under the process of observation.
An hour in the Rockies is equivalent
to years in a classroom.

SEING TOO MUCH
This is no description of
what I have seen of the Rocky
Mountains thus far; had I set down
my reaction to my first glimpse of
the summit of Lookout Mountain, I
am sure that a better supply of
adjectives and adverbs would have
aided me. I now realize that I waited
too long before penning these lines,
with the result that my mind is
almost dizzy with amazement and
appreciation. Perhaps I may "cool
off" and do better later.

THREE HOURS LATE
Mrs. Averill and I left Detroit for
the Michigan Central on Saturday
June 12. We left Chicago that night
via the Burlington Route, arriving
in Denver Monday morning at 10
o'clock. Our train was three hours
late because of a "washout" between
Albin and Omaha, in Iowa, which
required that we go through the
Moines over the Rock Island to
Omaha, where we again traveled
over the Burlington. The big
railroads are often late—which en-
larged our appreciation of the old
Grand Trunk.

A DIRTY RIVER
Birmingham residents who deery
the appearance of our own River
Rough ought to take a peep at the
Mississippi River where "fishers"
struggle through the lower
Iowa. At this place we gazed upon
its muddy contents and then realized
why the City of Chicago would
drain from the Great Lakes to
cleanse the sewage which it dumps
into the Chicago Drainage Canal.

WHERE THE TALL CORN
Iowa and Nebraska may well be
proud of their agricultural prowess.
As far as I could see they were
about to boast of. And who would
say, after all, that mankind has ever
invented a vocation that surpasses
that of the farmer? Even big
crops are sufficient compensations for
the poor rural programs that are
sometimes broadcasted by the gov-
ernment, the home of the "Chitros."

SEVEN IN OUR PARTY
Right here let me say that five
other residents of Birmingham were
here this week. Mrs. Louis
Hascall left Detroit an hour later
than we did on the special Rotary
train; Glenn Boucher, and Howard
Bell decided to drive to Denver
Thursday afternoon, June 10,—they
reached here Monday afternoon.
"Pharo" Atkins, partner in the Bir-
mingham Methodist Church, arrived
here Tuesday afternoon. The seven
of us were together much of the
time. Glenn proved to be the
"heaviest eater" of the crowd. Be-
ing in the air a few days, he had
bear's appetite. "Burt" never passed
up an opportunity to gorge him-
self with mountain trout, and he
eaten all of us up to a trout break-
fast early Friday morning. If you
like "Burt" send him a mess of fish
delicacies.

WHERE HOSPITALITY WINS
"Hospitality" is the keynote of
the success of The Golden West.
Nature invited the white man to
seek the far-off places; she lured the
traveller with her beauty, and she
led the greed of man spurred him
onward to brave the dangers that
beset him in his journey to her golden
dolph. The people of Denver
are especially cordial, and that is
because of the Rotary Convention. That
we may have been on her "best
behavior" after, anyway, she has
welcomed the world. Braun Canon,
who left our own Birmingham
seven years ago, made our party
seven very happy. Braun is a "big
butter and egg man" here; he runs
a cream dairy, and is an active Ro-
tarian. If you ever visit Denver
leave no man up and tell him you're
from "his old home town" or you
turn the town over to you.

IN THE MAYOR'S CAR
After we had registered Monday
forenoon, Mr. and Mrs. Hascall, Mrs.
Averill and I hailed a "two-seater"
Rotarians' auto and it proved to
be the property of Ben Stapleton,
Mayor of Denver. Surfer to me,
his chauffeur took us all over the city.
Now we know why Wylie Bell, vil-
lage commissioner, wants to
and improve Birmingham's park
system—he visited this beautiful city
of Denver a year or two ago and
became enamoured of her wonderful
public parks. Truly, Denver keeps
its men and women in the sun and
out-of-doors where the sunshine and
mountain winds beautify the com-
plexion as well as the lungs.

OUR DIZZINESS CONTINUES
Isn't this a random collection?
Still, at an altitude of over a
mile, what would you expect from
the who lives at nearly sea level.

FOR YOUR SOUL GROWTH
This is a random collection?
Still, at an altitude of over a
mile, what would you expect from
the who lives at nearly sea level.

The Other Chap Says Something

OUR FLAMING YOUTH
Have you noticed that the heated
and violent discussions about flaming
youth are beginning to die down?
Compared with that of a year ago our
fears that the younger generation was
a bent on its own destruction seem to
have been artificially inflated. Now some
of us are willing to admit that after all
the young folks are just as fine
morally as we were in our own day
and generation.
There is no mystery in what I
thought about this change of opinion.
We became aroused by the discussions
that went on around us and then we
began a little investigation. In our own
country, we only find that our
boys and girls were just as clean,
just as lovable, and just as inclined
to abide by parental advice as boys
and girls ever were. We do not
blame their love of home and parents;
we are limiting our own. We are in-
clined to doubt this just watch them
after they have been away for awhile,
come bounding up the steps with joy-
ous yells and outstretched arms.
Ever notice on Friday nights the
putting in of the young boys and
girls along the highways just to spend
the night with mother and dad at
the home? They don't have the
nerve to shake the old man down for
care to make the trip, so they
take the money and go to spend a few
hours beneath the roof that a year
ago they were afraid was beginning to
crumble.
No, there is nothing the matter with
the kids, or with mother and dad.
Either we went through a classroom
of social and economical conditions
and it obscured our real vision for a
little while, but now that the mists
are clearing we are happy to dis-
cover that family life in America is
still its greatest institution.—The
Diamond Drill, Crystal Falls, Mich.

FROM THE ECCENTRIC COLUMNS—of Long Ago

Just Bits of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eccentric—The Items That Make Up The Historical Background Of The Birmingham Of Today.

43 Years Ago
Miss Edith ... at East
Lake, Manistee county, Mich.,
Monday, the 3rd, to teach school.
Our office is full of lost veils, pa-
rasols, etc. Come and get your own
property, etc.

25 Years Ago
The Mitchell party arrived home
safe and sound from the Pan Am.
Saturday last.
A little man physically has to be
a hero; but a small woman is like a
diamond which may contain a brass
ring or a diamond. Frequently a
diamond.

Miss Emma Chatfield and Maggie
Brown returned from their school
labors at East Tawas last week
for the summer vacation.
Lost: A n-i-s-i-ght dress between
Mr. Wm. Whiting and the village.
The inmate owner of the owner caus-
es us to ask the finder to leave it at
this office by special request in
the care of Mr. Mitchell.

Our old friend, David Patchett, is
75 years of age. He has lived in
this country has lived in sight of
a railroad, but last week he took his
biggest trip that may be necessary
returning well pleased with the sen-
sation. Mr. Patchett in his lifetime
has traveled enough to fill a freight
train to more than half a dozen
times.

The M. E. Church was crowded to
the utmost on Wednesday evening
June 23rd, to witness the marriage
of Mr. Charles Howard of St. Johns
Mich., and Miss Ida E. Bodine of
this place.
The church doors were thrown open
with the crowd who had been waiting
at the door since about six o'clock,
the church wedding in Birmingham being
a rare occurrence and a sight to be
seen at all hazards.

At 8:20 the near relatives of the
high contracting parties came up the
aisle and were shown to seats re-
served for them by the gentlemanly
city, Messrs. H. T. Randall, Ar-
thur Blakelee, and John Henderson
of Birmingham, who acted as the
bridesmaid, shortly after which the
bride party entered the church, the
main actors in the drama taking the
following positions: Mr. E. W. Bo-
dine, best man; Glenn Blakelee, Mr.
F. B. Raynald and Miss Annie Hub-
bard, Mr. Harry Tenryck and Miss
Carric Willett, and finally the bride
and groom.

Rev. A. R. Bartlett performed the
marriage ceremony. The twin
were declared "one flesh," after
which a few invited guests, near re-
latives of the bride and groom, at-
tended a grand reception at the
home of the bride's parents where they
were regaled with the best of the
banquets which we have ever
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SONNET ON NIGHT
I love to go outdoors when it is bright,
And watch the travels of the silvery moon.
I know that she'll be hiding very soon,
And then how I shall miss her evening light.
The myriad stars can such a wondrous sight,
And sometimes I can hear the faintest tune—
A lullaby the angel mothers' croon,
Perhaps, or is it fancies of the night?
And yet, the night has eyes and voices too,
They say: 'I'm very sure she talks with me
And minds me often of a distant god
Forgotten—something I had meant to do
When I am moved by her tranquility.
Or, perhaps, 'tis God communing with my soul.



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