

DR. PETERSON TO TALK ON BOASTERS

Lecturer To Speak Before Fisher Theatre Group On February 12

"All the world loves a boaster, and that was why Huey Long had such a wide following," says Houston Peterson, lecturer in Philosophy, Columbia and Rutgers Universities. Dr. Peterson will speak on "The Great American Boaster—From Benjamin Franklin to Huey Long," Wednesday morning, Feb. 12, at 11 o'clock, before a Detroit Town Hall audience in the Fisher Theatre.

In his listing of prize boasters Dr. Peterson includes Benjamin Franklin, Walt Whitman, P. T. Barnum, John L. Sullivan, Kingfish Levisky, Jack Sharkey, George Crockett and Gen. Hugh Johnson. "There were those," he states, "who dismissed Long as a joke, but he was never the joke that Hitler was in 1922. Huey was probably a great showman as Barnum, for he could boast of his disadvantages better than others could boast of their virtues. It was so with Benjamin Franklin, Lincoln and Al Smith." Peterson calls Walt Whitman the "Baron of American poetry" and labels Barnum the "Whitman of American business." A brilliantly successful speaker, Dr. Peterson gives the humorist's twist to the philosopher's analysis of the quirks which make history. He is the author of several important books. His "Havelock Ellis: Philosopher of Love," based on new material contributed by Mr. Ellis himself, is the standard text book of the great student. "The Melody of Chaos" was for him the Buddha Medal awarded annually to the graduate of Columbia who has shown the most competence in philosophy or education. "Huxley: Prophet of Science" was chosen by the Scientific Book Club for April, 1932. Tickets for Dr. Peterson's lecture are on sale now at Grinnell's, and Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at the Fisher Theatre.

Birmingham before today

By MINNIE HUNT SALTZER Old Merrill St. (Continued)

Just west of the Carter property was the land belonging to the Carpenter family. This property extended from Merrill St. on the north, to Townsend St. on the south, and was bounded on the east and west side by an alley. The house stood at the northwest corner of this land, and was a two-story frame building. There was a small porch at the northwest corner, and narrow colored glass windows at each side of the doorway and a colored glass panel above the door. The best of it was a doorbell at the side of the door. One pulled outward on a white china knob, similar to a wire to a bell at the side and above the top of the door.

This was in 1881. In 1882 Mr. and Mrs. Toms purchased the Carpenter property and came to town to live. They had formerly lived on their farm in Troy. There were seven children, Ellen, Carrie, Sarah, Mary Lou, Leah, Emma Margaret and Robert. Their son, Robert, was a carpenter and is the only one of the Toms children now living.

Mr. Toms enlarged the house and lived there for the remainder of his life. Later his son Robert lived on the brick house that stands on the southeast corner of the property. Finally, after Mrs. Toms' death, Mary Lou, Jean, Emma Margaret and Robert moved to Goodrich and Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Dickerson became the owners of the brick house, while Mr. and Mrs. Louis Rousseau bought the frame house and the lot lying east of it.

The land west of the Toms property was owned by Frank Durkin. He built a small story and a-half frame house on the northeast corner of this land and it was occupied at Mr. and Mrs. Ed Ford and son

Eddie for several years. This property was bought by Mr. and Mrs. George Bray on the site of the Durkin house.

The Brays came from Franklin. One of their daughters was the wife of William Robinson, a man over six feet tall, who was a painter and went by the name of "Paint-ner" Robinson. A son, "Buddy" Bray, was a son-in-law of Alex Parks and was associated with Mr. Parks in the meat market. Other sons were Harrison, Wilkes, Gertrude and Doc.

While living in Franklin Mr. Bray became interested in building a flying machine. He built a platform on the top of his barn and the platform being constructed the flying machine. When it was complete it got into the machine and had some of the boys give it a shove. It left its place on the platform, but instead of soaring heavenward, as he had planned, it dropped to the ground. The results were a broken flying machine and some broken bones for Mr. Bray.

He was a great "viper of yams" and like "Uncle Lake" of radio fame had a vivid imagination. One time the boys and men were talking about the distance each could throw a rock. Mr. Bray informed them that one day, in his youth, he stood on the banks of the Detroit River and threw a rock across the river about three rods. "Carson," the best of it was the story was that he told it as if it were really the truth.

Across the alley and west of the Bray home was the home of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Benedict. Mrs. Benedict was formerly Ellen Toms. Mr. Benedict was a member of the G. A. R. and Mrs. Benedict was for many years a member of the Memorial Day committee. She was also a member of the Library association and Mr. Benedict was a Mason and I believe they both belonged to the O. E. S. "Paddy" Wilson ceased to be a sexton at Greenwood cemetery. Mr. Benedict took his place. He served in this capacity for a number of years, and was fatally injured while assisting in the lowering of a vault at the cemetery. William Benedict of Los Angeles, Mrs. Etta Poole and Daisy Benedict, known by many Pontiac residents as "Benny" were the children of Mr. and Mrs. Benedict. (Daisy acquired her nickname while a member of the sales department at Waites, in Pontiac.) Mr. and Mrs. Henry Poole, Miss Benedict and Robert Toms now live in Pontiac.

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In 1908 Thomas Hanna and Will Benedict decided to go to the Alaskan gold fields. The people of the town gave them a farewell reception at the First Presbyterian church on East Maple avenue. There was a large attendance and the boys received tokens of friendship, and all wished them success in their venture, and a safe return. Their baggage and traveling kit were on exhibition and proved very interesting to all of us.

George Purdy and Tom and his sister Sarah. At that time the Purdy lived at the northeast corner of Townsend and Bates streets. Mrs. Purdy and her niece, Anna Bell (now Mrs. Dan McGuffey) were married in 1904 by Tom and the Purdy home. We played games and received prizes for stunts. I have a hand-painted sign tray received that night for sawing a stick of wood in two with a back-saw, which stood on Bates street. That night Tom gave me a one cent piece which was to be exchanged for a gold dollar when he returned. The exchange was less than he anticipated because, when he returned several years later, the exchange was not made. The following is a clipping from a Detroit paper, which may be of interest to many.

MICHIGAN MEN IN ALASKA Birmingham and Detroit Men Who Were In the Recent Snowdrift Birmingham, Mich., April 16 (1908)—Special—Thomas Hanna and William Benedict, of this city, were among the Alaskan gold diggers in February last, when in the recent snow slide near Sheep Camp, Alaska, Thomas Hanna, in a letter dated Sheep Camp, April 3, says at this writing, 8 a. m., we have had several small snow slides here, but with the exception of 15 or 20 men buried in their tents, who were soon rescued, no one was seriously injured. In another letter, written at 9 p. m., Mr. Hanna tells in a brief way of a terrible disaster which took more than 40 men their lives. Twenty-five or thirty men and six women were dug out alive by a party of men, in which Mr. Benedict, of this place, and Ben Hartig and William Boyce, of Detroit, took part. Mr. Hanna was buried to a depth of many feet but was rescued unhurt. Mr. Hartig was buried nearly to the neck but escaped injury. The letter states that the party saved most of its provisions and that no further advance would be attempted until it was considered absolutely safe to move.

Will Benedict used to relate this harrowing experience, when telling of his Alaskan trip. As I remember it, the members of the party were fastened together by a long rope and walked a single file. Will was walking a short distance behind Tom and happened to be just at the edge of the slide. When he saw that Tom had gone down under the snow slide he felt almost hopeless. But he and the other men worked valiantly and prayerfully and Tom was rescued unhurt.

Letter Purdy was a very small lad when his uncle Tom left for Alaska. I shall never forget the day when Tom was about to leave he took the little fair-haired boy up to his arms and hugged and kissed him while Lester clung to his neck with tightly pressing arms. It is a picture I shall never forget without a tightening of my throat. Of all the people who formerly lived in the vicinity of the Benedict home, Daisy Benedict was the last one to give up her residence in the neighborhood.

(We have come to the west end of Merrill Street. Next week we will visit the houses and incidents of interest regarding the old residents of the north side of the street.)

"Teacher, what are diplomatic relations?" "There are few, if any, such people my boy."

STATE OF MICHIGAN—The Circuit Court of the County of Oakland, in the matter of the petition of Murray D. Van Wagener, Highway Commissioner, to vacate certain platted lots in the City of Birmingham, Township of Oakland County, Michigan.

Take Notice, That a petition has been filed in and pending in the Birmingham Circuit Court of the County of Oakland, State of Michigan, in the matter of the petition of Murray D. Van Wagener, Highway Commissioner, to vacate certain platted lots in the City of Birmingham, Township of Oakland County, Michigan.

And Further, Take Notice, That application for an Order of said Court vacating said part of said lots described will be made before the Circuit Court of Oakland County, Michigan, at the Court House in the City of Birmingham, County of Oakland, State of Michigan, on Friday, the twenty-eighth day of February, A. D. 1936, at the opening of Court each day, or as soon thereafter as counsel may be heard.

Dated this 25th day of January, A. D. 1936. MURRAY D. VAN WAGENER, Highway Commissioner. DAVID H. CROWLEY, Attorney General. J. W. H. WILSON, Assistant Attorney General. Jan. 25, Feb. 6-15.

Community House Gossip

By SATIA V. OSBORNE This is a very busy week for the Community House association.

One day she was walking along the street carrying an umbrella with her well arm. Dr. Benedict was called to her home to set the bone.

Church News

First Baptist Church—Rev. L. East-Johnson, M. A., Minister.

Methodist Episcopal Church—Rev. R. D. Horkins, pastor.

Christian Science Church—Church each Sunday at 10:30 A. M.

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Excelsior! The shades of night were falling fast. The foot "stepped on it" and rushed off. A crash—he died without a sound. They opened up his head and found— Excelsior!

Sandy won't speak to him now, but we hope the trouble will blow over, before next Monday night, the date of the first session.

Chapter 3, Early History—The Community House idea was first expressed in 1920 by Charles McCurdy, who interested a group of Episcopal women in it.

An amazing amount of time, energy and intelligent effort was expended in a long educational campaign before the project was actually launched. Mrs. Strelinger was chairman of the group, who worked with a remarkable devotion to their cause.

By May 1928, it had formally entered into the people of Birmingham history. It was formally presented to the people of Birmingham for a larger building was to be undertaken. The land of its present site was secured and pledges to cover the entire cost, in all \$11,900, were made.

The House is very proud that through all these days of its last year it has been kept open, its service to the community constantly enlarged and its interest obligations met.

(We assert with increasing confidence that this thrilling serial will be continued.)

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