

The Woman's Page

Poet Bequeaths Dowries To Girls

Julian Poydras, Dead A Hundred Years, Aids Young Couples To Marry at Baton Rouge, La.

A poet's desire to provide for countless young couples the matrimonial romance he himself never knew is still finding fulfillment after more than a century at Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Nearely a score of young women of West Baton Rouge Parish have recently married with the material assistance and figurative blessing of Julien Poydras who has lain for long years in an obscure grave in the quaint old French cemetery of St. Francis in Pointe Coupee.

More than 100 years ago Poydras, at the age of 84, looked back upon a life in which he had come to Louisiana as a young man and penniless Breton sailor and risen to wealth as a planter and author but in which he found no wife to share his success.

Before he died he willed \$30,000 to provide dowries for young women whose marriages might be impeded for lack of dowries under the prevailing French custom.

West Baton Rouge Parish, perpetuating tradition and following the terms of his will, has distributed the

interest accumulated from the fund in dowries to seventeen brides in the latest apportionment. Only the interest was used, the principal remaining intact.

Parish authorities refused to divulge the amounts each young bride received toward her dowry, saying it was against their policy.

The reasons for Poydras having left the fund are legendary and varied. One story is that he loved a young woman who, adhering strictly to the old custom, refused to marry him because she had no dowry.

Another is that the girl he loved died before he accumulated enough money to marry her.

At any rate, he never married. Poydras emigrated from Bretagne to San Domingo, and from there to New Orleans, finally settling in this section on historic Faubourg Riviere.

He acquired five plantations and 500 slaves and became a Congressman and the first president of the Louisiana State Senate. He wrote many poems including "Paeans to Galvez" in honor of Bernardo de Galvez, Spanish Governor of Louisiana.

FORMER LOCAL GIRL GIVEN HIGH HONOR AT EASTERN

The following is of interest here to the friends of the family of Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Prather, who formerly resided in Harrodsburg:

Miss Katherine Prather, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Prather, of Owenton, and a senior in Eastern Kentucky State Teachers' College, Richmond, has been elected "Miss Popularity," or the most popular girl on the campus in a contest conducted by the staff of the Milestone, the college annual. The entire student body voted by secret ballot. Her many admiring friends here are pleased for this honor to come to Miss Prather who is popular at home as well as in college. Owenton News, Lexington Herald.

MRS. J. H. SPILMAN ON GEORGETOWN PROGRAM

Mrs. J. H. Spilman was the main speaker at the service Sunday night at the Georgetown Methodist church, which was in charge of the women of the congregation. Various church groups are conducting pre-Easter services during Lent and the one Sunday night was part of the series. Mrs. Spilman's subject was "Fellowship in the Suffering Of Jesus." A full congregation heard her excellent talk. She was introduced by Mrs. E. L. Porter, Rev. E. M. Fossett is pastor of the church.

MRS. LUCIEN BECKNER'S POEM IN 'POETRY STUDIES'

Friends in Harrodsburg of Mrs. Lucien Beckner, of Louisville, will be interested that one of her poems will be included in "Poetry Studies," which is edited by Mary Davis Warren Beckner, and published in England with King Edward VIII as a patron. Mrs. Beckner's poem which is to appear in the publication is "Goodnight, My Beloved." Mrs. Beckner, who has many relatives here, is president of the Louisville branch of the National League of American Pen Women.

WHAT'S 'LEISURE CLASS' TO DO?

The leisure class to which Mr. Morgan refers does really get quite a raw deal. When the leisure class loaf, it is charged with idleness; when it works, it is accused of taking work away from the people "that really need it." When it spends money, it is charged with extravagance; and when it doesn't spend money, it is censured for "hoarding."—Boston Evening Transcript.

We could plow under about 50 per cent of the crop of false prophets and still have far too many.

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from Cincinnati where she visited her daughter, Mrs. R. E. Montgomery, and Mr. Montgomery.

(Continued on another page)

FEW FUNDS HAMPER BRAILLE BIBLE OUTPUT

With orders on hand for 2,300 Bibles in Braille, only 532 volumes were distributed from the Braille Bible Society, Los Angeles, in 1935.

While the society recently reported that it had sent more than 13,000 Bibles for the English reading blind to many parts of the world in the past 12 years—over 1000 Braille Bibles a year—the directors revealed that the low output for 1935 was due to insufficient funds.

An non-profit, non-sectarian corporation, the society is engaged in the distribution of the Bible in Braille free or at a fraction of production costs. The Bible, complete in Braille, is printed in 21 volumes. Its cost to the society averages \$134.10 a set or \$6.39 a volume. The average price received was 81 cents a volume, or a total loss in 1935 for the Society of \$2,963.56. The Braille Bible Society is located on North Vermont Avenue at Los Angeles.

\$10,000 TO WOODFORD HOSPITAL FROM MRS. HAGGIN

The board of the Woodford Memorial hospital has authorized an announcement of a gift by Mrs. James B. Hagggin of \$10,000 to the hospital's endowment fund.

The gift was made some weeks ago, at that time Mrs. Hagggin gave a large sum to Margaret Hall School to pay off its debt and purchase a new heating plant.

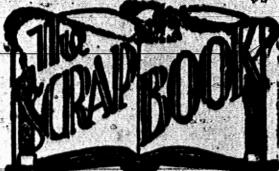
In 1930, Mrs. Hagggin gave the splendid Amaden Memorial addition to the Woodford Memorial hospital in memory of her mother, Mrs. Laura E. Amaden; also, a fine X-ray equipment. The main building of Margaret Hall School, erected a number of years ago, is another of Mrs. Hagggin's generous benefactions to the community.—Woodford Sun.

MRS. ROOSEVELT URGES SACRIFICES FOR PEACE

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt told an audience at Toledo, Ohio, that "when nations recognize that no one of them can prosper alone, a great step will have been made toward eliminating war." She spoke on the "way to peace."

Wars, she said, are of economic origin and can be eradicated only when the economic factor is eliminated. She suggested as one phase of this process that the manufacture of munitions be carried on by governments rather than by private corporations. She listed among the "ways to peace" a necessary change in human nature to the point where "we will be as ready to sacrifice for peace as we have been ready in the past to sacrifice for war."

The theatre of Dionysius at Athens held nearly 30,000 persons.



TAKING STOCK

I believe in taking stock
Every morning by the clock,
Finding out just how I stand—
How much Soul I've got on hand;
How much Nerve to meet the day;
How much Courage for the fray;
How much Heart I've got to spare
For my grieving Brother's care.
How much Love and Charity;
How much human Sympathy—
What indeed do I control
In the Assets of the Soul?

—John Kendrick Bangs.

NICHOLASVILLE BANK STOCK GIVEN TO SCHOOL

A former Nicholasville woman, Mrs. Josephine Mann Kurrle, now a resident of Philadelphia, has just made a gift to the Hindman Settlement School at Hindman, Knott county, Kentucky, of twenty-four shares of the capital stock of the Farmers Bank of Nicholasville, a gift of approximately \$1,600.

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