

THE WHY OF THE GYPSY

Strange Race That Follows the Bent of Its Choice. TRUE TO BLOOD AND TRADITION

Peculiar People Have Roamed the Earth for at Least One Thousand Years, and Have Held on to Their Own Manners and Customs Without Ever Forgetting Anything or Learning Anything.

Frederick J. Haskin. The illness of a Gypsy king in Detroit a few days ago, which is said to have endangered the succession in a famous Gypsy dynasty, was widely noticed in the papers and called public attention to that strange race of nomads who live all over the modern world, and yet are not in the least a part of it.

The Gypsies are unique among peoples in having roamed all over five continents without a country of their own or any other unifying influence and yet they have kept intact their language, their customs and ways of living, and their racial purity.

The mystery about them is what caused a large section of a race to suddenly adopt a nomadic life, and what enables it to continue this life in all parts of the world for centuries without loss of racial identity.

The Gypsies began to wander in the 10th century, moving from their home probably in a body which broke up into smaller and smaller subdivisions and gradually scattered to all parts of the world.

It is plain the secret of Gypsy nature is in the love of wandering, which scientists call the nomadic impulse. This component of human nature has been scientifically studied by Davenport. He decides that the nomadic impulse is native to all human nature, but has been largely inhibited in most individuals because of the necessities of civilized existence.

The Gypsies, then, are a race of men who embody this characteristic of all men most intensely. Think of a Gypsy as a personification of your own love of change and adventure, your hatred of routine and monotony, the wandering dreams of your youth which you never had the chance or the courage to fulfill.

The Gypsies might perhaps be explained by the fact that a part of a race or tribe had to migrate in that far-away day, and that all of those in whom the nomadic impulse was strongest naturally volunteered to go.

The fact that the Gypsy personifies the vagabond and the nomad in all of us doubtless explains the different accounts of him that you get. By most respectable people he is regarded as a cheat, a thief, a kidnapper, and a bad fellow generally.

No doubt there is the instinctive antagonism between respectable settled life and the life of the Gypsy; but possibly it is not too much to imagine that respectable settled life is achieved only by repressing and conquering the nomadic impulse the Gypsy represents.

try from Ireland and England, on the fact, his own other self, the self that he has had to fight—the self that led him to play hockey at school, and tempted him to go to sea, and even now causes him to leave plowing for fishing once in a while. His attitude toward this self, an incarnate in the Gypsy, is one of mingled envy and antagonism. He despises the Gypsy and still he hangs around the Gypsy tent and has his fortune told and swaps horses and loses money on the trade.

Needless to say, some of the Gypsies have earned their bad names. The Gypsies from the south of Europe are usually the dirtiest, the most inclined to pilfer and cheat—though none of them are to be trusted in a horse trade, and other hand, are often well-to-do, and their traveling homes are remarkably clean and comfortable.

Some few of these well-to-do and educated Gypsies are said to desert the road life entirely and settle into profession or trades. But even these feel the call of the road at times and wander surreptitiously.

Those who have studied the Gypsies closely are all of the opinion that they should be tolerated and allowed to live their free and easy lives as long as they refrain from actual crime. They say the Gypsy stands for something valuable that the rest of the race is rapidly losing under the influence of civilization—for the primitive spontaneous love and understanding of nature as distinguished from our highly artificial admiration of sunsets and moonrises, for the joys of change and freedom.

UNIVERSITY CLOSES YEAR.

Doctor of Laws Degree Conferred on Native of Yorkville. The one hundred and sixteenth commencement of the University of South Carolina held in Columbia last Wednesday, was featured by the address to the graduates by Thomas Walter Bickett, of Raleigh, N. C., former governor of North Carolina, who advocated cultivation of the "Mass Conscience" and Federal laws to prevent both the lock-out and the walkout in industrial establishments.

Lucius Cuthbert Johnson, of Wagoner, was the law class orator, and Miss Mary Elizabeth Graydon, of Columbia, spoke on "A Blot on the Escutcheon." David Jamison Jenkins, of Anderson, had as his subject "The True Ideal of Education," and William Henry Thomas, of Columbia, was the valedictorian. D. J. Jenkins, of Anderson, was awarded the W. T. C. Bates medal for the best essay written during the session. Fitzhugh McMaster of Columbia, making the presentation. T. W. Keltt, of Newberry, a relative of Miss Anna M. Keltt, the donor of the Keltt medal, of Newberry, presented this trophy offered this year for the first time to the best essay written during the session by Frank Kelly, of Union, being the winner.

Prof. Yates Snowden made the presentation of the Philo Sherman Benet medal to J. L. Flemming, of Langford, while Dean J. N. Frierson, of the law school, presented W. D. Robinson, Jr., of Columbia, with the Thomas H. Peoples medal, for the best argument on a selected case.

The honorary degree of Doctor of Laws was conferred upon William E. Mikel, dean of the University of Pennsylvania Law School; Dr. George Walker, of Johns Hopkins university, one of the country's leading physicians and a native of Yorkville, S. C., and Brigadier General Johnson Hagood, of the United States army.

Of the degrees conferred this year thirty-seven received the degree of bachelor of arts, thirteen the degree of bachelor of science, fifteen the degree of master of arts, eight the degree of civil engineer and forty-six the degree of bachelor of laws. This is the largest class to be graduated from the university, the largest increase being in the law school.

Embarrassing Silence.—The unsophisticated young clergyman essayed to break the embarrassing silence that had fallen between his fair partner and himself.

"Er—have you ever noticed," he began, "how opposed to modern ideas of politeness is the wording of the tenth commandment? I mean the part which says 'And thy manservant, and thy maidservant, and the stranger within thy gates.' The guest, you notice, comes after the maidservant."

He waited hopefully for the reply which should open up further conversation between them. The fair one was slightly bored. Her answer came in a perfectly modulated voice. "No, I had not noticed it until you spoke, but it is as true to-day as it was then. He usually is after the maidservant."

EARNED A DECORATION

General Tyson Urges the Deserts of Col. T. B. Spratt.

FORT MILL OFFICER PEERLESS SOLDIER

Was Responsible for Much of the Splendid Initiative of the Regiment Which Broke the Hitherto Impregnable Hindenburg Line.

Fort Mill Times. Praising, unstintingly the "exceptionally meritorious and conspicuous service in the World War" of Col. T. B. Spratt of Fort Mill, former lieutenant colonel of the 118th regiment, 30th division, Brig. Gen. Lawrence D. Tyson, 59th brigade, 30th division, recommends in a recent letter to the war department that Col. Spratt be awarded the distinguished service medal. Much of the credit for the gallant record of the 118th regiment is attributed by Gen. Tyson to the work of Col. Spratt, who "was the mainstay of his immediate commanding officer in the preliminary battles of the Hindenburg line" and on September 29, 1918, when the 30th division plowed its way with shot and shell through that series of German forts, hitherto considered impregnable.

"During these battles," says Gen. Tyson, in his letter recommending the decoration for Col. Spratt, "the 118th regiment fought as gallantly, I believe, as any regiment fought at any time in France and this regiment bears the distinction of having won five of the 78 medals of honor won by the whole American army during the World War."

It is a source of great pride to Fort Mill people that two of the five congressional medals of honor won by the 118th regiment were awarded members of the Fort Mill company, Lieut. James C. Dozier and Sergt. Thomas L. Hall, who lost his life in action a few hours after performing the heroic act for which the medal was posthumously awarded him.

Tuesday the following copy of the letter of Gen. Tyson to the war department was received by The Times. Accompanying the copy of the letter is a note in which Gen. Tyson says, "I wish the people of South Carolina to understand what my opinion of the 118th infantry and Col. T. B. Spratt is." The letter in full follows:

"I recommend that Lieut. Col. Thos. B. Spratt, 118th infantry, A. E. F., be awarded the distinguished service medal for exceptionally meritorious and conspicuous service in the World War. Col. Spratt was second in command of the 118th infantry from its formation at Camp Sevier in October 1917, until December 1918, at which time he was ordered to the United States for promotion in recognition of his conspicuous services. Col. Spratt aided greatly in the training of the

States and in France. "The 118th infantry did glorious and distinguished service in the Ypres-Canal sector from July to September, 1918 and later in the great offensive in the Somme from September to November, 1918.

"Col. Spratt was the mainstay of his immediate commanding officer in the preliminary battles of the Hindenburg line in front of Bellcourt and Nauroy, September 24-27, when his regiment took over the sector assigned to the 30th division, and did conspicuous service in straightening the line before the great battle of the Hindenburg line on September 29, 1918. He also distinguished himself on the 8th, 9th and 10th of October, when he materially aided, by his advice and counsel and soldierly conduct, in the capture of the towns of Montbrehan, Brancourt and Vaux-Andigny, where his regiment greatly distinguished itself and where the Germans were driven back and routed, great numbers of them being captured and killed, but at the expense of a great many of our own men being killed and wounded.

"Later Col. Spratt distinguished himself on the 17th, 18th and 19th of October, when the Germans were driven across the Selle river, great numbers of them being killed and captured.

"Col. Spratt deserves especial commendation and reward for his services because much of the initiative and success of his regiment was due to him, Col. Wolfe at that time in command of the regiment, being sick or indisposed on several occasions during these hard-fought battles and Col. Spratt then being charged with the command of the regiment.

"During these battles the 118th infantry fought as gallantly, I believe, as any regiment fought at the time in France, and this regiment bears the distinction of having won five of the 78 medals of honor won by the whole American army during the world war.

"I have always felt that the 118th infantry would never have attained its great success had it not been for the initiative, devotion to duty and invaluable aid of Col. Thomas B. Spratt.

"Lawrence D. Tyson. "Brigadier General."

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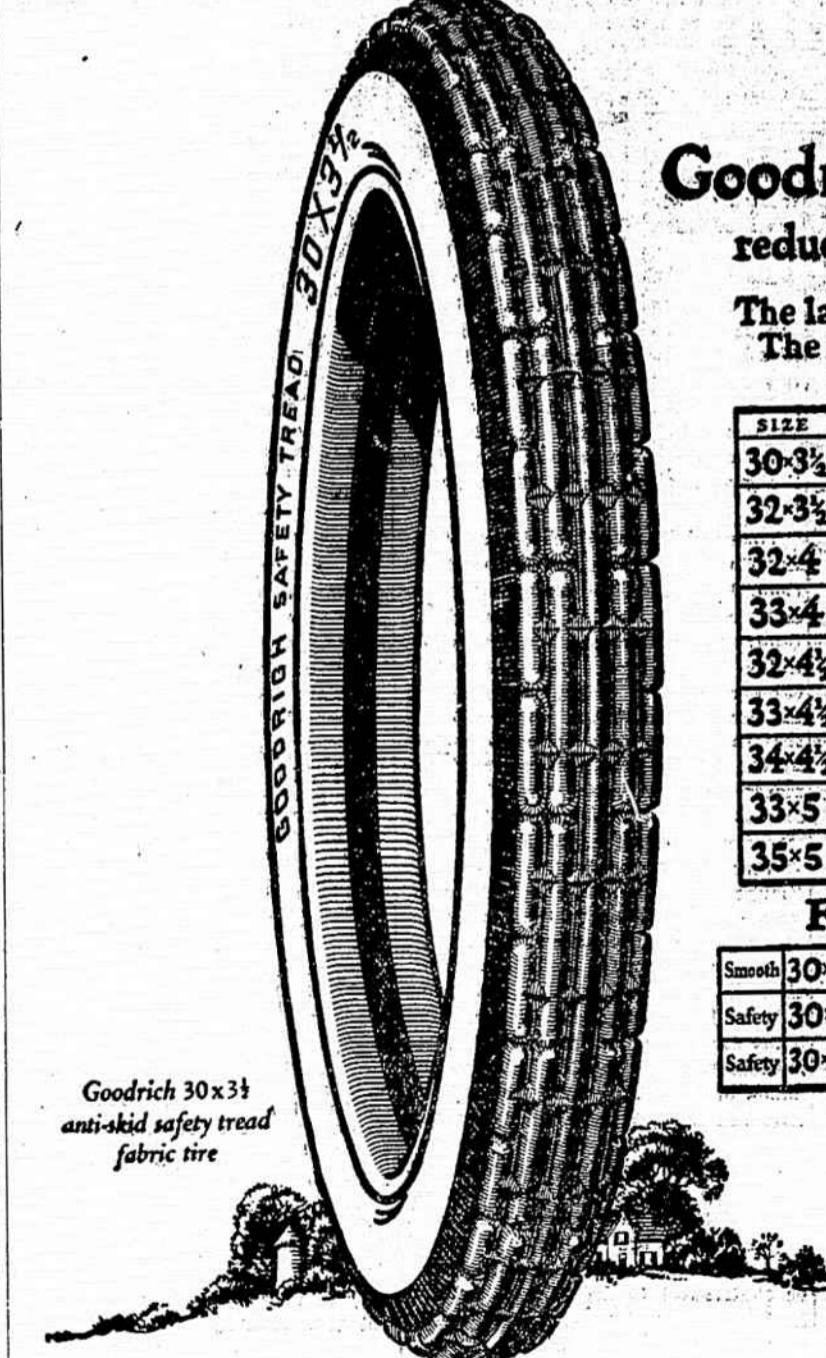
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Table with 2 columns: Fabric Tires. Rows include Smooth 30-3, Safety 30-3, Safety 30-3 1/2, Safety 32-4, Safety 33-4, Safety 33-4 1/2.

Effective May 2