

PERSONAL MENTION.

People Visiting in This City and at Other Points.

—Mrs. J. B. Black, Jr., is visiting relatives in Charleston this week.

—L. H. Grandy, formerly a contractor in this city, spent a few days in town this week.

—Rev. S. O. Cantey returned to the city Saturday after a visit to his parents at Sumerton.

—Mrs. D. C. Murph, of Orangeburg, spent a few days in the city last week with relatives.

—Miss Varn, of Augusta, returned home Sunday night after a visit to Miss Nell Beard in the city.

—Miss Willie Stokes, of Charleston, spent a few days in the city last week with Mrs. J. C. Moye.

—Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Denbow, of Columbia, spent a few days in the city last week with relatives.

—Raymond Matheny, of Columbia, spent a few days in Bamberg this week with his mother, Mrs. D. R. Matheny.

—Miss Eleanor Pate returned to Winthrop college Monday after spending a few days at her home near Bamberg.

—H. B. Weaver, of Blackville, district manager of the Southern Bell and Telegraph company, was in the city Friday.

—President J. C. Guilds, of Columbia college, accompanied by Mrs. Guilds and Mildred, spent the past week-end in the city with Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Folk.

—Mr. and Mrs. J. N. McMichael, Mrs. L. J. Izlar, J. I. McMichael and Clare Bishop motored to Bamberg Sunday afternoon and visited relatives.—Orangeburg Times and Democrat.

JAMES HENRY RICE GIVES FACTS.

Tells What "Horn" or "Hoop" Snake Really Is.

Well, here are the facts about the "horn" snake, or "hoop" snake:

1. It's name is the red-bellied snake (Farancia abacura), not the rainbow snake (Abastor erythrogrammus), to which it is related.

2. Specimens grow six feet or longer. The head is flat and not distinct from the neck; the eyes about the size of a pin point. Its tongue can not be used as other snakes use theirs; it is aborted. They rarely bite, and the bite is not poisonous. The tail is armed with a minute spine, sharp as a needle and sometimes a wound is inflicted with it, when the snake is threshing about. There is no poison in this spine and no danger from it, except from blood poisoning, which may result from any wound.

3. The snake is subterranean in habit, rarely seen for that reason and hence the inventions.

The notion that it takes its tail in its mouth and rolls along like a hoop is a gratuitous invention of ignorant white people and negroes.

4. The allegation of trees being killed by the penetration of the "horn" hardly merits serious consideration. The poison of a diamond-backed rattlesnake would not effect a tree. This is a lie that does not deserve immortality; for it lacks the 24 hours' start.

5. The red-bellied snake is well known to scientists. Ditmars gets plenty of them. There is nothing new about it, not even the stories told.

I have received a flood of inquiries. One came today from Ohio, containing a clipping from The State, and asking my opinion as to the "horn" snake.

Animals of all sorts are scarce in the mountains, and the mountaineer sets out to supply the deficiency. He invented the "catamount," which is an animal of indescribable ferocity, combining the terrors of all the wild beasts known in the world, with a few special ones of its own.

In Logan's time the "horn" snake had not retreated into the mountains; but it is far within them now. Specimens are seen by farmers living at a distance from the centers, or by old persons "in their youth," when, as there were no revenue officers, the reason for such invention is not clear.

What is known is given above; what may be invented and palmed off on the susceptible no man knows.

James Henry Rice, Jr.

The Dark Cloud.

It is not surprising that clouds come in for more or less criticism. They live high, are often dissipated, and can usually be classed with the clouds.—Juplin Globe.

Old Friends.

Reddy's mother took him out to park the other day, and as they were watching the birds in their enormous cage the little fellow observed a stork gazing at him.

"Oh, look, mother," he said. "The stork is trying to see if he remembers me still."

BLACKVILLE BUREAU

Death of W. H. Walker.

Blackville, Oct. 18.—A message from Beech Island to Mrs. J. M. Halford was received here this morning, bearing the news of the death of her brother-in-law, W. H. Walker, which occurred yesterday evening at six o'clock, at his home at Beech Island. The interment to take place this afternoon in the Beech Island cemetery. Mr. Walker was from a prominent South Carolina family, and leaves many relatives to mourn his departure. Besides his wife, who was Miss Mary Narcissa Hutto, before her marriage, he is survived by the following sons and daughters: Mrs. A. G. Murray, Mrs. Marion Simmons, Miss Mildred Walker, W. H. Walker, Jr., George Walker and Albert Tappan Walker, all of Beech Island.

Death of Howell McCormack.

Friends of Howell McCormack, who resided a few miles from here, will regret to hear of his death which occurred Thursday at his home, the funeral and interment taking place at Georges Creek church and burying ground last Friday. He was about 72 years old, and was a consistent member of Georges Creek Baptist church, in the Govan section, having just bought a place and moved near here very recently. He had been in poor health for a long time, but his family and friends kept hoping for a change for the better. Besides his wife, he is survived by a large family of deserving sons and daughters.

Death of Mrs. Belle H. Diamond.

Mrs. Belle Halford Diamond died at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. O. Halford Sunday morning, at 7 o'clock, after a long and painful illness, having had two very serious surgical operations recently, and having just returned from a hospital last Wednesday. The funeral and interment took place at the Long Branch Baptist church, of which she was a faithful member, Monday morning at 11 o'clock, Rev. D. W. Heckle officiating. Besides her husband and parents, she is survived by two sisters, Mrs. John Harten, of Seiglingville, and Miss Gladys Halford, and four brothers, Jesse, Dorman, Belleneger and Leroy Halford.

Blackville Defeats Denmark.

In a very fast and interesting football game played on the home field here Friday afternoon, Blackville defeated Denmark by the score of 13 to 7. The Blackville team launched an aerial attack which proved very fatal to Denmark, though their defensive work was excellent. The stars for Blackville were Julian Walker, Judson Hair, Fanning and H. Still. Sanders and Smith did excellent work on the line. This game opened the gridiron season for the Blackville high and they have scheduled a game for each coming week. Coach, Gregory; umpire, Fanning; linesman, Halford.

D. A. R. Meeting.

The Joseph Koger chapter, D. A. R., met in Williston Tuesday afternoon, Mrs. H. J. Harvey being the charming hostess on this occasion, and Mrs. W. C. Smith being in charge of the meeting. This was a very important meeting, being the second lesson in Roberts' parliamentary rules, consisting of debate, stating and putting questions, and what motions to use to accomplish certain objects. After the business session, delightful refreshments were served, good music and other amusements were rendered, making the social hour unusually pleasant.

Personal Mention.

Mrs. Ella Bock and Mr. and Mrs. Joe Willie Bock, of Aiken, visited Mrs. John O'Gorman several days last week.

Dr. Harrison, of Varnville, veterinary surgeon, was in Blackville on professional business last Tuesday.

Jim Morris, of Surrency, Ga., is the guest of H. H. Martin.

Mrs. Charley Martin, Mrs. L. R. Free, Mrs. Harry Rich and Miss Rosa Rich were among the number of ladies from here who attended the federation of women's clubs in Allendale Wednesday, and they report it as being a very instructive and profitable occasion.

Friends of Mrs. Judson E. Hair will be glad to learn that she is better, after a spell of illness.

An Elusive Mountain Top.

The height of Mount Everest, the world's loftiest peak, has seemed, on recent triangulations, of the Indian survey, to vary more than 500 feet between sunrise and sunset. This has been a result of changing snow line and atmospheric refraction. The mountain's height is usually given as 29,002 feet, but is found to be probably at least 29,140.

A DEADLY FISH.

The Nohn of Coral Island Awaits Its Prey on the Beach.

I joined a friendly native for a stroll on Kangura island (in the Paumotu), writes Frederick O'Brien in Asia. Walking along the beach, I narrowly escaped a more serious accident than the disaster of the reef, (the shipwreck of a small boat), for only the warning of my companion, stayed me from treading upon a nohn, the fish that the French call lo mort—"the death."

It lay on the coral strand, where the tide lapped it, looking the twin of a battered, mossy rock, so deceptive that one needed the sight of the aborigine to recognize it. If I had put a foot on it, before I could have moved it, the nohn would have raised the bony spines of its dorsal flesh, simultaneously injecting into it a virulent poison.

The nohn's mouth is very large and a brilliant lemon color inside, so that if it parts its lips it betrays itself, but it keeps its mouth shut except when it swallows the prey for which it lies in wait.

"If you can spit on the nohn before he sticks his tætae into you, it will not poison you," sagely said my savior, as he stabbed the wretch with his knife, and I was reminded of Pliny, who says:

"All men carry about them that which is poison to serpents; for if it be true that is reported, they will no better abide the touching with man's spittle than scalding water to light within their chaves or mouth, especially, if it comes from a man that is fasting, it is present death."

Pliny in his day may have known of quick witted people, who, when assailed by a snake, had presence of mind to expectorate in its chaves, but the most salivary man could hardly avail himself of this prophylactic against the nohn, unless he recognized the fish before treading upon him. And treading on the nohn is no light matter. If the venom is not speedily drawn out or neutralized, the feet of the victim turn black and, coma ensues.

Pneumatic Tire Substitute.

A new tubeless cushion tire is claimed to yield an average mileage of 25,000 to 30,000 without trouble, care or repairs. It has tread and outer walls of very tough and durable rubber, and the interior consists of highly resilient red rubber reinforced by layers of fabric, a small central cavity giving greatly increased resilience. The finished tire has the appearance of an ordinary pneumatic tire with which it is interchangeable on the same rim.

THE UNCHAPERONED GIRL.

Is in Danger, Especially in Automobile at Night.

Mrs. W. N. Hutt, editor of the woman's department of the Progressive Farmer, writes as follows:

"Yes, we do," said a boy's voice. "I can see the lights of A—B—. I'm tired of riding so let's walk a few minutes."

The lonely midnight ride should be considered a risky adventure and parents should so recognize it. There was a sensational case recently, called the Hollman case. For months a vicious minded young man of good family schemed and plotted, as the trial showed, against a young lady concerning whom there was never a word of reproach. Being brought up in a home of rugged honesty where distrust and suspicion were unknown, there was never a thought on her part that harm could come to her at the hands of her escort, yet so dastardly was he that the jury hesitated whether to give him death of the limit of the sentence in the penitentiary. The fault was not in the girl's going to the party but in being unaccompanied by an elderly person late at night on a lonely road.

The automobile has a thousand advantages but there are possible disadvantages. Nothing in all the instruments of world progress is so fine that it cannot be used for baser purposes. It is for us to utilize it for good and use the common horse sense with which we were born to protect our young people from the evils of it.

The value of the old-fashioned chaperone is illustrated by the following recent incidents: There was a dance at a small summer resort. Sweet young girls and boys came from all the neighboring towns. There was a long intermission about the middle of the evening. I observed that where mothers, fathers, and other older people were part of a group of young people they spent the time on the great veranda or walking on lighted paths. Young people alone without exception, as far as I observed, sat in the dark in their cars parked in the deep grove.

The second incident was where three or four carloads of people were

in the habit of attending church in town Sunday nights. They went for a year or more without a mishap worse than a punctured tire. On this particular night it happened for the first time that no older person was with them. One of the boys proposed that since it was such a glorious night, they ride awhile. All welcomed the suggestion with glee. A drunken man met and crushed into one of the cars on a narrow strip of road several miles from anywhere. A ruined car, a broken leg, painful cuts and bruises were the results. Had there been just one older person in the party the suggestion to go is likely to have met with disapproval.

The fathers and mothers of the country might well wake up to the often neglected responsibility of protecting the young people from dangers of which, because of their lack of experience, and trusting natures, they cannot be aware. It is the chick that starts from its mother's protect-

ing wing that is the victim of the hawk. Young people want not less pleasure but more; but they want that type of it which results in intelligent and uplifting exhilaration, not that from which they find themselves precipitated into painful or humiliating mixups.

To protect their young is a duty, and no father can still his conscience by passing the responsibility to the

mother nor any mother leave the burden of it entirely on the shoulders of her husband. In fact the sentiment of every community should be against the unchaperoned ride in the dark because it is a social menace. And the danger is to be considered with boys as well as girls and with your children as well as your neighbors' for neither the social nor financial position is a safeguard.

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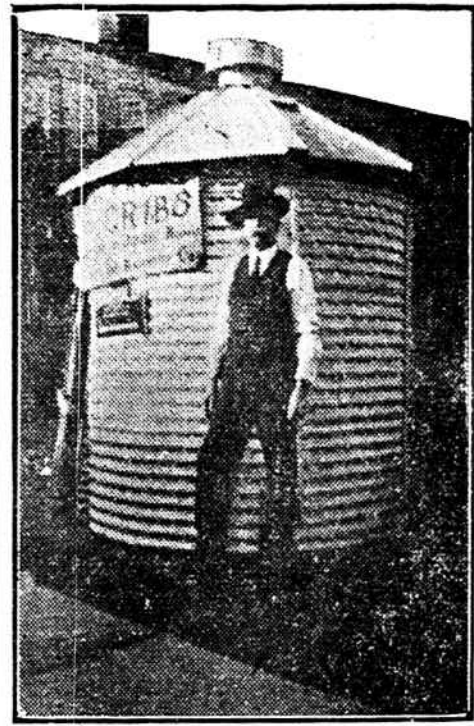
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