

ATLANTIC COUNTY RECORD.

(MAY'S LANDING RECORD.)

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MAY'S LANDING, N. J., SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 1909.

Travel over the May's Landing-Tuckahoe road has increased greatly during the past season. This road, which forms the connecting link between the State roads to Ocean City, Cape May and intermediate seacoast resorts, has become one of the most important highways of South Jersey.

In view of the growing importance of this road, its early improvement cannot be too strongly urged. Its present condition is not at all complimentary to Atlantic County, whose residents are wont to consider their system of good roads second to none in the State. The road is sandy in some places, so narrow at others that vehicles cannot pass, and in general bad condition for a County road of such importance. Few persons not living on this road or travelling thereon have any idea of the amount of travel it is subjected to by automobiles during the Summer season. This highway is included in the route of an automobile race next Saturday from Philadelphia to Cape May, and it is a significant fact that signs have been posted at several points warning drivers that it is dangerous. This should not be necessary.

Present conditions can be greatly improved by brushing out the road at the turns, especially near South River bridge, where drivers can now see only a short distance ahead.

Western communities can give Eastern people many good suggestions for individual and municipal progress. In no respect is this more true than regards local and rural telephone systems. The farmer in the West, who deserves the name, who has not a telephone in his home is the exception. If residents of small towns and of the rural communities here in the East realized the convenience and economy of a telephone system, they would lose no time in securing one. The convenience is evident. The economy comes by saving many trips to the butcher, the grocer and neighbors for trifling matters. In emergency the telephone is a godsend. Someone is injured, a child taken suddenly ill; the physician is called over the phone and suffering, perhaps a life, saved. We venture to prophecy that the time is not far distant when village residents and farmers will look upon the telephone as an every-day necessity. There is no reason why everybody should not make the best of modern conveniences and apply useful inventions to common use.

It is evident from the public interest manifested in the initial regatta last Saturday of the May's Landing Yacht Club that this organization is a most popular one and that motor-boating on the Great Egg Harbor River is increasing. Motor-boats are within the reach of all and with such excellent facilities for the pursuit of this enjoyable diversion there is no reason why the residents of the County Capitol should not boast of a strong yacht club and a large fleet of launches and speed-boats. This is an outing than can be enjoyed by every member of the family and one attended with little danger. The popularity of the club will be an incentive for many persons to own a motor-boat and no doubt within a short time the organization will be sufficiently strong to improve the river by dredging the channel and building convenient wharves and to erect a handsome and commodious Club House.

Alarm has been caused throughout the State by reports from authentic sources that insects are destroying hundreds of thousands of trees and that the ravages of beetles and scale diseases threaten to deprive many municipalities of their shade trees. The State Forestry Department is fighting the insects and municipalities are furthering the good work. So far South Jersey has been almost immune from this annoyance, but if the insects are spreading, as reported, we shall be obliged soon to take up the warfare in defence of our shade trees.

Game is not plentiful in the County this year and wardens will vigilantly watch for violations of the law in order to prevent game birds and animals from too rapid destruction. Rabbit shooting last season was poorer than in many years and it will not be greatly improved this year. Quail, pheasant and other birds are not so numerous as in former years. To preserve the hunting fields of the County sportsmen must obey the law strictly and aid wardens to enforce it.

Civility is an admirable trait, one which, truth to say, is sadly lacking in many persons. True civility offendeth not friend, stranger, book-agent or beggar; but how many put it in practice? The boasted "equality of man" in America has played havoc with this trait as a national characteristic, and many men pride themselves on their gruffness. But it should be otherwise.

If the newspapers of the State would leave Atlantic City alone and clean up their own nests, the resort would fare better. Those municipalities inclined to berate the Queen Resort should not throw stones at the city until they are themselves unblemished.

The study of literature is one that cannot be given too much prominence in the curriculum of our public school system. It is studied to some extent, but in a dry, perfunctory way, one which oftentimes antagonizes the pupil rather than awakens interest. The study of literature is one of great importance, since it opens the way to limitless fields of research, higher education and life-long pleasure. Books are indeed valuable friends, whose acquaintance cannot be too early cultivated nor too long continued; but in the hurry of teachers to rush children into scientific and manual training courses this subject is too generally neglected. To complete a "course of reading" is not to study literature, for oftentimes pupils do that and know not what they have read when the course is completed. To read a book intelligently, to understand the author and to get the best out of it that is in it, one must be a lover of literature. And the love of good literature should be instilled in the mind of children at an early age.

There are many places along the avenues of the municipality where young shade trees should be planted, in some instances to replace fast decaying trees and in others where no trees now grow. The old oaks and maples of May's Landing have afforded shade many years, but they cannot last forever, and some provision should be made now against the time when the soundest shall be laid low. Young trees should be planted judiciously, with an eye to the future. The majority of the trees now growing along our avenues sprung up before the streets were opened, which accounts for their presence in sidewalks and roads. Young trees can be planted where they will give shade and comfort without this objection.

There is more philosophy and true religion in the Golden Rule, "Do unto others as you would have them do to you" than in whole tomes of dogma and psychological doctrine. As between man and man, those eleven words sum up the ideal relations of humanity, and if carried out in good faith by all would much promote happiness on this terrestrial globe. Unhappily, men torture the rule to their own inclinations, until many live to the doctrine of doing unto others what they would do to them were others as bad as themselves. The entire range of human relations contains no truth so pertinent to the realization of peace on earth and good will among men as that of true fellowship.

One of the sad accidents that marred seashore pleasures during the week was the drowning of two young ladies in the Great Egg Harbor Bay. Like the majority of such tragedies, this was caused by carelessness. Two young men took the girls out for a fishing trip and going too close to the drawbridge the mast of the boat was struck by a trolley car and the girls thrown overboard, drowning before succor arrived. What is past is irrevocable, and cannot be remedied; but parents hereafter should take heed from this catastrophe and forbid their children from boating with incapable persons.

The State Forest Park Reservation Commission gives notice that it will establish fire-lines along the steam railroads of Atlantic County. Forest fires caused by locomotive sparks are numerous and this action of the Commission will doubtless result in fewer such conflagrations.

"Mr." is a prefix which seems to be going out of use except in verbal English. The language is slowly changing, especially in small particulars such as this. Plain "John Brown" is now thought preferable to "Mr. John Brown" or "John Brown, Esq."

STATE PRESS COMMENT.

"When, six years ago, the head of the New Jersey State Entomological Experiment Station announced that he intended to wage a war upon mosquitoes, and to make life more than ever worth living, he was derided and laughed at. Now, however, it is announced that the counties of Essex, Union, Ocean, Middlesex and Monmouth have been freed from the mosquitoes which had been masters of the situation since long before New Jersey was known by that name."

"Ten thousand acres of meadow and salt water land have been drained at a cost of five dollars an acre, and the salt water mosquito has joined the ranks of the buffalo. Of course, the other counties that have not been drained continue to breed mosquitoes, which are wafted many miles by the winds. Still, it has been demonstrated that marsh land can be turned into fast land, and that the breeding places of billions of mosquitoes can be done away with."

"Every dollar spent in New Jersey to reclaim meadow and salt marsh districts has been spent well. Now the work of eliminating mosquitoes must be extended. The salt water variety with striped legs, bred in the marsh and mud, have depleted by the thousands, but the mosquitoes bred in stagnant fresh water pools, cellars and neglected rain barrels continue to irritate and make themselves objectionable."

"If every township in New Jersey, and every county, should set about to join the crusade against mosquitoes, the state would soon be relieved of the odium of being the one state noted mainly for mosquitoes and corporations."

"Aside from getting rid of the myriads of mosquitoes, the state is made richer by the redemption of marsh land, and, through the drainage work already done, the business of harvesting marsh hay has been benefited, while the state has gained more acres of fast land."—Trenton State Gazette.

"A French educational commission has been making comparative studies of the vertical and inclined styles of handwriting, with regard to their effect upon school children, and has reached the unanimous conclusion that the latter is preferable as being less fatiguing and less likely to cause spinal curvature. The commission finds that in writing by the vertical system the arm is held in an unnatural position, which makes it impossible for the child to maintain a normal and hygienic posture and is thus likely to seriously injure pupils who are predisposed to spinal curvature and other deformities, or to writer's cramp. It is emphatically denied that the vertical style presents any advantages at all over the inclined. Our American school authorities would do well to study the report of the French commission. Vertical writing is now taught in the public schools of many States and if the findings of the French investigators are well founded it should be abandoned at once."—West Jersey Press.

"Ventnor suffered a disastrous fire last Sunday and at the meeting of City Council which followed an ordinance was ordered prepared authorizing a bond issue of \$30,000, with which to provide funds for the installation of a high pressure salt water fire main. Ventnor believes that a fire main will be more effective and economical than a big fire department. Citizens claim that the main requires very little repairing and that when it isn't in use there is no expense for maintenance, such as a fire department requires. There may be some truth in this theory. It is worth trying out at any rate, and \$30,000 is a modest outlay for the experiment. There is no question that Ventnor needs better fire protection. Like Atlantic City, the resort is growing so rapidly that the municipal government has had a hard time keeping pace with it."—Atlantic City Sunday Gazette.

"The number of idle freight cars is nearly 100,000 less than at this time last year, showing the steady march of prosperity, and all indications point to increased business. A car shortage when the crops are to be moved to market is indicated, which the stock holders say fully justifies the upward trend of price in Wall street."—Caldwell Post-Telegram.

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