

# NEVER TAKE A CHANCE WITH FIRE

## BE CAREFUL, NOT ONLY THIS WEEK BUT ALWAYS

**A DANGEROUS GIANT**

No one who has ever read that delightful old book, "The Arabian Nights," will easily forget the story of the genie in the bottle. You remember that as long as his bottle was kept tightly fastened he was harmless and invisible, but that the instant he was allowed to escape he became a terrible giant, able to do a vast amount of harm.

The subject of this lesson—gasoline—is very much like that genie. So long as it is deprived of liberty and kept under proper control, gasoline will drive motor trucks, automobiles and boats, and will work on farms or in factories. But let it once have an opportunity to escape, and it will take human life, burn down houses, cause terrible explosions and behave generally like a very wicked giant, indeed.

Gasoline, like kerosene, is derived from crude petroleum but is far more volatile. What does "volatile" mean? Well, you know that water in an open dish will dry up after a while, because it slowly changes into an invisible gas and disappears. Gasoline does the same thing, but it vaporizes much faster than water, and that is what we mean when we say that it is very volatile. Gasoline vapor is extremely dangerous; it is not disseminated in the atmosphere but sinks slowly to the ground. Sometimes it will settle to the floor of a room and flow along like the water of a stream, filling every hole and cranny that it can find and remaining there perhaps for days. In changing into vapor gasoline expands so enormously that one gallon will produce eight thousand cubic feet of gas, which means that a tank twenty feet square would be required to hold it. When this gas is mixed with air, it becomes an explosive much more powerful than dynamite and more easily exploded. Perhaps you have seen men engaged in blasting and have noticed how the small yellow sticks will tear solid rock to pieces. Who would be foolish enough to leave dynamite lying around? Yet it would take eighty-three pounds to do as much damage as the vapor from one gallon of gasoline, and people often handle gasoline as carelessly as though it could do no harm. That is why there are so many terrible accidents from its use.

**THE SPREADING FUMES**

Take, for example, the matter of cleaning. It may seem a great convenience that we can so easily clean our gloves and clothes with gasoline but it is an extremely dangerous practice and one which has caused great loss of life and property. The fumes of the gasoline spread out in all directions, and if they come in contact with a lighted cigar, a burning gas jet, a glowing coal in the fireplace, or even the merest spark, an explosion instantly takes place with a resulting flash of flame which sets fire to whatever inflammable matter it touches. When we realize that a nail in one's shoe striking against a metallic object may produce a spark, and that sparks may even be caused by the friction of rubbing gloves together while cleaning them, the countless opportunities for gasoline vapor to ignite and explode becomes apparent. Then when we remember that ten cents' worth of gasoline is sufficient to blow up an ordinary house, we can understand the necessity of keeping the gasoline genie tightly corked in his bottle.

The inflammability of gasoline fumes is amazing. In one case these fumes were carried outside a building to a lighted lamp thirty feet away, where they took fire and flashed back to the building, which was entirely destroyed. In another the mere opening of a door between the room where gasoline was being used to clean gloves and a room in which there was a lighted lamp caused a destructive explosion. A chauffeur was cleaning his automobile one evening using an electric flash-light for illumination in order to be perfectly safe. A part of the lamp which was not insulated struck the metal rim and foot-board, producing a spark. In the fire that resulted his little daughter was burned to death and the garage was destroyed.

**NEVER POUR GASOLINE INTO THE SINK**

Gasoline must never be allowed to remain in an open vessel or in any can or bottle that is not tightly corked. It should never be poured down a sink, because the fumes may pass through the sewer and come up in some other house. Do not use gasoline at all in a room which has a light; in fact, all cleaning by gasoline—dangerous in any circumstance—should be done by daylight and out of doors. It is still better to use some cleaning fluid which will not take fire. Such safe preparations, such as carbon tetrachloride, can be bought at any drug store.

Never keep gasoline or benzene in a glass bottle; for, if the bottle be dropped it is liable to break and let the liquid escape. In many states the law provides that any receptacle containing gasoline for the retail trade must be bright red in color, with the word "Gasoline" in a different color.

There is one precaution against gasoline fires which always should be taken. When an automobile stops at a garage and takes on several gallons of "gas," as it is often called, there is always a faint smell of gasoline in the air; this means that despite every care there has been a slight leakage somewhere. It is very necessary, therefore, that no one should smoke in an automobile which is receiving gasoline. The larger gasoline cans must always be kept away from the house. The safest place for gasoline in quantity is in underground tanks.

Should one be so unfortunate as to have a gasoline or a kerosene fire occur in a garage or house, it is foolish to pour water upon it; water will spread the flames. Earth or sand may be thrown upon the fire to smother it, although the use of a chemical extinguisher is even better. Sometimes a woolen rug or a coat thrown over the fire will put it out instantly, but there should be a chemical extinguisher in every garage.

After all, the best and safest thing we can do is to keep our gasoline genie where he can do us no harm.

- SAFETY RULES FOR GASOLINE**
1. Always remember that you must take no chance with gasoline; it is one of the most dangerous substances in common use.
  2. It must always be kept in tightly fastened cans; never in glass bottles.
  3. It should never be uncovered within the house, nor at any point where its fumes can travel to an open flame, a live coal, or a spark.
  4. Do not use it for cleaning; get a safe cleaning preparation.
  5. Gasoline in quantity should be kept in underground tanks.
  6. No one should be allowed to smoke in a garage.
  7. No one should be allowed to smoke in an automobile while its gasoline tank is being filled.
  8. Do not use water upon a gasoline or kerosene fire; use a chemical extinguisher, or else throw earth or sand upon it—try to smother it.
- Keep the gasoline use have to use in a self-closing metal can, and use it out of doors only.

## YOU'LL BE EVEN HAPPIER



**A. R. McINNIS**  
75 QUEEN STREET  
CHARLOTTETOWN, P. E. I.  
Office 1040  
Residence 1252

### BE CAREFUL

HELP the Fire Department to fight your fire before it starts. WATCH the careless smoker and do not allow him to impose on you.

TEACH yourself and children the danger of fire. HAVE an extinguisher or bucket of water, for fire purposes only, always handy.

KEEP matches in a metal box. HAVE your flues examined and made safe.

HAVE your electric wiring and gas pipes examined and made safe.

HAVE all rubbish removed from within and around your premises.

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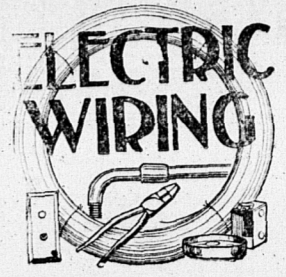
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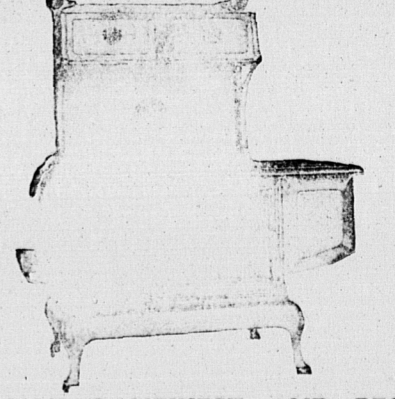


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