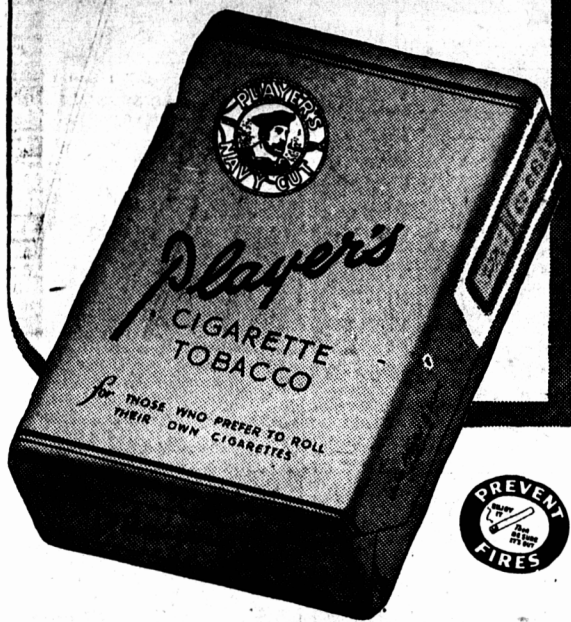


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IT'S THE TOBACCO THAT COUNTS

CRESCENT CARNIVAL

FRANCES PARKINSON KEYES

(Continued)

XXV

Stella, impatiently twisting one dial after the other, in a vain effort to get a clear connection with Baton Rouge, felt as if the grating and crackling caused by the static constituted the last straw in the bothersome burdens of the day. She was just about ready to throw the instrument across the floor when Drew walked into the library. "Why, hello, Stella!" he said amiably. "I didn't know you were in here. Is anything wrong? Somehow you don't seem to radiate that calm contentment I like to see on the countenances of my guests."

touch, indirectly at least, with Raoul and everything that was important to him. Her worst fears, however, proved entirely groundless. Drew did not betray any intention of driving her from the room. "Would you like me to see what I can do with the refractory radio?" he inquired. "I'm fairly good at tinkering with such things as a rule. Or better still — why not let me call up Raoul and see if he couldn't run down here and spend the night? I think he'd be a great addition to the house party."

Stella snatched the receiver out of Drew's hand. "You make me sick and tired," she said savagely. "No, I wasn't talking to you, Raoul. I was talking to Drew. Can't you come down tonight? Drew says he'd be glad to have you. I wish you could, but if you really can't, we'd love to have you tomorrow, instead. Only we thought we might come to Baton Rouge tomorrow. Oh, it isn't..." she turned from the telephone and spoke to Drew again, far less savagely this time. "Raoul says the House has adjourned until Wednesday. He'll be free and he'll be glad to come down here then, if that's all right, and have us up there Wednesday, instead. Here, you'd better talk to him yourself."

The receiver changed hands several times. The two men spoke briefly together, and to the point. Stella kept breaking in. She wanted to talk on and on. But she had no choice when Raoul said, rather brusquely, "Listen, couldn't you say all that tomorrow morning just as well? I'm talking from one of the booths in the lobby, and I'm in an awful hurry." She shook back her curls, ready to say something defensive. But Drew was already speaking, satirically again.

"Well, that seems to be that. I hope I've redeemed myself as a host, partially at least. I can see that this old house has too few modern conveniences though. You'll find an extra radio and an extension telephone in your own room when we get back from Baton Rouge. I hope you'll enjoy using them. And I hope you don't mind if I add that perhaps they'll help you to remember that libraries, especially libraries connected with bachelors' bedrooms, should be quiet retreats primarily reserved for reading."

Tuesday turned out to be another trying day. Raoul telephoned very early to say that Huey Long had died about four that morning, and in consequence he could not possibly leave. It was still raining the next morning and no one was in especially good spirits on the trip to Baton Rouge. When they finally reached the State House, Raoul was waiting for them by the hostess's desk in the bizarre lobby. (To be continued)

HAMPTON W. L.

The monthly meeting of the Hampton W. L. was held at the home of Mrs. James Campbell, Monday, March 19th. The meeting opened with the Creed, followed by the reading of the minutes of last meeting which were approved as read. Roll call was answered by each member telling an Irish joke. Mrs. Warren Inman suggested the Institute sell lunches at a summer meeting to be held in the hall when roads improve.

A letter about reviving folk dances and Highland dancing was read, and it was decided to write Mrs. J. S. MacKinnon about this matter. A letter of thanks for baby's gift and several messages of thanks for gifts were received by Institute. \$5.00 was voted for Red Cross appeal. The sick committee reported four treats taken. The school committee reported a creamer and dust-bane needed.

New committees appointed: Sick—Mrs. James Campbell and Mrs. Earle Callbeck.

School—Mrs. John MacQuarrie and Mrs. Edwin Ferguson.

Lunch—Mrs. George Dunstford, Mrs. Howard Myers and Mrs. L. S. Woolfry.

Program—Mrs. Clifford Sherran and Mrs. George Cannon.

Collection amounted to \$1.15. One new member welcomed. The Institute News was passed out to subscribers. On motion the meeting adjourned. Next meeting at Mrs. Clayton Morrison's.

MOUNT ALBION W. L.

The regular April meeting of the Mount Albion W.L. met at the home of Mrs. Benjamin Horton on April 3. The president, Mrs. Henry Jenkins presided.

The meeting opened with the Creed. Roll was called and 11 members responded. The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

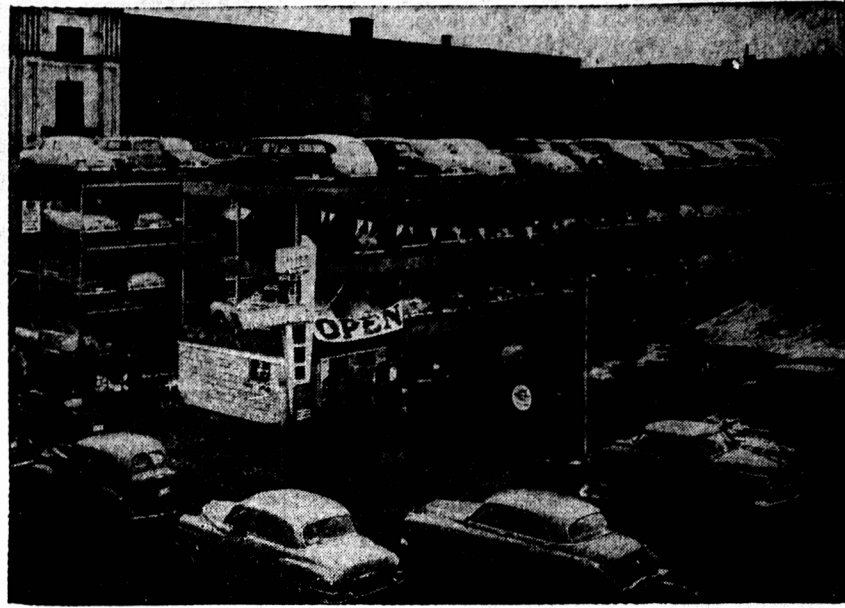
The treasurer was instructed to pay Mr. Hermann the balance due him for the covering of the organ.

It was moved and seconded and after a lengthy discussion, carried to have one general fund in the Institute instead of two as previously. It was decided to hold a variety concert in the Hall. The tentative date set was April 24.

The correspondence was read and the secretary-treasurer reported receipt of a cheque for \$2.50 from the Government. The collection amounted to \$2.15 and \$2.95 was donated for cups. The collection for the flower fund amounted to \$1.66.

Mrs. Gordon Myers very kindly offered her home for the May meeting. The lunch committee for this meeting will be Mrs. Jack MacPhail, Mrs. Henry Jenkins and Mrs. Gilbert Jenkins.

The meeting was then adjourned. At the close of the meeting a delicious lunch was served by the hostess assisted by the committee in charge.



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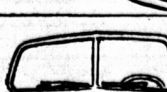
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