

## Deep and Shallows

### What A Find!

For their vacation, during the spring of 1949, Mrs. Wilkerson and her daughter Harriet decided to visit Death Valley, which neither had ever seen. Starting at crack of dawn, they reached their destination to find the weather much warmer than they had expected.

After seeing the many advertised sights, Harriet wanted to do some exploring on horseback into places where an auto couldn't penetrate. Although just as good a horse-woman, her mother decided to stick to the car.

Childhood memories flashed into Mrs. Wilkerson's mind—memories of her school days when her father had gone into some sort of mining business. The name of the town was Carrara, and it was not far from Death Valley. The hotel clerk augmented his information with, "But remember, madam, Carrara is a DEAD town." A seasoned traveler, mother wasn't bothered by that. She'd seen what had been called dead towns before.

In her auto she started out to find Carrara and the American White Marble Company her father had been interested in. The roads were not of boulevard smoothness, but she arrived at Carrara without mishap.

There was no mistake about it—Carrara was a dead town. Not a house nor a tree was standing, although there were places which showed where a house had once been. She got out of the car and began to stroll about.

Under one of the few bushes she noticed a piece of paper, and picked it up. Unfolding it she saw, to her astonishment, that it was a check written and signed by her father, at one time treasurer of the American White Marble Company, dated 1917.

It was hard to believe, but seeing was believing. The name "E. B. Vittum" was signed in her father's hand.

Being a level headed business woman, she decided to browse

around. In a corner of what must have been the office of the company she found a bunch of papers, bare of cover, which proved to be her father's ledger, with records of employees, wages earned, and such items as a treasurer would record. There were also notations of the cost of piping water to the quarry, and of bringing sand for polishing the marble. Both were very expensive items.

The highest wage paid to an employee was \$2.75 a day. A truck driver earned \$5.50 an hour. The earliest date was 1915 and the latest, 1921. In the distance she could see places where there had been quarrying, and reaching there, she found huge excavations.

Since then she has found out why the quarry was abandoned. It was impossible to get out pieces of white marble large enough to be cut into slabs. There always appeared a crack that ruined the slab.

What became of the machinery and where the people went to, why the treasurer's books should have been left behind, will probably always remain a mystery. Carrara can still be found on the map. It never rains there, which would account for the slow deterioration of the treasurer's books. The leaves are frayed around the edges, but even the lead pencil writing is readable, and the ink is very clear.

What a find!

—A.C.O.

### In The Crowded Subway

"Excuse me, ma'am, you're in a groove, and I must ask you, please, to move."

"I wonder, sir, you have the face— You know this is a public place!"

"Quite true, madame, and neatly put— But you're standing on a private foot!"

—R.B.O.

### Student Picked For Girl State

Joan Avery daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Cyrus M. Avery 1563 Eastview Rd. a pupil of Highland Park High School will leave on Sunday June 21st for MacMurray College Campus, Jacksonville, Illinois, where she will attend the Ninth Annual Session of Illini Girls State, June 21st to June 30th sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary. 432 of Illinois most outstanding Junior students have been chosen to attend this Session.

Joan was selected because of her outstanding qualifications such as being a very superior young lady in all personality and character traits, and has been active in extra-curricular activities and was chosen for adaptability and leadership. She ranks in the upper 20th of her graduating class of 269.

Illini Girl State is held annually primarily to provide citizenship training for Illinois girls who have just finished their Junior year. The girls will set up a miniature State Government patterned after the State of Illinois where they will form political parties, hold conventions, campaign for office and carry out all of the executive and judicial functions of the State. They will attend classes in personal hygiene, vocational, public speaking, first aid, swimming, and publish their own daily newspaper. There will be social functions, get-togethers and planned trips, all carried out by the girls.

Carl Coppens, 322 Bloom St. Highland Park was chosen as alternate. She also was selected as a student of superior personality and character.

### New Recordings Now In Circulation At Public Library

The first of the new-recordings purchased for the Highland Park Public Library by the Friends of the Library are now in circulation with many more to be added shortly, according to Harry A. Sellery, Jr., president of the Friends.

Shostakovich, Schoenberg, Bartok, Tchaikowsky and Beethoven are among the composers represented, indicating the wide range of the selections.

These are purchased from a sum of \$400 set up as a fund by the Friends to augment the Library's collection which can be enjoyed in the Library or borrowed to be heard at home.

The Board of the Library, in accepting the records, praised the work of the Friends and in a letter to Sellery, stated:

"Such a gift will add immeasurably to the record collection at the Public Library and the members of the Board feel confident that the community will derive great pleasure from them."

The purchase of these records was made possible by Highland Parkers who supported the organization through membership in the Friends during the last year, Sellery pointed out. The opportunity to participate as a member of the Friends is now open to everyone during the group's 1949 membership campaign. Applications are available at the Library. Those who received them in the mail are urged to send the nominal dues immediately to Harold L. Nelson, Treasurer, 164 Elmwood drive.

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