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Former Drug Clerks Rise High in Music, Radio, Etc.

Rudy Vallee the Son of a Maine Druggist. Edgar Guest Worked in Drug Store as a Lad. Eddie Albert a Drug Clerk.

Men who used to be clerks and errand boys in drug stores have risen high not only in the business of selling articles over the counter but in music, the

novies, radio, according to a recent article in American Druggist.

Just a few years ago 12 of the outstanding personalities of the entertainment world were working in drug stores over the country.

The world knows that Rudy Vallee is the son of a Maine druggist, and that Eddie Duchin orchestra director, is a registered pharmacist. From 1921 to 1923 Eddie worked in the drug store of Harry Kelleher at Pon and Rantour streets in Beverly, Mass., for \$6 a week. He was attending high school at the time.

From 1925 to 1929, while he was attending the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy in Boston, he worked in the Miller drug stores located at such points in and around Boston as Massachusetts Avenue, South Station, Washington Street and Orient Point and Revere. His salary with the Miller chain was \$10 a week. Pounding a piano instead of a pestle brings him several thousand a week.

Edgar A. Guest, nationally famous newspaper poet, started his business career at the age of 12, helping behind the fountain of Robbins' Drug Store, Third Ave., near Charlotte, in Detroit.

Wilbur Hulick Budd of Sloopnag and Budd—was night manager of Huyler's fountain in Buffalo before he became a radio comedian.

Gene Carroll, of the famous team of

Gene and Glenn, ran errands for a Chicago druggist when he wore short pants. His salary was \$3 a week.

Warren Hull, master of ceremonies, may be a past-master at introductions now, but he admits that he wasn't so hot when he tried to introduce new products to patrons in his drug store clerking days.

Too Talkative

Norman Brokenshire didn't last but one week when he secured a soda-slinging job. "They didn't want us to talk to the customers," explains the talkative Norman.

Harry Breuer, xylophonist, is the son of H. H. Breuer, proprietor of Breuer's Pharmacy, 775 Woodward Ave., Brooklyn, N.Y. Like all druggists' sons, Harry worked in the store and says he would have been a druggist if it hadn't been for his interest in music. His brother William is now a pupil at the College of Pharmacy at Columbia University.

Fritz Clark, end man of the Sinclair Greater Minstrels, and a member of the Maple City Four, a quartet heard in the National Barn Dance, is the son of Fred W. Meissner, a well-known LaPorte, Ind., druggist, who was president of the Indiana State Pharmacy board for two years, retiring last year.

Fritz is the "funmaker and entertainer of the evening who draws. My mammy calls me T-Bone," when introduced by Gene Arnold.

Jack Owens, tenor soloist, worked as a soda jerker in the Bennett Drug Store, Wichita, Kans., while in high school. Jack says:

"I received \$5 a week plus tips. To be real truthful I was only the assistant soda jerker, or rather, one of the many assistants. The head man received \$40 weekly for his services—a princely salary, it seemed to me then, but he was worth it.

"Most of my work consisted in hopping cars—curb service. I had a trick of offering cigarettes or mints to the car customers. It usually increased the size of the tip and proved to be quite a profitable investment."

Eddie Albert, star of "The Honey-mooners," was a soda jerker in Merrill Roberts and Oscar Tenold's drug store, Ninth Street and Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis in 1926. He was in high school at the time and worked from six to midnight or 1 a.m. and received \$13 a week.

"I considered myself very cocky in my apron, jacket and little white cap," Eddie told American Druggist, "and worked weeks to master the art of shooting a jolt of Coca-Cola syrup into a glass, and then flipping it twice over in the air before giving it to the carbonated water.

"The store was across the street from the Hennepin-Orpheum, the vaudeville house at that time. Hence it was quite thrilling for me to serve as customers the actors and current players who would drop in for their malted milks; Ted Lewis, Joe Penner, Van & Schenk, Jack Benny and others.

"But these idols of the footlights never noticed the lad who, with such loving care deposited a respectful bit of whipped cream on their extra-thick malted milk."

Dell Sharbutt, announcer, was selling aspirin over the counter of Bond's Drug Store in Kerens, Tex., 10 years ago. This Sharbutt boy was both the cause of many of the headaches and the seller of the remedy.

It was his job to open the store at 5 a.m. and it was his ambition to learn to play musical instruments. The son of a rather straight-laced Texas minister, at home jazz and jazz instruments were no more welcome than Sunday movies.

The drug store job, even with its 5 a.m. arising to Dell, was nothing less than the sound of opportunity's well worn knuckles playing a tattoo on his door. With money saved from his drug store earnings, he bought a saxophone, and not much later a clarinet, a flute, a piccolo and an oboe. From 5 till 8 a.m. daily he would practice in the back of the pharmacy—much to the mental anguish of the neighbours and to the increase of local aspirin sales. Dell's former employer, M. T. Boyd, druggist of Kerens, Texas, says: "He was a great boy, and as my wife described him he would be a success at anything he undertook to do."

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Dr. Crile, Conqueror of Surgical Shock, Announces Radiation and Electricity are the Vital Forces.

One day back in 1887, a young medical student was carried into University hospital, Cleveland, in a pitiful state. Both his legs had been crushed by the wheels of a street car.

Hastily a group of doctors and nurses set to work to save his life. Among them was a friend of the victim, a young interne who had joined the hospital staff only the day before.

In the words of that interne—now older and internationally famous—the patient was perspiring, his face was pale and drawn, his respiration was hurried, his pulse soft and low. It became my duty to administer chloroform while Dr. Frank J. Weed performed an amputation. . . .

"Following the operation, the patient exhibited a shrunken countenance, a rapid, feeble, falling pulse, pallor, cold sweat, sighing respiration, restlessness, semiconsciousness.

Inexplicable Phenomena
"I attended him through the night and noted his steadily failing faculties and deepening depression. In the early morning he died. This was the first death I had ever witnessed.

"The post-mortem showed all the organs and tissues to be normal in structure. On the known morphologic basis of his organs, "per se" (he) was not dead.

"During the night I had made notes on the inexplicable phenomena of this falling mechanism. What was it that was falling? What was it that this young medical student possessed up to the moment of his accident that he lost by reason of the crushing of his limbs without material loss of blood; and why was the treatment for shock that was applied all through the night of no benefit?"

Those questions started the young interne on a quest for the secret of life, a 49-year search during which he has become one of the best-known surgeons in America.

This week, Dr. George Washington Crile, director of the famous Cleveland Clinic, gives the conclusions of his long study in a new book, "The Phenomena of Life" (W. W. Norton and Company, New York), from which the quotations above are taken.

For generations, until physiologists and chemists disproved it, many people believed in a mysterious "vital force." What happened in living cells was supposed to be managed by this force, and life was thought to be something operating outside the ordinary laws of chemistry and physics.

One by one, chemists have been duplicating the activities of living matter, but mysteries enough still exist. What power governs the chorus of cell activities, managing them in harmonious unison, as an orchestra conductor manages his musicians, is still unknown.

Theory Offered

Doctor Crile now proposes a theory in which he finds the "vital force" to be radiation and electricity.

Since the day he started out to ascertain why his young friend died, he has performed many experiments, some gruesome, not a few tedious.

He found that shock—a very real menace, as every surgeon knows—is not caused by failure of the heart, arteries, or any changes in the blood or its circulation, or in any of the organs except the brain, the liver, and the cortex, or bark, of the adrenal glands.

Extensive changes in the cells of these organs were caused by shock, excessive fear and exhaustion.

In a sense, it is as if injury to a part of the body, or sometimes only extreme fear of such injury, causes the brain cells associated with the part to swell up and disintegrate—to "explode."

This discovery enabled Dr. Crile, just

before the war, to invent his famous "nerve block" anesthesia, which conquered surgical shock and won him international honours.

He found that general anesthesia, such as is produced by ether or chloroform, does not prevent the transmission of shock impulses to the brain, even if the patient is unconscious. But if the trunk nerves are blocked off by cocaine or other nerve deadeners, the impulses are stopped, and the patient does not develop the deadly surgical shock.

But the main question—what is life, was still unsolved. During the war, Dr. Crile served in France, as commander of a hospital unit. Upon his return, with three other physicians who had seen service, he organized the Cleveland Clinic.

Some years earlier he had observed that living cells are like tiny electric batteries. The whole cell is surrounded by a wall of fatty material, lipid, which does not transmit electricity.

Clue Followed

With this as a clue, Dr. Crile and his associates at the clinic were able to produce, out of salts and sterile brain proteins, artificial "cells" which exhibited many of the phenomena that living cells do. They breathed, grew, divided, and were affected by anesthetics and adrenalin. However, they were not really alive. They were only models of living cells.

Doctor Crile studied another phenomenon. Living cells appear to give off radiation. He found that he could intensify that light enough to photograph it.

This light, he believes, is emitted when cells break down nitrogen compounds.

The original source of these compounds is the nitrogen of the air, made chemically active with the aid of lightning, and then built up into proteins through energy taken from the sun by plants.

Therefore, says Dr. Crile, the light given off by living cells is really "sunlight" and "lightning" escaping again after long imprisonment.

Physics Enlisted

"Thus we . . . arrive at the conception that not only this or that but every phenomenon of life can be identified in the terms of physics and can be explained in the light of a Radio-Electric Theory," writes Doctor Crile in his new book.

Hostile critics may say that this theory for the most part rephrases, in somewhat vague terms and figures of speech, what has already long been known, but to Dr. Crile it represents a complete, new solution to an age-old problem.

Three weeks ago he returned from a vacation abroad, which included hunting in Africa. He brought back for study glands of 200 animals, ranging from a field-mouse to a wild elephant. At the pier he snarled a bit at reporters when they asked for details of his trip, but admitted that he shot the elephant himself.

He is an ardent hunter, despite his 71 years. A few years ago he invented the Crile shot for lion hunters. He



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found that a lion shot through the heart can still charge for several hundred feet. But when the shot shatters the pneumogastric nerve, in the shoulder, the animal is stopped dead in its tracks.

Constituents Necessary to Make the Month of March

(By J. I. Rodale)

March is a super-colossal month. It usually comes in like a lion and goes out like a hyena. It is famed in song and story for its wind. This year particularly it will be remembered for the right smart bit of wind generated by the Sentinels of the Republic rehearsing the old appesauce for the presidential conventions.

The birthstone for March is a big, shiny clincker. Persons born during this month will make a success as furnace men and janitors. They should be wary of coal chutes. The C.S. Post Office was founded in March, 1789, and ever since then, editors have been swamped with manuscripts.

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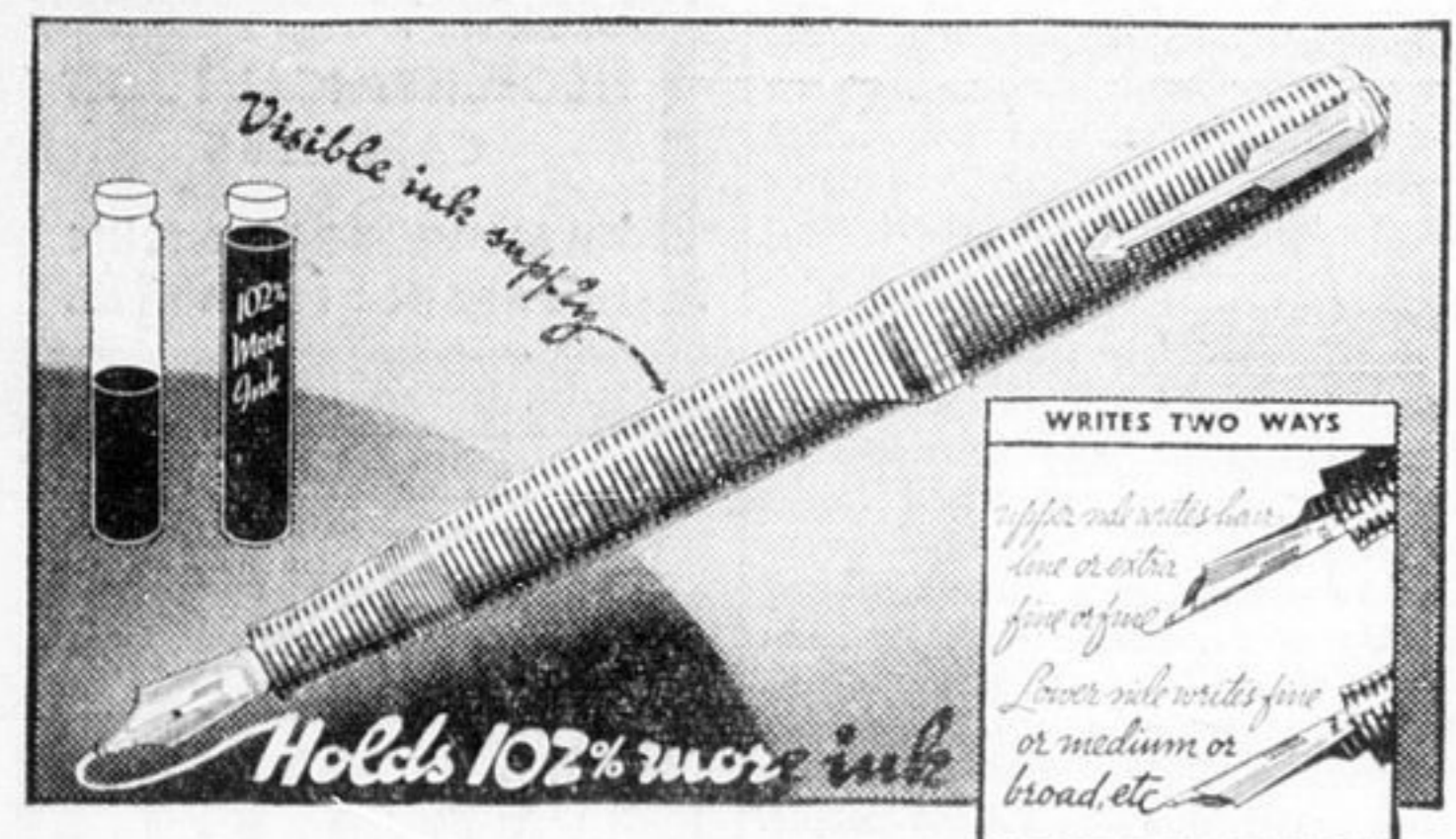


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