



PLEASANT HOMES

by Elizabeth MacRea Boykin

THE LUXURY OF THE BATH

America Makes a Ritual of Bathing—Marble and Mirror Walls, Sun Lamps and Chaise Lounges—Why Not Bigger and Better Bathrooms?

Bathrooms are a philosophy of life, symbols of the taste and talents of nations as well as individuals. The old Romans, the Finns, the Japanese and the modern Americans have one thing in common, a high regard for the luxury of the bath. Curious it is that bathing should have become an important ritual in these nations that are apparently so different, that represent such extremes of abundance and abstemiousness.

Borrowed Cultures
And yet on second glance, perhaps one might discover a common denominator. These are all nations that have put their emphasis on physical well being while basing their aesthetic development on a borrowed culture. For Rome, the source of art was Greece; for Japan the source was China; for Finland the source both Europe and Asia; for America the source has been largely Europe. But one hears little of plumbing or baths in Greece, but much still remains of the magnificent Roman water systems and baths. The Chinese have never paid much mind to sanitation or bathing while the Japanese have made a fetish of it regarding bathing both as a ceremony and a luxury. Most European countries, even those noted for cleanliness, have regarded the bathroom as purely functional. Even Italy of the Renaissance gave little thought to plumbing, for all their great Roman precedents. Yet Finland, remote and relatively uncreative, has an elaborate festival of the bath and considers a steaming bath with swish brushes high among their pleasures. While America has put a luxurious standard of the bath into even the very modest home and has developed an elaborate repertoire of equipment; we have even gone so far as to judge other nations and civilization on the basis of plumbing.

It is not meant as derogatory to say that bathing has been developed furthest by those who have borrowed to



Here is a bathroom with floor, wall tiles and fixtures of tiles hand-made and hand-decorated by Henry Varum Poor, the famous artist, who built his own home on a rocky hillside. This bathroom is in brilliant coppery tones with sepia and black accents.

Bigger and Better

If then America can take her marvelous plumbing without getting the big-head about it, remembering that it may have to stand comparison with the Mona Lisa or a Gobelin tapestry or a Chippendale chair, then it's all right to enjoy it, to hold up our heads proud-

shelves for lovely bottles and jars and bowls of fragrant perfumes and powders and soaps. And preferably (if there is a private outlook) with one broad wall-wide window that can be thrown open and onto a balcony in fine weather for sun bathing. In winter an enormous plate glass window panel can close off the weather without appearing to close in the room. Could that old sleeping porch be made over into a regal bath?

For Posterity

Maybe you're jolted at such an idea for yourself now, not being a Hollywood queen or one of the sixty families. But get used to the idea for it's coming to the prosperous and comfortable home of the future. Since Americans like bathrooms, are impressed by them, we're going to keep right on making them bigger and better. For though we may never leave a heritage of hand lace to posterity, we will bequeath plumbing that will certainly awe the archeologist of the future.

The stores are replete with elegancies for the bathroom. And this is the time of year to buy abundant supplies of such luxuries. And the bathroom supply firms have grandly beautiful fixtures. While builder's samplers of wall and floor materials should lure anybody into a handsome remodeling job on the bathroom.

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Highest Court in U.S.A. Upholds Salute of Flag

(From Ottawa Journal)

In Pembroke a few weeks ago children were suspended from the public school because, on orders of their parents, they had refused to salute the flag or join in singing the National Anthem. It was a situation which previously had arisen in the United States, and on which a ruling now has been made by the United States Supreme Court. That tribunal decided by eight to one that school children legally may be required to salute the Stars and Stripes, even if members of a religious sect which looks with abhorrence on such ceremonies.

Justice Frankfurter wrote the majority decision. National unity, he said, was the basis of national security, and the flag was the symbol of that national unity; and conscientious scruples do not relieve the individual of obedience to a general law which was not aimed at the promotion or restriction of a religious belief. And he added this:

"To stigmatize legislative judgment in providing for this universal gesture of respect for the symbol of our national life in the setting of the common school as a lawless inroad on that freedom of conscience which the constitution protects would amount to no less than the pedagogical and psychological dogma in a field where courts possess no marked and certainly no controlling competence."

"The preciousness of the family relation, the authority and independence which give dignity to parenthood, indeed the enjoyment of all freedom, presuppose the kind of ordered society which is summarized by our flag."

Presumably this is sound law. Certainly it is common sense. The suggestion that a child may be less zealous in his religious convictions because he is required to pay a decent respect to his country's institutions—on which his liberty in religion rests—is far from convincing.

"I've just been having an argument with the dentist."
"Who won?"
"It ended in a draw."

Fifth Columns, Aged Meat, Small Advt., and Other Things

Paprika. A 1916 Deserter. Air Conditioned and So Forth.

Writing in his column in The Toronto Telegram, Thomas Richard Henry says this week:—

Fifth Column Notes
We acknowledge hints on fifth columns, but, unfortunately, we don't expect that the dangerous fifth columnists give themselves away. A lady is worried over a couple who were sold Nazis some three years ago. The man came from Germany eight years ago; learned all a Chinese cook could teach him, then got the Chinaman fired and took his job. This sounds quite German, regardless of what column you put it in.

Another lady is highly indignant because the authorities look on her as German. She married a German ten years ago, and separated from him five years ago. Give a girl a bad name, etc.

Paprika
One result of the war is to cut off the United States imports of paprika. Just imagine the horrible suffering that must be endured because Americans can't get their paprika.

No wonder efforts are being made to grow paprika in Louisiana—and the Germans no doubt are watching and wondering if the States could get through another winter without paprika.

Illuminating

They have started night baseball in New York and the report says, "The Giants played their first nocturnal game on a field 19 times brighter than the average business man's desk."

You will notice that it was 19 times brighter than the average man's desk. The record does not state how much brighter it was than the average business man.

We wonder if they measured the light on all the business men's desks and took an average—how else could they have arrived at that "19". If they had said 20 times brighter, you might have taken it at just a rough estimate, but "19 times brighter" suggests careful mathematical calculation.

Then, how do they decide which is an average business man—and which are slightly above or below average.

But we continue with the report of lighting the field.

"If concentrated in a single beam, the 200,000 candlepower generated would make it possible to read a newspaper 18 miles away."

This really is something. It would be quite a feat for most of us to read a newspaper 18 miles away even in daylight—those of us, at least, who do not wear reading glasses.

We wonder what the man was drinking just previous to writing about the Giants' nocturnal ball game.

Bad Business

There is a sign just outside Toronto which reads: "Car washing 50 cents—24-hour rain check."

We don't know why the man doesn't go broke this spring.

Genteel

There is nothing that resembles "Vie de Paris" or even Esquire in the advertisements for Monel metal tanks. Take Imogene, for example.

The Monel metal people show the alluring Imogene stepping into her bath and gurgling with delight at how clean and hot the water is.

The way Imogene steps over the edge of the bath tub is a picture of grace and beauty—but Imogene is piteously garbed in negligee.

It is possibly a sign of modern times—the ladies undress to go out in public, but wear flowing robes while taking a bath.

Column Five

While the French are holding the front line, possibly we could play an active part in overthrowing the Fifth Column.

We would be a little careful about catching honest Canadians of foreign birth, but where it can be proved that anybody was acting as an undercover agent of a foreign government, he should be shot before another dawn.

There is no logic in shooting half a million German soldiers who, at least, come out in the open and fight—and providing a nice internment camp for the sneaking Judas within our gates. Since men are shooting each other in such a wholesale fashion we see no reason to spare the spy.

Why Not?

Robert Ley, German Labor Front leader, said almost a month ago that Hitler would soon make the whole world happy.

Well, why doesn't he hurry up? We suggest prussic acid, simply because prussic acid always reminds us of Prussia—but almost any poison would do as well.

1916 Deserter

A French deserter from the army in 1916 has just been arrested. The French army forgets things just about as easily as Scotland Yard.

Air Conditioned

"Also Allahbaza and Arlene Stewart air conditioned for comfort," a local theatre blazons forth.

The Last Quarter Hour

It is the last quarter of an hour that takes the courage. The Germans have shown their ability to keep up a heavy and sustained attack for a long period, but even the German storm must blow itself out in time. Men are only human machines, no matter how German and inhumane they may be. We heard a lady say the other day, "I hope the Allies never make peace with Hitler when he is riding high but

Religious Sect Members Accused of Shooting Two

Because on more than one occasion here recently there has been trouble in town in regard to the sect calling themselves "Jehovah's Witnesses" and known to many as followers of Judge Rutherford, there will be more than passing interest in incidents elsewhere in which this sect is figuring. At Pembroke recently two children were suspended from school because they refused to salute the British flag when this ceremony was being followed by the other children. The Pembroke parents concerned supported their children in refusing to salute the flag, on the plea that their religion would not permit any such salutes to earthly symbols. The school board at Pembroke supported the teacher, but later it was decided to settle the matter by providing that children who did not want to salute the flag may withdraw from the scene until after the ceremony. This will not be considered an ideal adjustment of the difficulty. Most people will feel that no proper religious belief will stop children from doing honour to flag and country. In the United States these refusing to salute the flag were not given so much consideration. The courts decided that all children must salute the flag. In the United States feeling against "Jehovah's Witnesses" is growing. At Kennebunk, Maine, six of the sect are on bail following charges of assault with intent to kill. It appears an argument started after some of the "Witnesses" refused to salute the flag. This was followed by a fist fight. Eventually guns were used and two men were shot in the legs. This roused a mob which attacked the "Witnesses." When order was restored the six members of the sect were placed under arrest. Authorities said they confiscated five rifles and two shot guns found in the group's headquarters.

STRANGE

There is an extraordinary story from a rural district that a pair of robins disdained a post-box, a pump, a lamp-post and built a nest in a tree—Montreal Star.

just about to crash."

This is the last quarter hour of the battle of France, which is just one of the battles of the war—the second, to be exact.

In the last quarter hour of the war there may be some danger of what the lady fears.

Germany was winning in July, 1918—and she broke in August, 1918.

Small Ads

Among the articles for rent we find "June weddings" listed.

Would anybody like to rent a nice June wedding?

And another small ad says: "Barber shot, established location—The police should look into this."

We can't have any established location for shooting barbers.

We don't think there is anything wrong in shooting a barber now and then who insists on covering your head with a high-smelling concoction before you have time to interrupt his flow of opinion on matters far and near.

But we don't think that it should become a general practice, with an established location.

Aging Meat

A new process has been found for accelerating the aging of meat. People are certainly in a hurry these days.

If they like their meat lofty, why don't they just wait for time and nature to fulfill their destinies?

But this won't do. They must hurry meat into getting old before its time.

As a matter of fact we thought the whole idea in modern refrigerating and the rest was to prevent meat and other foodstuffs from aging.

But apparently some scientist got tired of the beaten path, and reversed the general idea. So now, if you want it, you can get aged meat in a hurry. We repeat, if you want it.

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Old-Timer of Cobalt and Kirkland Camps Passes

Kirkland Lake, June 12 — Joseph Simms, old-timer of the Cobalt Camp and since then a resident of Charlton and Kirkland Lake for some years, dropped dead at the home of his daughter, Mrs. D. Boisvert, Goodfish Road, Monday night about 6.30 o'clock. He was 74 years of age.

Mr. Simms was in the livery business in Cobalt with the late Thomas Martin. He entered this business in 1906 when he first went to Cobalt. He remained there for a number of years and then went to Charlton where he was proprietor of a hotel. His hotel was destroyed in the Charlton fire, which preceded the big Halleybury holocaust.

He farmed for several years at Charlton after that and came to Kirkland Lake about ten years ago.

Two of his sons, Tom and Elmer, and a grandson Garnet, enlisted from Kirkland Lake.

AN IDEA

A man was approached by an insurance canvasser and asked if he was insured against fire.
"Yes," replied the other.
"Burglary?"
"Well, yes."
"Are you insured against floods?"
"Floods?" said the other, showing interest at last. "How do you start floods?"—Passing Hour

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