

# At Home

Come in & Chat Awhile

—Ruth Raeburn.

Dear Bobby:

I think it is a splendid idea to make a scrap book containing the biographies of great composers. Your music teacher has the right idea of keeping before his pupils a high ideal and knowledge of musicians can only be gained by knowing the lives of those who have done great things. I hope your scrap-book will win the prize at your recital.

Yours sincerely,  
—Ruth Raeburn.

### RICHARD WAGNER

From "The Master Musicians; The Stories of Romantic Lives" by Cuthbert Hadden

Richard Wagner was the youngest of a family of nine children and was born at Leipzig on May 22, 1813. His father, a man of good education, occupied some minor official post in connection with the police. But Wagner never knew his father. Around his cradle, as some one has put it, was fought the battle of the nations. One hundred and twenty thousand Germans and Frenchmen lay dead or dying in the fields near Leipzig when the baby Richard was snuggling peacefully in his cot; and the epidemic fever which followed rendered the future composer fatherless when only five months old.

Most of the great composers have been prodigies, as we have seen. Wagner ripened late, like Schumann. It was literature that interested him first rather than music. Thus at school he took a fancy for Greek and made great progress in it. He conceived also a vast admiration for Shakespeare and under that influence wrote a tragedy himself when he was fourteen. As a child of seven he used to strum on the piano upon which, later on, his Latin tutor gave him some lessons, only to predict that musically he would "come to nothing". It was a hearing of one of Beethoven's symphonies that practically brought about his decision to be a musician. He set to the study of Beethoven's works in dead earnest, and it is stated that he knew them all familiarly before he was twenty. Early in his teens he heard Goethe's "Egmont" with Beethoven's incidental music. This inspired him with the idea of writing incidental music for his own portentous tragedy, mentioned above. He wrote overtures, and one of them he carried to Dorn, the conductor at the Dresden Theatre Royal. Dorn was kind enough to put the thing in performance, "much to the bewilderment of the audience," says the biographer.

In 1828 Wagner went back to Leipzig and entered the University. He took music lessons from an excellent musician called Weinlich, cantor of that same Thomas school with which Bach was connected. At the end of six months Weinlich told his pupil that he had arrived at technical independence, and might be left to himself. Wagner had no more formal instruction in his art. His aims were high and he had to go through an immense amount of experiment before he found out how to express himself fully.

For a time he filled the position of chorus master in the theatres, first in Wurzburg and secondly in Magdeburg. In 1836 he "billed" Magdeburg with a new opera for performance, but the audience were so disappointed with it on the first night that the second representation had to be stopped halfway through in deference to the empty benches.

In Paris he expected to get "Rienzi" staged, and thereby to win fame and fortune. But the managers of the Grand Opera would have nothing to do with "Rienzi" and the despairing composer was left face to face with a struggle for bare existence. A new opera, "The Flying Dutchman" was completed in seven weeks but unfortunately it was no more wanted in Paris than "Rienzi". Dresden put on both these operas in 1842 and Wagner was made conductor of the Dresden Opera where he remained till 1848. When the "Dutchman" was performed its reception was lukewarm and hesitating. The public could neither understand it nor appreciate it. It was too serious for them. In 1845 "Tannhauser" was given for the first time, again at Dresden, and it failed to bring him the success it should have brought. Even when the London Philharmonic put this work on in 1855 it received severe criticism. For some years past "Tannhauser" has been one of the greatest draws in the operatic repertoire.

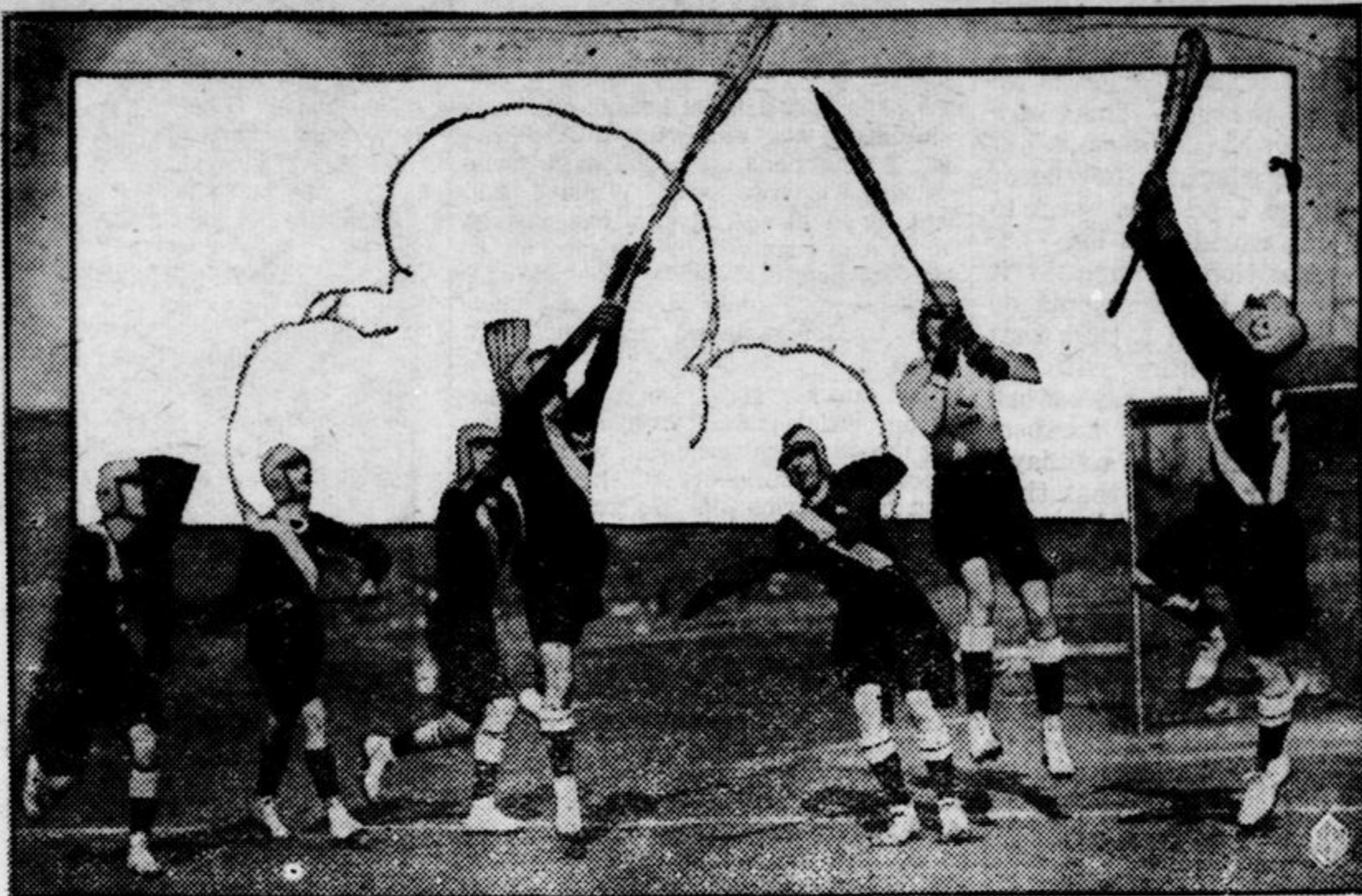
"Lohengrin" was regarded with the utmost indifference, if not aversion. It did not reach London until 1875 when a leading critic described it as an opera without music. It was in 1875 that Bayreuth first heard the "Rhinegold", "Valkyrie", "Siegfried", and the "Dusk of the Gods"—the four great music dramas which compose "The Ring".

It was Ludwig II one of the mad Kings of Bavaria, who saved Wagner to the world. He was fond of music, took a fancy for Wagner, and offered the composer a substantial income, besides a handsome villa in the vicinity of the palace.

"Tristan and Isolde", "Meistersingers" and "Parsifal" were three of his great works. Liszt was a friend of Wagner for many years. In 1872 Wagner moved to Bayreuth which was his home in later years. In 1883 Wagner, the most stupendous musical genius of the last half of the 19th century, passed into Eternal silence.

### Coffin Varnish

An old-timer says that a fairly good quality of "bootleg liquor" can be made by using the following ingredients: 1 pint shellac, 1 wildcat, 2 galling gums, 1 pint sulphuric acid, 4 rattlesnakes, 1 skunk, 3 lbs. cayenne pepper, 2 lbs. fish scrap, 6 oz. gun-powder, 1 lb. rusty nails, and 1/2 gal. marsh water. Stir well and set in shade to cool.



BRITISH LACROSSE STARS INVADE U. S.  
The combined Oxford-Cambridge lacrosse team, during a practice game on River Field at Philadelphia, where they are preparing for their scheduled games with eastern colleges. The teams are made up of seventeen picked players from the two leading English Universities.

## Fashion Fancies

### The Beauty Blues



To go into rhapsodies over the new blues is entirely excusable this spring. There are countless shades from baby pastel, a compliment to the blonde; green tone shades for the red head; vivid colors for the brunette and soft grayed tints for those who find silver threads among the gold. Navy, of course, is a favorite of the daytime mode in silk, wool and cotton.

Pointed attention is drawn to the blue mode in the sleeveless frock sketched above. Here there is both harmony and contrast in the selection of three shades of blue which are used to create the original triple capelet. An unusual effect is achieved by the manner in which the yoke extends in a long V below the belted normal waistline. The tri-color theme and pointed design is repeated on the skirt, which is cut with godets set in at the front and sides. Such a frock makes one most optimistic about being blue.

### A Fashion Tip on Short Jackets



Two models sketched reveal how diversified jackets may be, and also obviate any chance of error in buying.

Above is a green suede slip-over jacket, suggesting the cape theme with its rounded yoke closed by a metal slide fastener. The rather full long sleeves are drawn into a narrow tailored band at the wrist. A snug belt adds tailored distinction and pockets provide practicality.

That the short lumber jacket is getting ready for Spring activity is apparent by its appearance in models of various fabrics. Here it is fashioned of beige angora with bright blue pin dots. The lining of the jacket is of navy blue which serves to accent the popularity of that color just now.

## Miss Macphail's Letter

Ottawa, Ont., April 7, 1930

The question of unemployment occupied almost the whole week. The discussion was precipitated by the resolution moved by Mr. Heape of Winnipeg: "In the opinion of this House the government should take immediate action to deal with the question of unemployment." Mr. Heape said that the working man today is a student, he wants to know the why of things. He sees about him the material things of life which he himself has produced, but suddenly he is out of work and unable to purchase the things he has produced. He pointed out the care that is taken to guarantee capital a return on investment; we give certain concessions to our banks; guarantee certain rates to our railways; protect our industries; but do not guarantee work for the working man. With the increased use of machinery enough goods can be produced in a few months to satisfy human requirements in accordance with the purchasing power of the masses. Economists claim that during the past twenty years production has doubled; but wages, that is real wages, have remained almost stationary.

It is now well known that we are in a cycle of depression. This condition is general throughout the world, and in our case is aggravated by a small crop in the west last year and the inability to market that crop. The common people lack purchasing power which has its result in working men lacking jobs which makes less purchasing power, so round and round we go in a vicious circle. In view of the fact that the resolution was opportune I was personally surprised that the government game it the cold shoulder. It would have been good politics to have at least given it "sympathetic consideration."

The Hon. Mr. Heenan, Minister of Labor, commonly called Peter, a genial delightful Irishman, made a three hour speech on the subject of the resolution. A speech which pained his friends and amused his enemies. A speech which did nothing to enhance his personal reputation, did not add to the laurels of the government nor did it solve the problem of unemployment. He was followed by Dr. Manion, whose rapidity of utterance and well stocked vocabulary was turned on Mr. Heenan's speech with telling effect. It was conceded that the speech made by Mr. E. J. Garland, member for Bow, River, Alberta, was the most profound heard in debate. He showed that there are more than ten million unemployed in the thirteen leading industrial countries of the world. He quoted James L. Davis, Secretary of Labor for the United States of America, as having said, that the United States can make in seventeen days all the boots and shoes that are required by that country for a year. It is not many years ago since the man who made boots and shoes by hand turned them out at the rate of two pairs a week, or roughly, about one hundred pairs a year. Today one man with an improved machine can produce 1,800 pairs of shoes in a working year. The rapid improvement of machinery and the speeding up of production is clearly shown by the fact that the Buick branch of the General Motors business in 1923 increased its production from 625 to 1,000 cars and reduced its workmen by 5,000. Mr. Garland stated too that Western Canada needs 60,000 less harvesters than formerly because of the combine. He quoted a noted British authority, Mr. Arthur Kitson, "Even today the labor of less than ten per cent of the population will readily suffice to maintain the entire inhabitants of Great Britain in a high state of comfort." Mr. Garland pertinently asked, "Is work to be the sole basis of living, Mr. Speaker?" He gave it as his opinion that the root cause of unemployment is the lack of purchasing power. "We have almost entirely solved the problem of production, but have not even commenced to touch the problem of distribution. Governments are not making an intelligent contribution to research in the solution of this problem."

"I say to the Prime Minister that until he and his colleagues appoint a body to make a survey of economic and social conditions, a commission capable of intelligently analyzing the situation, he is not taking step in the direction of the real solution of this problem." He was of the opinion too that unemployment insurance would be an assistance.

On Thursday evening the Prime Minister, possibly smarting under the effective and continuous attack and the ineffectiveness of his minister, made some statements in the course of a lengthy speech which he will have

much cause to regret. To the astonishment and consternation of the House he stated, "I would not give a single cent to any Tory government on earth." In replies to cries of "Shame, shame," from the Conservative opposition, Mr.

King replied "Do my honorable friends say 'Shame?'"  
"Yes, shame," the Conservative leader gravely replied.  
Mr. King asked "What is there to be ashamed of?" he inquired.  
"You ought to be ashamed of that," admonished Mr. Stevens while Conservative members behind him broke out anew.

"My honorable friend is getting very indignant," said Mr. King. "I do not know what has got under his skin. May I repeat what I have said?"

There was another outburst from the Conservatives, but Mr. King continued oblivious to it. "With respect to giving money out of the Federal treasury to any Tory Government in this country for unemployment purposes, with those Governments situated as they are today with policies diametrically opposed to those of this Government, I would not give them a five-cent piece."

I have never seen parliament more shocked by any statement. We know Mr. King to be an economist; we know too that in his early life he was extremely interested in those who suffer. We can but hope that he did not intend his words to be taken seriously. I am quite disappointed that only four high schools in Southeast Grey availed themselves of the opportunity to enter the essay contest on "The Advantage of the Contract System in the Co-Operative Marketing of Farm Products. Dr. Stevenson of the Department of English, the O.A.C., is finding the winners. As soon as the list is sent me I will forward the prize money.

Last week-end as the guest of Professor and Mrs. Kirkwood of Trinity House, Toronto, I had many opportunities of meeting professors and students of the University of Toronto, and this privilege I greatly enjoyed.  
The week's work was lightened by the Honorable George Graham's birthday party at the Country Club. It was my first party this year. There I met Gertrude Huntley, Canada's noted pianist, and the Honorable Cairine Wilson, Canada's first woman senator. Mr. Graham is a delightful host, able always to impart the happiness of youth, which seem always his, to those around him. Mr. Graham proves that age is not a matter of years.  
—Agnes C. Macphail.

### CONSTIPATION COMPLETELY GONE

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ents of the University of Toronto, and this privilege I greatly enjoyed.

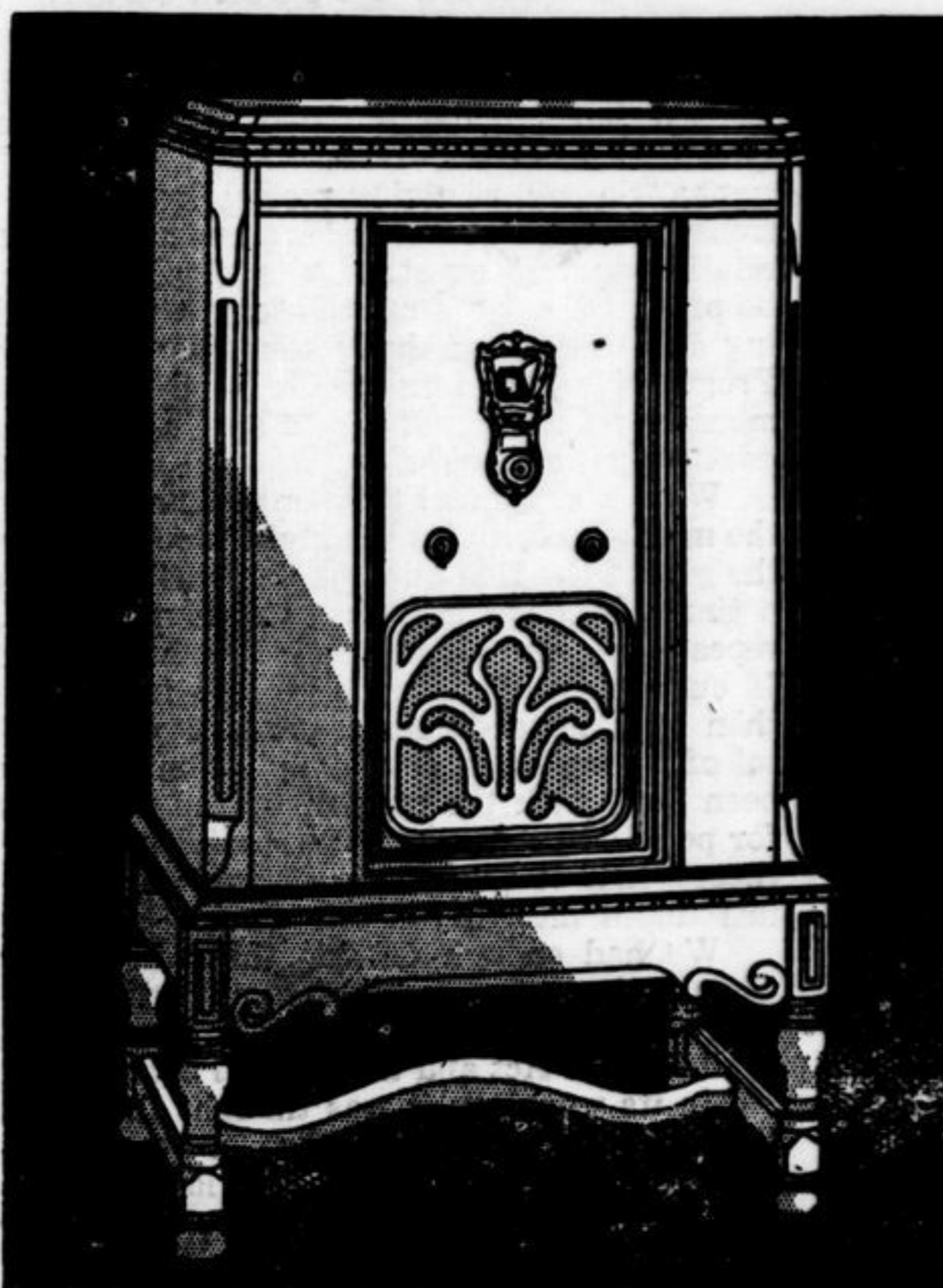
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### Identified

The bank teller in a snippy way said "I don't know you madam!"  
The woman was red-headed, and she got "red-headed" in a minute. She said, "Oh, yes you do. I don't need anyone to identify me. I'm the red-headed 'hen' next door whose 'imps of boys' are always running across your garden. When you started to town this morning your wife said, 'Now, Henry, if you want a dinner fit to eat this evening, you'll have to leave me a little money. I can't keep this house on 'Christian Science'."  
"Here is your money," interrupted the paying teller very faintly.

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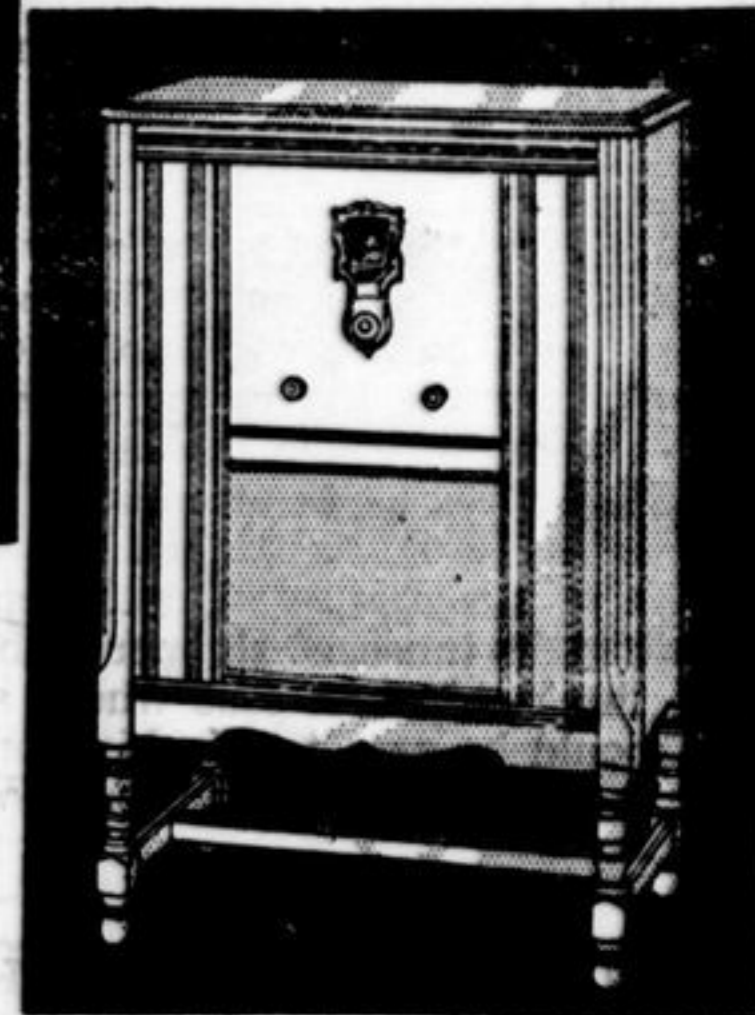
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