

**ABOUT BOOKS AND THE PEOPLE WHO WRITE THEM**  
Another Novel of the Middle West "WEST OF THE WATER TOWER"

Anonymous  
Reviewed by Jennie Betts Hartswick  
Against the background of a typical Middle Western village the anonymous author of "West of the Water Tower" has sketched a group of living characters. The Reverend Adrian Plummer his son, Guy, Charles G. Grew—a lawyer and infidel—and his daughter Beatrice are the four outstanding figures whose loves and hates make up the action of the tale.

Guy Plummer and Beatrice Chew, fellow-graduates of the Junction City High School, step down from the commencement platform and begin at once the fulfillment of their manifest destiny.

Socially widely separated, temperamentally at variance, they, nevertheless, advance precipitately toward the inevitable catastrophe whose consequences are the essential theme of the story.

Faced with exposure, Guy confesses his predicament to his parents, and his father, lashed by a conscience convicting him of a similar experience of his own youth and impelled by fanatic impulse, calls his flock together and in a powerful scene depicted with stark dramatic realism, reveals the story of his own transgression, accepts the sin of his son as its just punishment, and resigns his charge.

From this point the reader's interest in the rehabilitation of the weak, unstable Guy and his ultimate reconciliation with Beatrice are subordinated to the sympathy aroused by the picture of the self-deposed minister. The temporary collapse of his religious faith and his pathetic struggle with increasing poverty are vividly portrayed with the sure touch of a master hand.

Here and there throughout the book, the reader, spurred by the author's tantalizing anonymity, finds suggestions of the work of Willa Cather, Sinclair Lewis, and at times rather convincingly of John T. Frederick in his recent novel "Druida."

Thumb-Nail Literary Essays  
"BOOKS AND AUTHORS"

By Robert Lynd  
This is a series of brief, genial, gossiping essays on men of letters by the lit-

erary critic of the London "Daily News." The spirit in which he writes is apparent from this extract. "The critic has duties as a destroyer, but chiefly in the same sense as a gold-washer. His aim is the discovery of gold."

Discussing writers "more or less ancient," Mr. Lynd finds that Hugo's work is a "gigantically grotesque pile;" that Moliere "has written the smiling poetry of our sins;" that Keats enriches life "with a sense of loveliness forever vanishing;" that Lamb "is at once the most restful and the most playful of essayists;" that Byron is an "audacious wit;" that the path of Shelley's poems is as "indeterminate as the path of the lark fluttering in the air;" that Plutarch is supreme among biographers; that Poe and Witman are "the two great poets of America;" and that Hawthorne "is the first prose myth-maker of America."

Turning next to writers "more or less modern," Mr. Lynd gives it as his opinion that Max Beerbohm's work "has the perfection of a starched shirt-front;" that Arnold Bennett's style is "perky, efficient, decisive;" that Wells is "one of the few writers who have given momentum to the idea of the world as one place;" that Vachel Lindsay is "essentially the poet of a worked-up audience;" that A. M. Tomlinson has "the three great gifts of imagery, style and humor;" that Tchehov's creed was the opposite of a creed of despair;" that Nietzsche will "probably survive as an artist rather than as a teacher;" and that T. S. Eliot, in the role of a critic, is sadly mistaken in rating "Hamlet" as an artistic failure.

H. Beach Carpenter.

Meet Mr. Pinney, Boys!

"POOR PINNEY" By Marian Chapman

If the father who figures in "Miss Lulu Bett," Babbit, and Mr. Pinney all met together on one page, the combination would be insufferable. Given them one at a time, we can enjoy the merciless way in which the spotlight is turned upon their prosaic failings.

Pinney is an excellent combination of the notorious type of traveling salesman, the jocose butcher, the small-town bluffer, and Sir Walter Raleigh. He is well drawn from the diamond scarf pin to the moustache cup marked "Season's Greetings." The fat and satisfactorily unwell Mrs. Pinney, daughter Addie, and Eddie—a somewhat diluted Penrod—make up an unforgettable family.

Small town interests, petty rivalries, and redeeming features are nowhere more humorously pictured. Mr. Pinney's "Caw, caw, caw" echoes long after the story is read, in our own more refined expressions of enjoyment.

Olga Owens.

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**HERE'S LATEST VOGUE FOR SUMMER TOURISTS**

Touring in New England or Colorado is now as simple a matter for the north shore motorist as an evening drive out Sheridan road. You may drive your car down to a certain Chicago street corner, take a passenger train a day or two later and step from your Pullman to your automobile at either Albany or Denver the following day.

It is all done by two special freight trains, operated for Comfort, Pleasure and Speed, Incorporated, a new corporation formed for the purpose of making railroad service available for motor tourists. To Albany, N. Y., your automobile will be carried on the Speedway Limited, operated by the New York Central railroad. The National Parks Limited, which carries tourists' automobiles to Denver, Colorado, is operated by the Illinois Central and Union Pacific systems. Both trains run on schedules as closely observed as the scheduled of the Twentieth Century and the Overland Limited. The new company attends to all the details of loading, packing, unloading and transporting tourists' automobiles, makes hotels and Pullman reservations, furnishes road maps and touring information and helps tourists to plan their itineraries.

Next winter the same service will be offered to Jacksonville, Florida, and Los Angeles, California. The address of the new company appears elsewhere in this issue.

**Electric Line Displays Its 22-Passenger Busses**

Busses that ride like a twelve-cylinder touring car and are as safe as a chair on one's front porch are the latest thing in interurban transportation. The Chicago, North Shore and Milwaukee line was exhibiting one of its six new 22-passenger Fageol busses on the north shore last Saturday.

The company announces that it will charter these busses for private trips of any distance from Chicago. Ample accommodations are offered for twenty-two people and luggage. The company claims that their plans will meet with favor among people who drive their own cars because they say that the bus-

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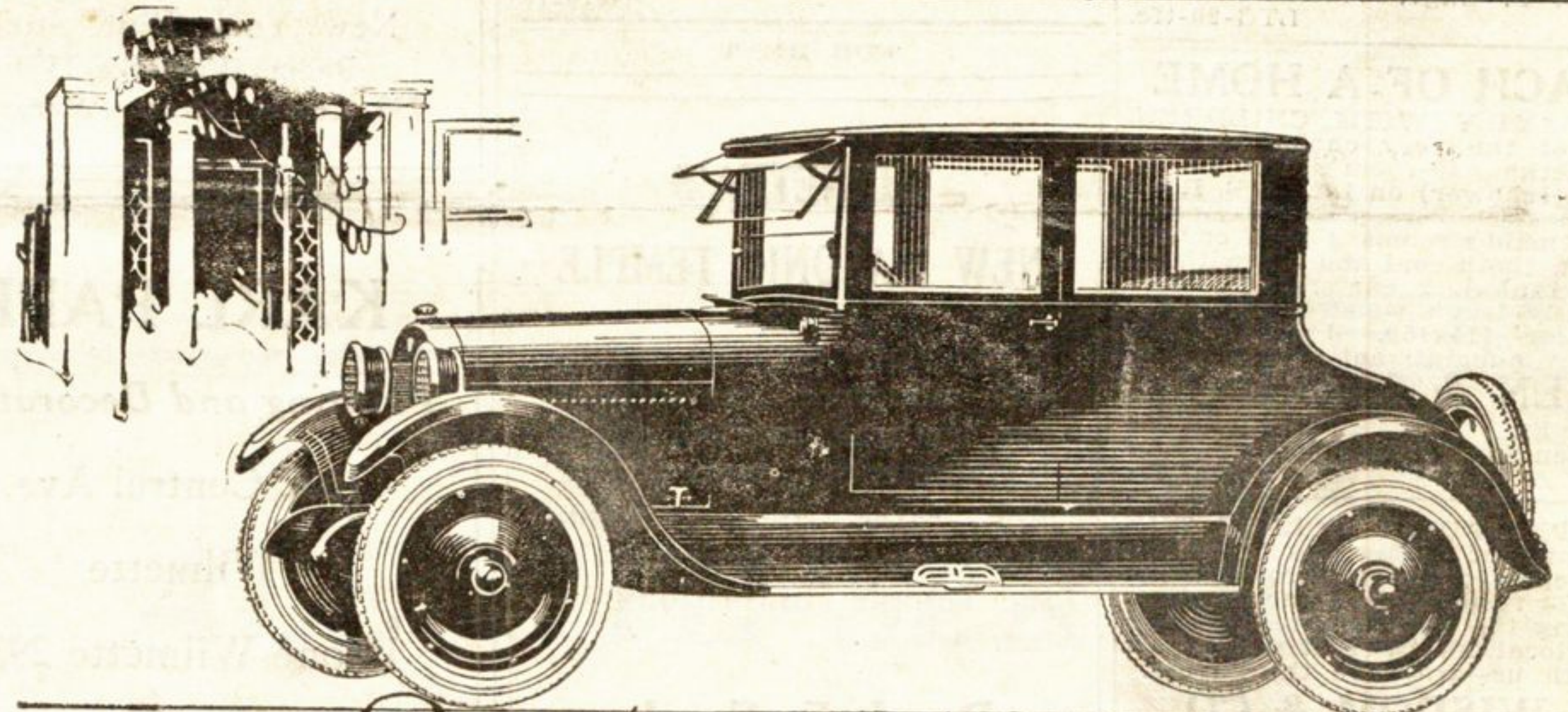
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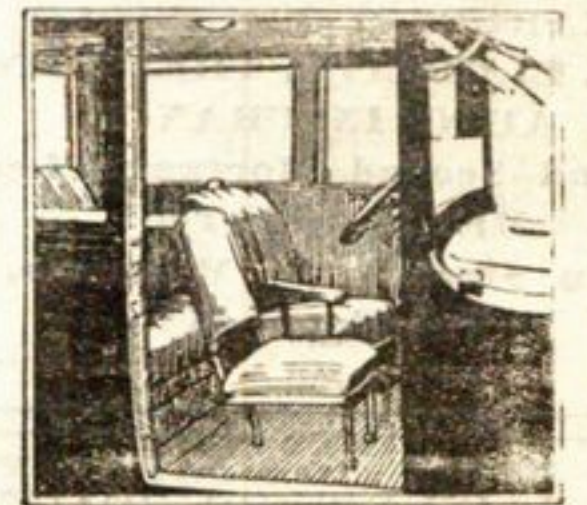
Clubby coziness for four occupants, whether wide of girth or long of limb, is definitely assured by a clever seating arrangement. There's freedom of move-

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**Just Plain Facts, Here, But They Speak Out Loud**

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