

State Ruling Bars Blind From Work in Insurance Line

By Alfred Allen

(Executive Secretary, Hadley Correspondence School for the Blind)

As we have often pointed out, the blind want opportunity—a chance to demonstrate that they are capable of doing their work as well as their sighted co-workers. And, as we have said, this is the thing which is their hardest task to secure from the sighted world, the employer, and others who are sympathetic but hesitant.

As an example of this unwillingness on the part of those in charge to give the blind opportunity, we want to cite a recent development which happened in Pennsylvania.

A new ruling on the part of the State Commissioner of Insurance refuses the blind man opportunity to sit for the state examination, which is required prior to the granting of a license to sell insurance in Pennsylvania. The excuse given is the inability of the blind man to witness the signature of the applicant when it is made. No consideration is shown, the man is simply refused his chance. Yet, in this same state is a blind man, about 30 years of age, who was born without sight. That young man is a highly efficient insurance underwriter, selling more than \$350,000 annually. He is probably a great deal more of a business man than hundreds of his sighted competitors. Even our own Hadley school students can write insurance. One of them was connected with the New York Life company for but a few weeks, but during that time he wrote \$25,000 of business. Now he is refused a license.

This new ruling is a most discouraging thing, which will dishearten many of these blind people. It is hoped that

it will not serve as a pattern for other states to follow, and the Hadley school, along with other organizations, is doing its best to combat the ruling and force its withdrawal.

Those Winnetka people who are helping to educate the blind men and women enrolled are doing a great thing. They are intelligent enough to want to give these sightless people opportunity, and they are being rewarded with the success which is gradually coming among those they are helping. They are benefactors on a larger scale than they themselves may realize.

Twelve Sears Pupils Made Members of Honor Society

Twelve pupils in the Joseph Sears school in Kenilworth received the signal honor of being made members of the Honor society of the school this month as a result of having received "E's" in six studies at the last issuance of the report card.

The children were awarded the gold pin of membership which they will be allowed to wear as long as their report cards show five "E's". Should their grades fall below this average they will be automatically dropped from the society. It would then be necessary for them to again obtain "E's" in six

subjects before they could be re-instated as members. Pupils who graduate while members of the society are made honor members of the organization and are allowed to keep their pins.

The twelve pupils are as follows: Jane Bisbee, Phyllis Bosley, Mary Crandall, Beatrice Driver, Agnes Fraser, Verna Timmins, Jane McIntosh, Jeannette Post, Elwood Mons, Grover Hermann, Fred Wetterer, and Earl Moss.

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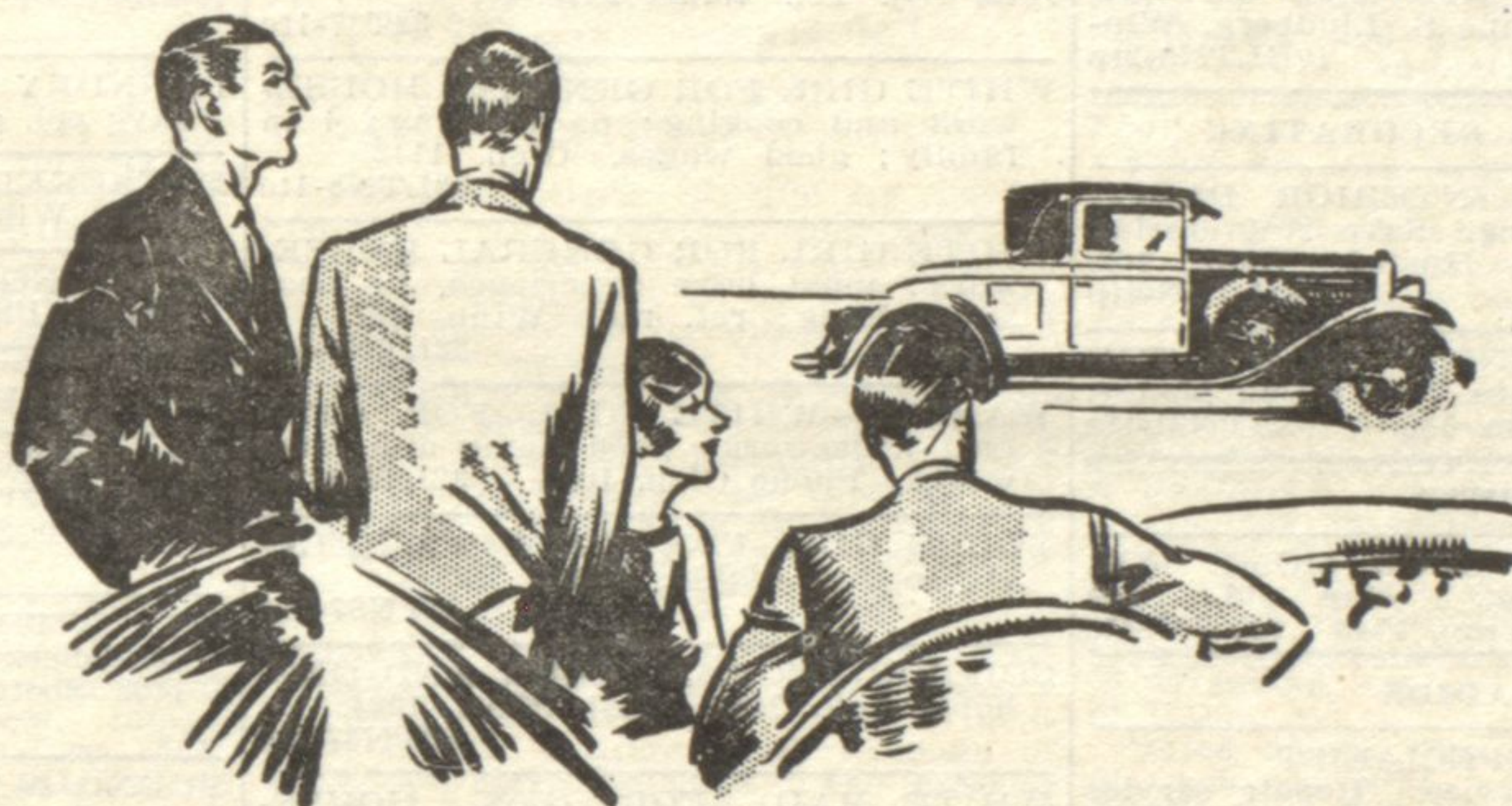
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