

DROWNING GIRL SHAKES OFF KINDLY HAND OF DEATH

(New York Sun)
Different men and women apparently bring different experiences and reactions to every situation of life, including death. No two stories of men and women who have "drowned" seem to coincide as to the essential nature of that experience, the various emotions felt, the thoughts that come during those last few minutes in the face of death, nor the strange experience of "coming to" after one has been given up for dead.

The story of a young woman who when rescued, was pronounced dead by a physician and revived after three hours by several soldiers who happened to be swimming nearby, varies greatly from the experience of the Philadelphia man, recently recited in this paper, and that of the man who was drowned in Normandy, France, and who says that he endured "all the tortures of the world, all of the fiendish inventions of man created for the purpose of bringing suffering."

"I was bathing with a companion in the San Antonio River in Brackenridge Park," this young woman said, "and at the time I could not swim. I was in water about shoulder deep, and stepped into a sort of eddy, or hole, where the river deepened sharply. Except for one frantic moment of choking the experience was not frightful one at all. I am ashamed to admit that in the first desperate moment I grabbed my girl companion, pulling her into deep water also. I realized instantly what I was doing and let go of her, but too late. She also went under. I gave her no further thought."

"When I saw that no help was in sight, I ceased struggling. I suppose that I held my breath as much as possible; I do not remember any strangling feeling after the first frantic moment of missing solid earth. I remained perfectly conscious however, until I came up the third time, and that is the last time I remember coming up. I counted them. I remember nothing while under water; I merely remember that when I came up I shut my eyes and let the warm golden afternoon sunlight on my closed lids."

"As the Normandy drowner said, the mind does work rather rapidly, for I think that I thought of more things than would have been normal during that period of time, but my past life was not recalled—possibly because I was too young at that time to have much of any past. I do remember very distinctly that I thought regretfully that I should never really experience life, and when I came up the third time in the loving caress of the sun, I thought distinctly, regretfully, but with perfect resignation, 'I shall never again feel the warm sun.'"

"I remember absolutely nothing more than this, although undoubtedly the subconscious mind struggled long after my conscious mind had ceased to function, for the soldier who dived for me, after having rescued my girl companion, and who found me in the mud at the bottom of the river, said that at the first attempt to rescue me

I grabbed his ankle with such a vice-like grip that I almost drowned him. The water was muddy; he had to dive several times to find me again. When he finally did rescue me, the physician who happened to be in the park and was drawn to the shore by the shouts of the soldiers, remarked that there was no use trying to resuscitate me; I had been under too long. My girl companion was revived in fifteen minutes; they worked three hours over me.

"The experience which impressed me most at the time (it was before I had lost my religion) was this coming to. I could hear distant voices which sounded far down under me, and I myself felt of the consistency of a balloon, which I was trying with the most awful efforts to force down. This terrific struggle to force myself down, as I felt, is undoubtedly the most dreadful battle I ever have waged against odds in my life. Occasionally I heard the voices; once I could see a bit of greenery which I felt was the treetops. Then I felt myself floating upward again. I wanted to continue the pleasant floating, but from somewhere came the urgent command—'fight, fight, fight, if you don't get down there it will be too late. Now. This time.'"

"And then the terrible struggle began. 'I came to. The physician said that I had far less water in my lungs than was to be expected. I was not terribly sick and scorned the waiting ambulance. He said that I must have held my breath determinedly to draw in as little water as possible. 'Since then I have seen death in its cruelest forms and I have remembered that rather sad, rather regretful moment in the late afternoon when I felt the sun caress my eyelids for what I believed to be the last time. I hope that when death does come, it will come as pleasantly again. I hope that I shall die in a good sharp tussle with nature, and never in a mean hospital bed. And never do I see the late afternoon sun glinting a path on the waters but I feel an urge to swim out far, far—to merge, perhaps, with sea and sun and wind.'"

"The experience I regretted having missed have been interesting—but far less grand than I expected them to be. And death, my friends, may be a kindlier friend than we think."

ENGLISH SPARROW PROVES WORTH

Harrisburg, Pa., August 6—Field investigators of the Pennsylvania state game commission have discovered that the English sparrows, commonly considered as nothing but a pest, has some economic value. They reported that the sparrows attack and the Japanese beetle, plant pest that has caused considerable damage in infested areas.

BOOTLEGGING IN GERMANY RECALLS THE PRE-WAR DAYS

(New York Sun)
Bootlegging is a practice a good deal older than prohibition and has been applied to many other subjects outside of just liquor. It remained however for a European country to apply the practice, if not term, to American dollars; not counterfeits, but good United States dollar bills. And just now it looks as if another wave of dollar bootlegging is about to pass over Germany.

Bootlegging, in the proper acceptance of the term, means supplying something prohibited by law, and that is just what is done on a large scale in Germany during the days of inflation a few years ago. To stem the flow of money out of the country, the German Government passed emergency laws making it a criminal offense to do business on a foreign currency basis.

The law went so far as to prohibit the sale and purchase of foreign currency without official sanction and attempted to forbid the possession of moneys other than German. The only exception was in favor of foreigners who could prove that they had no more with them than the amount they had brought when they entered the country.

"Buying dollars" and "currency inflation" are terms of which the uninformed have only vague understanding, but the drama—and the comedy—which they conceal, will long be remembered by those who have had to experience them.

To the American at home a dollar always has been worth just that, so long as he can remember, war or no war. But to the American, who by duty more than choice found himself abroad in post war days, the dollar was the subject to innumerable fluctuations, and it is from one of these travelers that The Sun has culled the following facts on the subject.

"You'll never know what the meaning of the word 'inflation' until you have lived through one yourself," said the European traveler. "Imagine having to change your dollars, one at a time, for fear of getting overstocked with currency which the next day would not be worth one-half of what you paid for it. I remember in one instance, when my wife and I tried to figure out on Saturday how much money we would need to get over the week-end. After making our plans we thought we might spend twenty-five dollars and therefore got the number of marks allotted to us in accordance with the market value of that day. The following day turned out to be one of uninterrupted storm and rain and we remained in the hotel all day with no occasion to spend any part of our funds."

"On Monday, the twenty-five dollars we had turned into marks were worth less than one-half. And to understand fully just what the change in values means you must know that in all of the retail stores, restaurants and cafes, prices were changed always twice and sometimes four times a day; in the hotels a sign invited you to figure out

for yourself the exact amount you were to pay by multiplying the regular amount by a denominator which was changed every day.

"Omnibuses and taxis displayed signs—also changed daily—indicating the fare for that day, and when the amounts went up into the millions and the poor collectors and taxi drivers went through perspiring moments."

"A relative of ours wanted to return to the United States and I undertook to book her passage. The Berlin offices of an American trans-Atlantic line offered satisfactory accommodation and everything was fine until I went to settle up 'Two hundred and eighty dollars said the clerk. 'How much in marks?' said I. And then the fun started."

"Strong in my knowledge of the law I turned to the clerk at the desk. 'I have no dollars,' I said. 'In which case I can sell you no ticket,' he said. Whereupon I made up my mind to put the matter to a test."

"Look here," I said, "I am an American citizen and so is the woman who wishes to book passage into New York. You are an American firm doing business in Germany. Do I understand you rightly? That to buy a steamship ticket, this woman must go out and render herself liable to a prison sentence by violating the law? If that is really the case I want to know it and the responsibility will be yours?" "I need hardly add that the marks were accepted."

NEW ENGLAND APPLE & POTATO OUTLOOK

A 1931 New England apple crop of 1,387,000 barrels was forecast by New England crop reporting service, based on a July 1 condition, of 61.8 per cent against 2,470,000 barrels harvested last year and 1,884,000 barrels, five-year average. Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Connecticut expect crops materially below the large crop harvested last year but in Vermont the crop is expected to be slightly better than last year. McIntosh apples are expected to be less than an average crop for New England as a whole. Baldwin are the largest crop in recent years.

A general increase in potato acreage planted in New England this year was also reported. Encouraged by satisfactory prices received for the 1929 and 1930 crop, New England growers have planted a total of 257,000 acres this year against 236,000 harvested last year and 219,000 five-year average. Plantings in Maine were eight per cent. more than a year ago and the other New England States made similar or greater increases. Conditions as of July 1st forecast a production of 58,930,000 bushels, against 55,665,000 bushels harvested in 1930 and 48,108,000 five-year average.

FRACTURED SKULL "UNIMPORTANT"

San Benito, Texas, August 6—A fractured skull was not serious enough to incapacitate an 87-year-old Mexican man, who was kicked by a mule on a farm near town. Anastasio Perez, his forehead split open and a fracture in his skull, walked into a physician's office for treatment and walked out again. He is recovering.

An argument with the wife is like betting on a horse, a man always thinks he is going to win, but he never does.

When gangsters begin to shoot up babies, as in New York, it's time to give them lessons in marksmanship.

Sealed Tenders, addressed to the Postmaster General, will be received at Ottawa until noon, on Friday, the Fourth day of September, for the conveyance of His Majesty's Mails on a proposed Contract for a period not exceeding four years Six times per week on the route:

Maugerville Rural Route, No. 1, from the 1st of January, 1932.

Printed notices containing further information as to conditions of proposed Contract may be seen and blank forms of Tender may be obtained at the Post Offices of Sheffield, and at the office of the District Superintendent of Postal Service, Saint John, N. B.

H. E. PECK,
District Superintendent
of Postal Service.
July 21st, 1931.

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