

# ROMANCE IN OLD WILLS

An interesting historical sketch of an age-old idea is contained in "Studies in Wills," a booklet recently published by the Mercantile Trust & Deposit Company of Baltimore. The narrative, which is illustrated with old prints, includes stories of many strange wills, and notes on famous Maryland testaments. The following are extracts from the booklet:

Sir Rider Haggard, of "King Solomon's Mines" and "She," once wrote a less well-known story which he entitled "Mr. Meeson's Will."

The young heroine, shipwrecked in distant seas, was cast upon a desert island. Before being rescued she allowed a will to be tattooed across her shoulders, for in the absence of paper or parchment, such tattooing was the only device.

Later, when she returned to civilization and the time came to probate the will, she learned that the law required the filing of the original document in court. However, the registrar was so touched by beauty in distress that he allowed a photograph of the will to be filed, and the girl went happily away.

**World's Oldest Will**

Some writers maintain that a will discovered by Petrie, while exploring the ruins of Kahun—not many leagues from the great pyramids, is the oldest of which there is any positive knowledge. Perhaps the papyrus was inscribed forty-five centuries ago. Others maintain that an Egyptian prince of the fourth dynasty, made a will not later than 2845 B. C., or nearly 4000 years ago in the dim, mysterious past.

Later, the use and influence of the will became more of a usual thing. Cleopatra's father, Ptolemy XIII, had no end of anxiety because of a will made by his predecessor, Ptolemy XII. The latter indulged in colossal extravagance, and in order to borrow large sums from Rome made a will appointing the Roman republic his heir, thus voluntarily bringing his dynasty to a close with his own decease.

**Cleopatra's Father Sidel**

When he died the Roman Senate acknowledged the authenticity of the will but the people of Alexandria accepted Ptolemy XIII—Cleopatra's father—as their king and the Romans made no effort to dethrone him.

The largest collection of wills in the world, is in the Somerset House, London. Most of these documents were formerly held in the now obsolete institution, Doctors Commons, and represent the accumulation of 500 years.

**Did Not like Daughter's Dress**

Some of the documents found in this ancient collection give colorful pictures of old-time life.

In former days, as now, the way young women dressed was universally approved. One finds the will of a rector who wrote of his daughter's "objectionable practice of going with her arms bare up to the elbow;" if she persisted, his property was to go to a nephew.

Wills in poetry or rhyme were not unknown, according to the Doctors Commons collection. An attorney, named Smithers, who resided in London, wrote:

As to all my worldly goods, now or to be in store,  
I give them to my beloved wife and hers forever more.  
I give all freely, I no limit fix;  
This is my will and she's executrix.

**Earliest Maryland Will**

In Maryland, the earliest will was made by a William Smith, September 22, 1635, shortly after the arrival of the first colonists there. The records refer to him as "a cultivator of the soil."

It is interesting to note that the first legal text book printed in Maryland was devoted entirely to the subject of wills. It is the "Deputy Commissioner's Guide with in the Province of Maryland," written by Elie Vallette, Registrar of the Prerogative office at Annapolis and edited by Ann Catherine Green & Son of that city in 1772.

The following quotation from the book is a sidelight on early Maryland life and on former conditions elsewhere: "A wife generally cannot dispose by will of chattels without consent of her husband."

Among the most important wills on record in Baltimore are those of Johns Hopkins, Enoch Pratt and George Peabody. One founded the hospital—a university which bears his name; one made possible a system of free libraries and a hospital; one established the Peabody Institute.

**Mr. Kennedy's Bequest**

In 1865 another Baltimorean, John P. Kennedy, famous as a novelist, lawyer, member of Congress and Secretary of the Navy, made a codicil to his will, in which he left \$1,000 in trust to the Aged Men's Home of Baltimore and a like amount in trust for the Aged Women's Home. He was seventy at the time. He specified, regarding the bequest for the Aged Men's Home, that "out of the interest thereof there shall be supplied a bowl of punch every year on Christmas Day for the refreshment and comfort of the pensioners or inmates of the house at their Christmas dinner." With respect to the Aged Women's Home: "the yearly interest to be applied to supplying a proper quantity of wine for

## Discoverers of Nevada's New Gold Field

Adventure and Discovery



Upper: Frank Horton, Jr. (center) and Leonard Traynor (right,) the two Nevada youths who discovered Nevada's newest gold field, now named Weepah, their mine assaying \$78,000 to the ton. In the upper picture with the boys is Frank Horton, Sr., an old-time miner, who is developing the mine for the youngsters. Lower: Crowd around boy's mine as thirteen sacks of gold, valued at \$13,000, were being brought out.

## Dr. Frank Crane Says

Give Them Credit—These Flappers

Mr. Bruce Findlay, assistant superintendent of Los Angeles schools, in an address the other day asked: "Why should we assume that the flapper of 1927 will make a poorer mother than the 'flapper' of yesterday, who has been her mother?"

There is just as much to the modern girl as there ever was to her ancestor. The fact that she wears short skirts and bobs her hair is not against her. She wears less clothing than her ancestors and is consequently healthier.

She is more addicted to outdoor sports with beneficial results. Altogether the modern flapper of today is just as well prepared for motherhood as was her mother, and better than she.

There is no more danger to a girl from taking an automobile ride than there was from taking a buggy ride.

the Christmas dinner each year." And Mr. Kennedy wrote: "I hope that the people of both sexes will kindly remember me in the enjoyment of the solace which this donation may annually afford them."

In concluding its story, the Mercantile gives the following advice, based on the Company's forty-two years experience in managing estates: "By all means make a will. Put your property in trust. Your heirs will then have no temptation to be extravagant, nor will 'friends' be able to influence investments, nor will unscrupulous 'stock promoters' get a share."



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## About Your Health

Things You Should Know



by John Joseph Gaines, M. D.

### INTRAVENOUS MEDICINE

Two people are concerned here: the physician and the patient. Our folks are becoming educated—and very properly—in many of the up-to-date methods in treating disease. Injecting potent medication directly into the veins of the patient is a distinct advance in method, and it has been practiced all over the land, in some cases with almost miraculous results, and in many with disaster following.

I have never given an intravenous injection that my heart didn't come up in my throat a bit—without that apprehension that will creep over the mentality of the careful doctor; then when one of my most esteemed specialist-friends told me a short time ago, that all intravenous injections were dangerous, and that he had practically ceased to give them, my apprehension grew; we can inject medicines into the muscles, and beneath the skin with much less concern as to safety.

I shall never permit an intravenous injection for any patient with chronic valvular disease of the heart. A few autopsies have convinced me in this particular. Country physicians have not all the facilities for testing the coagulability of the blood, hence they are compelled to rely upon the statement of the manufacturer that the big ampule is incapable of doing harm. If the patient has a good heart, the intravenous "shot" is a lifesaver in some forms of pneumonia. In arthritis, especially in the chronic forms, the chances are at least fifty-fifty that no good, and possible harm may result. We have little to our credit, if we sum up results carefully, in the treatment of chronic venereal diseases by this method, no matter what the agent used. In short, to rush into a measure like that, without due deliberation, is to put the spectacle ahead of good judgment.

—The Enterprise \$1.00 A Year.

An Irishman was before a judge on the charge of beating his wife. The judge looked down at him and said: "That will cost you exactly \$2.20."

"And, please, Sorr, phat is the 20 cents for?"

"Federal tax on amusements."

He: "Would you like to go to that dance with a good looking man?"

She: "Sure, have you a friend?"

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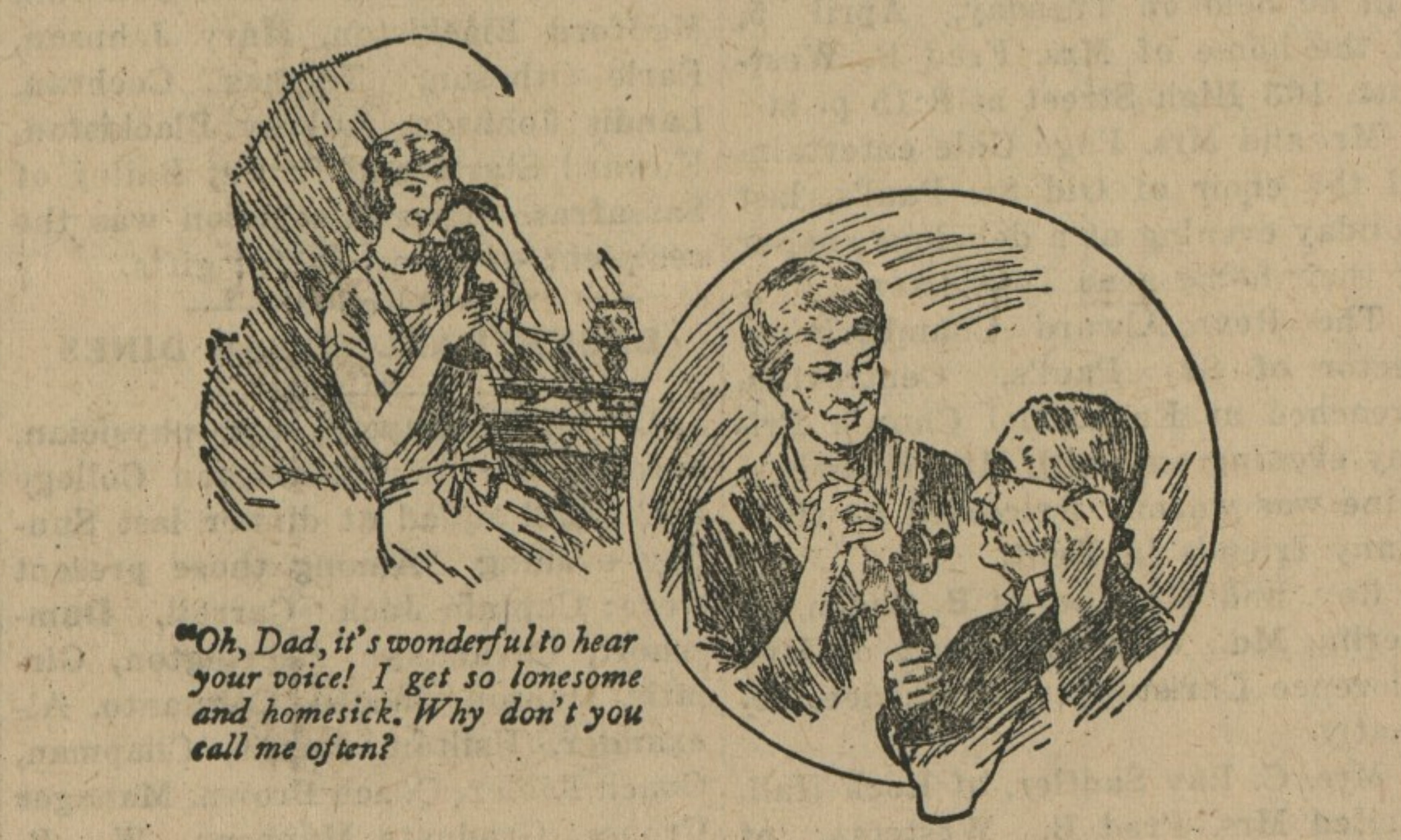
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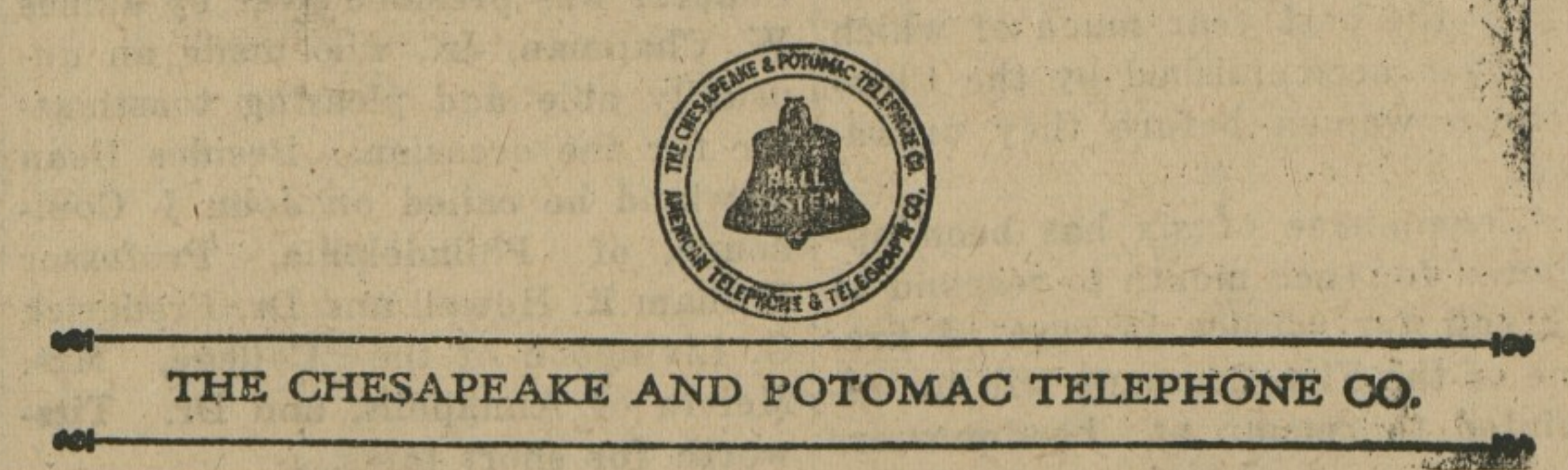
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