

HIGH OFFICIALS TO HONOR RAIL LABOR VETERAN

'Herm' Wills to Be Given Surprise Party on His 80th Anniversary.

BY ROSCOE B. FLEMING
WASHINGTON, July 14.—They're going to give Herm Wills a "surprise party" July 16 at the Carlton Hotel here.

Sixty-two years ago Herm, a husky, black-haired youth from Vermont, landed a job as fireman on the old Northwestern Railroad in Iowa. Running into the frontier town of Omaha, he knew the old West.

Senators, high labor officials, railroad presidents and Cabinet members will do him honor Monday night, when Wills, retired assistant grand chief and legislative agent of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, now one of the strongest labor organizations in the world, celebrates his eightieth birthday.

You could hardly say "retired" either, for he still visits his office daily in his work as chairman of a general education committee of all the rail brotherhoods.

Put Over Inspection Law

The story of the rise of the Brotherhood from a few struggling unions is to a great extent the story of Wills. He was a trusted lieutenant of P. M. Arthur, great Brotherhood leader of the last century, and at one time held the unique power as assistant grand chief, to suspend the chief if he felt the latter were doing wrong. He was no less trusted by Warren S. Stone, later.

Perhaps his proudest achievement was helping to put through the Federal locomotive inspection law of 1912, securing the aid of President Taft against powerful opposition.

Born in Vermont July 16, 1848, self-supporting at 11, the glamorous western adventures of an elder brother fired Wills' imagination, and he got his fireman's job at Clinton, Iowa, in 1866. At 21 he was driving his own engine, and at 24 was trusted with the Fast Mail and the Denver Express.

They tell all sorts of yarns about him—for instance, about the new executive who went about "pulling" signals on the engineers to see if they were obeying them. When Wills was stopped, he saw what had happened, and waved his fists wildly at the executive on the platform, with considerable rough language.

Fired" From Burlington

The executive complained. Wills was called on the carpet. "Yes, I do swear at him and if he ever does it again, I'll stop the train long enough to knock his block off," he said. The executive received a gentle warning to let Wills alone.

All this time he was active in labor organization. He was a charter member of the Firemen's Brotherhood, joining at Clinton in 1868. In 1872 he joined the struggling engineers' organization, and almost immediately became nationally prominent in it.

He negotiated the second system-wide agreement ever entered—with the Northwestern. The ex-president of that road, R. H. Ashton, who warned with Wills over many a council board, but is a lifelong friend, now president of the American Railways Association, will help to do him honor Monday night.

Wills helped to lead the famous Burlington strike. He was "fired" from the Burlington for merely belonging to a labor committee and later returned to the Northwestern.

BOY, 9, TRIES SUICIDE

Evansville Lad Makes Two Attempts at Drowning.

By Times Special
EVANSVILLE, Ind., July 14.—Police have failed so far to find a motive for two attempts at suicide by drowning made by Leonard Coombs, 9, son of Leonard Coombs.

The first attempt was frustrated by Melvin Smith, houseboat owner when he noticed the boy sitting calmly on a battered craft sinking in Pigeon Creek. He pulled the boy aboard his houseboat and he immediately jumped into the water, and was rescued again—Smith.

Academy Reunion Sunday

By Times Special
FAIRMOUNT, Ind., July 14.—Former teachers and students of the old Fairmount Academy will hold a reunion here Sunday.

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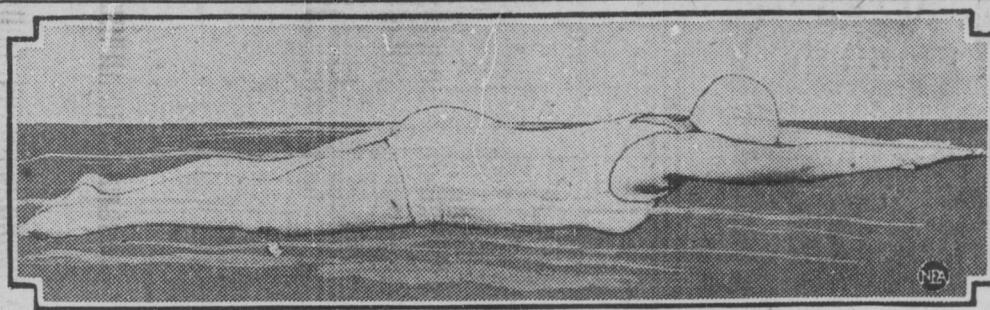
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Overcoming of Fear Is First Step in Learning to Swim, Then Try to Float



Phyllis Zitenfeld poses in the "dead man's float."

The PASSING PROCESSION

BY THE ZITENFIELD TWINS
FOR NEA Service
THE first step in learning how to swim is to overcome fear of the water.

The best way to do this, of course, is to grow used to the water while still young. Mother used to take us in swimming when we were tiny babies.

But we never were afraid of the water. It is a mistake to take any child into the water who is afraid.

Give him a sand pail and shovel and let him dig around on the beach and before he knows it he will be wading. It is only a step more clear into the water.

Our advice is not for babies, however. We want to try to help boys and girls and adults make up their minds to learn swimming.

Don't Use Floats

If starting in a pool, stick to the shallow end until you really can swim under your own power. Never use water wings.

Try to duck and play ball or tag in the water until you don't mind going under. Wallow around and learn to like the feel of water.

You never can learn to swim if you don't go under far enough to wet your hair. Don't hold your nose, either. Take a deep breath, hold it, duck to a squatting position, come up, exhale.

Executions and ice cream—they're far apart. But such is the passing procession of life.

And from ice cream land, the far north, came word of rescues from death.

The Russian steamer Krassins rescued from an icy island five men who were marooned there forty-two days before, when the North Pole dirigible Italia crashed. Death had seemed almost certain for those men.

The day before the Krassins rescued from a twenty-foot ice floe, on which they were drifting helpless, two of the three men who attempted to walk to the mainland from the Italia crew's camp, The world had regarded them as lost long ago.

Rescue came too late for one man of their party, the Swedish meteorologist, Prof. Finn Malmgren. He died a month ago as the party sought to fight its way to the mainland, the scanty messages from the north said.

Stretch out your arms as you take a deep breath and push your self from the side. If you hold your body out taut, you will find that you float across the water easily.

You will have to try it many times before you can push more than halfway across the tank. But this gives you a feeling of buoyancy that is essential to anyone who wants to swim.

Try this a few seconds the first time. Just to the position. Then repeat, trying to get a deeper breath and stay afloat longer.

Never strain yourself trying to stay afloat longer than you can easily. That will come later.

But the minute you accomplish a good "dead man's float" you have learned several valuable things needed in swimming: buoyancy, the feel of water on the face, the ability to hold the breath without getting scared, and a sense of easy motion through the water.

LIFT YULE TREE BAN

U. S. Opens Gates to Importing Greens From Canada.

By United Press

WASHINGTON, July 14.—The Christmas tree situation is promising again, as the result of a decree by the agriculture department lifting the quarantine on trees and greens from the province of Quebec.

The quarantine was imposed because of the presence of the gypsy moth, which has now been eradicated, according to reports from the Canadian government.

SCOUTS TO PLAY INDIAN

Boys Will Depict Hiawatha Scenes at Reservation Tonight.

Scenes from "Hiawatha," the poem, will be depicted tonight at the Boy Scout reservation, northeast of the city.

Scout officials will be guests at the entertainment. Scout leaders from surrounding Indiana towns have been invited. Swimming events and a parade will feature the program.

EVEN SHERIFFS NOT SAFE

Over in Pennsylvania sheriffs and dr. raiders clashed. The Pennsylvania State Sheriff's Association was holding a convention at Conneaut Lake Park, one of the usual summer resorts.

The dry raiders led by the county prosecutor crashed into the hotel room in which the convention was enjoying itself. The sheriffs represented the rude intrusion and blows were struck.

But the matter was compromised. A bellboy was charged with possession of liquor. Nine of the sheriffs were arrested. Compromises are wonderful things.

To counterbalance this there was the peace note from Germany. Germany wrote the United States declaring herself 200 per cent for Secretary of State Kellogg's plan that all the nations sign a peace pact agreeing not to wage war except in self-defense.

300,000,000 FROM FAGS

From Washington came the interesting news that cigarette smoking has increased five-fold in the last ten years. During the year which ended July 1 cigarette smokers paid the Government \$301,000,000 in taxes while Uncle Sam only realized \$66,000,000 from the fag burners in 1918.

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