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Western Normal Leader

Vol. 5

Hays, Kansas, Oct. 12, 1911

No. 3

STORY TELLING

(Elsie Macintosh)

The art of story-telling is almost as old as the race itself. Turn to the history of whatever race you will its earliest activities cannot be separated from the tale that was told by poet, bard or minstrel. For many centuries the records of history were transmitted from one generation to another by word of mouth. In mediaeval castles the most welcome guest was he, who sat by the fire and recited the glories of heroes past and present.

All the world loves a story every heart responds to the charm of a well told tale. but we are just beginning to realize its possibilities as an educational factor.

Theoretically every teacher should be a good story-teller. In every age really great teachers who have had character building as a conscious aim have known the value of the story and have made it a most effective means of shaping the lives of both old and young. Jesus, Plutarch, the monks of the middle ages Froebel and many others have proved its effectiveness.

You may ask. "what can be claimed for the story as an educational factor, how far will it improve conditions mentally morally and socially

The story is a subtle thing and who can say how far education will go with a boy or girl.

The creating of a taste for good literature is so evident a result of judicious story-telling that it is unnecessary to do more than to simply take it for granted. Story-telling develops ability of concentration in those who listen and that is an important consideration in all teaching.

Every child lives in a world of make-believe, peopled with creations of his own fancy. These fantasies will be rich or tawdry according to the ideals possessed by the child. There is nothing that gives readier entrance to the innermost chambers of a child's heart, and reveals the ideals budding therein, than a good story. Many children come from homes of unremitting toil, they need a little of the unreal world of fairy land, of folk-love, of myth and heroism.

Judicious story-telling will greatly aid in the process of fitting the young for intercourse with the world. In the fundamentals of knowledge the country boy is often better fitted than the city boy. But his world is narrow. He has little social intercourse. When he goes to the city he is handicapped by his lack of adjustment to conditions of community life. The education of a child is not complete if he has not formed

habits of ease and courtesy, of friendliness and kindness toward his fellows.

Lessons of chivalry, courage, honor and many other virtues may be made firmly planted by the relation of one story in point, than by countless lectures on the same subjects. Consider the story of Maid Marion in Robin Hood, who came to Sherwood Forest disguised as a man and how when she was recognized every robber in Lincoln Green showed her deference. Could a boy learn in a more effective way the lesson of courtesy to women?

There is no lack of good material from which to cull stories. The important thing to be considered is what stories to tell; Judgement to choose those that are good; to know values, to plant a truth, to entertain to round out a happy childhood. There must be a purpose and a plan in story-telling. Almost all myths and traditions instruct while they entertain. Children are quick to perceive the moral of a fable and right here we would say, never be guilty of pointing out the moral.

The story then should have its place upon every school program. It should be made a part of the curriculum for it contains agencies for the development of character not equaled by anything else.

The conscientious teacher will hardly be content to say, "I cannot tell a story" He will make himself a teller of tales. This is his duty and his opportunity. And when he has mastered the simple art it will be his joy as well.

Mr. Hull attended the banquet of the National Correspondence School at Topeka on October 17.

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HAYS,

KANSAS

Mail has been coming, addressed to Mrs. Ed Davis. Ed says it is a mistake but he always looks very much fussed over it.

Mr. Frank Hoogland was in the city on business last week. Before

returning home he stopped at the Normal for a short visit. He does not expect to be in school this winter.

William Keough and Kathryn Walz enrolled last week. The latter spent last winter in Penna.

Normal School Students

I want you to make my store your headquarters for everything usually kept in a drug store, which you may want during your stay here, and I ask you for your patronage on the basis of a fair, square, 100-cent's worth-of-goods-for-every-dollar spent-in-my-store, no matter what it is.

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Grace Hoffman was a Normal visitor recently.

The P. O. recently established in Miss Keller's office seems to be working admirably.

Mrs. C. H. Morgan and her sister Mrs. Shiflett, of Selma, California, paid the Normal a short visit one morning this week.

Miss Lucie Hilborn sister of Miss Daisy and Elnora who were in school last winter was visiting here this week. Miss Lucy is an instructor in the Salina Wesleyan Business College.

G. C. Moore visited with friends in Hays last Saturday and Sunday. Grover seems very enthusiastic over his work at Grainfield which is a pretty good indication that he is doing excellent work there. He is also quite enthusiastic over athletics. Can you imagine G. C. coaching a football team? Well that's what he is doing out there at Grainfield.

Prof. E. B. Matthew was a welcome visitor at the Normal last Wednesday. He talked to the students during general exercises about the special attention that is being given to vocational training in a large number of the high schools. In view of the fact that a comparatively small percentage of people follow up the vocation chosen during the high school days, this vocational motive emphasizes the acquisition of skill in any line thereby providing the student with a broader range from which to choose his life work. If this motive were more prevalent, it would undoubtedly have a tendency to eliminate in a large measure the slipshod method of "getting through" a good many subjects.

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HAYS, - - KANSAS

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Western Normal Leader

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Staff.

May F. Gill, Editor-in-Chief.

Loree Cave, Associate Editor.

Sullivan Johnson, Business Manager.

Clarence King, Ass't. Bus. Mgr.

Orren Lahman left Wednesday night for his home near Winona to attend the wedding of his brother and Miss Maggie Stover. The bride is a former student of W. K. S. N. and is well known by a good many in school now. The "Leader" extends congratulations and best wishes. Orren returned Sunday.

The Debating Club will give a banquet on Saturday night, October 28. The banquet will be prepared and served by the Domestic Science girls.

Our football boys go to Russell Friday morning, Oct. 27 to play the first game of the season with the all fellows.

CLUB NOTES.

Have you heard the latest? The "Dutch" table. O the Dutch company is the best company that ever came over from the old Germany; There's the Amsterdam Dutch and the Pottom Dutch and the Rotterdam Dutch and the other—Dutch.

Ask Terrill if moonlight affects the weight of objects.

The club members put on their most beautiful expressions and sweetest smiles and had their pictures taken Tuesday.

Favorite Songs of some of our members. Leighton, "Call Me up Some Rainy afternoon."; Whisnant, "Any Little Girl That's a Nice Little Girl Is The Right Little Girl for Me." Evangeline, "If I Only Had a Beau." King "When We Parted by The Well Dear Estelle"; Jean, "When The Lights are Low."; Law, "Who's Little Girlie are You."; Eva "Meet Me Tonight In Dreamland."

Mr. Haas (in a burst of eloquence) There was a time in the history of this institution when young men were at a premium.

Iva—They are yet.

The Normal came very near losing Mr. Linrenberger for good and all a few days ago as some of the boys who went to the evening train will testify.

Prof. Bird delivered an address to the teachers during the evening session of the teachers association at Natoma last Saturday.

Y. W. C. A.

The Y W C A enjoyed a social afternoon at Mrs. Picken's Wednesday October 11.

Twelve members were present. The meeting was called to order and all bowed their heads a few minutes in prayer; then each young lady recited a verse of Scripture.

All formality now ceased and the conversation drifted to different subjects, and soon Mrs. Picken became the center of a group of listeners and questioners. She told in a very delightful way little sketches from "The Price of the Prairie" and Ben Hur."

Refreshments were then served and Mrs. Picken excused herself to partake of a "man-cooked" supper on the creek.

The time had passed so quickly no one realized that nearly two hours had been spent.

Such social afternoons are always looked forward to with pleasure by the Y. W. C. A. girls and remembered long afterward.

Those of us who are temporarily homeless felt that they had been home for a period of time.

Work on the new building is progressing rapidly. The corner stone will be laid next Tuesday, Oct 31 during the period usually used for general exercises.

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HAYS, - - - KANSAS.

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HAYS, - - - KANSAS.

Prin. and Mrs. Picken and Prof. Main represented W. K. S. N. at the International Dry Farming Congress which was held at Colorado Springs last week. Eleven foreign countries were represented, including all the principal agricultural districts of the world except England and France.

Mrs. Picken spent the greater part of her time at the session of the International Congress of Farm Women where all kinds of improved methods of housekeeping, cooking, sanitation, etc. were demonstrated.

Mrs. Picken and Mr. Main each gave a most interesting and entertaining account of their trip and the Congress during the general exercise period Wednesday morning.

The only criticism that can be offered is that their talks were too short—there were so many interesting things to report that had to be omitted on account of the limitation of time.

Miss Eldora Mann was taken to St. Margaret's Hospital, at Kansas City

Saturday night to undergo an operation for appendicitis. The good News reached us Monday morning that the operation was successful and that Eldora is on the road to recovery. Her many friends in the

Normal gave her a post card showing and sent flowers as an expression of their sympathy and wishes for her speedy recovery.

Misses Anna Crisman and Iona Garner spent Saturday and Sunday at the Crisman home.

LITERATI

On Friday evening Oct. 14 the Literati society held their first public meeting.

Mrs. Shively and Mrs. Wiest gave a very delightful instrumental duet after this different members of the society gave recitations and readings all of which were enjoyed. An intermission of a few minutes followed then instead of the regular debate those present enjoyed prompt speeches. Many private views were expressed publicly during this latter half of the program.

Why does Mr. Law look so funny whenever you mention "ten o'clock?"

Prin. Picken explained the working principle of the fire extinguishers during general exercises one morning and admonished the students to learn to use them in case of fire. Do you suppose it would be necessary to use them in case of just a spark or even a small flame.

Clark Reed carries his right arm in a sling these days, having met with an accident while at work a few days ago.

Miss Georgia Forbner has been appointed reporter for the Literati Society.

Clayte, Aura and Leo Bice were visiting home folks last Sunday. "Jakie" visited the Normal next day.

Western State Normal School

HAYS, - - KANSAS.

Last Year's Enrollment, 464.

Enrollment, Normal Department, fall term opening, 1911, 35 per cent. increase over preceding year.

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Memoriam.

Early last week the sad news of the death of Ethel Sherman reached spreading consternation through out the whole school. She had been in apparent good health this fall, having commenced teaching a term of school and the sad news of her death came as a great blow to her host of friends here.

Ethel May Sherman was born near Woodhill Ill. September 4, 1892, and died in Kansas City, Mo., October 12, 1911, aged 19 years, 1 month and 8 days.

She leaves a father, a mother, a sister, many relatives and a multitude of friends to mourn her early departure.

About ten years ago she came with her parents to Graham county Kansas, where she has since resided.

On September 1st 1908, she enrolled in this institution where she acquitted herself creditably in everything she undertook. Her quiet uplifting influence made itself felt by all with whom she came in contact and won for her a vast number of strong and true friends whose remembrance of her cannot be blotted out by her untimely death.

Interment was made in the Hill City Cemetery.

Her pure noble spirit has gone to its rest. And the true hand lies nerveless and cold on her breast.

But her name and the memory of these never, will die.

But grow brighter and dearer as ages go by.

The following lines were contributed by a friend.

Oh cruel fate,

Oh iron hand,

Oh the actions of God,

That we do not understand.

Though our life here below
Is a transient abode,
Every thought every action
Should lighten the load
And make the few hours
Which we have to prepare,
For our heavenly home
Much easier to bear.
In our activities of life.
We never stop to think,
How near is the eve
Or how close is the brink.
We should form good habits
And lead a pure life,
As the one just called
From this world of strife.
So when the angels announce
That death must give us his hand.
We will be ready to depart
For that beautiful land.

The song recital by Miss Sophia Dickinson, accompanied on the piano by Mrs. C. A. Shively last Friday night was a great success. Miss Dickinson who was at one time a student at W. K. S. N. has been taking vocal training in Chicago for a few years and her recital was a treat which was greatly appreciated by all who came out to hear her. The brilliant piano solo by Mrs. Shively was also a highly entertaining feature of the program.

Prof. C. J. Smith went to Ness City last Friday night to address the teachers' association at that place the next evening. He reports having seen Miss Mollie Moore and Miss Ida Fehrenbach while there.

Miss Ella Hoxie missed several days of school last week on account of being poisoned by ivy leaves which she accidentally gathered among other fall leaves. Ella thinks poison ivy is beautiful to behold but not to be held.

Columbus Day, Oct. 12 being a holiday the doors of the Normal were closed and the Normal students were requested—nay, begged to forego the pleasure of spending the day in delightful (?) study. So great was the general feeling of gratitude to Columbus for having discovered America that a number of the students found it necessary to give expression to their deep feeling.

organizing an exploration party. Consequently a hay rack load of students, numbering about twenty-seven, and drawn by four horses proceeded to "Custer's Island." there to spend the afternoon and evening. Unlike the Columbian expedition.

this party needed no urging to go "tom and on" for the King himself was a member of the party. The company was well organized carrying with it the Law and a part of the normal—Father and James. One Webster was taken along for protection but wouldn't work for anyone but the English. Upon reaching the island two natural Caves were discovered. Near the island there flowed a clear babbling brook and a peculiar kind of fish was seen—it was all Gull.

When the eats were opened it was discovered that we had brought neither Forkner knife. At first it looked like slim Pickens but on further investigation it was found that there was a sufficient supply for everyone and enough left to feed the Stock. Everyone enjoyed the bonfire which was built to dispel the darkness and drive away winged creatures and other Pests which were likely to Bob around the eats.

Leighton the evening someone remarked that the main Street of the island reminded him of Hoxie.

Vernon found "Alice in Wonderland" and wanted to Carrie it home to Reed.

Johnson exhibited some wonderful feats of strength and endurance.

There was only one decidedly young person present though no one knew how old Harry was and for that reason it was decided best not to stay out too late, so as soon as the moon had risen high enough to light the way, the party started for home. It was quite chilly and there was only one Prince Albert, but everyone was merry except Ed and he was very near Mary.

Many songs were sung including "Snyder does your Mother know your out?" On reaching home it was voted that the delightful trip almost compensated for the pain of being obliged to miss a day of school.

BONFIRE.

The big bonfire which should have been a feature of the twilight picnic but which was postponed on account of the rain was finally burned on the evening of Oct. 24. A large number of the students were present and the evening was pleasantly spent in games and song. If Prof. Shively had been present he would have been proud of his class in vocal music for no one not even the boys needed any urging to sing. The bonfire was started at seven fifteen and lasted until a little after nine when the students resolved themselves into little groups and gradually faded away as the last dying embers slowly scattered and died away into cold gray ashes.

The Shildkret Hungariau Orchestra comes on November 7. Don't forget the date.

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