

1925-2025

UN AN AVEC HOWARD PHILLIPS LOVECRAFT

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Première mention dans le New York Times des conditions d'hygiène et de santé dans les réserves indiennes, rares sont les documents qui échappent aux archétypes convenus d'avance.

[1925, mercredi 18 mars]

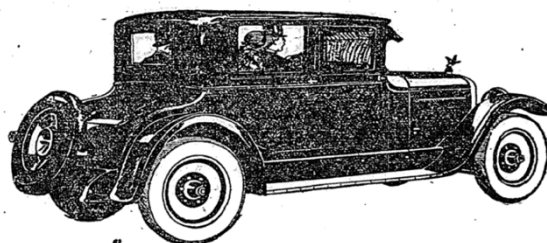
Up noon — read — out to Tiffany — ret. & read — GK brief call — read more — SH arr. — grapefruit — read more — retired.

*Levé midi. Lu. Sorti dîner au Tiffany. Revenu, lu. Bref passage de Kirk.
Continué à lire. Retour de Sonia avec des pamplémousses.
Lu encore. Couché.*

Parfois on souhaiterait que Lovecraft, au lieu de dire qu'il lit, nous dise ce qu'il a lu ou relu. Poésie, histoire, magazines aussi. Les romans sont plus rares, en général il les signale — quand on retrouvera les lettres, le 2 avril, il mentionnera être depuis plusieurs jours à lire des livres prêtés par James Morton, dont un volume des *Mille et une nuits*. Ou alors comme une sorte de mise en carapace dans l'impossibilité à vivre en couple : trop facile. Mais c'est cet enfermement qui compte, soit : « lu [...] lu [...] lu encore [...] lu encore ». L'assise mentale qui se crée en soi-même à force de ce temps d'une activité inaccessible à soi-même, puisqu'à l'arrière-fond du mental. Dans le journal, pour une fois, écho à la réalité indienne (et incidemment la preuve que d'autres positions sociales sont intellectuellement assumées par d'autres que Lovecraft). Retour à ces moments d'enfoncement dans la lecture, et comment son propre imaginaire est au travail dans la tension du lire : en 1933 (cf dossier réservé), Lovecraft établit pour lui-même des résumés d'histoires surnaturelles — en voici trois, uniquement pour une raison, la part de l'imaginaire urbain, et Brooklyn donc, dans ce travail souterrain en amont des grandes fictions. Et l'occasion de découvrir Waldo Elwyn Backus, qui a le même âge que Lovecraft mais ne mourra, en Floride, qu'en 1979...

New York Times, 18 mars 1925. Les conditions de santé dans les Réserves indiennes sont pires que dans n'importe quel endroit du pays, selon le Dr Haven Emerson, professeur de Santé publique à Columbia, et ex-président de la Commission pour la santé publique, qui hier a pris la parole au Commodore devant l'Association de défense des Indiens d'Amérique. Le Dr Emerson s'en est pris violemment au Bureau des affaires indiennes de Washington en tant que responsable de ces conditions. « La négligence du gouvernement des États-Unis, a-t-il déclaré, se mesure dans un taux anormalement haut de décès par la tuberculose ou les trachomes (conjonctivites bactériennes contagieuses) parmi les populations indiennes. La grande majorité des médecins affectés aux réserves sont totalement incompetents. Les personnels de médecine dont on ne veut plus dans les services traditionnels, on les expédie dans les réserves, qui sont devenues le placard aux échecs. » W H Hodge, le directeur du Musée des Indiens d'Amérique, s'en est pris lui aussi à la façon dont le gouvernement prend soin des Indiens et a déclaré que le Bureau des affaires indiennes est sous la coupe des politiciens.

« L'ensemble des employés du Bureau devrait passer sous le régime des affaires civiles. La plupart des médecins ont été l'an dernier moins payés que des cantonniers, et touchent seulement 1 200 ou 1 300 dollars par an. Mais augmenter la paye des incompetents n'améliorera pas les conditions de santé des Indiens. On compte environ 75 000 cas de trachomes dans les tribus, une condition si alarmante qu'il est impossible de mettre en place désormais une politique d'éradication de cette maladie. L'année dernière on a recensé 200 morts de la coqueluche dans les Pueblos, soit 10 % du total de la population. Parmi eux, seulement 27 cas ont été officiellement déclarés à la Commission des affaires indiennes. Lors d'une épidémie d'angines parmi les enfants indiens, j'ai vu un docteur examiner leurs gorges avec la même lamelle. Je préférerais pour moi-même m'en remettre aux vieilles médecines indiennes traditionnelles que dans les mains de tels médecins. Ils font infiniment plus de mal que de bien. » M Hodge, comme plusieurs de ceux qui ont pris la parole, a déclaré qu'on devrait autoriser les Indiens à pratiquer leurs anciens rites religieux. « Envoyer des missionnaires chez les Indiens est une faute inadmissible, a-t-il dit. Leur accorder leur pleine liberté religieuse, ce serait seulement respecter la Constitution. » Les Indiens en général ne sont en rien des paresseux, a déclaré le Dr George Bird Grinnel, écrivain et éditeur, mais ils sont totalement inaptes à se fondre dans la conception du travail de l'homme blanc.



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SAVES HER TENANTS BUT DIES IN FIRE

Woman Rushes to House From
Marketing and Warns
Sleeping Roomers.

(COLLAPSES ON TOP FLOOR

Lodger Whom Fireman Rescued Re-
members Too Late Landlady Is
Still in the Building.

When fire swept through her rooming house at 103 East 114th Street yesterday Mrs. Emma Gunther rushed in from her marketing to rouse several roomers she knew were sleeping. She collapsed on the top floor and died of suffocation and burns before firemen could rescue her.

Mrs. Gunther was a block away when she saw flames bursting from a window. Knowing that Carl Kosack and William Muldoon, two of her roomers, were asleep, she ran through the burning halls shouting warnings. On the top floor she found Kosack, who was already affected by the smoke. He managed to reach a front window, from where a fireman brought him to safety.

While Mrs. Gunther sought Muldoon's room the smoke overcame her, and she fell near the top landing. Muldoon and two other lodgers had been awakened by the fire. When Kosack told the firemen of her whereabouts, they went back through the smoke and brought her body to a cabaret next door, where Dr. Bracco of Harlem Hospital and a pulmonologist worked over her in vain.

Muldoon and Kosack were taken to Harlem Hospital suffering from burns and smoke. They will recover. The fire completely burned the interior of the building. Early yesterday morning three other fires in buildings in Harlem apartment houses caused detectives of the East 125th Street Station to believe that a pyromaniac may be at work. In each instance a bundle of rags and rubbish was found aflame. The fires were quickly extinguished, but several dozen families were driven to the streets. The fires were at 63 East 125th Street, 103 East 124th Street and 102 East 125th Street. There was no damage.

AMERICAN ACCUSED AS LONDON 'CHARLATAN'

Bow Street Police Recommend De-
portation for Homer Tyrell Lane,
Psychoanalyst, 'Individualist.'

Continued, 1925, by The New York Times Company.
By Wireless to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

LONDON, March 17.—Homer Tyrell Lane, psychoanalyst, of American citizenship, was charged today at a Bow Street Police Court as a "dangerous charlatan," the police recommending deportation. Lane has been in England since 1914 and is said to have established a "little commonwealth," a kind of industrial school for boys and girls.

Since 1920, Lane is said to have furnished connecting rooms in Gordon Square, London, where he lectured on the "Philosophy of Individualism," and gave consultations at two guineas an hour. Prosecuting counsel estimated his income at £2,500 and said he owed an income tax of 1900.

Copies of long letters, some from women of position, were handed to the Magistrate. From these, counsel said it was evident that people had formed associations of an improper character. Lane called in church dignitaries and others of position to testify as to his respectability.

The case was adjourned for a week.

'DOC' WATERBURY, FAMOUS CROOK, DEAD

Often Had Riches, but Little
Was Left When End Came
on His Up-State Farm.

STRICKEN IN CALIFORNIA

Wife's and Mother's Pleas Led Him
to Quit His Old Life in the
Last Few Years.

Special to The New York Times.

THACA, N. Y., March 17.—Julius H. Ford, known to the police of two continents as "Doc" Waterbury, international crook, died today in his little farmhouse at Enfield, near here. In his day he had made large sums of money from the victims of his confidence games and other swindles, but he died with very little except his farm and his automobile.

Since 1923, when he was released from Auburn Prison, he is said to have "gone straight," largely because of the pleas of his wife and mother. They were both at his bedside when he died. A few months ago he was stricken with heart disease in California. Because of the chronic Bright's disease from which he had suffered for years, he was warned that he had no hope to recover.

He expressed the desire to return to the old farm house where he was born, in order that he might die there. Accompanied by his wife, he started from California to New York by automobile, but became so weak when he reached Chicago that he had to make the final stage of the journey by train. He reached home a few weeks ago and lingered between life and death until this morning.

Ford was 50 years old. He attended Cornell University in 1894 and was well known as a football player. He later coached several teams in the West.

Early in his career he went to Paris and on his return posed as a representative of The Associated Press in Washington. Representing to many Congressmen and Government officials that he was acting for The Associated Press in preparation for a biographical volume, he obtained large sums of money.

He was indicted for receiving money under false pretenses, but escaped to Europe. On his return through a Canadian port, he was arrested and sentenced to the Atlanta Penitentiary.

This, so far as known, was his first arrest and was the first time that public attention was attracted to his spectacular acts. He was generally regarded as the first of the "two boys" who represented themselves as journalists in order to "shake down" public men who foolishly believed that contributions of money would win them favorable treatment in the press.

After leaving Atlanta, he returned to New York and became well known on Broadway. His operations were closely watched by the police, because of reports of forgeries and various swindles in which he won the confidence of unsuspecting persons. He was arrested later on the charge of abducting a girl whom he had promised to introduce to theatrical managers, but jumped his bail and fled to Europe again.

NEW ROSES APPEAR AT FLOWER SHOW

Throngs View the Madame Alex-
andra Drieux, a Gorgeous
Yellow Bloom.

HONORS TO PERCY CHUBB

Takes Principal Prize With 25
Roses—Mrs. J. I. Blair and Mrs.
F. A. Constable Also Winners.

Roses were the feature yesterday at the Flower Show in Grand Central Palace, America, a very large rose, seemed to be the favorite of commercial growers, while types on the order of the Columbia, Claudius Permet and Butterfly were displayed by private growers, and scattered all over the show were the golden yellow blooms of the Mrs. Calvin Coolidge rose, exhibited last March for the first time.

To Percy Chubb of Glen Cove, L. I., was awarded the principal prize in the private growers' competition for a display of twenty-five roses in one vase. Mammoth took the honor in the Columbia class. Mrs. J. Inley Blair of Tuxedo received first in the Claudius Permet exhibit and Mrs. F. A. Constable of Mammoth took the honor in the Columbia class.

A deep-yellow rose, shading into rich bronze tones at the fringe, the Alexandra Drieux, was the new-comer to the show yesterday by Charles H. Totty. To these who prefer yellow and orange tones in roses the new-comer will have an uncommon appeal.

N. Peterson of Cromwell, Conn., also introduced a new rose, which he has named Briarcliff. It is a delicate pink of great beauty.

The exhibit of table decorations is unusual. The one winning the first prize and designed by Mrs. W. H. Cary has a center piece of yellow, purple and white flowers. Green grapes and apples also garnish the board. A notable decoration by Mrs. Philip V. Goodwin has a copper bowl center piece filled with yellow, purple and lavender tulips.

Mrs. Carl de Gersdorff's table has pink linen in two shades and a large glass bowl is filled with delicate pink roses and shaded pink and white freesias. Mrs. Edgar Hansen's table decoration is Slavonian in its almost transparent brown linen, its cobalt-blue china, decorated with orange, yellow and scarlet sections of fruits and peonies, and its center piece of orange-colored flowers in a deep-blue glass bowl. Mrs. Franklin D'Olier's table is laid with bright blue and white-checked linen and the center piece is a white glass bowl filled with flaming windflowers in red, purple, scarlet and white. The Garden Club awarded the prize.

Prizes were awarded in several special classes of medals and certificates, most of them going to private growers. Colonel H. H. Rogers received an award of merit for a display of begonia, Mammoth christata agnifolia, and Mrs. B. H. Borden won a silver medal for a vase of cymbidium. Mrs. Nicholas F. Brady carried off a silver medal for an exhibit of nine ten-inch pots of iris. George F. Baker won a silver medal for twenty-five square feet of various varieties of primrose and geranium. W. M. Coe a gold medal for his group of schizanthus, stocks, and cyclamen crotons. The J. B. Cobb estate won a silver medal for a collection of Begonia and a cultural certificate for a polypodium specimen. For a specimen plant, Impatiens, a cultural certificate was awarded to Percy Chubb.

W. Albee Burpee received a gold medal

CHARGES NEGLECT OF INDIAN HEALTH

Dr. Haven Emerson Says Con-
ditions on Reservations Are
the Worst in the Country.

CALLS THE DOCTORS POOR

Other Speakers at Defense Luncheon
Attack Administration of
Federal Bureau.

Health conditions on the American Indian reservations are worse than in any other section of the country, according to Dr. Haven Emerson, Professor of Public Health at Columbia and former Commissioner of Public Health, who spoke yesterday at a luncheon of the American Indian Defense Association at the Commodore. Declaring that the infant mortality among the Indians is three times greater than elsewhere, Dr. Emerson attacked the Indian Bureau at Washington as responsible for conditions.

"The neglect of the United States Government," he said, "has resulted in an appalling high death rate among the Indians from tuberculosis and trachoma. The great majority of the doctors assigned to the reservations are utterly incompetent. The medical men who have failed in other departments are turned over to the reservations, which have become the dumping ground for incompetents."

W. H. Hodge, director of the American Indian Museum, also attacked the policy of the Government in caring for the Indians and declared that the Indian Bureau is under the thumb of the politicians. "The entire field force of the bureau should be under the civil service. This is the only cure for the present evils. Most of the doctors have until last year been paid less than street cleaners and are now getting only \$1,200 or \$1,500 a year. But the health of the Indians isn't going to be improved by raising the pay of incompetents. There are 75,000 cases of trachoma alone among the various tribes, a condition so alarming that there now is under way a systematic effort to eradicate this disease. Last year there were 200 deaths from whooping cough among the Pueblos, or 10 per cent. of the entire tribe. Of these only twenty-seven deaths were officially reported by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs. In an epidemic of sore throat among some Indian children I saw a doctor swab their throats with the same swab. I would rather see one of the old Indian medicine men than trust myself to the care of such a doctor. They do infinitely more harm than good."

Mr. Hodge, as well as several of the other speakers, declared that American Indians should be allowed to practice their ancient religious rites. "The sending of missionaries among the Indians is entirely wrong," he said. "They should be given full religious freedom, according to the Constitution."

The average Indian is not lazy, declared Dr. George Bird Grinnell, writer and editor, but is merely unable to adapt himself to the white man's mode of work.

ANNEXE
LOVECRAFT LISANT, TROIS
RÉSUMÉS D'HISTOIRES DU CARNET DE 1933

W. Elwyn Backus, Le bus fantôme.

La fiancée d'un jeune homme est tuée dans un accident d'autobus. Lui avait déclaré qu'elle reviendrait jusqu'à lui si elle était la première à mourir. Un an plus tard, il remarque un étrange et sinistre autobus qui passe juste avant celui qu'il prend habituellement pour aller au bureau. En rêve. Une étrange et persistante odeur quand il monte, et des passagers qui semblent dormir. Sa fiancée est parmi eux, et soudain elle hurle. Même si le bus ferraille comme pas possible, il semble glisser avec douceur. Se réveille en terreur. Le rêve revient — au début, la scène n'allait pas si loin. Il essaye d'embarquer dans le bus pour de vrai, mais toujours se rendort. La fois où il tente de ne pas s'endormir, le bus n'apparaît pas. Un nouveau rêve — l'action se répète et cette fois va plus loin. S'écrase contre un camion — il aperçoit enfin vraiment le visage du chauffeur : il en manque une moitié... On retrouve le corps du jeune atrocement mutilé dans son lit. Il a crié toute la nuit. On retrouve sur la route le lendemain matin un vieil autobus — mais pas en service — tout tordu et brisé. Personne ne peut expliquer comment il est arrivé là. Des indices de morts — mais aucun corps.

Conrad Aiken, M Arcularis.

Après une périlleuse opération, un homme se retrouve sur un paquebot. On dit que son corps est dans la soute. L'homme a des rêves et est somnambule — se retrouve sans cesse allant vers un même lieu — probablement là où est son corps. En fait, il est toujours à l'hôpital, endormi sous éther. Il rêve tout cela et meurt.

Hanns Heinz Ewers, L'araignée.

Une chambre d'hôtel dans laquelle on a trouvé plusieurs fois des gens pendus à la fenêtre — des araignées retrouvées près du corps à chaque fois. Un jeune étudiant décide d'y loger pour mener l'enquête. Il est fasciné par la vue de la fenêtre, l'apparition d'une jeune femme, dans la maison de l'autre côté de la rue, faisant tourner un rouet antique. Perd tout intérêt à

autre chose — mais remarque sur la fenêtre une araignée femelle dévorant un mâle. Quelle scène fantasque, avec la voisine à la fenêtre d'en face, comme si elles en copiaient les mouvements. Les gestes sont quasi simultanés, comme télépathiques. Ce jeu devient progressivement une obsession — l'étudiant est psychologiquement condamné à le poursuivre. Cela se transforme en peur. La vision de ces pendus, et maintenant lui-même parmi eux. Pense que ce personnage de l'autre côté de la rue dicte réellement tous les mouvements du jeu. Hypnotisé par le spectacle des gestes de la voisine, coupe le câble du téléphone qui le reliait au commissariat du quartier. Alors, quand elle fait elle-même le geste de se pendre elle-même à sa fenêtre — il fait pareil, laissant inachevé son journal d'observation. Tout à la fin, il ressent un étrange enlèvement, une révélation effrayante. Trouvé pendu par la police. La peur déformant ses traits. Mordu, et entre ses lèvres une araignée gigantesque dont les taches bizarres ressemblent à la robe de la femme décrite dans les carnets de la victime. La police étudie ses notes, et fouille la maison d'en face. L'appartement auquel appartient la fenêtre est abandonné depuis des mois.