

Bypaths of Kansas History

PROGRESSIVE HAMMOCKS

From the *Abilene Daily Reflector*, July 15, 1892.

The young people had a progressive hammock party last evening at the home of Miss Ida Upshaw to talk over the picnic of a few evening's since. We are not thoroughly familiar with modus operandi of progressive hammocks but we understand that the gentlemen in each hammock entertains (?) his partner until a signal when the gentlemen progress one hammock. There was only one unharmonious feature in last evening's party—Levi Humbargar and Homer Ellison refused to progress. The girls say they won't get invited to the next party.

A NOVEL EXIT TO THE "FRAID HOLE"

From the *Marquette Tribune*, June 8, 1905.

It is reported that one man near here has made a "fraid hole" near his house. He has made a chute from his upstairs window down to the cave door. A rope is attached to the window and the door. When he raises the window the cave door is pulled open. All he and his wife have to do when they think a twister is coming is to raise the window, jump into the chute, land in the cave and pull the door after them and they are safe. It is planned by several of our older wags to go out to this man's place some stormy night, aid nature in making an uproar, and witness a performance!

SO THIS IS WHAT THEY LEARNED IN TOPEKA

From the *Concordia Empire*, November 11, 1909.

BROUGHT BACK BILLIKEN KISS.—Never again will Concordia people scorn the teachers convention and declare that the teachers learn nothing by them, for have we not the statistics this year to prove that the teachers learned the new Billiken Kiss, and for this they will be forgiven much.

The Billiken Kiss is said to have originated in Topeka, and already the Topeka people are crazy on the subject. The little God Billiken, with all his good luck, his chubby face and grinning smile, is absolutely deposed by this new delightful thrilling and exquisite Billiken Kiss.

The Concordia school ma'ams who have introduced the Billiken Kiss are enthusiastic over it, and have already initiated many of their friends into its delicious mysteries, and the Billiken Kiss devotees are growing in number every day.

Where, when, or how the Concordia school ma'ams learned the Billiken Kiss, is still as unknown as the South pole, but know it they do, and they are not going to be selfish about letting their friends know it too.

The school ma'ams say that the Billiken Kiss is here to stay as once tried—

always used. The Soul Kiss, the Merry Widow Kiss are out of it entirely and will be forgotten in another week, for the Billiken Kiss, with its ecstasy of bliss, has surpassed them all.

For fear that you have not been initiated yet, here is the Billiken Kiss: Place your hands on each side of the girls' cheek, press them together until her lips are puckered in a little valley between two soft red hills—and—well you just slide easily down those hills into the valley and then you rest there—the longer the better. The next day your good luck begins and it will last for two short weeks, when you must begin all over again. But the devotee of the Billiken Kiss must go slowly and easily as the moulding of the soft lip beds is not a job for the eager novice. The young man who tries it must proceed cautiously and meaningly and woe to him if he is the "can't wait" variety, for him the Billiken Kiss will always be an untried joy.

According to the school teachers, both young and old, the Billiken Kiss is ineffable bliss, so don't overlook any chance to get one.

The Board of Education is considerably worried for fear the Billiken Kiss will prove such a valuable ally to Cupid that the altar of Hymen will have so many visitors as to wreak havoc in the ranks of the pedagogues. The masculine pedagogues of the city are already demanding protection, objecting to such heavy practice work. Ye! verily a state teachers' association works wonderful changes.

HENRY ALLEN AND WILL ROGERS

From the *Parsons Daily Sun*, December 14, 1922.

NEW YORK, Dec. 14.—Governor Henry J. Allen of Kansas thinks the prettiest chorus girls on Broadway come from his state. He said so last night when he tossed aside gubernatorial dignity to hold the spot light on the stage of a popular musical comedy, surrounded by half a hundred of the most beautiful chorus girls that ever blossomed in the white light district.

He had jumped onto the stage to engage in a friendly exchange of repartee with a comedian, and seemed to be getting the better of the argument when the management turned loose the entire chorus.

As the girls scampered toward him the delighted audience expected the governor to beat a hasty retreat. But instead of being overwhelmed he shouted to the girls:

"You're mighty pretty. I am sure most of you must have come from Kansas."

The governor, recognized in the audience, by Will Rogers, comedian, good naturedly permitted himself to be escorted to stage center and the audience howled for a speech. He answered by "joshing" Rogers. He said he always had been delighted with Rogers' "impertinences" and hoped that he would live forever, as he enjoyed hearing a man speak the plain truth.

"Us Oklahoma fellers never thought much of Kansas," Rogers replied, "why, before Henry Allen took hold it was the greatest joke state in the union. But the governor is a great man. Lots of governors let their states slip back, but darned if Henry did. Go out to Kansas and see for yourself. She ain't gone back an inch."

Then the chorus girls rushed toward the governor.