

CURIOS & ANTIQUES

BY FERDIE DEERING

A MAN DOES NOT NEED TO BE a clergyman to preach a good sermon. A few days ago we happened to be one of a group discussing a notorious outlaw who is avowed to make a comeback. "I believe he'll make good if they'll just give him a break," observed one. "I believe he will, too," said another, "but let me tell you it's a tough battle when you try to come back after you've been down. I know by experience." The latter speaker was, in his own words, at one time one of the "wildest and ornriest" residents of this section. "I got to where I wouldn't pay anything I owed, I drank and stayed drunk, I lied and got so that nobody would have anything to do with me and there wasn't anything I wouldn't try to do if I thought I was big enough," he went on. Eventually he shot a man and got into serious trouble. "I finally just said to myself 'I'm not gettin' anywhere with this kind of stuff. I'm going to straighten up and be somebody.' But you know when I tried to straighten up, I couldn't. People just wouldn't have anything to do with me at all." His determination stuck, though, and he ran for a minor public office, and "after I begged for votes with tears in my eyes," was elected. He made good, and after he was re-elected he obtained an appointment to a responsible position in another field. He resigned after five years. Today he is nearing old age but still paying for mistakes he made as a young man. He didn't tell this story for publication but we'd bet any young man with an eye cast toward a "wild oat crop" would look the other way if he'd listen to this fellow's advice: "It's easier to stay right than it is to get right after you've gone wrong!"

"Is there a doctor in the crowd?" asked a voice over the loud speaker system at the Ada-Pauls Valley football game. "A man over by the big gate wants a doctor." Harry E. Morris, with a bunch of Ada funsters, leaned over the stands and asked a Pauls Valley native down below: "Hey, where's the big gate?" The native, who hadn't heard the announcement, replied: "It's over at McAlester. Why?" Mr. Morris, completely "taken", ceased conversations with his informant immediately.

POLITICAL NOTES: We've heard ever since last June about Landon sunflowers but it was not until a week ago that we saw one; W. F. Schulte was wearing it, and although we've seen several since, we haven't seen a bigger one. . . . An "antique" post card of World war days pictures Sen. Pat Harrison (Miss.) as he was making his first campaign for that office; the message: "My Dear Friend, help us elect Pat Harrison' senator. It would not please Germany, but Americans everywhere. His record has been from the beginning and throughout thoroughly American. Let's win the war, not the Kaiser's approval". . . . "Over Your Coffee" column in Blackwell Tribune reports the following version of the pledge of allegiance given by a junior high school girl there: "I pledge allegiance to my flag and to the republicans to which it belongs"

An Ada high student makes this complaint to us: "I've looked all the way through that Ada News and I can't find a single current event in ancient history." (We can't help wondering if that's the way Prof. Finis Morrison made the assignment).

WE'VE NEVER MET a certain gentleman named "Slim" Harris but our guess is that he's somebody too look up to; a pair of his boots left at Palmer-Dean barber shop for shining reached several inches above the point where we could wear that type stiff leg boots and still bend our knee. . . Florian Smith's fingers are almost as large as our thumbs but he is as nimble in handling small watch parts as we are with a fork and a slice of chocolate pie. . . . To Harry W. Miller goes the honor of being among the first to appear on Ada streets this fall wearing an overcoat. . . . When Wyatt C. Freeman presents one of his excellent musical programs, he precludes possibility of misspelled names by typing the names of numbers, composers and performers beforehand for the press, which cooperation is appreciated by harassed reporters.

MORE SPORTS NOTES: An Ada high peppercupper has her football down pat; During a recent game an Ada halfback broke away for a substantial gain. "Oh, oh, oh," she jubilated, "he'd have made a touchdown then if they hadn't tackled him." . . . Then there's the gentleman who called The News to ask: "How'd the football game out?" With scores of about 150 or 200 games before him, the newsman asked which game? "Navy and Virginia," was the reply. . . . And the woman who, when told that Texas had defeated Oklahoma 6-0, asked: "What inning was the score made in?" . . . We note that the hop-skip-and-jump has been added to the list of spring sports authorized by the O.H.S.A.A.; Well, that's what the boys will need lots of practice at when they get into the business world.