

The Wild Frontier

WHO was Wyatt Earp? The name's familiar from stories of the American Frontier, but he was not, like Paul Bunyan, just a legendary figure. He lived a life of adventure in the West of the 1870's. While still in his early twenties he wore a Marshal's badge, showing amazing courage and cool nerve against badmen notorious for sending men on unexpected trips to the "boot-hill"—the cemetery where they buried those who died with their boots on.

Earp was a quiet-spoken, non-drinking, but hard-fighting man. Even the famous Wild Bill Hickok ranked second to him as a fast-drawing man with a six-gun, but Earp never killed a gun-fighter unless there was no other way out. He always tried to shoot the gun from his quarry's hand, this being held more of a disgrace. *Frontier Marshal*, the new serial on Friday nights from 12B, 3ZB, 4ZB and 3XC takes up the story of Wyatt Earp from his 21st year. He is in Ellsworth, in 1873, resting up between buffalo hunting trips. This is his livelihood, interspersed with Indian fighting and wagon-train scouting. The Thompson brothers ride into town and Bill Thompson shoots Sheriff Whitney in cold blood. Wyatt Earp isn't wearing any Marshal's badge or holding any law office at the time, but when he sees the feeble attempts of the two deputies to disarm the Thompsons he shows his disgust to the Mayor when he arrives. The Mayor takes the deputy's badge off one of them and pins it on Earp's shirt, and thus begins the celebrated career of the youngest and most famous of the West's Frontier Marshals. Incidentally, Earp died peacefully, of old age.

The role of Wyatt Earp is played by John Mellon, with William Rees as the Mayor.

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peso block for a friend. Things were fairly primitive. The day's ice production was in a shed with a dirt floor. When I went in half a dozen fowls, a duck, and two goats were walking round on the ice blocks, cooling off. An old man and a child were stretched out on patches of sacking over the ice. After that I avoided iced coffee in town.

Back to Christchurch. I have seen iced coffee twice on restaurant menus. The first place made it with sweet essence and added a dollop of vanilla ice cream. Every man to his taste.

At the other place (serve yourself), the counter girl looked like thunder. "What?" she said, and disappeared into the kitchen.

"Isn't any," she said, when she came back. "May I help?" I asked politely. "All it needs is half a glass of ice, over which the coffee is poured. This cools hot coffee." The counter girl looked like the blackest part of hurricane Diane, grabbed a knife and started chipping morosely at an ice drawer in the ancient refrigerator.

"Don'tcher like tea?" she snarled.

"No," I said.

"Foreigner, eh?" she said, and hacked and hacked and hacked.

The coffee, when it came, tasted curiously bloodstained. Foreign blood.

—G. leF. Y.

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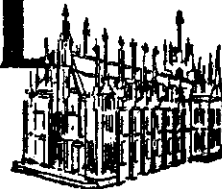
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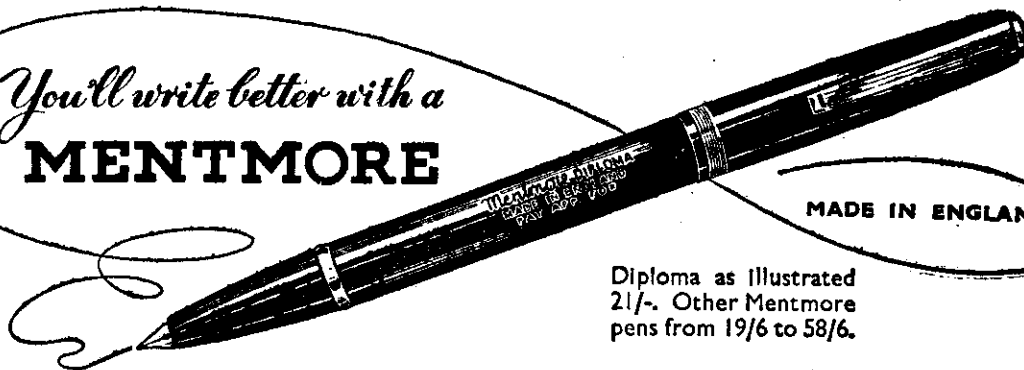
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