

Bryan's Angle of Repose



William Jennings Bryan was for many years the most popular speaker on the national Chautauqua circuit. As Rebecca Buller writes starting on p.98, the Chautauqua was a traveling show that addressed fears of a declining moral culture by offering wholesome entertainment and morally uplifting educational lectures to rural audiences.

Life on the road was tiring but highly profitable for the three-time presidential nominee. Bryan is shown here during a 1919 Chautauqua tour, riding a train up the Oregon coast from Tillamook to Seaside. The photo's label indicates that the Great Commoner had "reached his 'angle of repose.'"

—David L. Bristow, Editor