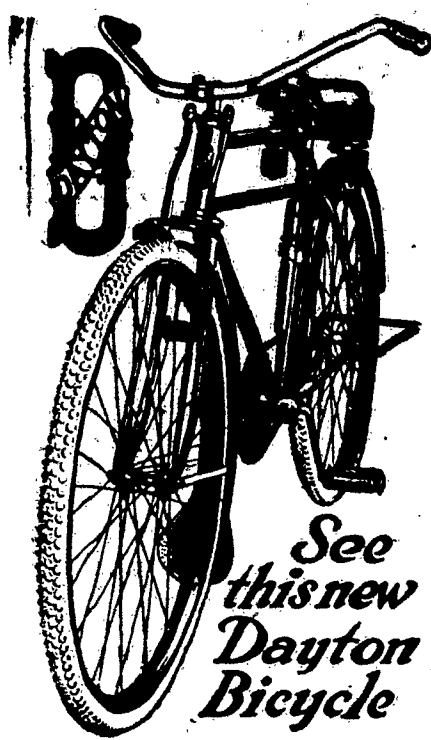


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THE AREA-WAY

By EVA GILBERT.

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She was blonde, petite, smart. She sat just within an office window, briskly tapping the keys of a typewriter—tapping them all day long, with her ear to the dictaphone; without even the respite of shorthand. Rotten how the progress of invention had to drive a pretty girl!

For she was pretty, in a sweetly mature way, as if she had known something of the depth and breadth of life. At least so thought a stalwart young fellow who bent over a draughting board just within a window across the area-way.

He had felt that all women were faithless because one had been so; and it was like a breath of springtime to glimpse such a face. It renewed his faith in womankind. He smiled wanly as he caught her eye in a fleeting glance—smiled with lips for days unused to smiling. He would watch for her leaving hour, and casually—Well, he would find a way to meet her.

She was really sweet. Fact! So conceded the dark-eyed youth of rather generous proportions, sidewise, who was putting up very good speed on a typewriter in another window across the area-way. She was quite attractive, but he could give her some points on fingering, a kink of his own added to the latest business college method. Yes, she was almost pretty, in a gentle, unassuming way. But for her perfect poise, she would have seemed shy; (she had glanced out of the window while her busy fingers were reeling off the lines, and catching his gaze, had turned deliberately away). Well, she had some spirit! He'd like to work with her, just to jolly her along. Come to think of it, that's the kind of a girl that makes a good wife—and boarding house fare does pall. He'd watch her, she would find a way to meet her.

She was positively wonderful! So thought the red-haired giant who was writing figures in great ledgers just within another window across the area-way. So nifty and neat, and still so businesslike; so dainty and feminine, and still with such a worthwhile air; as if she could make an awkward fright of a fellow comfortable, and really treat him humanlike. She was glancing his way—just casually, he observed—and there was absolutely no hint of the flippancy which most young girls of the day consider quite de rigueur. She almost smiled, yet there was not the slightest suspicion of amusement about it; just wonderful friendliness.

What a wife a girl like that would make! Suddenly he felt the quick, detestable color covering his face and mounting to his temples; and he squirmed in his high-desk chair and ran his fingers through the heavy hair that he hated, and grinding his teeth he muttered: "I'm filming some movie for her entertainment!"

It might be her sister, thought the boy in khaki, in the still, breathless way he always recalled a certain nervy little English nurse. He was just within another window across the area-way doing stunts in show-card printing—instead of flying! But the sight of that sweet girl brought back the memory of the other, whom a thousand poor devils worshipped in the field hospitals overseas.

She could marry but one of them—but she had her pick! That was one satisfaction to the others. Maybe here was another girl like her—a little. He must get next to the force in her office and some time perhaps in the distant future he might be comfortable. He looked at his watch, struck by a sudden thought. They quit at five, too!

Meanwhile he straightened his shoulders, smoothed his hair, and very casually indeed turned toward the window the sleeve that bore the one red and the two gold stripes, and when she glanced his way he frankly smiled.

At five there was action in four offices across the area-way, for the little blonde typist covered her machine, assumed a simple hat and modest fur, and drew on a pair of spotted gray gloves. She looked distinguished!

Casually, oh, so very casually, a stalwart youth, a red-haired giant, a chap of rather generous proportions, sidewise, and a soldier boy of gallant bearing happened to meet at the elevators just as she reached them.

An odious, overgrown office boy from the floor below alighted from an ascending car and she looked upon him with the joy of possession as he halted here. This is what he said:
"Hello, grandma; how'd you make it?"

All-Important.

Not so very long ago there lived in Carthage, Missouri, a man who was known as the premier lobbyist of his state. No one surpassed him in legislative experience or in getting things done or undone. On one occasion a friend asked him for advice. "I have got to go over to the state legislature and see if I can't defeat a particularly obnoxious bill," the friend explained, "and I have come to you to ask what is the first thing to do." Out of this bountiful experience the lobbyist replied: "The first thing for you to do is to go and see your banker."

Doesn't Worry the Lion.
Imitation is the sincerest flattery, and yet the way they clip poodle dogs does not look like any great compliment to the lion.—Washington Star.

PIGEONS AS RUM CARRIERS

Customs Officials on the Border on Guard Against New Scheme of Liquor Smugglers.

Low, reeling flight of a homing pigeon from the north is likely to cause comment among customs officials in Toledo, O., these days. Here is the reason:

Booze smugglers are training birds to carry tiny flasks of whisky from Canada into border cities of the United States. The plan was detected at Rochester, N. Y., several days ago and at once the word was sent broadcast to federal agents to be on the lookout.

The deputy customs collector hasn't caught any pigeons yet, but he is wary. Let the whirr of pigeons in flight break on the trained ear and instantly he attempts to determine where the birds take the ground. Nor does a pigeon's naive walk deceive him; he looks until the bird shows it has nothing to conceal, thus proving its innocence.—Toledo Blade.

The Times and the Customs.
He was one of the few surviving cab drivers of an older day who had succumbed to the lure of the automobile and had become a taxi driver. But in his heart he longs for horses, the buckled high hats that he wore when driving for funerals, the carolling of the quartets being taken home from late-at-night stag parties, and all the things that made life worth while to him in the happier years.

And this night he was particularly unhappy because while starting on a hurry-up call his motor had stalled. "It used to be I'd say, 'Giddap, dern ye,' and crack my whip and away we'd go," he lamented. "Now I say, 'Turn over, d—d ye!' and crack my elbow—a cranking her, and we don't go at all!"

Destroyed Husband's Literary Work.
It is not often a wife—or, rather, widow—acts as the destroyer of her late husband's work, yet this is what Lady Burton did. Her husband was a great traveler, explorer, diplomat and linguist, the master of 35 languages, who often moved about the East for months together as an Arab, so complete was his knowledge of Arabic. He left several translations of eastern books in manuscript, and a story was told of Burton's spirit appearing to his wife, after his death, beseeching her to burn these unpublished books. Certain it is that Lady Burton did destroy them.

Seventy to a House.
Warsaw is probably one of the most densely populated cities in the world. Its growth in area has been retarded by the fact that under the Russian regime certain fixed city limits were drawn many years ago, and for military reasons no houses were to be built outside of these limits. In a recent census it was found that the number of inhabitants to a building in Warsaw was about 70, as compared with only seven or eight in London.

Almond Worth Cultivating.
The almond is a delicate nut cultivated on a commercial scale in central California during the past thirty years, although not so largely as the English walnut. The brown hull is tough and the nut should always be blanched. Almond meal may be purchased, also butter. This, by diluting, may be made into a cream, to take the place of cow's milk. It is, however, expensive.

"Set" in His Ways.
Postmaster-General Burleson carries an umbrella wherever he goes, rain or shine, never changes the style of his hat—an old style cloth in the form of a derby, a style he has worn since he first put on long trousers and which is sold by a dealer in San Antonio, Tex., and has his shoes made by a cobbler in Austin, who has done the work for him for forty years.—Exchange.

Some Wag.
Redd—Black took his dog over to France with him when he left with his regiment, didn't he?
Greene—Oh, yes.
Redd—And they have returned, I hear?
Greene—"Both of their old jobs back?"
Redd—"Well, the dog has, I saw him chasing his tail today."—Yonkers Statesman.

Club Amenities.
"When our club met at Mrs. Wagges' she wanted to do all the talking. I got up to say a few words, but she insisted that she had possession of the floor."
"What did you say?"
"I told her anybody would know that from the shop-worn carpet she had on it."

Billions of Tons of New Fuel.
For the production of cheap electric power, briquettes and certain by-products the government of Victoria is planning to develop immense deposits of brown coal, estimated to exceed 20,000,000,000 tons.

Its Fitting Kind.
"Jim said when he went outdoors this morning, he saw a snake coiled around the garden hose."
"Of course, it was hardly necessary for him to state it was a garter snake."

Rat Overcoats.
In cold temperatures rats are found to develop a sort of "overcoat" or additional outer covering, which grows very quickly.

WOE TURNED TO REJOICING

Lucky Man Feared He Had Lost Papers Which Meant So Much to His Happiness.

The man was walking along the street jauntily. He had not a care in the world.

Suddenly he put his hand to his heart, as a dire thought entered his brain. Those papers!

He stopped walking and quickly searched his vest pocket. Then he looked in his two lower pockets. They weren't there.

Frantically he fumbled in his trouser pockets. Nothing doing.

Then he rushed through his coat pockets. Not there.

Great heavens! The papers! What did he do with those papers?

"Oh, what shall I do—what shall I do!" he muttered incoherently.

The clock in the steeple struck 12. Hurriedly he retraced his steps back to the restaurant, two blocks away. It was closed.

Like a maniac, he searched every corner of the street—everywhere. But nowhere was the valuable little packet to be seen.

Nervously he searched his pockets again. The papers—the papers! He must have them—at once—now!

He looked in his shoe tops. Nope; they weren't there.

And then—he put two fingers in his watch pocket. Oh, joy! There they were. At last he was saved!

Opening up the little pack, he pulled out a tissue paper, and the happy, lucky man rolled a cigarette with joy to his eye and a dance in his feet.—Detroit Free Press.

Wanted a Little Too Much.
Mary was the only girl and took an active part in all the rough games of her brothers. The fact that she was a girl was a handicap which often spoiled her fun. One evening Aunt Tillie was amusing Mary's mother by telling fortunes from cards. Mary showed such keen interest that Aunt Tillie asked her to make a wish while she cut cards for her. Of course, the right card came up and the wish had to become true. But Mary would not believe.

"Now, please, dearie, won't you tell us what you wished for?" her aunt asked.

After some hesitation Mary replied: "I wished I was a boy."

Needed an Excuse.
Bobby, a Columbus boy four years old, dislikes overshoes, saying that big boys need not wear them. During the recent slush and snow, Bobby had to don his rubbers every time he ventured into the street to play. Recently his mother saw him walking toward his home, deliberately selecting places on the sidewalk where the slush was thickest, although the other side of the walk was perfectly dry. She remonstrated with him, telling him to walk where the path was dry.

"Well, mother," complained Bobby, "don't you see I've got to have a 'scuse for wearing these overshoes?"—Indianapolis News.

Sanitarium in Far North.
It has been discovered that the northern climates have some healing qualities for the lungs of tubercular patients, and a company has been recently organized for the purpose of operating a large sanitarium at Spitzbergen, which has heretofore been known as the starting point for northern expeditions of discovery, and for its mineral deposits, which have not been developed to any extent because of the remoteness of its location. In the matter of climate it is quite mild, its shores being tempered by a very warm ocean current.

His Preference.
"Do you ever feel that you would like to go back to Africa?"
"No, sah; not me, sah," replied Brother Buggy. "I druther stay yuh in de Newtised States, wuh a culud man isn't got no social standin' and dey cusses yo' and kicks yo' round and calls yo' 'nigger,' and den slips yo' a 'casional huffer dollah to satiorate yo' feelin's, dan to go over dar to Africa, wuh everybody is free and ekkil dey cuts off yo' head wid a kyanthin' kraife."—Kansas City Star.

Males Outnumber Females.
The latest available compilation shows the United States to be one of the four leading countries in the world where the male population outnumbers the female. The proportion of females to each thousand males is as follows: United States, 934; England, 1,068; Germany, 1,026; France, 1,033.

A Bit Mixed.
Husband—Who are those newcomers in the house opposite; they seem wealthy.
Mrs. Patton-Ayres—Oh, they don't amount to anything socially; just mauvay reeb, as the French say.—Boston Transcript.

America's Medical Advisers.
There is one doctor to every 513 persons in towns of more than 2,500 persons, while in the country districts there is only one to every 991.

When Is a Joke Not a Joke?
"I don't see anything funny in that story?"
"You would have if your boss had told it to you?"

Corresponding Memos.
"Every college James visited put L. D. after his name."
"Every officer Bill had put A. W. O. L. after his."

IN NEW NECKWEAR

Daintiness Now Expressed in Milady's Decorations.

Net Collars and Cuffs, With Lace Edgings, Dress Up Dark or Summer Frocks.

Neckwear, so carefully selected, is often responsible for a woman appearing in an infinite variety of charming costumes, when in reality she has simply changed the appearance of one frock by a proper assortment of collars and cuffs.

Wanderings through smart shops reveal an array of the frilliest neckwear one can imagine.

The narrowest net collar and cuffs in cream white, add unto themselves two narrow rows of lace edging properly shirred. Daintiness is expressed in every thread. This set would properly dress up a dark frock, or for that matter a dainty summer frock.

Madeira embroidery is, perhaps, an unusual note in neckwear. A fairly wide, round collar is heavily embroidered in eyelet design and one must admit it is lovely.

Batiste and organdie, in dainty shades, form themselves into enormous collars of schalike shape with fluted edges.

Organdie is by far the most used material and it is said that this is true, too, of the French creations.

A pink organdie vestee is evenly tucked in a tailored design with small pearl buttons attached. A narrow, round collar graces the top and a tiny little black ribbon bow is fastened thereto. The same model appears in blue, lavender and white.

A more ambitious vestee, with dainty aspirations, comes in softest net, with lines simulating the overblouse at front. A wide lacy jabot is fastened to the high collar and a lovely effect results. Still another vestee is trimmed from top to bottom with the narrowest shirred lace, row upon row.

A variety of collars in real lace, some with cuffs to match, are shown. Many of these are of the dainty, delicate patterns, while others show the richer, heavier designs.

Vestees have so developed that many of them are now sleeveless "houses, lacking only sleeves to perfect."



Frilly Neckwear.

Shell of Fruit May Be Used as Container for Tiny Waxlike Green Plants.

In every home there is always a small spot that is made more attractive by the use of a pretty little plant or vase of flowers. Try this and see if you do not think it is an unusual way to fill a little niche like that mentioned above.

Cut off about one-third of an orange, scrape out the inside, fill it with fiber. Put the largest two or three seeds that you found on the inside of the fruit in it. Place the shell of the orange in a tumbler in a warm room and keep it moist. Soon the seeds will sprout and develop into tiny waxlike green plants.

Paint the outside of the orange with a clear varnish to preserve the form and color, but first, cut out a small part underneath it in the rind to allow drainage. You will be surprised how very attractive the tiny plants, apparently growing out of their own fruit, will look.

Match Hat and Veil.
Nearly all the new veils are handsomely bordered. In some cases a lace effect is gained, in others a chenille bobbed hem. Many of these veils that are devoted to the exclusive trimming of hats have a border of jet beads, partly to weigh the veiling, and partly for the sake of novelty. To match the veil and the hat is no difficulty now, and at the present there is a decided vogue for doing so; for veils that contrast in color with the hat are less distinctive.

Reefer Coats for Small Girls.
While sweaters for the younger generation are shown in all colors and in as many styles as are admitted for grown-ups, smart reefer coats have shown for girls of six to ten. They are quite boyish in line and little girls generally quite approve of them.

WOMEN'S WEAR

Wearers of the new neckwear are advised to wear a pair of shoes that will match the color of the neckwear.

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