

Called Him "Mr. Providence"

By MARTHA WILLIAMS

"Any truck to sell? Green stuff, fruit, flowers, anything? I'm here to buy. Yes, I said it—b-u-y, buy," Liston chanted, pausing at the gate outside the locust-set yard.

Liston plucked great handfuls of lush, tender grass, removed the bit and fed his comrade as joyously as he himself would have eaten, given the chance.

"At least I'll not do that," Liston laughed. "Now, pretty lady, what's the most taking thing in stock this morning?"

"Depends on where you're going. If it's the mill settlement, you need cabbage, onions, beets, scallions, last-year cucumbers in brine, and bags of smoked sausage," the girl said.

"Can I see them—please?" Liston asked eagerly. Following a beckoning nod he was almost at once between low-headed thrifty young trees whose bending boughs were blotched and dotted with truly wonderful pink-flushed, creamy-skinned peaches, bigger than his fist.

"Looks like witch work to me," Liston lunged back. "Why, our orchard—checking suddenly and biting his lips. He was forgetting that he had nothing beyond what was in hand.

"Depends on the price," Liston returned. "It's fifty cents—at the tree," the girl said, darting away. In five minutes between them they had the new splint basket slightly heaped.

"And I'll give to 'em—fresh and fine," he cried half aloud. "Poor things. They deserve better than the town." Then came the great idea—why not lodge with Miss 'Riah and her enchanting helper—now that he knew he could pay, he had fear to name the plan—which two hours later went through with bells on.

A phone had soon been imperative. Over it, mid-August, came a thick, jolly call—Landlord Miggs of the best hotel in town, demanded imperiously: "The best of everything—and scads and scads of it—specially little cheese cakes and the plum cake, in wait for New Year—with wafers, pound cake, beaten biscuit—and any other little trimmings Miss 'Riah might think tasty. Price? Never name it. Stranger was real lousy with money—and burnin' up to spend it. Things must come by twelve o'clock next day. Could they make it?"

In result Liston carried the big order on time to the dot—and found himself face to face with his father, his stepmother, and her willful daughter whom Liston had been bidden to marry, whether or no.

Miggs had shouted loudly: "Here's our Mr. Providence." Thus the family knew by what name the fugitive was sheltered, no less his acquired trade.

"I have, dad," said Liston, wringing the paternal hand, his eyes misty and something hard to swallow in his throat. "I was a graceful, selfish cub. Hard work was, I hope, made the beginning of a man of me. You must come and see the good people who have helped it—"

"H-m. Is there a Mrs. Providence?" the father asked.

His stepdaughter frowned darkly, and her mother cast up her eyes, groaning, Liston, standing his straightest, gazing eye to eye with his parent, said almost devoutly: "Not yet, but it will be as she says. Let me show you to her before I ask the question. It may help."

Whether or no he did was never settled. But he married Everlina with full paternal blessing. What the in-laws thought is better left untold.

Has it ever occurred to you that you can make a drying-rack for clothes out of a frame hinged to a wall at the base and fastened by cords above? When not in use it can be pushed up against the wall out of the way and held there with a small hook and screw-eye.

That you can make attractive porch baskets out of brawn wrapping paper cut into strips, soaked in warm water, twisted and woven? Any over-and-under weaving stitch serves the purpose. First wrap enough wires with paper to form a base which radiates from a center and then weave through them. Paint, shellac and stain baskets, and they become waterproof. They can be used as hanging holders for flowers or containers for magazines.

That you can make a wall candlestick for a summer cabin out of a large pine cone, an empty brass spoon, and an inexpensive brass curtain-rod hook? Punch a hole between the two walls of the spoon and insert the hook. Then affix a large pine cone to the bottom by means of strips of mending-tape.

That you can make a sewing-chair out of an armless rocker by putting pockets at the side which are hidden by ruffles of cretonne? The cover of the footstool comes off, revealing a sewing-box. The stool is also dressed in ruffles to match the chair.

That the end of an apple-crate will make an attractive bread-board if planed down to a smooth finish? The handle of a plain bread-knife can be enameled and decorated in some attractive way to go with it.—Designer Magazine.

Tailored Gown Is Fashion Favorite

Color Variation Is One of Season's Offerings in Trim Frocks.

The fall season brings the lure of new fashions into the limelight. We begin our shopping tour with avidity, says a prominent fashion writer, but in the host of things displayed, we should not overlook the features which will mark our attire as new or passe when the first flush of the season's offerings is over.

One note that seems to predominate in the models which will rule the vogue is the tailored effect. Not the prim, mannish shades that characterized the flapper last year, but filmy silks stitched and banded into an intriguing unity. The black frock which we accepted so wholeheartedly and to which we clung so desperately, despite the exquisite sports shades that designers offered, has at last begun to lose its hold.

It may have its neckline, skirt bottom and sleeves touched with bands of color, and the color may be selected from those shades like lemon, scarlet, powder blue, violet or jade. Rather an extreme contrast, but the brilliant hue is used so sparingly that we shall find it an attractive beginning for the colored frocks of more formal wear.

Looking across the panorama of clothes for fall, one is inclined to believe that the simple modes of the younger girl have been artfully developed to meet the needs of the more mature woman. Those delightfully plain sailor blouses which every schoolgirl loves are offered in silk. Sometimes there is a lace trimming, very often an embroidered motif at the center or side of the blouse, and not infrequently the printed fabrics are used to disguise the simple lines of the middle.

The straight-line frock will remain in vogue. Yet there will be so many changes in its trimming that we shall scarcely recognize the foundational silhouette this season. We may trim it in the tailored fashion of bands clever stichery, geometric plaits or strips of self-material, or we may select the same line with the lavish embellishment of lace and ribbon or georgette ruffling. And the straight line may find its grace in circular side panels, which dip slightly below the normal skirt length.

New weaves, heavy and light materials and the soft fabrics for afternoon and evening wear are scheduled to hold sway.

Smart Sports Hat of Tan Felt Is Popular



This chic sports hat of tan felt is trimmed with quills of brown velvet.

For Slip Covers That Remain Through Winter

With the advent of autumn, summer covers on chairs and couches are ordinarily removed by most housekeepers. If one wishes to keep them on through the winter, however, as is frequently the case where the furniture is a bit worn, a note of color and newness may be achieved by shortening the slips so that the legs of the sofa or chairs are visible and adding around the bottoms a box-plaited fringe of six-inch ribbon. Cushions made of ribbon to harmonize with these frills and placed in the chairs or sofas will do much toward making a long familiar room seem new.

If a long narrow table graces the room, the ribbon scheme may be furthered by adding a table runner made of alternate rows of linen and ribbon and edged all around with narrower ribbon shirred in the center.

Use Better Judgment in Wearing Hosiery

"Women are showing more judgment than formerly in the buying and wearing of hose," says a hosiery expert. "When they buy silk hose, they buy either the sheer chiffon for wear with fragile frocks, or those with a heavy 'cover' to go with heavier rich gowns. For general wear they are buying more and more, the best cotton and liste hose. They buy either the hose that are fitted by a seam or those that are shaped in the weaving without a seam, either of which fits the ankle and does not wrinkle. They are learning to distinguish the different varieties of hose by the texture of the ankle and of the calf which in a stock-

Dressy Chiffon Frock for Warm Afternoons



For the sunny afternoons of autumn days this very dressy frock of dove-gray chiffon, trimmed with chinchilla bands, makes a most appropriate costume.

Shell Earrings Worn by Stylish Dressers

Tortoise shell, so highly valued in the long ago, is enjoying an enthusiastic revival, and tortoise shell earrings are the very last word in smartness, says a writer in the New York Times. The handsomest ones are carved, made of several rings and drops, and very long, almost touching the shoulder. The most costly fans in ostrich, lace or marabou, have sticks of tortoise, and the chicest things, cigarette cases and holders, vanity cases, clasps, combs and bracelets, are fashioned of this new material. Tortoise shell is not inexpensive, and one of its charms is that it cannot be successfully imitated.

The wrist watch has been demoted to the ranks of utility, and is no longer regarded as an ornament, no matter how elaborately it is set. It is now the fashion to wear a tiny time-piece, jeweled, it may be, like a locket, on a fine neck chain. One charming design in platinum encrusted with wee diamonds is pendent from a small platinum chain. Another locket watch is worn on a slender chain of green gold, the strands braided. Nothing could be more feminine and dainty than this combination of ornament, and service.

Bracelets are the rage, and women are bringing from the family jewel case the quaintest old bits, most of them being wide and important looking. The newest style that is very popular is to wear several slender bracelets on one arm. Usually one circlet is set in colored stones, and the others, worn above and below the color, are set in diamonds. Armbands, worn half way above the elbow, are also affected, and little imagination is required to foresee the vogue of the anklet.

Saracen Embroidery. Saracen embroidery, widely utilized on day-time frocks today, consists chiefly of interesting little scrolls and whirligigs, welded into a haphazard sort of pattern. This embroidery is usually arranged in a cul-de-sac effect on the front and back of the bodice.

ing that is to hold its shape, must be the same. Any darkening of the fabric at the ankle shows that the stocking has been fitted after it came off the machine and cannot be trusted to keep its shape."

Colorful Frocks Are Charming for Kiddies

Few things indicate more decidedly the progress of designing than the charming clothes created for the modern child. They are colorful and exquisite, simple and smart and, above everything else, appropriate. Perhaps the most distinctive feature of these wee frocks and coats is their individuality.

It does not take long for a mother to decide just what particular color is becoming to her small daughter and whether her type calls for frills and ruffles or for an almost exaggerated slowness and lack of ornamentation.

Length of Dress Will Not Affect Shoe Mode

It used to be said that when long skirts returned boots would come back. But we are rethinking today that the hem of the skirt has comparatively nothing to do with the type of shoe worn, said a shoe man. The beauty and symmetry of the shoe will govern, no matter what skirt length is determined. So the manufacturer tells the shoe merchant to be calm on any fashion forecast that has to do with the length of skirts. The maker of dresses, to be sure, has his worries over the length of skirts, but for the footwear the call always will be for trimness, harmony and smartness.



THE HOSPITAL BIRD

"A little girl named Jerry," said Daddy, "was ill in a hospital. Oh, she had felt so sick and had had so wretched a time but now she was feeling better and she was sitting up in bed every day for several hours."

"She had sat up in a chair for a half an hour now every day, and one day while she was sitting up in her chair having her supper a little canary bird flew in the window. Jerry was afraid the little bird would be very much frightened so she spoke to him in the softest tone of voice.

"I don't know your name so I shall call you Dicky Bird," she said. The little canary had perched upon the back of a chair, and now that he had been spoken to he turned and looked at Jerry and putting his head on one side chirped a little greeting to her.

"Oh, you dear little bird, how polite you are," said Jerry. Again the little bird chirped as though to say that he was very glad she was pleased with his manners.

"You must have been a pet bird and I suppose you flew out of an open window and then lost your way," Jerry continued.

"The little bird chirped again as though to agree.

"I wonder if you're hungry," Jerry said.

"Once more the bird chirped and then he sang a bit of a song as though to say he would sing and so perhaps earn a nice supper.

"Jerry put some bread crumbs on a saucer and put the saucer a little distance away from her on a bureau. Soon the little bird flew over to the bureau. He had been watching Jerry very closely.

"Won't you have some supper?" asked Jerry.

"And the little bird as though in answer to her question tried some of the bread crumbs. He seemed so tame that Jerry decided she would put some crumbs on her hand and hold her hand out to see if he would come and eat from her hand. And sure enough he did. He did not seem to be frightened at all. In fact he acted as though it was not at all unusual for him to be fed.

"Then Jerry took a leaf of nice crisp lettuce which was on her tray and gave it to the bird before she put any dressing on her lettuce. For she knew that salt and pepper and vinegar and oil would not be good for the bird. And the bird ate the piece of lettuce from her fingers and when he had finished he perched himself upon Jerry's first finger, holding on with his little claws.

"Then he gave a peck at Jerry's finger as though to say, 'I could eat a little more, young lady.'

"And Jerry took the hint.

"She gave him some more lettuce and he ate that, and then she gave him a few cake crumbs and he ate those.



Sure Enough He Did.

Next Jerry put some water in a little saucer and not only did the bird drink some water but he took a little shower, bath, too.

"How Jerry did laugh. 'Of course,' she said, 'it isn't usual to bathe in one's drinking saucer but maybe you need a bath ever so badly so I'll forgive you.'

"And anyway I think your bird manners are excellent. You haven't been greedy and yet you have seemed to enjoy your supper."

"Jerry finished her supper and pretty soon a nurse came in to take her tray. 'Oh, I've a little visitor,' cried Jerry, 'and I feel so much better already. You can't imagine how he has cheered me up. Oh, ever and ever so much.'

"Yes, I can," the nurse said, 'for you look so much better already—lots better than you did an hour ago, in fact.'

"The bird did not seem frightened by the nurse although he flew back to the chair where he had first perched himself.

"And then he began to sing. Such a magnificent song as he did sing. Oh, it was a wonderful song, and how Jerry did enjoy it.

"Well, the bird became a hospital pet. He had a cage given to him but he was allowed off when all the windows were closed, for if he flew out of a window again he might not be so lucky in finding so pleasant a home as the hospital. It was filled with such nice children and Jerry said before she left that she only wished his owner knew that he was happy, and giving happiness to a hospital filled with children."

Dropping.

"How's the riding school going, old man?"

"Hotten! Pupils falling off every day."

Community Building

WOOD CAUSE OF HIGH RENT

Disappearance of Forests Held Responsible for Tremendous Increase in Cost of Building.

The savage built his shelter on wood, according to the availability of the material and his knowledge of handling it, and in primitive countries today, human habitations are made of trees, limbs, leaves, wherever they exist, almost precisely as in the dawn of civilization, says the New York State College of Forestry, showing the relation of the wood shortage and the shortage of homes.

"It is instinctive with man to use wood because of its adaptability and durability and because the custom has been handed down through the ages. As long as wood is plentiful and cheap, man will use it to the exclusion of other materials because of the perfect service wood renders.

"In this country the common people build homes of wood as long as they can afford them. When wood goes beyond the purchasing power of the average person, the cost of owning a home becomes prohibitive to the majority of people.

"The consumption of wood usually expands with the development of civilization. But the people of the United States today are consuming the same amount of timber they did in 1870 for the reason that our forests are unable to meet the normal demand of the country. This is one of the chief reasons for the shortage of hundreds of thousands of homes. The consumption of wood in this country has been declining because the price has been going up. The rise in price is due chiefly to the reduction of supply. Our virgin timber is almost gone.

"Lumber is essential, a need of the common people. The rich can build marble palaces, but the poor man depends on wood for a home of his own. Whenever the price of wood restricts home building, the average man is forced to rent at painful rates, which is a more expensive way to provide a domicile for himself and family."

LIGHTS IN THE DINING ROOM

Home-Maker Can Reduce the Glare by Using Piece of Silk Cloth.

How often is the home-maker perplexed because of the central lighting arrangement of the living or dining room? Especially true is this where the fixture is one of the indirect lighting type, with a globe that is too glaring to be pleasant.

Silk with either a white or very light colored background and all-over design will work magical wonders in softening this glare.

When making your selection, whether it be floral, oriental, paisley, or any of the many other designs, always choose a silk that will bear out the color scheme of your room. The predominating hue in your lamp-shade should harmonize with the other decorations.

Cut your silk about one inch wider all around than the actual measurement of the inverted globe which it is to cover. Draw a double gathering string along the edge of the silk, leaving a small margin of material from the gathering string to the outer edge. Now place the silk over the inverted globe. Draw both ends of the gathering string tight and tie them.

Rear Wall Echoes.

"Villages, have their back-fence gossip," says a New Yorker. "The city has its rear walls of apartment houses, which are in every way as effective as sharp-tongued busy-bodies in spreading neighborhood news. In summer when the windows are open these rear walls act as sounding boards and transmit an amazing amount of information.

"Unlike the village gossip, a rear wall tells the simple truth, never stretching it; but the truth is often bad enough. I had supposed that the couple in the flat below mine were a most respectable pair, but now the windows are open and the rear wall is at work, and I know from certain clicking sounds that a poker game is running there day and night.

"Above me dwell another pair who in public seem devoted to each other. The rear wall tells another story. Scraps of conversation come to us that cause us to feel like phoning for the police to prevent homicide. The voice of our janitor, five floors below, comes up to our windows with startling distinctness. We know just what he thinks of us.

"Somewhere in our house are a pair of newlyweds. They do not know how their turtle-dove cooing is broadcast by that rear wall. It is well for their peace of mind that they don't."

Growing a Foot a Day.

During a long drought in spring in Mauritius a singular spectacle, amid the stretches of dying and desiccated plants, was presented by the white flowers of giant 'oe stems, which sprang up on the mountains and over the waste lands with amazing speed. At the time of flowering, shafts as thick as a man's arm shot up from the heart of the plants, grew from 12 to 18 inches in 24 hours, and reached a height of 30 feet. A cluster of aloe, before the flowers appear, resembles a gigantic asparagus plant.