

## HELEN WAS ON THE JOB

(© By D. J. Walsh.)

HAROLD JENNISON resented the strictness of the door-bell. It was his afternoon off and he wanted to spend it in peace. Helen should be there to answer it, anyway. That was her job. Harold was very particular about doing anything that was Helen's job—that is, what he considered to be her job.

He opened the door scowling. It was a little boy with a basket of vegetables. Before he had opened his mouth to solicit Harold had said "No" quite firmly and shut the door.

He settled himself again in the big wing chair he liked so much and spread his paper. Was it going to be impossible to rest even at home, he wondered. Such a good chance, too, with Helen away for the day. She wouldn't be there to keep on asking her eternal questions.

Why was he so late getting home? . . . Yes, he was late—fifteen minutes later than he was last night. . . . She had been so worried about a train wreck or something. . . . What would he like for dinner? Did he care for the potatoes boiled or fried tonight? Well, she just wanted to know about it. . . . She had thought that fried ones would be a change. The telephone interrupted his thoughts. He felt like pulling the instrument from the wall.

"Is Jimmy there?" came a strange voice.

"This is Main 6350," said Harold with a great deal of patience.

"Oh! that's a peevish voice at the other end and Harold heard the click of the disconnection.

"Well, it wasn't my fault that she got the wrong number," snapped Harold to the transmitter. "She might have said, 'Sorry!' at the very least!" He very carefully inserted a thick cardboard between the bells then. Well, that was that.

He settled himself in the wing chair again. The house was quiet as death. It seemed as if some disaster were impending. He rose and adjusted the cushions once more.

There was so much he needed to think out. First, of course, there was Helen. He had known for a number of months now that he no longer cared for her. It wasn't anything he could help, you understand, but they had simply grown apart instead of growing closer together. It wasn't his fault, of course. Neither was it hers—exactly.

Three years before he had thought she would be the only one, but how young and foolish he had been! A man is bound to change as the years pass. He had his business and the stimulating influence of keen business competition. He would naturally progress. Helen had allowed domesticity to get her. She couldn't think farther than the butcher's bills of last month.

He realized and admitted with a twinge that she had helped him quite a bit. She had been thrifty. It was that as much as anything that had given him this good start. But he was so sick of her infernal domesticity. He hated to be asked what he wanted for dinner and what he would have for breakfast. She didn't seem to realize that she had repeated herself for three years on the same subjects. Day after day.

If she only knew a little about the topics of the day. If she would brush the cobwebs from her mind and use it he had no doubt she might be interesting. But it was going to be hard to tell her. Rather bad for him to say: "Well, Helen, I am going to the club to live after this. I am utterly sick of the sight of you!" He winced. It would hurt her, of course. But what was a man to do?

It was worse to stay on and pretend something you did not feel. No, there was no other woman—not definitely at least. It was just—all other women. They kept so young and interested in life and affairs.

He stirred uneasily in his chair. He looked at his watch. It was past five and she hadn't arrived yet. What on earth could be keeping her?

He removed the card from the bell of the telephone. It whirred impatiently. He frowned as he put the receiver to his ear. Calling, no doubt, to tell him she would be late. That was like her. As if he "didn't know that now."

"Oh, Harold," shrieked a woman's voice. "Something awful has happened. Helen is on No. 4 and it's wrecked—in the ditch—"

"On No. 4!" he repeated dazedly. "What was she doing on a train?"

But the hysterical voice had rung off. He couldn't even think who it might have been.

He strode up and down the room. What was she doing on that train—any train? Great guns! Could it be that she was leaving him? Why in thunder should she want to leave him—him, her husband?

Suddenly he realized the terrible import of that message. She might be injured, dead. Dead! His wife lying mangled.

He hurried out the door, forgetting even his coat. He started the car and dashed down the drive. It was one of his pleasures to keep the car for his own use. Helen never had it. If he had allowed her to use it today, his mind accused, she wouldn't be ly-

ing in the ruins of a wrecked train at this minute—perhaps dead.

He followed the road along the tracks, expecting at any minute to come upon the blazing ruins of the wreck. His imagination pictured varied and terrible panoramas of that chaos. Curse it, anyway. Why did he think so much?

Only once did his thoughts suggest to him very slyly that if Helen should chance to lose her life, that would be such a simple way out of their mess. He swung the car violently about as he thought of that. He didn't want to dwell upon that. It angered him that his mind had played him such a trick.

He had gone miles and miles and still no sign of the wreck.

All at once then he knew that he must have been going the wrong way. It had been down the line instead of up. He turned and sped through the town again and out to the other side. It was miles and miles and miles that he traveled.

He turned the lights on the car and hunched over the wheel, his drawn face turned to the road ahead. Livid pictures of Helen raced about his mind. Why hadn't he allowed her to take the car? It was as much hers as any one's. Then his fevered mind suggested that they might have taken Helen home by the time. No sooner had the thought come than his car whizzed about and was traveling again toward the city.

Lights blazed in the house when he brought his car to a stop. He dashed, a gaunt, anxious figure, into the hall. He saw Helen come through the room from the kitchen. He saw her come toward him, but she must be a ghost. Presently she would vanish in a puff of smoke. Sweat stood out in beads on his forehead.

"Where have you been?" she asked first. "Why do you stare at me so, Harold—hurry—dinner is waiting. I fried the potatoes for a change," she rambled on in a monotonous voice.

Still he looked at her. "The wreck?" he muttered through cracked lips.

"Oh, did you hear?" she asked, brightening. "Wasn't it lucky that I just missed taking that train?" Then her face clouded. "There's been something that I wanted to say to you, dear—"

He mopped his face wearily. Would she say that she was tired, that she wanted to leave?

"You won't like it, I am afraid," she began timidly. "That's the reason I haven't told you before." She stopped uncertainly.

He tried to tell her that he knew already, that he understood and didn't blame her at all. He had been a selfish brute. But the words wouldn't come.

"I've been giving lectures in the next town on the home and its duties," she went on, not looking at him. "That was the reason I usually took the train, but now they want me to take on more work—you had to know, it's in the college," she explained.

Helen, his wife, giving lectures in a college! He smiled blandly. A wonderful woman, his wife. Not another like her. He rose and straightened himself vigorously.

"Say now, that is a great idea—where's my coat?" he boomed. "I hope the dinner isn't cold—fearfully hungry," he went on as he got into the coat she held.

She smiled. The anxious expression had left her face.

"I didn't know what you wanted for dinner," she apologized. "So I fried the potatoes—"

"Great! Fried potatoes are great!" he laughed. It seemed so funny. "Do you want to drive the car mornings to the college?" he asked finally.

"I can take the train," she murmured.

"But I prefer you to take the car," he insisted. "Trains sometimes are wrecked."

### Recalling Days When Hawking Was Pastime

The days of hawking in Leicester-shire have been revived in a curious fashion. A well-known farmer living on the outskirts of Leicester owns a fox terrier that is an expert in the art of rat catching, says a writer in the London Post.

Recently, while the farmer and his friends were out with the dog on a slaughtering expedition, it was noticed that a large hawk followed and hovered about them the whole time. In every subsequent outing the bird appeared on the scene. Gradually its hunger and its killing propensities overcame its natural timidity of man, and it now takes an active part in every expedition.

Usually it flies a few feet above the heads of the men as they are hunting, occasionally alighting and hopping about their feet waiting for the rats. The moment the terrier makes a kill the bird swoops down on the body and carries it away. If the dog misses a chance, and its prey appears to be escaping, the bird descends rapidly and does the killing.

Occasionally the dog will go out alone, and then the bird, which is usually perched on the roof of the farmer's house, always accompanies it.

**Made Matters Worse**

He—I made an awful mistake just now. I told a man I thought the host must be a stinky old blighter, and it happened to be the host that I spoke to.

She—Oh, you mean my husband!

**Preliminary Drum-Beating**

"Does your wife ever suffer in silence?"

"Occasionally, but not until after she's made the deuce of a row over her grievance."—Boston Transcript.

### Youth, Simplicity, Mark Silhouette

Contrasting Fabrics, Colors, Are Featured in Newest Fashion Card.

Originality marks the silhouettes which Paris has set her stamp of approval upon in the spring collection of frocks. There is a general departure from lines which have been accustomed to lend chic to the mode.

For instance, there are now gowns with or without waistlines, frocks which feature odd shoulder treatments, bolero effects, the softened blouse effect and skirts of varying lengths and fullnesses.

Perhaps one of the most outstanding features is the use of contrasting fabrics in the newest frocks. This striking note introduces not only contrasting materials, but contrasting colors. The two-piece mode, of course, best illustrates this new fashion. The most successful models show color and fabric details worked with subtlety and a harmonious result.

There is generally to be noted a softening influence in the silhouette. A hand of embroidery, or a border of applique, or passeranterie, piping, fagoting, cross stitch or any other form of needlework, serves to feminize the effect of the dress. In the tiered gown many striking models are shown which display the use of contrasted colors and materials. Other costumes introduce a new note in the geometric plan, with ornament details.

Printed fabrics hold an important place in the fashions. These in general follow the same lines that are to be found in the frocks of a plain fabric.

The bow is a distinct fashion note of extreme importance. It may be found at all points of the dress, the



"Movie" Actress Wears Chiffon in Soft Shade of Blue.

shoulder, the waist, the hip line or the bow placed at front, at side and on the back.

One of the favorite silhouettes shows a blouse line, a soft, feminine outline, and a snugly defined neckline. Lois Wilson, the motion-picture star, whose youth and charm lend themselves with distinct appeal to the femininely inclined frock, finds herself charmingly costumed with all that is new in her film, "Broadway Nights." Miss Wilson has selected chiffon in a soft shade of blue. It possesses many features of the new mode. It has a full sleeve caught into a tight cuff. A large flower at the shoulder in a delicate pink gives color contrast, while a bow at the waist also marks its newness. The skirt has an uneven hemline and is quite full.

**Glittering Rhinestones Used on Slipper Straps**

Center straps of rhinestones can now be purchased at the shoe counters. These are easily attached to evening slippers and add a glittering effect that is desired on most sandal models. Of course, the rhinestone center strap requires a shoe that is especially suited for its purpose. That is a shoe which either has an ankle strap to which the top of the center strap may be attached or a shoe which is designed to tie in front. Some center straps are extremely beautiful, being made of metal set with rhinestones in ornate design. They clasp to the vamp and have a slide at the top through which the ankle strap of the shoe extends.

**Flowers Are Used for Decorating Millinery**

After several seasons of untrimmed hats milliners in Paris seem not to be able to resist again calling upon flowers for decorative effects. Chiffon roses on felt hats are one version of the new fashion. Leather roses on taffeta shapes is another form. Thus far, the flower-trimmed hats are shown only for wear with summer sport and afternoon costumes.

However, there is no movement away from the familiar untrimmed shapes which rely on their own line for tailored morning and practical sports costumes.

### Two-Piece Frock for Afternoon Occasions



Sky-blue crepe de chine and a plaited cascade of jersey in the same color, trimmed with bands of crepe de chine, make this chic two-piece dress. The scarf is of crepe de chine trimmed with graded blue galons. The hat and bag are of the same color as the dress, with trimmings to match the scarf.

### Notes of the Mode for Women Who Carry

Crystal earrings made in round and oblong shapes are much larger than the button earrings being worn at present. They are mounted in silver frames.

The new tailor-mades are straight in line with the skirts plaited all around or in front only. Box-plaits are the favorite, but some have skirts with inverted plaits.

The bolero offers an opportunity to use up some of the waists and skirts which have not been quite modish enough on account of the long waisted styles. Waists and skirts can be joined for a one-piece dress.

A glove for wear with either sports outfit or tailored suit is usually selected because of its tailored finish, and when a trim appearance is desired, the short wrist-length is often preferred.

To carry out a color in bracelets there are narrow ones made of leather in all the new colors. They have small eyelets and tiny buckles, but throughout on both sides are little metal tabs to carry out the sports theme.

Velvet jackets for sports have a permanent place in general favor that time does not seem to weaken. Word comes that velvet refiners are the most popular sports garments seen along the Riviera, so popular that they threaten to become common.

A lace collar always fits better if the edge of it is turned under the neck or collar of the gown. A well-fitting collar is a decoration and a finish which every well-dressed woman appreciates. An ill-fitting collar spoils the entire effect of any garment.

When joining lace, a clumsy seam is avoided and an almost invisible union made possible by closely buttoning the edges together on the wrong side. Pass a warm iron over the seam and the results will satisfy even the most exacting.

When skirts, slips and gowns are of different lengths it always is a matter of anxiety as to whether or not what is underneath shows. To avoid this, decide upon the exact number of inches by which skirts and slips should clear the floor, then adjust so all will be alike.

A smart sports coat in brown plaids, cut in the favored seven-eighths length, is Jean Patou's choice when warmth is needed. This coat flares ever so slightly over the accordion-plaited skirt of plaid. The jumper of beige kasha provides against too great warmth by being sleeveless.

### Black With Touches of White, Color Harmony

No color or combination of colors ever succeeds in being smarter than black with touches of white when these tones are put together by a master-mind of color. Every black and white dress is not smart but the black and white frock designed by the true clothes artist is superlatively chic. It has a certain distinction almost impossible to define but instantly recognizable.

### Velvet Evening Capes for Summer or Winter

Velvet evening capes remain a part of the wardrobe both summer and winter. Only the color and weight of the wraps change. One of the evening wraps designed this season by Lucien Lelong is of rich rose velvet amply bordered in gray fox. The fullness is fitted in over the shoulders by means of inverted plaits which flare out into generous fullness at the bottom of the wrap.

### Embroidery and Beads Decorate Evening Gown

Although simplicity marks the daytime mode, evening models are most elaborate. Embroidery, beads and contrasting color effects decorate these models. The fashionable evening shades are pastel tints—delicate rose, pale lavender, hydrangea blue and bouquet green. Gold and white and blue and silver are also frequently combined.

### THE KITCHEN CABINET

(© 1927, Western Newspaper Union.)  
Let's just be glad, the gypsy wind is blowing  
Across the clover meadow, sweet and free,  
And who could sigh who hears the merry challenge  
"Cast care aside, and follow, follow me."  
Let's just be glad.

### EVERYDAY FOODS

The onion is one of our most valuable vegetables. The following way of serving them is worth trying:

**Onions Stuffed With Peanut Butter.**—Select mild, medium sized onions. Peel and boil until tender, cut out the centers from each, leaving a shell of the onion. Chop the onion re-

moved, add an equal quantity of peanut butter, one-half teaspoonful of salt, and one-half teaspoonful of paprika. Mix and fill the onions. Place in a buttered baking dish and bake with hot cream three times during the baking. Serve with a sauce using the liquid from the pan, thickened.

**Scalloped Chicken With Corn.**—Use the leftover meat from a stewed or roasted fowl. For each cupful of the meat add one cupful of fresh corn or of cornlet (corn prepared by pressing out the centers) and one cupful of cream sauce. Place the chicken mixed with the sauce in layers with the corn. Cover with buttered crumbs and bake until the crumbs are brown.

**Best Cake.**—Cream three-fourths of a cupful of butter, add one and one-quarter cupfuls of sugar gradually, the beaten yolks of four eggs, one-half cupful of cold water, two and one-half cupfuls of flour sifted with three teaspoonfuls of baking powder, and lastly the stiffly beaten whites folded in. Put together with a coffee filling and cover with maple frosting and nuts.

**Hot Butterscotch Sauce.**—Stir and cook together one cupful of sugar, one-fourth cupful of corn syrup, and one-half cupful of boiling water with one-third of a cupful of butter. Cook until brown, then add one-third of a cupful of boiling water and serve over ice cream. The sauce should harden slightly on the cream.

**Sweetbreads Country Style.**—Dredge with seasoning and flour, sufficient parboiled sweetbreads. Arrange in a baking dish, brush with melted butter, allowing two tablespoonfuls to each pair of sweetbreads. Cover with thin slices of fat salt pork. Bake in a hot oven twenty-five minutes, basting twice during the cooking. Remove the pork during the last five minutes of cooking.

### For the Convalescent.

More insistent than the call for food is the desire for drink, in both health and illness. The sense of hunger may depart, but the desire for drink is seldom lost. In illness the thought of food is often distasteful, but the desire for fluids is intensified. While water is the one drink most desired for quenching thirst, other drinks are highly enjoyed by both

sick or well. In illness, besides quenching thirst, liquids reduce the temperature of the patient; they also serve as a form to give nourishment when more solid foods are refused or cannot be taken.

Drinks relieve nausea, stimulate the heart, excite the gastric juices, control bowels and soothe the congested state of the alimentary canal. So we must recognize their importance in dealing with illness.

All drinks, as well as other foods given to a patient, should be subject to the advice of the physician in attendance, for even harmless grape juice has proved fatal in cases recovering from typhoid.

Like everything else prepared for the invalid's table, all beverages should be made and served with the utmost cleanliness. A smeary, thick glass of lukewarm lemonade or other drink, which should be cold and attractive to the eye, would nauseate a well person.

Various fruit juices of other kinds than lemon and orange may be used, though these are used most commonly for they are the best liked. Ginger ale with a little grape juice is a fine cooling drink, pineapple, raspberry in shrub or syrup, are all good. They are more acceptable when chilled or served with chipped ice added.

When beverages of any kind, hot or cold, are carried to a sick room they should be covered, and never left uncovered in the sick room.

Very hot beverages stimulate the digestive fluids, while cold ones retard, and lower the temperature in fever.

When it is convenient to have a supply of ice or a cold drink at hand at night, ice may be kept for hours as follows: Tie a piece of flannel over a deep bowl or pan that can be tightly covered; into this flannel drop pieces of ice so that the flannel will not reach the water as the ice melts. Cover well and ice will keep for hours, to use during the night.

Orange juice alone, strained and chilled, is an agreeable drink, a mild laxative and a fruit rich in minerals and vitamins. It is given, strained, to young babies and they thrive on it. The juice of an orange before breakfast for young or old, well or ill, will be found beneficial.

*Nellie Maxwell*

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How to vary the monotony of doing the same things over and over every day is the insoluble problem.

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