# THE MOST POPULAR GIRL IN TOWN

By FANNIE HURST

WAS one of those situations, which, beginning the size of a pea, gathered moss at such an astonishingly rapid rate that presently all those connected with it were aghast at the magnitude of what they had done.

The Midtown Gazette, on which young Tom Powell was a reporter and to which Miss Amy Stricker subscribed, had started a popularity contest, the winning young lady to be the fortunate recipient of a tour around the world.

Of course, off-hand, one would have told you that Amy Stricker, so blond in her beauty, so bland in her blueeyedness, so tender in the springtime quality of her youth, was the most popular girl in town. But popularity in the town of Orlando was one thing and popularity in a state which contained at least six cities of far greater population and size was another. In any event, before the township of Orlando realized it and with interest and competition running high, here was

little Amy Stricker, nineteen, assistant librarian in the town's somewhat makeshift library, piling up votes in a fashion that flabbergasted and delighted the amazed and amused coupon clippers. Of course, the fine hand of Tom Powell was to be detected behind

much of the activity. From the moment that the Midtown Gazette announced its policy of staging the conspicuous and dramatic contest, this young fellow, alert, up-and-coming and full of the fine fettle of young journalism, carried on his campaign for placing the victory in the hands of his lovely fiancee, Miss Amy Stricker.

For three months, with comparatively no local competition, but with dangerous runners-up from the larger cities of the state, the war for popularity waged and circulation climbed. Miss Stricker's little desk at the library became the mecca of turbulent, coupon-clipping scenes. The little frame house on Ludlow street, where she lived with a married sister, sharing a tiny room with two half-grown nieces, was electric with excitement. In fact, the only calm aspect of this frenzied fight for the spectacular reward was the small, beautiful blond figure of Amy Stricker. She was as radiant as a lovely morning, her blue eyes never bluer, her smile never whiter. They said of her locally that she was a Mary Pickford, at Mary's zenith.

Youngsters adored her and followed her in little clumps. Old ladies toddled to the library for the benefit of the gentle manner she had with them. Amy had more beaus than there were chairs in the Ludlow street house to accommodate them. Tom Powell, who had worked his way through Northwestern university, was regarded the lucklest fellow in town. He wanted Amy to be the luckiest girl in town.

On the day of Amy's victory of eight thousand votesoover her closest competitor, the town went wild. It was a miniature Lindbergh day. Factories and business houses blew their midday whistles and business was literally suspended for the hour that Amy Stricker, mounted on a paper float, rode through the town, bowing her sweet acknowledgments to the plaudits of crowds that were almost entirely composed of men, women and children with whom she had grown up.

No royal bride was ever more pompously prepared for ceremony than Amy in those weeks preceding her departure for the first lap of her ninety-day tour of the world. She was the community's interest, the community's pride, the community's responsibility. Ladies' societies met for the sole purpose of sewing Amy's traveling things. Local shops vied with one another in supplying Miss U. S. A. with paraphernalia. Tom Powell worked his eager hands to the bone, so to speak, seeing to it that the whole general picture was one of magnitude and scope worthy of his flancee.

And then there entered into this picture aspects of the human equation which were to shock and disappoint the community beyond anything that had ever happened in its midst. A momentary shock, it is true, which later was to be superseded by a homely kind of feeling of affection for the misdemeanor of which Miss Stricker and Mr. Powell had been guilty.

Two weeks before Amy's contemplated departure on a flower-decked, bunting-draped train, Tom Powell, seated in her stuffy little parlor one evening, caught her in his arms and told her that he could not bear to let her go, that he was sure to lose her to a vast and admiring world, that he had tried to be unselfish in giving her to the world, but that his heart was sick within him with what he had done.

Amy in turn, with her cheek against his shoulder, sobbed out her nostalgia: begged him to release her from the vast project of taking this tour alone; clung to him; needed him. The next morning. Amy and Tom went off to a town twenty miles away and were

The newspaper, the town and the state gave a large grunt of disgust and turned to the second runner-up, a contestant in a large city who had I Bits.

fallen short of eight thousand votes of Amy's acclaim, to take the role of Miss U. S. A. Excitement fell away from the threshold of Amy Stricker-Powell overnight. She became any little bride in any little town, married to any little struggling fellow. They set up housekeeping in three rooms of a two-family cottage on a scrubby street at the end of the town. The community was irreparably disappointed in Amy and manifested itself by leaving her severely alone.

For the first few months of the marriage, the town's resentment lingered, and then the case of Miss U. S. A. was forgotten. The Tom Powells became comfortably a part of local life. Amy took up her household duties and Tom pursued his work. There were the usual struggles, the usual happiness, the usual ambitions, desires and hopes. The first five years of their marriage Tom was promoted twice, Amy gained fifteen pounds, and three bables, all of them healthy and vigorous, were born. If the perfection of Amy's bloom faded, the little bland, blue quality of her eyes burned on. She was beautiful because she was happy.

And then catastrophe came. The eldest boy almost succumbed to meningitis. Amy fell off a ladder while painting her kitchen cupboard and had a bad time with a sprained ankle. Then Tom, out of a clear sky, took to his bed for a period of eighteen months with a hip disease that had gradually to correct itself. Tom's disability pinched the little household down to a state of actual depriention.

Amy resumed her position at the library. During those long, dreary months she kept the little household going, maintained Tom in his wheel chair in dainty and immaculate fashion, took two of the children to school on the way to the library, did her marketing on the way home, prepared meals, accomplished much of her scrubbing and window washing after dark, waxed floors on her knees, did some of her card cataloguing for the library at home, exercised Tom on his bad leg and tided over the finances without having to resort to borrowing.

"There goes Miss U. S. A.," was the way the townspeople usually pointed her out to strangers. That came lit-

erally to be true. Tom, when he kissed her and fondled her, as if he could never leave off expressing his gratitude, always thought of her in his heart as typical of Miss U. S. A.

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#### When First President's Wife Gave Reception

According to an early chronicler, Mrs. Washington's levees were "open only to persons of privileged rapk and degree, and they could not enter unless attired in full dress. The receptions . . . merely reproduced, on a smaller plan, the customs and ceremonies of foreign courts. .

"At these receptions Mrs. Washington sat. Guests were grouped in a circle round which the President passed, speaking politely to each one, but never shaking hands. At the first levee in New York, Mrs. Washington announced: 'General Washington retires at ten o'clock and I usually precede him. Good night."

Today we find in the unofficial guide known as authoritative on etiquette in our Capital: "It is correct for all political, official and resident Washington society to call once a year at the White House. This . . . consists of driving or walking up to the main entrance and placing the cards on a tray which a footman brings to the front door or to your car. These calls being merely tokens of respect, no one asks to see the President's wife; the whole ceremony occupying about half a minute from the gate of entrance to the exit on the other side.

"In recent years it has become customary for women, after they have left their cards as described, to ask for the honor of being received by the President's wife. This done by writing a note to her social secretary, which may be about as follows:

"'My dear Miss ---: Will you ask Mrs. X- if I may have the honor of calling upon her, and let me know on what day it will be agreeable for her to receive me? Sincerely yours,' and so on."-Maude Parker in the Saturday Evening Post.

# Pertinent Question

An Irishman strolling through London saw some pictures in a photographer's window. One was of a young man taken after he had attended a fancy dress ball in Mephistophelean costume.

After looking at it for some time he went into the shop and said he wanted a picture taken of his brother and himself on one card.

The photographer made the usual preparations and then asked for his

"Oh, he's in Bristol," was the reply. "And how," said the photographer, 'can you expect me to take the picture

of a man who is in Bristol?" "Well," said the Irishman, "I'd like to know how you took Safan's picture. Did you meet him here?"

# Where He Spent the Day

Mrs. Maggs had invited her neighbor to see the new decorations. The house had been repainted, and after examining the living rooms they went into the bedroom.

"My!" said Mrs. Diggs, admiringly. "Isn't it pretty? But what are the lovely pictures painted on the celling

"For my 'usband," explained Mrs. Maggs. "'E likes to 'ave something to look at on Sundays."-London Tit-

# Strawberry for Every Locality

#### Klondike, Aroma and Howard 17 Are Three Leading Varieties.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)—WNU Service.

People who avoid strawberries because of their high acidity need not deny themselves the pleasure of eating this luscious fruit if they will try some of the milder flavored varieties such as the New York, the Marshall, and the Chesapeake. Several hundred varieties of strawberries are grown inthe United States, one for every locality and purpose, according to specialists of the United States Department of Agriculture who have classified them for the benefit of growers and consumers. Of this large number of varieties, however, only about 40 are grown commercially, and 19 of these constitute 96 per cent of the acreage. The three leaders-Klondike, Aroma, and Howard 17-account for 63 per cent of the acreage in the country.

Best Varieties to Grow. Climate and soil conditions are factors that determine to a large extent the best varieties to grow in the different'sections of the country. The Missionary is the leading sort in Florida and along the Atlantic coast to Maryland. Most other parts of the South prefer the Klondike. The Biakemore, a new berry developed by the department, is becoming popular in the Carolinas and as far North as New

The Aroma is a favorite in most of the milder regions of the central states, including the northern part of Arkansas and Tennesseg, and the southern parts of Missouri, Illinois and Indiana. The Dunlap is popular in the remainder of the Middle West. In the Northwest, Marshall, Oregon, Ettersburg 121, and Clark are most widely grown, while the Howard 17 is king north of the Ohio and Potomac and east of the Mississippi.

New Varieties Increase. New varieties of strawberries are being introduced constantly, the department says. Many of them possess no special value as compared with the well-established varieties, and most of them soon disappear from nurserymen's lists. Occasionally a new variety such as the Blakemore has merit enough to make a place for itself.

# Night Light for Baby

Chicks Meeting Favor The favorable results secured by a large number of poultry raisers with the use of a dim light for baby chicks are being confirmed by experiments at the Massachusetts Agricultural college, Prof. William C. Sanc

tuary reports that with 327 chicks under observation, the lighted chicks showed a gain in growth at four weeks of age which varied from 8 to 15 per cent, depending upon the breed. This gain did not come from eating during the night but it was noted that the dim light kept the chicks spread out in the most comfortable sleeping belt available and enabled them to find their way back to the hover without becoming chilled. It was also observed that on cold mornings the lighted group of chicks lost no time before starting to drink and eat while a large portion of those in the unlighted group first took time off to get warm under the hover.

Where electricity is available either from a farm lighting plant or transmission line, a ten-watt light was recommended. This assures a dependable light which will not blow out or become an extra fire hazard.

#### Trap Japanese Beetle When Infestation Light

In the summer of 1929 approximately 17,500 Japanese beetle traps baited with geraniol were used by the United States Department of Agriculture in lightly infested areas, and in 1930 the number was increased to 25,583. The department recommends trapping only where there is a light infestation. The balted traps attract beetles from a great distance and if used in heavily

infested areas would draw abnormal numbers from neighboring properties to the property where the traps were used. The cost for bait and for operating the traps was \$1.66 per trap in 1929 and \$1.63 in 1930.

# Massachusetts Favors

# Two Feeding Mixtures

The Massachusetts station makes the following recommendations for poultry feed mixtures. Much of course will depend upon local conditions such as the price and availability of the ingredients.

The laying mash is: 200 lbs. cornmeal, 100 lbs. wheat bran, 100 lbs. middlings, 100 lbs. ground oats, 50 lbs. meat scraps, 25 lbs. fish meal, 25 lbs. alfalfa leaf meal, 25 lbs. dried skimmilk, and 5 lbs. salt.

Scratch feed: 500 lbs. yellow corn, 250 lbs, wheat, 150 lbs. barley, and 100 lbs. oats.

# Grinding Feed Pays

No experienced dairy farmer would feed whole grain to his cows. At any rate one would hardly think so. Yet there are men who do this very thing and then complain because there is no money in dairying. True, prices of dairy products are low at this time, and there is reason for dissatisfaction on that score, but the man who feeds whole grain to his cows is not likely to secure much profit at any time.

### Lower Fencing Cost With Large Fields

### Irregular Enclosures Have Too Many Corners.

Fencing small irregular fields is an expensive operation, according to J. I. Falconer, chairman of the department of rural economics at the Ohio State university, who finds that for most kinds of general farming the fields

should be at least 40 rods long. Rectangular fields and small fields require more fencing per acre than square or large fields. With fields of the same shape, he states, the larger the field, the fewer rods of fence to the acre are required to enclose it, and a proportionally smaller area of tillable land is occupied by fences. A square field of one acre would require 50 rods of fence; one of 20 acres, 11.3 rods of fence per acre; while a square field of 40 acres could be fenced with eight rods of fence per acre.

If the width of land occupied by fences in the one acre and 40-acre field were uniform, the amount of waste land due to fences would be more than six times as much in the one-acre field as in the 40-acre field, Falconer says.

A square field of ten acres requires 160 rods of fence; a rectangular field of ten acres, 28 by 56 rods, requires 170 rods of fence; and a rectangular field 20 by 80 rods requires 200 rods of fence. If the fields are not to be fenced this disadvantage of the rectangular field need not be considered. Irregular fields are especially wasteful of fencing and land, and uneconomical to operate. They have too many corners, too many short rows, and too many corner posts.

### Inoculate Legume Seed

by Making Them Sticky Dry materials used on legume seed several week before planting the seed have not given satisfactory results compared to jelly or moist applications, according to work done at Purdue university and by the United States Department of Agriculture and reported recently by K. E. Beeson, Purdue university.

Soil from well inoculated fields can be used satisfactorily but the only way to tell how well the field is inoculated is to observe this fact when the legume is growing in the field. Small seeded legumes should be made sticky by use of a solution of one part sugar to two parts water, Beeson recommends. Less than a pint of the sweetened solution will treat a bushel of seed. After the solution is applied the seed should be mixed and have the dirt applied. If the seed is not left moist it can be sown or stored.

Soybean seed should not be moistened but should be made slightly damp, as much moisture causes the All land that has not been inoculat-

seed coat to slip and clog the drill. ed before should have seed inoculated this year, Beeson suggests.

# Weedy Clover Seed Not

Popular on Any Farm Buckhorn, dock and pigweed seeds -weed seeds commonly contaminating clover seed-produce many times more seed for each seed sown than the clover seed, making it vitally important that none but scrupulously clean clover seed be sown, says Samuel M. Jordan, weed and seed specialist of the Missouri state board of agriculture.

For each clover seed sown one may expect to harvest 30 clover seeds; for each seed of buckhorn, 2,400 seeds of its kind; for each seed of dock, 50,000 dock seeds; and, for each pigweed seed, 1,000,000 weed seeds of this kind. From the foregoing facts, it is easy to see, Mr. Jordan says, that it is bet-

ter to sow no clover seed at all than

#### to sow a lot of weed seed with it. Strawberries Lacking

It is a matter of surprise when one actually sees the scarcity of fruit among some farmers. Their tables are well provided with milk and cream, with pork and poultry, also bread and pastry, but as to fruit, they seem to be content to go without. A few rows of strawberry plants in the garden, the fruit of which when well smothered with cream, of which farmers have a rich abundance, would give them three times daily a dessert for

Rack the apple barrel frequently while it is being filled.

To do a good, clean job of cultivating, all shovels should be sharp and polished.

Based on past experience, profit in growing cucumbers depends primarily on the control of insect and disease pests.

Grape arbors can be used to good advantage in making the farm home grounds attractive. Try to give some thought to the location of these.

Fruit should be thinned out if the usual June drop has left more fruit on the trees than will mature properly. Thinning will improve the quality of the remaining fruit.

Omitting the last spray on the potatoes is like letting the insurance lapse on the day before the fire. As long as the vines are green spraying will help to control blight and rot.

# Saw-Toothed Grasses

### Fatal to Wild Animals

To the poet's eye a dewy blade of grass may be a "gleaming sword," but the similarity escapes the more practical eye of the elk, the deer, and the moose. These unsuspecting animals frequently learn, however, and painfully so, that a clump of grass may be only a "sheath of spears" disguised as forage,

The biological survey of the Department of Agriculture finds that the sharp, saw-toothed seed parts of the squirreltail grass and other simflar grasses on the western ranges cause the death of many elk, deer and moose. The needlelike tips of the seed cases pierce the tender membranes in the animals' mouti.... The jagged edge of the seed case resembles a porcupine quill, and after it has penetrated the lining of the mouth, every effort of the animal to get rid of it results only in further embedding the seed into the tissues. These injuries may become infected and lead to abscesses and eventually to death. Occasionally an animal is found dead from starvation because a great wad of grass lodged in one cheek had made it

impossible for the animal to eat. The biological survey is attempting to eradicate such objectionable grasses from the elk refuge in Wyoming and from the Sullys hill game preserve, North Dakota, where the trouble has been in evidence.

#### World Rewards Genius

Who Perfected "Zipper" The "zipper" fastening, composed of intermeshing teeth, which is now made use of in many ways, was the invention in 1914 of Gideon Sundback, a Swedish engineer working in the United States. It was first suggested as a safety device for pockets and then applied to tobacco pouches and finally to children clothing, shoes, spare wheel covers, handbags, suntents and many other purposes, and the end is not yet in sight. Its use has spread over the entire world. It is manufactured by the mile in the United States, Canada, Austria, France and Germany,

Several previous efforts were made to devise such a fastener. One was the subject of a patent granted 40 years ago. A wealthy company was formed to perfect and exploit the invention, but the design was lacking in some particular and its operation was unreliable, and so far as that effort went the thing was a fallure. The shortcoming was subsequently remedied by Sundback, and he is now reaping a rich reward.

### One of Carnegie's Boys

All the world knows the story of the building of the great bridge across Sydney hartor, in Australia. the greatest bridge in the world. some claim, which cost £6,000,000. Lawrence Ennis, the man ir charge of the construction has had a career almost as romantic as the bridge itself. At the age of eleven he was working in the coal pits outside Edinburgh. Emigrating to America at the age of sixteen, he eventually qualified as an engineer, and some successful patents brought him to the notice of Carnegie, whose employment he entered. From then on his rise in the engineering world was rapid. From pit-boy to bridge builder is no mean achievement for one of the great army of the world's selftaught geniuses.

# He Was Paying

Patron-May I have some stationery, please? Hotel Clerk (haughtily)-Are you a guest of this hotel?

Patron-Heck, no. I am paying \$5

# New Scale of Prices

a day .- Border Cities Star.

Grocer-We have some very fine string beans today.

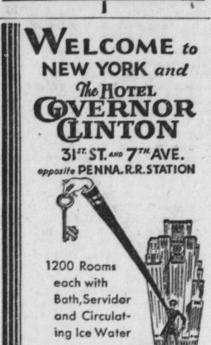
they a string?-Boston, Transcript.

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