

Fin, Fur and Feather

By William J. Robbins Jr.



FACTS

Many people have in their possession Indian-head pennies but few realize that the famous profile is not that of an Indian. It was generally believed to be the face of a famous chief but the truth is she was a white girl by the name of Sarah Lonkacre, daughter of the head engraver of the Philadelphia mint back in 1835.

Sarah was ten years of age at the time, and the Government offered a prize of \$1,000 for an appropriate design for the new one-cent piece. Many artists competed for this prize for the amount was indeed large at that early date.

Records are to the effect that a group of Indian chiefs from the west came east to visit their "Great White Father," President Andrew Jackson, in Washington. They were also taken for a visit to the mint at Philadelphia where they met and were entertained by Mr. Longacre in his home. Sarah was overjoyed to meet real Indians and in her own home at that, it was during their acceptance of this white man's hospitality that the little girl was permitted to play with the feathered head-dresses and other beaded ornaments. An artist who happened to be present on the occasion made a hurried sketch of her face set off by the Indian headgear.

Greatly admired by many of his friends, the artist's sketch of little Sarah was among the hundreds of entries for the new penny-to-be prize, and it was chosen for the new design.

Indian pennies are getting rarer and rarer, and if one has such in his possession, they are good coins to hold onto for they are increasing in value as the years roll on.

Certain bees, called guest-bees or inquilines, are reared in the brood nests of other bees, and do no work whatsoever. They live on the fruits of labor of their hosts.

When winter sets in, the ruffed grouse "puts on" snowshoes. These consist of a row of projecting plates on each side of each toe. Because of this arrangement the bird can tread on loose snow without sinking in.

One type of ant, called the corn-louse ant, cares for the eggs of the plant-lice which feed on the roots of grasses and grains. The eggs are kept in the nest of the ant during the winter. In this way the ant colony is assured of a herd of plant lice for the following summer. The plant-lice supply the ants with honey-dew, a sweetish secretion.

There are certain bugs called the ambus-bugs, that conceal themselves in flowers, and capture insects that come to the flower for nectar. The front legs of these bugs are very strong and wonderfully adapted for grasping. They are greenish in color, with a black band across the abdomen.

There is an egg-eating snake in Africa called the Dasypeltis which has only a few teeth, for those structures are not utilized in cracking the shell of an egg. The shell is cracked by a number of spines, tipped with enamel, located in the gullet of the reptile. In this way none of the egg is lost, as would be the case if the egg were broken in the mouth by means of teeth. The shell of the egg is always thrown out.

Many enjoyable hours can be had in quest of the nest of a meadow-lark. And what a treasure trove if such is found. This prince of summer birds builds a roomy bungalow, roofed over with a door to the east. Eggs may be looked for as early as May, and earlier if you go southward. You may approach within a foot of a nest before lady lark will flush. You may then observe four or more cinnamon-spotted eggs.

The worth of the meadowlark to the farmer can scarcely be over-estimated. He not only gleans over the surface of the fields, but, as few birds can, he reaches down with his long, sensitive bill into the earth among the grass roots and removes offenders there. The Department of Agriculture estimates that a meadow-lark is worth at least \$25.00 per season in the removal of grasshoppers alone. If, however, when hardpressed, he takes toll of grain seeds, he is easily justified, like the hired man who eats the farmer's biscuits that he may wield the hoe against the farmer's weeds.

KEEPING POSTED JURY DUTY

EDWARD H. KENT

This actually happened. Our friend Jim was driving in a crowded downtown street of a city not in this State. It was a beautiful June day, and the place was swarming with kids who had no other place to play. A car going too fast passed Jim. It hit a small boy, and kept on going.

Jim stopped, picked up the boy, and took him to the hospital. Jim was arrested, tried, and found guilty, several people swearing that he had struck the boy. Jim got off with a fine, hospital expenses, damages, and the fact that he had insurance was beside the point.

Now if you found yourself in the situation that Jim was in, what kind of men and women would you like to have on the jury that was going to bring in a verdict of guilty or innocent? You would want the very highest type of citizen in the community, of course.

So the next time you are called for jury duty, don't go to the judge with some sad tale about being terribly busy, that you cannot possibly be away from your business. If your business is so organized that you cannot leave it for five days, better take the office-boy in partnership with you.

Don't tell the judge that you are sick, that you have a severe pain in the neck. He will tell you to run along and get a doctor's certificate, then either you or the doctor will be embarrassed.

Certainly it will cost you money to serve on a jury. Most anyone can make more money at his job or his business than the jury fees amount to, and often they don't even cover a juror's expenses.

So what! Jury duty is an obligation of citizenship. You would like to have an intelligent, high-grade jury try you. So just make yourself one twelfth of a good jury to try the other fellow.

Mrs. Merle Shaver Is Hostess To Bible Class

Mrs. Merle Shaver, Idetown, entertained members of the Serving and Waiting Class of Idetown Methodist Church last Thursday evening. Assisting her were Mrs. Emory Hadsel. Present were Mrs. R. B. Shaver, Mrs. Chloë Spencer, Mrs. Jesse Boice, Ms. Elmer Huff, Mrs. Ernest Fritz, Mrs. Corey Meade, Miss Hazel Gordon, Mrs. Helen Smith, Mrs. Emory Hadsel, Mrs. Raymond Spencer, Mrs. Arthur Montross, and the hostess.

THE DALLAS POST

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Member Pennsylvania Newspaper Publishers' Association

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Single copies, at a rate of 5c each, can be obtained every Friday morning at the following newsstands: Dallas—Berts Drug Store, Bowman's Restaurant, Donahue's Restaurant, Shawtown—Evans' Drug Store, Hall's Drug Store, Truckville, Gregory's Store; Shaver's Store; Idetown, Gaves Store; Huntsville, Barnes Store; Harveys Lake, Lake Variety Store, Dealer's Store; Fernbrook, Reese's Store; Sweet Valley, Britt's Store.

When requesting a change of address, subscribers are asked to give their old as well as new address. Allow two weeks for changes of address or new subscription to be placed on mailing list.

We will not be responsible for the return of unolicited manuscripts, photographs and editorial matter unless self-addressed, stamped envelope is enclosed, and in no case will this material be held for more than 30 days.

National display advertising rates 65c per column inch. Transient rates 70c. Local display advertising rates 60c per column inch; specified position 70c per inch. Political advertising \$1.10 per inch. Advertising copy received on Thursday will be charged at 75c per column inch.

Classified rates 4c per word. Minimum charge 75c. All charged ads 10c additional.

Unless paid for at advertising rates, we can give no assurance that announcements of plays, parties, rummage sales or any affairs for raising money will appear in a specific issue.

References will in all instances be given to editorial matter which has not previously appeared in publication.

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ONLY YESTERDAY

From The Post of ten and twenty years ago this week.

From the Issue of April 24, 1942

Faithfully serving as employee of Truckville Post office since 1935, Mrs. Jane Lohman is now acting postmaster, following resignation of Nicholas Staub.

Francis Tondora, 7, was the tragic victim of a strange accident on Saturday, dying almost immediately after striking his throat on the corner of a box.

Eric Weber, Noxen, joins the Navy.

Salvage will be collected tomorrow in the Salvage for Victory drive.

Arthur Dymond, undaunted by gas and tire restrictions, pedals a bicycle from South Carolina to visit relatives in Beaumont.

Lehman Commuters ask for a daily bus service to connect with Dallas bus.

Mrs. T. M. B. Hicks, in Pillar to Post, goes to the mat with a raw-beef sandwich.

Shavertown Firemen launch drive for new equipment.

Beef liver, 29 cents per lb; buck shad, 10 cents lb; strawberries, two boxes for 29 cents; Ivory Soap, three large cakes, 29 cents; rich sharp cheese, 33 cents per lb.

Ruth Boyer Howell becomes the bride of R. Newton Davenport in the White Church on the Hill.

Aileen Connor was married to Lauren Dymond on Wednesday at Shavertown Methodist church.

Mrs. Charlotte Swire, Loyalsville was buried in Maple Grove Tuesday afternoon.

For rent, Dallas, six rooms, bath, steam heat, garage, all improvements, \$25 per month.

From the Issue of April 22, 1932

What Dallas needs, editorially speaking, is to put idle men to work making much needed repairs on houses and getting the place painted up. Labor costs are way down, and this is the time to invest in a more prosperous looking town.

Tilden A. Dotter died suddenly of a heart attack while visiting at the home of his sister, Mrs. Charles Brobst, Dallas.

Wardan Kunkle's hat is in the ring for County Committeeman.

Kingston Township reflects fourteen out of sixteen teachers, appointing a teacher to fill one vacancy created.

Rural Baseball League held a re-organization meeting in Dallas on Monday.

Back Mountain Quoit League will meet at Idetown on Monday.

SAFETY VALVE

BUDGET ACCOUNTS

Dear Editor:

It is about time that an investigation be made into the aggregate interest charge against a customer's account, under the so-called "Budget Contract Setup", as used by department stores and other stores selling merchandise on a credit basis. Behind the "Budget Contract" is apparently one of the smoothest interest making (money making) systems now in operation. This is a method whereby the actual price quoted on an article eventually becomes many times greater within a matter of mere months and looms up on the customer's charge account to accost him or her at a time when dollars are tight and only part payments are being made.

In Wyoming Valley where coal mining and textile industries seem to be the leading attractions for the workers, it is a known fact that labor troubles are ever prevalent as well as seasonal interruptions. These conditions cause many well meaning people to delay in making full payments on their Budget Accounts. Most of these folks are honest and mean to live up to the very letter of the contract; but when unions become cantankerous and long, discouraging parleys take place, weeks and even months go by during arbitration when no dollars flow into the workers' coffers. Call this performance by industries what you may, seasonal, temperamental, etc., or even accuse them of too frequent intermittent delays in operations, due to the foregoing troubles, but the fact remains that—where there is no work there are no dollars, usually. These workers have outstanding obligations which must be met and that is when storekeepers, extending "Budget Contracts", begin to use the interest rate system on the original purchase and the amount of interest charged for the few dollars worth of merchandise tied up, is breath taking. There is no set amount of interest it continues to go on and on, indefinitely.

A constructive plan should be put into effect immediately to prevent further picking of the last dollar from the small wage earner, out of work from time to time due to work stoppage over which he has no control. Although nothing more is added such as merchandise to the original contract account by the purchaser the store will continue to add its "interest charge" and a "carrying charge" each month and the balance, possibly a hundred dollars or so, will continue to grow in favor of the creditor while the wage earner is out of work desperately trying to meet his obligations. These stores, these credit establishments go right along advertising in the newspapers, over television, radio, etc., how easy it is to settle your new home, your apartment on your "credit buying". Youth today has a very poor sense of value, due mostly to the era in which he or she lives finding it so easy to get things on credit, things which must be paid for eventually. The price of the articles is one thing, but when the interest rate and the carrying charge are added and a few months slip by the purchaser is unable to reconcile his existing account with the contract figure agreed upon. This is the part not dwelt upon too thoroughly in making the contract.

Some years ago thousands upon thousands of loan sharks moved into our communities in many states in the union charging unmerciful interest rates on the small amounts borrowed. A borrower had to sign away almost life itself, as collateral, for the few dollars loaned to him. It took many years of hard work on the part of level headed business men and women such as bankers, industrialists, insurance specialists, heads of educational institutions, etc., to drive these unwanted unscrupulous manipulators from our midst. Today a counterpart of these same slight-of-hand-artists, these loan sharks sit behind desks in the so-called Credit Bureaus of big department stores, and other stores throughout the land engaged in credit extension selling, on a large scale. They operate much on the same order as those manipulators of yesteryear, because if the purchaser should fall ill, or his factory close its doors a few months, he is paying an unmerciful rate of interest and a carrying charge tacked onto the existing balance which grows, grows and grows upon his temerary interruption of work, upon his ill luck. This practice is most unscrupulous as the small wage earner is nearly always honest and if given a chance will pay his debts, but during the months of setback and work stoppage the number of dollars now owing the store has become an amount with which the purchaser is wholly unfamiliar.

Credit buying is rapidly becoming a menace to our land. Young people are so far out on paper that they must plan upon work for years ahead to meet standing obligations; and during these perilous days of war, union grumblings, etc., it would be hard for a learned sage of the land to predict our economic standards of tomorrow.

Ivah M. Mitchell
Elmore Drive
Dallas, Pennsylvania

Barnyard Notes

He who has lived fifty summers has learned that "Good Morning" is a far better greeting than, "How Are You?" The latter salutation lays open to a recital of every ache, pain and pressure in the human body.

I promised Mort Connelly my lawn roller for last Saturday afternoon but the boy who was to roll my lawn first failed to show up, so I called Mort and told him he'd have to get the roller Monday morning unless I could find somebody within the next hour or so to push it. "I'll get you a fellow right away," said Mort confidently, "Be there on the next bus out of Luzerne". Mort hasn't rolled his lawn yet.

I pity the kids now-a-days. They're so exhausted with planned recreation that in most cases the old man would rather mow the lawn or carry up a scuttle of coal than to oppress the younger generation with a few home chores.

Can't say as I was any great shakes as a kid, but I peddled show bills every Saturday all over Tunkhannock to earn a free ticket to the nickelette, and I got hell lathered out of me if I walked across the street in front of a one-lung automobile, hung around the railroad station or went down to the river. About that age today a kid is driving his old man's car ninety-miles-an-hour after midnight—and folks wonder what's wrong with the younger generation.

No self-respecting employer would send his help home on Friday afternoon as tired as they come back to work on Monday morning.

Oh, hum, it's a great world. Even the guys in prison want it softer.

If a man can get away from the visitors and the women in the house long enough, a lot of his worries about the state of the world will disappear.

A chipmunk scampers just as always. A daffodil blooms as pertly. A wood thrush has the same liquid song. Arbutus is as sweetly scented. The stars mount the heavens as quietly.

The red buds burst on the maples and the peepers call as wistfully as they did before the atom bomb and Roosevelt. Only the old spring yearning for romance and adventure is gone.

April mornings are as electric. Evenings are laden with the fragrance of apricot and nectarine blooms, but instead of a date with a pretty girl—any girl, we've got one with a shovel transplanting young hollyhock plants under the barn floodlight.

The Library Auction must be coming earlier this year. It is already almost impossible to drive the car in the barn without cracking the mirror to a dresser or running into a toboggan. Four deer heads are piled neatly in the angle of a first floor support so that they nicely cover the barn light switch. I learned that late the other night when I reached for the switch and thought I was stroking a fox.



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