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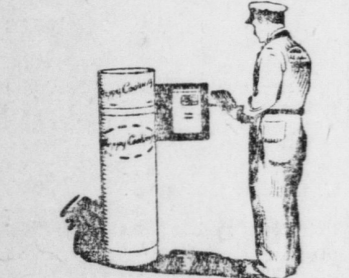
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**SHORT STORY**  
**Green Fingers**  
By F. ANTON REEDS

OUTSIDE the windows of Kerry Productions a murky drizzle shrouded the outlines of Herald Square and twisted and distorted the street sounds from below. Alone in the comfortable inner office Patrick Kerry tried not to notice the autumn drizzle beyond the windows.

He thought of the plans for the country place tucked away somewhere in one of the drawers of his desk. Yes, he was getting well along now—so well along that at last he could admit that the country place of his would never be built.

Of course, he thought quietly, life had been good—mighty good—and he glanced from one to another of the scores of autographed photos that lined the four walls of the office. Friends in plenty he had.

He had watched a thing that was misnamed Broadway discard its gaudy minstrel garments and take its first halting steps in a strange new world of quiet understatement. But on rainy days he got to thinking of the moist, soft earth and the little rivulets trickling like blind, hesitant puppies among the clods of plowed fields—and his green fingers began to itch. Old Michael told him he had green fingers. What a proud day that had been.



A young Irishman had stood in the rain and said that to a girl whose eyes were rimmed with tears.

Eleven years old he had been then. That would have been—well, never mind.

Patrick Kerry wasn't in any hurry about opening the envelope his secretary had just brought in. His thoughts were not in his office today, and he had difficulty in bringing them back from his dreams to present realities.

Finally Patrick's old fingers snaked open the brown flap and rapped the envelope sharply so that the contents slipped out onto the desk. He rifled through them, picked up the precisely filled-in card that was one of talent scout Burp Mullen's cryptic reports.

He forced his aged old eyes to the dossier: "This boy is the one you want. No doubt about it. He's got a freshness that's the real article." Miss Wintersten was hovering inside the door again.

"Mr. Compton is here," she said. PATRICK KERRY had just time to glance at the photos of a sensitive but rugged countryman's face before the face itself was there before him.

There were several things Patrick Kelly had meant to say; instead he found himself asking: "Just what sort of a place is this that you have outside of Mill Medford, Compton?"

"It's a nursery, Mr. Kerry. That is, it will be. They take time getting started, you know."

Maybe it was the rain. Anyway Patrick Kerry found himself asking a good many questions, about privet hedge and fall plantings and apple graftings.

"Look here," Patrick Kerry said abruptly. "What about this place of yours? Say you get this part, what would become of it?"

The young man answered slowly. "We talked about that, Ellen and I," he said. "I figure that if I make good with you, a few years—even five or six years—on Broadway would give us the working capital for a real go at it later on. We could always go back and start over. I suppose we'd want to anyway, some day."

Patrick Kerry rose and went over to the window. "Of course I'll be coming back in a few years. Maybe we can get a place of our own then by Peck's Villa or down at Irvington."

A young Irishman had stood in the rain on an autumn day in 1896 on the wooden station platform at Farmdale and said that to a girl whose blue eyes were rimmed with tears.

Funny how you believed everything you said when you were young.

Blame it on the rain, he thought. If it weren't for the rain I might not have had to do this. He was very business-like as he sat down again.

"I'm afraid we've been very unkind, Compton, and I'm sorry. But the fact is our Mr. Mullen was just a little impetuous. You see, Compton, we're going to need a professional for that part."

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**THINGS TO TALK ABOUT**  
BY FRANKLIN J. MEINE  
Editor, American Peoples Encyclopedia

THE FIRST RECORD OF INSURANCE TRANSACTIONS IS FOUND IN THE CODE OF HAMMURABI, 2250 B.C.



THE OLDEST BREED OF TOY DOGS, THE JAPANESE SPANIEL OR JAPANESE CHIN, HAD ITS ORIGIN IN CHINA.

JAMATA, a book on the Buddhist religion containing 550 legends dealing with the early life of Buddha, was written in the Pali language in 350 B.C. The legends were later adapted into the Persian and European cultures and formed the basis for many folk and fairy tales.

way from nest of young. The bird worked toward the men as if seeking help. They investigated and found a four-foot black-snake to be the cause of the pheasant's distress.

**Owl's Depredations Disclosed**  
In April two men living near Freeport, Armsong County, reported to local game authorities they shot a great horned owl along Buffalo Creek. Investigating the locality the men found the winged predator's nest, in which were two fledglings. At the nest they counted the remains of 14 rabbits, 1 wood duck, 1 rat and an indetermined number of ringneck pheasants.

**Sees Rare Combination of Game**  
Even a veteran game protector like Monroe County's John Spencer can feel elated over an outdoor experience such as he had not long ago. Spencer tells: "While patrolling on State Game lands in my district I spied a flock of wild turkeys along a stream. Watching the big birds, I happened to turn my head and look up the ridge. There I saw a black bear weighing approximately 250 pounds.

"Only once in a lifetime would a person be fortunate as to see turkeys and a bear in the same locality, just by turning his head."

**Sportsmen and Youngsters Plant For Wildlife**  
Lawrence County sportsmen go all out for food and cover planting for game, not only on their own club grounds but on farms open to public hunting. So reports Game Protector Calvin A. Hooper, Jr., who ordered 51,000 trees and shrubs for planting by clubs in the western county. Lunches were served to Boy Scouts and other youth groups that assisted in planting.

Residents in other counties that file valid fox hunting petitions later will be notified through legal notices in newspapers of the counties affected.

**Food Plus Cover Spells Rabbits**  
An Elk County game protector named Gerald D. Kirkpatrick observes: "In recent visits to food plots on State Game Lands and National Forest Lands I have noticed a considerable increase in the cottontail population on the managed areas. Timber cutting and brush piles around the borders of most of the food plots serve as very good cover for bunnies. It is my opinion money spent for game food and cover is money well spent."

**Pheasant Demonstrates Old Trick**  
This spring Game Protector Harry H. Rickert assisted Commission employees in planting food plots on a Berks County propagation area. One day a hen pheasant made an unusual comment in the grass. Rickert said. She flopped about and feigned being crippled, as game birds do to decoy an intruder a-

way from nest of young. The bird worked toward the men as if seeking help. They investigated and found a four-foot black-snake to be the cause of the pheasant's distress.

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**Pheasants Use Underpass For Safety**  
Hunters new to the sport soon learn the ringneck pheasant is an exceptionally wary bird. This latest story of the pheasant's ability to survive is relayed by Game Protector Robert H. Myers, Honesdale.

He says, "Not long ago, I attended a Wayne County Sportsmen's Club meeting. Paul Horst

one of the men present, told the members of an incident he witnessed several times this spring. He fed a number of ringnecks near his home this past winter. One of the cock birds was killed on the highway nearby. Since that time the remaining birds have been crossing the road through a sluice pipe in front of Mr. Horst's home."

THE BULLETIN, Mount Joy, Pa. Thursday, June 3 6

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