

THE AMERICAN HOUSE

VII
SPRING brought open roads, and travelers. A good many of these were drummers, who either drove their own horses from place to place or hired transportation from the livery stables along their route. Those who sold standard stock were only a few hours in each village, while those who had samples to display stayed longer. There was hardly a night that we didn't have one or more of them registered at the American House.

A few were, undeniably, sporty. They made us feel courted and a little prim. Mr. J. Francis Simms wore very high laced shoes, tight trousers, and a ruby ring. He kept up smart talk in the dining room, even in the face of Ada's discouragement. "Ain't it awful, Mabel?" he said over and over. "Ain't it awful?" Mr. Benjamin Wiggle was very fat and always smelled of Sen-Sen.



"Wiggle's name," he would say in introduction and then proceed to demonstrate in a way you could never forget.

However, most of the men who came were sensible and industrious. Feeling sorry for anyone who had to be away from home, my mother went out of her way to make them comfortable.

The first and third Saturdays of every month brought Dr. Billings, the dentist from the June-

tion. In his regular office he had an upholstered chair that tipped backward, but if you came to him in the parlor of the American House you had to content yourself with the organ stool borrowed from the church vestry. You almost never had a tooth filled. You had it out, or you put up with it, one way or the other. If you needed gas, my father gave it in his office. This happened very rarely. Gas cost money, as we saw it. Grit was cheap.

On alternating Saturdays Dr. Snow, the oculist, took over the parlor. You could buy your glasses ready-made from him for 25 cents, or if you were more particular (and prepared to pay a dollar) you could have a pair made to your special order with a 10-year, gold-filled frame.

ONLY one other person used the parlor for business. That was Mrs. Carrie Carter, who sold corsets. Up to the time she came, women had purchased such things by mail order, having, of course, too much delicacy to ask for them at a store. But mail order wasn't entirely satisfactory, for a corset box, being long, low, and narrow, was always recognizable when you took it from the Post Office. So Mrs. Carter, being a married woman and bringing her wares (which you could carry home in your Boston bag), had quite a following. The greatest deterrent to her trade lay in the undeniable fact that her customers might be seen and detected.

She owed a great deal of her business to my mother. Instead of openly approaching the parlor, one customer after another would come into the office, ostensibly to make a call. "I've been intending to come and see you ever since you moved," they might say. Or "It has taken me long enough to get here." Then, a brief visit over, they would announce in a casual manner, that now they were here, they might stop for a minute in the parlor and just say hello to Mrs. Carter.

Mrs. Carter knew her trade. She measured her customers in a white cheesecloth robe with long flowing sleeves which gave the illusion of modesty and grace. She had technical names for every spot on your anatomy. "Your mammary glands need a slight support," she would say. Or "There is a little dilatation of your abdomen." She was very patient. The Kangaroo Bend was outmoded in 1909, and the new lines demanded a corset with a low bust and a long skirt. It wasn't an easy change. She had a little song she used to sing to cheer her disgruntled customers. It went something like this: "I do not need a country seat, Because I can't sit down."

THERE were itinerants, too, most of them agents and peddlers. Around the first of June a young man arrived selling lightning rods. Now we had plenty of thunderstorms along the coast, bad ones that lasted until the turn of the tide. Hardly a season passed without a farm house or a barn being struck and burned to the ground. Although nearly all buildings were equipped with one or two lightning rods, these were of the plain, practical variety, constructed by Mr. Giddings. The ones the young man sold were ornate with fancy turnings and impressive with their shining silver balls. Moreover, he gave a Magic Lantern entirely free with every purchase of 12.

By the time he moved on, the town shone and bristled with rods.

The very next week another young fellow came selling fire insurance. He had less chance than a bolt of lightning. The danger was over, people told him. You could always handle a chimney fire yourself with a little salt.

He was a nice young fellow with very red cheeks and an incorrigible cowlick. He had been three weeks on the job and hadn't sold a thing.

My father couldn't resist a beaten, disheartened boy. He took out a \$200 policy on the American House.

"It might come in handy some day," he said.

(To Be Continued)

Our Boarding House



Boots and Her Buddies



Freckles and His Friends



Red Ryder



Wash Tubbs



Alley Oop



Out Our Way



By Edgar Martin



Merrill Blosser



Fred Harman



By Leslie Turner



By V. T. Hamlin



For New Linens



By MRS. ANNE CABOT
Lots of weddings coming up next month--lots of linen showers to be attended this month! Have your embroidered presents ready! Use these nice designs on towels, pillowcases, and handkerchief cases. Each motif measures about 3 by 6 inches and all are unusually colorful and attractive.

To obtain transfer patterns for all size designs, instructions on how to transfer, amounts of material needed, sketches of stitches used for the linen monograms (pattern No. 5146) send 15 cents

City News In Brief

Slight damage resulted from a roof fire at the home of Mrs. Anna Finley, 1903 East N avenue yesterday.

One minor traffic accident was reported at the city police station, involving cars driven by Clara Collingwood, Fruitdale and Frank F. Nelson, Yakima, at 6:30 p.m. yesterday at the intersection of Washington and Tenth streets. No damage to either car was listed.

Mason Calcwell of La Grande yesterday took over the duties of field man for the farm labor office.

Tonight's class in show card lettering will be the final opportunity to enroll. Classes are held Monday and Wednesday night at 7:30 o'clock at the high school.

Official Records

Water turned on: May 1.
Mrs. Ed O'Mohundro, 806 F avenue; R. E. Badgley, 1202 Tenth street; Marion Spencer, 1908 Cove avenue.

COOPER GOES TO NAVY CHICAGO, May 2 (UP)—The top battery in baseball, Bob Feller and Walker Cooper, belonged to the Great Lakes team today.

Cooper, who has been the star catcher of three championship St. Louis Cardinal teams, was inducted at Jefferson barracks, St. Louis, yesterday and assigned to the Great Lakes naval training station.

Sports Bolero



By SUE BURNETT
The recent exhibits I've been to all point to a big reason for the smart sport-bolero for sports or just sun-tanning. Simple to make--your ABC special for today.

Pattern No. 8811 is designed for sizes 11, 12, 13, 14, 16 and 18. Size 12, dress, requires 2 1/2 yards of 39-inch fabric; 3/4 yard contrasting bands and ties; bolero, 1 1/4 yards of 35 or 39-inch material.

For this pattern, send 20 cents in coins, your name, address, size desired, and pattern number to Sue Burnett, La Grande Evening Observer, 709 Mission St., San Francisco, Calif.

Ready now--the spring issue of Fashion, just 15 cents. A complete guide in planning wardrobe needs for all the family.

Hold Everything



He's an admiral, but I hear his wife likes that cap on him!

Eastern Governor

ANSWER IN PREVIOUS PUZZLE

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| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 32 | 33 | 34 | 35 | 36 | 37 | 38 | 39 | 40 | 41 | 42 | 43 | 44 | 45 | 46 | 47 | 48 | 49 | 50 | 51 | 52 | 53 | 54 | 55 | 56 | 57 | 58 | 59 | 60 | 61 | 62 | 63 | 64 | 65 | 66 | 67 | 68 | 69 | 70 | 71 | 72 | 73 | 74 | 75 | 76 | 77 | 78 | 79 | 80 | 81 | 82 | 83 | 84 | 85 | 86 | 87 | 88 | 89 | 90 | 91 | 92 | 93 | 94 | 95 | 96 | 97 | 98 | 99 | 100 |
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HORIZONTAL
 1 Pictured U. S. governor.
 54 Nostrils
 56 Type of moth
 57 Behavior
 VERTICAL
 9 Any
 10 Verbal
 11 Area measure
 12 Birds' homes
 15 That one
 16 Entreat
 19 Symbol for erbium
 20 Exclamation
 21 Like
 22 Id est (ab.)
 23 French article
 24 Mental capacity
 26 Diverse step
 27 Jokes
 30 Wave top
 32 Exist
 33 Lubricant
 34 More unusual
 36 Inner courtyard
 38 Seniors (ab.)
 39 Type of bean
 40 East Indies (pl.)
 41 Symbol for tantalum
 43 Place (ab.)
 45 Grand king of Babylon
 47 Symbol for tellurium
 48 Pleasure boat
 50 Hawaiian bird
 51 Pertaining to the cheek
 53 Whirlwind
 17 Exclamation of sorrow
 18 Battle ship
 25 Czars
 26 Fur skins
 28 Town (Cormish prefix)
 29 Weight of India
 30 Policeman (slang)
 31 Narrow inlet
 35 Operatic solo
 37 Particle
 41 Ye
 42 Near
 44 Misplaced
 45 Mystic syllable
 46 Acquire
 49 Food fish
 52 Land parcel
 54 Negative
 55 Type measure