

The FICTION Corner

BEST LOOKING GIRL IN TOWN

By THYRA SAMTER WINSLOW

FROM the time she was thirteen Rilla Mabry had been ashamed of her appearance. It was then that she started shooting up higher than the other girls. She was awkward as well as tall and she was too thin. By the time she was twenty she was fully convinced that her appearance was really something terrible. All of the other girls seemed little and cute and attractive. No matter what Rilla wore it seemed wrong. There was too much of her to wear tailored clothes. And thin dresses hung around her in folds.

All of the boys and girls in the crowd liked Rilla. She was a fine girl—if you could forget the way she looked. Even her hair was wrong—sort of stringy—but she had a pleasant and rather attractive face.

In spite of her looks Rilla had a boy friend. He was Patrick Redding and his father kept a grocery store. Pat wasn't any great catch—but then you really couldn't expect Rilla, with her looks, to do any better. Folks felt that Rilla ought to be well satisfied. Pat was a nice looking boy, and he certainly wasn't to be sneezed at.

Rilla didn't sneeze at Pat. She was grateful to him for being nice to her. She was as jolly and as friendly as she could be. As a matter of fact she liked Pat a lot. He was fun to be with. She'd have been perfectly satisfied except for the fact that she was in love with Shane Tennant. Which did her a lot of good—for Shane was the catch of the town. Shane's father was a banker—and rich. His mother was the social leader of the town. Shane was tall—much taller than Rilla—and handsome, besides.

Pat went into the grocery with his father. Shane went into the bank. That's the way sons do in small towns unless they have definite ideals about law or one of the other professions. Rilla didn't do anything. Her folks had just enough money so she didn't have to work. She went to parties with Patrick—and admired Shane from a distance. The town folks felt that she would marry Pat, that he'd take over his father's grocery store and that they'd settle down.

That might have happened if it hadn't been for Leslie Durant. Leslie Durant was—and still is—a well known illustrator. And he came to Morrville to visit an aunt. And got taken to all of the parties, of course. The social lion of the season. He stayed in town three days—but that was long enough for a lot to happen.

He saw Rilla Mabry! Rilla was standing near the door—and she was looking at Shane Tennant. She never knew how much her face showed what she was thinking about. No one else noticed—but Durant, being new, took in the sit-

uation. He saw Rilla, standing not quite straight because she didn't feel quite as tall that way, in a badly fitted dress and her hair not quite smooth—and he saw Shane, perfectly groomed—for Morrville—self-confident, good looking. And then Pat came to ask Rilla to dance.

On the second day of his visit Durant made his remarkable statement. He declared, to anyone who would listen to him, that Rilla Mabry was by far and away the best looking girl in town. One of the best looking girls he'd ever seen.

Rilla had never had a compliment about her looks before. She had always been shy, self-conscious

first time in her life, the belle of the ball. Toward the end of the evening Durant had the satisfaction of seeing Shane Tennant dancing attention. Shane Tennant, whom Rilla had looked at with longing eyes—and who had paid no attention to her.

Durant went back to his home in New York. And forgot all about the whole thing. And years passed. And the sequel happened just the other day.

Durant was lunching alone at a restaurant when an attractive, tall woman, past her first youth, came up to him.

"You don't remember me," she said.



That night, for the first time in her uneventful life, Rilla Mabry was belle of the ball.

and often miserable about her appearance. And here, the first authority on beauty who had ever been in town, acclaimed her as the prize.

When Durant, himself, told her what he thought of her she was filled with confusion. She managed to stammer her thanks. And later, very shyly, she went up to him.

"I do wish you'd tell me how I can look better," she said.

"I'm not suited for the task of lily-gilding," he told her, "but maybe if we got together—"

They got together the next morning. Durant came to Rilla's house, and, with Rilla's mother acting as helper, they did things to Rilla and Rilla's clothes. Durant made her stand up straight. And rearranged her hair. And told her what was wrong with the clothes she wore.

That night there was a dance for Durant—his last evening in town. And, as he had thought when he started things, Rilla was, for the

Durant didn't remember her.

"I'm Rilla Tennant—I was Rilla Mabry when you knew me. You came to my home town—and—sort of made my life over. Remember now?"

"Of course I do," said Durant. "I remember very well."

"You did a wonderful job!" said Rilla. There was a curious note in her voice he didn't understand.

"You married the boy you were in love with, I see. His name was Tennant, wasn't it?"

"Why, yes," said Rilla. "But how did you remember the name? And how did you know I was in love with him?"

"I'm good at names. And I saw you looking at him. Simplicity itself! And to think that I was the cause!" He preened a little.

"Yes, you were," said Rilla. "It was very funny, now, when you look back on it. There I was, going with Pat Redding and in love with Shane. And terribly ill at ease and awkward. And you came down and said I was a beauty—so automatically I became a beauty. And the boys all rushed me. And I married Shane."

"Wonderful!" said Durant. And he beamed. "How are you getting along, now?" he asked, as an afterthought.

"That's the catch," said Rilla. "You shouldn't have asked."

"Shane and I married—and didn't get along any too well. Though I was awfully happy in the beginning. The Tennants lost all of their money in the depression—and my family had its money in the Tennant bank, by that time, so our money went, too. Then Shane fell in love with a chorus girl. I got a divorce, of course. I've been teaching in a girl's school for the past three years."

"That's too bad!" said Durant, and began to feel inflated. "But maybe that was better than marrying that other boy whom you didn't love."

"Maybe," said Rilla. "You can never tell. Love goes . . . Patrick Redding took over his father's grocery store—and married the cutest girl in town. They have three children and are very happy. And, oh yes, he developed an ambitious streak and started a chain of grocery stores. Now he's the richest and most important man in town."

Alchemists Knew Zinc

"Nix Alba" was the name by which zinc oxide, now widely used as a paint pigment, was known to skilled alchemists, who also called it "philosophers' wool." It was first suggested for use in paint by the French chemist, Guion de Morveau, in the late 18th century. Early in the 19th century, the pigment became commercially available, and at about that time a French naval vessel was painted with zinc oxide paint. Today, zinc oxide is produced by two processes, the American and the French. The American process produces the oxide direct from zinc ore, while in the French process it is produced by vaporization and oxidation of metallic zinc in an open fireplace and collection of the oxide in a series of chambers. The bulk of the zinc oxide pigment now is produced by the American process.

SEWING CIRCLE PATTERNS

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Enclose 25 cents in coins for each pattern desired.
Pattern No. _____ Size _____
Name _____
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AROUND THE HOUSE

Season vegetables such as green beans, corn, or spinach with bacon or sausage drippings to give them unusual flavor.

Be sure to save your cancelled checks and receipts after a bill is paid. If a dispute arises over the payment of a bill, you then have the evidence.

If you have a bottle of perfume that you hesitate to use because of its heavy odor, try adding a few drops to your bath water. You will find it pleasant.

When crystal vases and bottles need cleaning, break several egg shells into the bottle or vase, add a little water, and shake until all film and dust disappears from the glass.

Overzealous patterns in drapery and upholstery fabrics is the trend today; large bold patterns richly defined against neutral colors. Abstract and geometric patterns vie with floral designs in the new fabrics.

When placing articles in the refrigerator remove them from the paper bags and place in refrigerator bowls. This increases cold air circulation and looks neater.

Junior's new puppy won't produce lonesome wails at night if an alarm clock is put to bed with him. The tick-tock sound will be a lullaby for the lonely pup and keep him quiet.

When melting paraffin for canning do not allow the paraffin to become steaming or smoking hot. Just reduce it to a liquid.

For quick drying of sheets, bed spreads and tablecloths, hang evenly and not quite double on the line.

Use all your linens so they will all be laundered occasionally. This way they'll stay white.

Threw Old Shoes, Rice at Weddings in Ancient Times

Our habit of throwing old shoes at weddings originated in the mysterious East. Nowadays at the ceremony, no bridegroom would dream of batting his beloved over the head with his shoe. But after the Asiatic duo were pronounced one, the groom straightway swatted his spouse with his slipper, symbol of authority, to publicly announce her obedience to him.

The ancient Anglo-Saxon convention required the bride's father to fling his daughter's slipper after the bridal carriage to signify that the authority under which his child had lived had been transferred to a new master.

The old Roman practice of making bridal offerings of corn, symbol of plenty, is recreated in our pelting the newlyweds with rice.



Dogs I've Known...

by Post Day



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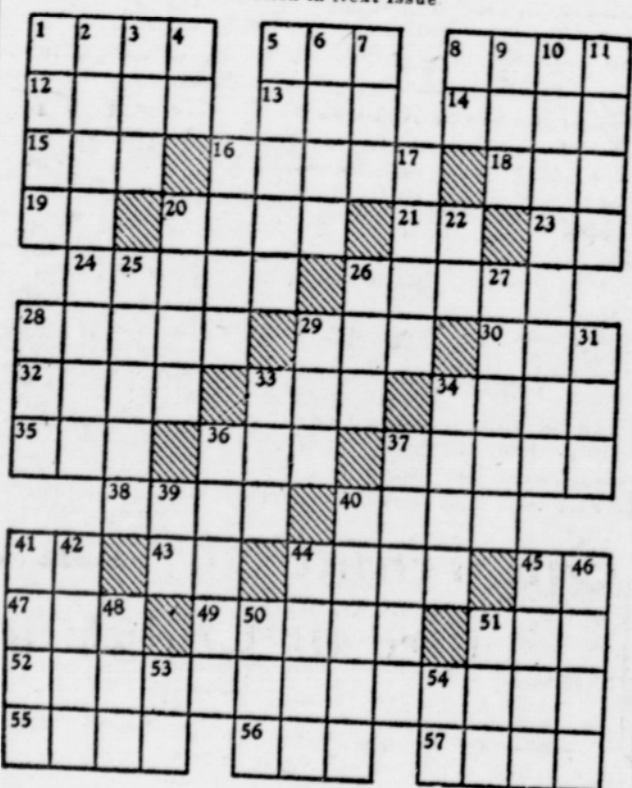


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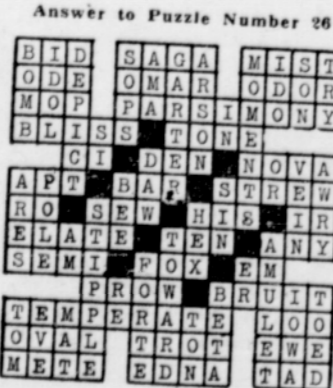
Horizontal

- 1 Sign of a future event
- 5 Numeral
- 8 Cry of sorrow
- 12 Female horse
- 13 Night before an event
- 14 To remove
- 15 Devoured
- 16 Gibe
- 18 Iranian Ambassador to the U. S.
- 19 Note of scale
- 20 Mimic
- 21 By
- 23 City of Chaldea
- 24 To contradict
- 26 Twelve dozen
- 28 Wrath
- 29 To hasten
- 30 To be sick
- 32 Place of barter
- 33 Nave of a wheel
- 34 Plumlike fruit
- 35 Malt beverage
- 36 Mire
- 37 Former Chief Justice
- 38 Neat
- 40 Bearing
- 41 Pronoun
- 43 Conjunction
- 44 Type
- 45 Hypothetical force
- 47 Cereal grass
- 49 Commercial dealings
- 51 Shoshonean Indian
- 52 Origin and development of the mind
- 55 Withered
- 56 Snake-like fish
- 57 Pack of cards



No. 27

- 9 Meadow
- 10 Reference
- 11 To burn
- 16 Incentive
- 17 Infrequent
- 20 To aid
- 22 Toward
- 25 Heron
- 26 Projecting arm of a crane
- 27 Drawing room
- 28 Chalice
- 29 Long-handled troughlike box
- 31 Confederate general
- 33 To embrace
- 34 Let it stand
- 36 Caiety
- 37 Mermaid
- 39 Artificial language
- 40 Mannequin
- 41 Leaps on one foot
- 42 Comfort
- 44 Wise man
- 45 Pertaining to hearing
- 46 Piece of office furniture
- 48 God of war
- 50 Fish eggs
- 51 To avail oneself of
- 53 Symbol for cerium
- 54 Man's nickname



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