

On the Side—By E. V. Durling

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What does your wife know about Nicola Tesla? She should have his picture hung up in a place of honor in her kitchen. That is, if she has some mechanical appliances that have made her housekeeping easier. It was a small electrical motor invented in 1889 by Nicola Tesla that has made possible all present day mechanical appliances in the household.

Recently I mentioned the "state bird" of Florida was the mockingbird. That interested a Californian who immediately wanted to know what the official bird of his state was. He says he looked through "a lot of almanacs" but couldn't find out. The official state bird of California is the California valley quail. New York's is the bluebird. The most beautiful state bird is probably that of Maryland, the Baltimore Oriole.

At a party attended by Princess Margaret of England there were 29 young men present. Nine of these young men are rumored to be engaged to marry the princess. The British are the world's greatest bettors. They are ready to bet on anything and can always find a bookie to accommodate them. So the bookies have a price line as to what young man will marry Princess Margaret. I don't know anything about the prices being offered but understand a young man named Peter Alistair Ward is the favorite.

What is it about a woman that first catches the male eye? Is it her eyes, her legs, the shape of her nose, the shape of her mouth, the way she is dressed or what? That question was recently brought up here. Discussing it, a Californian calls attention to the case of a woman who passed a bad check. The bank teller was unable to give a satisfactory description of her. He didn't remember what she was wearing, couldn't say whether she was short or tall, or a blonde or brunette. The woman who was finally apprehended by the police said she passed checks on never could describe her adequately when later asked to do so. She said this was because she always wore a low-cut dress.

Policewomen

Richmond, Va., wants only shapely policewomen. It lists among the requirements for feminine police officers, "Must be proportionately developed." The best looking policeman I have seen so far was a blonde motorcycle cop in San Francisco. She was checking on cars parked in the downtown section. She certainly was proportionately developed.

Architects Women who have lived in several different houses, even though these houses are the same size, will tell you one is much more difficult to do housekeeping in than another. Usually this is the architect's fault. Too many male architects overlook the idea of planning a house that will be easy for a home manager to handle. All male architects should take a course in housekeeping. After that they should do some housekeeping. Then they will be a million to plan houses that will make housewives happy.

Traveler reports seeing on a highway in California a sign reading "Viva Mexico. First to buy visavisection." Tokyo has quite a gangster problem. Recently 1,500 policemen entered Tokyo's chief vice district and arrested 643 gangsters including Haru Fukuda, the Al Capone of Japan.

Poem Am asked if there is a poem dealing with an engagement to be married. I think there is one titled "Betwixt" by E. J. Sevel but I have any idea where it can be found right now. I will have to look it up. It begins "Put your hand in my heart, say that you love me."

Asking Queries from clients. Q My argumentative brother-in-law (yes, he's from Brooklyn) says there is no harness horse racing in England. How about it? A There are harness horse meets held in England but there is only one regular track for the sport in that country. That is near Manchester. An interesting thing about this track is that the trotters are both ridden and driven. In the same race there will be men riding trotters and others driving them attached to sulkies.

Vaudeville There is still in existence a vaudeville theater that can be compared to the Palace, New York in that showbiz heyday. But it is not in this country. It is the Palladium in London. I recently saw a bill of the Palladium and was interested in noting that a featured act was a team of adagio dancers called Les Hurricanes. Of the many American stars who have been recently featured at the Palladium, Danny Thomas was a terrific hit here, too.

Pajamas Single-piece pajama tops as night attire originated in Paris. Manufacturers investigating the situation found that the most Frenchmen and Frenchwomen only wore the top of pajamas. Speaking of Paris all Americans who have visited that city will recall the huge Bon Marche department store employing over 4,000 people. This store, which opened in 1852, recently filed bankruptcy proceedings. This unhappy situation was brought about by mismanagement of funds by a man who recently acquired control of the stock.

Swimming Star Ida Lang Kuhner of Muncie, Ind., is still giving diving exhibitions. She has been at Miami Beach all winter. Ida is over 80 years of age and has been an aquatic star for 30 years. She is five feet four inches in height, weighs 120 pounds and looks 20 years younger than her age. At 20 Ida was a semi-invalid, afraid of water because of having nearly been drowned as a child. She was persuaded to take up swimming for her health. She is due in Hollywood soon to make a film short on diving and swimming.

GETS CLERICAL LIFT Omaha, Neb. (U.P.)—A minister was delighted when a young not-so-regular church member telephoned a question about the Sermon on the Mount. He supplied the answer in some detail. "Thank you," the housewife said. "If that radio quiz program calls me now, I'll win at least \$25."

Babson Discusses Buying Of Stocks By Farmers

By Roger W. Babson



Roger W. Babson

Eureka, Kans., May 6—Every year since 1940—while traveling through our great Central West—I have seen a great improvement in the better homes, new factories, finer cattle and prosperity everywhere. This is my first trip—now over—when farmers and ranchers have asked me about stocks and bonds. Heretofore, they have been interested only in land values, prices of farm products and the condition of their banks. Now these men are convinced that both their farms and their banks are on a good sound basis. They are looking about for other forms of safe investment. This is especially true this year as crops are poorer and farms less profitable.

Jobless Father Gets Sympathy From Court

St. Louis, (U.P.)—Edward J. Nowicki, 21-year-old unemployed father of two children, was ready to plead guilty to stealing and sawing \$72 worth of automobile batteries to help his family. He said there wasn't any food in the house and that his crippled two-year-old boy needed medical attention. But Nowicki's former employer, Richard Pound, declined to prosecute. "I know this man has trouble enough already," Pound said. Judge Davis W. FitzGibbon agreed and dismissed the grand jury charge against Nowicki. The judge also offered to pay Nowicki's doctor bill for his son, suffering from a paralysis of the legs and arms.

Marked Offers Only High Interest on Farmers' Money Heretofore, farmers have only been borrowers with no money to invest. Now with money to invest they see the other side of the picture. They have been trained to believe anyone who borrows money should pay six per cent to eight per cent. This rate they have been forced to pay. Now that these farmers themselves have money to loan, they also want to get these high rates. When the banks offer them only 1 per cent to three per cent, they are disgusted.

As very few farm loans are now available, the stock market is the only place where these farmers can get the six per cent to eight per cent which they have been forced to pay for years. Their children believe that the stocks of our large industrial companies which pay six per cent or more are perfectly safe. They are gradually selling this idea to the old folks. The children are not talking "profit" but only safety and income. As a result good dividend paying stocks are being bought here in large quantities.

Will Farmers Ever Get Frightened And Sell? Farmers are paying cash for these stocks and putting them in the "drip" boxes. What these buyers will do when the next depression comes, no one knows. My guess is that if reasonable dividends are continued, these farmers will continue to hold the stocks, however much they may decline in price. The newspapers out here give the financial news and—with the exception of the big dailies—very few quotations. Farmers are not speculators, but are income minded. Many also are depending upon the weekly reports of long established investment advisors which is much to their credit.

This new development is a good thing for investors everywhere. It opens a new market for those eastern estates which are compelled to liquidate upon the death of some prominent member; further it puts the stocks in the hands of permanent investors. This is more to be preferred for all concerned than to have the stocks in speculative broker accounts in New York or other cities. In fact, I feel much better about the stock market today, than when leaving Washington several weeks ago. Due to the increasing number of young people reaching working age plus the better health of older people and the greater use of labor-saving machinery, a rise in unemployment may be expected throughout all sections of our country. This will reach about 6 million during 1950. This unemployment will not be evident here in the Central West until October; but over the entire year it will be considerable. Remember this western section is fast becoming industrialized.

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