

Quips and Quotes

Many men never have to bring the boss home for dinner—she's already there.
—Herm Albright

He was a thoughtful husband, but when it came to gifts he could never please his wife. The gift was always too large or too small, too gaudy or too dull. Instead of trying to get something for her Easter outfit this year, he decided to give her a \$100 gift certificate.

When he returned home that evening, he asked her what she got with the gift.

"Nothing yet," she replied. "I just went downtown and exchanged it for two \$50 certificates." —John L. Powers



"Relax. People get married every day."

Woman's Work Is Never Done

Two jobs that the average woman
Is seldom inclined to shirk
Are—working to get a husband
And getting a husband to work.
—Hal Chadwick

The father looked at his little boy with skepticism. "You want a ride to school? Why, when I was your age I walked three miles to school, snow or rain. And that was after I delivered my newspaper route at dawn and helped get my brothers and sisters ready!"

The youngster was visibly impressed. "Gee Dad," he said, "I wish we could have fun like that nowadays!"

—John Shotwell

Easter Preview

My Easter hat this year is smash;
A hat that's gay and witty,
A hat that's bold, or even brash,
Deliciously big-city.

In fact this hat is just so swish
(One-of-a-kind, I swear it),
That Easter morn, my love, you'll wish
For rain, so I can't wear it.

—Betty Billip



I was just thinking...



THE SIGN on the cage in the variety store said that the little brown bird was an oriental bunting, guaranteed to bring good luck. The price was \$1.98. In my pocket was \$3. I would have given 10 times that amount to set the little bird free.

He sat there in his cage trembling, his fragile body shaken by every heart-beat. From the corner of his eye he looked at me, and I could imagine a piteous entreaty.

The cage was crowded among cages of parakeets. It wasn't the smallest cage I ever saw, but it was a prison for a brown bunting dying of fear.

For a wild moment I saw myself thrusting \$2 of my \$3 at the nearest clerk, grabbing the cage, and setting the little bird free among my poplar trees. Of course, it wouldn't work. He would die in a free world he has never known. He would be killed by the hawk or the spring storms.

But something in him seemed to beg for help. The noise in the store was



ILLUSTRATION BY JOHN WOOLHISER

deafening, the heat billowed and swelled. The little bird trembled.

How foolish it is to be so disturbed about a bird in a variety-store cage who will live a briefer span than most birds and then die anyway. There isn't enough money in the world to free all the prisoners whose only crime is in being born small and helpless and caged to bring someone "good luck."

This one has brought me nothing but bad luck because I see him even now between me and my typewriter, and there is a weight on my heart. I am ashamed to have lived so long and remained so imperfectly armored against life and death and sorrow.

Except that at this moment I am deeply aware in a humble, human way of the infinite pitying tenderness of One who mourned the fall of every sparrow.

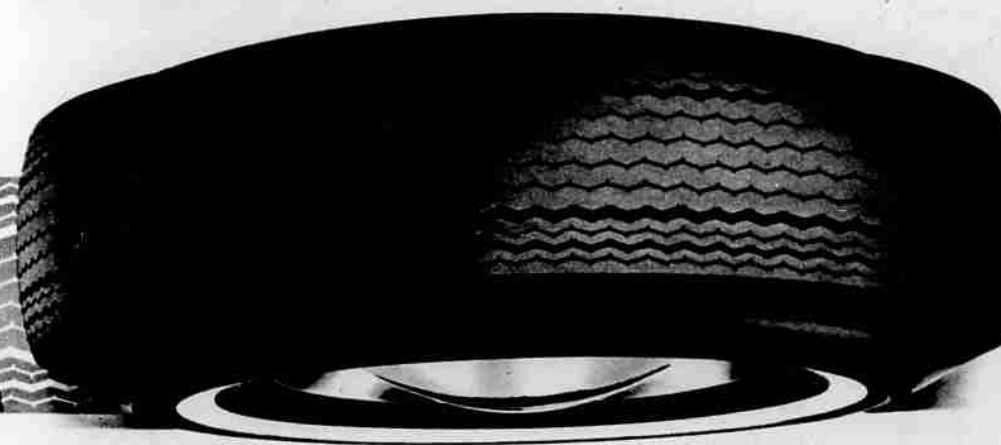
If my bunting served such a purpose for me, I pity myself that I needed the reminder.

Ray Johnson



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