

The "Rattlesnake Twins" Worthwhile

(Continued from Page One)

and railroaded right along together like brothers, without a break of any kind between them. They were real comrades and never had a cross word. They made money. Naturally their financial status did not make them any less popular, especially with single ladies.

The Rattlesnake Twins, however, remained impervious to the charms of the girls of the community. They would talk and play with them and sometimes both of them would escort one or two girls home from a party but when it came to the matrimonial harness they were as shy as unbroken western ponies. A girl's good looks left them as blind as bats and hints of wedding bells as deaf as posts.

Folks of Pancake Bottom noticed a slight letup in the wary attitude of the Twins, as far as Miss Nancy was concerned right away after she arrived. Miss Nancy came to teach the primary department of the Pancake Bottom school. She arrived in the middle of July of their third snake-hunting season. Miss Nancy was slender and alluring and she was good "company."

The Twins walked along home with Miss Nancy and the folks with whom she boarded in a sort of informal way two or three different times and each one of them tried his best to entertain the good-looking school teacher. She was a good listener, and her melodious laugh stimulated them to their best efforts as gallant suitors. In fact, they came nearer to making an open effort to out-do each other than the folks of Pancake Bottom had ever seen them do before.

While together alone after one of these walks in Miss Nancy's company they discussed the fair schoolma'am and what she had said to each of them in an open and candid manner. At first, and now jealousy was apparent in the manner of the Twins. The teacher did not show either one any partiality.

Finally there was an open break. Both were men of good character and neither tried any "rough house" stuff but they decided to part. Jim rented a small house a short distance from where he and Joe lived and moved his things to it. His decision to break with his old partner was hastened by the fact that he had found a rattlesnake in his bed when

he woke up one morning. Each of the Twins had his own bed. He accused Joe of putting the snake in his bed and Joe had denied the charge vehemently.

A week before Jim had moved his bed and boafed another actor had entered the scene. This was a well-dressed, good-looking, fluent-speaking young man who claimed to be a preacher of some new-fangled denomination never heard of before in Pancake Bottom. He wanted to hold a meeting in the church. He had no credentials that satisfied the trustees of the church, but Wesley Jones, one of the members and who was always too quick, in the opinion of some of his neighbors, to take up with newcomers, went with him to see the trustees and backed up his request for the use of the church house, so they reluctantly consented.

"A city slicker out for the dough," was Joe's and Jim's outspoken opinion of the stranger. The unfavorableness of their opinion was still further augmented when the young preacher began to preach entirely too much to that part of the house in which the schoolma'am was seated. He was a good talker even though his remarks did not please the old heads and trustees very well. Just a "wind-jammer," Joe and Jim declared.

Brother Shell, the preacher, did more than merely preach towards Miss Nancy. He sought her out. He walked home with her. The triangle now became a square—three men and one woman. Miss Nancy allowed each man his turn. She showed no special favor to any one of the three so far as the interested public of Pancake Bottom could see. She told Joe and Jim they were awfully brave men and she told the preacher he was a wonderful orator.

While the deadlock remained unbroken, Joe found a big rattlesnake beside his bed when he got up one morning. He came very near stepping on it when he got out of bed. This intensified his bitterness toward Jim. Jim had accused him of putting a snake in his bed and had undoubtedly tried to get even with him. Neither Joe nor Jim were working now—they were putting in full time trying to gain the lead with the schoolma'am. In the meantime, the preacher was making good "time." "Just trying to get in on her salary," Joe and Jim both declared.

After the meeting had been going on for about two weeks it was decided to hold a picnic at Blue Springs, a large spring several miles away in a picturesque spot near the foot of a steep bluff. Joe carried a load of folks and their baskets of dinner in his car. Jim did likewise—he had bought a car of his own since leaving Joe.

The preacher went with Wesley Jones and family. Miss Nancy went with the folks with whom she boarded. Almost everybody there seemed to have a good time but Joe and Jim, who were not as carefree and lively as of old.

After dinner, the adults sat about engaged in social chat and the children roamed around the premises. The two-year-old child of Mrs. Melissa Wise strayed down the edge of the road below the spring. The crowd heard a commotion and then were horrified to see a big rattlesnake in the road near the child. A small dog had angered the snake and it was making the welkin ring with its rattling. The child walked steadily toward the snake, yelling with innocent glee.

Joe was sitting on the lower side of the ground south of the position occupied by the coiled and angry rattler. The child was on the far side. He made a rush and tried to grab the snake by the neck but he missed on account of stumbling against the root of a tree and was bitten in the hand. Jim rushed in from the other side and grabbed the child just as the snake turned and struck at her. He

Worthwhile Suggestions

Using Candies to Flavor

Many delightful flavors may be secured by making use of candies of various kinds that may be procured almost anywhere today.

Little red cinnamon candies make an excellent addition to stewed apples. Add the candies to a sugar and water syrup, and boil together, then cook pared apples in this rose-colored syrup until tender, turning them frequently. When done, the centers may be filled with chopped raisins and nuts, and a marshmallow placed on top to be melted in the oven before serving.

Hard candies like peanut brittle and peppermint sticks can be chopped or mashed. Caramels are best melted in soft mixtures like custard or pudding. The candy bar, with its delicious mixture of caramels, chocolate and nuts, is best sliced or shaved and added to the recipe.

Marshmallows, slightly melted or not, add delightful texture to the dishes as well as flavor and sweetness. Crisp peanut brittle may be used for the praline which is typically southern and called for in many delicious recipes. Here you have an alternate ready made, to be chopped or mashed and added to the recipe. You may like it folded into whipped cream as a topping for an angel food cake, or you may like it put on the top of cookies before baking; it will fall through the dough but will give it a good flavor. If you like it in whipped cream, you may freeze some as a mousse.

THIS MAY BE TRUE, BUT—

The editor has been informed recently that there is a little town in North Carolina that has no officials, no courts, and no taxes.

One firm employs the male population and pays the same salary to each employee. On Sunday, men, women, and children attend church and Sunday School.

The inhabitants of Salter Path, for this is the town, apparently take the eighteenth amendment seriously. At any rate, drunkenness is something that does not happen unless a traveling man or tourist brings his own supply and gives the townspeople a horrible nightmare. With no policemen, firemen, or aldermen we do not know exactly what would happen with a good old-fashioned drunk in Salter Path.

Perhaps this is only newspaper talk. There may be no such town. But the statement that there is, was given on excellent authority.

TO KEEP HANDS SOFT

Immediately after dish washing, drop a little lemon juice in the palms and rub well over the hands to keep them soft and clean.

carried the child to safety but was struck in the leg.

Then the Reverend Shell charged up, erect and bold as a matador entering the bull ring, with a piece of two by two oak board and killed the reptile.

"Oh, Brother Shell, how brave you are!" Miss Nancy exclaimed as she threw one arm around him.

Joe looked at Jim in disgust. Jim returned the look. Then they walked together to Joe's car where they tied cords above their wounds to keep the poison from circulating, washed out the bites with turpentine and then drank full-sized and frequent doses of snakebite remedy. They felt bad for awhile but they did not become very sick.

"Callin' a windjammer like that brave 'cause he kills a poor old snake with a piece of oak as long as a fence rail and as hard as iron," said Joe. "That gal's as green as grass. Thought you an' me were playin' leapfrog I reckon. Anybody can kill a rattlesnake with a club out in the open where they can see."

"We've been two fools," declared Jim. Joe nodded his approval of this sentiment. They shook hands.

Jim went back to live with Joe again and they left soon afterwards to go to work on the railroad. The presence of the snakes in the bed and house were accounted for. The Twins were so used to the snakes they had overlooked two or three they had put in boxes for later shipment. The snakes had got out of the boxes.

The man called Brother Shell left shortly after the picnic after borrowing two-thirds of Miss Nancy's first month's salary. The square had become a circle, perhaps. The schoolma'am's many fans said she did not want to marry either one of them. At any rate the Rattlesnake Twins became fast friends again.

Dr. Bunker's Handwriting Analysis

By DR. M. N. BUNKER

Georgia Douglas Johnson has one remarkable talent. This is her ability to do one thing at a time. With this she has a nature that is very analytical—that is capable of understanding things—digging into them, weighing them, understanding them.

She is very enthusiastic about anything that really interests her, and when she really starts out to fulfill a single purpose you may expect her to do something worth while. This is true because she has a quiet sort of determination that expects to go through with anything attempted.

This writing shows a desire to do things without first looking around to see what other people have done, or are going to do.

*I am very happy
sample of my hand
with interest you*

The writing of this woman is very much above the average in its revelation of talent. This is due to the fact that she has much more than the average of ability. She has business ability, has capacity to be a journalist, and can, in fact, make some success in any field she may select.

I have had some remarkable experiences with handwriting and the stories it tells. Only a few weeks ago a lady came to my office. My secretary told her that I could not see her, but she insisted until I gave her a hearing.

"Dr. Bunker," she said to me, "I have come to you because there is no one else to whom I can go. My husband was killed only a few weeks ago. I am lost—utterly lost. I do not know which way to turn. My husband left me enough money for a living, but I must do something. I must find something to give me an interest or I shall go wild."

She handed me a bunch of her letters, and in those letters I found the answer to her problem. She could become a nurse. She would be happy caring for others, and so I advised her to go to some hospital and go into training.

She has done this, and only this morning I had a note from her in which she said that her work is making her happy. She is finding something worthwhile in life.

Your life may have seemed to be a failure so far. If so, then you may smile, for there are hundreds upon hundreds of other people exactly like you. In most cases they got started in the wrong work and did not know how to change. They have wanted to do other things, but many times they have known little if anything about what these "other things" really were. They were losing ground so far as cultivating their natural ability went, too.

This is so, because a natural talent unused is just like an arm that is bound close to the body for many

APPEARING SOON
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Gifted Negroes
in the
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A Penetrating Article
By the Clever Essayist
EUGENE GORDON

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months. It loses its strength and value. The muscles become weak and shapeless.

You have some natural quality that if cultivated will help you make a name for yourself. There is no question about this. I say it after having analyzed the handwriting of hundreds—thousands upon thousands of people every year. You have some natural quality that if understood, will help you make a better living.

If you wish a short test analysis of your writing merely write a letter. Send it to Dr. M. N. Bunker, care of this paper. Enclose a stamped and self-addressed envelope for the reply to be mailed to you. At the same time, enclose an extra two-cent stamp for your stationery. Each letter is strictly personal, and many of our readers have expressed their pleasure with this analysis.

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