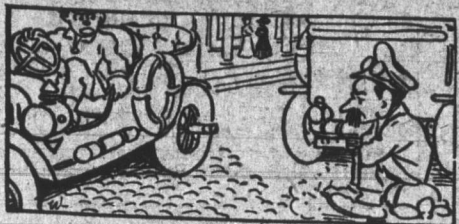


# HAPPENINGS IN THE CITIES

## Sorrowful Face Due to Other Troubles



NEW YORK.—A small, quiet, but sorrowful if not disgusted looking man sat by the side of a medium-sized automobile that was drawn out of the road as a large touring car came along, driven by a man with an interrogatory aspect. The man in the touring car had seen that auto every time he passed that day, so he slowed up and leaned over:

"How long have you been here?"

"Several hours."

"Can't you find out what the matter is?"

"No."

"Inlet valve all right?"

"Yes."

"Trouble with spark plug?"

"Think not."

"How are your batteries?"

"O. K."

"Haven't got a short circuit, have you?"

"Oh, no."

"How's your commutator?"

"Great."

"Perhaps your worm gear is clogged."

"No; all clear."

"Got any gasoline in your tank?"

"Plenty."

"How about your circulation? Cylinder isn't bound, is it?"

"No, sir."

"Tires seem all right?"

"Never better."

"Well, maybe your vibrator isn't adjusted."

"That's all right."

"Have you looked at your carburetor?"

"Yes."

"How about the cam shaft?"

"Grand."

"Have you tightened your connecting rods, examined your clutches and gone over the differentials?"

"Yes, yes."

The man in the touring car paused a moment and then, looking at the stranger by the roadside, said at last:

"What's the matter with that machine of yours?"

"There isn't anything the matter with this machine; but since noon my wife has been in that house over there kissing her sister's first baby good-by. When she gets through, if you are not more than a thousand miles away and will leave our address, I will telegraph or cable the glad news."

## How a Bride's Roses Led Her to Tears



KANSAS CITY, MO.—When Willie Boy got married he bought his wife flowers, of course. And after the wedding Mr. Willie Boy naturally decided to preserve the flowers to look at for all time by picking them in alcohol. That was all right—it didn't cost much, just \$2 or \$3—but there was a 700-mile trip before Mr. and Mrs. Willie Boy got home.

At first they decided they'd pack the treasure in the brass jardiniere "Art" sent and bring it home in the bottom of one of the trunks. Then Emaline—that's her first name—remembered that among other things it might explode and ruin her perfectly good rose-colored dress that "Doc" went crazy over before she was married, and that there was a 26-inch willow plume in the same trunk, not to speak of a pretty coat, a lavender gown, a few more hats, a couple of hundred doodads or some more clothes. So the natural consequence came. Willie Boy carried the remains.

The Pullman was hot and Willie Boy thought of the explosion. No use leaving the jar out on the vestibule. It might break there. He wanted to stay in the Pullman, but he couldn't. He had to stay outside and hold the pickled roses. Night came and Willie Boy was sleepy. He went to bed, but he didn't sleep; he was too busy hanging the roses out of the window to keep the alcohol cool.

Kansas City came, and then home; Emaline walked into the house and Willie Boy followed with the pickled once-were roses.

"What'll we do with 'em?" he asked.

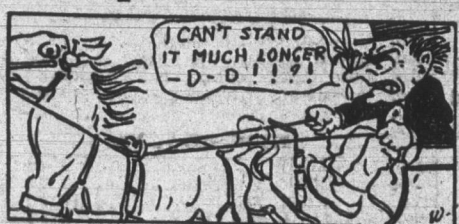
"Why, put them in the attic, of course," Emaline answered.

Willie Boy hadn't been married very long and he wasn't independent. Still there surged into his face the blood of battle and his voice spluttered as he spoke.

"A-attic?" he asked. "Will we? We won't. I carried those things 700 miles, and if they're worth carrying that far they're worth looking at, even if I don't think they amount to much. Attic nothing. Mantel, that's where they're going, understand—mantel. Hear me?"

And that's the reason Emaline cried the first day she had got to her new home.

## Mosquito Gets Credit for a Runaway



NEW YORK.—A mosquito which apparently was a cross of the famous or notorious families of Jersey well-borers and Staten Island rock-drillers, saw George Gordon's nose, buzzed a little song about "Oh, for a pasture new!" and swept down upon the nose. The nose and George were at that moment behind a horse that George was driving.

Now, Gordon had had all he could do to manage that skittish steed before the advent of the insect. When he felt the first jab of the skeeter's surgical scissors George started to knock the squatter off his nasal territory. But he restrained his hand, for in that instant he remembered that he needed both hands to handle the fractious horse.

And there was George in a dilemma equal to that ancient one that concerned a devil and a deep sea. If he didn't knock that mosquito off his nose he'd lose his life blood, but if he took a hand from the reins to deliver

that knockout swing away would go his bad-tempered horse!

Gordon shook his head violently and blew his breath toward the mosquito to dislodge it, but all to no purpose. The insect held on and just bored and bored. Gordon gritted his teeth and remembered the story he had read in school about the Spartan. But what was a mere fox gnawing at a boy's vitals to a real, war-size Jersey mosquito sinking an artesian well in a man's nose!

George could stand it no longer. Up went one hand in a savage sweep. It missed the mosquito. Forgetting all except his desire for vengeance, George swung with the other hand.

And as the skeeter buzzed "Ha, ha!" the horse, freed from control, bolted. Perhaps the wind created by the speed blew the mosquito off Gordon's nose. At any rate the pest vanished. Just as Gordon grabbed the reins and started to saw on the bit a wheel struck a stone and out he shot. He landed bruised and stunned at the side of the road.

Dr. Frederick T. Witte, who was passing in his auto, got out, revived Gordon and took him home in his machine. When they arrived at the Gordon domicile, lo! there was the runaway horse standing quietly at the stable door.

## Eat Muskrat, Maybe; Farm in Chicago



CHICAGO.—"Loan of Chicago Grown Muskrat with Bullrush Sauce." Bills of fare in Chicago restaurants will carry the foregoing item as a "special, fresh today" entree if the plans of three pioneer "muskrat farmers" culminate in success.

The first muskrat farm has been started. Its products are to be food and fur. Its market will be Chicago, as a beginning at least, but success may broaden its scope. Mark Gelder, loan merchant, 1732 South State street; Jack Eck, painter, 348 Twenty-sixth street, and John Horan, Willow Springs, are the proprietors of the farm. Its location is in the "Sag" in the towns of Worth and Palos, 20 miles southwest of Chicago. It comprises 190 acres, is more than a mile

long and consists of the fairest stretch of swamps and shallow, little lakes to be found in this section of the country. It already has a large muskrat population.

The birth of the farm came when Gelder signed a lease for the land with Mrs. Catherine Rawlings, its owner, for a term of 15 years, starting on April 16, at a rental of \$200 a year in advance.

The farm may figure as a worthy champion in the fight against the high cost of living. Secretary of Agriculture Wilson recently recommended the meat of muskrats as a food. He emphasized its cheapness and its good qualities, including flavor and nutritious value. The farm may enable many people to follow his advice.

"Our first idea was just to trap for the furs," said Gelder, "but knowing muskrats were good to eat, we decided to investigate conditions and try to promote muskrats as a popular article of diet. We have strong hopes of success, for a trial will convince people that the meat of the muskrat is good."

## Ideas in Blouses



THESE three blouses may be copied in most blouse materials. The first is in white washing silk, finely tucked and trimmed with Valenciennes lace insertion. A frill of silk finishes the right front. The deep cuffs are of wide insertion. Materials required: 2½ yards 36 inches wide, 4 yards narrow insertion, ¼ yard wide for cuffs.

The second is in spotted zephyr, made with two wide tucks over the shoulder that are stitched to bust. A wide box-pleat, stitched at each edge, and ornamented with buttons, trims the front. Collar band and cuffs of

embroidery insertion. Materials required: 2½ yards 28 inches wide, 1 dozen buttons, ¾ yard insertion. One of the most attractive blouses.

The third is a style suitable for voile or other thin material, to be made of the same as is used for skirt. It has first a small round yoke and collar of tucked net, then a shaped yoke of fancy silk or embroidered net, the material being arranged in short tucks. The sleeves are gathered into shaped cuffs to match the yoke. Materials required: 1½ yard 44 inches wide, ¾ yard embroidered net or silk, ¾ yard tucked net.

## EXTENDING THE CLOSET ROOM

Good Plan by Which Space May Be Made When the Compartment Is Small.

If one is short of closet room a very good plan is to hang skirts sideways in the closet instead of hanging skirts, frocks and coats all flat against the back wall of the closet. Frocks may also be hung sideways, leaving only the coats to be stretched on hangers and suspended from the back wall of the closet. In order to hang garments sideways it is necessary to have a shelf across the top of the closet and to screw small hooks on the under side of this shelf. The hooks are arranged in pairs along the under side of the shelf, each pair of hooks being meant for a single skirt or frock. Two loops of braid are sewed in each skirt band and two in each frock at the waist line; one loop being hung on each hook. The garments are much more easily gotten at in this way than when they are hung one over another at the back of the closet. This method of hanging also permits the garments to hang perfectly straight, and makes it possible to store a large quantity of clothes in one closet. If the closet is deep enough the coats also may be suspended on stretchers from the shelf. This is an ideal arrangement, for it leaves the closet door free for a pier glass, which is a most useful adjunct to a girl's room.

## In Place of a Knot.

The use of a knot is to be avoided in sewing and not to be tolerated in embroidery. The accomplished needle woman rarely finds it necessary to start with a knot, save in gathering or basting. Sometimes a tiny one is slipped under a hem, but it will show on right side if material is sheer and makes an ugly lump in ironing. Two or three over-and-over stitches taken on wrong side of material is as secure as a knot, and much more slightly. In embroidery there is no excuse for a knot. Two or three tiny stitches taken on outline or in body of work where it is afterward covered will hold any stitches. Knots only tend to an untidy wrong side, which no good embroiderer will tolerate, and make the work rough in laundering.

## Embroidered Pongee.

Pongee frocks are now ready for the last touch, which is given by the embroiderer. Handwork put upon this excellent surface is never wasted, and the tone of the pongee is the exact background for the dull leaf green and old rose of the conventional running vine of the Tudor rose design.

This is used successfully on the side opening of a plain Russian blouse house frock, and its sections are repeated in short strips at intervals on the tunic's side opening. The work is flat in effect, suggesting very little padding.

## A Bathing Hint.

A hint for women who bathe in the brine and at times find the temperature of the water chilling is to wear a close fitting one-piece garment of very thick flannel under the silk bathing suit. This makes the salt water bath no less efficacious and is a safeguard against rheumatism. The precaution is an especially good one for those who swim at the Maine seaside resorts.

## MADE HER OWN CHATELAINE

Good Use of Silver Ornaments by Girl Who Was Possessed of Originality.

Arranging some of her silver ornaments to be especially useful is the work of a girl who has just gone into mourning and does not wish to buy a nice black purse bag. Considering that silver was permissible with black in which there was no crepe, she evolved a chataleine, using an oxidized silver chain on which to string them.

The chain was one that had been used for keys by the departed relative, and, in order that the cable it represented should be formed into a hook, the girl removed the original fastening and substituted a small silver slip ring, through which each end of the chain passed. Then it remained only for her to put on a silver card case, which depends from a short chain of its own; a silver coin purse, a tiny box of the same metal, in which she carries a powder puff, and a silver backed ivory memorandum tablet.

In her card case she keeps such of her money as is in bills, the coins, of course, going into the tiny purse. When she wishes to have the case for its original purpose, in the afternoon, she has only to open the slip ring and off comes the short chain.

## HAT FOR SUMMER



Picture hat for summer wear of pale blue chip, lined with black chip. Medallions of blue linen edged with lace and large choux of lace.

## Washing Irish Crochet.

Irish crochet collars and neckwear may be the most durable a girl can use or the most unsatisfactory. It depends upon the laundering.

Wash in thick hot suds made from pure white soap. Rinse through several waters and put through a thin starch water. Squeeze out excessive moisture between cloths.

Pin the crochet piece to a cushion or heavily padded board. Pull out all the points and edges, fastening each one with a pin to the cushion. Allow it to remain until dry, when it will look like new.

If the lace is much yellowed the cushion can be stood in the sun during the drying process.

A drop of bluing can be added to the last rinsing water, or if a creamy tint is liked the lace can be put through a weak tea.

## Printed Net.

Printed nets in black and white effects are very stylish and are extremely smart when trimmed with black lace and black velvet.

# The American Home

WILLIAM A. RADFORD  
Editor

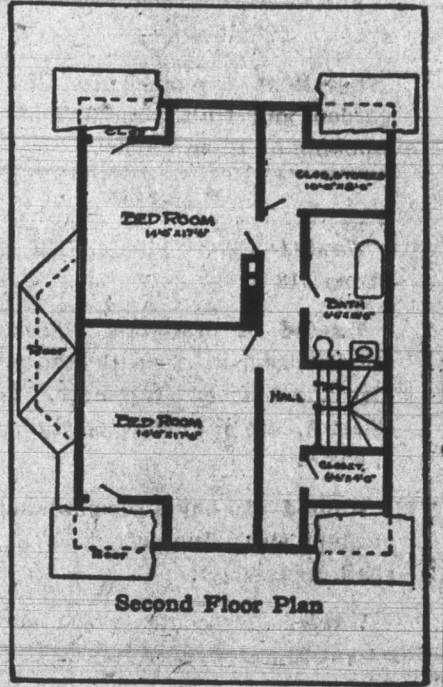
Mr. William A. Radford will answer questions and give advice FREE OF COST on all subjects pertaining to the subject of building for the readers of this paper. On account of his wide experience as Editor, Author and Manufacturer, he is, without doubt, the highest authority on all these subjects. Address all inquiries to William A. Radford, No. 24 Fifth Ave., Chicago, Ill., and only enclose two-cent stamp for reply.

These are factors that should be taken into consideration in building a house. It is a fine thing to have windows in a house and a still finer thing to have something to look at out of the windows.

This house has a width of 28 feet 6 inches, and a length of 28 feet 6 inches, exclusive of porches. Entrance is had directly to the living

It is generally conceded that the employment of concrete in construction has added a marked impetus to architectural study in recent years, especially in that branch of it relating to home architecture. The pliability of cement mortar makes it readily adaptable to any form the architect may evolve. In many parts of the country architects are applying themselves to this subject and beautiful effects have been produced. Charles D. Watson has been giving much study to the problems connected with home architecture. He says:

"Progress in concrete construction has recently been notable along the lines of improvements in its appearance, to enable it to be used for face work in the higher class of buildings where good architectural effect is essential. For many years the unsatisfactory appearance of structures built of this material has prohibited its use for facing of high-class structures, and this difficulty in the use of a material which is otherwise superior to the majority of other materials used for a similar purpose, on account of its durability, has long been lamented by architects and engineers. It is only in the past few years that much progress has been made in devising means for an improvement in its appearance and to do



room, which is 17 by 15 feet in size. The ceiling of this room may be paneled at the pleasure of the owner. The exposed side of this room has a bay effect and in one corner is a large fireplace. The dining room, immediately back of the living room, is 14 by 12

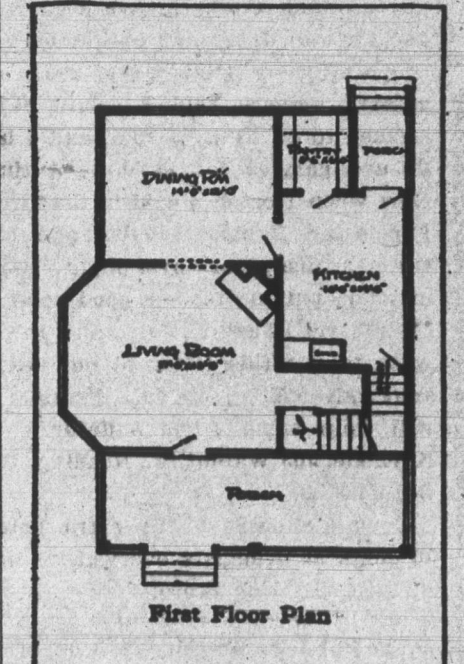


away with the objections. First, design; second, execution. By far the most important of the two factors is that of design, which comes entirely within the jurisdiction of the architect, while the execution depends upon the builder. To produce the best results, therefore, we must have co-operation between the architect and the builder.

One of the most acceptable forms in which cement is employed in home construction, as well as the most eco-

nomical, is its use for the exterior coating over lath. Color effects can be produced to harmonize with any desired tint of the wooden trim, by the addition of mineral coloring matter to the cement before it is mixed. Then the surface may either troweled smooth or may be given a rough pebble dash finish.

The design of the house here shown is typical of the style we mention. This house would have a highly artistic appearance finished with a coat of dark gray cement in which a small percentage of lamp black has been introduced. With the porch, the bay window and the window frames painted white it would be most attractive. It will be noted that the porch of this house is included under the roof of the main structure. This gives a compact appearance and an effect of coziness. This residence is of a design admirably adapted either to suburban or county location on a large lot where there will be ample room for trees, shrubbery and formal garden.



The cost of this house should be well within \$2,500, depending upon location, price of materials and the cost of labor.

## GOT HIMSELF INTO TROUBLE

Cost Observant Individual Car Fare to Give Helpful Hint to the Conductor.

"There is a woman in the front of the car that hasn't paid her fare," said the conductor to the man on the rear seat, "but I can't place her."

"Perhaps I can give you a pointer," said the helpful man. "Pick out the woman that fidgets her hatpins all the time. That is the latest wrinkle of the female street pirate. Reading her neighbor's newspaper and gazing into futurity are out of date. Everybody got on to those tricks. But the woman who beats her way has to do something to hide her guilt, so she fiddles with her hatpins."

"Maybe you're right," said the conductor. "Anyhow, I'll try."

After a little he reported to the helpful man.

"That worked all right," he said. "She owned up. She said you would pay for her."

"Me!" exclaimed the helpful man. "What have I got to do with it?"

"Everything, apparently. She happened to look back and said she knew you and that it would be all right. There she is now, standing up and nodding at you. Know her?"

"Yes," said the helpful man, weakly. "She is my wife."

Keeping a Secret.

"She promised not to breathe a word of it."

"And did she keep her promise?"

"Literally, yes; but she sat right down and wrote 37 notes about it."