

BETZVILLE TALES

Miss Petunia Scraggins and the Clothespins

By Ellis Parker Butler
Author of "Pigs is Pigs" Etc.
ILLUSTRATED BY PETER NEWELL

For a great many years Miss Petunia Scraggins of Betzville sent her washing away from home to be done, but it was not in order to appear stylish, as some of our invidious citizens have believed. It was because she was modest that she couldn't bear to look upon a naked clothespin. The mere sight of six dozen pale, nude clothespins in a basket always overcame Petunia so that she became weak and trembled and had to go and lie down on the red-plush sofa and sniff at the uncorked camphor bottle.

But when adversity overtook her and she couldn't afford to have her washing sent out, she saw there was nothing to do about it, and that she must do her own washing. For three weeks she hunted high and low for some kind of lady-like clothespins that she could put skirts on and that would ride side-saddle on the clothes line, but she could not find any of that sort, and she didn't know what in the world to do. Then she tried putting skirts on the two-legged clothespins any way, but although they looked all right in the basket, the way they behaved on the clothesline was perfectly scandalous. Skirts were never in the world meant to ride a straddle. And a



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clothespin was never intended to do anything else. Miss Petunia couldn't so much as hang out a handkerchief on the line without being shocked and blushing like a mile a minute.

It didn't make the least difference that Miss Petunia was not sparing of clothes. A well-informed stranger who visited our town stated in the hearing of some of our best citizens that he had never seen, anywhere in the world, as well groomed and so fitted clothes as Miss Petunia's. They were fully robed in skirts and undershirts and general trousseau stuff, including stockings, and yet when they were stuck on the clothesline they looked like reckless creatures whose acquaintance one would not care to make.

The thing that worried Miss Petunia most was that Sim Wiggins, who owns the lot next to her humble home, built a grandstand on it, facing Miss Petunia's yard, and sold seats every wash day at ten cents a seat. The grandstand was always crowded on wash days by spectators come to see Miss Petunia's clothespin ballet, and it was not at all a nice crowd. The best society all stayed away after they heard what kind of a show it was.

It irked Miss Petunia almost to death to go out and hang up a towel and hear the loud cheers as she stuck the clothespins on the line. The audience got so it knew each individual clothespin, and when their favorites appeared and began to dance in the breeze they just went wild. And Sim Wiggins used to sell peanuts and lemonade, and parade up and down before the grandstand as proud as if he had thought of the show himself. It riled Miss Petunia dreadfully.

At last the crowd got to be so noisy that the city council met and considered the bad effect the clothespin ballet was having on the public. They appointed a committee of censors, and the next Monday the committee went around and censured Miss Petunia's week's wash and cleared it injurious to the morals of the community and ordered her to discontinue it. They said she still had the right to use nude, unadorned clothespins if she wished, but she couldn't bring herself to do that, and it looked for awhile as if she would have to discontinue wash-

ing the honor were under discussion.

"Well," said Mr. Rogers, "if I had been as long around Yale college as Prof. So and So I'd be president."

"No, Henry," retorted Mr. Whitney, "you would probably own the ground and the buildings, but you would not be president."

Mr. Rogers always told that story with a chuckle.

"You can print that, some time," he said to a reporter to whom he told it some months before his death.

Up to the Minute.

Mrs. Goslip—They do say that her husband has acquired locomotor ataxia.

Mrs. Charvace—I don't think much of those cheap cars; my husband has an imported one.

Matching His Feelings.

"Ragsby is very chummy since he started to buy a new house."

"Yes, so much so that he insisted on getting one with a swell front."—Yonkers Statesman.

NOTES FROM MEADOWBROOK FARM



By William Pitt

Why guess at things when it is safest to be sure?

The road drag is a good thing to keep going the year round.

Give your neighbor a lift occasionally. You'll feel better and so will he.

Be sure you lay in sufficient roughage for the stock for their feed during the winter.

Grain ration every day for the growing lambs. That means early marketing day and cheap mutton.

The right brand of gumption mixed with the best quality of common sense is sure to make the old farm pay.

A well-balanced ration is that kind and quantity of feed which will produce the best results at the least possible expense.

One way of cultivating the orchard is to fence them and then turn in the hogs, and after they have cleaned things up plow and cultivate.

The rainy days are godsend to the farmer not only because of the growing crops but because it affords him time for repairs and inside work which he would otherwise neglect.

A trip through the fields and around the place for the purpose of inspection rather than driving away at some particular task will help you to see many things which you would not otherwise notice.

What kind of watering places have you in the pasture? Look after them during the hot weather. Contaminated water supply means contaminated stock. Especially is this true of the cows, and the milk supply.

Mature brood sows can safely raise two litters a year and can be carried from year to year after weaning their litters, quite cheaply, with little or no grain after the spring litter is weaned until the fall litter comes, if they can have fresh grass or other succulent feed. We should learn to produce as much of the feed as possible.

New grape vines may be propagated by layering. Select fairly well-matured branches of this season's growth near the ground, place them on the ground and cover with five or six inches of soil at a joint. If the runner is long it may be covered in more than one place. Roots will spring out at the joints covered with earth within a few weeks and later in the season these new grape plants may be separated from the parent plants.

The well cultivated corn field will always give a better yield than the one that is neglected. Give the boy a good team and an improved sulky cultivator, and he will do more and better work than half a dozen men with hoes and will take a pleasure in having the work well done. When corn is half grown, put wire muzzles on the horses, use narrow single trees and set the teeth to cut about four inches in depth, by using the shovel teeth to throw a slight furrow to the hills at the fourth working, and the cultivator teeth at the fifth working.

The corn can then be thoroughly worked and the iron, pig and rag weeds cut out before they are deep rooted and the field put in nice condition for fall seeding.

Nothing will upset a calf's digestive system any quicker than a batch of cold milk when it has been accustomed to warm milk. The proper temperature of the milk for young calves is between 90 and 100 degrees F., according to Mr. Woodward. As the calf becomes older and its digestive organs stronger the feeding temperature may be reduced. But in any case milk should be of a uniform temperature all the time. It is well to use a thermometer occasionally to be sure that you are giving milk somewhere near the proper temperature. What has been said in regard to cold milk will also apply in part to sour milk. The milk for young calves should be sweet, but as it grows older sour milk or butter milk may be substituted without bad results. Milk should be sour all the time or sweet all the time.

The American farmer has yet to come to full realization of the value of leguminous crops. Prof. G. C. Creelmas, recently returned from a trip abroad, and in giving his opinion of agriculture as it is carried on in Italy, he has this to say: "In looking about to find out how the fertility of the soil was maintained in districts where live stock was not common, and hence farm manure was for from plentiful, I noticed that everywhere leguminous crops (or pulse) were the rule. I also discovered that in some form it was eaten every day by rich and poor alike. All the time I was in Italy I never once sat down to a dinner without being served with peas, or beans, or lentils, or some other variety of leguminous annual. I found also that the poorer classes consumed large quantities of pulse, it being used to a large extent as a substitute for meat. Where the Irish peasant finds his balanced ration in potatoes and pork, the Englishman in bread and cheese, the Scotchman in oatmeal and milk, so the Italian rests content with macaroni and pulse, and the land gets the benefit in returned fertility."

Cover the bread in a stone crock to keep it moist.

Sow a cover crop in the orchard after the last cultivation.

Dry and clean stalls should be provided for the calves.

The good idea is worth sticking to, but be sure it is a good one before risking too much upon it.

The crop of flies on the farm can be reduced considerably if the manure is kept cleaned up.

Manure put on the soil in big chunks is not readily incorporated with the soil and may do more harm than good.

A mixture of salt, copperas, lime and ashes is good for the hogs and should be placed where they can have access to it at all times.

With other food stuffs increasing in price why should not milk go up? There is not enough margin of profit for the farmer under the present scale of prices.

If there is no pasture for the ram provide a paddock in which he can exercise. It is a shortsighted policy which would keep him shut in the barn these days.

Look at the nuts on the buggy occasionally, and the other vehicles, too. Easy to tighten them, but mighty hard to repair the damage sometimes when a wheel comes rolling off.

Does every cow in your herd return you a profit? you cannot know unless you have tested the milk and keep a record of the yield. Use the scales and the Babcock tester. It is the only way.

If by careless handling a piece of farm machinery lasts you only five years when it might have been made to do good service for eight years or perhaps ten years, see what a loss your carelessness has cost you.

In discussing the feeding of cows, Ex-Gov. Hoard of Wisconsin declares that when the American farmer's wife, a few years hence, hands her husband the shopping list there will appear the following: "Chocolates for daughter Susan, taffy for little Bill, and a gallon of molasses for the cow! Cows like sweets," he said. "I feed my herd a regular ration of molasses every day, and I find that they thrive on it. It makes their flesh fat and their skins glossy. It gives zest to their appetites and helps their digestion. It increases the quality and improves the quality of their milk, for it puts the cow in a good humor, and a good humored cow is the best milker."

Wheat and oat straw have a value of about six dollars per ton for feed and four dollars a ton for bedding if handled right. Much straw is wasted from careless rickling. If possible put all the straw in one large rick close to the barn. The straw should be thoroughly tramped down, keeping the middle full. When the grain is threshed by a large steampower there should be three men at least on the rick to properly place the straw as it comes from the carrier. A large, high rick, well put up, and after it settles nicely topped off and wired down will shed rain perfectly.

Paralysis in swine most often follows over-feeding of rich nitrogenous foods to animals that are closely confined. Pigs do best when allowed a considerable range and not fed too highly. As this affection involves the spinal cord, it is not only liable to prove fatal, but is not, as a rule, satisfactorily treated. First, remove the cause. Cut down feed and allow plenty of range, and if not fed too liberally they will forage about and get exercise. Young pigs only partially paralyzed will often come right treated as above advised. Old animals will not often respond to any form of treatment.

Farmyard manure is weak in both phosphoric acid and potash, and these elements are supplied in fertilizers. While they may be used alone, it is customary to use them in connection with farm manure, which will practically mean crop insurance, and will actually prove so with sufficient moisture. Crops can be grown continuously on fertilizers containing all the elements of plant food. This was demonstrated at the experiment station at Rothamstead, England, where for 42 years wheat was grown on chemical fertilizer without manure and yielded a larger average crop per year than a similar section on which farmyard manure was used.

Sore shoulders can be avoided on the horses with proper care. No sensible driver and owner of a horse will allow his horse's shoulders to gall and become sore, because this is a danger that can be wholly avoided. The principal causes of shoulder trouble in horses are ill-fitting collars, the pernicious sweat pad and too low a draft on the harness. It is the urgent duty of every one owning a working horse to see that the collar is fitted exactly to the shoulders of the animal, and if this is done no evil-smelling and skin burning sweat pad will be necessary for the comfort of Dobbie. Many of the working harness outfits, nowa days, are not made with the comfort of the horse in mind. This is seen particularly in the placing of the draft in the construction of the harness, for in the majority of cases the point of application of the pulling force is fixed entirely too low down on this important part of the harness. When the animal is at work, the pull thus comes on the "point" of the shoulder where it is not evenly distributed over the surface as it is when it comes up a bit higher on the shoulder where the draft should naturally be applied. There is more muscular action near and around the "point" or lower part of the horse's shoulder than is noticed on the flat surface of the muscles that cover the shoulder blades, hence there is less chafing and rubbing against the face of the collar there. It is to the best interest of the horse as well as to his master that the draft be properly and comfortably placed.

Bags of Patent Leather and Others

There has been a new favor accorded to patent leather and many of the smartest new bags for practical use are in this leather. It does not wear so well as many other black leathers, but it has a brightness foreign to any of the other leathers, save morocco, a youthful air, and made up in attractive shape with lining of some gay color, it certainly deserves popularity, even if it does show wear rather quickly.

The patent-leather bags are in almost every case more effective than any of the other leathers. The details of the bags give them individuality even when shapes vary little and the last word seems to have been said in the matter of fittings.

For luncheon downtown there is a smaller bag (also used for matinee purposes), containing the indispensable vanity equipment, mirror, powder puff or cloth and possibly other items. It may have the little opera glasses and fan, too.

For visits a flat envelope bag or small handsome bag with handle is the thing if one carries anything in leather. A purse or bag of netted gold, silver or gunmetal is often preferred, but it should be large enough to hold cards as well as handkerchief, and if one is traveling by car a small change purse.

Lizard skin is considered a good skin for dressy occasions, but the leather workers are so clever in their use of dyes now that one may have a bag to match almost any costume. The very pale biscuit and gray tones and white are used for beautiful purses and small bags, often gold mounted and having precious stones set in their clasps. A new shape as shown by one well-known leather goods firm shows a succession of overlapping flaps inclosing separate pockets. This model has taken extremely well. Another well-liked model has its original note in the smooth, plain mounting of metal curving downward slightly in the middle, and in the plain metal handle, which seems a continuation of the mounting. From this same shop comes a bag with right angle double handle of leather, beneath which the bag is cut down a little, the sides being left higher. The flap of a small change compartment buttons down on the outside of the bag.

The young housekeeper, setting up her own establishment, sometimes finds it difficult to instruct the maid who serves the family meals to do the work noiselessly and properly. Perhaps the first principle to learn is that everything should be handed to the left side of the person who is sitting, which enables them to serve themselves easily with the right hand.

In laying the table one must have an eye to preserving balance with everything that is put on. That is, if a salt cellar is placed at one side there must be another in the corresponding place on the other. A fern or a dish of fruit or even an empty dish, if it is a pretty one, must always be placed in the very center. Around that are the extra forks and spoons, as attractive as you can arrange them.

In front of the places of persons who are to be seated there must be a plate. The knife is put at the right side and the forks at the left, the tines pointing up. If there is a soup spoon it goes beside the knife. The oyster fork also next to the spoon and knife, but that for oysters is the only fork that is placed at the right. All the others go to the left. If more than one is required, as for salad after the meal, the larger fork goes next to the plate. Spoons for dessert, whether they are large or small, are over the plate; that is, are across the top. The napkin should be folded with two points under and laid in the plate, a square of bread being tucked away in it if the meal is dinner.

Few housekeepers have more than the roast on the table these days, vegetables being at the side table from which they are handed by the maid, who returns them there after each person has been served.

If they are to be kept on the table one would be at one side, another at the other side of the meat, or two dishes might be put at the foot of the table. That is a matter of individual preference which each housekeeper decides.

The maid serving should wear a small white cap and a big apron with bib and straps over the shoulders and crossing at the back.

Quiet in the dining room is a thing that must be striven for by the maid. A noisy person is an abomination and the rattle of dishes and clash of silver should not be permitted.

Among Women.

"Why worry about the children?" "I can't help it."

"But, my dear, you are hurting your game of bridge."

Sure throat is no trifling ailment. It will sometimes carry infection to the entire system through the food that is eaten. Haines Wizard Oil is a sure, quick cure.

Faith.

Faith makes us, and not we; it and faith makes its own forms.—Emerson.

Lewis' Single Binder made of extra quality. Tobacco, more than ordinary. Cigars. Tell the dealer you want them.

Too often when the heart is willing the power is weak.

DR. D. JAYNE'S Carminative Balsam

stops pain immediately and almost invariably brings about speedy recovery. This medicine is just as safe as it is effective. Get a bottle at your druggist's, and keep it always in the house. For the children's sake, don't go away for the Summer without taking a supply along.

Per Bottle, 25c

Dr. D. Jayne's Expectoration is a reliable remedy for croup and whooping cough, coughs and colds.

Nebraska Directory

KODAK FINISHING

THE PAXTON Hotel

MARSELLES GRAIN ELEVATORS

TYPEWRITERS

W. Spiesberger & Son Co. Wholesale Millinery

Woodward's Fine Candies

THE LAW'S DELAY.



Hix—What's the best way to never settle a question?
Dix—Go to law about it.

CHILD HAD SIXTY BOILS.

And Suffered Annually with a Red Scald-Like Humor on Her Head.

Troubles Cured by Cuticura.

"When my little Vivian was about six months old her head broke out in boils. She had about sixty in all and I used Cuticura Soap and Cuticura Ointment which cured her entirely. Some time later a humor broke out behind her ears and spread up to her head until it was nearly half covered. The humor looked like a scald, very red with a sticky, clear fluid coming from it. This occurred every spring. I always used Cuticura Soap and Ointment which never failed to heal it up. The last time it broke out it became so bad that I was discouraged. But I continued the use of Cuticura Soap, Ointment and Resolvent until she was well and has never been troubled in the last two years. Mrs. M. A. Schwerin, 674 Spring Wells Ave., Detroit, Mich., Feb. 24, 1908."

Praises American Woman.

Alfred East says that American women, like American machines, need but little man power. The American woman, he says, is the most chaste woman in the world, therefore she is the most charming. Our excellent educational system, he thinks, is responsible for the fact that American women are such "good fellows."

With a smooth iron and Defiance Starch, you can launder your shirtwaist just as well at home as the steam laundry can; it will have the proper stiffness and finish, there will be less wear and tear of the goods, and it will be a positive pleasure to use a Starch that does not stick to the iron.

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