

BETZVILLE TALES

Grandma Pillbeck and the Tin Clock

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

In the death of Grandma Susan Pillbeck, which took place unexpectedly last Thursday, Betzville lost one of her most sober-minded female citizens, and by order of the city council a crane steamer was tied to the Pillbeck box in the Betzville post office. As there has been very little doing in the town since the death of Grandma Pillbeck, the crane steamer next to the post office supplied the crane at half-price. The crane steamer is one of Betzville's oldest and most enterprising mercantile concerns, and is conducting a successful sale all this week, in memory of Grandma Pillbeck, who used to dance there. Anyone expecting to secure in the near future should take advantage of this sale.

When interviewed as to the cause of Grandma Pillbeck's sudden demise, Orlando Pillbeck, her son, informed our reporter that she was simply worn to a frazzle. As he remarks in the graceful obituary poem, published on another page, right under Uncle Ashland Clute's hog and cattle sale advertisement: "Grandma Pillbeck has gone and went leaving to bed her strength it spent and wored her to a frazzle." In this connection we wish to remark that Ephron Cutz, proprietor of the Betzville Furniture Emporium, says that if Orlando had been a regular newspaper, she would have lasted much longer, these beds being bouncy, and more resilient than the flat bed on which Grandma Pillbeck frazzled away to eternity.



She Set the Hands at Six o'Clock, and Stared at Them for Ten Minutes

It seems that some years ago Grandma Pillbeck read in a paper that oversleeping in the morning could be easily avoided, and as she was a regular newspaper, she took the article to heart. It said that it was only necessary to get a clock, and before retiring, set the hands to point to the desired rising time, and stare at them long and well, and when the morning sleeper would unfailingly awaken.

Grandma Pillbeck got a tin clock for 34 cents and tried it. She set the hands at six o'clock, and stared at them for ten minutes, and then set the clock at the proper time and went to bed, and, sure enough, at exactly six o'clock the next morning she awakened. She was delighted, and she set it again the next night, and the next morning she again awakened at six o'clock precisely. After that she kept it up regularly, and it never failed. For about three years she stared at six o'clock every night, and awakened at six o'clock every morning, and by that time she had acquired the habit of rising whenever the hands of the clock pointed to six. She found that she had looked at the clock so often that it was no longer necessary to look at it before going to bed—whenever the hands pointed to six she had to jump out of bed.

About five weeks ago, while Grandma Pillbeck was sleeping peacefully in the middle of the night, she suddenly jumped out of bed as if impelled by an irresistible impulse, or, as she expressed it, "as if some one had kicked me out," and when she lighted her lamp she saw that the clock was pointing to six o'clock. She was pointing to six o'clock, and she was running too fast, but as long as she was up she thought she might as well stay up, so she did. But in three hours the hands of the clock had run around to six again, and Grandma

AMUSEMENT IN THE EVENING

Game of "How, When and Where" Can Be Relied Upon to Provoke hilarity.

"How, When and Where" is a rather amusing variation of the popular "Twenty Questions." During the absence of one of the players an object is chosen and on his return he seeks to discover it by the replies given to the three questions, "How do you like it?" "When do you like it?" "Where do you like it?" To each a sensible answer must be given. One question must be asked all the way around the company before the next question is put, and this disposed of before it is followed by the third.

Suppose the word agreed upon to be "chest." The answers to "How do you like it?" might be: "Healthy," "Filled with gold," "Three feet square," "To 'When do you like it?" "When I am breathing," "When I am sneezing," "To 'Where do you like it?" "In my bedroom," "In my strong room."

NOTES FROM MEADOWBROOK FARM

By William Pitt



Cash is a good buy word.

New wrinkles in farming show new life.

The milk must not be adulterated in any way.

Work done on the highway proves good by-pay.

Cabbages should be pulled and hung up by the roots.

Be sure the whole bodies of diseased fowls are burned.

It is imperative that sheep quarters be dry at all seasons of the year.

The guinea hen is much relished on account of the gamey flavor of the flesh.

The ram intended for use this fall should be pushed along as fast as he will stand it.

A regularity of good feed and kind treatment will make it unnecessary to drive the cows in at night.

The gasoline engine is doing more to keep the boy on the farm than a course of lectures, oral or printed.

Spasmodic salting is injurious to any animal. Keep plenty of salt where they can get it when they want it.

Apple pickers should remember that the least puncture in the skin of an apple results sooner or later in a rotten spot.

Keep the water in the troughs pure and fresh and see that the loft is well ventilated and your pigeons will not be troubled by canker.

Ducks and geese may be raised just as easily away from a pond or running water as with it. Plenty of drinking water is sufficient for their needs.

When a team of horses stand up to the bit in the same way it will be found they do more work with less friction than horses that do not work in harmony.

With milk above three cents per quart to the producer in most of the larger cities, and good fall pastures, it would seem that the dairyman's lot is not so hard after all, especially at this time.

Give the chickens plenty of range, plenty of water, and plenty of nutritious feeds during the moulting season and get them into the laying habit before cold weather. Starving them will not promote growth of feathers.

Many veterinarians believe that if cows are kept during cold weather, in buildings where the temperature is high, the milk yield will be greater than if they were kept in buildings of comparatively low temperature.

Labor-saving devices are appreciated more on the farm than ever before. It seems almost impossible to get help to do the necessary work, and we are obliged to farm differently and to use mechanical means instead of hand labor.

As pasture grass becomes short and killed by frosts, begin to give the cows extra feed, so they will hold up in milk. Taking the cows into winter in good condition, other things being equal, will mean a steady, high milk flow all through the winter.

Alfalfa meal is very good feed provided it is made from a good quality of hay. In composition it is nearly equal to bran. In 100 pounds there are 11 pounds of digestible protein, 39.6 pounds digestible carbohydrates and 1.2 pounds digestible fat.

When scraping out the decayed cavity of a large tree to be afterward filled with cement, as much care should be taken to remove every particle of decayed matter as a good dentist does to remove the decayed matter in a tooth before filling. Otherwise your labor is lost.

Nothing is better for poultry buildings from a sanitary point of view than a good coat of whitewash. Especially this is true when getting the poultry houses ready for winter. All may not be aware there is quite a science in whitewashing. There are different kinds, and each is adapted for a different use.

The lack of high-class dairy cows, the high price of grain and mill products and the difficulty of securing competent farm labor have brought great hardship on the New England dairymen who have been neglecting the production of gardens, fruits, poultry, etc., which should find a place on every well-organized farm.

Your cows will not get enough salt by simply putting a lump of rock salt in the manger. A cow giving a good flow of milk, well fed, ought to have two ounces of salt a day, an ounce in the morning and an ounce at night. We would advise you to give this to them on their ensilage when you feed ensilage and grain. You can take a small piece of salt in your fingers and weigh it and will soon be able to judge the amount in an ounce.

Work is the farmer's capital.

Potato tops are good for potato bugs.

Cow stables must be well lighted and ventilated.

Animal food is essential for geese and ducks.

Put the pighouse in good condition; winter is coming on.

A horse of quality will outsell a coarse grained one any time.

When the hen no longer lays in her nest, the wood block comes next.

Keep milk away from all other foods as it is a great absorber of odors.

It is poor policy to feed inferior grain to the horse—especially to the work team.

To produce their full milk-giving capacity, cows should be kept as free from disturbance as possible.

Hornless cattle are preferred by feeders and shippers, and they will usually pay a premium for them.

A horse which rears backward is never safe for riding. One can never tell when he will fall over backward.

Though exercise is good for the laying hens, we wouldn't advise having the dogs chase them for that purpose.

A cow that is a hard milker, due to contraction of the muscles at the end of the teat, may be cured, if properly treated.

Remember yourself when building poultry houses and plan them so that you may take care of them with the least amount of trouble.

The bruiser on an apple may not at once develop into rot but it will make brown spots which disfigure and lessen the value of the fruit.

Dairymen generally like cows with out horns. They are much easier to handle, there is less risk of their being injured and they take up less room.

During the busy fall days, don't forget to provide for the hen's diet as well as for other stock; while preparing dainties for the table, board up some for the hens.

Prepare the nests and place nest eggs in them, so the pullets will learn to occupy them. It is important that the pullets be early taught to lay in the nests provided for them.

Farmers with silos are inclined to feel and show greater independence than their neighbors without them. They say they don't care so much what the season is, they are sure of lots of good feed.

A new sheep disease has been found among flocks in central New York state, known as "gid," and is said to be the first case in this country. Gid is a brain disease, being a form of staggers and is often fatal.

The family cat needs watching. Cats prefer young chickens to mice or rats. Many valuable chicks have disappeared in this way and the cat looks innocent. After you have muzzled your own cat, then look out for the neighbor's cat.

After the wheat field has been plowed open up drains with the plow for leading off surface water. A few hours' work spent at this will mean the saving of much wheat from drowning out. There will be much rain between seeding time and harvest.

Nitrogen is contained in great quantities in the air above us, but it cannot be purchased and used with profit in farming, except under special conditions. Clover and other leguminous plants can draw all they require from the atmosphere by means of bacteria that live on their roots.

It is not possible to maintain our lands without clover and it is best to sow clover and plow it under. It is desirable to clip the clover two or three weeks earlier than it would be cut for hay and let it lie upon the ground, and this helps the second crop, which may be cut for seed; then the straw should be put back on the land.

It is interesting to note just how the cowpea crop benefits the soil upon which it grows and increases its productive capacity. In the first place it does so by increasing the supply of nitrogen, which it transfers from the air to the soil by means of the bacteria which live on the roots of the plant. This added supply of nitrogen serves also to increase the growth of the plant as well as enriching the soil during its growth.

The fight against insect, scale and fungus diseases in our orchards must not be dropped with the harvesting of the fruit crops. It cannot be hoped that you have, by your spraying operations during the summer season, killed all the scale insects and fungi, and doubtless during the press of work on the farm during the midsummer season the matter will have been neglected, or very little done, since the fruit was formed, and it can be depended on that there will now be on your orchard trees a fine collection of all sorts ready to hibernate and come forth in the spring stronger than ever.

There are still many potatoes to dig and root crops to be stored, and to be picked and packed, cider to be made and a thousand and one things to look after before cold weather sets in. In the central belt killing frosts do not usually occur until the middle of the month, and this will give the corn time to mature fully, even though planted quite late. While some cutting has been done the bulk of the cutting will not be done until near time for frosts.

For the Hostess

Chat on Interesting Topics of Many Kinds, by a Recognized Authority

Out of the Christmas jar. To make the department especially helpful, Mme. Merri will give the department to-day entirely up to ideas for the approaching Christmas season. The daily papers for some time have been warning us to make our purchases early, but there are always some who by force of circumstances or habit are late. For some weeks past every available suggestion for the holidays has been jotted down, hoping that every reader would in this way be able to find something for his own special need. Many of these are merely hints upon which to enlarge as each individual deems best.

The first of the spindle is a novel and jolly method of distributing presents, suitable for a Sunday school, club or a large party for children. Arrange a stage with a curtain, which, when raised, will show a windmill revolving with Santa Claus in his usual costume, but acting in the capacity of the miller. Swarming around in busy manner, Brownies, in costumes of the duder, policeman, the Irishman and the Indian, all dumping the contents of paper sacks into the hopper from which "Santa" explains the "gifts for all, both great and small, will soon emerge." As the arms of the mill turn, out of a big spout will tumble the tissue-paper-wrapped parcels, much to the astonishment of the spectators. During all this performance music played softly adds to the mystery, and the proper lighting of the stage is also important. To give a touch of seasonal interest on the top of the north pole, using quantities of diamond dust and cotton for the background and having two figures dressed as "Cook" and "Peary" as "Santa's" assistants. Just the right person must be chosen to impersonate "Santa," one who can keep a string of nonsense going and mystify the children.

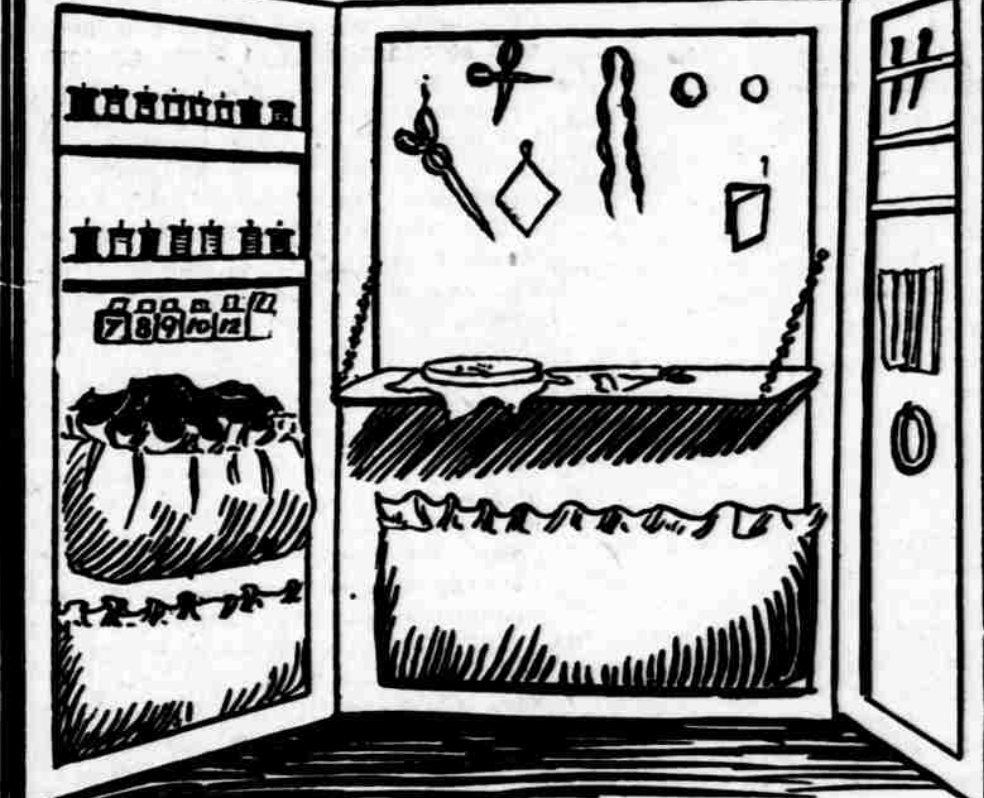
Jack in the Box. At a club party for children last year they had a big box on a platform covered with red cambric to which sprays of holly were pinned. At just the right moment Santa Claus appeared, saying he had an assistant this year who was so popular he just had to keep him shut up. He said all children loved him so that he was sure he would be recognized immediately. Then he unhooked the box and "Jack" leaped out with a spring, his arms full of packages; "Jack" is pushed down into the box with a great deal of difficulty and "Santa" commands him to look for more presents, and hooks the box, in a moment unhooking, when "Jack" springs up with more parcels. This act may be repeated several times.

A Post-Card Hunt. Most children are ardent post card collectors, so this party will appeal to them. There should be enough cards to permit of each guest having three or four when the final distribution takes place. Use ordinary cards, inexpensive, with a few colored ones, and a half a dozen with Christmas symbols. Hide them throughout the rooms, explaining that uncolored cards score one, colored ones count two points, and Christmas cards score three. Allow ten minutes for the hunt, then blow a whistle, which means that all turn in their cards to have the score made up. The Christmas cards go to the winners, and the remaining cards are divided equally between the guests, after reading of the scores.

MADAME MERRI. The jet button craze already shows signs of waning. Rough homespun is intended for motor coat and outing wear. The toque still reigns supreme for walking in Paris and is seen in wide variation. Kimono silks that have large watered silk blotches of blurred tints are fashionable. Fur is to be generously used on many of the afternoons as well as on dress tailormades. Smart tailored suits are being made of the new diagonals, which are very rich in coloring. The newest fur muffs are finished with dangling heads and tails that almost sweep the ground. The roll that has been removed from the pompadour allows hats to sit more firmly, and they will be worn very low on the head.

WELSH FANCIES OF FASHION. The jet button craze already shows signs of waning. Rough homespun is intended for motor coat and outing wear. The toque still reigns supreme for walking in Paris and is seen in wide variation. Kimono silks that have large watered silk blotches of blurred tints are fashionable. Fur is to be generously used on many of the afternoons as well as on dress tailormades. Smart tailored suits are being made of the new diagonals, which are very rich in coloring. The newest fur muffs are finished with dangling heads and tails that almost sweep the ground. The roll that has been removed from the pompadour allows hats to sit more firmly, and they will be worn very low on the head.

Sewing Screen



The sewing screens are in many ways the greatest comfort a sewer can have, for everything is ready to use the moment it is wanted. They are made with either two or three panels, covered on the outside with broadcloth, cretonne or some such firm material. The covering may be fastened on with brass-headed nails or finished with a gimp. On the inner side are the various pockets and straps to hold the articles used in sewing. The pockets are made of the same material as the outer covering, but with a little fullness, and are elastic in the top. They may be of any size one chooses. On the middle panel of a three-panel screen or one side of a two-panel is a little wooden shelf, fastened with chains at the outer corner. This folds up when the screen is put away and hangs in a horizontal position when in-use, serving as a table to put things on. Two little cross bars of wood have small spikes to hold spoons, and under these is a strap, sewed across in many places, to hold papers of needles. Over the shelf are a number of hooks on which to hang scissors, pincushion, emery bag, tape measure and other little things one needs. Another very useful article is a case for embroidery silks or thread, stitched in sections, the threads running through so they can be easily pulled out. This must be hung flat on the screen by its two upper corners. If a girl has a small room and yet would rather have a sewing table than one of these screens, there is a very attractive little mahogany table that will fit in any room. It is a perfectly straight square with two little drawers and four straight legs. Some of these little square tables are quite plain and others are handsomely inlaid. One great convenience in any sewing table is to have the drawers divided into compartments so that the different little things may be kept separate. When a lot of small things are loose in a drawer it almost inevitably follows that they soon get into a good deal of confusion.

NOT ONLY FOR BRIDESMAIDS

Intimate Friends of Prospective Matrons Are Also Invited to the Luncheon. The bridesmaid's luncheon given a day or two before the wedding is larger but simpler than formerly. Instead of limiting her guests to her bridesmaids only, the bride-to-be asks also as many of her intimate friends as she cares to entertain. Supposing there are from four to six bridesmaids and a maid of honor, these, to do them extra honor, are seated at a table with the hostess, and the other guests at one larger table if they number more than half a dozen. A Dainty Color. Biscuits—the creamy, delicate shade of old lace—is extremely fashionable now, and lace gimpes and yokes, as well as habits in this tint, are particularly good styles with cloth costumes for fall. If real old lace is not obtainable, a very good substitute may be made with ordinary tea. This tea should be quite weak and, of course, without milk or sugar, which would make the lace sticky and stiff. There has been a fad in Paris this summer for frocks of cream batiste trimmed with this bias lace, and the color is really far more softening and becoming than dead white. Novel Hair Ornament. A French jeweler has made an ornament which can be bound around the hair in a straight line, quite far down on the forehead. It consists of a narrow band of ribbon edged with pearls strung on a platinum wire. This band surrounds only the front of the hair, and is held securely in place by platinum wires, which pass through the hair at the back.

BREAKS GOLD IN A DAY.

This prescription is one of the very best known to science. The ingredients can be gotten from any good druggist, or he will get them from his wholesale house. Mix half pint of good whiskey with two ounces of glycerine and add one-half ounce Concentrated pine compound. The bottle is to be shaken each time and used in doses of a teaspoonful to a tablespoonful every four hours. The Concentrated pine is a special pine product and comes only in half ounce bottles, each enclosed in an airtight case, but be sure it is labeled "Concentrated."

Avoiding Popularity. "How shall we avoid popularity?" John Wesley once asked his preachers, and straightway gave them the answer in a set of rules. Here is rule 1: "Warn the people among whom you are most of esteeming or loving you too much." And here is rule 5: " converse sparingly with those who are particularly fond of you."

A Domestic Arrangement. "Bluster and his wife seem to get along very well together." "That's because they have sat aside one day in the week to do all their fighting. On the other days they keep the peace."

Nebraska Directory

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