

# BETZVILLE TALES

## Antipater Phipps and the Carp

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

Those who have seen Antipater Phipps on the streets of Betzville recently have noticed his sad mien and the eight-inch band of crepe around his hat, and nearly all have known his loss, but few know how deeply Antipater has suffered. About a year ago Antipater was learning to play the flute, and one evening he was sitting on his front steps with his legs crossed and fluting away for all he was worth, when he happened to glance down and saw a sight which surprised him. Just before him, on the walk, a fishworm, as we call them in Betzville, or an anglerworm, as they are sometimes called when spoken of at one of Aunt Rhinocollura Bettz's social functions, was standing on its tail, swaying gently to the sweet strains of the flute, on which Antipater was playing "When Johnnie Comes Marching Home."



It Would Hop Out and Love Up to Antipater until it Got Red in the Face for Lack of Breath.

the steps after him, but it did not have enough resiliency, or spring, so Antipater had to lift it up the steps. When Antipater went to bed the worm curled itself up meekly on the floor and slept there very soundly, for it was quite worn out, it had danced so hard. The next day as soon as Antipater woke he saw the worm, and all that day he played the flute to it, and so on into the night, but about three o'clock in the morning a committee of neighbors came in and told Antipater that if he did not stop fluting immediately and forever they would let him choose any one of 18 telephone poles on which to be hung. They told him that if he was anyone else they would not even allow him to choose the pole, but seeing that it was him, he could have his choice. So the day after that Antipater did not flute at all.

The fishworm hung around all that day in a coaxing attitude, just begging Antipater to start up "When Johnnie Comes Marching Home," but Antipater did not dare. He repulsed the worm coldly and told it to scoot, as we might say. For a while the worm hung about, hoping against hope, and then Antipater saw a sigh pass from one end of it to the other, and it started in a straight line for the creek and crawled into the water. When Antipater saw what the worm was doing he made a dash for it, but he was too late; just as he reached the water a big German carp dashed up and swallowed the worm. Antipater wept with remorse. There was nothing much else that he could do, for when a carp swallows a worm, it is, as might be said, good-by worm.

log beside Antipater, and they wept in unison, until Antipater's tears ran down into the flute and made it gurgle like a juicy pipe. Antipater did not know whether he loved the carp more because it was a soulful carp or because it was the last resting place of the dancing worm—he only knew he loved it. Sometimes he looked upon the carp as a sort of finny graveyard in which the late worm reposed, and sometimes, as the poet says, "The carpet on the creeklet's brim A simple carpet was to him," but he loved the carp more and more as the days went by, and made it his constant companion. Of course there were difficulties. The carp could not stay out of the water long at a time. It would hop out and love up to Antipater until it got red in the face for lack of breath, and then it would hop into the creek again and breathe, and when it had breathed it would hop out again, and snuggle up to Antipater. Often it showed, by its actions, that it would like to follow Antipater home, but it knew better than to get far from the water, and when Antipater went it would flap a few yards with him and then wave him a farewell with its tail and flop back to the creek.

About three weeks ago Antipater and the carp were sitting on their log, gazing at the sunset while Antipater played the flute, when a black and white form burst from the bushes. It was a dog, and Antipater saw it was foaming at the mouth. It would have been a easy matter for the carp to have plunged into the creek, but when the faithful creature sprang lightly between Antipater and the dog, by the time Antipater could seize a rock and kill the dog the faithful carp was severely bitten, but it made light of it and wagged its tail cheerfully.

Last Monday when Antipater went down to the creek with his flute he saw a sad sight. The carp, with glaring eyes and foaming mouth, was trying to flop as far as possible from the water, having the hydrophobic fear of it, and Antipater saw there was nothing he could do. If the carp was put into the water it would have a paroxysm and die, and if it stayed away from the water it would die for lack of breath. So Antipater drew out his flute and played "When Johnnie Comes Marching Home," and the carp arose on its tail and danced one or two wiggles and dropped dead. That same afternoon Antipater Phipps took his flute to the plumber's and had the touch holes plugged up. He says he will never play again.

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With delicate disdain  
As if her life was but a dream,  
Beyond this earthly plane.

Our rugged ways we all lament  
With genuine distress,  
She seems a childing vision sent  
Of fleeting loveliness.  
But half the salad she devours  
Would keep a man awake for hours,  
And frozen sweets, confections rare  
Are her persistent bill of fare.  
And still she fades until we fear  
Belinda will take flight,  
And only leave behind her here  
A haunting appetite.

Proof at Hand.  
He—Darling, you are the only girl I ever loved.  
She—I don't believe it.  
He—Then you are the exception that proves the rule. All the other girls believed it.

# NOTES FROM MEADOWBROOK FARM

By William Pitt



Trap nests are invaluable.

An egg's an egg—white or brown.

A permanent water supply is a good thing.

While a dust bath is a necessity be sure to have a good one.

Save some seeds in pots to ornament your windows this winter.

Squab breeding for market is but little over seven years old.

More half grown turkeys die from lice than from any other one cause.

The most profitable hen is the one that has the most style as a general rule.

It stands a man in hand to be a bit economical in the feeding of 60-cent corn.

It is all right to have a pet calf or a pet cow, but a pet bull is like a pet stick of dynamite.

Save one load of beets for your milk cow for the winter. It will help keep her in condition.

It will pay to fatten the poultry before selling. Good fat poultry is always in demand.

Butter stocks in storage are much less than one year ago. This will help to make prices higher.

The lambs should be dipped at the same time; for when the ewes are shorn, the ticks flock on the lambs.

Eight feet apart is the proper distance to set grapes. If they are mulched so that they are kept mulched every year.

To prevent the clutches on collar pads from rusting off, keep them painted, taking care to work the paint well into the hinges.

No good, capable man likes the idea of finding a new place to work every fall, and for this reason many dairy-men lose good hands.

A good way to improve your stock is to pick out a dozen or so of your best hens, mate them with the best rooster you have or can get, and raise chickens from them.

Never, under any conditions confine a breeding bull to a stall in the barn. He positively must have exercise and running with the cows is far better than close confinement.

Early in the spring, before the pastures are ready, turn the sheep out on the rye fields. The soil around the roots will be firm by the feet of the sheep, thus overcoming the heaving by frost.

Pork prices are not yet low, but have been going downward so rapidly of late that farmers are holding off on the purchase of the new male. After awhile they may wish they had bought sooner.

The demand for honey is increasing every year, as people realize its food value, and happy is the man who each year so looks after his little pots that he invariably has a handsome surplus of honey, which means money in the bank.

Never scald ducks or geese before they have been roughed, roughing a fowl is removing its coarse feathers. If geese and ducks are dry picked the feathers are in much better condition for drying out than when scalded, and, it is claimed, last much longer.

There is nothing in this universe that will continually give big profits without attention to details on the part of the owner, but there is nothing else on the farm that will continually give as big net profits as a flock of sheep when properly bred and cared for.

The grains are harvested and the barns filled with hay, clover and other roughage. It is now left for the careful farmer to look after his stock. Chief among these is the brood sow. Her value is too often underestimated and considering the present shortage of hogs it will pay us to give her more attention.

A box of salt and ashes should be accessible to the sow—want of these often causes the sow to eat her young when farrowing. When records show farrowing to be due give very little feed of any kind, but have on hand plenty of fresh water. By observing these she will rarely need any assistance in farrowing but a wise precaution will tell one to be on the lookout.

The ideal plan of handling the brood sows during the late fall and winter months would be to keep her in harness every day and to feed a ration suitable to the work horse. This does not mean corn alone, but a mixture of corn and oats, with possibly an addition of two or three pounds of bran daily. The grain ration need not be heavy unless the work is heavy. If it consists in hauling fodder from the field and in choring round generally, the average mare will go through the winter in good condition if she receives six or seven pounds of grain daily.

Sows need plenty of salt.

After the corn is out, what then?

Will anything turn the appetite of a crow?

Any good seed corn you save will be in demand next spring.

There is work in plenty all the while on the average farm.

If you think the creamery isn't treating you right, get a tester.

Few men curry their cows daily, but those who do say that it pays.

It is a mistake to feed the pigs sour milk when they are learning to eat.

There are no aggravating corn stalks in the manure when silage is red.

When properly taken care of, early lambs are more profitable than late ones.

It is a mistake to fall to feed pigs bone and muscle materials during their growth.

By setting a few trees each year it is not much of a task to replace the old ones that die.

Be sure that every farrowing pen has a good fender to prevent the sow from lying on and crushing the pigs.

The method of feeding and kind and quality of the food determines the flavor and nutritive value of the egg.

If the pigs are inclined to get too fat, put them out on the ground or in larger quarters and encourage them to activity.

Skim milk occupies a conspicuous position among the various feeding stuffs, especially for young and growing animals.

The up-to-date beekeeper no longer leaves his colonies outdoors all winter without adequate packing, as it spells disaster to do so.

As soon as the bare wood on a wagon, sled, hayrack or any of the farm tools begins to show, it pays to paint them quickly, and even more than it does to paint buildings.

Why do things on the farm in the same way as your father did without knowing why? Something more is wanted than mere mechanical performance of one's duty.

One of the best ways to quiet a vicious bull when he is being led is to blindfold him, and if he has shown the least disposition to be nasty he should never be trusted again.

The lamb gets its start in life from its mother. She must be a good, liberal milker or the lamb will fail to make the proper growth and development to make it profitable to the highest degree.

Out on the Pacific coast grain sells by the hundred pounds; wheat, oats, all small grain go by that standard of measure. It is the simplest, best way. The pounds in a bushel vary in the different states.

When the hedge has attained a height of five feet, it should be about three feet wide at its base or at the surface of the ground, and all pruning should be directed with a view to securing this form.

Cool cream immediately by setting it in cold or ice water, and never allow foul odors around places where milk or cream is kept. Keep a cloth cover over milk and cream so that dirt or sediment will not drop into it.

If you have had an incubator this past season, and did not obtain satisfactory results with it, carefully review your whole season's work and experience with it, and by so doing learn the cause of your several failures.

Although the present bright outlook for grain growing and comparatively high prices paid for it has doubtless given the stock business a perceptible setback in some of our newer stock sections, we do not believe the reversion is nearly so great as some seem to think it is.

It is impossible for the mind to comprehend the benefit that would be derived from the practice of pasturing a few sheep on every farm in the corn belt. If this could be done we would have a country without weeds and from my standpoint that would be the millennium.

If scores trouble the pigs give strong lime water to the sow and add it to the feeds. Sulphur likewise is very beneficial given in feeds or water. If pigs can drink give skim milk with lime water and wheat flour added. If too small to drink give four or five drops paregoric occasionally.

Hogs that have had access to plenty of green pasture are less liable to be disturbed by green or new corn than those previously kept in dry lots. Where they have been pastured on rape or green, succulent food of that character, the risk is greatly diminished. Pumpkins are excellent feed for hogs about to be put on green corn. They supply succulence, and their seeds serve well as a vermifuge.

Much has been said in the papers about "petroleum butter," and the curiosity if not the anxiety of the dairy farmers has been excited. Dairy Commissioner Foust of Philadelphia secured a sample of "petroleum butter" and had it analyzed. He found it was composed of 80 per cent. vaseline, two per cent. salt and 10 per cent. cornstarch. The rest was water. The sample looked much like vaseline and is said to taste like it. Mr. Foust decided that it could not be sold as butter.

## Hints For Hostess

TIMELY SUGGESTIONS  
for Those Planning Seasonable Entertainments

For Charity Entertainment.  
Entertainments for charity, both elaborate and simple, are engrossing the attention of society folk and catch-penny novelties are many and varied. A most attractive booth at one of these affairs is worthy of description; it may be carried out with very little expense, which is an item to be considered. It was called "The Morning Glory Fair." The space occupied was triangular, and the foundation of sides and front was constructed of bamboo poles. Interlaced over this was a bewildering tangle of morning glories in delicate lavender, pink, blue and white. The attendants wore thin gowns of these same colors with lingerie hats trimmed with wreaths of morning glories.

Under a large umbrella, which was completely covered with "glories," tea and wafers were served. Each guest was presented with a morning glory clipped from the trellis. These blossoms pinned to coat lapel and gown served to advertise "morning glory" tea. They were made of crepe tissue paper of various hues.

For serving cocoa there was a booth representing Holland. Delft blue, yellow tulips, wooden shoes holding ferns, and the attendants garbed exactly like the maiden on the cocoa cans so familiar to all of us.

Quaint mugs of blue were used to serve this piping hot beverage. A marshmallow floated on top and hot-toasted graham crackers accompanied each order.

Novel Handkerchief Shower.  
A most enjoyable shower was given recently to a January bride, which included the bridegroom and other men. The girls brought one "mouchol" for the bride and the men one for the bridegroom. They were accompanied by sentiments written on heart-shaped cards. After the merry presentation there was an informal little dance. There were just 20 guests, all intimate friends.

Authors Guessing Contest.  
The requests for contests come in with a regularity that would put the "little brook" of Tennyson fame in the shade—they literally go on forever. The correspondent who asks for a contest for her club may find this suited to her needs. It is not new, but so old that with the resurrection of all old things it may be strange; at any rate, give it with the hope that every one who may need it in the future will cut it out:

What a rough man said when he wished his son to eat properly. (Chaucer.)  
Is a lion's house dug in the side of a hill where there is no water. (Dryden.)  
Flirtins and fatterers have knelt low to kiss him. (Pope.)  
Makes and mends for first-class customers. (Taylor.)  
Represents the dwellings of civilized men. (Holmes.)  
Is worn on the head. (Hare.)  
A name that means such fiery things I can't describe their pains and stings. (Burns.)  
Belonging to a monastery. (Abbott.)  
Not one of the four points of the compass but inclined toward one of them. (Southey.)  
Is what an oyster heap is like to be. (Shelley.)  
Is a chain of hills containing a dark treasure. (Coleridge.)  
Always youthful. (Young.)  
An American manufacturing town. (Lowell.)  
Humpbacked but not deformed. (Campbell.)  
An internal pain. (Akenside.)  
Value of a word. (Wordsworth.)

## SILHOUETTES OF WESTERN CANADA

The man from Iowa began to talk land before the train was well out of the C. N. R. depot in Winnipeg. The talk began in rather wide circles. The rush to the land, the bumper crop, the system of summer fallowing pursued in the semi-arid districts, were all discussed, and then, with a sort of apologetic smile, the Iowa man said: "I'm a bit interested in this country myself. Some of the men down here got a few sections up here along this line, and I'm going to have a look at them. Never been up in Canada before"—it is curious how these mid-western Americans pronounce the name of the Dominion as if it was "Can'dy"—"but if it looks good we will be up to stay next fall."

"You see, it's like this," said the man from Iowa—quite manifestly continuing an argument that had been going on in his mind for some time. "Back in our State land has become dear. Anybody wanting to sell can get \$70 or \$80 an acre for it, and every farm that's offered is snapped up. In Saskatchewan we have just as good land that cost us \$11 and \$12, so that a man can 'take up five or six times as much there as in Iowa on the same investment of money."

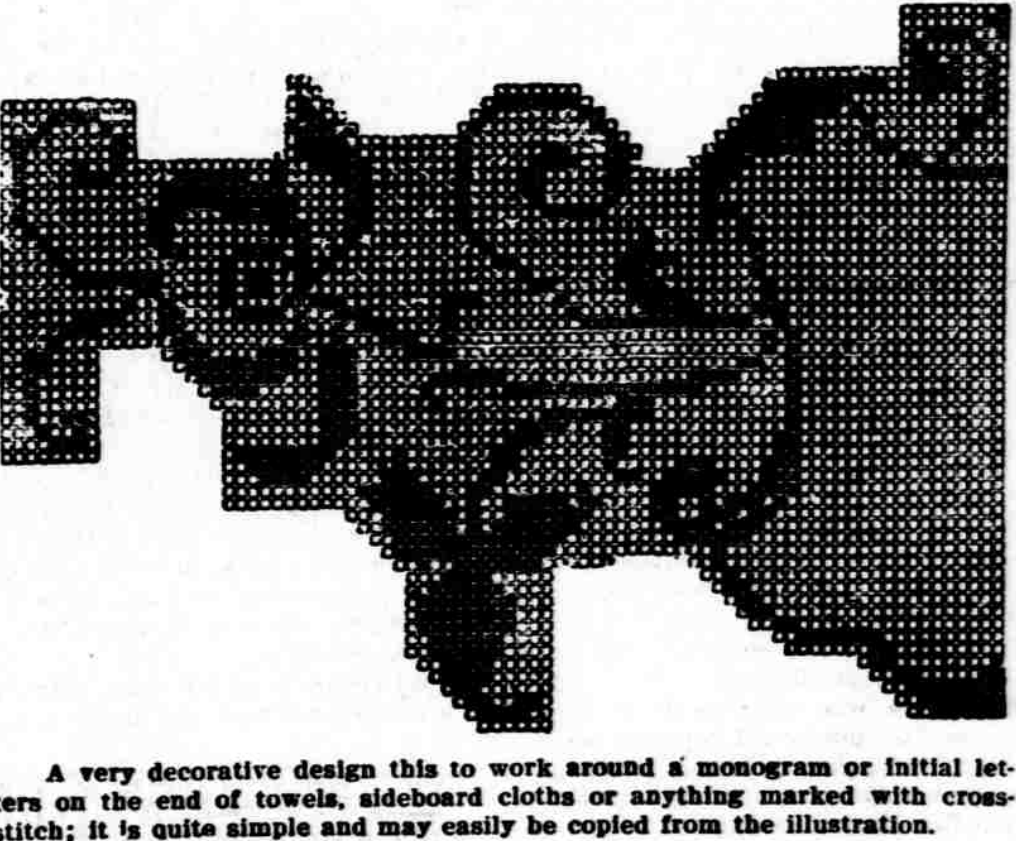
"It isn't the money, though, that brings most of us up from Iowa. I'm not sure that money would be enough. The 'invasion' is a family affair. We have no chance of keeping our sons around us back home. They have to leave the farm and go into the big cities of the neighboring States to get work. To keep us, we come up here and make little colonies with the children around us, on homesteads or bought land. This makes it easier for the farmers back there in Iowa to get land for the stay-at-homes. The families that come to Canada are kept together and the families that buy the farms they leave are kept together, too. There won't be any slackening of the rush, either, for they incline toward royalty. (Kingsley.) With my first I a berry disclose, My second's a tear of a rose. (Hawthorne.)

MADAME MERRIL

## FANCIES OF FASHION

Rat-tail seems to be supplanting soutache.  
This season probably will see but few hats in felt.  
Quills braided in gold and silver are a millinery novelty.  
Long lace sleeves are a feature of the deliciously pretty tea gowns for the winter.  
The general tendency is away from vivid colorings and few lustrous surfaces are seen.  
Among the colors that will be much worn are the blues, pink, brown and a great deal of green.  
Black will be much used not only in daytime, but evening toilets during the coming season.  
Newest skirts show a combination of the popular princess panel and the new fashionable plaits.  
The roll that has been removed from the pompadour allows hats to sit more firmly, and they will be worn low on the head.  
Jet Embroidered Hosiery.  
All black effects are so fashionable now that many new notions in black hosiery have come out. Sheer black silk stockings embroidered up the instep with tiny jet beads are the newest conceit in the hosiery line, and these jetted stockings are exceedingly fetching with high-beeled black satin, or, more modish still, black velvet slippers. The jet embroidered stockings are said to launder perfectly with no danger to the daintily wrought flower and bowknot patterns.

## Cross Stitch



A very decorative design this to work around a monogram or initial letters on the end of towels, sideboard cloths or anything marked with cross-stitch; it is quite simple and may easily be copied from the illustration.

## LIBERTY SILK IN FASHION

Will Be Worn Perhaps More Than Any Other Material During the Season.

A debutante of this season will wear a great deal of liberty silk. This is the identical fabric we have had with us for years, out of which we have made scarfs and drapery and even window curtains. It is London's famous material, but Paris produced it wholesale this year and has sent it out in numerous kinds of evening frocks. It is dyed in shaded tones, sometimes running from a pale red to a flesh pink, or a deep violet to a blue amethyst. It is an admirable fabric for the over-draped gowns of to-day, as it does not add bulk to any figure, no matter how much is used.

Many of the dancing frocks of this season have the modified washerman's dress tunic, cut longer than usual and rolled into a sash drapery below the knees, with a plaited gusset below it, back, with a plaited gusset below it. And all the dancing gowns are from four to five inches short, showing the

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