ACROSS THE DESERT

The Funny Things One Sees in Smiling Round the World

By MARSHALL P. WILDER

In Oklahoma we were stalled for a day in a town called Shawnee. The supply on our diner gave out and at this town we had our first experience with local restaurants. We went to the "New England Home Restaurant," so-called. We didn't dare sit down, for fear we'd never get loose again. The sandwiches were made of bread at least two and a half inches thick with a piece of cold fried beefsteak between.

We took a chance at the real thing in hot tomales one day. A little boy was selling them at one of the stations. Well, after the first bite, mine fell out of the window. A lean and melancholy dog made a dive for it, gave a sniff and, with a disappointed look, sneaked away, and I didn't blame him. He looked hungry, too.

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At one of those little prairie towns that seem to actually leap out of space, they come so suddenly into view, we found our cow in a shed by the station. We made quite a stop here and everyone got out. Several of the passengers wished to follow our custom and buy some milk, and some adventurous ones even essayed the unaccustomed feat of milking her themselves. I was offered the chance to try, but refused, having sore recollections of my first and last attempt to milk.

It was on my uncle's farm up in New York state, and I, wishing to do everything that a real farmer should, desired to enroll milking among my accomplishments. Being of tender years, and with the confidence that usually accompanies that stage of life, I entered the barn for my first lesson, with the utmost nonchalance, and gaily humming a dairy tune. I don't remember how I came out, but I think it was by the elevated. When I first looked at the cow she was all peace and contentment, but when she saw me she looked dissatisfied, and I knew there was a kick coming. She stopped chewing her cud and let it run down the loop—then, after a few minutes, she rang it up again, having decided upon her line of action. Later I discovered that I was on the line, and very near the transmitter.

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At the aforementioned Shawnee we began to get some entertainment from our misfortunes. A young man from California, one of those serious fellows, with a face like a deacon, but a fund of humor within, wrote out telegrams containing the most airy flights of imagination, and showed them to the anxious and perspiring passengers, who spent their time pretty equally between swearing at the management of the road and making the poor conductor's life miserable.

One of these telegrams was shown to me. It stated that the herd of elephants belonging to Ringling Bros.'

Wrote Telegrams Containing Airy Flights of Imagination.

circus, that was stalled 40 miles away, were to be brought over and take the passengers on their backs across the washouts, where another train would meet them.

Looking around to discover the author of this delicious fiction I was met by a preternaturally solemn glance and a comprehensive wink.

After that we pooled our energies, and when I think of what we made that trainful of passengers believe, not to mention the several other trains we were always meeting, for we were generally stalled seven and eight deep, I am astonished at the credulity of human nature.

We devised one telegram about a number of prairie schooners that were to come over the hills and take us by old Spanish trails far from the washouts. My serious friend showed the message, very secretly, to an excitable little German, who evidently belonged to the Uneeda Child company, for he had about a baker's dozen of small children, and a gentle, childlike faith that was truly touching.

We assured him that the conductor could let only a few in on this exceptional opportunity, as it would be impossible to take all the passengers. It would be necessary to secure tickets in order to get places, and he'd better do it now—and not let the conductor put him off—just insist.

In great excitement the little man flew to the poor, distracted conductor, and asked him mysteriously for tickets for himself and family.

"Tickets—what tickets?" demanded that long-suffering man.

"Ah, you know—you kendt fool me—I know all aboud it, mine frendt," wagging a knowing finger in front of his nose.

"I know that you must be crazy. I don't know anything about any extra tickets."

"Dot's all right. You don't want to led on, bud I haf been toldt. I wish to ged tigeds for dose brairie vaggons—vat?"

"You're crazy!" bellowed the exasperated conductor, to our unholy joy. "Who'n Sam Hill told you anything about prairie wagons? You've been out in the sun too long, Dutchy; go to bed and put ice on your head."

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The monotony of our trip was further varied by the arrival at one sta-

"Covered Her Head with a Blanket When I Pointed My Camera at Her."

tion of a lady of the peroxide tint of blonde, who smuggled in a small monkey and a large-sized flask. The monkey was hidden beneath the berth, so she would not have to put him in the baggage car.

The greatest excitement ensued; lightgear and lingerie (I trust I use the right word) were in great evidence. Everyone asked everyone else what the trouble was, but none seemed to know.

Finally the mystery was solved.

The blonde lady pleaded on her knees in very maudlin accents that the hard-hearted conductor would not send her precious pet to the baggage car; but he was obdurate, and poor Chico was banished to the accompaniment of his mistress' sobs.

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At El Paso we were stalled all one Sunday; but with the expectation of leaving every moment. A bull fight was on, over in Mexico, just across the river, but we dared not go for fear of being left by our train.

From El Paso we kept north across the arid table lands, the low hills, like crumpled, rusty tin, lying along the horizon. They are treasure houses of copper, those hills, and, every few miles, a mine opening may be seen perched high up on a hillside, a short spur of the railway leading to it.

Crossing the desert between Tucson and Fort Yuma, we ran into a sand storm. The fine sand sifted into every smallest opening and made breathing well-nigh impossible. Fortunately it did not last long. We had only run into a corner of it, and were soon out.

The desert showed us several of her capricious moods, for presently we were treated to a most perfect mirage. Apparently a lake or broad river in the desert, with little islets and rocks mirrored in the most beautiful, cool and wettest looking water imaginable.

Fort Yuma claims the distinction of being the hottest place in the union. A story is told of a soldier who lived there, and died. The night after his death his spirit appeared to some of his comrades at their camp fire. They asked him what he wanted, and he said Hades was so much colder than Yuma he had come back for his blanket.

It certainly lived up to its reputation the day we were there.

A number of Indians were seated by the platform displaying articles of beadwork for sale. They object strenuously to being photographed—thinking the camera has the evil eye, and while it takes their portrait will also steal away their soul.

However, these scruples can be overcome at the rate of 50 cents a scruple. Who says the commercial instinct lurks not in the breast of the Indian?

One old woman, who was said to be a hundred and four years old, covered her head with her blanket when I pointed my camera at her. For her entertainment I did a little sleight-of-hand work, making the pass with a quarter, pretending to swallow it, then picking it off her blanket, finally rubbed it into my trouser leg and made it disappear entirely.

I only succeeded in frightening the poor old creature almost to death. She clasped her hands in fear, made the sign of the cross, crooked her fingers to avert the evil eye, and, pointing to me, put her fingers to her head like horns, indicating that I was a gentleman extremely well-known but of unsavory reputation.

Leaving these interesting remnants of the great race that once owned the land, we continued upon our sadly interrupted journey.

Walking Dresses

The first costume is a very pretty dress in pastel blue face cloth; the skirt has a pleat each side front stitched nearly the whole length; from this two rows of silk oriental embroidery are carried quite round. The bodice has embroidery up each side, and a pointed vest of white silk embroidered with blue and gold tinsel thread. The tight fitting under part of sleeve is tucked; the upper part, which is full, is tucked horizontally on the front. Hat of pale blue felt trimmed with bows of brown velvet and ostrich feathers.

Materials required: Nine yards 46 inches wide, nine yards embroidery, seven yards sateen for lining.

The second has a skirt of gray plaid cloth with flounce of plain cloth at foot, above which is one of plaid. The coat is of the plain cloth with revers and under sleeves of plaid. As will be seen the cut is quite new; the front being only fastened on bust, shows a smart blouse beneath. Hat of gray straw trimmed with silk ruches and damask roses.

Materials required: Five yards plaid 46 inches wide, four yards plain cloth 46 inches wide, six yards silk for lining coat.

HUCKABACK WORK LENDS ITSELF WELL TO FANCY DESIGNS.

Huckaback is again as popular, if not more so, than ever before with the fancy needle workers. No wonder, after one sees the lovely bits of fancy work made with huckaback and tinsel. Some very pretty bags are made by using silver or gold thread to interlace the little huckaback threads and often the work is more artistically outlined with gold or silver beads threaded while the worker is outlining the pattern. Every style imaginable is seen in this work and many oriental patterns show a variety of colors with gold plentifully used in outlines. A dresser scarf was made with three tabs at each end, each end buttonhole stitched with pale blue silk and worked with eyelet. Above this was a six-inch band of pale blue mosaic design, outlined with gold. In the center was a triangle of gold and blue. Pincushions, chair cushions and practically everything in a cover design can be fashioned this way. Little opera bags are woven with silver threads and hung with long pendant silver threads and gold interwoven, with gold threads and gold beads, or black thread and gold beads. The heavy silk-like floss is best for the purpose and can be threaded with finer gold threads.

IN VOGUE

Girdles are empire at the back.

The spring tailormade is prettier than for years.

Coats are short and fit the form closely in the newest suits.

Sleeves, despite variations, generally are upon Japanese lines.

Metal decked evening scarfs are distinctly Egyptian in appearance.

Cretonne patterns appear on everything, from organdie to pique.

Skirts almost without exception are plaited in one way or another.

The plain coat sleeve is the only one used for the new short, tight skirts.

The touch of green is chic just now, and includes the kid slippers of rich laurel green.

Chip straw hats, it is said, again will blossom out. Just now leghorns lead. Coarse straws are more prominent than formerly.

A glorified rajah silk just out, seeking spring favor, has a satin finish and is in a two-tone weave.

French Girdles.

The new girdles sent over from the center of fashion are narrow strips of ribbon or velvet. They go around the waist from the center of the front, cross in the back, return, and tie a little to one side in a knot, whence the ends hang to the knees. It is a graceful style, but it will never suit women who show any signs of becoming stout, for the lines in front only accentuate the size of the hips.

Velvet Coats with Cloth Collars.

Nothing is prettier than the cloth skirt surmounted by a long velvet coat the same color. The skirt will have a two-inch band of velvet at the edge. For young girls dainty pastel shades are much sought after.

TO BE ATTRACTIVE.

Hair Must Be Kept in Perfect Condition—Arrange It to Best Advantage.

The secret of beautiful hair is in knowing how to make the most of it how to coax and coddle it into growing, and to arrange it to the best possible advantage.

It is the natural frame for the face and whether or not this frame is becoming remains with the woman herself.

A horrid, untidy, slipshod way of twisting up one's crown of glory will make the most adorable woman look like a cartoon.

Arrange it in fluffy, pretty, neat coils and it will change the cartoon into a picture worth photographing.

It is wonderful what terrible things a woman can do with her own head.

You think this when you go to a matinee and view the sea of mussy pompadours and crooked parts and wispy locks spread out before you.

Hairpins are falling, hair ribbons are dusty and soiled, straggly ends of hair are looking out to see what they can observe, while here and there is displayed the business end of a switch that has not been properly concealed.

Combs are set in crooked, and in many cases a head of hair looks more like a bird's nest than a coiffure.

To have pretty hair you first of all must have clean hair.

This means that you should shampoo it every two weeks.

The hair catches even more dust than the face.

It has a thousand little arms reaching out for it.

The Bordered Gown.

An original white frock of the "youthful simplicity" order struck a new note the other day, being worn by a golden-haired girl in slight mourning. It was a soft filminess of very fine white net resembling tulle, and both the upper skirt (short to the knees in front and apparently caught up at the back of the waist to fall in irregularly edged box pleats) and the lower one were bordered with a deep hem of black velvet, above which was embroidered in a jet running design of round garlands and ribbons, looping over and under a band of silver tissue laid beneath the net.

This idea could be varied and carried out in all sorts of colors, or in one or two shades combined with a white or ivory gown, or all in one pale hue.

The difference in material is often sufficient contrast; velvet on chiffon or crepe de chine, for instance.

Lace Gowns.

The majority of lace gowns are carried out in white, for a great deal of white is worn at the southern resorts, both in regard to toilettes and millinery, with ivory as its chief rival, but the lace gown is also conspicuous in colors such as raspberry pink and mole brown, a frock of the latter carried out in punched lace having beneath it a slip of ivory satin.

Serge Cutaway Coat.

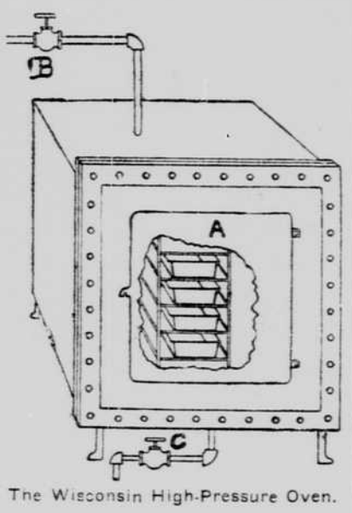
A successor to the covert coat, which long ago had its deathblow so far as smart dressmaking is concerned, is a serge cutaway with long basques, fastening with three buttons, and in either black or blue. This is a separate coat and will be distinctly modish with either tub frocks or tweeds and cheviots.

A METHOD FOR DETERMINATION OF WATER IN BUTTER

Process Devised by the Wisconsin Experiment Station Under Direction of E. H. Farrington, Dairy Husbandman.

The importance of knowing how much water the butter of each churning may contain is being more and more appreciated by buttermakers in creameries. They would like, if possible, during the buttermaking process, to take a sample of the butter, determine the per cent. of butter therein, and then vary the method of making the butter so as to increase or diminish the water content, as may be advisable. Very few creamery buttermakers are attempting to do this at the present time, but the number will undoubtedly increase in the future, provided a satisfactory method can be obtained.

The importance of this knowledge can easily be demonstrated. No buttermaker wishes to exceed the legal limit of 16 per cent. water, as such butter comes under the head of "adulterated butter" on which he must pay a tax of ten cents per pound. The buttermaker is also interested in making a butter which shall not be too dry, that is, contain considerably less than 16 per cent water, as a very dry butter containing eight to ten per cent. of water will have a tendency to diminish the churn yield.



The Wisconsin High-Pressure Oven.

If buttermakers can churn and work butter so that it will always contain something less than 16 per cent. water, they are undoubtedly well satisfied with their work, but when the water drops to ten per cent. or even less, the buttermaker is justified in making an effort to increase the water content of the butter somewhat.

There would be many advantages in taking a sample directly from the package of butter to be tested, without going through the somewhat lengthy and tedious operation of preparing a sample as described by the official chemists' method of sampling. A series of experiments have been made to determine whether or not it is always necessary to take a sample of butter as directed by the official chemists' method.

Samples were taken from a 60-pound tub of butter with a common butter-trier, which removes a core of butter through the entire length of a 60-pound tub. This trier full of butter weighs about 50 grams. Portions of ten grams each were taken from the top, middle and bottom of this butter-trier and placed in small evaporating dishes. Another trier full, 50 grams, was placed in a larger dish. These evaporating dishes containing the weighed samples of butter were heated until the water was driven off. The loss was calculated as the percentage of water in the different samples. A comparison of the results obtained from these ten and fifty-gram samples was made with other samples taken from the same tubs of butter, by placing several triers full of butter in a glass jar, then melting and cooling the butter, as described by the official chemists' method, and determining the water in ten and in fifty grams of this sample. The results obtained in these trials, as well as observations on the length of time necessary to heat the butter to drive off all the water, are given in the table accompanying this article.

The Wisconsin high-pressure oven is the result of suggestions made by G. H. Benkendorf, instructor, and K. L. Hatch, a student, connected with the Wisconsin dairy school. It has developed through various stages during the past year and as now used is giving very satisfactory results. Our illustration shows the oven with an opening in the door, A, so that the drying pans inside may be seen.

The oven is made of cast iron. The outside shell is about 12 inches square and the inside shell about nine inches square. The two castings are bolted together in front and the door A attached to the casting in the same way as the firing door of a boiler is hung. This door does not fit air tight, but simply closes like the door of a stove oven.

The temperature of the oven may be taken by inserting a thermometer through a hole in the door. A space for circulating high pressure steam is left between the outside and the inside shells or castings of the oven.

The oven is connected with a high pressure steam system by means of a three-fourths-inch pipe which is screwed into the outside shell. By opening the valve, B, hot steam is forced between the walls of the oven. The amount of steam used may be regulated by the exhaust valve at C.

The temperature of the oven is governed by the steam pressure and by the amount of steam used. The valve, B, is usually turned wide open and the supply passing around the walls of the oven regulated by valve C.

With a steam pressure of 60 pounds we have obtained a temperature in the oven of 280 degrees Fahrenheit; lower steam pressures give lower temperatures. By employing the boiler pressure ordinarily used in a creamery, a temperature of 240 degrees Fahrenheit to 280 deprees Fahrenheit may easily be obtained. This temperature is high enough to dry out all the water in weighed samples of butter within an hour, or even less, providing pans large enough to spread the butter in a sufficiently thin layer are used.

The oven has been in use at the dairy school for several months. Many comparisons have been made of results obtained by determining the per cent. of water in the same sample of butter by this and by other methods. A close agreement has always been found between the so-called "chemists' method" and this oven, when a reasonable amount of care was used in making the determinations; in fact, our work had led us to have more confidence in the results obtained by heating 50 grams of butter in this oven than in those found by heating two or three grams in a boiling water-oven which is commonly used in the chemists' method.

The larger sample, 50 grams, about one-tenth of a pound, reduces the effect of errors of analysis, and the higher temperature of the oven shortens the time of heating necessary to drive off all the water in the butter.

Per. Cent. of Water in Different Samples Taken from One Tub of Butter, and Time Required to Completely Dry Different Weights of Butter in the Wisconsin High-Pressure Steam Oven, Temperature 240 Degrees Fahrenheit.

Butter tub	Amount heated, grams	Portion of tub	Per cent water after heating					
			½ hour	1 hour	1½ hours	2 hours	4 hours	6 hours.
A.	40	A-Top.	17.1	17.4	17.4	.....	17.6	17.6
		B-Mid.	17.1	17.2	17.4	.....	17.5	17.5
		C-Bot.	17.0	17.0	.....	.....	17.2	17.4
B.	10	I.	15.1	.....	15.5	.....	15.6	15.5
		II.	15.1	.....	15.8	.....	15.8	15.8
	50	III.	9.4	.....	16.2	.....	16.4	16.4
		IV.	11.6	.....	16.0	.....	16.2	16.2
		V.	8.2	.....	16.2	.....	16.4	16.4
C.	10	I.	16.5	16.7	.....	16.7	16.7	16.8
		II.	16.5	16.6	.....	16.6	16.7	16.7
	50	III.	14.1	14.7	.....	16.7	17.1	17.1
		IV.	12.0	15.2	.....	16.6	16.8	16.8
		V.	10.8	14.2	.....	16.4	16.5	16.6
*C.	10	I.	16.9	16.95	.....	.....	.....	17.0
		II.	16.9	16.95	.....	.....	.....	17.0
	50	III.	15.2	.....	16.7	.....	.....	16.8
		IV.	10.2	.....	16.4	.....	.....	16.9
		V.	11.4	.....	15.6	.....	.....	16.6
D.	10	I.	.....	16.3	16.4	.....	.....	16.4
		II.	.....	15.7	15.7	.....	.....	15.75
	50	III.	.....	15.1	16.4	.....	.....	16.5
		IV.	.....	16.0	16.5	.....	.....	16.5
E.	10	I.	.....	.....	.....	16.1	.....	16.1
	50	III.	.....	.....	.....	16.0	.....	16.2
		IV.	.....	.....	.....	16.2	.....	16.4

*Sampled as directed by official chemists' method.

Getting Rid of the Manure.—The curse of the average stall-arranged cow barn is the manure. To avoid this, many are cutting out the stall and feeding from the side wall manger. This necessitates the abolition of the chronic boss. Most milk cows are now made horniess, but that does not do away with bossism. The practice of many is to feed while milking, teaching each cow its position at the manger, but it takes time to do this and then it is not wholly to be depended upon. Much the better way is to install a litter carrier. The barn can then be divided into stalls, each cow having a stall, then if necessary the different cows can be given a different feed.

You Better.—Better commence with five really good cows than with a herd of 20 that are best described by the words, "just cows." Burn this in a board and use the board in making a stool, or nail it to the door.