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My Uncle's Story

By A. B. SEARLE

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What a change half a century has made in methods of travel! In 1850 to reach New York from Cincinnati, then the Queen City of the West, one might go a part of the way by steamboat, another by stagecoach and the balance by canal. In such conveyances people were thrown together intimately, and lifelong friendships were often made. The passenger canalboat was the first to pass out of use, and there are few living who remember it as a method of travel.

It was in 1845 that one of these passenger canalboats was being dragged along by a horse on the towpath. There were no staterooms, only berths something like those on a modern sleeping car. Between these was the cabin, where the passengers lounged during the day and evening. At that time the professional gambler worked in the narrow channels of the period. He was on the steamboat, but did not disdain the canalboat. On this canalboat a portion of the bow had been curtained off, and in it were card tables. At one of these tables sat a professional gambler fleeing a youngster of twenty.

That youngster was my uncle, and I got the story I am about to tell from him.

He had been deputed to carry some \$3,000 from Pittsburg to Harrisburg. How the gambler knew that he had the money with him he did not learn. My uncle played with the sharper till he had lost all the money that had been given him for his expenses, then began to play with his trust fund. He quit at 11 o'clock at night, having lost half of the \$3,000.

The next morning was Sunday. A service was held in the cabin conducted by a clergyman slightly past middle age. My uncle was much impressed with his appearance and the fervor with which he spoke. His accent was that of the southerner. My uncle said that the clergyman attacked gambling, telling a number of interesting, many of them pathetic, incidents, in which some foolish person had been robbed of all he possessed. In these stories the speaker showed an intimate knowledge of all forms of swindling at cards. He was looking straight at my uncle while he talked and seemed to be speaking to him personally. Then my uncle remembered that while playing with the gambler he had seen the clergyman standing among those overlooking the game.

Notwithstanding that it was Sunday my uncle was eager to renew the play, hoping to win back what he had lost. He argued that to lose any part of the fund with which he had been interested would ruin him the same as if he lost the whole. Therefore Sunday afternoon he proposed to the gambler that they go to their curtained space for more play. The gambler, who knew well enough that the youngster would be after him, assented, and they were soon at play.

Of course my uncle lost steadily. His last thousand dollars was slowly melting away when who should walk in but the clergyman. He stood looking at the game for awhile, then said to my uncle: "Boy, you can't play with this man. He's a professional gambler and is playing with marked cards."

Picking up one of the cards lying on the table face down, the speaker, rubbing his thumb on it, said, "The king of clubs." Then, turning it over, his prophecy proved correct. In the same way he told the value of other cards. They were all provided with minute points that could be felt, but not easily seen. Then, turning to the gambler, he said, "Give the boy the money you have won from him."

The gambler put up a vigorous bluff. "What you got to do with this business, anyway? You're a parson and don't know any more about cards than a mule. You just get out of here or I'll find a way to put you out."

"How much has he won from you, boy?" asked the clergyman of my uncle.

"Seven thousand dollars."

"Give me what you have left. The only way I can get your loss back for you from this man is to win it at his own game. There's honor among thieves. He won't do it one way, but he will another."

My uncle turned over a few hundred dollars he had left. The clergyman sat down, a new pack of cards was brought out, and at it they went. At the end of an hour the clergyman had recovered \$5,000. At the end of the second hour he had lost \$500. At the end of the third hour he had regained all but \$300 of my uncle's loss, and in half an hour more he had won every cent the gambler had taken. He showed his winnings over to the boy he had saved from ruin.

"There's only one man that can get the better of me on any game of cards," said the gambler, "and I haven't seen him for eighteen years."

"Warren Phillips?"

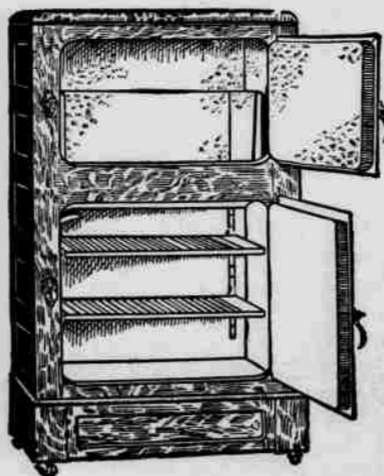
"Yes."

"That's my name."

The gambler looked at him in astonishment.

"Yes; I was one of the professionals in those days, though I never played any but a fair game. But I quit it and now look upon it with horror. I ran for years on the Prairie Belle and won a lot of money. It's all now in church-"

And that's the way my uncle was saved.



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JOKE ON THE BARBERS.

Corking Good Story Going the Rounds of the Press.

There is an old adage to the effect that one "must go away from home to hear the news." Here in Nebraska we never heard of the story about the Waterloo barber ordinance until we saw it in the eastern daily newspapers, and from there it has been copied into the weekly papers everywhere. Here is the story, date line and all:

"Waterloo, Neb., April 29.—An ordinance has been passed by the city council and signed by the mayor, and is effective at once, which, among other things, regulates matters relative to the cleanliness of barber shops, and then provides:

"It shall be unlawful for any barber in this town to eat onions between 7 a. m. and 9 p. m. No barber, while shaving a customer, shall insert his thumb or finger in the said customer's mouth; shall not discuss the gossip of the town and shall not use tobacco while working over a chair; shall not insist upon a customer having his neck shaved or his hair singed."

A violation of any of these provisions shall subject the barber to arrest and a fine of not less than \$1 for each and every offense.

Wouldn't that jar you? It's a safe bet that some of those Waterloo councilmen have gone against the "Dago" barber game. The breath of the average "Dago" barber is said to be calculated to drive a canine from under the intestine cart of a slaughter house.

THIS YEAR'S CONVENTIONS.

May —, Cincinnati, Ohio, Tin Plate Workers' International Protective Association.

May 11, Cincinnati, Ohio, American Federation of Musicians.

May 23, Buffalo, N. Y., National Print Cutters' Association of America.

June 6, Chicago, Ill., International Association of Marble Workers.

June 13, St. Louis, Mo., International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Iron Ship Builders, and Helpers.

June 13-19, Omaha, Neb., International Stereotypers and Electrotypers' Union of North America.

June 13, New York, N. Y., International Brotherhood of Tip Printers.

June 13, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, International Brotherhood of Bookbinders.

June, third week, Columbus, Ohio, International Printing Pressmen and Assistants' Union of North America.

June 27, St. Louis, Mo., International Union of Pavers, Rammermen, Flaggers, Bridge and Stone Curb Setters.

June —, Kansas City, Mo., International Journeymen Shoemakers' Union.

July 4, not decided as to place, Amalgamated Leather Workers' Union of America.

July 11, New York, N. Y., International Longshoremen's Association.

July 11, Pittsburg, Pa., International Jewelry Workers' Union of America.

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July 11, New York, N. Y., Interna-

tional Longshoremen's Association.

July 11, Atlantic City, N. J., Glass Bottle Blowers' Association of the United States and Canada.

July 11, Washington, D. C., Theatrical Stage Employees' International Alliance.

July 12, Dover, N. J., Stove Mounters and Steel Range Workers' International Union.

July 16, Springfield, Mass., American Wire Weavers' Protection Association.

July 18, Ottawa, Ont., International Steel and Copper Plate Printers' Union.

July —, Atlantic City, N. J., National Brotherhood of Operative Workers.

August 1, Peoria, Ill., International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

August 8, Minneapolis, Minn., International Typographical Union.

August 22, Detroit, Mich., United

Garment Workers of America.

September 5-6-7, Chicago, Ill., National Federation of Post Office Clerks.

September 5, Chicago, Ill., International Slate and Tile Roofers of America.

September 5, Boston, Mass., International Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees.

September 6-10, Louisville, Ky., International Photo-Engravers' Union of North America.

September 6, Bangor, Pa., International Union of Slate Workers.

September 8, Boston Mass., International Spinners' Union.

September 12, Kansas City, Kansas, Coopers' International Union.

September 12, Denver, Colo., International Union of United Brewery Workmen of America.

September 12, Philadelphia, Pa., International Union of Elevator Con-

structors.

September 12, Streator, Ill., International Brick, Tile and Terra Cotta Workers' Alliance.

September 13, New York, N. Y., American Brotherhood of Cement Workers.

September 19, Des Moines, Iowa, United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America.

September 19, Rochester, N. Y., International Association of Bridge and Structural Iron Workers.

September 21, St. Paul, Minn., Brotherhood of Railroad Freight Handlers.

September 26, Columbus, Ohio, Operative Plasterers' International Association of the United States and Canada.

October 18, New York, N. Y., United Textile Workers of America.

October 18, Detroit, Mich., International Association of Car Workers.

They're Here! A whole Carload of the "Free" Sewing Machines

We've been waiting for quite a while for this carload of Machines, because the makers can't turn them out fast enough to keep up with the phenomenal demand. This great demand is not to be wondered at though, for we never saw such a complete, easy running rapid Machine. It's everything the makers claim for it and we will back up every statement they make in their magazine advertising.

We believe this to be the largest shipment of Sewing Machines ever brought to Lincoln

Its Merits THE "FREE"

You simply can't afford to miss this chance to see its many points of superiority—the beautiful French-leg design the eight sets of Ball Bearings—the Rotoscillo movement—the Automatic Shuttle Ejector—the Rotary Spool Pin—the Automatic Locking Drawers—the Belt which can't come off—the Reinforced Shuttle—the Five Years' Insurance Policy, etc.

Furthermore, in order to celebrate this remarkable demonstration we are going to give the Women of our city a chance to join—



The "Free" Club

which we will start organizing in our store at once. We want you to "get together," buy Machines in one lot and so secure The FREE at a lower price than has ever been asked for a high grade Sewing Machine. This club plan also allows us to make you the liberal terms of

Payments as low as low as \$1 when desired

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