

Three Minutes Fiction Fun

SHORT STORY Majolica Vase

HARRY LANG had come prepared to spend fifty dollars for the vase. He sat nervously watching the auctioneer, the people, and the door and prayed that Marjory Higgins (that horrid spinster who seldom missed an auction, and always outbid him for his treasures) had broken a leg or something so she couldn't appear this time when the Majolica vase was to be put up on the block.

He strained his neck for the hundredth time toward the entrance. He wondered if her knowledge of antiques covered old pottery. Maybe not. Maybe his auctioneering enemy didn't know a Majolica vase from a beer mug. Yet the very thought of those snapping eyes and that crisp sanguine voice sent his blood searing.

"What am I bid for this Majolica vase?" A rare antique! Rarest thing in this room! the auctioneer's well-oiled voice boomed forth while his free hand gestured over wash tubs, brass shovels, and the tall worn carpet sweeper.

"Five dollars," Harry called out. The girl was nowhere in sight. "Thank you, sir, five dollars. Who will make it ten?" Thus the bidding proceeded until thirty was reached.

The crowd was swaying restlessly. Interest was on the wane. Harry took a plunge. "Forty," he finally said. Now the vase was practically on his hip, but the auctioneer held on. "Forty-forty— I am I am offered—who'll make it fifty," called a clear voice near the door.

Suffering cats! It was her voice. The crowd turned in mass to see Marjory Higgins make her way.

Up the aisle to a spot almost directly in front of Harry. She stood there, confidently, already picturing her proud exit with the vase in her possession.

Harry ground his teeth and muttered, "Sixty."

"Seventy-five" the crisp voice came back at once as Miss Higgins raised up and shouted, "Ninety."

"Eighty," teased the cryer. "Eighty I am offered. Make it eighty-five, Miss?"

The girl nodded. "Eighty-five." "Eighty-five it is. Now make it ninety. Mister, make it ninety. Don't let the lady outbid you."

Harry sensed that the crowd to a man was on the lady's side and were inwardly rooting for her, envying her sportiveness—so he raised up and shouted, "Ninety."

Now he had it. The auctioneer scolded and pleaded and begged but Marjory was immovable. She must be paying. She heard the "Going—going—"

Then it happened. Marjory Higgins whirled about and faced Harry Lang. She was trembling. "You cheap skater!" she shouted. "You penny pincher! It's not the money, but the gratification of the thing that burms me up. All this embarrassment over a measly nickel or two. Ninety cents—well, you don't get it for ninety. I bid one dollar. So there! And now that the vase is mine, I'd like nothing better than the privilege of breaking it over your head."

She stepped up to the stand and snatching the vase from the force-voiceless auctioneer, threw it with all her strength at Harry Lang's dome. Luckily for Harry he had made his record in football catching forward passes. A not-much smaller record in the force-voiceless auctioneer, threw it with all her strength at Harry Lang's dome.

"Touchdown," someone shouted and the crowd surged forward pushing Harry Lang until he was face to face with his assailant.

"Thanks, Madam. Thanks very much for the vase—the clerk will be along to collect your bid, managed as the crowd pressed up. And in the riot that followed, Harry edged his way outside.



Crem of the Tokyo Baby Crop—These robust Japanese youngsters are part of the group of 25 recently picked as the healthiest babies in Tokyo.

VOICE OF THE PRESS

Slippery Money Scientists are now making mercury out of gold. We hope this doesn't mean that mercury is going to become the new standard unit of money. The present one, as most of us have discovered, slips through the fingers easily enough.

Must Be Vigilant Small children who dash out from the sidewalk after a ball or in pure exuberance of spirits, often from behind a parked car, unknowingly subject themselves to great peril. Vigilant motorists on city streets always drive with this sort of emergency in mind.

Must Have Em Planning an overall party to publicize a novel's strike, members of the Vancouver 'Housewives' Consumers' League are presumably busy shopping for the most attractive overall they can find, at any price.

From Bottom Up The Massachusetts community of Newburyport has abandoned its month-old 10 percent price cut because suppliers failed to co-operate.

Letter Wait First Time saved by cradling traffic is often lost waiting for the automobile.

Radio-Minded The small boy who was taken to the country for the first time saw a spider spinning a web between two tall trees and told his father that a bug was putting up a wireless.

Neglected Language A Toronto educationist has let the cat out of the bag by referring to the "five languages now taught" in our secondary schools: It names them as Latin, Greek, French, German, Spanish. This explains why so many graduates have an imperfect command of English, which is apparently not taught at all.

Mumtles To Get Back Their Horses Return of the high-stepping RCMP mounts is announced. It is certain to win popular acclaim. With the force restoring more and more to the use of fast patrol cars and planes in tracking down the cause's "bad men", it had been feared that the highly-trained police horse was on its way out.

POP—Nothing Wasted THAT'LL FIT HIM! IF YOU CUT OFF THE TAILS TAKE THE PADDING OUT OF THE SHOULDER.

AND PUT IT IN THE SEAT OF HIS PANTS

By J. MILLAR WATT

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First Silent Plane Developed By

Aeronautical engineers have devised all known automatic devices to produce the first silent airplane.

One of aviation's major developments in recent years is the 200 experts, at Langley Field, for a demonstration, designed new ship.

Taken up about 200 feet, it made only slightly more noise than a glider. Its five-bladed propeller, which revolves at a slower speed than the conventional, is driven by an engine muffler designed to its "silence."

It was pointed out that the plane's noise is not only less than that of a glider, but also has brought a number of metropolitan fields being closed.

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By BUD FISHER

By BUD FISHER

By BUD FISHER

By BUD FISHER

Look First

"Where you going?" asked the farmer of his hired man, who had just borrowed a lantern.

"Carrying a lantern is a waste of money. When I went courting I went in the dark."

"Yes, and look what you got!"

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Headaches?

TAKE

Don't you ever people who never have headaches?

fact that some folks are free from them shows that there must be a reason why you get them.

found in faulty elimination. Poisonous waste substances accumulate in the system and the result is headaches and depressed feelings.

Start tomorrow morning with a small dose of Kruschen. Kruschen is highly effective in promoting a clean, healthy, and happy life.

Lucky Seals

The fur seal, says a naturalist, may have as many as 150 mates. And all of them sporting beautiful seal coats that don't cost him a nickel!—Stratford Beacon-Herald.

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