

CABINS ---and--- CATERPILLARS

Introducing the Unusual Mr. and Mrs. Rorer

By Eleanor Addison
(Dispatch Society Editor)

EARLY one morning, almost seven years ago, Mrs. Frank Rorer noticed a robin pecking at a fat, green caterpillar. Because she is loathe to see anything suffer or be killed, Mrs. Rorer substituted bread for the hungry bird's breakfast, rescued the caterpillar and put him on the kitchen window sill for safe keeping.

That evening when Mr. Rorer came home she immediately told him of the strange insect she had found and asked that he take a look and see if he could identify the fellow.

Casting his eyes about the sill toward which his wife motioned he saw no signs of the supposed creature, whereupon Mrs. Rorer hastened over to look for her curious find. Instead of the fat, green worm she found a huge cocoon inside of which the caterpillar was still busily spinning.

Immediately Mrs. Rorer became interested in the habits of these creatures that would cause most women to recoil in terror and today she is one of three women in the United States who raise moths.

ONE STRATTON PORTER, whose books contain references to the gorgeous moths which frequent the Limberlost, before her death compiled an entire volume on the habits and different breeds of moths and it was to this reference book that Mrs. Rorer often turned during her first years of moth raising. Today she is a walking reference book and has made countless discoveries apparently not known in Mrs. Porter or professors of zoology who have made studies of these insects.

INSTEAD of keeping her caterpillars in a box and feeding them leaves for food which soon grow dry and wilted, Mrs. Rorer breaks off long branches of the leaves preferred by the various breeds and by keeping the branches in water provides for her pets a pleasant place to live, safe from hungry birds, and at the same time assures them of fresh, succulent meals on which they thrive and grow fat. And fat they grow for when the caterpillars are full grown and ready to begin spinning, they measure about five inches in length and almost an inch in diameter.

RIGHT NOW she has only *telega polyphemus*, although in other times she has had three or four varieties, all spinning at once. Her family today consists of three old caterpillars, eight babies and seven cocoons. The old ones hatched out in April while the babies are about two weeks old.

It takes the caterpillar about two and a half days to spin his cocoon and once he spins there is no ceasing nor is there any break in the single thread with which he fashions his home, a home so tough that the amount of pulling will tear it.

THE *telega polyphemus* caterpillar is the most exquisite shade of bluish-green and has rows of tiny bristles or tubercles growing in rows on its back. These tubercles are blue, yellow, red and orange and give the fat green worm the appearance of a pin cushion stuck full of bright colored pins.

It has 16 legs, the end of each furnished with a minute blue brush, like the one on a vacuum cleaner, and with these he clings tenaciously to branches and his walk is for all the world like the lumbering gait of an elephant.

"SIZANNAH," named by Mrs. Rorer for the old song, was busy spinning herself into winter quarters when photographed for the accompanying pictures and there she will remain until next June, when she will emerge as a large beautiful butterfly with brown wings showing snow-like spots encircled by blue and black rings. A dusty, margined with pink, will be near the outer margin of both pairs of wings and over all will be a coat of soft, downy hair, visible only through a magnifying glass.

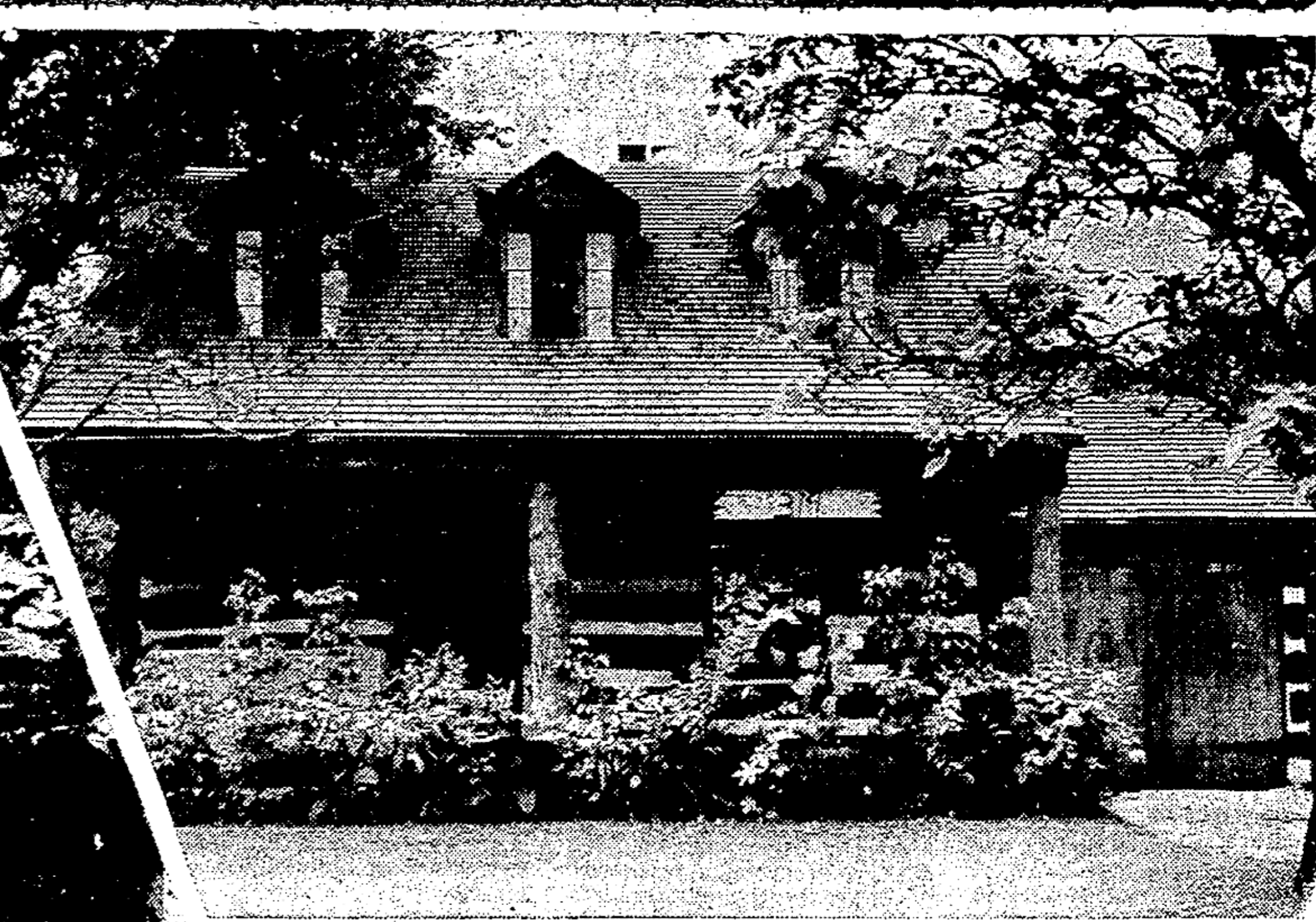
BUT our story deals not alone with a lady whose hobby is unusual, but with Mr. and Mrs. Frank Rorer, a couple whose interest in life and living has led them into paths rarely traveled by ordinary folks.

When at the age of 10, Mrs. Rorer sailed with her parents from her home in Germany for the United States, she spoke not one word of English nor did any of her family for that matter. She settled in Newark, Ohio,



This is how moths look after they have emerged from the cocoon. The tombstone marks the grave of "Pank," a 20-year-old canary.

Mrs. Frank Rorer, one of three women in the United States who raise caterpillars, lets her pets take a "stroll" up her arm.



The log cabin in which they live was built entirely by Mr. and Mrs. Rorer from 100-year-old logs.

kaboodle and when, by using boiling water and lye, he managed to scrape the layer after layer of paint from the boards that once had served as partitions in the tavern, he found himself the owner of some of the loveliest walnut imaginable.

SCRUBBING and waxing soon turned the walnut into panels as soft and smooth as satin and these the Rorers used to panel three sides of their living room, for the stairs and stairwell leading up to the second floor, for the heavy front floor with its old-fashioned bolt and hospitable latch string, for all window sills and for the little cabinet beside the fireplace which combines a place for Mrs. Rorer's bric-a-brac and writing desk. All the doors have hand-carved fasteners, similar to the one on the cabinet and three thicknesses of the walnut were screwed together to form the heavy front door, as well as the one which closes the master bedroom.

THE fireplace was built from rocks collected over a period of two years and broken to show the lovely colors. One rock on the right hand side has a natural pocket which Mr. Rorer left as a match container to please his wife.

Twenty tons of logs went into the little house and these the Rorers sawed, sanded, washed and stained themselves, a staggering job in itself. The logs are not nailed but are cut and fitted together just as they were for the log cabins of years gone by.

Mr. Rorer pointed with a smile to the long black hinges which adorn his garage doors and which he made from an old stove pipe.

"Not bad, are they?" he asked.

ONLY in the kitchen are the logs covered and here blue and cream plaster gives a strictly modern touch. In one corner an electric refrigerator stands and from the basement comes the purr of a washing machine.

These modern touches can be directly attributed to Mrs. Rorer who quite frankly admits that she loves the rustic appearance of her house but at the same time wants all the modern improvements that 1939 offers.

As she so aptly put it, "Don't

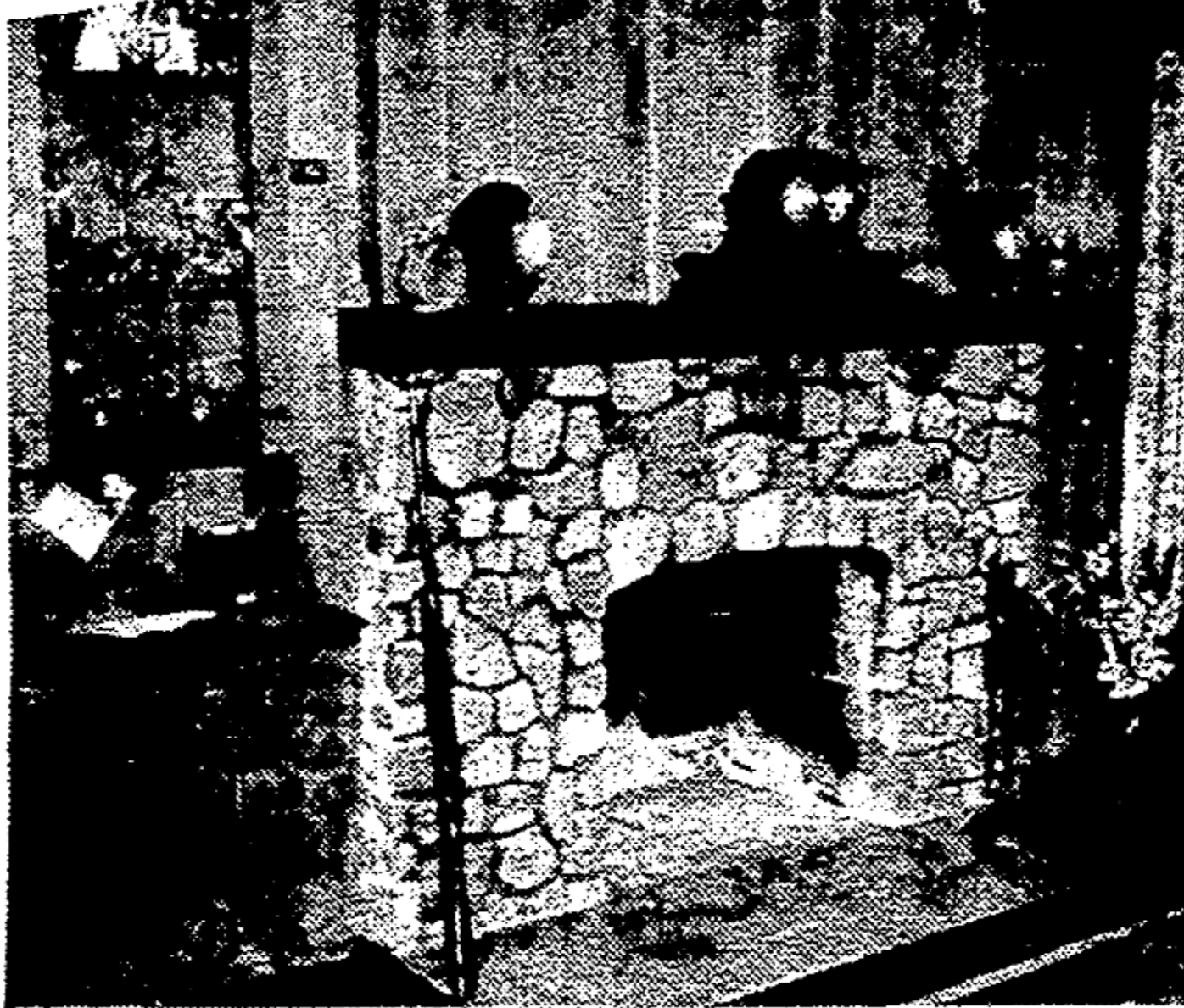
CONTINUED ON PAGE SIX

A tiny house built by Mr. Rorer of washing machine crates, was their first residence in their present location.



Mr. and Mrs. Rorer with "Bobby," their cat that eats corn-on-the-cob, "harmonica" style.

(Right) The old walnut cabinet and fireplace are two interesting features of the Rorers' log home.



Here is a close-up of a caterpillar spinning his cocoon.

once again, Mr. Rorer built a second house, this one of white clapboard, near to the little washing-machine model. And there they lived for a number of years during which time they planted flowers of all kinds and descriptions, an orchard with apple, plum, pear, mulberry and several other varieties of fruit trees and landscaped their whole tract so that it became a garden spot in a wilderness of weeds and underbrush.

THEN, just a little over a year ago, Mr. Rorer decided to build his dream house, one of logs, that long had haunted his waking and sleeping hours.

No architect did the Rorers employ, no contractor, no plumber or painter for, with the exception of the cement work, Mr. and Mrs. Rorer built 314 West Kanawha avenue themselves.

It was in Shadeville that Mr. Rorer found his logs where a tavern, well over a hundred years old, was being torn down. He bought the whole kit and

THIS washing machine house, built merely as a week-end haunt, later served as a refuge when Mrs. Rorer, nervous almost to the point of prostration after several serious operations, sought quiet and succor from city life within its small but comfortable confines. Mr. Rorer was traveling at that time so

for days she had the whole place to herself with no neighbors for miles and no friends to call but the birds and other animals who soon became her staunch allies.

When it was found that country life was what Mrs. Rorer needed to plant her feet firmly on the path to health

she and her brothers and sisters embarked upon their school career—not an easy task for a timid soul, but young Bertha was determined to speak English and learn she did almost twice as rapidly as any other member of the family. When still in her teens, she came to Columbus to visit an uncle, met and soon after married Frank Rorer.

ALWAYS interested in young people and having no children of their own, the Rorers gathered about them other people's progeny. Mr. Rorer is leader of a Scout troop and his wife as teacher of a Sunday school class consisting of 20 girls. These girls remained under her able tutelage until a year or two ago and are now all grown and married with families of their own.

Living in the heart of the city, but loving the wide open spaces, Mr. and Mrs. Rorer put their savings into a tract of land out on what is now Kanawha avenue, and frequently took the Scouts or the Sunday school girls out there for hikes and picnics.

At that time Kanawha avenue was nothing but fields and trees, no houses or roads having been built.

WORKING for a washing machine company, Mr. Rorer saved all washing machine crates and their nails and built his first house—complete in every detail with an open fireplace and built-in book shelves in the living room, a tiny kitchen and one bedroom.

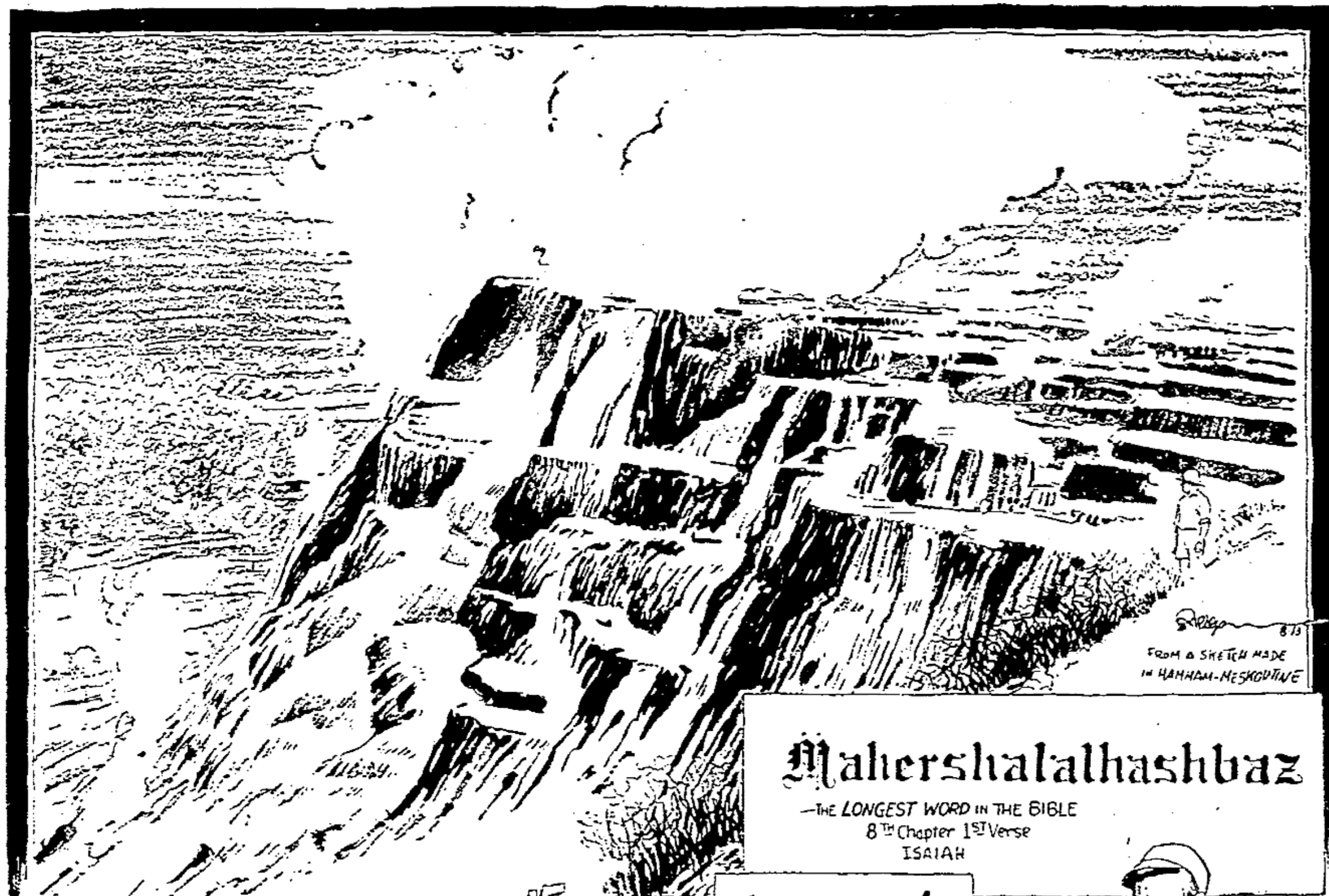
Originally the little house was used for week-end excursions and, feeling the need of some cool place to keep butter and

milk, Mr. and Mrs. Rorer set about to build a cave nearby. Deep into the cool ground they burrowed, hollowed out a room about four feet square and seven feet high which they triple-lined with brick.

Next they built three or four steps leading down into the cave, put on a door which lifts up to expose the cool, dark interior and presto! the Rorers had a refrigerator where butter and milk kept sweet and fresh, melons would chill and lettuce and other vegetables could be depended upon to keep their garden crispness.

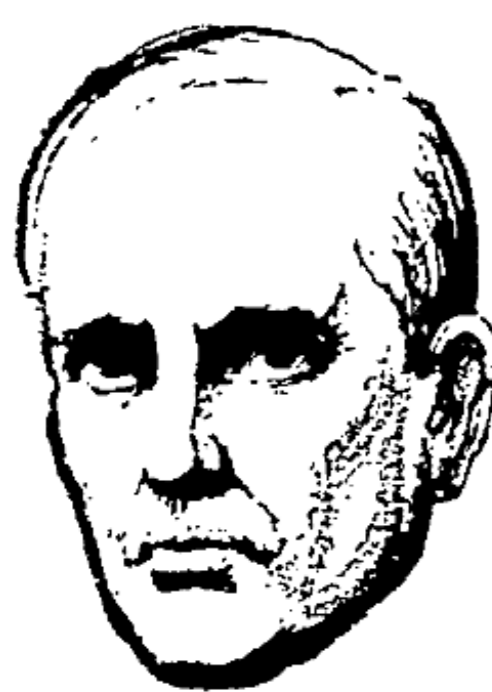
THE COLUMBUS SUNDAY DISPATCH

BELIEVE IT OR NOT--By Ripley



HANNA-MESKOUTINE STRANGE HOT WATER FALLS of Algeria THE BATHS OF THE DAMNED

SEEKING HOT WATERS POUR OVER A PRECIPICE CREATING A COLORFUL KALEIDOSCOPE OF LIME DEPOSITS - THAT LOOK FROZEN INSTEAD OF HOT!



A D HANNA AND HIS WIFE WERE BORN ON THE SAME DAY OF THE MONTH THEIR SON AND HIS WIFE WERE BORN ON THE SAME DAY OF THE MONTH THEIR DAUGHTER AND HER HUSBAND WERE BORN ON THE SAME DAY OF THE MONTH

RIPLEY'S "BELIEVE IT OR NOT" RADIO PROGRAM CAN BE HEARD AT 9:30 P. M. ON FRIDAYS OVER WBNS.

Mahershalalhashbaz

THE LONGEST WORD IN THE BIBLE 8th Chapter 13th Verse ISAIAH

THE HUMAN TOUCH SHORTEST CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN FATHER AND SON SON'S TELEGRAM - DEAR DAD AM BROKE - GEORGE FATHER'S TELEGRAM - DEAR GEORGE SAME HERE - DAD



PUP - WITH GREEN HAIR Owned by Miss GRAYCE NIELSEN Chicago, Ill.



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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

By Frederic J. Haskin

A reader can get the answer to any question of fact by writing The Columbus Dispatch Information Bureau, Frederic J. Haskin, director, Washington, D. C. Please inclose three (3) cents for reply.

Q. Please describe the Bonnie Blue flag.—S. P. A. The Bonnie Blue flag was made of silk by the ladies of Jackson, Miss., and is said to have inspired the famous battle song of that name. The flag was presented to the Hon. W. S. Barry, president of the convention that adopted the ordinance of secession in the house of representatives at Jackson, Miss., Jan. 9, 1861. It had a white ground with magnolia trees in the center; a blue field in the upper left hand corner with a star in the center. It was finished with a red border with red fringe at the extremity of the flag.

Q. Does a horse push or pull a wagon?—S. K. A. The horse pulls the load. Every pull contains some sort of a push and the only true pull is the force within a body under tension which keeps the various small particles of matter together. The horse may push on the collar, but eventually pulls the load since the traces exert a pull on the wagon, and the load which follow the horse.

Q. Are lemons a health-giving food?—H. G. A. They are valuable in the diet as a source of vitamins and contribute to the needed mineral supplies of calcium, phosphorus, and potassium. Despite their acid taste, they produce an alkaline reaction in the body and stimulate the appetite, promoting digestion.

Q. What is Ohm's law?—J. G. R. A. Ohm's law states essentially that, with respect to an electric current flowing along a conductor, the electromotive force (in volts) is equal numerically to the product of the current strength (in amperes) and the resistance (in ohms).

Q. How much mail is handled by the New York city post office?—D. S. R. A. The New York post office handles on an average 14,500,000 pieces of ordinary mail every day; about 260,000 pounds of newspapers and periodicals; and approximately 72,000 parcel post packages.

Q. What country was the first to establish minimum wages?—J. H. F. A. The leader in legislation to establish minimum wages was New Zealand in 1894.

Q. Where was the first skyscraper in the United States?—L. M. H. A. The first skyscraper was the Home Insurance building, erected in Chicago in 1883.

Q. How many pores are there in the body?—K. G. D. A. The number of pores in the body has been estimated at more than two billion.

Q. Was parsley ever used as funeral decoration?—C. L. M. A. The Greeks used the herb as a decoration at funerals and the expression "To be in need of parsley" meant to be at death's door.

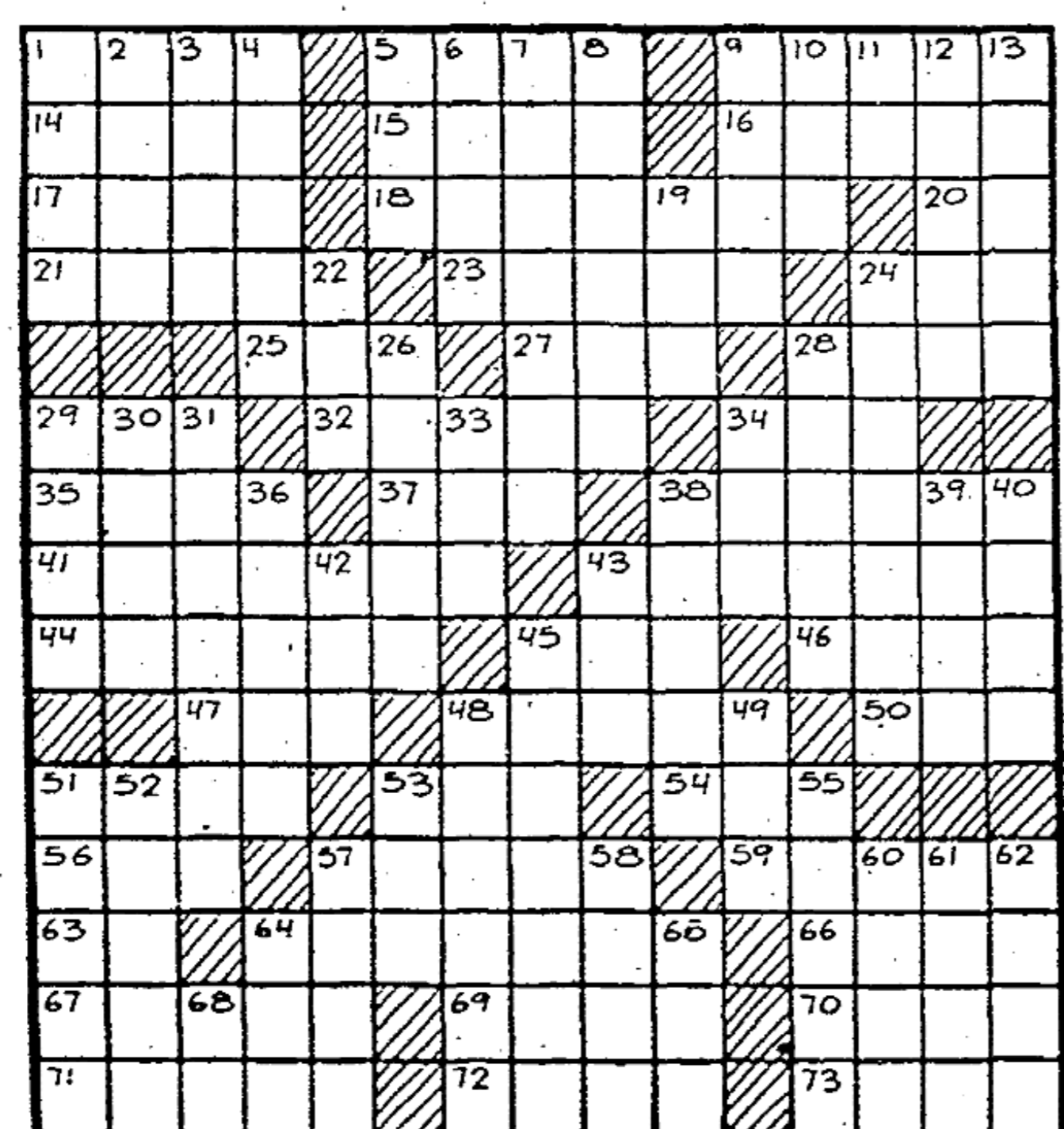
Q. What are the highest awards given to men in the United States army?—L. C. B. A. The three highest awards available to men in the service are the Congressional Medal of Honor, the Distinguished Service Cross, and the Distinguished Service Medal.

Q. What is the lowest body of water in the world?—K. C. B. A. It is the Dead sea in Palestine which lies 1290 feet below sea level.

Q. How much mileage can you get from a front tire on a bicycle?—H. B. S. A. A front tire on a bicycle is good for about 5000 miles.

Q. What are the names of Donald Duck's nephews?—E. S. T. A. They are Louie, Huey and Dewey.

Crossword Puzzle



- HORIZONTAL: 1-Counterfeit, 2-Sleeveless garments, 3-Fruits, 14-Sport played on horse-back, 15-Sound accompanying normal breathing, 16-Who is the first high priest mentioned in the Bible?, 17-Wings, 18-Clearness, 19-Artificial language, 21-Meaning, 22-Preparation for publication, 24-On behalf of, 25-Being, 27-English river, 28-Ascend, 29-Dance step, 32-What senator became president of the Confederacy?, 34-Transgress, 35-Greek god of war, 37-Hermitic being, 39-Exaggerated band, 41-What English traveler led an unsuccessful expedition for the relief of Dr. Livingston?, 43-Small town, 44-Lower groups of the animal acts, 45-Evil, 46-Feminine name, 47-Spread for drying, 48-Instrument for measuring, 50-Female of an animal, 51-State, 52-Prohibition, 53-Subject to pressure, 54-Friction, 56-Thing; in law, 57-Requirements, 59-Domesticated, 63-Peek; not, 64-More distant, 65-Who was the first child of English parents born in the New world? Virginia, 67-Penetrate, 68-Crippled, 70-Silkworm, 71-Cradle, 72-Eject, 73-Cozy retreat, 1-Mineral springs, 2-Cavity, 3-Masculine name, 4-Who was the inventor of the telegraph?, 5-Part of a curved line, 6-Round, 7-What youth in the "Arabian Nights" had a magic lamp?, 8-Succession, 9-Strikes lightly, 10-Place, 11-Birthplace of Abraham, 12-Members of a warlike Mohammedan tribe, 13-Frontal protuberance, 15-Sort; citizen of, 16-Note of the scale, 24-Of what country is Heliopolis the capital?, 25-Valley is another name for Navigator's Islands?, 26-Valley on the moon's surface, 29-Acrescent, 30-Sandwich tree, 31-Descendant of Shem, 32-Vehicle, 34-Sun, 35-Separate, 36-Beverage, 38-Percentage paid for exchange of currency, 40-Couplet, 42-Free from something obnoxious, 43-Cister, 44-What political economist was the father of the Utilitarians?, 45-Cloak, 48-Track worn by wheels, 51-What constellation is between Pegasus and Taurus?, 52-Who wrote "Michael Strogoff"?, 53-Legal protection, 54-In what German state is the Black Forest?, 55-Food, 57-Prefix; hair, 58-Female horse, 61-Who was the Greek goddess of discord?, 62-Usher to one's place, 63-Dark headpiece, 65-Innumerate, 66-Note of the scale

Hot-Weather Dishes

In the season of lighter lunches and suppers, outdoor meals and picnics, this collection of 300 tested recipes for salads, sandwiches, hors d'oeuvres and appetizers will prove especially useful. You will be surprised how many delightful things, especially suitable for the season, can be made economically from materials usually on hand in the kitchen. Make hot weather menus attractive, diversified and appetizing, as well as healthful, by giving them the variety suggested in this 64-page booklet. Send your name and address with 15 cents in coin (carefully wrapped) to The Columbus Dispatch Information Bureau, Frederic J. Haskin, Director, Washington, D. C., and your copy will come to you promptly.

CABINS AND CATERPILLARS—THE STORY OF THE RORERS

AUGUST 13, 1939

CONTINUED FROM PAGE FIVE you know that the pioneers, who lived in log cabins, like this, would have had refrigerators and washing machines if they could? Well, we can, so why not?"

lumbus people had, as children, washed their grimy hands and face in its now pristine confines.

AND so, in many ways the Rorers' dream house is a perfect anachronism. Hot water heat assures them of a warm pleasant winter, casement windows set in hundred-year-old walnut panels keep out the cold and rain and a model bathroom has taken the place of the old tin tub which had to be filled with kettles of boiling water for Saturday night ablutions, and yet over all hovers the quaintness and charm of an early American abode.

Mr. Rorer laughingly acknowledged that his marble topped wash-bowl was bought from old North high school and mildly wondered how many Co-

lumbus people had, as children, washed their grimy hands and face in its now pristine confines.

Several years ago someone sent Mrs. Rorer some pecans from the South and two of the nuts she planted. Today she has two pecan trees which have weathered two Columbus winters, an unusual feat, according to authorities on the subject.

In the garden also are two persimmon trees, planted from seeds, and until this last winter they had two tangerine trees, but lost those during one of Mrs. Rorer's illnesses when she couldn't care for them personally.

Two pet quail, hearing the noise, come out to get their share of the feast and soon a soft "meow" proclaims that "Bobby," a huge red and white Persian cat feels that he is being left out of the party.

"All right, Bobby," laughs Mrs. Rorer, "stand up and you shall have your dinner." Up go Bobby's front paws and Mrs. Rorer hands him an ear of boiled corn, which he proceeds to eat up and down the ear, even as you and I.

ALL over the neighborhood which has built up considerably since the Rorers first bought their tract of land, children of all ages with brushes and broken pets for the little lady of the log house to make well.

And no day is too busy, no hour too late for this small quiet woman to do what she can.

A tiny meadow lark, found by some friend and dying because it was too young to know how to eat, Mrs. Rorer nursed back to life by letting it peck bread from between her lips.

She admits that at first the idea was a bit distasteful but the bird was dying so washing his bill she held him up to her mouth and immediately the tiny creature began weakly pecking at her lips.

AND so it goes, if it isn't a hungry bird or a stray dog or cat to be fed or nursed, it is logs, trees to be sprayed, worms to be tended—hundreds of things to fill the waking hours of Mrs. Rorer and Mrs. Frank Rorer send them to bed dreaming of new fields to conquer.

STAMP NOTES

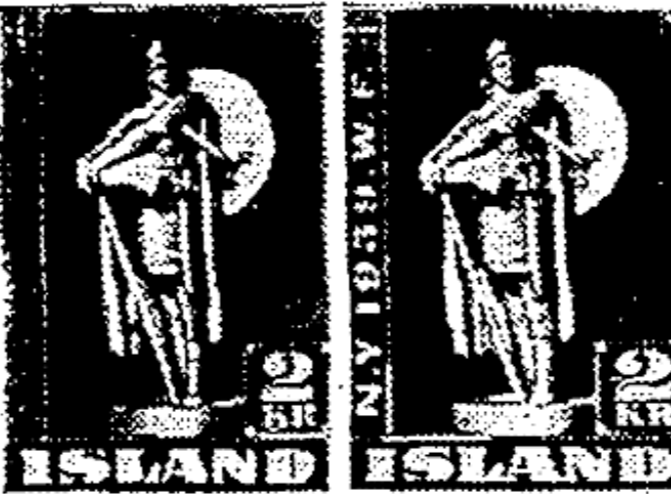
LITTLE ICELAND has issued stamps to remind the world of her claimed role in discovering America. And apparently she's gotten mixed up about her issues.

The stamps bear a portrait of the explorer, Thorfinn Karlsefni, who is supposed to have taken 160 settlers to colonize American land which Leif Ericson is said to have discovered around 1000 A. D. Icelandic legend has it that Karlsefni's group tried to settle

FAR back in the garden, under a huge weeping willow tree, stands a small tombstone with "Pank" carved on it. Beneath the stone is buried a canary which lived for 20 years as a member of the Rorer family and learned to "talk" with his mistress, shake hands and do all manner of tricks.

Right now Mrs. Rorer has two pet cat birds who answer her call of Kum Weider (German for come again), with answering call of Kum Weider which is perfectly understandable to even the most skeptical.

HER "DEARIE" brings forth a clear "Dearie" from one of the birds and both fly down to perch on her shoulders for their daily ration of bread or whatever delicacy the Rorer table affords.



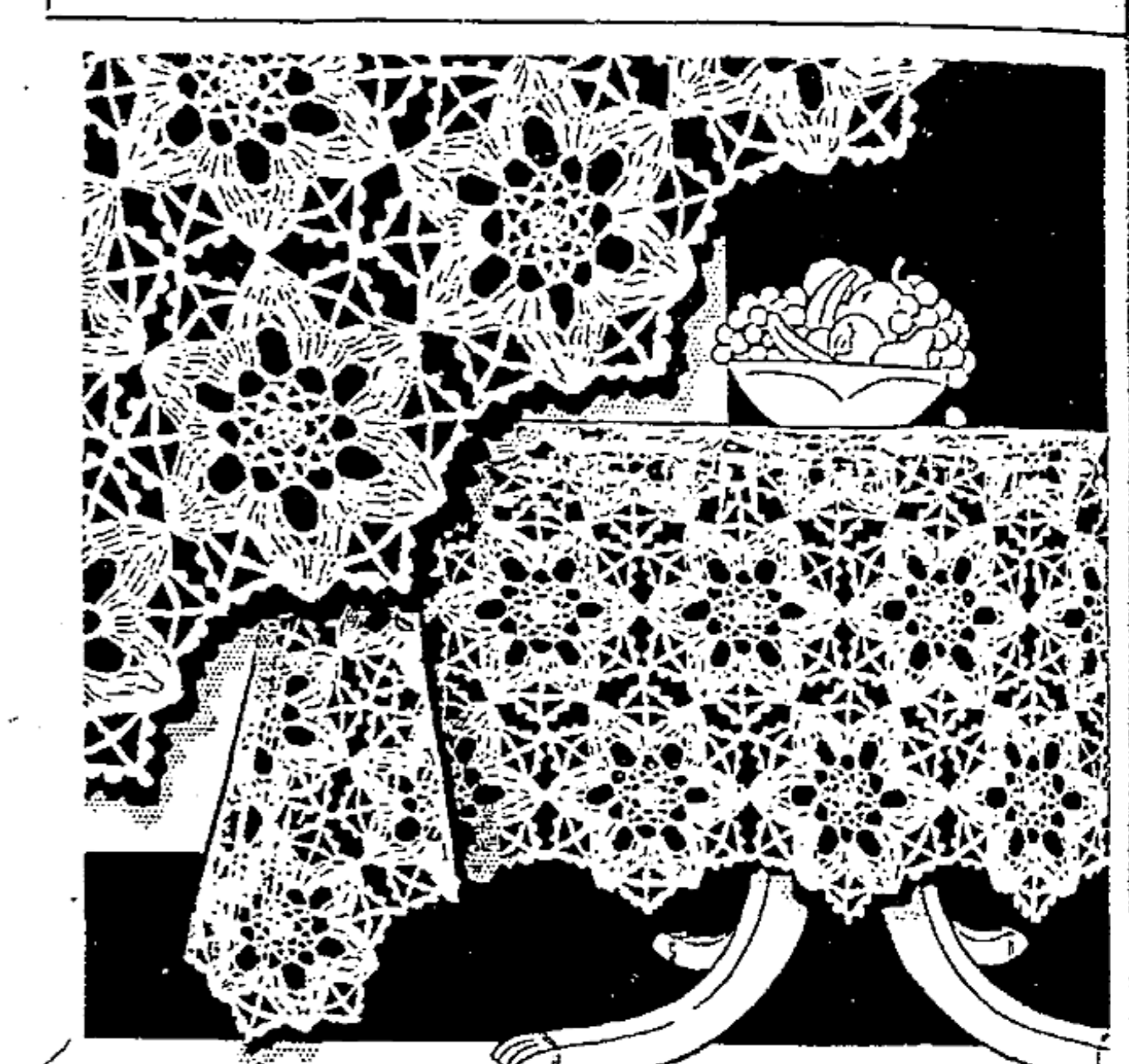
somehow between Maine and Newfoundland around 1004 but was driven out by Indians. Before they retreated, however, Karlsefni's wife is said to have borne a son.

Thus Iceland not only challenges the popular story that Columbus discovered America but also the claim that Virginia Dare, born on Roanoke island around 1587, was the first white child born in America.

First, a two-krone slate-gray showing Karlsefni was issued to mark Iceland's participation in the New York World's fair. In a vertical panel on the left was printed "NY 1939 WF."

To replace this new World's Fair-Karlsefni stamp they printed a two-krone with the panel showing only a spiral column. But after this substitute was released, they found that 35 sheets of the fair printing had been released by mistake. Thus they were forced to make a full printing, and both stamps are now on the market.

Many Luxuries Easily Crocheted With Laura Wheeler Medallion



CROCHETED MEDALLION PATTERN 1934

YOU'll soon know this medallion by heart and find yourself with many ready to be joined in a lovely accessory. Pattern 1934 contains directions for medallion; illustration of it and stitches; materials required. Send 14 cents (plus one cent sales tax), total 15 cents, for this pattern to Needlecraft Dept., The Columbus Dispatch, Columbus, Ohio.

Japan's Buddha Issue

TO REPLACE its current one-ten stamp Japan has just issued a reddish-yellow-brown adhesive depicting a giant 30-



foot statue of Buddha. The statue is at Kamakura, one of Japan's best-known spots for foreign tourists.

Philatelic Hair-raiser

THE \$1000 red badge prize for the best 1939 mystery novel has just gone to a book that is jam-packed with stamp talk. The book is "Canceled in Red," by Hugh Pentecost.

Characters are fictitious, but the stamps involved definitely are not. And—more important to philatelists—author Pentecost pulls not a single boner in describing the technicalities and intricacies of big-time stamp dealing.

Chic Pair for Now and Fall



By ANNE ADAMS

TWO new-season prophecies! The soft matron style is smart in velvet or dark wool, while the shirred misses' frock calls for dark sheer or printed sheer wool. Anne Adams' Pattern 4058 is available in sizes 34 to 48. Size 36 takes 3 1/2 yards 39-inch fabric and 1 yard lace edging. Anne Adams' Pattern 4173 is available in sizes 12 to 40. Size 16 takes 3 1/2 yards 39-inch fabric, 1 yard contrast and 3/4 yards lace edging. Send 14 cents (plus one cent sales tax), total 15 cents, for each of these Anne Adams Patterns. Write plainly SIZE, NAME, ADDRESS and STYLE NUMBER. Order our lovely Pattern Book, too. Book 14 cents (plus one cent sales tax), total 15 cents. Book and Pattern together, 25c. Send your order to Service Bureau, The Columbus Dispatch, Columbus, Ohio.

Solution to Puzzle

