

the Phoenix Nest

ELEGY FOR A BARTENDER

JOHN, the bartender, died of a heart attack.

He was kind, patient, a good listener.

Death was sudden.

He always seemed so robust.

Joe Pearson, one-time football star,
Journalist, high light on the bench of justice,

Piano player, collector of oriental items,

Self-appointed sampler of strong liquids,

Playing a selection on the juke-box
Delivered the oration:

"Do you hear the music, John?

All your life, you lived for music.

I hope that this can reach you, where you are.

You said goodbye in your own quiet fashion.

They never took your fingerprints, boy,

But you were liberal with a hand-out."

Margie, the faded blonde,

Former school teacher, seven times divorced,

Also had her views regarding John.
"I spoke to Helen, faithless as she was,

John and she were married a long time.

Her nerves are shaken; I pity the poor girl;

John was the only right man in her life;

A most devoted husband."

And the proprietor added:

"Drink up, people. The next round is on me."

The word "bum" is not permitted

In this respectable barroom.

John would feel offended.

MARIO SPERACIO.

* * *

George E. Kellogg, of Box 191,
Rapid City, S. D., is kind enough to send me this information:

In your department of Sept. 27 Mildred E. Haylor of Bartlesville, Okla., inquires of "Snowshoe Al's Bedtime Stories." While I am too young (thirty) to know the originals, I do know the volume she means. The originals ran in the "Line O' Type" column in the *Chicago Daily Tribune* while it was conducted by Richard Henry Little in the 1920's. Snowshoe Al was actually Albert J. Bromley, according to the copyright dated 1926 in

my volume. The title page bears the publisher: The Contributors Club, which I would guess was made up of "Line O' Type" members. The volume was printed at the A. D. Winthrop & Co. press. My father was a newspaper columnist before the idea of "cleaning up" led him into the laundry business, and while liberal in most of his views, he insisted on buying the *Chicago Tribune* year after year, but only to read Little's column. He quit buying it when Little died. About the time he introduced me to the bees and flowers, he also introduced me to the "Line O' Type or Two." I have always felt that the enthusiasm he felt for R. H. L., as he signed his column, was well merited. During the 1920's the contributors seemed almost to be neighbors, knowing about each other, their families, foibles, and fancies. Somehow, it seems too bad that those times have disappeared so completely. Although the humor in the "Bedtime Stories" may lean towards slapstick, I am as enthusiastic as Miss (?) Haylor is and would like to see others that could appreciate their simplicity.

* * *

CONDENSED INDEX OF INSEX

All bugs
Have mugs
Like thugs!

At every chance
Ants
Get in pants!

Moths
Love cloths!

Lice
Aren't nice!

Termites
Work nights!

Fleas?
Jeez!

Comejens
Have no fren's!

Never tease
Bees!

I can't abide a
Spida!

Why is a gnat
Spelled like gthat?

Always mistreat a
Mosqueata
And always bang a
Changa!

Each grasshopper
Bantam or whopper
By rubbing wings
Sings!

The Management
would have fits
If you took nits
Into the Ritz!

C. R. HARTZELL.

* * *

Thoughts by the Way: Davis Edwards has written an article reprinted from *The Quarterly Journal of Speech*, and sends it to me from the Divinity School of the University of Chicago. It is called "The Real Source of Vachel Lindsay's Poetic Technique," and concerns the influence on Lindsay of the lecture-readings of S. H. Clark of the University of Chicago. Vachel, asked if they had been a source of his poetic technique, would answer, "Yes, that's where I got it." The whole brochure is a distinct addition to our knowledge of the work of probably the most originally American poet we have had in this century. As artist, Vachel's work frequently left much to be desired, but for originality of genius, and spiritual power, he was unique. None approaching him in those respects has come after. . . . In the department of Literature and Art in the Catholic Weekly *America*, edited by John La Farge, S.J., the Rev. D. A. Bischoff, S.J., has done a service to American poetry in printing three Gerard Manley Hopkins "discoveries." While gathering material in London for the complete account of Father Hopkins's Jesuit years, Father Bischoff uncovered some 20,000 unpublished words of Hopkins's journal. The poems are a translation of the Latin Hymn "Iesu, Dulcis Memoria," and the translation of two odes of Horace. In each case the Latin text is given in a parallel column. This issue of *America* is of Sept. 6, 1947, and in October a series of articles by Father Bischoff appeared relating to Hopkins. The address of *America* is 70 East 45th Street, New York 17. . . . Shortly after the publication of his latest book of verse, "Pencil in the Air," Samuel Hoffenstein died. His "Poems in Praise of Practically Nothing" will long be remembered for the richly witty presentation of an attitude of complete pessimism. But Hoffenstein was not merely a light versifier or a comic poet, he could write most movingly and with large apprehension. He was expert in versification, and had a roving, restless mind, and a faith deeper than shallow cynicism. . . . There are a few writers of intellectual integrity working in Hollywood, and Hoffenstein was of that small number.

WILLIAM ROSE BENÉT.

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By Elizabeth S. Kingsley

DEFINITIONS

- A. Lying hid; latent.
B. Leather overalls worn by cowboys as protection against thorns (Mex. Sp.).
C. The use of words in a sense opposite to their proper meaning.
D. Lake in Adirondacks, Hamilton County, N. Y. and river of the same name.
E. English actor, father of English pantomime (1692-1761).
F. Uncompromising; irreconcilable.
G. Goddess of peace and fertility; "Terra Mater" of Tacitus (Teut. Myth.).
H. Dirty; slimy; slovenly.
I. A Carthaginian goddess, tutelary of the city, worshiped in Rome as "Dea (or Virgo) Caelestis."
J. Elaborate embroidery, esp. of gold (Hist.).
K. Dressed stone with a sharp-pointed hammer.
L. Neat and compact or well-ordered.
M. Small food fish of excellent quality (S. Africa).

WORDS

196 57 74 1 23 51 100 115 88 33 93
180 4 127 49 171 119 101 151 92 90
70 2 3 185 85 78 21 194 110 174 54
69 98 116 38 25 10 103 184
76 129 67 163
121 192 30 97 114 182 156 40 8 159 175
140
108 75 160 94 9 20 80
59 45 152 132 104 22
162 191 99 107 128 56
79 125 82 24 53 145 161
13 66 166 176 17 188
36 84 118 126
141 37 96 47 72 63 19 130 34

DEFINITIONS

- N. Forced out; expelled.
O. Irish woman poet whose "Psyche" (1805) attracted the attention of Moore and Keats (1772-1810).
P. Wearing a wheel-shaped collar (sixteenth and seventeenth centuries).
Q. A grass cultivated for its seed by agricultural ants of Texas (2 wds.).
R. Russian officer and statesman (siege of Leningrad, W.W. II).
S. Negative statement of what is to be understood affirmatively, or vice versa (Rhet.).
T. Yellowish.
U. Current Irish woman writer of poems, children's books, plays for Dublin Abbey Theatre.
V. Convex; arched; vaulted.
W. Author of "Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch" (1901).
X. Barter; gives in exchange (Colloq.).
Y. Constrained; executed with vigor.
Z. Russian violinist and composer (1827-91).
Z'. English cathedral town; also N. H. town of famous prep. school.

WORDS

29 186 136 61 68 109 133
31 142 154 15 138
178 105 43 147 155 193
52 122 134 113 164 102 81
158 95 195 112 41 149 44 146 60 137
5 91 32 131 55 89 150 81 7 46
73 83 42 187 144 172 12 18 64
28 58 173 14 189
157 143 167 124 148 35 135
139 27 183 6
197 77 48 177 106
169 165 123 181 39 16 62 26
168 133 111 117 50 86 71
11 170 179 190 120 65

DIRECTIONS

To solve this puzzle you must guess twenty-odd words, the definitions of which are given in the column headed DEFINITIONS. The letters in each word to be guessed are numbered. These numbers appear under the dashes in the column headed WORDS. There is a dash for each letter in the required word. The key letters in the squares are for convenience, indicating to which word in the definitions each letter in the diagram belongs. When you have guessed a word, fill it in on the dashes; then write each letter in the correspondingly numbered square of the puzzle diagram. When the squares are all filled in you will find (by reading from left to right) a quotation from a famous author. Read up and down the letters mean nothing. The black squares indicate ends of words; words do not necessarily end at the right side of the diagram.

When the column headed WORDS is filled in, the initial letters spell the name of the author and the title of the piece from which the quotation has been taken. Authority for spelling and definitions is Webster's New International Dictionary (second edition).

						1	A	2	C			3	C	4	B	5	S			6	W	7	S	8	F	9	G	10	D				
11	Z'	12	T	13	K	14	U	15	O			16	Y	17	K	18	T	19	M	20	G	21	C	22	H		23	A	24	J	25	D	
		26	Y	27	W	28	U	29	N	30	F	31	O	32	S	33	A	34	M	35	V			36	L	37	M	38	D	39	Y	40	F
41	R	42	T			43	P	44	R	45	H	46	S	47	M			48	X	49	B	50	Z	51	A	52	Q	53	J	54	C		
55	S	56	I	57	A			58	U	59	H	60	R	61	N	62	Y	63	M	64	T	65	Z'	66	K	67	E			68	N	69	D
70	C	71	Z	72	M	73	T	74	A	75	G	76	E			77	X	78	C	79	J	80	G	81	Q			82	J	83	T	84	L
85	C	86	Z	87	S	88	A			89	S	90	B			91	S	92	B	93	A			94	G	95	R			96	M	97	F
98	D	99	I	100	A	101	B	102	Q	103	D			104	H	105	P	106	X	107	I	108	G	109	N	110	C	111	Z			112	R
113	Q			114	F	115	A	116	D	117	Z	118	L	119	B	120	Z'			121	F	122	Q	123	Y	124	V	125	J	126	L	127	B
128	I	129	E	130	M	131	S			132	H	133	Z	134	Q			135	V	136	N	137	R	138	O	139	W	140	F			141	M
142	O	143	V	144	T	145	J	146	R	147	P			148	V	149	R	150	S			151	B	152	H	153	N	154	O	155	P	156	F
		157	V	158	R	159	F	160	G	161	J	162	I	163	E	164	Q	165	Y	166	K			167	V	168	Z			169	Y	170	Z'
171	B	172	T	173	U	174	C	175	F	176	K			177	X	178	P	179	Z'	180	B	181	Y	182	F	183	W	184	D	185	C	186	N
187	T	188	K			189	U	190	Z'	191	I	192	F	193	P	194	C	195	R	196	A	197	X										

Solution of last week's Double-Croctic will be found on page 13 of this issue.