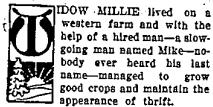


Widow Millie Filled the Stocking

By Wm. L. Gaston



WIDOW MILLIE lived on a western farm and with the help of a hired man—a slow-going man named Mike—nobody ever heard his last name—managed to grow good crops and maintain the appearance of thrift.

Five years before her husband, Wilson Macer, had died and she had been left alone to carry on the work of the ranch. Mrs. Macy was an attractive young woman whose age would have been guessed somewhere in the thirties. She was plump, good-natured and generally liked in the community. Somehow she came to be called Widow Millie by the neighbors, who used the name as much to express their kindly feelings as to distinguish her from other people.

Bob Ramsay and Jim Walden were both eligible widowers and each owned a quarter section of good land adjoining Widow Millie's land, one on the north and one on the east. Each seemed a trifle more than anxious to have everything go right on the widow's ranch and neither was backward in the proffer of advice or offers to help. To do this properly required a call and neither was averse to calling.

Tom Moulton was a bachelor, a timid, bashful bachelor who could blush better than he could talk, in the presence of ladies. He owned a good ranch and was one of the most thrifty farmers in the community. He was good looking and very obliging. He was well liked but no one believed that he could ever muster the courage to propose marriage to any woman. He often slipped over to the widow's farm, to see Mike, of course. He gave his farm advice to Mike. Sometimes he exchanged work with Mike and on these occasions there was an extra white cloth on the table and the biscuits had an extra fatness. Tom liked the biscuits. Tom ate the biscuits but he could not think of a word to say when the conversation was directed to him.

On the night before Christmas both Bob and Jim called and Widow Millie proceeded to entertain both in the parlor. She managed conversation and kept it going in the general direction while the visitors idled and equipped, each hoping that the other would soon leave. Millie was sure that Tom was in the kitchen. She could hear the muffled conversation of two slow-speaking men. Millie extended an invitation to both her visitors to come over the next day and have Christmas dinner with her. This was the signal for both to leave.

After their departure Millie went to the kitchen, but Tom had gone and Mike had retired. But hanging on the kitchen wall just over the stove was



a pair of ladies' silk stockings. She looked at them in amazement. They were not hers and how could they have gotten there. Going closer she observed a piece of note paper protruding from one of them. She pulled it out hastily and excitedly read:

"Widow Millie: I have hung these stockings up here for you. I want you to fill them and wear them tomorrow. I have hung up a pair for myself at home. I will fill them and wear them over here tomorrow noon. The preacher and his wife will be with me. I fixed up everything else at the court-house this afternoon. I can farm better if I do not have to cook. You can cook better if you do not have to farm. This is an honest offer, from Tom."

It would be hard to describe the thoughts that raced through Millie's mind. At first she was indignant. She resented it as an impertinence. "He had his nerve," she said almost aloud a dozen times, but she smiled when she thought that nerve was the very thing that Tom was supposed not to have. She liked Tom, and if he had come out boldly and proposed in the usual way she would not know what she would have done. She took up the note again, but she could only see the last line—*an honest offer, from Tom.*—and she remembered her with its straightforwardness and simplicity.

"He is honest," she said to herself. "He is honest about one thing, that another, but always came back to that last line—the honest offer. The last line won."

When Tom, the preacher and his wife arrived, Widow Millie had the stockings filled and dinner was well on the way. The minister's wife finished it. Bob and Jim were in time for the ceremony, and of course they stayed for their Christmas dinner.



Walter Frey of Detroit called

Personal

Dick Russell fell and broke his wrist while practicing basket-ball Monday.

The Masons sent three gallons of ice cream to the school which was distributed among the boys and girls, Tuesday.

The Seniors made \$24 on the bridge party that Mrs. Fink gave for them last Wednesday evening.

The P. T. A. is sponsoring a Christmas party for the grades on Friday, December 19.

Mr. and Mrs. Maynard and Mr. and Mrs. Norman Fisher of Royal Oak spent Tuesday evening at the home of Judge J. J. Schulte.

Mrs. Spencer Heiney called on her mother at Harper Hospital on Wednesday.

Miss Ione Shepherd spent the week end with friends in Toledo.

Leland Lamb of Colorado and Judge Lamb of Detroit spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Lamb.

Mrs. Carl Hinbern and daughter, Virginia, and Mary Jane Schroeder spent Wednesday in Detroit.

Mrs. J. J. Schulte spent Wednesday with friends in Windsor.

Mrs. William Irish and Mrs. Arthur Lamb were visitors in Northville on Tuesday.

Mrs. Charles Thornton spent Monday in Detroit.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Hogle entertained three tables of bridge on Friday evening. Mrs. Carl Hinbern and Olin Russell held high scores with Mrs. Olin Russell and H. Johnson taking consolation.

Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Grace and son, Gerald, attended a hockey game in Windsor last Friday evening.

Sunday dinner guests at the home of Judge and Mrs. J. Schulte were Mr. and Mrs. William Knapp and her sister and husband, Mr. and Mrs. James Headridge and daughter June.

Mrs. Spencer Heiney and Mrs. Carl Hinbern attended a bridge luncheon at the home of Mrs. Tathan Oaks of Frankfort, Thursday. Mrs. Heiney held high score.

Mrs. L. F. Schroeder attended a luncheon on Thursday at the home of Mrs. William Kelley in Detroit.

At the O. E. S. card party held at the home of Mrs. Henry West on Friday, four tables of bridge and three tables of Pedro were played. Mrs. E. A. Fink and Mrs. Ralph Hogle won first and second prize at bridge and Mrs. Joe Himmelspach and Mrs. Henry West first and second at Pedro. Door prize was won by Mrs. Ralph Hogle.

Mrs. U. A. Grace and Mrs. C. J. Grace were Detroit visitors on Tuesday.

Miss Mary Lamb of Greeley, Colo., is spending some time at the home of her uncle, Arthur Lamb.

Dr. and Mrs. J. A. Miller spent Sunday with his brother, Henry Miller and family at Redford.

Mrs. T. H. McGee and Mrs. Henry Pauline visited Mrs. John Clark of Detroit on Tuesday.

Last Monday evening the Young Peoples club of the M. E. church gave a Christmas party for its members. About 49 attended. The evening was spent in playing games. Refreshments were served.

A Christmas party will be held Tuesday evening, December 23rd at the Methodist church for the Sunday school members and friends. Entertainment by the younger members, a tree and Santa will be enjoyed.

Mrs. Anna Sprague visited with her sister, Mrs. Frank Hutchinson of Detroit over the week end.

Ivan Webber of Maceday Lake visited at the home of his sister, Mrs. Edith Green on Sunday.

Eighteen ladies attended a Christmas party given by the Missionary Society of the Universalist church at the home of Mrs. Addie Pierson last Saturday evening. A pot luck dinner was served at 6:30.

Mr. and Mrs. Jess Dowell and family of Detroit spent the week end with Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Lepley.

Miss Alyce Edwards of Port Huron visited Viola Walters at her home on Saturday.

on Don Walters Sunday.

Mrs. Henry Wick with Mrs. Young of Clarenceville motored to Jackson on Tuesday. Mrs. Young will remain with her son, Joe Young and family, while his wife is here caring for her mother, Mrs. Augusta Wick, who had an operation on her foot the first of this week.

Glenn Rogo of Detroit was a caller at the John Walters' home Tuesday.

Ralph Whitlock and Herman Lehmann attended a business meeting at Oddfellows hall in Pontiac, Tuesday evening.

Mrs. Eli Stodgel left Harper Hospital on Tuesday and is with her sister, Mrs. Charlotte Nye of Pontiac for a time.

Mr. and Mrs. Jay Buffmyer and son of Bloomfield Hills were Sunday dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Lepley and family.

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Whitlock and family were Pontiac shoppers Wednesday.

Mr. and Mrs. Manley Newman visited with Mr. and Mrs. Leon Newman of Brighton, Sunday.

Mrs. Maude Newbound and Mrs. Harry Brewster of Pontiac visited with Mr. and Mrs. William Chamberlain and family on Friday.

Mrs. Ralph Lepley and three daughters, Mr. and Mrs. Jess Dowell and children spent Friday afternoon in Detroit. Mrs. Edith Green accompanied them.

Mr. and Mrs. John Walters and Don visited with Mr. and Mrs. Carl Ely of Northville on Sunday evening and also called on their son, Charles Ely, who is at Sessions Hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Bradley entertained six guests on Wednesday evening in honor of their daughter, Mrs. Mahlon Bradley's birthday.

Mrs. Anna Sprague is spending some time at the home of friends at Milford.

Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Bickling called on his mother, Mrs. James Gilchrist of Sylvan Lake, who is ill, on Tuesday.

Mrs. Clarence Bickling and two daughters were Detroit visitors, Saturday.

Sunday callers at the home of Dr. H. E. Boice were, Dr. and Mrs. R. E. Watson of Monroe and Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Watson and family of Flat Rock.

Mrs. Edward Bauer is home and is entertaining her friend, Mrs. Emma Urschel of Toledo, O. this week.

Mrs. A. C. Crawford and Mrs. T. H. McGee spent Wednesday in Detroit.

Mr. and Mrs. E. Lewis Mason and baby, and Mr. Mason's mother, Mrs. Alicia Mason of Lexington, spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Crossman.

Miss Katherine Crosman has been home with the grippe, but returned to Detroit, Tuesday.

Miss Margaret Green has returned from a visit with her aunt Mr. Neil of Northville.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Pangel spent Sunday at Lake Orion with Mr. and Mrs. S. W. Billeet.

Mrs. Martha Warner entertained Mr. and Mrs. E. Pierce, Miss Ernestine Pierce, Miss Louise Porter and her mother, and Miss Grace Edmunds of Detroit for dinner, last Sunday.

Mrs. Pierce received word on Tuesday morning of the death of Mrs. William Knight. Mrs. Knight was the mother of Miss Frances Knight of the Methodist Children's Home.

Miss Catherine Richardson spent Friday in Detroit.

Sunday, Mr. and Mrs. William Richardson entertained Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Farmer of Pontiac, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Winegar of Ypsilanti, Mr. and Mrs. George Watson and daughter, Marion, Raymond Richardson and George Murphy.

Mr. and Mrs. Orrin Everett of Redford entertained twelve relatives and friends at a venison dinner last Friday. The guests from Farmington were, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Steele, Mr. and Mrs. Cloyes Steele, Misses Ida and Zaida Steele, Mr. and Mrs. Harry McCracken and Mr. and Mrs. La Rue Steele of Redford. The venison for the dinner was prepared by Leslie Everett.

Mr. and Mrs. Glen Auten and family of Pontiac and Mrs. Lil-

lian Friday, Mr. Auten's aunt of Pontiac, were visiting Ralph Auten last Sunday.

Mrs. David Ross wishes to thank the ladies of the Ladies' Aid of the Methodist church for the pretty cyclamen sent to her last week. Mrs. Ross' broken rib is mending nicely.

Group One of the Woman's Home Missionary Society had a very enjoyable Christmas party at Mrs. Harry Pangel's home Tuesday afternoon.

Send in your news items.

At This Good Christmas Time

It is a matter of much satisfaction to us that we account the good will of our friends among the chief assets of our business. We have long had the vision of Good Will and helpfulness among men. Now that the merry Christmas times are here again we hasten to express our wish that our friends and patrons and all others will enjoy a most happy Christmas, and a Prosperous New Year.

General Garage

J. T. ALCOCK, Inc.
Grand River Ave. Farmington

The Spirit Of Christmas Giving



That the good things life has to offer may be yours, is the friendly Christmas wish of the members of this institution.



Farmington State Savings Bank

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