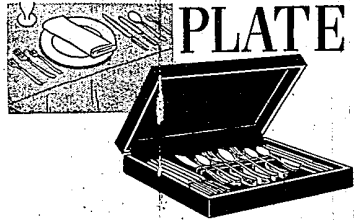


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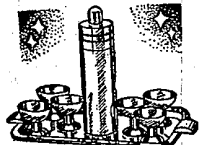
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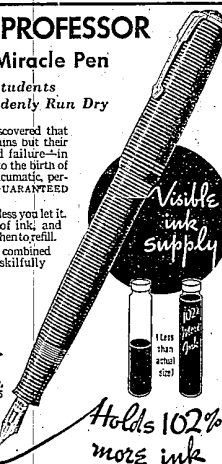
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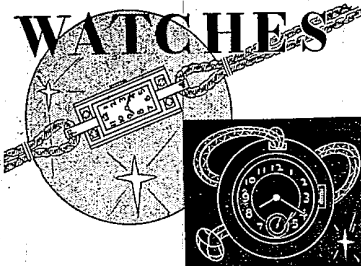


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## It's Happened Before

By MARTIE RAMSON  
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WNU Service.

I HOPE my friend, Moe Robbins, will forgive me for this, but the urge to write this story overshadows all consequences.

Moe was, and still is, for that matter, a darn good clothing salesman; in fact, he's the best in the business. But Moe was very reticent in proclaiming his virtues as a salesman. He preferred to tell how many winners he picked in the day's races and how the handicappers, who get paid for picking winners, are "all wet." Moe, like all other better winners who bet for pastime, never delved into the history of a horse, but playing hunches and jockeys.

Two weeks before the closing of the Santa Anita race track, Moe, who did not believe in working Saturdays, suggested to his wife that they go to the races.

Now, Sarah Robbins didn't know any more about race horses than I know about Einstein's theory of relativity, but, never having seen a race horse or a horse race, she availed herself of the opportunity.

They arrived at the track without any mishaps. Moe, of course, immediately purchased a program, making a lot of notations along the entries which Sarah did not understand, nor was she interested.

After some consideration, Moe bought a two dollar ticket on Pickwick to win, saying to Sarah, "The clockers don't give him a chance, but I'm betting him on the nose."

"Why sure, Moe," she said. "You do as you think best. They're not any smarter than you are." After which she kept wondering who the "clockers" were, and what Moe meant by playing on the horse's nose.

Well, believe it or not, Pickwick won the race and Moe collected nine dollars and eighty cents.

"So you see, Sarah," he was saying, "you've got to use your head when you play the horses. You can't just take your money and throw it away on a horse because some handicapper tells you it's going to win. He only gets paid for what he thinks, not for what he knows."

"I guess maybe that's right, Moe," replied Sarah indifferently. Moe didn't bet on the second or third, the second being a maiden and the third a three furlong race.

By this time Sarah was becoming more enthusiastic. Before the start of the second race she remarked to Moe, "Number four horse sure looks better than the rest," and her pulse quickened as number four came down the stretch in front of the others to win the race. Moe left her before the race started, to get a "bite."

Moe bet a six dollar combination in the fourth race on Mr. Tony, explaining to Sarah that he was betting on the horse to come in first, second and third. Sarah looked at him as if to ask how a horse can come in first, second and third in one race, but Moe, evidently sensing what was on her mind, hastened to make the situation clear to her.

Mr. Tony ran a close fifth which lowered Moe's standard as a horse player in Sarah's estimation. But the bottom dropped out of her esteem for his ability when he bet off twenty dollars in the fifth and sixth races. He was sure, however, that he knew who was going to win the last race.

"Sarah," he said, "I'm going to bet ten dollars on Evening Star. The horse is three to one. In other words, Sarah, this race will put me even."

"I hope so, Moe," was all the comment she made.

As there was a wait of some twenty-five minutes between races they decided to look the horses over in the paddock as they came out.

Moe couldn't help admiring his choice, Evening Star, while Sarah thought that Playmate was a "gorgeous looking creature."

"Yes, Sarah," said Moe, "but only fools bet on twenty-one shots, and that's what they are offering on Playmate, so you know how much of a chance he has."

While Sarah was admiring the horse, she was still wondering whom Moe meant by "they."

"Sarah," Moe said, "I'll meet you at the rail where we have been standing. I'm going over to buy a ticket on Evening Star," to which Sarah said nothing.

It was a great race, and even Sarah tried to cheer Moe's selection home, but Evening Star ran a poor second to Playmate.

Poor Moe was afraid to talk about the race to Sarah, for if there was anything he hated, it was to hear someone tell him, "I told you so."

"Well," he sighed, "let's go home. Guess I'm not so good as I thought I was."

"I'm guess we can go home now," replied Sarah and as they started back from the rail she asked, "Moe, what do I do with this?"

Poor Moe! His vanity was crushed as she showed him a win ticket for five dollars on Playmate.

"Where, where," he stammered, "did you get this?"

"Why, Moe, I was standing right behind you when you bought your ticket."

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