The State Fair
By W. E. Hill

The Sahara Dancers. "La-diez and gentlins, the little lady now before you is La Belle Lolita, who will do for you, exactly as it is performed on the desert. The Egyptian love dance, one of the favorite amusements of the sheiks of the Sahara." One by one, the barker, in front of the chief midway attraction, introduces the little ladies, several of whom are finding it chilly this afternoon and are wearing wraps. Princess Monaliss, who stands next to the barker, is registering polite interest, having heard the greeting, "Hello, Mary; how's the girl?" from one of the maids.

"You look rich, brother; have a chance on the Kentucky Derby?" This is merchants' day, when all the shops close at noon and all the tired business boys are supposed to be themselves and families to the fair grounds. Mr. Fred Silver, jeweler, and wife, are being lured to a game of chance, maybe. Fred has a prize ticket (given away) and plenty of food samples (free) to last the week out.

Horticultural Hall. Meet Hogarth, the proud exhibitor of prize potatoes, grown in Hogarth's own garden plot.

The Cattle Show. Mrs. Milich and Mr. Ditter are exchanging a few friendly moms over the partition between them. "What does the little one say?" asks Mr. Hartlow. "Do you think of these new fangled electric collars, Mrs. Milich?" I think they are interesting, answers Mrs. Milich. "Everything is machines these days. No romance left in life!"

The Ladies' Aid, aiding. Lunch hour at the fair grounds finds the ladies' aid in charge of a lunch counter where, for a very slender outlay, one can purchase a plate of beans, a slab of bread, and choice of apple or mince pie, with something that looks like coffee thrown in for good measure.

The Egg Exhibitor. The lady pancake demonstrator is handing out a dainty sample made from "Ground Gripper Pancake Flour."

The Congress of Strange People. Berta, the double girl, is doing her stuff. She uses her hands like feet and her feet like hands, which is surprising, because in other respects Berta is thoroughly normal. She is almost a book worm and reads the Billboards and love stories regularly. Berta quarreled with Frank, the Liberian dwarf, last week. They had been keeping company and would be engaged at this moment if Frank had not objected to Berta's wearing the engagement ring on her engagement toe, instead of her finger. In the background the Australian half-man-half-beast is discussing Irene, the sword swallow, and Princess Bananas the cause of the latter's headaches. The princess thinks they come from her stomach. "Why," says the half-man, "don't you get fitted for glasses? It's your eyes that give you headaches!"

Dare Devil Dan, the handsome hero of many a parachute drop, waiting around in front of the grandstand to do his turn.

In the Paddock. Uncle Jed and Aunt Charity seldom get away from the homestead these days. They never miss a fair week, however. Uncle Jed likes the trotting races. Aunt Charity favors the industrial exhibits, and the midway from a safe distance.