

The State Fair

By W. E. Hill

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"You look rich, brother; take 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 hie 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 yardstick (given away) and plenty of food samples (ditto) to last the week out.



The Sahara Dancers. "La-dees and gen'lmen, 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 Murad, who stands next to the barker, is registering polite interest, having heard the greeting, "Hullo, Mary; how's the girl?" from some one down below. Maybe it's a friend out front.



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



The Cattle Show. Mrs. Milch and Mr. Bellow are exchanging a few friendly moos over the partition while the crowd files past. "What," says Mr. Bellow, "do you think of these new fangled electric milkers, Mrs. Milch?" "I think they're sickening," answers Mrs. Milch. "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 modest 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 Food Exhibit. The tady 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 Billboard 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-bear is discussing with Irene, the sword swallower, and Princess Saninea 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 exhibit, and the midway from a safe distance.