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The Travis Agency

at

The News

Just Over the Boundary Line

By ROSE MEREDITH

JIM WARBURTON stood on the hill where the dividing line separated the Hinman property from the land of his ancestors, now his own. The Warburton acres had taken on a new value when the great motor highway had cut through part of the property only to swerve aside and diverge from the Hinman acres and cross the bridge, leaving the latter property marooned amid its rich pastures and woodlands. Perhaps it didn't matter, especially, Jim was thinking this May morning, for as far as he knew or cared the Hinman house was still empty and desolate. Hinmans and Warburtons had been unfriendly for some years—owing to a marriage that ended in divorce between two members of the families.

"There was only one Hinman worth looking at in this world," gloomed Jim Warburton, "and that was Sylvia—and she turned me down flat for that Meade fellow. Don't know as I blame her for I'm not much account and he has barrels of coin."

He walked along the imaginary boundary line, remembered something about white birches and, finding them, scratched the mossy turf and found an ancient landmark—a small square of white stone on which small lettering was chiseled. It proved to mark the property of James Warburton, in the "yr. 1830." He walked down to the highway but could not find the other marker. He knew that the line was a straight one "east from white marker."

If the new highway had only run on for another fifteen feet some of the Hinman property would have bordered on it, but what difference would that make to the Hinmans—Sylvia and her aunt were the only ones left, and they lived in New York city.

A week later, Jim, coming back home from the county seat for a weekend in his lonely house heard strange news from his man of all work, Hanson.

"Yes, sir, Mr. Warburton, there be squatters on your property," declared Hanson. "Such a nerve—"

"Squatters? Gypsies?" asked Jim, frowning.

"Nothing like that! Two wimmin be building a little bungalow—all themselves, one of them portable things, and the outside is nailed with silver birch logs and there's a sign a-swinging—'The Green Ladies Tea House'—Shucks, to be trespassin' and all."

After the early dinner, Jim, cool, satisfied that Hanson's story was somewhat exaggerated, walked down the long garden, through the rustic gate and across the old orchard of dead trees to the open hillside where scattered birches marched down the hill to the new highway.

The new bungalow, all silvery white where it wasn't stained green or brown, was there, and from the kitchen in the rear, came the aroma of good things to eat—fried chicken, new asparagus, strawberry shortcake—Jim's mouth watered. Mrs. Hanson's cooking was below par. He frowned again and walked up to the white birches, to look at the boundary mark. He could see the little bungalow, built just inside the Warburton property, so as to take advantage of the coveted position on the motor road, and he could see a number of cars parked on the private road on the other side that led to the Hinman house.

Inside the little house it was cozy enough. Green tables set with worn but exquisite damask, and dainty old china and silver. In the background was a tall, silver-haired woman in a green dress, and waiting on a group of prosperous-looking motorists, was a pretty waitress also wearing a short green frock and a crisp organdie apron. She did not see Jim Warburton until she had brought dessert to the large table, then she came to him with a tumbler of water and a napkin. "Jim Warburton!" she exclaimed. "Sylvia—Mrs. Meade?" he stammered awkwardly. "I never dreamed it could be you or your aunt."

"Why not?" she asked lightly, still with that blush of embarrassment. "Auntie and I must live—and the old house is too far back from the road to be profitable—and we even plan to sleep here, because it is so lonely down there in the woods."

"The old place has been closed too long, Sylvia. Now, why can't you and Miss Hinman come over to Warburton and stay in the south wing until you are settled here?"

"I will bring Aunt Winifred," said Sylvia and departed without taking his order at all. Later on, the three dined amicably together, and Jim told them that he had come there intending to oust them from his land.

"Your land?" repeated Sylvia's thrilling voice. "Why, Jim, we have the old deeds, you know, and the line is a curve from the white mark up above to the three birches opposite the magnolia tree on your south lawn! So we are on Hinman property and your garden trespasses a bit, but what is that between neighbors?"

Jim blushed. "You said Meade did not come with you?"

Sylvia laughed. "Why should he? When I refused him, he married a charming actress and lives in Hollywood."

"Then," exclaimed Jim, "suppose we go outside and discuss the boundary line?"

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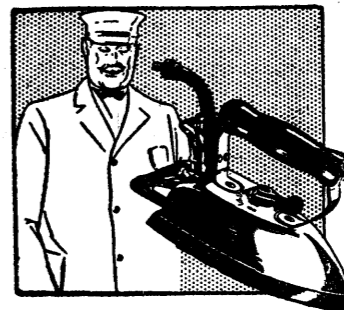
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Philadelphia's Planning

The town of Philadelphia was planned before William Penn left England in 1682. Before 1683 Philadelphia had more than 500 inhabitants.

World's Longest Dock

The longest dock in the world—1,500 feet—is at Manila and could accommodate the Leviathan, Berengaria and Europa all at once.

Birds and Weather

An English naturalist finds that weather conditions have an effect on song birds, and that the effect varies with the kind of bird.

State of Happiness

We deem those happy who, from experience of life, have learned to bear its ills, without being overcome by them.—Juvenal.

Physiologists Puzzled

Physiologists have not yet explained to their own complete satisfaction how a muscle contracts.

Bats' Peculiarity

Bats are said to utter sounds so high in pitch that they are inaudible to the human ear.

Church Membership

About 54,000,000, or a little less than one-half of the total population of the United States belong to Christian churches. These are actual church members and many millions more are moral or financial supporters of the church. It is estimated that nearly 90 per cent of the adult population indorses the Christian religion.

Flies Beyond Control?

No method has been devised for the eradication or control of flies. In July, 1930, an appropriation of about \$16,000 was made available by congress for an investigation of this matter by the bureau of entomology. It will be several years before this study is complete and any publication appears.

"Gamey" Flavor

Many persons prefer the stronger flavor produced when game is kept for some time, hung up or otherwise, before it is cooked. Webster's dictionary gives as a meaning of "high" in cookery, "strongly-scented or slightly tainted," as "Epicures do not cook game until it is high."

Word of Two Meanings

In the plural "purlieus" means districts adjacent or lying near—outskirts. In the singular in English history it referred to the land on the edge of a crown forest, especially if once part of the forest, later returned to its private owners.

Army's Proud Name

The "Ever Victorious Army" was a force of Chinese, officered by Europeans and Americans, raised in 1861, and placed under the charge of General Gordon. By 1864 it had stamped out the Taeping rebellion, which had broken out in 1851.

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