Over the Back Fence

Cross Your Heart And Hope It Works

THIS STORY is one of many from my grandmother Virginia Mulder, who lived to be 92. It is written in her words.

"I wound up marrying a farmer myself. When the time came to cultivate…my husband, Bob…hooked up a team of horses to a riding cultivator, and off I went.

"The problem was that one of the horses used to pull a milk wagon in Detroit and would occasionally balk. Sure enough, I had just gotten started when the horse balked and would not move.

"Knowing the horse might respond if I covered his eyes, I fashioned a blind out of my brassiere. The straps fit over his ears, and the cups fell over his eyes.

"With the 'blinder' in place, the team pulled…until the entire field was worked."

—Lora Dougherty, New Providence, New Jersey

Mail Tampering

Frances Dittmann of Atascadero, California shares this poem sent to her by husband Ted, trying to keep a sense of humor about the WWII censorship of letters home.

Three's a Crowd
Nothing like a love affair
Exclusively for three;
What it all comes
down to is
You, the Censor, Me.

My innermost emotions,

All of them for you;
How sweet of him
to share them
And bring them
all to view.

This demands a policy,
And here, in short,
is mine:
No matter who
is looking on
I'll love you all the time.

At Ease, Please

MY FATHER, then a recent immigrant to Canada from Great Britain, was seated next to the conductor in a Toronto, Ontario streetcar in the 1920s.

According to my father, William Shaw, he was not too sure about where he was going and a bit apprehensive. All of a sudden, the conductor called out, "Shaw next!" referring to Shaw Street.

My father, being the old soldier that he was, jumped up and answered, "Yes, sir," wondering how on Earth the conductor knew his name.

This story has been passed around our family for ages and always gets a laugh.

—Philip Shaw, Oakville, Ontario

Wedding Hints

TIPS FOR "The American Wedding" were offered in The Housewife's Almanac, published by the Kellogg Company in 1938 and shared by Marilyn Casarotto from Las Vegas, Nevada.

• If a marriage is performed by a magistrate, a wedding dress is not

considered proper.

• It is just as much a breach of the rules of etiquette for the bride to pay anything toward the expense of a wedding trip as it would be for the bridegroom to defray any of the cost of the bride's trousseau.

• Going-Away Clothes: A bride and bridegroom who are endowed with ordinary good taste like to be as inconspicuous as possible… Under no circumstances should the newlyweds dress so as to make people exclaim, "Just married!"