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Tattle Tales



Arkansas' Burns and
Kansas' Peterson

ELMER T. PETERSON, who visits with Bob Burns on page 13, is, as you know, former editor of *BH&G* and native Iowan (also claimed by the sunflower-lush plains of Kansas). But he had become a confirmed and, we were afraid, chronic Californian in a single year.

Even last year's heavy dews failed to interrupt his sunshiny letters about Pacific sunshine. A few more epis-

tolary effervescences and he'd have the staff (we feared again) firmly convinced that there's something in that sunshine which goes deeper than a tan. This, too, after years of stolid and courageous resistance to like silver-penned prelection from other emigrants to that land of citrus and Sol! Such is the princely power of the Peterson pen.

But all our concern was for naught, we're happy to chronicle. Author-Editor Peterson has moved to Oklahoma, and is back with his old love—newspapering.

Still, the danger may not yet be past. Already we're beginning to sense a distinct Oklahoma flavor in the gentleman's letters. Who knows but Peterson—we may end up with an oil well yet!

THE AUTOGRAPH on the picture above, which you can verify thru a magnifying glass if you're skeptical, is "To my friend Elmer Peterson, who likes his eggs fried right, too.—Bob Burns." The drawing is of the Burns bazooka; the setting, a Hollywood broadcast studio. The occasion is a lucid interval, between rehearsals, for explaining how Grandpa Snazzy fries an egg. The microphone really has nothing to do with it. It just happened to be handy.

Anyhow, this is almost a ringer for the picture on page 13, which Elmer Peterson explains in full in the article.

NOT THAT THERE'S any design to make this month's column a California edition, but we couldn't resist telling you that Lou Richardson, before the Golden Gate and an editor's desk on *Sunset Magazine* called, was associate editor of *Better Homes & Gardens*.



Nebraska's and Iowa's
Lou Richardson

As a matter of fact, she's been, all her life, somehow tied up with gardens and homes. Even now, she says, "I have a little place up in the country, 18 miles from San Francisco, where I go in for geraniums and roses—when I'm not flying kites, as we often do of a sunny Sunday morning."

Still it wasn't geraniums but potato bugs that started it all. Listen: "The stork caught up with my parents in Nebraska, some 40 years ago. But before I had a good look at the sand hills, we moved to Iowa, town of Jesup. At the age of 8, I went into the potato-bugging business. I got two cents a hundred! But I decided that there was something to gardening!"

The first salaried jobs, however, were teaching—kindergarten, then shorthand. Then Teacher Richardson wandered over to *BH&G* in the fall of 1925 and became Editor Richardson (with the prefix "Assistant," of course, to start).

"I've written almost everything," she says, "from children's stories to profound essays—but the essays have always come back. I collect everything that has to do with the Old West. On my 'office' wall hangs a Book Trails' Map of California on which I've been working for five years. . . . Along with most Californians, I go in for superlatives. I claim I have the *smallest* office west of the Rockies. It's exactly 3' x 5', window and all, opening off the living-room that in turn looks out on the Yacht Harbor, with Golden Gate Bridge beyond. There's just room for the typewriter, a chair, me—and the cobweb. The only way I can concentrate is to look up at a cobweb dangling from the ceiling. Once the cleaning woman brushed down my biggest and best cobweb, and I had to stop work for two weeks."

But, read "Ride Your Hobby on Treasure Island," page 20.

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THE GARDENS OF "TREASURE ISLAND" * *So Good Meals* GO SWEDISH MODERN