



THE GAB BAG
BY ALAN BROWNING, JR.

YOU CAN WATCH OUT NEXT WEEK
We've been promising ourself for a long time that we're going to have another heading for this column in which we are going to put a picture of ourself, and so now we are officially warning all readers who have weak hearts and cannot stand shocks to approach the Gab Bag by easy stages next week. We would suggest they take a series of brief looks, making each look just a wee bit longer than the last, and thus grow accustomed to the picture by easy stages.

Not that we think the picture will have harmful effects, for after all we've been living with our looks for a long time, still it's best to be cautious. If you are right careful you will gradually get accustomed to it and in a month or so you probably won't even shudder.

We've been messing around newspapers now for around 13 or 14 years, and although we have taken thousands of pictures for publication, we've never yet had our own picture in print. It just ain't right and we're going to do something about it even if it causes an international crisis.

We nearly got our picture in the Durham Herald one time, even going so far as to have the printing plate made, but at the last moment the publisher got weak-kneed and ordered it killed. "Not that I have anything personally against you, for you can't help your looks," he said, "but I've got to consider the subscribers."

It's weak-kneed journalism like that that hurts the entire journalistic profession. And like it or

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not, we're going to have our picture published next week, even though we are going to have to make the photograph ourself. So far we've been unable to talk any other photographer into risking his equipment.

After all, a picture of us will be useful. Farmers, instead of putting up scarecrows in their fields can clip out the picture and tack it up on a post instead. If that doesn't run off every crow and all other birds, we'll be awfully delighted. And think how fond mothers can prevail upon their youngsters to behave by showing them the picture and telling them that Browning will get them if they are not good. Chances are children in this section will improve a hundred per cent. in behavior. Just another Gab Bag service!

Oh well. Next week will tell. But remember we warned you. Boo!

STREET PICTURES
Human nature is a funny thing, as is impressed upon us each week as we make pictures on the street of people who are later given free theatre tickets.

For instance, there are some who will duck the minute they

see the camera, as if it were a gun. Then there are others who will place themselves accommodatingly in front of the camera in a very innocent way while they either talk to a companion or else appear to be in deep thought.

What most of them don't know—those who desire their picture taken—is that the camera must be focused on a certain restricted area, and those who are photographed must come within that area of focus, else their image would not be sharp and clear. We usually focus on a crack in the sidewalk and make the pictures as people move across that particular spot. This will perhaps make it clear to many why, although they were standing in front of the camera, their pictures were not taken. They were not in the range of focus.

Of course a camera can be set so that everything in sight is in focus, but the side of the street on which pictures are usually taken is always in shadow. As a result any shutter speed of less than one-hundredth of a second is too slow to stop movement, and the lens must be practically wide open to permit enough light to make a good negative. When a lens is used wide open the depth of focus is small. So we are restricted in our picture making.

So, for the benefit of those who want their pictures in the paper and the free tickets which go with it, don't stop and stand in front of the camera. Stroll calmly by and as you enter the field of focus you'll get it taken—maybe.

Practically everyone who has had their picture printed in The Tribune makes some remark about how awful it was when they come for their tickets, when in reality the picture was a good likeness. They don't stop to realize that an unposed photograph of this nature shows them as they are; as they appear to others; and not as they sometimes like to think of themselves as appearing.

People are accustomed to seeing themselves only full face, as reflected in the mirror. A side view, or rear view of themselves presents an unfamiliar picture. If you really want to get a good look at yourself—if you want to see yourself as others see you—go to one of Elkin's department stores and step before one of those angled mirrors which show front, side, three-quarter and rear view. Chances are, if you are not vain, you'll laugh. Whenever we get in one, we feel more like going off and having a good cry. But then looks are not everything.

Of course some pictures made on the street are not good likenesses. Sometimes the shutter clicks at the instant a person's mouth is open at an uncomplimentary angle, or the face is indulging in a frown, or is out of natural shape in some other way. In most instances we do not use these pictures, unless it is of some person we know wouldn't give a rip whether they look pretty or not. We've found this class to be scarce.

These street pictures have shown us that regardless of whether or not people like to have their picture in the paper, they do like the theatre tickets. Of all the pictures we've run over a period of nearly a year now, we'd be safe in saying that 95 per cent. of those whose pictures have been published have called for their tickets. And the other five per cent. were people who didn't see the paper and as a result didn't know their picture had appeared.

Pass by some Saturday and we'll take yours.

BETHEL

Mrs. W. A. Pardue has been seriously ill at her home here for the past two weeks, her many friends regret to learn.

Fred Melton returned to his home here last week from Chicago, Ill., after completing a course in electrical engineering there.

Miss Norma Gilliam was the guest of her friend, Miss Pauline Morrison, over the past weekend.

John Durham, small son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Durham, has been ill with pneumonia for several days, but is some better, we are glad to note.

Mrs. Jones Vanhoy, of State Road, and Mrs. A. F. Woodruff, of near Boonville, have been at the bedside of their mother, Mrs. Pardue, during her illness. Many relatives and friends who have been deeply interested in Mrs. Pardue have called at her home.

Mrs. D. S. Gilliam has been confined to her home due to illness for several days.

Paul Eller, who is visiting his parents at Clingman, recently visited his aunt and family here, Mrs. G. F. Pardue.

Mr. and Mrs. B. C. Lewis, of the Pleasant Grove community,

were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Henric the third Sunday.

Miss Fernie Harris, of this community, was taken to the Hugh Chatham Memorial hospital at Elkin last Monday where she underwent an operation for appendicitis.

Several relatives and friends from here have visited Mr. C. F. Stroud who is ill at the home of

his daughter, Mrs. W. F. Mc-Bride, at Jonesville.

Prof. Paul B. Collins, of Lincolnton, was a recent visitor at the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Jones.

The hind feet of a rabbit make its first track, tracking ahead of the front feet.

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Directed by George Archibald - A Paramount Picture
Hear Bob and Shirley sing "TWO SLEEPY PEOPLE" by Honey "Strut" and "Small Fry" Cornichon!

News — Admission 10c-25c

SATURDAY—

Tim McCoy
—in—
"LIGHTNING CARSON RIDES AGAIN"
Cartoon - Serial - Comedy — Adm. 10c-30c

WEDNESDAY, NEXT WEEK—

"YOUNG DR. KILDARE"
Cartoon - Serial — Admission 10c to All

Coming Mar. 13-14—
"THE GIRL DOWNSTAIRS"

Coming Mar. 16-17—
"THANKS FOR EVERYTHING"

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News - Cartoon — Admission 10c-30c

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