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CHECKING UP.

A Beautiful Woman Inhibits the Men

BY L. M. BOYD

ONE MORE STATISTIC refutes that common misconception that fat folk tend to be jolly. The majority of suicides are overweight . . . A SIGN IN a Houston restaurant reads: "We Used to Cash Checks, But Not Anymore." . . . NO DOUBT YOU know somebody who lives the life of Riley. But do you know who Riley was? Our Language man does not, and he is putting about that . . . WHY THE FINGERNAILS on your right hand grow faster than the fingernails on your left is an unexplained phenomenon . . . AMONG ENGLISH GIRLS in their tweedies, the most popular first name is Phyllis. Second most popular, Grace. Third, Elsie.

THE MORE BEAUTIFUL a woman is, the more gentlemen of amorous intent she attracts. That's what you'd think. But it's not true. Our Love and War man has made a pretty thorough study of what happens to well-endowed women, as you know. He says they frequently live lonelier lives than the less glamorous girls. "Men are scared of them," he says. "As old Ortega y Gasset put it, 'In their presence a man feels like a tourist, not a lover.'"

WRITES a Great Falls, Mont., matron: "When my husband gets drunk, as he does every Saturday night, he wants to fill his water pistol with ammonia and go out to chase grizzly bears. He has a theory he can subdue the bears by squirting them in the eyes with this chemical. My question is, will it work." Unfortunately, have nothing in the files on the matter, but will see to it that it's checked out as soon as I can find a volunteer.

CUSTOMER SERVICE: Q. "HOW about getting your Name Game man and your Love and War man together to give me the thing on girls called Wanda? I'm thinking of marrying one. Go ahead, I'm brave, lay it on me." A. There is none better than a Wanda in the handling of men, money, and machines, they say. So you might as well turn the car over to her, give her your checkbook, and hotfoot it to the altar . . . Q. "ARE ANY BONES in a baby's body fully grown at birth?" A. Only those three little bones in the middle ear, says our medical consultant.

LITTLE ARGUMENT turns up here over which were the more rugged frontiersmen, the Montanans or the Texans. My people were Montanans. The ladyfriend's were Texans. Still say the Montanans were the toughest. They had to stand up against everything the Texans had to put up with, plus harder winters. I'm going to sneak this item off to the printer without letting her veto it. When Montanans and their progeny set out to win, not much stops them.

"MURDER will out," said Mr. Chaucer. He was a fine fellow, but he was off the beam there. It's a fact more than half the murders are never solved . . . THE MOST FORGOTTEN of all forgotten men are those nervous young fellows who come apart under military discipline and wind up in the American stockades in Viet Nam . . . RUTH LYNES of San Clemente, Cal., owns a parakeet articulate in 34 fancy phrases, including, "Got a kiss?" "Sock it to me," and "Help! Call the police! You're a stinker!" Pretty glib bird.