

Jewelry Box

[Blog 1](#) [Blog 2](#)

Fall 2018

A newsletter from

Joseph's Jewelry

 200 Wanaque Ave.
 Pompton Lakes N.J. 07442
 (973) 839-6639

By Joseph Mirsky, Gemologist and Proprietor

www.jewelrynewsletter.com

Your Community Jeweler for 31 years

Boob Married Men Tax Corsets!

The Revenue Act of 1918 stated that "Men's, women's, misses', and boys pajamas, nightgowns, and underwear, on the amount in excess of \$5 each" would be subject to a luxury tax.

"Underwear shall include any garment worn under the outer dress, such as undershirts, drawers, pants, bloomers, union suits, combination suits, tights, camisoles, corsets, corset covers, brassières, chemises, and vests."

"Corsets Luxury? Ask the Ladies! Boob Married Men in Congress Should Have Known You Simply can't Buy 'Em for Five Dollars" was the headline in the McCone County Pioneer (Circle, Montana) July 4, 1919.

Women in Indiana were outraged, charging that it was discrimination against zaftig women who needed a corset. A small woman might be able to get a corset for \$5 or even do without, "whereas if those whom nature has rounded out to full and opulent proportions were to appear without them they would be perfect sights, my dear, really."

A married man knows, since he pays the bills, that his wife's corsets cost \$10-12 (\$145-175 in 2018 dollars).

500 women in Indiana sent a petition to Senator "Jim" Watson, "a discreet man and a model husband" asking that the corset tax be levied only on those costing \$12 or more. Watson discreetly didn't publish the petition in the Congressional Record "with their names and everything, where one could read the intimate details."

"Where Was Jeannette When This Law Went through?" asked the article in a subhead. Jeannette Rankin was the first and then only woman elected to the House in 1916, from Montana.* A Republican, she was out running for senator after a reapportionment put her in a Democratic district and missed the vote. The Indiana women said if Jeannette had been there "she would have knocked the hooks and eyes out of the corset clause."

* Montana gave women the right to vote in 1914. Women had voting rights in 15 states before the 19th amendment granting the vote to all women in the nation went into effect in 1920.

Hi-Yo Silver!

The Lone Ranger debuted on WXYZ radio in Detroit in 1933. After the initial actor left, the role was taken over by Earle Graser. The show was so popular that "the enthusiastic idolatry of Detroit children forces him to wear a black mask to work," said Life Magazine December 27, 1937, which showed him at the microphone wearing the iconic Lone Ranger mask.

The Life article also shows how Silver's hoofbeats were made by four men clapping together toilet plungers covered with cheesecloth.

While at a Detroit night club with his wife, Graser entered a contest to win a prize for the man who could shout "Hi-Yo, Silver!" closest to the real Lone Ranger. Graser lost.

Graser was killed in 1941 in a car accident. But the radio and subsequent television shows continued to use his recorded "Hi-Yo, Silver!"

Ess! Ess!

In the Netflix series *Orange is the New Black*, the prison cuts back on the food budget to save money and starts serving slop. A character named Black Cindy converts to Judaism to receive much better kosher meals, joined by other inmates.

This caught on in Scotland, where the number of Jewish inmates went from 9 to 130. The kosher meals are prepared by outside contractors and cost more than twice as much as those prepared in prison kitchens.

"If a prisoner states they are Jewish and only eat kosher, we have to provide it. They've got this idea from *Orange is the New Black* and it's spread among the more gallus [daring] prisoners, who will do anything to get better food, facilities or just to annoy the authorities," said a prison source quoted in *The Daily Mirror* September 7, 2016.

As to one of the most popular sandwiches in the U.K., the source added "I can't wait to see their faces when it's bacon butties on the menu and they're told they're not allowed any."

Heels on Wheels

Saint Laurent, the fancy-schmancy French fashion company founded by the late Yves Saint Laurent, has just made clackety-clacking in stilettos passé. Now you can glide with fancy-schmancy stiletto roller skates.

But the Anya 100 Patch Pump Roller is only for well-heeled high rollers at \$2,622.



Beauty Treatment

Twelve camels were disqualified from the 2018 beauty contest event at the second annual King Abdulaziz Camel Festival in Saudi Arabia.

The camels parade past judges who rate the size of their lips, cheeks, heads and knees as well as their size and hump.

The rogue camels were thrown out for having botox injections for the lips and nose. "It makes the head more inflated so when the camel comes it's like, 'Oh look at how big that head is. It has big lips, a big nose,'" said the son of a top camel breeder, as quoted in *The National*, an Abu Dhabi newspaper January 23, 2018.

\$31.8 million in prizes are awarded to the most beautiful camels in the 28 day festival.

But cheaters also risk the wrath of Allah: they have to swear on the Quran who owns the camel and how old it is. Allah knows what you did.



Pendant in 14 karat white gold with hot pink spinel, .68 carat, and diamonds, .10 carat total. \$699. Also 5mm matching color stud earrings, \$489.



The Dodobird and the Dinosaur

By Henry Edward Warner

When Woman first came, she had long fine hair
By which she was dragged to her lover's lair;
But in course of fashion, the sex saw fit
To make up a bonnet to cover it.
And ever since then, it has been the style
To change hat fashions every little while.
And on Easter's wave, all manner of men
Reach for the checkbook and grab a pen!

And so it happened, as such things do,
That Women went crazy for something NEW,
And once every year the Chigaree sat
In a milliner's store, trying on a Hat!
And the Askatoon watched with anxious look.
Always with his hand on his fat check book—
Watched till she finished, and sighed, and then
Reached in his pocket for his fountain pen!

"That's a beautiful bonnet, upon my word!"
Said the Dinosaur to the Dodobird;
"Yes, and half as much hat costs ten times more."
Said the Dodobird to the Dinosaur.

— Gazette and Bulletin, Williamsport, Pa, April 2, 1924

There were a number of Dodobird and Dinosaur poems in various newspapers in 1924. One about a Chigaree riding in an Askatoon's new car, one about falling in love "way back in the age of the Primal Man," and another about the conversation of the Dodobird and Dinosaur as they walked through the woods:

They would talk of things such as pickles and kings
Liniments, fashions and tires and springs,
Babies and colic and shovels and picks,
Of society manners and of politics.
And their words of wisdom came to me
From the Askatoon and the Chigaree,
With strict command that I pass them through
The printing presses till they get to YOU.

Henry Edward Warner (1876-1941) was a newspaperman from age 11 when he printed a small paper on a hand press given to him by his father. He worked for various newspapers, settling at the Baltimore News, then the Baltimore Evening Sun.

He wrote songs as well as poetry and was the founder of the American Press Humorists in 1903 for which he wrote the National Humorists' March. He was "Uncle Ed" on the radio show *Uncle Ed and His Dream Children* which he described as "a fanciful presentation of my verses and songs strung together on impromptu microphone play with children and the home circle," in an article in the Morning Herald (Hagerstown, Maryland.) March 5, 1929.

He was also press representative for famed French actress Sarah Bernhardt. He wrote an article in *The Bohemian Twenty Thousand Miles with Bernhardt* in July, 1908. He describes her riding in her private railway car counting money: "There was something contradictory and weird in the fact that the Embodiment of Art was sitting there handling the Expression of Greed, but she handled it with an exquisite aesthetic touch that hallowed it. During this engagement she managed to hallow something like \$180,000, it is said; and a great deal of this went back to France, to be further hallowed by her son, Maurice."

In her travels around the country, she dined under Niagara Falls, rode in a freight elevator in Buffalo, fished at 4:00 in the morning in California, and shot an alligator in Florida. The alligator "was a toothless old pet that would have died of old age, and he was tied up in the middle of a lake so she could accurately end his misery."

Given brightly colored dyed chicks at Easter in Topeka, she said she would take them home "to establish a breed of rainbow poultry." In Boston she was asked how she liked the gold colored furniture on a set. "Oh, bon! bon!" she exclaimed; whereupon the property manager promptly bundled the furniture off the stage.

"She said it was bum," he explained."

The Askatoon craned his neck
And sweated as he pulled out a check
As the Chigaree eyed a diamond band
He sighed in relief, it was under a grand.

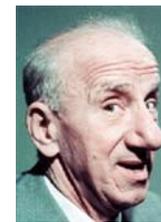


Henry Edward Warner 1910

Nose Job

"Nasal Distortion in Short-Distance Photographs: The Selfie Effect" That was the title of an article in the Journal of the American Medical Association Facial Plastic Surgery March 1, 2018.

Taking a selfie from 12 inches makes your nose look 30% bigger. At 5 feet your nose looks like it really is. A poll of plastic surgeons reported that 55% of patients sought surgery to improve their looks in selfies in 2017, up from 13% in 2016.



So don't confuse self-
ie-awareness with self-
awareness. Ask some-
one 5 feet away if your
schnozzola is as big as
Jimmy Durante's. If it is,
do as he did and insure
it for \$50,000.



Pendant in 14 karat white gold with rich blue sapphires, 1.01 carat total, and .02 carat diamond. \$750.

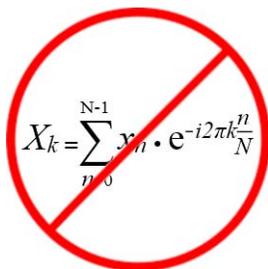
Deuce in the Hole

After the nuclear war, if you survived and you ran out of money after your neighborhood warlord took away your gold, you could have headed to Mount Pony in Culpeper, Virginia.

That's where the Federal Reserve stashed \$2 billion in cash in 1969, enough to keep things going for 18 months until the Fed could start printing money again. A lot of the money was in \$2 bills. They were unpopular and nobody wanted to use them so rather than pulp them they just shrink-wrapped them figuring that after the apocalypse people wouldn't be so picky about their money.

The 400 foot long reinforced bunker even had lead-lined shutters on the windows to keep out the radiation. It was also designed to serve as the emergency seat of government with a peacetime staff of 100 that would ramp up to 540 who would hot bunk in 200 beds as they worked around the clock until they used up their 30 day ration supply. There was also cold storage for bodies too radiation-contaminated to be buried.

In 1988 the cash was unstashed and in 1992, the emergency government facility in the bunker was closed. In 1997 the bunker was purchased from the Richmond Fed by the Packard Foundation on behalf of the Library of Congress for \$5.5 million. With another \$150 million from the Packard Foundation and \$82.1 million from Congress the bunker became the National Audio-Visual Conservation Center in 2007 to store the 6.3 million pieces of the Library's movie, television, and sound collection.



"Please refrain from discussing mathematics while waiting in line." That was a sign in the Neon deli in Middletown Connecticut. The deli is just down the road from the math department at Wesleyan University. It seems that two math professors "were down there talking about math one afternoon and the owner of the deli was trying to take the order from one of them and he was a little bit too preoccupied with mathematics to fully engage in the sandwich ordering process," said a visiting math teacher from Pittsburgh who took a picture of the sign, which then went viral.

A One Carrot Diamond Ring

Mary Grams got engaged with a diamond ring in 1951. In 2004, she was weeding her garden on her farm in Alberta, Canada and she lost the ring. After intense searching she finally gave up. She told her son, but not her husband "because I thought for sure he'd give me heck or something," reported the Associated Press August 16, 2017.

Her daughter-in-law now lives on the farm that has been in the family for 105 years. She was harvesting carrots with her dog and noticed that one looked odd. She almost fed it to her dog but changed her mind and threw it in the pail.

When washing the carrots she saw the ring: the odd carrot had grown through it, bulging around it as if it were a too-tight collar. Her husband, Grams' son, called Mary with the news.

The family gathered to celebrate. After washing the ring Mary put it on and it still fit! "We were giggling and laughing," she said. "It fit. After that many years it fits."

Mary, now 84, lost her husband five years ago.



Threading the Needle

Licking, squinting, more licking and still you can't get the thread to go through the eye of the needle. Problem solved! A YouTube video will show you how to do it like magic.

Lay the thread across your palm, put the needle flat with eye over the thread and roll the needle back and forth with your fingers and a loop of the thread will magically go through the eye in a few seconds. The video has been viewed over 6 million times.

Another video shows that just rubbing the needle back and forth with the eye over the thread, said to be the ancient Chinese way, also works.

Bloody Wary

That's how you should be about saying "bloody" in England. Although it sounds like a quaint Britishism to us, in England it used to be highly profane. Until about 1750 it was just another intensifier, a word that pumps up another word or expression, like "absolutely" or "utterly."

But by 1888, the Oxford English Dictionary says it is "now constantly in the mouths of the lowest classes, but by respectable people considered 'a horrid word', on par with obscene or profane language."

Below is an ad from The American Magazine, November, 1914 for George Bernard Shaw's play Pygmalion (you know it as My Fair Lady in its reincarnations as the 1954 Broadway musical, and the 1962 film).

Bernard Shaw

The only man in England who dares to say
BL—DY

No one in England but Shaw dares to say bl—dy. In his latest play, "Pygmalion," the heroine says it in the great drawing-room scene. When London heard it, it nearly fainted. But when the audience "came to," Pygmalion was the success of the season. It is one of the most delightful plays Shaw has written. Full of sparkle, daring and originality. The play appears complete in the November issue of Everybody's Magazine.

In the play Eliza Doolittle "created a sensation with the line 'Walk! Not bloody likely!' And this led to a fad for using 'Pygmalion itself as a pseudo-oath, as in 'Not Pygmalian likely,' and "bloody" was referred to as 'the Shavian adjective' in polite society," according to Wikipedia.

The same line in the 1938 film version of Pygmalion "Has been followed by one of the biggest laughs in the annals of cinema," said an article in the West Australian (Perth) March 24, 1939.

My wife tells of visiting England as a young woman in 1958 that a friend's husband then stationed in England in the Air Force told her that prostitution was legal in England so not to wait alone on a street corner for someone and to never use the word "bloody."

Evidently "bloody" has become a less bloody awful word nowadays. Harry Potter's buddy Ron Weasley says "bloody hell" 23 times in the PG-13 rated movies. The next time you're in a pub ask the bartender for Bloody Wary shock tales.

But when I posted this article on a forum for the software that I use for my newsletters and web site that is headquartered in England, the swear filter cursed me with a bunch of bloody asterisks and I had to work around it by inserting a zero width space in the word. (No clue what that really is, but Wikipedia has a whole article about it.)

8/14/18 8/14/17 8/15/16

Gold	1197	1282	1339
Silver	15.04	16.97	19.90
Platinum	806	968	1112

You can get live precious metals prices on the web site.

Joseph's buys old gold for cash

City Limits

In 1947, Idaho legalized slot machines on a local-option basis. Idaho law permits an area with only 125 residents to incorporate. 17 new towns sprang up to exploit one-arm banditry. The town of Crouch, 50 miles north of Boise, added another 1.2 acres to its 282 acres by extending a one foot wide corridor ten miles to a roadhouse on a highway to make slots legal there. Talk about gerrymandering!

When Boise banned slot machines in 1949, just three weeks later gambling interests persuaded residents just outside the city limits to incorporate as Garden City. While Crouch only had a license fee, Garden City took 45% of the profits in addition to license fees, which paid for a water system, park and playground, a town hall and police force. The town's surplus was \$15,000 in 1950 but by 1953 it had grown so much that Garden City was able to invest \$300,000 in U.S. Bonds.

Idaho banned slot machines in 1953. Money spent on slot machines siphoned money from stores and other businesses.

Slot machines were confiscated and broken up with any money still in them going to the state treasury. Some people stole them as souvenirs or collectibles but when they were also pursued by the authorities, they threw them in rivers. Even today scuba divers occasionally find slot machines underwater, some with silver dollars still in them.



Filigree Ring in 14 karat white gold with diamond, .02 carat \$650.

Quack Science

How annoying when a car gives you a horn blast. Researchers at Soongsil University in Seoul, South Korea tested different horn sounds on a group of 100 people and the least annoying was a duck quack.

"Our klaxon can immediately alert the pedestrians of the danger while also reducing the unpleasantness and stress of the sound," said the lead researcher.

Don't Jive Me

Camden, N.J., April 8.—Local *Courier-Post* has taken editorial exception to the charges made in classical corners that jive music is the chief cause of juvenile delinquency. Newspaper pointed out that a lot of American soldiers were subjected to the insidious influence of *Cow-Cow Boogie*, while the German army had a chance to cut its second molars on beer garden versions of *The Blue Danube*, "but we'd still rather live in a world of hep cats than Hitler jugend."

— The *Billboard* Apr 15, 1944

For a grand tour of fuddy duddy freakouts to pop music from the "indecent" Viennese waltz to ragtime, swing, rock and roll and hip hop see *All Shook Up* In my book *Now and Then Again*, \$16 at the store, \$16.95 on amazon.

HOURS	
MON - WED	10 - 6
THU - FRI	10 - 8
SAT	10 - 6
SUN	Closed

Deep Thought

*If I had my life to live over,
I would do it all again, but
this time I would be nastier.*

— Jeannette Rankin (1880-1973), Republican from Montana, first woman elected to Congress, 1916. See *Boob Married Men Tax Corsets!* On first page.

Copyright © 2018 Joseph Mirsky Jewelry Inc.

Battle of the Burgers

Google's Android and Apple both came out with hamburger emojis which sparked withering twitter criticism.

Everyone agreed that the cheese should be on top of the burger followed by other toppings. (That's why they're called "toppings.") So Google's is wrong with the cheese on the bottom and Apple's is wrong with the lettuce on the bottom.

I checked with the dean of Hamburger U and the King of Burgers. Both said the proper order is burger, cheese, tomato, lettuce.



Google



Apple

Dial-up Service

President Dwight Eisenhower moved into his home on the Gettysburg farm he bought in 1950 in 1955 after renovations. As a general and in the White House, if he needed to make a phone call he just picked up the receiver and was connected to a switchboard operator.

A Secret Service agent witnessed Eisenhower's first attempt to use a dial phone at his Gettysburg house. After hearing the dial tone, he repeatedly pressed the hang up button which did nothing. Then he hung up and began turning the dial like it was on a safe. He finally asked the agent for assistance and spent the next hour calling his friends, happily playing with his new toy.

Online News

"Why may not the telegraph wire be extended and diffused as the gas pipe has been?"

— *Scientific American*, October 1867

A network of telegraph wires extending to every home with a news feed like the *Associated Press* would instantly enable everyone to know what's going on.

"Of course, this would do away with newspapers, but what of that? All things have their day, and why should such ephemeral things as newspapers be an exception to the rule?"

[The book of the Newsletters](#)

[Blog 1](#) [Blog 2](#)