

Slipper's Soliloquies: some short stories

Every now and then I think of some small thing I could write about in my "Soliloquies," but it wouldn't be enough for a full column. Therefore, I save them until I have enough for a column. This will be such a time.

I have been here at the *Courier* for over six years now, and have been associated with a number of different people. Sometimes I have found quotations I have heard over the years are quite appropriate. Some of these sayings are: "A penny saved is a penny earned." Another along the same line — "Watch your

pennies and your dollars will take care of themselves." And finally, "Honey gathers more bees than vinegar."

Fred Slipper

 Last November I wrote about my friends Thelma and Lee Everett, who leave every year in October and travel throughout the country in their camper, and return about

the first of February. My story about them told of their friends in Tarheel who thought Mt. Baker was right in the Everett's back yard, and would erupt at any time, a la Mt. St. Helens. Thelma and Lee have sent me a postcard faithfully every week, which I appreciated. As long as I don't travel like they do, this is the next best thing.

 Just a couple of days ago I received a nice letter from a reader, June Harvey of Hamilton. She was going through some newspapers that her late

husband, Wally, had saved and ran across an article dated August 24, 1961. It was about Maurice Hamilton and reminded me of interesting happenings in my old home town. The town of Hamilton was named after Maurice's father, William Hamilton. I remember the Hamilton family — at the time of the article, 1961, Maurice was 82 years old. I wonder how old he was when he passed away.

 Over the years I have always enjoyed going to the post office and seeing

what is in the mail box. I have also discovered that in order to get letters, one must write letters. Sometimes I write a letter, not knowing for sure whether or not I will get a reply, but if I do, it is a pleasant surprise.

Such an answer I received about 10 days ago. I have done quite a bit of reading in the recent years, and check books out of the library. One book I liked was *Mallory's Gambit*, by L. Christian Balling. On the fly leaf it said Balling lived in Durham, New Hampshire, and was a professor at the Universi-

ty of New Hampshire. That was all the address there was — I had no idea how large Durham was, so just addressed the envelope to Balling in Durham, with the notation "try U. of N.H. if unable to locate".

The letter did reach him, and I received a nice answer, thanking me for the kind words I said about his book. So for the price of a little time and a 22 cent stamp, I made his day happier, and his answer in return made me happy, too.

See, honey does gather more bees than vinegar.