

# A BUNDLE OF MYRRH

By WILLIAM ALLEN WHITE  
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ONE of the first things that a new reporter on our paper has to learn is the kinology of the town. Until he knows who is kin to whom, and how, a reporter is likely at any time to make a bad break. Now, the kinology of a country town is no simple proposition. After a man has spent ten years writing up weddings, births and deaths, attending old settlers' picnics, family reunions and golden weddings, he may run into a new line of kin that opens a whole avenue of hitherto unexploitable faces to him, showing why certain families line up in the ward primaries, and why certain others are fighting tooth and toenail.

The only person in town who knows all of our kinology—and most of that in the county, where it is a separate and interminable study—is "Aunt" Martha Merryfield. She has lived here since the early fifties, and was a Perkins, one of the eleven Perkins children that grew up in town; and the Perkinses were related by marriage to the Mortons, of whom there are ever fifty living adult descendants on the town-side now. So one begins to see why she is called "Aunt" Martha Merryfield. She is literally aunt to over a hundred people here.

She lives alone in the big brick house on the hill, though her children and grandchildren are in and out all day and most of the night, so that she is not at all lonesome. She is the only person to whom we can look for accurate information about local history, and when a man dies who has been at all prominent in affairs of the town or county or state, we always call up "Aunt" Martha on the phone, or send a reporter to her, to learn the real printable and unprintable truth about him.

Aunt Martha used to bring us flowers for the office table, and it was her delight to sit down and take out her "cook-book"—as she called it—and go after the town stunts. She has promised a dozen times to write an article for the paper, which she says we are not to print, entitled "Soft Made Women I Have Known." She says that men were always bragging about how they had clerical, worked on farms, dug ditches and whacked rails across the plains before the railroads came; but that their wives insisted that they were princesses of the royal blood.

Her particular animosity in the town is Mrs. Julia Neal Worthington. Aunt Martha told us that when Tim Neal came to town he had a brogue you could scrape with a knife and an "O" before his name you could hoop a horseshoe with. "And that woman," exclaimed Aunt Martha, when she was under full sail, "that woman, because she has two bookcases in the front room and reads the book reviews in the *Delinquent*, thinks that she is cultured. When her folks first came to town they were as poor as Job's turkey, which was not to their discredit—everyone was poor in those days. The old man Neal was as honest an old Mick as you'd meet in a day's journey, or at a fair, and he used to run a lemonade and peanut stand down by the bank corner. But his shels, who were raised on it, until they began teaching school, used to refer to the peanut stand as 'papa's hobby,' pretend that he only ran it for recreation, and say: 'Now why do you suppose papa enjoys it?—We just can't get him to give it up!' And now Julia is president of the Woman's federation, has stomach trouble, has had two operations, and is suffering untold agonies with acute neuritis. And yet—" Aunt Martha would say through a beaklike snarl, "she's a good-enough woman in many ways, and I wouldn't say anything against her for the world."

Once Miss Larrabee, the society reporter, brought back this from a visit to Aunt Martha: "I know, my dear, that your paper says there are no cliques and crowds in society in this town, and that it is so democratic. But you and I know the truth. We know about society in this town. We know that if there ever was a town that looked like a side of bacon—streak of lean and streak of fat all the way down—it is this blessed place. Crowds—why, I've lived here over fifty years and it was always crowds. 'Way back in the days when the boys used to pick us up and carry us across Elm Creek when we went to dances, there were crowds. The girls who crossed on the boys' backs weren't considered quite proper by the girls who were carried over in the boys' arms. And they didn't dance in the same set."

Miss Larrabee says she looked into the elder woman's eyes to find which crowd Aunt Martha belonged to, when she flashed out: "Oh, child, you needn't look at me—I did both; it depended on who was looking! But, as I was saying, if anyone knows about society in this town, I do. I went to every dance in town for the first twenty-five years, and I have made potato salad to pay the salary of every Methodist preacher for the past thirty years, and I ought to know what I'm talking about." There was fire enough to twinkle in her old eyes as she spoke. "Beginning at the bottom, one may say that the base of society is the little tads, ranging down from what your paper

calls the Amalgamated Handholders, to the trundle-bed trash just out of their kissing games. It's funny to watch the little tads grow up and pair off and see how bravely they try to keep in the swim. I've seen ten grandchildren get out and I've a great-grandchild whose mother will be pushing her out before she is old enough to know anything. When young people get married they all say they're not going to be old-marriedly, and they hang on to the dances and little hops until the first baby comes. Then they don't get out to the dances much, but they join a card club."

In her dissertation on the social progress of young married people, Aunt Martha explained that after the second year the couple go only to the big dances where everyone is invited, but they pay more attention to cards. The young mother begins going to afternoon parties, and has the other young married couples in for dinner. Then, before they know it, they are invited out to receptions and parties, where little tads preside at the punch-bowls and wait on table, and are seen and not heard. Aunt Martha continued:

"By the time the second baby comes they take one of two shoots—either go in for church socials or edge into a whist club."

Aunt Martha's eyes danced with the mischief in her heart as she went on: "Now, if after the second baby comes, the young parents begin to feel like saving money, and being someone at the bank, they join the church and go in for church socials, which don't take so much time or money as the whist clubs and receptions. The babies keep coming and the young people keep on improving their home, moving from the little house to the big house; the young man's name begins to creep into lists of directors at the bank, and they are invited out to the big parties, and she goes to all the stand-up and 'gabbie-gobble-and-zit' receptions. As they grow older, they are asked with the preachers and widows for the first night of a series of parties at a house to get them out of the way and over with before the young folks come later in the week. When they get to a point where the young folks laugh and clap their hands at little pudgy chubby when he dances 'Old Dan Tucker' at the big

ried—Judge of the District court at twenty-four." She held the case in her hand and went on opening the others. She came to one showing a mustached and goateed youth in a captain's uniform—a slim, straight, soldierly figure. As she passed it to Miss Larrabee Aunt Martha looked sideways at her, saying: "You wouldn't know him now. Yet you see him every day, I suppose." After the girl shook her head, the elder woman continued: "Well, that's Jim Purdy, taken the day he left for the army." She sighed as she said: "Let me see, I guess I haven't happened to run across Jim for ten years or more, but he didn't look much like this then. Poor old Jim, they tell me he's not having the best time in the world. Miss Larrabee came down the ill-contrived walk from the stately old brick house, carrying a great bouquet of sweet peas and nasturtiums and poppies and pinks, a fleeting memory of some association she had in her mind of Uncle Jimmy Purdy and Aunt Martha kept tantalizing her. She could not get it out of the background of her consciousness, and yet it refused to form itself into a tangible conception. It was associated vaguely with her own grandmother, as though, infinite ages ago, her grandmother had said something that had lodged in the girl's head.

When the occasion made itself, Miss Larrabee asked her grandmother the question that puzzled her, and learned that Martha Perkins and Jim Purdy were lovers before the war, and that she was wearing his ring when he went away—thinking he would be back in a few weeks with the Civil war ended. In his first fight he was shot in the head and was in the hospital for a year, demented; when he was put back in the ranks he was captured and his name given out among the killed. In prison his dementia returned and he stayed there two years. Then for a year after his exchange he followed the Union army like a dumb creature, and not until two years after the close of the war did the poor fellow drift home again, as one from the dead—all uncertain of the past and unfitted for the future.

And his sweetheart drank her cup alone. The old settlers say that she never flinched nor shrank, but for



The Judge Walked Over and Gave the Band Leader Five Dollars.

parties in the brick house, it's all up with them—they are old married folks, and the next step takes them to the old folks' whist club, where the bankers' wives and the insurance widows run things. That is the inner sanctuary, the holy of holies in the society of this town."

"That reminds me of the Winthrops. When they came here, back in the sixties, it happened to be Fourth of July, and the band was out playing in the grove by the depot. Mrs. Winthrop got off the train quite grandly and bowed and waved her hand to the band, and the Judge walked over and gave the band leader five dollars. They said afterward that they felt deeply touched to find a raw western town so appreciative of the coming of an old New England family, that it greeted them with a band. Before Mrs. Winthrop had been here three weeks she called on me, 'as one of the first ladies of the town,' she said, to organize and see if we couldn't break up the habit of the hired girls eating at the table with the family."

The talk drifted back to the old days, and Aunt Martha got out her photograph album and showed Miss Larrabee the pictures of those whom she called "the rude forefathers of the village," in their quaint old costumes of war-times. In the book were baby pictures of middle-aged men and women, and youthful pictures of the old men and women of the town. But most interesting of all to Miss Larrabee were the daguerotypes—quaint old portraits in their little black boxes, framed in plush and gilt. The old woman brought out picture after picture—her husband's among the others, in a broad beaver hat with a high choker taken back in Brattleboro before he came to Kansas. She looked at it for a long minute, and then said gayly to Miss Larrabee: "He was a handsome boy—quite the beau of the state when we were mar-

# RADIO

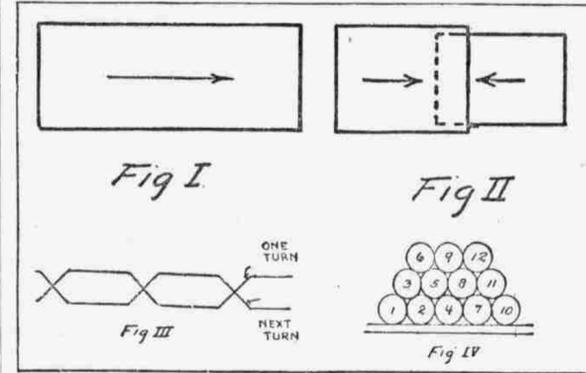
## VARYING INDUCTANCE OF THE TUNING COIL

### How Different Forms of Winding Affect Reception of Long and Short Waves.

Tuning inductances for radio receiving circuits are made in a variety of forms. For short waves, the most commonly used form of inductance is the single layer solenoid, which is nothing more nor less than the common tuning coil, consisting of a single layer of wire wound upon a cylindrical form.

The method used to vary the inductance of a tuning coil is a slide which gives single turn variations or a switch which usually varies the inductance in groups of turns. For very close tuning where even the turn to turn variation is too coarse, a series or shunt in the circuit is necessary.

A closer variation of inductance can be procured by splitting the number



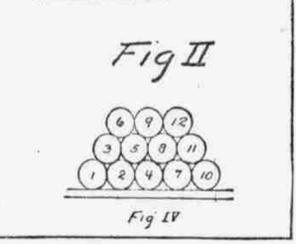
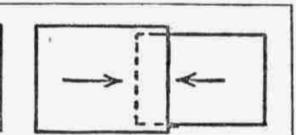
of turns in two and winding one-half on a hollow cylindrical tube, and winding the second half on a slightly smaller cylindrical tube of such size that it can easily be slid into the first one. If now, the two coils are connected in series but in such a manner that their magnetic fields interlock, a continuous variation of inductance can be had by moving the coils with respect to each other. Fig. 1 represents the tuning coil—all of the magnetic field in the same direction. Fig. 2 represents approximately the same winding as was used in Fig. 1, but wound on two concentric forms. When the two coils of Fig. 2 are separated the fields of the two coils do not meet and the inductance is the sum of the separate inductances of the two individual coils.

As the coils are brought closer together the field of one coil backs

down the coil and the total inductance is decreased. Finally when the winding on the inner cylinder is exactly under the winding on the outer cylinder, the inductance of one coil neutralizes that of the other and the resultant inductance, neglecting leakage, is zero.

A variometer functions exactly as did the two coils shown in Fig. 2. In a variometer, one coil rotates with respect to the other instead of sliding in and out as was the case in Fig. 2. If the windings of a variometer are on a cylindrical surface there will be a large amount of leakage, which decreases the ratio of maximum to minimum wave length to which the variometer will tune. A variometer with windings on a spherical surface and having a small mechanical clearance between rotor and stator will give minimum leakage. There is an excellent variometer on the market at the present time with a so-called "basket" winding. Not only are the windings on a spherical surface, but a cross-section of the winding (see Fig. 3) is such that the distributed capacity is reduced to a minimum. This is accomplished by separating adjacent turns and crossing them at right angles.

This same method of winding inductances is applied to the "spider web" coils. The change in wave length when using "spider web" coils is accomplished by the use of a series of



shunt variable condensers since the coils are not as a rule provided with taps.

For longer wave lengths the bank wound coil is used to reduce the distributed capacity in winding multi-layer inductances. Fig. 4 shows how the turns of three-layer bank wound inductances are arranged.

The "duo-lateral" coil is an improvement over the bank wound coil. In a "duo-lateral" winding the conductors in two successive layers are not parallel as they are in the bank winding, but cross each other at an angle. In our estimation basket wound variometers with no shunted capacity are most efficient for short wave tuning while duo-lateral wound coils of large diameter, with a small amount of shunted capacity for tuning, are most efficient for long wave reception.

### USEFUL "DON'TS" TO KNOW

Every One of Them is Valuable Advice to the Amateur Radio Operator.

- Don't fail to insulate the antenna.
- Don't place the lightning switch indoors.
- Don't listen-in during a thunderstorm.
- Don't cause interference with other stations.
- Don't try to use a loud speaker with a crystal set.
- Don't run wires parallel in making up receiving sets.
- Don't neglect to read everything available on radio.
- Don't attach ends of antenna to power or telephone poles.
- Don't connect a radio set direct to the electric light circuit.
- Don't forget that tickler coils are not used with crystal detector sets.
- Don't expect to get loud signals with a crystal detector set while using an indoor antenna.
- Don't always blame the broadcasting station. It is sometimes the fault of your own apparatus.

### Annealing Hard Wire.

If hard-drawn copper wire is used for connections in the rear of panels, it will break when bent or it is most sure to break upon removal from the fastening. The end of the wire may be annealed by heating it in a flame or by applying a coat of tin or solder. The wire can then be bent several times, without its breaking.

### Help Tube With Magnet.

The sensitivity of an audion tube sometimes may be increased by placing a large horseshoe magnet in a certain position so that the poles of the magnet are on each side of the tube. This probably is due to the magnetic effect upon the moving electrons that flow across from the filament to the plate.

### Length of Aerial Wires.

A single wire aerial is sufficient, if one at least 75 feet long can be put up. If the aerial is shorter, use two wires, taking the leading-in wire from the far end. If the aerial is to be only 50 feet or less over all, make it a four-wire one, and again take the leading-in wires from the far end.

### Will Stop Jamming.

It is proposed to increase the number of available wave lengths for broadcasting by varying some of the many 300 meter stations by 25 or more meters.

### RADIO SPARKS

Mr. Edison is credited with the discovery that a current existed between a lighted filament and a plate inclosed in a vacuum tube, the great principle involved in the successful amplifiers. More recent work by him in radio development has been prevented by the unfortunate falling of his hearing.

Chilo, a chimpanzee in the Milwaukee zoo, has a radio set especially built for him.

The United States forest service is receiving valuable assistance from radio in fighting forest fires. Through broadcasting information regarding the location of fires much valuable time is saved.

Eight broadcasting stations, costing a total of \$1,000,000, will soon be built in Great Britain. The fans will be charged a "listener's fee" of approximately \$2.50 a set in order to support the stations, which will be operated by the government.

One of the best-known radio "dead spots" is in the Red sea. Ships passing through this region can read no signals from the Aden station, but on leaving it, messages are picked up at full strength.

From the west comes a story of a method to use the telephone overhead wires for radio antenna. This cannot be done, however, with a grounded return circuit such as is found in farmers' lines.

Isn't it a helpless feeling when you have just a receiving set and you hear two of your friends giving you a pun over the air phones, and you sit and listen and listen, then listen some more, and you can't do a thing but keep on listening?

The large corporations find it profitable to provide entertainment by means of radio for their employees in isolated places. This may be the solution of keeping the tired girl on the job in the country.

Y. M. C. A. boys camping in Montana found enough specimens of galena near their camps to equip several radio sets.

Warnings are again prevalent throughout the country regarding sellers of worthless radio stock.



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