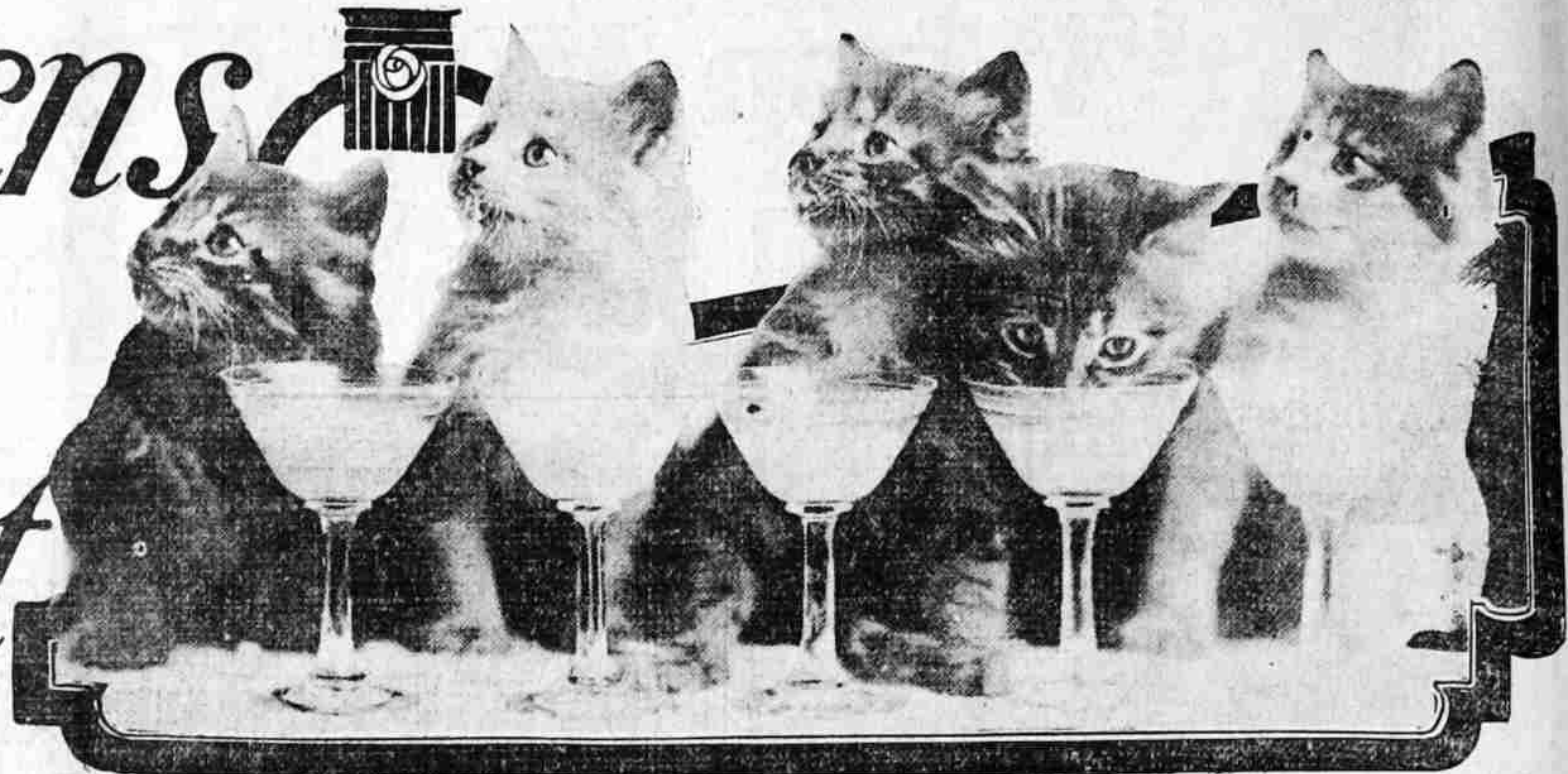
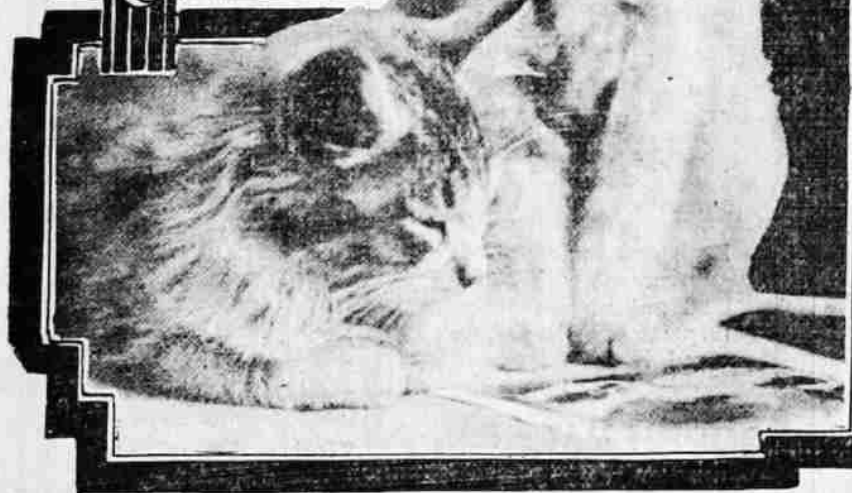


OGDEN CITY, UTAH, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1914.

# Teaching Kittens to Look Pleasant



## Belle Johnson, Whose Home Is in a Town of Only 1,949 People, Wins International Fame Through Specializing in One Line of Photography.



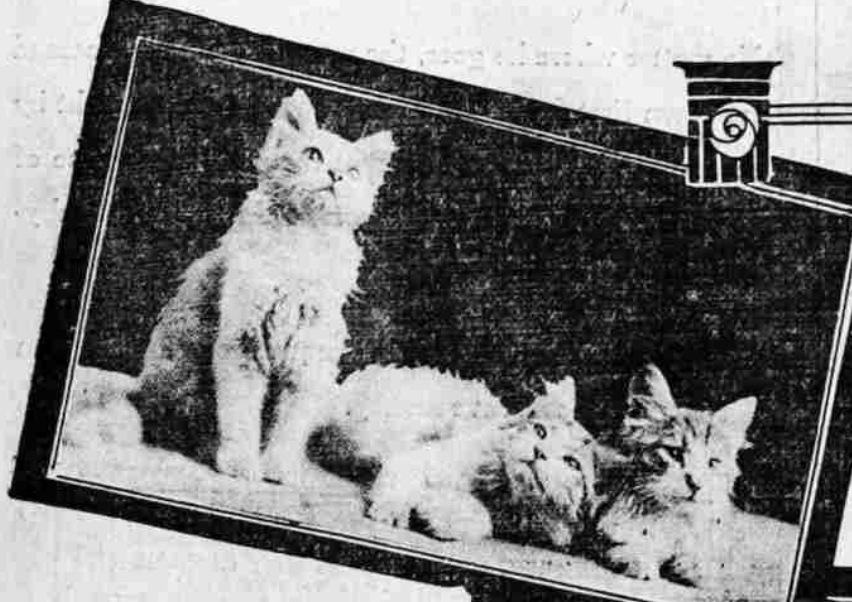
A great philosopher once said greatness would find a man even though he lived in a wilderness. Those coming to the great man's door would wear a deep path, according to the philosopher. The average ambitious young American, however, is unwilling to wait for the

"I'll photograph babies," said Miss Johnson. That made two specialties. One day a girl came to her studio with a kitten. She wanted to be photographed with the kitten in her arms. That presented difficulties because the cat would not be still.



book before them. One cat is interested in the book, the other one wants to sleep. Both of them, however, have their gaze turned toward the book just as though they were reading and looking at the pictures. In taking such pictures the average photographer fails because it is impossible to get the cat to center its attention on the pictures. The photographer who wins in centering an unintellectual animal's attention on pictures leaves the realm of common photographers and enters the rank of artists. It is easy to get a grown person to look at a book. ANIMALS CANNOT BE REASONED WITH. "All you have to do is to say, 'Look at the book.' The cat, however, has to be interested in another

New York has more millionaires, more famous writers, more famous artists, more famous musicians, more famous actors, more noted statesmen and more noted crooks than any other city. It is the size of the city that gives her the pre-eminence. Because she is big more big daily papers are printed there than in any other city. More magazines are printed there than in any other city. More big financial deals are consummated there than in any other city. The New Yorkers see all the big shows first. There the plays have their chance to win fame, and if they fail they rarely go across the country. One of the biggest advertisements in the theatrical world is that a certain play has had a big run in New York. New York does not need a com-



path to be worn. In quest of greatness, he strikes for the population centers like New York, Paris and London. Miss Belle Johnson of Monroe City, Mo., did not follow the crowd. Born at Mendota, Ill., she went to Monroe City in 1891, and there hung out a shingle to the effect that she was a photographer. She was young and ambitious.

One rarely thinks of a photographer in a small town as being on the high road to fame, but that didn't worry Belle Johnson. Town boosters said Monroe City would grow. It has grown. It has 2,000 population, according to town boosters. According to the cross-my-heart figures of the census of 1910, it has a population of 1,949.

Yet Belle Johnson, photographer in her little town, is more famous than many Monroe City folks who went to New York and Paris years ago. In fact, she has appeared in those big cities and has won medals for her remarkable work. Here's the story of how she won her laurels as written by one of those who contributed his part toward wearing the path to her door after reading that she was famous all over the photographic world for her cat pictures.

When Miss Johnson started in her little country town she learned that some things are harder to photograph than others. She learned that old people were harder to photograph than middle-aged ones. That is, it was harder to get their natural expression.

"All right," said Miss Johnson, "I'll photograph old people."

After specializing in old people awhile, she had experience with babies. Babies are very elusive to photograph. They will laugh and coo and do anything cute as long as there is no camera about, but the instant an attempt is made to photograph them they begin to cry, hang their heads down and do all the things babies are not supposed to do.



1906 by B. J.

Right there Miss Johnson began to specialize in cats. In fact, anything that was hard to photograph became Miss Johnson's forte. She wanted to do well anything anyone else had hard work doing. Animal photography is hard, so she has worked hard at photographing all kinds of animals. Her pictures of kittens have won her the most fame. They have been exhibited both in America and in Europe and have won medals at many exhibitions. She is the holder of thirty gold and silver medals from photographic exhibitions and conventions for different kinds of photography.

**REMAINS WITH SMALL TOWN FRIENDS.** In 1906 her work was selected by the National Photographers' Association of America for the position of honor in the salon.

After she had begun to be well known she was asked why she did not open a studio in a larger place.

She was told she would win fame in New York quickly. She has refused to leave Monroe City, however. There she has her first success. There she has her friends and there she is happy.

Her only venture outside of Monroe City is a studio she has opened in co-partnership with Roy Moore at Pittsburg, Kan. Of course, Miss Johnson's work is not exclusively animal pictures. Her real work is portraiture. The photographing of cats and other animals is a side line. She has ventured into difficult fields because it is interesting.

Some animals are easy to photograph. Cats, however, are difficult subjects because they will not "look pleasant." To get a kitten in the attitude of fighting or playing requires long effort. Like children, kittens always want to do something you do not wish them to do. They insist on sleeping when one tries to take a picture of them awake, and they insist on chasing



MISS BELLE JOHNSON, photographs of cats taken by her and collection of her medals.

around when you wish to get them asleep. Cats will not argue a question. They do as they please without discussion. That is why they are so difficult to get in pleasing postures. Much money has been spent on cat photography by fanciers. Many photographic plates have been

ruined because the cat changed its position just before the picture was snapped.

To successfully photograph animals they must be worked with as though they were human. Their likes and dislikes must be taken into consideration in order to get the proper pose. Lighting speed cameras also are needed to bring the best results. In photographing kittens for instance they must be caught in the right position and snapped before they can change.

Any photographer can take a picture of a cat. It takes an artist to photograph that cat doing some particular thing. In human beings expression is what we seek. In cats we have no equivalent name, so we will have to let it go at expression. To gain expression we have to interest the cat. Thousands of amateurs who are fond of cats have sought for this expression in vain.

Miss Johnson, for instance, has a picture of two cats with a picture

manner because it has no way of communication with mankind.

Another difficult feat is to photograph a cat sitting in any uncomfortable position. A cat will spend hours in a crouching position in front of a woodpile watching for a mouse. A cat will stand under the dripping eaves waiting to pounce on a bird and never move a muscle. But when there is nothing to be attained, a cat will not sit in an uncomfortable position a second.

Miss Johnson, however, has photographed cats in all kinds of positions. She even has put them in a flower vase and snapped them while they were looking pleased. Such work has attracted universal attention to Monroe City. The work of the town photographer has done as much as any other one thing to cause outsiders to look up Monroe City on the map.

Looking over the list of great people New York has more names in "Who's Who" than any other city.

mercial club to boost her prowess. The people have found New York without the boosting, or in spite of it.

She advertises herself, and because of her greatness thousands of people are drawn there every year, thinking that is the place to "make good." They forget the philosophers of old. They forget that the truly famous will have a path worn to their door in the wilderness.

**Fair Kisser Was a Man.** By far the most commanding feature of the fair conducted by the Ladies Aid Society of the First Baptist Church of Coape, N. Y., was a large square tent at one end of the hall on which this sign was displayed:

MISS EMILY LAWSON WILL SELL KISSES PRICE 25C EACH.

The fair endured for two evenings. The kissing tent did more business than all the other departments combined, for the managers took in \$43 and might have gathered more but for an unfortunate incident.

One young man, after paying a dollar on the second evening for four occupations, came back from the opening where the pretty face was displayed and whispered to a friend:

"Joe, there's only one trouble with that girl's kisses. She needs a shave."

Following came a raid on the tent, when it was found that "Miss Emily Lawson" was Peter F. Brodwick, a good looking young man, who had disguised himself as a girl.

Pressed for time he had failed to use his safety razor and the fraud was discovered through the stubble on his lips. But the Ladies' Aid Society repudiated him; it had no part in the plot.