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Story of Miss Ruth Leonard.

By DORA Bacheller.



In all the ten years I have been doing newspaper work and it has consisted principally in interviewing people, men and women in every line of work and in every profession known, I have never met anyone whose story has filled me with greater admiration, whose personality has been more pleasing, whose influence for good has been greater, than that of Miss Ruth Leonard.

It is a genuine pleasure to tell Miss Leonard's story to the fathers, mothers and daughters who read The Western Home Monthly, for every daughter of this broad land faces the possibility of earning her own living, though in truth it may not be a probability in one case out of a hundred. Personally I take great pride in saying that Miss Leonard was born on a farm and lived there until she was nineteen years old. It is a fact which the young woman herself is very proud of and I cannot but feel that every farmer's daughter who reads this article will be able to get considerable knowledge of practical living in a large city, a genuine inspiration for good work and most necessary of all, each will have before her a model of what a woman should be, both in her own home surroundings and as a factor in the business world. I tell this story in preference to that of many others who have won fame more far-reaching because the foundation of all Miss Leonard has achieved and all she is, was laid in the peaceful, quiet, homely surroundings of a very modest country home.

I met Miss Leonard at a social gathering of men and women and singled her out of the fifty or more who were entertained that evening, as a young woman well worth knowing. Her gracious manner, her pleasing conversation, her poise and dignity and dress marked her as unusual. When I bade her good night she cordially held out her hand and with the most pleasing manner said, "May we not set aside a few of the formalities, Miss Bacheller, in our social intercourse? If you will generously do so and take dinner with me tomorrow evening I should be very glad. Shall we say at half past six?" and with the cheeriest of smiles she left me.

Literary Work.

The following evening I rang her bell at the appointed time. She opened the door and held out her hand and there was the same sweet smile, the same cordial hand-clasp I had felt the evening before and withal the heartiest and most well-bred welcome I ever received in a stranger's home. After a dainty, wholesome, satisfying meal we settled back in rather luxurious ease and drank our coffee. There was a peace and calm there that satisfied one's very soul.

"How did I happen to come to New York and how have I solved the problem of living and work for a business woman in the big city," she repeated after me. "Well, you see, to really answer those questions I must give you 'the story of my life.' In fact I think I should have to tell you of my father and mother and our home that we used to have out on the Nebraska plains. I never realized how necessary it was for a woman to learn how to do, what in these last few years seem to be counted wholly unnecessary. By that I mean learning to cook plain food, to wash and iron and clean thoroughly and to mend and darn. If a girl has learned to do these things and has been able to take a high school course and then aim high and is willing to work there is no position she cannot fill well if she will. It is a good foundation upon which to build any kind of a career.

It is the waste in the world combined with ignorance that brings us to poverty and all its attendant evils, and when people and particularly the business woman understands that, all of living will be easier. Most women will say it is true, every word of it, but it will seldom occur to the individual woman, for instance, to look into her closet and see if that last pair of shoes she discarded might not be half-soled and worn another three or four months longer and if those heavy gloves could not be neatly mended and worn for a time yet, etc. You see most of us agree to these broad, sweeping generalities, but few of us are willing to take the details ourselves."

"My mother was a wonderful woman. In the light of many women I have met since I left home and came here to live she grows more wonderful to me every day. I tell you straight from my heart that I could not have made an abject failure of my life having had the mother I did." With genuine sorrow in her voice she said, "How I pity girls who have not had the influence of the love, wisdom and guidance of a good mother. They need that influence as young girls, but as women, alone in the business world, they need it too. Particularly in the larger cities, where living is made more difficult than in the smaller places, where there are more obstacles in the business world, no matter what work may have been chosen, it is hard indeed to attain even a small success and keep one's heart and mind steadfastly fixed on the generosity and goodness of the world. But if a girl has had a good, wise mother, a mother who has lived well and nobly, with a realization of the responsibilities of motherhood, there is no excuse for that girl living other than a good, pure, upright life, doing her work well and becoming a factor for good wherever her work takes her and in whatever surroundings she may make her home. The summing up of all this would be, that comparatively few mothers are doing their duty; that few girls have the proper home training is apparent on every hand. And the failure to do good work, conscientious work, the physical breakdown of so many girls in business and the lamentable number that stray far from the paths of virtue, tell a most pitiable tale of the lack of proper moral, mental and physical training in the home."

Home Life.

The concise way in which Miss Leonard gave me her ideas showed she had done considerable thinking along these lines. I asked her about her home in the West and her simple, straightforward way of telling me was delightful.

"I was a very little girl when father moved from northern New York to Nebraska so I really feel that Nebraska is more my home than any other part of the country, though for the past nine years I have lived in New York City. Father had a farm just about a mile out from Lincoln. I went to the district school from the time I was five until I was twelve, mornings and evenings I helped mother do the work. I had my first cooking lesson when I was seven. Corn bread was the first thing I learned to make. From that on I was taught to cook and bake the things that were plain and wholesome. My receipt book, started when I was seven, is one of my proudest possessions." Miss Leonard went over to a bookcase and took out an old and much worn book. On the first page was this, "Receipts tried and found good by Miss Ruth Leonard." Then came the index beginning with breads and the "date of trial." The very manner in which the cook book had been made was indicative in a large measure of the training the girl had had.

"I not only learned to cook but I

FREE!

\$200.00 IN CASH

And 500 Valuable Premiums Given Away

Below will be found three sets of mixed or jumbled letters. The first set when placed in proper order spells the name of a large animal. The second set spells the name of a staple article of food. The third set spells the name of a large city. Here are all the sets:

RSEOH [the name of a large animal]
RAEBD [the name of a staple article of food]
LEAMOTNR [the name of a large city]

Can you place the above sets of letters in proper order, so as to spell the words wanted? It is not easy, but with patience and perseverance it can be done. It may take a small amount of your time, but as there are cash prizes and valuable premiums given away as an advertisement, it is well worth your time to make an effort. It is just possible that you may have entered contests before and have not been successful, but please remember that in this instance you are dealing with a reliable firm and that there are over five hundred prizes to be distributed.

Write your answer to the above neatly and plainly on a slip of paper, and send it to us at once. Both writing and neatness count in this contest. If you do not happen to be a good writer, have some neat writer enter the contest for you, in his or her name, and if you are awarded a prize, agree with the person who does the writing that the prize belongs to you. All this may take up a little time and be a little trouble, but the prizes are handsome and valuable, and worth many times the amount of time that anyone will give to the above.

Should you read this advertisement and yet not desire to enter the contest yourself, please point out the advertisement to some relation or friend who might be interested. This is an opportunity of a lifetime, and should not be missed. This contest is not open to children under 14 years of age. We propose to hold a contest for young people very shortly, but will not accept entries from children in this one. Below is the prize list for the most correct, best written and neatest solution of the above:

1st Prize.....	\$50.00 in Cash
2nd Prize.....	\$40.00 in Cash
3rd Prize.....	\$35.00 in Cash
4th Prize.....	\$25.00 in Cash
5th to 9th Prizes, five prizes of \$10.00 each.....	\$50.00 in Cash
10th to 14th Prizes, Five Ladies' or Gents' Gold Filled Hunting Case Watches.	
15th to 19th " Five Family Dinner Sets (97 pieces)	
20th to 24th " Five Ladies' or Gents' 14k Gold Plated Watches.	
25th to 29th " Five Sets of half dozen Silver Plated Knives and Forks (Rogers)	
30th to 34th " Five Ladies' or Gents' Solid Silver Watches.	
35th to 39th " Five Handsome Violins and Bows.	
40th to 44th " Five Hardwood Accordions.	
45th to 49th " Five Magnificent Fur Ruffs.	
50th to 54th " Ten Ladies' Toilet Sets.	
55th to 59th " One Hundred Ladies' or Gents' 14k Gold Filled Rings.	
60th to 64th " One Hundred Watertown Fountain Pens.	
65th to 69th " One Hundred Sets of 6 Silver Plated Tea Spoons (Rogers).	
70th to 74th " Forty Ladies' Hand Bags.	
75th to 80th " 110 Sets Silver Plated Sugar Spoons and Butter Knives (Rogers)	

CONDITIONS

The judging of the above will be in the hands of three gentlemen of undoubted integrity, who have no connection whatever with this office. No employee of ours nor any of their relations will be allowed to compete. We do not ask anyone to send ANY OF THEIR MONEY in order to enter this contest.

There is a simple condition that must be complied with, about which we will write you as soon as we receive your answer to the above.

This contest is open to persons of either sex over 14 years of age. No entries will be received from children. When replying to this advertisement, be sure to write your name and address very plainly in the space below. Cut out the advt., and send it to us, together with the slip of paper on which you have written your solution to the puzzle, and we will write you at once in regard to the simple condition mentioned above.

I wish to enter the above contest, and agree to accept the decision of the three judges appointed by the Bovril Manufacturing Co., whose decision will be final.

Name.....

Address.....

State whether we are to address you as Mr., Mrs., or Miss.....

Address.....

BOVRIL MANUFACTURING CO., Dept. X Montreal, Can.