## The Bree Press Short Story

### That Merry Diamond Wedding

Well," the Old Source said, laughin

Addison came home and brought

large tent, which was pitched out

the orchard; a tent large enough

The Old Squire had his way about

it should be expressly stated in the in-

Finally, after Theodora and Ellen came

Of the aged people whom the

"I am not going to have that old rep-

viting young people as well as old:

contain tables for sixty people.

and they all came.

old Cyp.

robate!"

peremptorily.

the Old Squire replied.

on the town farm!"

at the table with him!"

believe he would come," she added.

old head here among decent people!"

invitation."

told at the Old Squire's diamond again, "that was a very pretty bou · wedding without diamonds! while it lasted. It was cover and that

This was not till long after, Addison, big squaw was lying in a mudhole be-Theodora and Ellen hal left home. The fore I could get there and take a hand Old Squire was ninety-five, and Grand- All I had to do was to pick up the squaw. mother Ruth was in her ninety-fourth It showed me conclusively why the red year. I had come home for a few days race on this continent never had a fightin April to see how things were going on ing chance with the whites." with them. Not that they really needed care; on the contrary, they were still quite competent to manage their affairs the girls of seventy-five years ago were yet it seemed only right that we should 'fighters'!" Gram remonstrated. keep an eye to them in case we were needed.

There was a new silo to be built that intended to tell that story. spring and I had been off to engage the lumber for it when on my way home past the Corners post office I found that a letter had come from Theodors, then a teacher at the mission school for Sloux Indian girls near Pierre, South Dakota.

"I hope you are not forgetting that the 16th of May will be the seventyfifth anniversary of Grandmother Ruth's and the Old Squire's marriage," "We have always said, you know, that we would have a diamond wedding then. It would be a shame for us let it pass unobserved; all the more since their golden wedding went unnoticed on account of sad events connected with the Civil War. But surely we mus have that diamond welding. True, there will not be many diamonds! None of us are rich enough for that. But what odds? We will all come home and bring other tokens of our affection. I have written to Cousin Addison. He likes the idea and will be on hand. Cousin Ellen has already been down here from Bismarck to talk it over; she will come on East with me, two weeks beforehand, to help put it through. And, oh, how good it will seem to be at home together again; Now you talk it over with Gram -and the Old Squire."

A diamond wedding without diamonds! Well. "what odds," as Theodora said? Besides, Grandmother Ruth never cared for diamonds. "Little glassy, cheaplooking things," was what she always said of them. "All the jewelry I want is my string of good gold beads and the little gold band for my married finger. that Joe gave me the spring I was eighteen and came to Maine. It is worn pretty thin now, but I guess it will see me through. I want them to bury me with that on my finger, but the gold of self-righteousness over any one."

beads I am going to give to Theodora.". The old lady looked disturbed when I first read Theodora's letter. "Wouldn't Grandmother Ruth remonstrated. "They it almost look like tempting Providence to start such a great jollification here. now that Joseph and I are over ninety?" she questioned. "I can't help thinking Old Squire declared with unwonted obwe mould better be preparing our minds stinacy. "Old Cyp is going to have an for the last great change!"

But the Old Squire cried, "Good!" He was still trying to fit for college at Yale or pretended to Addison he was. Addison was now an instructor at Yale. Latin the Old Squire liked; but French gave him trouble—the pronunciation. the French people ever got their language into such a state to pronounce passes me!" he used to exclaim.

"There would have to be a great dinner party and an all-day entertainment," Grandmother Ruth remarked a little apprehensively, "And whom should we invite? Nearly all the old friends who began life with us have now passed away, and the few that are left are so deaf and so infirm they can just toddle about! It would be pit ful to see them trying to make each other hear." The Old Squire looked thoughtful.

"Better give it up, had we?" he asked. "But Theodora and Ellen will be dreadfully disappointed; so will Addison," I objected. "They've planned to come home purposely for that. They have quite set their hearts on having a diamond wedding."

Grandmother Ruth heaved a sigh, and for some moments the Old Squire sat looking much concerned. "It would be too bad to disappoint them," he finally said. "It is kind of them to want to do it but-" Suddenly his face brightened. He had had a new idea. He was quite apt to have them, up to the last of his life, and they always brightened his face thought were the secret of his long, healthy life, the elixir that constantly freshened him. "What if we give up the idea of having only old people come? Why not invite a houseful of goung folks?" he exclaied, laughing. could send for a few of our old friends,

and have the joillest time we can?"

joy themselves!" "Oh, don't you think we might?" the house. Old Squire questioned doubtfully, but still a little hopefully, loath to give up his tended description. A very unusual feat- with a large knife in her hand."

new idea. could tell them stories of the times when pected to last only that one Saturday settlers along the Saco by the nickname fall varieties of apples. In our experience you and Gram were young. Tell them of and Saturday evening; but it somehow of "Savage Sal." She was the mother however the fruit harvested at a time that time when you first brought our stretched out over Sunday. Tidings of of the papoose and that afternoon had when the starch was present only in a youthful grandmother home to Maine- it had gone abroad, and people-some of left it in her cance at a place several part of the flesh, as suggested above, was and the squaw that came to attack her them hardly more than strangers kept miles farther up the river, while she superior in storage life and quality and

in that tent, all the following week, till poor Theodora and Ellen despaired plucky effort to salvage it. of ever being able to end it.

Addison declared jocosely that should have to nall up the gate at the foot of the lane and post a notice that the family had moved away.

Still they kept coming, three, four, ten or twenty at a time. The Old Squire and Gram were obliged to keep "dressed up" in their wedding attire and be at the door, receiving visitors and accepting congratulations. The newcomers had to be invited in, conversed with at length and told all the facts and particulars of the wedding. More than once the weary Ellen exclaimed that never again would she have anything to do with a diamond wedding! Unless it had a safety brake on It and could be stopped at will! She estimated that meals or luncheons were served to over three hundred people.

Yet, when all was said, it had been "Oh, Joseph! I don't want the young people of this generation to think that a tremendously joyous occasion; and the stories and aneldotes that were related, either by the old folks or their But the notion had tickled the Old visitors, would fill a book. About the best one of them all, too, was that told Squire's fancy and I could see that he by old Cyp Chamberwell! At least it a made everyone laugh most. But as the Old Squire came in first with his story to of young Grandmother Ruth and the papoose, I will tell that now. Old Cyp's

may come later. Gram's experience in mothering a pahe insisted from the first that "no toll poose should be taken," or, in other words, that after she and the Old Squire were marthose who come should not be expected ried, when she was in her ninteenth to bring presents of any kind, and that year and he was twenty. The wedding came off at Great-grandmother Penvitations that presents had been ruled perill's homestead in Connecticut. The out. It was to be a joyful occasion with- old lady gave Ruth a fine "setting-out," and there was so much of it that they could not take it all with them, when the young couple drove home to Maine home and active preparations began it was decided to invite Mr. Kennard, pre- a week after their marriage. They had a two-horse team, but another team was ceptor at the academy where we young folks attended school, and his pupils needed to draw the whole of it. There was no railway then, to say nothing of motor trucks; and a week after they left the old lady dispatched the re-Squire and Gram had known since their mainder of the "setting-out" by one of young days there were now but six Lving her own double wagons, to be taken as who were well enough to go out from far as Nashua, New Hampshire, at which home, and one of these was "old Cyp point the young folks were to return to Camberwell." I remember that quite an get it, after they had reached home. animated discussion arose over inviting There was a "high-boy," a bed with turned mahogany posts and a canopy top, for Ruth's best room, an oak rocking chair and, well, a host of other fine Grandmother Ruth declared

"I don't want to seem to slight him." In those days and at that time of year, people journeying to Oxford County, rever-"But, Joseph, you know what a life he Maine, from Connecticut, preferred to has led. He stole horses. He has been go through New Hampshire by way of in jail half a dozen times, and now ha Nashua, Dover, Rochester, Ossipee and across the Saco River either at Cornish. Hiram or up at Fryeburg, according as of Dr. Thomas' Eclectric Oil on hand, 'Yes, Ruth, I know," the Old Squire

ssented. "I know he has made misthe "going" was good or bad. takes, pretty bad ones. But I am not going to pass him by. I am too near the experience at a ferry over the Saco great Jumping-off Place to put on airs River; and they went back to Nashua five days afterwards, to meet and fetch "But Joseph, what would the others home the rest of the "setting-out." And think to see that old rascal here?" they had returned as far as the same ferry over the Saco; at least that was would feel insulted to have to sit down the way the Old Squire told the story.

"The ferry boat was on the far side "Well, they will have to stand it," the when we got there with our load," he related. "I blew the horn for the ferryman but failed to raise him and finally crossed over in a little old skiff there "Oh, Joseph, haven't you any sense of propriety?" the old lady protested, flush-

him," the Old Squire remarked quietly. was gone for some time "Oh, Joe, Joe!" was all the comment the invitation himself; and quite early came as near as she could to look down may still have a limited use but as on the day of the wedding he sent one into it as it passed by. What she saw test for picking maturity they leave much of our hired men with the horse and was a little brown baby, lying on a sod- to be desired. buggy to get old Cyp. The old fellow den blanket in a brown basket. The tiny Chemical analyses of apples have had done his best to "fix up." He had thing stared up at her out of its dult shown that certain changes are going on put on a dark-blue army coat with brass black eyes. It was not crying but looked in the apple as it approaches maturity. buttons and brushed his gray hair slick aggrieved and uncomfortable, for it was One of these is the gradual disappearance and flat across his forehead. I never very wet and the day was windy and of the starch which has accumulated in saw deeper furrows on a human face; cold. Its lips quivered when it saw Ruth the fruit during the preceding two or but there was a gleam in his hard old yet it merely stared at her without a three months on the tree. It has been gray eye as he clambered down from whimper. She knew that it was a papoose found in Australia and New Zealand and the buggy and stumped up the walk to and that the cance must have got adrift confirmed by the Laboratory at Kentville the house door with the aid of a stout accidently. In those days there were that the starch content at harvest of cane. His whole bearing seemed to say still a few strolling Indians in the valley some varieties of apples has a decided he was well aware (so Grandmother of the Saco, for the most part wretchedly influence on the development of storage

Ruth declared) that he had no proper poor and degenerated. business there but since "Joe"—as he "To"rescue the infant was Ruth's first The two varieties Gravenstein and always called the Old Squire—had sent very natural impulse, for she knew there Cox Orange have responded exceptionally for him, he was determined to back Joe were falls only a short way below. Well to the iodine test for starch as an up on it, come what would! He had Springing down the bank and into the indication of picking maturity. The test only been at the town farm about a water knee-deep, she caught the canoe is simple to perform and worthy of trial year, and that largely on account of an before it drafted out of reach, and drew by growers who wish to market these accident which befell him during a "dif- it securely ashore. The sight of the varieties in their best condition. But these usual features need no ex- scene burst out of the near-by woods, should turn blue-black, but if there is

This squaw, as our young grandfolk ure, however, did occur. As the girls had "I'm sure we could," I said. "You at first planned the festivity, it was ex- learned later, was well-known among the a cure-all for our storage troubles of coming in groups, all with the most went to a store some distance away, to freer from storage pit to the earlier "Dear me!" Gram exclaimed. "You friendly, joyous faces. In short, the exchange a fox skin she had trapped for harvested fruit. Seed color is not a ding had got going, and we couldn't a quart of her favorite Medford rum.

stop it! It went on day after day. We While she tarried by the way to refresh were led to keep open house and serve herself the cance and papoose had floated refreshment to callers and visitors, out off and most likely would have gone over the falls but for our going grandmother's

Returning, after many stoppages to enjoy the contents of her bottle, and finding her papoose gone, the creature set off to look it up, and it was during this quest along the river bank that she came upon our folks' wagon at the ferry. Espying her papoose on the wagon seat, in the possession of a stranger, Sal very bkely jumped at the conclusion that the whites were trying to kidnap it. The fury with which she rushed forward may therefore have been due to maternal instinct, beclouded by drink.

By this time the young Old Spuire had found the ferryman and had returned where the ferry boat was moored; they had just pushed off when, glancing across the river, he saw the squaw dash at his young spouse, brandishing her knife and muttering imprecations.

"Run, Ruth! Run!" he shouted. can outrun her! Run!". He saw Ruth ump down from the wagon, but, instead of running, she faced the squaw tood her ground. "I wasn't going run!" Grandmother Ruth exclaimed dignantly, when the story was told. didn't know the child was hers. I thought at first she meant to kill us both."

The Old Squire was horrified and kept shouting, "Ram, oh, run, Ruth! don't you run?" Ruth stood still, however, but when the squaw rushed at her she stepped nimbly aside seized red virago by the wrist that held the kriffe and with a quick exertion of her vigorous young strength swung her half off her feet and flung her down the bank and into the muddy, shoal water at the foot of it. Sal got out, however, clawed her way up the bank, and came at grandmother again with a howl, stabing wildly with the knife she still held n her hand. But again her wrist was caught, and this second time she was flung so forcefully that she went down

the bank and into the water, head first. The young Old Squire and the ferryman, both of whom had been pulling with might and main at the ferry rope, were now close at hand. The squaw was helped out and disarmed. She was below the ginger fine, add it to the well known to the ferryman, and he was able to contribute information which was necessary to set the misunderstanding

Under the circumstances not much crushed ice, or diluted with ice water. could be done for the papoose save restore it to its mother; but it was not without misgivings as to its fate that they saw Savage Sal paddle away up the

Requisite on the Farm.-Every farmer and stock-raiser should keep a supply not only as a ready remedy for ills in the They reached home after an exciting family, but because it is a horse and cattle medicine of great potency. As a substitute for sweet-oil for horses and cattle affected by colic it far surpasses anything that can be administered.

> A TEST FOR PICKING MATURITY O APPLES

During the course of investigations by the Laboratory of Plant Pathology, Kentville. N. S. conducted on the storage quality of apples from various spray was at the landing, to find him. I plots it has been necessary to try toing pink from vexation. "But I don't left Ruth to stand by the horses' heads define the stage of maturity of the and guard the load of goods. The ferry- apples, both at harvest and at intervais would know better than show his sinful man I found at work clearing land and during storage. A few years ago a burning off brush, at a distance. I had mechanical pressure tester was used. This "Then I shall send the team to fetch to go all the way to fetch him, and so instrument registered the pound pressure necessary to force a plunger into the flesh "While I was away a little birch of the apple a fraction of an inch. It Gram could find words for. The Old canoe came floating down the river and was in reality the "thumb test" reduced Squire, however, seemed unusually set seemed to be empty. Here and there it to a mechanical basis. But like a good about this; and in order to be sure that no touched the river bank, grounding for many machines, its accuracy depended left-handed procedure went on he drove a moment, then twirling around and on the operator's skill. Several types of round by the town farm and delivered gliding on again with the current. Ruth these instruments have been tried and

pit as well as their general quality.

in that way. New ideas, I sometimes ficulty" be had with the Maine liquor distressed little waif at once stirred her To conduct the test a representative law of that time, on the subject of hard heart to pity. Its only garment was a sample of 25 or more apples are picked. frayed piece of red blanket, through a The fruit is cut in half and dipped for The wedding anniversary was too early slit is which its little black head had about half a minute in a potassium for flowers in Maine but we made quite been thrust. Its bare feet were dabbling iodide-iodine solution. This solution a brave show of decorating the house in the cold water, its tiny toes tightly is made up of 1 gram of potassium iodide with evergreens; and at high noon the curled from chill. Lifting out the drip- one-quarter gram of metallic iodine in happy (old) couple were remarried on the ping basket. Ruth carried it up to the 100 cubic centimeters of water. After such as are able to come," he added apol- front plazza dressed, the same as they wagon, wrung the water from the infant's dipping the cut surface of the fruit in .. ogetically. "Wouldn't that make it go, had been seventy-five years before, as single garment and after wrapping the the solution it is removed and placed off better? Give them all a good dinner nearly as could be managed, and using papoose in my overcoat, laid it on the with the treated surface up to let the the same ceremony. Old Elder Witham wagon seat. What to do for it she hardly color develop. The iodine solution turns "But, Joseph," Grandmother Ruth in- officiated-with much solemnity. Congrat- knew, having as yet had little experience starch a blue-black. For the best pickterposed, "the young people of this gen- ulations followed and dinner was served with bables. She supposed it ought not ing maturity there should be no starch in eration wouldn't be interested in our at two o'clock Addison and Ellen pres- to be fed and that it should be better core area and one-half or more of the old affairs. We couldn't make them en- iding out in the tent, Theodora and I protected from the cold; and it was rest of the flesh of the apple should cosserving the old people at a table in the while casting about in the wagon for dry tain no starch. In other words, one-half clothing that a squaw appeared on the or less of the flesh outside the core area

no blue color the apple is over mature. This testing method is not offered as Menu Hints

Recipes for New and Novel Dishes; Household Ideas and Buggestions By Betty Barclay

LIGHT AND SATISFYING Here is a souffle which the most experienced may make without fear. comes out of the oven light as thistledown and will not fall even if service is delayed a moment or two.

CHEESE SOUFFLE 3 tablespoons quick-cooking taploca 1 cup milk, scalded 1 cup grated cheese 3 eggs yolks, beaten until thick and

lemon colored 3 egg whites, stiffly beaten with teaspoon salt

Add taploca to milk and cook in double boiler 15 minutes, or until tapioca is clear, stirring frequently. Add cheese and stir until melted. Cool. Add egg volks and mix well. Fold in egg whites. Bake in greased baking dish, placed a pan of hot water, in moderate over utes in ramekins. Souffle is done when it shrinks a trifle and is brown. Serves

oca and properly baked, souffles do not fall but stay tender moist, and light

while being served. BRIDGE PARTY "PICK-UP" (Serves 18) 9 cups orange juice 6 tablespoons lemon juice 1 cup sugar 9 cups ice water Crushed ice Orange slices

Combine and serve over crushed ice in tall glasses. Place a half slice of orange ver rim of glass. GINGER SORBET 1/2 pound bandled ginger

2 quarts water 2 cups sugar 1 cup lemon juice Juice of 4 oranges Crushed ice or 'ce water' minutes. Cool and add water to make ten cups of liquid. Add the fruit fuices and serve in glasses half filled with

ORANGE AND CANTALOUPE FRUIT OUP

(Berves 2) 1 cup cantaloupe balls or cubes 1 cup diced orange pulp 1/2 cup diced pear 14 cup orange juice

2 tablespooss lemon juice ter or scoop out with small spool. Combine with orange pulp and diced pear.

YOU NEED A CRITIC

Doing tasks over and over does not necessarily mean doing them better and better. Some old women can be found who have made poor bread and tough ple crust all their lives, as well as meh whose hair has whitened at a job to which they have never done justice. Some of you young people who are ambitious to become good writers, have an idea that all you need is to keep on working day after day and year after year. That is a help, but it does not follow that your work will improve unless you have it critized by one who knows better than you do. Everyone amibitious to improve along any line needs a critic, unless he has the faculty for self-analysis which is so much rarer than talent. Do not lose your temper with your critics for they are doing you an invaluable ser-

#### PEDIGREE POULTRY BREEDING

In poultry breeding there seems to be tendency to believe that, mating a male out of a high record dam to hens which hemselves have high records, will give the final product and spell success; however, the most thoughtful breeders believe that high egg production is not a definite character but is rather the When made with quick-cooking tapi- result of a combination of several production characters, each of which is distinct and inheritable.

Among these characters may be mentioned precocity, broodiness, intensity, high persistency, and they are no doub combined in different ways, also probably inherited, from both the sire and the dam. I mean that the trap-nest and banding systems may single out the good producers, but a careful analysis of records must be done to find out the best reproducers.

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In order to make further improvements pullet year egg production, egg weights. early maturity, standard qualifications, hatchability and mortality must be kept in mind in selecting females, while the Cut balls from melon with potato cut- young males to be used should be selected according to the average of the sister flock records, and should be vigor-Pour over fruit juices, chill thoroughly ous and possess the standard qualificat-

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> TO THOSE WHO REALLY CARE

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of commonplace things. To those memories and to the finer things which they have inspired, one owes full reverence and

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