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SHORT STORY
Majolica Vase
 By **L. T. McFARLAND**

HARRY LANG had come prepared to spend fifty dollars for the vase. He sat nervously watching the auctioneer, the people, and the door and prayed that Marjory Higgins (that horrid spinster who seldom missed an auction, and always outbid him for his treasures) had broken a leg or something so she couldn't appear this time when the Majolica vase was to be put up on the block.

He strained his neck for the hundredth time toward the entrance. He wondered if her knowledge of antiques covered old pottery. Maybe not. Maybe his auction-sparring enemy didn't know a Majolica vase from a beer mug. Yet the very thought of those snapping eyes and that crisp sanguine voice sent his blood pressure soaring.

"What am I bid for this Majolica vase? A rare antique! Rarest thing in this room!" the auctioneer's well-oiled voice boomed forth while his free

hand gestured out over wash tubs, kraut shovels, and the toil-worn carpet sweepers.

There it was! Harry looked about cautiously and held his breath for the sheer beauty of it.

"Who will start the bid?" the auctioneer coaxed.

"Five dollars." Harry called out. The girl was nowhere in sight.

"Thank you, sir, five dollars. Who will make it ten?" Thus the bidding proceeded until thirty was reached.



She pictured her proud exit with the vase safely tucked away.

THE crowd was swaying restlessly. Interest was on the wane. Harry took a plunge. "Forty," he finally said. Now the vase was practically in his lap, but the auctioneer held on. "Forty—forty—is all I am offered—who'll make it fifty—?"

"Fifty," called a clear voice near the door.

Suffering cats! It was her voice. The crowd turned en masse to see Marjory Higgins make her way up the aisle to a spot almost directly in front of Harry. She stood there, confidently, already picturing her proud exit with the vase in her possession.

Harry ground his teeth and muttered, "Sixty."

"Seventy-five," the crisp voice came back at once as Miss Higgins tossed a swift challenge back in Harry's direction.

"Eighty," Harry took the challenge, and this time Marjory flushed and seemed embarrassed.

"Eighty," teased the cryer. "Eighty I am offered. Make it eighty-five, Miss?"

The girl nodded. "Eighty-five." Harry was really seeing red.

"Eighty-five it is. Now make it ninety, Mister, make it ninety. Don't let the lady outbid you."

Harry sensed that the crowd to a man was on the lady's side and were inwardly rooting for her, enjoying her sportsmanship—so he raised up and shouted, "Ninety."

Now he had it. The auctioneer scowled and pleaded and begged but Marjory was immovable. She must be getting. She heard the "Going—going—g—"

THEN it happened. Marjory Higgins whirled about and faced Harry Lang. She was trembling. "You cheap skater!" she shouted. "You penny pincher! It's not the money, but the principle of the thing that turns me up. All this embarrassment over a measly nickel or two. Ninety cents—well, you don't get it for ninety. I bid one dollar. So there! And now that the vase is mine, I'd like nothing better than the privilege of breaking it over your head."

She stepped up to the stand and snatching the vase from the for- once speechless auctioneer, threw it with all her strength at Harry Lang's dome. Lucky for Harry he had made his record in football catching forward passes. A moment later it lay neatly tucked away under his arm.

"Touchdown," someone shouted and the crowd surged forward pushing Harry Lang until he was face to face with his assailant.

"Thanks, madam. Thanks very much for the vase—the clerk will be along in a minute to collect your bid," he managed as the crowd pressed up. And in the riot that followed, Harry edged his way out-side.

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 of
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 Commencing this week

LOCAL NEWS

—A subscriber would like to know why the apple trees at the Grandview Apartments have started sprouting bicycles?

—The office of Dr. R. T. Paul will be closed this week from Tuesday, Aug. 26th to Friday, August 29th inclusive.

—For prompt electrical repairs to appliances and wiring call H. C. Bailey, Charles St., Phone 399W.

—The Herald window is being well-supplied with flowers this summer, thanks to flower growers like H. L. Hutt, J. R. Williams and now J. D. Murray of Norval, who presented us with a lovely bouquet of his glads this week.

—Have your eyes examined by O. T. Walker, R.O. Optometrist, at his office over the Bell Telephone Co., Main St., Georgetown, the second Wednesday of each month. Or you may consult O. T. Walker at his office in Brampton, Phone Georgetown, 67W; Brampton, 599.

—Renew your subscription, Miss Elizabeth Penion writes from Toronto that she hasn't forgotten Georgetown and "all my children there" and hopes to get back occasionally for a visit. Miss Penion, who was formerly separate teacher at the high school, and her sister, have moved to 234 Kingswood Road in the city.

—Lacrosse First game of best-of-three series, between Port Dover Indians and Norval, will be played at Norva, Friday night, Aug. 22nd. Winner goes on to meet Perpus in the Western Ontario Junior O.L.A. semifinals.

—**STUBBORN SKIN DISORDERS**—At long last — Dependable relief from the itching, burning irritation of ECZEMA, PSORIASIS, HEMORRHOIDS, ATHLETE'S FOOT and many other irritating SKIN disorders **DEWBURY'S OINTMENT** that no home should be without. Get a jar of **DEWBURY'S OINTMENT** at your Druggist today. Get that quick, comforting relief you long for. You must be satisfied or money refunded. If it is OINTMENT you need, **ASK FOR DEWBURY'S** at your DRUGGIST.

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