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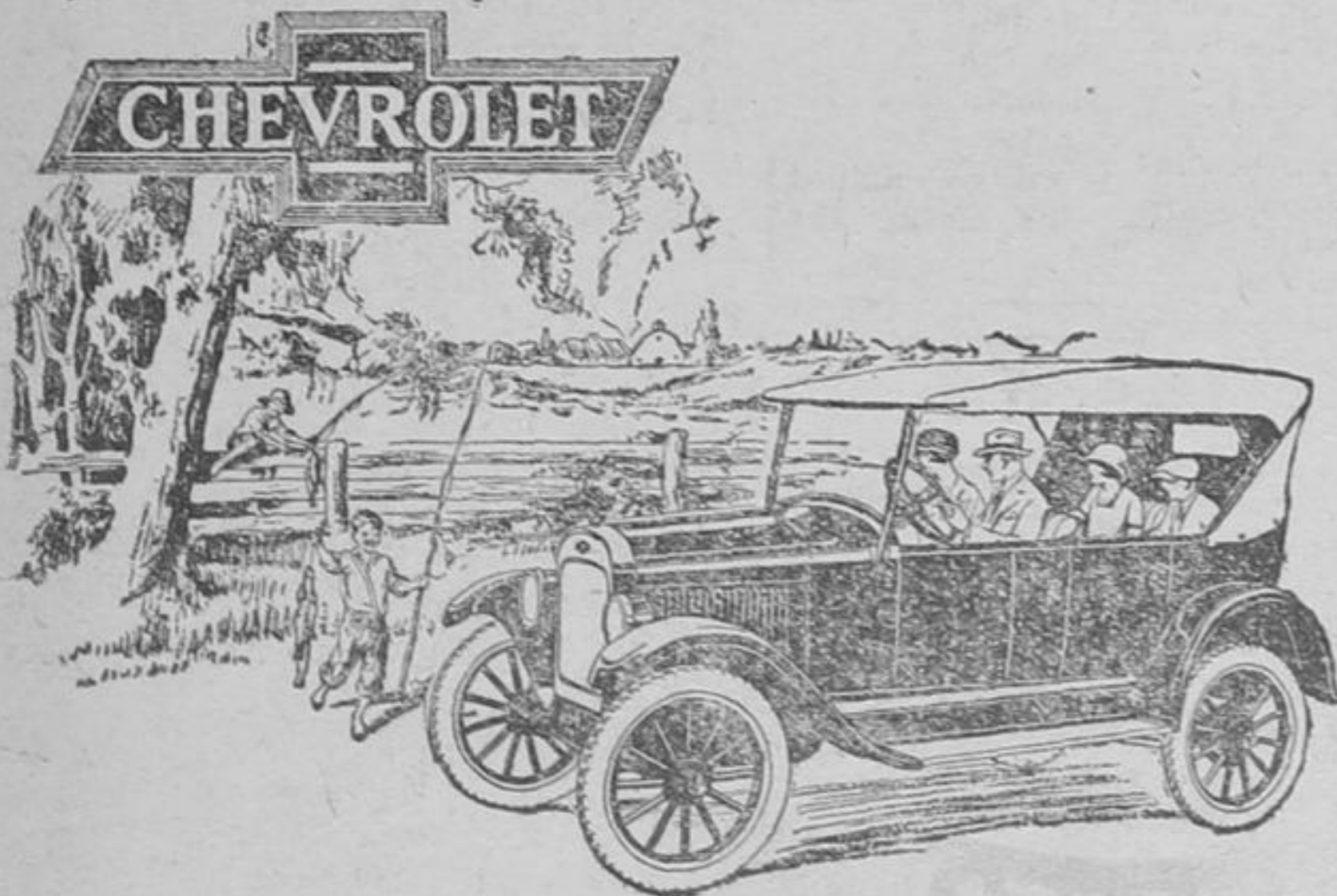
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P. C. HILL, Dealer

## The Soliloquy of a Boot (BY A. ROLFE)

(Continued from last week.)

At this stage we should have been sent to a reliable shoe repairer. The man would have been saved a great deal of annoyance. It was the sharp eyes of his wife who first noticed how dilapidated we were getting. She pointed our condition out to him, saying Henry, your boots are rather badly worn. Oh! they'll do a while longer I guess, said Henry. So he kept on wearing us. In the meantime the nails kept pushing up through our heels into our insides, tearing holes in his socks and hurting his feet. The man didn't seem to mind very much. His wife darned the socks, and a piece of cardboard prevented the nails from hurting his feet too much, so it was quite all right.

He was very careful about a clean collar, and a nice tie. He was also particular about the angle of his hat, but his feet were beyond his range of vision.

He couldn't see his feet when he looked in the mirror over the kitchen sink.

So he went forth, full of pride as to his personal appearance. Great was the face thereof. Arriving in the city in the early morning, after a very rainy night, he stepped off the car right into a puddle of water. All that day he was in misery with wet feet. After business hours he hastened home, feeling that he had a cold coming. He didn't blame himself for his cold. Not a bit of it, he blamed us.

We, of course, knew that we should have received attention long before this happened. We weren't partial to his undoing, not wilfully at any rate. Just the reverse in fact. No boot, whether belonging to the upper ten, or to the great unwashed, but what likes to feel that he is looking things squarely in the face, besides it doesn't do us any good to strain our counters too much. It looks bad, very bad.

The whole trouble was caused through the warped economical ideas of the man. His wife, time after time, tried to show him that there was no economy in wearing a boot until it was all awry, but she was simply wasting her time. It was the fault of anybody, or anything but him, so we got the blame. He removed us from his feet, opened the back door, threw us out, and here we are.

This is my third night out, and I am far from comfortable. Hello! here comes someone. On looking round I see the lady of the house. She appears to be searching for something. Ah! she picks me up, and I notice that she is holding my mate in her other hand. Taking us into the kitchen she wipes away the dirt stains and gives us a careful examination. I could see that something was in store for us, but what it was going to be it was very hard to determine.

At last she puts us down, and voicing her thoughts said, I'll chance it. I don't care what Henry says. In my opinion the boots, though looking very bad, are not past repair. So in the evening just before her husband came home she took us to the nearest shoe repair store and asked the shoe repairer to look us over, which he did, explaining our defects, and the remedies necessary for our complete rejuvenation, the price, and the time when we would be ready to be taken back. At the time stated she came for us, looked us over, and was very well satisfied. Paid the bill and took us home. That night she carefully polished us up, not that it was necessary, the shoe repairer had already done that, but she thought it no harm to give us an extra rub, after which she placed us where her husband—who always sat in the same chair in the same place and smoked his pipe every night after supper—couldn't help but see us. After a while he got settled and was just reaching out for a book when he noticed us.

His wife was very anxiously awaiting this moment, and her gaze followed his to where it rested on us. He got up from his chair, walked over and picked us up.

"Who owns the boots," he asked? They are yours, said his wife. Mine? he queried. Yes—they are your very own.

But I don't understand. They look new, or nearly new.

Why they can't be—yes they can, and are, said the wife, anticipating this question. Well, well, said Henry, and I threw them out. Where did you take them? Who repaired them? How much did it cost? were the questions he fired at his wife, who explained that the charge was very reasonable, that it had saved him buying a new pair of boots, as the boots had practically been rebuilt, and that they had been repaired at the Rolfe Shoe repair, next door to Village Clerk's office, by a shoe repairer who was attentive and polite to his customers respective of their social status.

You have only to look at the boots Henry, to see that the workmanship is good, and that the best of material only is used.

A jealous spasm crossed Henry's face at this praise of a shoe repairer, but he said, well it certainly looks as if he had made a good job. I am very pleased, and Henry, kissing his wife, started to sing (as he sat down in his accustomed place) "This is the end of a perfect day."

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