

The Old Shoebox Newsletter

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The Mystery of Grandma's Painting

by Marlo E. Schuldt



As a young child I often visited my Grandma and Grandpa Olsen. Sometimes my visits were all day so my parents could take a day off and go fishing without worrying about their curious little boy drowning in the Snake River.

These baby-sitting visits gave me the time to explore and search for hidden treasures in my grandparent's old house and small garage out back.

On one of my safaris, I snuck into the little garage, bravely fought my way through all the big catface spider webs to discover grandpa's 10 foot cane fishin' pole. He was a master fisherman and told some whopper 'big fish' stories



For some strange reason I became very attached to a rectangular picture that hung above the oval doorway to the huge dining room where the annual family Thanksgiving dinner was held.

Grandpa always started dinner with the following instruction before the pandemonium ensued, "It's ok to reach across the table as long as you keep one foot on the floor."

As a child, I would stare at the painting trying to understand its message.



As Grandma and Grandpa grew older, they allowed each grandchild to request one keepsake. Grandma had many beautiful things and some were valuable. It didn't take me long to make my request. I was too young to understand value or write so when grandma took the painting down and wrote my name on the back. I was thrilled!



I guess it was the red clover and daisies that captivated my attention the most.

I soon noticed many of the objects had more than one name written on the back. I guess grandma didn't have the heart to inhibit anyone from asking for what they wanted.

I really worried someone else would write their name on the back of the beautiful little painting. I secretly hoped the painting would be too high above the door for anyone to write on it.

I was elated when the day came and grandma surprised me with the painting I had admired since I was a young child taking those naps looking up at it until I dozed off to dreamland.

Now years later I safeguard that old print that was painted in 1901 as though it were the original painting.



Recently I carefully removed the cardboard backing to see what was behind the print. I uncovered an even more mysterious heirloom from a different era.

I discovered that grandma had saved soap labels in order to get the print from a soap company.



I examined all the different paintings she had to choose from and tried to understand why she picked this one since grandma's painting was not even shown, just a name.



I did some research on the internet and discovered the name of the soap company, who the artist was and that the song, "Love at Home" was a very popular song of the day.

Even more surprising, I was able to download two recordings of the original song recorded by Thomas Edison from the Library of Congress.



"HAVE YOU A LITTLE 'FAIRY' IN YOUR HOME?"



**A Fairy Soap Bath
Costs 1/5 of a Cent**

There are twenty-five delightful, satisfying baths in a 5c cake of Fairy Soap—therefore, it's economical. Fairy Soap has no dyes, coloring matter or high perfumes to deceive the eye or delude the nostrils. It is just as pure as it looks because it is made from high-grade edible products. We couldn't make a better soap at any price than we offer you in this handy, floating,

oval cake of Fairy at 5c.

THE H. E. FAIRBANK COMPANY
CHICAGO



Send 10 cent stamps for copy of Pamphlet "Toward History of the United States"—interesting background pictures, by Deane. Address The H. E. Fairbank Company, Dept. M, Chicago, Ill.
MAGAZINE MARKING ADVERTISING.



A Holiday Gift FREE

The Fairy Plate Calendar for 1918 is one of the choicest gifts which could be placed on the holiday. It is printed by most unique and artistic illustration of Dreyfus. There are 120 artistic plates, each with a separate introduction at about 10 words. There are 12 plates and each with the artist's name and the artist's address. Each plate is printed on high-grade paper. Each set includes 12 plates. We will send you one to any one who will forward full name and address with ten Cent Fairy Soap Prints at 10 cent stamps.

To order to receive the Fairy Soap Prints and in this way the calendar costs you nothing. Fairy Soap is the finest and sweetest that grows on any tree, abstract in price is but 5 cents. "Five every hour" is for my best.

THE H. E. FAIRBANK COMPANY, Dept. 30, CHICAGO, ILL.

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The collage contains four distinct advertisements:

- Top Left:** An advertisement for Fairy Soap titled "FAIRY SOAP The Oval Cake". It features an illustration of a woman washing her face and text describing the soap's benefits, such as being pure, white, floating, and never turning yellow. It also includes the slogan "Fairy Soap is pure, white, floating, never turns yellow." and "Fairy Soap is for every hand."
- Top Right:** An advertisement for the "FAIRY PLATE CALENDAR FREE". It shows a woman looking at a calendar and text that says "Beautiful Home Decorations".
- Bottom Left:** An advertisement for the "Fairy Soap Calendar Print". It displays a calendar with several small portraits of women.
- Bottom Right:** An advertisement titled "GOOD NIGHT!" showing a woman on a staircase. The text asks "Have you a little 'FAIRY' in your home? We mean FAIRY SOAP of course!"

The advertisement features a central illustration of a woman washing her face, framed by a decorative border. At the top, a large 'FAIRY' logo is set within a decorative frame. Below the logo, the text reads:

For every member of the family

Fairy Soap completely satisfies every requirement of the toilet and bath. Made of pure vegetable oils and high grade materials—pure, sweet and agreeable to the tenderest skin and complexion.

5¢ FAIRY SOAP 5¢

It is the Soap for the particular people. It is the Soap for the household. It is the Soap for the bathroom. It is the Soap for washing dirty babies and delicate hands. It is the Soap for the housewife.

"Have you a little 'Fairy' in your home?"

THE H. E. FAIRBANK COMPANY

No. 9
TO JOHN H. THORNLEY ESQ.

Ballads of the American Conservatorium of Music
"The Heavenly Land alone to me is"

HOME SWEET HOME

AND THE DEAREST SPOT ON EARTH TO ME IS HOME.

WRITTEN BY THE
Rev. C. Cooke, D.D.
OF WILMINGTON DEL.
SONG & CHORUS.
NEW ARRANGEMENT BY
LOTTIE OAKWOOD

LET THEM OF
SOUNDS FROM THE SPIRIT LAND
WRITE TO ME VERY OFTEN
HE SLEEPS BUT NOT HIS THE HEAVEN SHOWS
I WOULD NOT BE WHEN THE FLOWERS ARE BLOSSOM

FINE. QUART. SEVENTEEN.

Philadelphia W. H. SHUBS

BROMO-SELTZER

EDITION OF
171 POPULAR SELECTIONS
Complete and Unabridged
with Piano and Organ Accompaniment

HOME, SWEET HOME.

ARRANGED AS A
SONG, DUETT OR TRIO.
A. G. WEAVER.

THE FOLLOWING IS A PARTIAL LIST OF THE SELECTIONS FOR WHICH WE HAVE
RECEIVED THE MOST REQUESTS

1. Home, Sweet Home	2. The Swan Song	3. The Bird Song	4. The Flower Song
5. The Sun Song	6. The Moon Song	7. The Star Song	8. The Wind Song
9. The Rain Song	10. The Snow Song	11. The Spring Song	12. The Summer Song
13. The Autumn Song	14. The Winter Song	15. The Year Song	16. The Day Song
17. The Night Song	18. The Time Song	19. The Place Song	20. The People Song

READ CAREFULLY
SHERMAN BROS. COMPANY, Baltimore, Md.

FAVORITE MELODY.

HOME, SWEET HOME.

3c Size 14

MISS CATHERINE HAYES.

PUBLISHED BY
WILLIAMSON & COMPANY, 117 N. 3rd St., PHILADELPHIA, PA.

Now many years later as I study the old picture, I can easily identify the message in the painting and long for the carefree days of my youth. The old print still sends a very powerful message:

Finally, I reminisce to the words of the song, "Love at Home" and what it meant to me as a child and now as a dad and grandpa.



So why have I taken the time and effort to share this quaint little story from my childhood with all of you?

I used this example with the hope of drawing you into my little story and connecting with you as though you were one of my children or grandchildren.

I'm sure you have some similar stories you would like to preserve and share.

The smell of clover in the summer.

It's a nice way for our kids to identify with us when we were their age. Children rarely view their parents as children. Now you can share the "little child" that is hidden inside along with your dreams and aspirations.

Humming a special song.

Simple stories are the best since everyone can more easily identify with basic growing up experiences.



A letter from home.

Grandma's old painting has a message that is even more relevant in our day of high stress and technology diversions.

The stark and simple beauty of the daisies

I think the old soapbox print is still trying to tell us what is really important, "To stop and smell the clover" and to focus our attention on the important little things of our life and family history.

A good book to lift our spirits



Grandma and grandpa Olsen as I remember them in the 1960's when I went for visits to their home as a young child and dreamed about the painting that hung over entrance to the dining room.

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