

## ["Yesterdiay I wint ta the circus,"]

ORIGINAL MSS. OR FIELD NOTES (Check one)

PUB. Living Lore in

New England Irish

TITLE Shoe Laster of Lynn #7 (Irish)

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DATE 6/7/39 WDS. PP. 7

CHECKER DATE

SOURCE GIVEN (?) Interview - James Hughes

COMMENTS

[?] - 1 [? ?] 7 [B?]

Name: Jane K. Leary, 32 Acorn St.

Informant: James Hughes, 52 Johnson St.

Subject: The Shoe Laster of Lynn (Living Lore)

"Yesterdiay I wint ta the circus, an' ya know, I enjoyed it, aven thouth it wuz jest a small one. Ya outa seen the croud thiery. CIRCUS

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“The best theng of all about it wuz the horses. Din't they heve them trained though? Thiere wuz one thiere adancin' a jig—raley adancin' a jig. Ya oughta a seen him dancin'. An' another wuz adoin' the shimmy. Din't he look funny?”

“An another walked on his hind legs the whole length of a house. Thet's quate (quite) a heft, ya know.

“An the clowns wuz funny too. Thiere wuz one thiere thet 'culd walk up ta a coupla pretty girls an' first theng ya know he'd ba ahuggin' one a 'em. Or he'd get down on his knas nays (knees) to em. It maide the people people all aroun' jest laugh laike the dickens.

“An I'm a tellin' ya thiere's a couple acts thiere thet wuz elegant too. One fella stood on his head an' he jumped up the steps a a ladder ta the top on his head an' thin down the other siade. I never saw the laike a thet before in a circus. It sure wuz nice. An' I been ta a lotta circuses in ma tame.

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“The first circus I iver winta wuz in Ireland whin I wuz jest a little fella. Ma father took me bafore he daied. He wuz alwiays pratty fond a horses ya know. It wuz one of thim thet killed him.

“They hed fiarty ta fifty horses in thet circus in Ireland. An clouns an' acrobats a lot laike they do hie. It wuz held in the same town whiere Lord Home lived. He wuz the fella thet married an actress from Pennsylvania. She hed thet famous Hope Diamond ya know, an' they lived fir a good piart a thiere tame at Castle Blaney in Ireland. They hed a place in Angland too, but mosta thiere tame they lived at Castle Blaney.

“It wuz a beautiful place all raight an' ya could go raight up through the domain. Thiere wuz a lake and a bag river and nice seats all aroun'.

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“In the old diays in the shoe shops thiey usta close the shops at eleven al clock so thet all the min could see the prade (parade). Thim wuz the diays whin Barnum hed a bag circus before he wint in with Bailey. An' thin come Barnum and Bailey an' Ringlin' Brothers.

“I'll niver forget the clown thet usta travel with Barnum's. He usta seng all the latest song's an after the circus'd pass, thin all the young paople'd sing seng the song he'd brought along with the circus. One wuz ‘Money, Money Everywhere. ‘ I don't remimber much a it but it inded with,

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‘How it drives away all sorrow and care’.

“But I din't go ivery year. Whin ya hed seen one of 'em, ya hed seen the mosta thim, I'd thought. They wuz all pratty much the same.

“They wuz bagger'n the one's ya see hiere now. And the prades miade more excitemint thin thiere is tadiay. But the circus now thet I saw yesterday. It wuz jest as good aven if it was small. By Gosh, the wigglin' a thet horse thet shimmied wuz the best I iver seen.

“I'm ahopin' ta get a little wirk before the summer's over. Last summer I got a little in a slipper shop thet does the pullin' over ant a parta the lastin' by hand. It's a small buck eye. 'taint miny a the shops in Lynn tadiay thet ain't buckeyes. Shoe Shop.

“But I expect I'll get a little wirk, mebbe a couple wakes (weeks) inywiays. An' it oughta ba soon fir I heard yesterday thet the cutters hed stiated. The cutter [alw / wiays?] [alwiays?] stiat a little while before the stitchers an' the lasters an' ivery other body in the shop, ya know.

“I guess I'll get some sore hands from it too. Ya know whin ya don't kape (keep) raight after thet wirk, your hands gets tinder laike till ya get ust ta it agin.” 4 I asked Mr Hughes what the different types of leather were called after they have been made into shoes.

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“Thim shoes thet is made a horse hide,” he said, “are called cordavan. An' kangeroo leather is jest called kangeroo.” “But what is a shoe that is made of cowhide called?” I asked him. “Oh that,” he said smiling knowingly, “thet would be calf skin now. “ An' it's hard theng ta tell the diffrunce too, batwan (between) split cow hide and calf skin. If ya know your business though, ya kin tell by the grain a the leather. But ya have ta know leather ta tell the diffrunce.”

[?]

“The kangeroo skins come from Australia and New Zealand. Thiere's a lotta thim thiere. Thet's the place whiere thim little short min live. They're not civilized but they're not dangerous. They wun't kill ya but they'd steal if they could. [Transpose?]

“Thiere aire some Irishmin thiere from the North a Ireland an' they gotta a lot a land. I guess some's got about a million acres a land thiere and two, thra (three) million a sheep. Thiere's a lotta land in Australia but I guess a lotta it ain't much good. 5 A [?] for Unemployment.

“Michines is tiakin' the place a min all the tame, I rally don't know what the world is acomin' too. But I thought a one wiy out if the government 'ould only do two thengs. “ First pension off all the old people at enough ta kape 'em so they 'ould heve a little purchasin' power. Thin, cut the hours in one half. If they wuz ta do thim two thengs ant miake all the old fellas get out a ivery kand a wirk, and thin give the young ones only the half as much as they hed before, why thiere 'ould ba wirk enough ta go aroun. [?]

“Inywiays something sometheng will heve ta ba done. Not only did machines put a lotta min outa wirk, but aven thim thet is runnin' the machines we heve tadiay is in danger a gettin' pushed out before long. Thet's bacause new machinery is bein' miade all the tame thet'll tiake only the fourth a the min ta run 'em, thet is runnin' 'em tadiay. Why only the

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other diay I heard a how one machine was invented thet'll do what four machines usta do at the G. E. Thiere'll be thra min out before long raight thiere. Ain't it terrible though? [?]

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### Wakes

“They don't miake the fuss over a wake thet they usta hiere, but a course they still set up with 'em. They don't jest shet 'em up in a room liake the Protestants do. CUSTOMS

“Now mosta the people thet's agoin' ta a wake, don't stiy all the naight long laike they usta do. But if the one thet's daied is a very good friend, or some close relation ta ya, why thin oftin ya stiy a Good parta the naight. Thin aroun' midnight they most alwiays give ya a lunch, an sometames ya get a drenk er two. But thiere ain't the drenkin liake thiere usta ba atall.

“I stiyed ta a ciartin wake till four a'clockthe other wake (week). But thet woman I knowed almost all the tame I bin in Lynn. Thet's a good miny years. But it ain't much fun astayin' all the naight er the half a the naight at a wake if thiere ain't someone lively thiere ta talk to. At some a the wakes tadiay, iverone's quiet an glum laike.

“The rale raison thet wakes usta ba in Ireland an' Scotland too wuz rale good raison. They wuz bacause oftin the people thet wuz thought ta ba dead hed niver daied atall, but wuz only in a coma laike.

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“Thin [?] the undertiakers din't put thet poison in thim, laike they do tadiay, an ya cun't raightly tell whether they wuz dead er not. Thet wiay the people 'ould alwiays set up with a corpse two, thra naights, jest ta miake sure.

“Why thiere wuz once a womin in Scotland thet they thought wuz dead ant they buried her. But thet naight the gardner got a couple robbers an' they wuz agoin ta dig her up, ta

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get the jewelry offa her. Whin they opined the casket, thiere she wuz alive. The robbers, they run fir thiere lives. An' she lived ta heve a child after thet.

“Thet child wuz Sir Walter Scott. Did ya iver hear the laike a thet bafore?

“[?] In the old diays one niver heard a embalming, thet is with the exception a the Egyptian mummies. I saw one a thim one tame. Thiere up in Salem in a museum. Ya rally oughta tiake a look at one a thim some tame. I think whiere the museum is is on Lafayette Strate (Street), although it maighta bin birned out the tame a the fire. If it ain't birned out, I think it's fra (free) on Sundays. Ya ralely oughta go an' see thim.