

CURIOS & ANTIQUES

BY FERGIE DEERING

MISS LOUISE ALLEN, the Red Cross lady, has her office so located that she hears a lot of what goes on up and down Broadway—whether she likes it or no. A few days ago some of the habitual witty curbstone sitters had parked on the sidewalk by her office window. A colleague in search of a new location came up.

"What er you all a-sittin' there fer?" he inquired of the squatters.

"Wal," replied one, pausing to wipe the tobacco juice from his chin, "ya see, we read in The Ada News that they're a-goin' ta clean up the city and we wuz jest waiting to git hauled off."

Then, a former public official told of this dire threat made by a woman who visited the local federal relief office: "If you folks don't start giving us more to eat my husband says he's goin' to have to get out and hunt him up a job."

ORIGINALITY or coincidence, this business of referring to Ada as "Oklahoma's fastest growing city" is nothing new. Even back in 1912 it had that title, to wit, this item from The Ada Evening News, Thursday, February 29, 1912: "M. E. Reynolds, the typewriter man who is in Ada today, says that Ada is undoubtedly the fastest growing town he has seen in Oklahoma."

Fittstown and Harden City may not have any Ramsey Towers or sky-scraping First National bank buildings but at least the oil derricks in those two Pontotoc county metropolises have more flowers and shrubbery than the widely advertised "rose-covered" derricks of Oklahoma City.

A HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION project is now under way to re-surface the road from Ada to Sulphur but it won't be done too soon for one Roff resident. He complains that he drove halfway across the Lawrence quarry and blew out two tires before he discovered he was not jumping chug holes in the Roff-to-Ada highway.

A real antique: The old Sea-graves combination pump, hook-and-ladder and what-have-you which constitutes one-fourth of Ada's mobile fire-fighting apparatus is the oldest such machine in active service in the United States. It was

brought to Ada in September 1914 to frighten the horses it shared stables with. It has never had a blow-out (because it has solid rubber tires where they haven't crumbled off the wheels) but it did almost have a blow-up once. Arthur Floyd and Ollie Coleman started it up to make a run. It caught fire and they had to put it out before they could go on to the blaze, which was out before they got there in spite of the 15-mile per hour race they ran.

JOHN CRUM, construction engineer on the armory project, has an effective method of discouraging his PWA employees from "hitting the bottle" too heavily. Contrary to the old "30 days in jail," he gives them "30 days at large"—or in other words, one month off the payroll.

New York and St. Louis baseball teams in the National league aren't even as good as our own Oklahoma teams. It took 17 innings for St. Louis to beat New York 2 to 1 the same day Oklahoma university beat East Central 13 to 9 in a 9 inning game here.

FRITZ HATCHER, after a Kiwanis picnic at Witch Hole: "I think the Kiwanis slogan should be changed from 'We Build' to 'Nerts to You'." (Note: Fritz is not to be taken seriously in such matters.)

The idea of one and five mill sales tax tokens never did appeal to us. Now we are sure enough against them. The other day we had a quarter and a bunch of the pesky mills at the same time. Not being used to having a quarter, we handed the whole business to Riley Nolen, thinking the quarter was just another mill. Being an honest man Riley gave the quarter back but we aren't going to carry any more mills because we might get another quarter and really lose it. How many are in favor of turning the mills over to kiddies to make yo-yos, as some are now doing with a match and piece of thread?

THE CALL OF THE PEOPLE as defined by Judge Jim Bolen: If one person suggests that you run for a public office, you ignore it; if the second person mentions it, the matter deserves serious consideration; when a third friend asks you to run, then you hear "The Voice of the Pee-pul."

Here we've lived in Oklahoma and Texas practically all our life and never learned until Joe B. Hill told us that Pontotoc county farms are infested with gophers. We haven't seen one yet but found out that the name comes from the French word gaufre, which means waffles. The burrowing rodents were so named because of the way they honeycomb the land in search of roots and vegetables.