

Modest Maldens

By Jay Alan

ANSWERS TO Carnival QUESTIONS

By HASKINS

A reader can get the answer to any question by writing to the Long Beach Press-Telegram Information Bureau, 318 Eye St., N. E., Washington 2, D. C. Inclose three (3) cents for return postage.

Q. Does the word "bug" apply to a special group of insects or may it be used correctly to denote insects generally? S. H. U.

A. In popular speech the word is used in reference to any insect, but strictly speaking "bug" denotes the Hemiptera, or true bugs, only one order of insects. It includes lice, bedbugs, plant bugs, cicadas, aphides and scale insects. Hemiptera means "half wings."

Q. What is the origin of the Zodiac Man used in almanacs? B. B.

A. The Homo Signorum, or Man of Signs, is believed to have originated with Peter of Dacia about 1300 A.D. During the Middle Ages the 12 signs were supposed to influence human life and hence were distributed to different parts of the body.

Q. When did the Jewish peoples of Europe adopt surnames? V. R.

A. Until after the Middle Ages the majority of Jews had no surnames. In Austria an order of 1787 compelled the resident Jews to adopt surnames.

Their choice was restricted and the names taken were mainly Biblical. Similar decrees were issued by Napoleon July 20, 1808, and in other European countries. This naturally led to the creation of many artificial surnames, designating characteristics of the individuals, their trades, habits, etc.

Q. What was the first Gilbert and Sullivan production? E. S. E.

A. William S. Gilbert and Arthur S. Sullivan were introduced in 1871 and their first joint comic opera was "Thespis." In 1875, Richard D'Oyly Carte engaged them to collaborate for him in the production of a curtain raiser. The result was "Trial by Jury."

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A. According to Professor Rolfe, Hamlet tops the list with 1569 lines.

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