

Epistle

My friend Lew  
writes he has  
changed his address

and now  
lives up the  
river

in a  
large stone  
house

with a  
high wall  
around it

and no rent  
whatsoever  
to pay.

Playing It Safe

"Let us hope  
for the worst,"  
droned the pessimist,  
pulling a frown down  
to his chin,  
"For then,  
however bad things are,  
we sha'n't be  
disappointed."

Unburied Corpse

For years  
the corpse of marriage  
lay unburied in the house,  
disguised, after a fashion,  
as a more or  
less decorous  
makeshift.

Concerning Lulu

She knew  
her groceries not  
it seemed  
and therefore  
in her ignorance  
mistook not only  
carrots for corn  
but likewise a loaf  
for a lover.

Unevent

Once  
a huge Dwarf  
and a tiny Giant  
met at  
a Cocktail Party  
but both  
at the time  
were on the  
Wagon  
so neither  
ever got  
to know the other  
well.

Casualty

The old elm tree  
that from time  
out of mind  
shadowed a corner  
of the graveyard,  
died last night,  
we are sadly informed,  
of a bad attack of  
claustrophobia.

-- Charles Shaw

New York, New York