

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