

affixed in a permanent position to the back of the disc on the third page of the folder. When the question to be answered is rotated until it "is directly under the pointer" the hand (metal arrow) on the front page of the folder follows the internal magnet and always points to the correct answer.

The questions:

There are twelve questions that are asked and answered by The Mystic Oracle. The game is touted [–on the front page of folder] as being "MYSTERIOUS; AMUSING; MYSTIFYING; BAFFLING." And the game, "answers questions by wireless."

Lydia E. Pinkham's Four Medicines:

On the fourth page of the folder, along with the traditional picture of Lydia E. Pinkham, is a listing and explanation of the four medicines being marketed by the Lydia E. Pinkham Medicine Company in 1924.

Vegetable Compound – "A popular medicine in use for over fifty years."

Herb Medicine – "Formerly called Lydia E. Pinkham's Blood medicine. A Spring tonic for run down condition."

Pills for Constipation – "An improved, coated laxative pill equally good for men and women, boys and girls. Keep them in your medicine chest."

Sanative Wash – Put up in two forms. Liquid–ready to use. Dry–to steep."

Finale

Which wireless service should you choose? Please don't ask me. With 134.6 million wireless subscribers who have selected services, it's probably a moot question. The wireless industry is a \$71.2 billion industry that employs 186,956 people. The average monthly cell phone bill is \$50. That is about one-fifth of the price I paid to own the only-known example of "The Mystic Oracle" that has been the real focus of this article.

The elderly game collector from

Denver, who relinquished, by way of an eBay auction, the 1924 Lydia Pinkham relic to my care had enjoyed it for forty years. She was happy to learn that the "Oracle" would receive a good home and become a part of a select collection of historic Pinkham items. We both found it interesting that such an item found its way from a collection of games to a collection of Lydia Pinkham artifacts. And we are both self-satisfied to know that at an appropriate time the "Oracle" will be passed on to another appreciative collector – of games, or bottles or....

Authors' Note: January 18, 2003 (Associated Press) – "One hundred years ago today, Guglielmo Marconi stood on a sandy bluff on Cape Cod and sent a 54-word greeting from President Theodore Roosevelt across the ocean to England's King Edward VII. A few hours later, the king responded, completing a dialogue that at the time seemed like pure magic. Marconi had launched the era of global wireless communications. The events of 100 years ago paved the way for today's other wireless tools, including cell phones and pagers."

Coming soon: The author of this article has recently completed and submitted another article based on previously undisclosed facts about the famous Lydia Pinkham medicines "...then and now." That effort will appear in a future issue. It will discuss the family feud over control of the famous proprietary medicine company and what happened to the historic vegetable compound itself.

References:

Books:

Burton, Jean. Lydia Pinkham is Her Name. New York: Farrar, Straus and company, 1949.

Stage, Sara. Female Complaints – Lydia Pinkham and the Business of Women's Medicine. New York: W. W. Norton & Company, Inc., 1979

Washburn, Robert Collyer. The Life and Times of Lydia E. Pinkham. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1931.

Munsey, Cecil. The Illustrated Guide to COLLECTING BOTTLES. New York: Hawthorn Books, Inc., 1970.

Periodicals:

Burrill, Gary. "Lydia's Last Laugh – The Case of the Confounding Compound." Journal of the Unitarian Universalist Association, March/April 1989, Vol III, No. 2 and [same author; same title], The World, March/April 1989.

Ketcham, Steve. "Some Early Medicines Endured the Test of Time." Bottles & Extras, Vol. 11, No. 1, January 2000.

Ehrlich, Daphne. "Lydia Pinkham Medicine Company." Radcliffe Quarterly, Vol 61, No. 4, December 1975.

Hubert, Edward C. "Radio vs. Wireless." Radio News, January 1925.

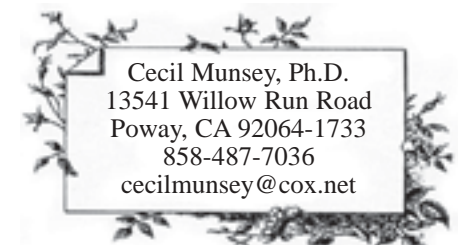
Munsey, Cecil. "The Real Lydia Pinkham (Truth? or Spin?). Bottles & Extras, Vol. 12, No. 4, April 2001.

Munsey, Cecil. "Lydia Pinkham, Larkin Soap and Fate – A Strange and Fascinating Sage of Coincidence." Trade Card Quarterly, Vol. 8, No. 1, Spring 2001.

Rapoza, Andrew V. "A Baby in Every Bottle: The Curative Powers of Lydia E. Pinkham Advertising." The Ephemera Journal – The Ephemera Society of America, Inc., Volume 4, 1991.

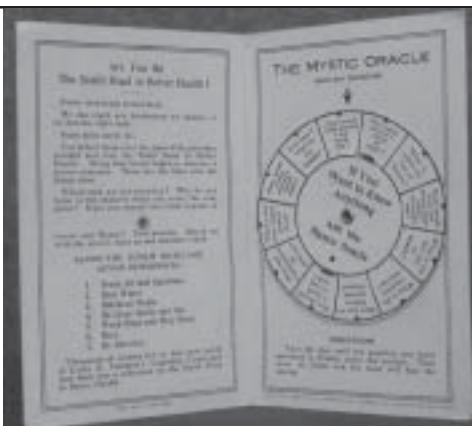
Tyler, Varro E. "The Honest Herbalist – the bright side of black Cohosh. Prevention, April 1997.

Waterfield, Marge. "Yes, There really was a Lydia Pinkham." The Antique Trader, Dubuque, Iowa, April 24, 1973.



QUESTIONS

1. How long should I sleep at night?
2. What is called the Foe of Germs?
3. How much fruit and green vegetables should I eat?
4. What is the first law of health?
5. What is the cheapest exercise?
6. How may we help to prevent disease?
7. How should I stand, sit and walk?
8. How may constipation be relieved?
9. What is the most nearly perfect food?
10. How much water should I drink daily?
11. How may I improve my health?
12. How much milk should I use each day?



ANSWERS

1. At least eight hours
2. Sunshine
3. One each daily
4. Fresh air and sunshine
5. Walking
6. Keep clean inside and out
7. Erect
8. Lydia E. Pinkham's Pills for Constipation
9. Milk
10. Six to eight glasses
11. Try Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound
12. Children 1 qt.; adults 1 pt.