

In the eye of the ...



Travis was an apiarist: he raised bees, harvesting their honey and beeswax. His bees numbered more than 800, and he dearly cared for each of them. However, his pride and joy was the hive's queen, which he named "Beauty." Although Travis customarily wore protective gloves and a hooded suit, he eschewed the more important head veil so he could better see his little friends. That all changed the day he was cleaning out the hive, and his queen – who did have fits of irascibility – flew out and stung him repeatedly on his face. In defending himself, he accidentally swatted the bee, flattening her between his eyes. It was bad enough that he had inadvertently killed off his meal ticket, but utter ignominy followed when the local newspaper learned of the incident and printed a photo of Travis with this caption: "Beauty is in the eye of the bee holder."