

The Christmas Tree: Story Of The Yule

By F. L. ROWLEY

It was three days before Christmas and I was getting panicky. Every evening my father came home with mysterious bundles under both arms, but he seemed to have forgotten the most important thing of all—the Christmas tree. To a twelve-year-old such as I this was serious. We were usually the first kids on the block to have a tree on the back porch.

I found my mother in the kitchen. "Do you think dad has forgotten the tree?" I asked anxiously.

"No, Bob. Your father has been too busy lately to think of everything. He'll get the tree one of these days."

"One of these days? Why, Christmas is almost here!"

Mother went out of the kitchen too busy to spare time listening to my complaints.

The kitchen door flew open. My brother George dashed in, his eyes wide, his jaws quivering. "Guess what, Bob? Butch Miller just got a Christmas tree! I saw him going down the alley with it."

Sudden Thought

Then George got a great idea. "Mr. Sherwood's got millions of Christmas trees on his estate," he said with a sly look. "They just grow there."

"So? Mr. Sherwood doesn't sell trees?"

"Remember the camping axe dad bought for your birthday?"

At first I was shocked. Then I began to think of going through Christmas without a tree. George nodded seriously—as if this were the only solution to our problem.

"You don't think he'd miss a tree one?" I asked.

"Never know it was gone," George assured me.

Well, I wasn't keen on the idea, but we were desperate. As we trudged towards Mr. Sherwood's place I suggested: "Suppose we leave some money on the stump when we cut down the tree? Then it wouldn't seem like stealing. I got eleven cents. How much you got, George?"

"Three cents. I'll bet nobody ever got a tree for fourteen cents before."

"Well, we will."

But I was wrong. A few minutes later we got a tree for nothing. We were nearing Mr. Sherwood's place when Butch Miller came running towards us, dragging a tree behind him. He dropped the tree at our feet and without saying a word scooted on down the road.

George and I looked at each other—then at the tree. We walked around it two or three times, just

looking. "It sure is a beauty!" I said at last. "Maybe we had Butch figured wrong. He's not such a bad guy. Look at the trouble he saved us."

"Oh yeah!" George pointed to the pair of red-faced figures bearing down on us. Mr. Sherwood and Officer Galhoun.

I just stood there holding the axe and shaking. Butch had really got us into a fix this time!

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"It looks like we'll have to take you two in!" panted Officer Galhoun. It was plain that he didn't relish the idea.

"Why?" asked George calmly. He had nerve, George did.

"Why?" sputtered Mr. Sherwood, pointing at my axe. "Why, you young whippersnappers, I'll—"

Showing Proof

George turned to Officer Galhoun: "If we took this tree, why ain't we out of breath, same as you? And take a look at Bob's new axe; bet it isn't even scratched yet!"

Galhoun reached for my axe.

Club Business Occupies BPW

The November meeting of the Boone Business and Professional Women's Club, held on the fourth Tuesday of the month at the Daniel Boone Hotel, was concerned mainly with club business. Plans were made for the club's Christmas project of giving to needy families, and plans were completed for the sale of fruit cakes to earn money for the club's nursing scholarship.

Mrs. Margaret Gragg, chairman of the Career Advancement Committee, was in charge of a portion of the program. She explained the legislative platform being supported by the National Federation and took a poll of members on

separate items included in the platform. Results of the voting will be sent to national headquarters to be combined with votes of other clubs to form the basis for support of legislation in the 1958 legislature.

Some of the items included in the platform supported by the club are the Equal Rights Amendment, support of equitable tax adjustments, and support of legislation to promote peace and strengthen national security.

Leaders of labor and municipal governments have assailed the proposals of the Eisenhower Administration to shift some Federal functions to state Governments.

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