



**Brady's
BLARNEY**

By A Brady Called J. P.

MERRY CHRISTMAS?—Santa Claus is getting a helping hand from Mrs. C. K. Olson's eighth graders at Franklin Elementary.

As a class project between now and the holidays, the boys and girls want to repair and paint old toys for distribution to less fortunate children at Christmas.

Here's how you can help out. The class needs not only toys to work on, but paint, brushes, and thinner etc. Most of us have half filled cans of paint around the house that we'll never use, so why don't we gather them up and do-

nate them to the project? Also, our children have an abundance of toys they no longer play with that can be fixed up almost like new with a little ingenuity and paint.

Mrs. Olson's class has the ingenuity to do the work, but they need your help with the other items.

Just to do our part, if you'll drop toys, paint, and other items off at THE FRANKLIN PRESS, we'll see that the eighth graders get them.

—jpb—

As I predicted last week, my MG-A and I didn't win any trophies in the Chimney Rock Sports Car Hill Climb.

Be that as it may, I don't imagine a vehicle and a driver had any more fun than we did.

My best timed run for the twisting mountain course with its 18 switchbacks was 4.34, just a scant six seconds off the existing course record for an MF-A. But, the seconds count in those things and while my time last year would have been in the top three, it didn't even get a mention this year. What happened? Well, three other cars, two MGAs and an Alfa-Velocce, set new course records on their runs.

I had the distinction of "burning" the course up in Class F, Production, however.

In a hard hairpin turn on the lower part of the course, I hit a bad bump. The impact knocked my exhaust pipe up against the floorboard. The floorboard is wood. Wood burns. So, with a mile and a half still to go on the run my car caught fire. I figured it could burn just as well at the finish line as it would anywhere else, so I really poured the coal on and negotiated the remaining mile and a half with smarting eyes, a slightly hot pair of hip pockets, and with a desperation born of having been scorched in a variety of ways since youth.

I roared over the finish line, bailed out with fire extinguisher squirting, and heard them announce that I had posted the best run in the class. But, it wasn't long though before the other cars that broke the records zipped up the mountain (without burning) and I was out of the running.

But, like I said, I don't think anyone enjoyed the week end any more than I did. I have only one suggestion to offer, in fact. I feel I should have received some kind of trophy for being the fastest man on the track with a fire extinguisher.

—jpb—

Boy! What a time to be a boy again.

If you don't believe the time is ripe, but take a look in one of the Christmas catalogues, put yourself back a few years to boyhood, and drool over the astonishing array of playthings.

They've got guns (hundreds of types and sizes) with built-in "bang". Some of the more expensive ones even make a ricochet sound. Believe you me, these are a far cry from the rubber guns we made and played with in my boyhood. The only "bang" came from the mouth, as did the ricochet, if the gunman was good with sound effects. I'm sure I never had a holster for a gun either, let alone some of the ornate, hand-tooled jobs they're putting with the light artillery today. I'm sure of one thing, however. I had just as much fun with my old rubber gun, stick horse, and mouthed sound effects as any young cowboy today.

Now to the toy autos being advertised. They offer every shape, model, and size — even to a scaled down Model T that actually runs! Most of them have electric motors, lights burn, horns toot, and sirens scream. In other words, they've taken the fun out of "driving" a car. This also poses a question: "How in the world does a normal, growing lad scuff the knees out of his britches if he lets a car drive itself and doesn't scot along with it?"

Even saw one ad about a transistor radio for kids. Just cost \$3.98. Can you imagine your joy at having a radio all your own when you were a kid? Matter of fact, for a while we were the only family in the block with a marvelous Majestic table model and our fame was great. Just listening to radio was a treat in itself and the thought of owning one of my very own never entered my mind.

And how about those little bubble gum banks? Yep, they're toys now. All a kid has to do is let Pop keep the thing filled with bubble gum . . . and, his pockets full of pennies to operate it. I can't recall ever having either pennies or bubble gum, except on very special occasions. And the boy with a piece of bubble gum generally passed it back and forth among his buddies for at least a week! The flavor was long gone at the end of an hour or so, but the thrill of chewing remained for weeks.

Since we're in a new age — of self-destruction, I think — the toy manufacturers are putting out do-it-yourself rocket kits and things scientific like that. As a boy, my scientific training extended to the limits of being able to prepare the best stink bomb (used old film and sulfur) and the moon, to me, was something that rhymed with June in the love ballads of the day, which didn't go over too well even then.

This list of toys can go on and on; dolls that cry and talk and wet their diapers; scooters with white wall tires; play clothes from Superman to Roy Rogers; rings and watches (got my first watch when I joined the Navy in '43); and things like that.

How wonderful to watch times change.

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Your cooperation and financial backing made it possible for us to make the showing we did at the W.N.C. Fat Stock Show and Sale.

Without your help we could not have brought back to Macon County \$7,937.74 for our own 24 beef calves. We will continue showing you our gratitude by helping boys and girls in the future to raise better livestock in Macon County as you have helped us.

Franklin Future Farmers of America and Macon County 4-H Clubs

- The following businessmen and firms contributed to the purchase of Macon County Calves this year:
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West's Florist
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Walter Taylor |
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Specialist Cites Steps To Profit In Timber Sale

Are you a woodland owner? Do you plan to sell timber in the near future?

If so, John H. Gilliam, forestry specialist for the N. C. Agricultural Extension Service, has developed these steps for adding extra money to your pocket:

First, let a forester help you decide what timber products you have for sale. The forester can make a visual inspection of your woodland and tell you if your timber stand needs thinning or a clearcut.

Second, if thinning is needed, let the forester mark the trees to be cut. Let him also determine the amount of timber you have for sale.

If you know the kind of timber product you have, and the amount for sale, you'll be in a much better bargaining position.

As a third step, advertise your product. Contact prospective buyers. A list of timber product buyers can be obtained from your county agricultural agent. Invite buyers to inspect your timber and make an offer.

Fourth, draw up a legal sales agreement. A sample sales agreement can be obtained from your county agricultural agent's office.

Include in the agreement such things as (1) length of cutting time, (2) how timber is to be cut, (3) right of way, (4) and ownership of lops and slabs, etc.

Be sure to include everything in the sales agreement. But, be practical. Don't discourage prospective buyers.

As the fifth and final step, sell to the highest bidder. And make sure the buyer understands the sales agreement.

Mr. Gilliam is convinced that these steps will not only assure a woodland owner of a more satisfactory sale, but that the buyer will be better satisfied too. He will know what he is buying, and under what conditions.

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