

Daddy's Evening Fairy Tale

MARY GRAHAM BONNER

SPUD COON'S RESOLUTIONS

"I must tell you," said Daddy to Nick and Nancy, "about Spud Coon's New Year's resolutions.

"Spud Coon had been a very naughty raccoon during the Christmas holidays.

"He had been stealing a great many of Farmer Wells' chickens.

"He had given a number of chicken feasts and had also gone to many parties.

"He had always come home very much exhausted and stayed asleep even longer than he should have done.

"Of course too many parties and too many chicken feasts and not enough rest and good exercise made Spud Coon feel quite poorly.

"He got extremely worried about himself, and one evening—it was New Year's Eve, by the way—Spud Coon decided he would go see Dr. Red Fox.

"Now, Dr. Red Fox had been very naughty when he was a little fox, but age had given him a great deal of com-



He Looked Very Wise.

mon sense, and he was as clever as a fox can be, which is pretty clever, you know.

"Spud Coon found him all alone in his office, which was about a mile through the woods from where Spud Coon lived.

"Dr. Red Fox was seated on a wooden stump reading an enormously big book, and he looked very wise with his spectacles on his nose.

"How do you do, Spud Coon?" said Doctor Fox, as he looked up from his book.

"Oh, very poorly! I'm afraid I am going to die," replied Spud Coon.

"Why, what's the trouble?"

"Oh, doctor I've very bad pains in my head, and my legs ache, and I don't know what is the matter with me!"

"Doctor Fox took his spectacles off his nose and, leaning back on the stump, sighed heavily.

"Well, I know what the trouble is, Spud Coon; you've been eating too much rich food, and too much is bad for you.

"Then you've stolen them and your conscience is troubling you, for you really are a good coon at heart, and no sleep at the right time—not good!

"You should get up and exercise and hunt for your food and then you'll feel well.

"But if you keep on like this," and Doctor Fox looked very grave, "you'll be all doubled up with rheumatism so that your joints will get stiff and you will not be able to walk without limping and no one will care for you."

"Spud Coon felt for a few moments that he could never give up the feasts and the good times and the lazy life, so accustomed to them had he become, and he had greatly enjoyed his lazy and gay life.

"But he realized how dreadful it would be to grow old and infirm before his time, so he bravely decided that his New Year's resolutions would be to do as Dr. Red Fox had said so he could once more be a good and strong creature."

PUZZLES

What is deeper than the ocean? Its bed.

What sort of a fish does an astronomer want? A starfish.

Long and lanky, thin and tall, causes many birds to fall? A gun.

When is a fish like an almanac? When it rises and takes a fly.

What would a turnip become if it were left all day in a bucket of water? Wet.

Why is a giraffe the most forgiving animal? Because it overlooks everything.

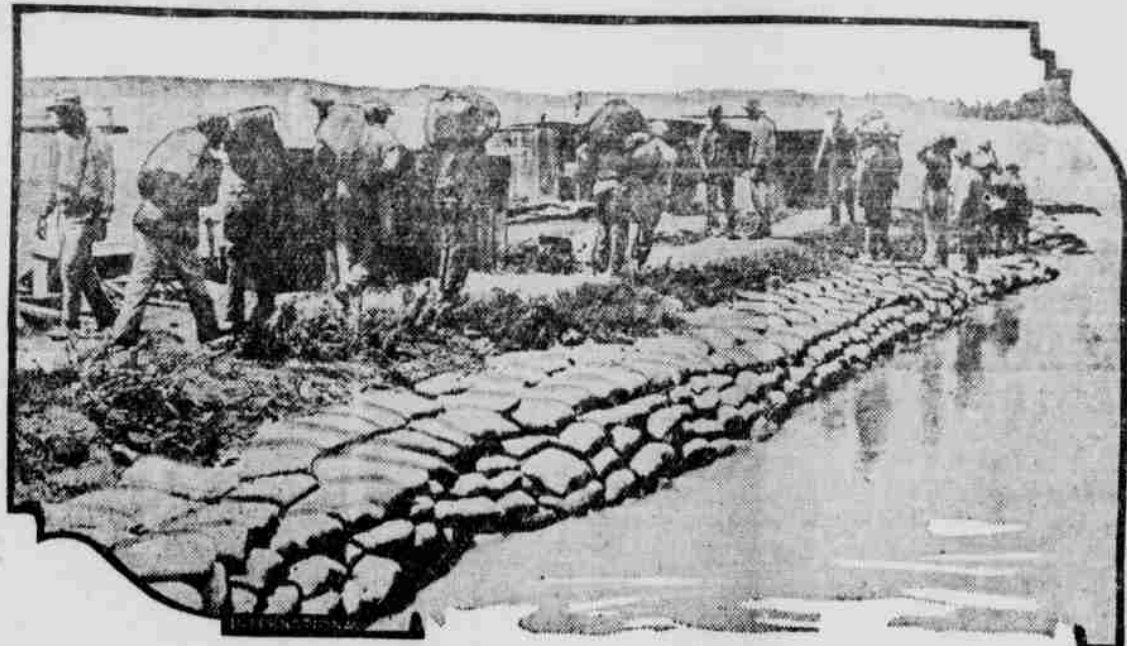
Why is 9,000,000 such a very bad number? Because it is so naughty (naughty).

What tongue is it that sometimes gives you pain and yet never speaks a word? The tongue of your shoe.

What is the difference between a champion runner and a doctor's watch. One beats the record and the other records the beat.

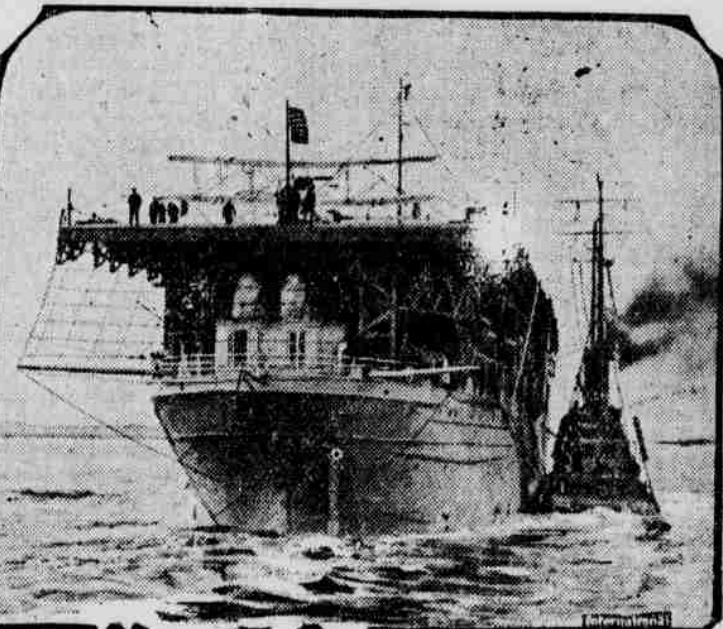
What is that instrument with which every tooth in your head may be drawn, not only without pain but without consciousness of the operation, provided only you keep your mouth open? A black-lead pencil.

Saving the Vicksburg Railroad Transfer



The railroad transfer of Vicksburg was in great danger of destruction by the flood waters of the Mississippi and an army of men was put to work reinforcing the levee with thousands of sacks of dirt.

Explosion Cripples the Langley



The U. S. S. Langley, ship of the fleet's air forces, being towed into Brooklyn navy yard for repairs after the explosion of Ambrose light. Electric machinery aboard the craft was paralyzed, but no one was hurt.

Apple Blossom Parade Prize Float



This float won first prize in the Apple Blossom parade at Winchester, Va. Beauties of the Shenandoah valley were garbed in old-fashioned dresses in the apple blossom colors, pink, white and green.

Big Offer for This Monstrance



Theresa Moser of New York holding a monstrance said to contain part of the holy cross. An art dealer has offered \$100,000 for the relic, but the girl has not yet decided to part with it. Her forebears received it 150 years ago from Joseph II, Austrian monarch.

The KITCHEN CABINET

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Emerson said of Lincoln: "His heart was as great as the world, but there was no room in it to hold the memory of a wrong."

TEMPTING FOODS

The commonest foods when well cooked and well seasoned, then well served are always tempting.

Braised Cabbage.—After cutting a good-sized head of cabbage in half, let it stand an hour or more in cold water to cover, then put on to cook in boiling salted water until nearly done. Drain and remove the hard center after it has cooked twenty minutes. Put into a saucepan one sliced carrot, one turnip sliced, one stalk of celery, a few springs of parsley, one sliced onion and a bunch of any herbs. Lay the cabbage on top, pour over two cupfuls of good stock and boil until all the vegetables are tender.

Hot Tamales.—Boil a fowl until tender, strip the meat from the bones and chop fine. Chop half a pound of seeded raisins and one-half cupful of stoned olives with one red pepper, all finely chopped. Mix all together with a paste made of two cupfuls of corn meal, scalded with boiling water and cook for fifteen minutes. Add six half cooked eggs finely chopped and mold into rolls. Place in the smooth inner husks of green corn and tie with strips of the husk. Boil for an hour in salted water.

Parsnips.—There are so few ways that parsnips are served that an occasional change is always welcome. Try cooking them unscrapped, then remove the skin and mash. Serve them as fritters by dropping a spoonful of the parsnips, well seasoned, into a fritter batter and frying in deep fat.

Another most appetizing way of serving parsnips is to peel and slice them into matchlike strips two inches long, put to cook with no water, only that which clings to the vegetable when washed. Add a spoonful each of lard and butter and stir occasionally to insure an even browning. Add salt and pepper if liked; serve as a vegetable or as a garnish for the platter of meat.

Buttered Parsnips.—Clean parsnips and slice into quarters, and the quarters into strips. Put to cook in a tightly covered dish with a tablespoonful of butter, stirring occasionally and cooking slowly for two hours.

Nellie Maxwell

WHY SHE REVERTED TO FEMININE TYPE

Although Mrs. Elsie Redfern was an ardent worker in the cause of women's suffrage, she is entirely out of sympathy with the masculine trend of the modern girl. Indeed, she advocates drastic methods to win back the vogue of longer hair and longer skirts. "More people should employ the Joe Brown method," she states.

"I never see Brown's wife in knickers any more," commented the next-door neighbor, "and my wife says she never meets her in the barber shop these days, either. I wonder what's happened?"

"She's reverted to the feminine type," explained the girl across the fence. "Mr. Brown is pretty bullheaded and he told her that if she was going to be a man she was going to change the tires, earn the money for the gas and take care of the furnace in winter."—Los Angeles Times.

Writers of Note Did Best Thinking in Bed

Descartes used to lie in bed, very frequently, for 12 or 14 hours in the day with the curtains drawn.

Rousseau and Pope likewise procured some of their best thoughts in bed.

Balzac never grudged spending a week on a page, and was never satis-

When the West Bank Dikes Broke



Great tracts of central Louisiana were inundated when the levees on the west bank of the Mississippi river gave way. This picture, made across from Vicksburg, shows the flood waters rushing over the Dixie highway.

fied with his first thoughts.

Hume wrote his "History of England" on a sofa, and went on quietly correcting every edition until his death.

Burke had all his principal works printed two or three times at a private press before submitting them to his publisher.

Gibbon trusted his printer to the extent of sending the first and only manuscript of his stupendous work, "The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire," to him.—Market for Exchange.

Better Than Farce

The commercial traveler found himself stranded in a manufacturing town in Lancashire and decided to visit the local music hall. He found the place closed, however.

On the way home he happened to pass a large hall whence issued roar after roar of hilarious laughter. He walked up to the entrance and inquired of the doorkeeper what was taking place.

"Amateur dramatic society, sir," explained the doorman.

"Ah," said the other, as there came another burst of laughter, "doing a comedy, eh?"

"No, sir," came the grim retort, "they're doing 'Macbeth'!"—London Answers.

Record Growing Period

The year 1926 will be recorded by nature as the greatest growing period for a century or more. Foresters have just found that the annual ring of growth made by the forest trees on the Pacific coast during the 12 months of 1926 is twice the width of former years in recent history.

Unusually mild weather, plentiful rainfall and very little wind proved beneficial to forest growth. Recent examination of new growth rings is amazing, report loggers and student foresters. It is possible in the study of ring growth to discover whether former years were cold or warm, in connection with thin or wide expansion of the tree trunks.

Eat Eels and Live Long

Baron Kihachiro Okura's retirement at the age of ninety-one brings to light an important fact. He attributes his longevity to a diet of rice and eels. This restricted and esoteric regimen may seem somewhat strange to his Japanese compatriots, but to westerners with a fondness for health foods it must be quite acceptable. Eels are surely full of vitamins, and even if they are not, the civilization that fell for Metchnikoff's sour buttermilk cannot find anything outland-

Ten thousand books and more are published annually in America.

A newly organized troop of Girl Scouts in Maiden, Massachusetts, has selected the rolling-pin as its official insignia.

One third of the year consists either of Sunday or national holidays in Brazil, the exact number of working days being 245.

A recent claim against a Connecticut insurance company was made by a father who said his ribs were broken by his daughter's embrace.

Some Chinese still hold spectacles in superstitious reverence and it is considered correct to remove them when greeting a social superior.

By unanimous vote of the Texas legislature the mocking bird was recently adopted as the official song bird of that state.

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