

"Tinker Bob" Stories

by Carlisle H. Holcomb

AWAY TO MAKE READY FOR THE KING.

"For the sake of old times tell us about the King and when he will be here, and where you left him and everything else." Chief Porky could not wait longer, he was so glad to hear a sound that spoke of the approaching spring. "I want to hear from you now."

"Chirp, chirp, chirp," said Red Robin, and then she noticed Major Pole Cat coming toward the place where the dwellers had gathered. "Look who comes here. It's my old friend Major Pole Cat. Well, well, Major, how are you anyway? The last time I saw you the leaves were beginning to fall and the frost was near, and the wind was cold, but here you are as sound as ever and you stood the winter all right. I tell you I am glad to get back from the land of the south. I am going to build a nest right here where I first saw the friends of the forest."

"How does it come that you are so slow in getting around Major?" asked Chief Porky. "You've been asleep a long time and didn't know it."

"I tell you I was tired and when that last cold spell came I went to sleep in the hollow tree over yonder and I never did wake up till I heard someone calling out that Red Robin was here. But I tell you I would give all of the good things in the Forest up if I could see the King. It seems



I am going to build a nest right here. that he has been away for a long time. Is he the same kind of a fellow, or has he changed so we will not know him?"

"Tinker Bob, the King of the Forest, is the same fellow, he could not change, but I'll tell you the Creatures of the South wanted him to stay there and he would build him a Palace much nicer than the one he had here in the forest, and they would give him all of the things he could eat and a fine creature upon which he could ride." Red Robin was interrupted and had to stop.

"I say is the King going to stay in the Southland or not?"

This was a question that came from the one who announced the coming of Red Robin but who thought she was some creature who had no right to be making such a fuss in the marsh. Yes it was Snoopy the Bob Cat. Down he heard he was anxious also, to see the great King for there was no creature in the forest who had done so much for him. "No, the King is not going to stay in the Southland. He is now on his way back."

"Well, well, well, let us hie away and get things ready for his coming. It may be that he will come here any time and we must be ready. Get ready for the King! Get ready for the King!" and they were off to make ready.

Next—Look Who Comes There!

BLAME IRISH SPLIT ON DE VALERA

Boston, April 8.—Bishop M. J. Gallagher of Detroit, national head of the Friends of Irish Freedom, declared in an address here that President De Valera was to blame for the split in the ranks of Irish sympathizers in this country.

He said it was the effort of the Irish executive to dictate to Americans of Irish blood that caused the failure of Irish enthusiasts to get an Irish freedom plank into the republican national platform.

Bishop Gallagher, in conclusion, scored former President Wilson for failing to live up to his principles of right and justice at the Paris conference.

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DINNER STORIES

A prominent society woman suffering from neuralgia decided to consult a noted specialist in nervous disorders. The physician listened attentively to her symptoms.



"Madam," he said, impressively, when she had concluded, "I can guarantee to cure you only on one condition—the removal of every tooth in your mouth."

"Will you stake your professional reputation on that?" she asked anxiously.

"Certainly will," said the doctor. "Very well," replied the society leader. She placed her hands to her mouth and removed two complete sets of false teeth!

"Let me kiss those tears away," he begged tenderly. She fell into his arms and he was busy for the next few minutes. And yet the tears flowed on.

"Can nothing stop them?" he asked breathlessly.

"No," she murmured, "it is my fever, you know. But go on with the treatment."

"Call yourself a good district attorney? Why, you haven't scored a conviction in the last twenty cases."

"But think how pleased the taxpayers will be at the low cost of prison maintenance."

"It took Blobson five hours to drive three pigs out of his front garden last night."

"Surely even Blobson could move quicker than the pigs?"

"Oh, he found he could move faster than three pigs, all right, but not in as many directions."

JOSHED BANDITS AND SAVED COIN

Chicago, April 8.—It pays to josh hold-up men, according to Mrs. Emma Janda, who lives in North Side resident. Mrs. Janda ought to know, for her line of chatter saved a \$2,000 fur coat during a recent hold-up by three auto bandits. The bandit car drew up to Mrs. Janda's machine just as she and her mother reached home from the theater. One of the men covered the chauffeur, another took the arm of Mrs. Emma Janda and the third pressed a gun against Mrs. Suzanne Janda.

"Take that thing away," said Mrs. Janda.

"Don't make a bit of noise—that ring of yours—take it off quick," ordered one of the bandits.

"All right—here's my pocketbook, too."

While Mrs. Janda was removing the ring the robber examined the pocketbook and took \$3.

"Boys, that's some ring," said Mrs. Janda. "It's worth \$5,000."

"Atta boy!" said the bandit. "Now peep on this, too."

"Why, you wouldn't take that," she smilingly pleaded. "I'd freeze to death this summer. Boys, it's the only coat I have."

"All right—and you needn't mind the wedding ring. Come on, partner."

The third man, who had taken \$5 from the chauffeur, jumped into the driver's seat and the three disappeared.

MY OWN CAREER

THE POEM IS READ.
After the dinner the young people sat around the table chatting and swapping experiences to the cheering accompaniment of the victrola, which John kept supplied with records. During a lull in the conversation Fern left the room and returned with a slip of paper in her hand and a triumphant grin on her face.

"Here's something for your royal-highness to read," said she, handing John Neale the paper with a flourish. "It's the real thing, too, or I misg my guess," she went on. "No ordinary poetry, that. And just to think that we none of us ever dreamed that our own Gwendol was one of them there writer persons! Wonders right in our midst, and everything."

Gwendol made a frantic grasp at the paper, and turned red with chagrin as she saw that John Neale was fully determined to read it. "What's that?" she asked, "I dashed off for my own amusement this morning," she complained to him, "and it's not meant for anyone to read. It's just silly stuff, not literature at all."

"Surely you will let me read it, though, Miss Gwendol. I am so interested in poetry, you know, and I am deeply interested in yours, as you may imagine. It's not every dandy who can write, and that makes it all the more remarkable to me."

"You weep," said Gwendol to her cousin, making a face at her to show her entire disapproval of the incident. "How in the world did you ever find it, though? I stuck that away safely at least so I thought, early this morning."

"Pooh! What nonsense to be so modest about anything that you do, Gwendol mine," answered Fern, shaking her head and raising her eyes to the ceiling in assumed disgust. "Nobody hides his or her light under a bushel any more these days, and I just don't intend to let her, Gwendol."

"John Neale read the 'Lines to a Lily' through with evident enjoyment, and when he had finished he put it down and smiled over into Gwendol's eyes with a new expression of understanding in his own.

"Fern is quite right, Miss Gwendol. This is good stuff. It is the stuff that we need more of in the literary world. And I'm not saying this to flatter you, for from it I am as ruthless a critic, I believe, as anyone that I know. But if you can write a thing like this at random, you certainly belong behind a pen and ink pot, no doubt about it at all."

Gwendol blushed charmingly at his words of praise, for she knew the absolute sincerity of John's character, as well as of his criticism. His eyes were so candidly approving as he talked across at her.

"Oh, I've often written snatches of things, here and there, all my life," she confessed, as she tucked her poem away, "but I never had much time for writing back at home, and mother did not approve of me wasting time on scribbling," as she called it.

INNOCENT VICTIM OF LIGHTED MATCH

Billings, Mont., April 8.—Dropping lighted matches into drill pipes in oil wells in Montana is an uncertain occupation, as Frank E. Clift, a rancher living near the Huntley project, east of Billings, will testify.

The oil boom that struck eastern Montana and Clift, although not engaged in drilling for petroleum or even "in on" any of the many field operations now under way, is the latest victim.

While drilling a well for water on his place gas was noticed bubbling through the water and the well driller, an old hand in the game, suggested possibilities of oil. He attempted to light the gas on the surface of the water, but failed.

Clift, of more adventuresome mind and excited with visions of a real gas or oil well on his place, dropped a lighted match into the drill pipe "Puff"—the gas was there, it exploded and Clift found himself devoid of mustache and eyebrows, taken off as cleanly as though shaven.

PRICE OF FLOUR REDUCED.

Minneapolis, Minn., April 8.—Flour prices in Minneapolis have dropped 50 cents a barrel the last week, bringing the price of standard patents at the mills down to \$8.15 to \$8.40 a barrel.

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9:55a	34 Rutherfordton-Wilmington and Raleigh	14	9:10p
5:00p	20 Charlotte-Wil. and Hamlet connections	19	12:25p
3:45p	31 Wilmington-Raleigh and Rutherfordton	31	3:35p
8:50p	16 Monroe-Rutherfordton connections for Norfolk, Richmond and points North	16	8:12p

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