

THE LURE OF THE "GAY CAT"



"Any old place, I hang my hat, O, Le Home, Sweet Home to me."

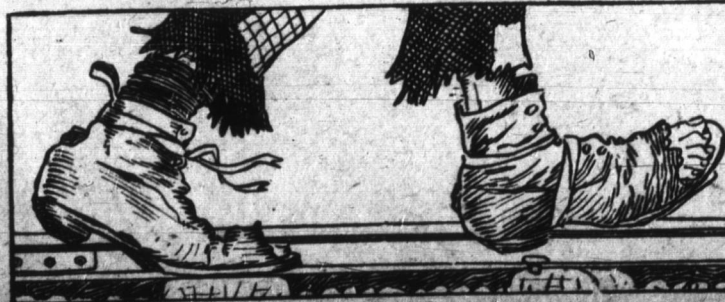
WHAT is a "gay cat?" Perhaps you have never heard of him, though you know tom cats, wild cats and feminine "cats." He is an interesting combination, and his species is numbered by thousands. He is half-tramp, availing himself of all the hobo's expedients for gadding about the world without paying for his travels, and half-man with a trade, the goal of whose rambles is always a job. He has all the "bum's" philosophical contempt for the man so "easy" as to "ride the velvet," which means to pay railroad fare. But he also incurs the "bum's" astonished disdain because of his incorrigible habit of looking for work.

"We travel from wanderlust, from love of adventure," explained an ex-"gay cat," who had joined the "home guard" of those who have ceased from rambling. "When I was a youth I wanted to see the country, and see it right. I wanted excitement. I had a good trade and was living at home, but the lure of the road called me.

"I could have paid car fare and ridden in the railway cars, but you can't see the country that way. What man looking through the windows of a Pullman car, knows anything about the regions through which he has passed? You must travel a few hours at a time, on a slow freight, and be thrown off at the most unexpected places by brakemen, to see the country. You want to mooch (beg) a handout at backdoors to get acquainted with people. You even learn something when some 'fy mug' (detective) gets so cordial that he insists on your staying in his midst for 30 days—on the rock pile. What dude in a palace car can learn as much about his native land as I did in 14 years as a 'gay cat'?"

The Wanderlust Never Dies.
This man was a miner by trade, and had followed the profession from Pennsylvania to California, and from California to Alaska. He never begged save in an emergency of hunger, and usually had \$1,000 or so tucked away in a bank in this city or that. But it was only after many years of wandering as a knight errant of the pickax and shovel that the wanderlust of his youth was quenched and he settled down to be a prosaic hotel clerk.

In the shabby sitting room of a 10-cent lodging house in St. Louis there lounged recently half a dozen weather-beaten and hardy men, self-confident of men and monosyllabic of speech. In their short words was none of the whine of the professional beggar, and in their straightforward look was nothing of the handog. They had traveled to most of the countries of the globe, and ignorant of alien languages and customs, had supported themselves by the sole resource of their own hands. They were confident of taking care of themselves in any situation.



Who would have thought that the squalid parlor, into which the warm sun filtered, was a place of dreams? But so it was. The taciturn little Englishman in the corner, who was born in South Africa, was gazing into space upon the yellow corn fields of the Argentine Republic, upon construction camps in the Andes, and upon broad roads leading by gentle stages through the pampas from one hospitable ranch to the next. Aroused from his articulate vision by a question, he stated in a matter-of-fact way that he would be in Argentine next fall.

The booted, gigantic Swede was thinking of logging camps in Minnesota, of perilous drives to the lakes, of fist-to-fist battles between champions among the snows. Another, in his mind's eye, beheld the sunny orchards of California; another imagined himself helping build steel bridges in Mexico. The sap of spring was rising in their veins, and, like birds of passage, they were impatient to be off. A few more weeks would see them scattered to the points of the compass, enconced in box cars and on blind baggages, but all bent on the quest of their "golden fleece"—the perfect job.

Some would fall by the wayside—mangled or slain beneath the wheels of trains, and would be buried in the pauper graveyards maintained by the railroads for their vagabond victims. But of these the army of wanderers would take no heed.

The "gay cat" believes that his constitutional right to the pursuit of happiness includes the privilege of riding on trains without paying fare.

The most he will do is to pay 50 cents to a "shack" (brakeman) for permission to ride unmolested over his division. Frequently a supposed vagabond crouching painfully in a brake-beam has \$100 in his pockets and a bank book for several hundred more. But he would have suspicions of his own sanity should he spend any of his money for the comforts and respectability of a seat in a railroad coach.

The "gay cat," in an emergency, is not abashed at begging a meal at a backdoor. But as he has more self-respect, he usually employs greater art and skill in his "mooching" than does a "bum." One roving mechanic accosted an astonished housewife with the question:

"Madam, have you a hatchet?"

"What do you want with a hatchet?" she countered, suspiciously.

"I want to knock my teeth out," answered he with solemnity.

"Lands alive! almost screamed the woman. "Why should you knock your teeth out?"

"What's the use having teeth if you have nothing to eat?" was the response. The "gay cat" obtained one of those rare feasts known in the vernacular as a "sit down."

FROM THE OLD NORTH STATE

General News Condensed by the Editor Which is of Interest to All.

Norfolk, Va.—W. B. Smith, a prominent attorney of Salisbury, died in New York as the result of a surgical operation.

Raleigh.—Mr. T. W. Fenner, clerk at the State's Prison, returned from Waterville, near which place he made an investigation of the disaster which resulted in the death of five convicts.

Elizabeth City.—Great preparations are in progress for the celebration of the glorious Fourth in Elizabeth City and the indications are that it is going to be an occasion of much significance.

Kenansville.—The Board of Education of Duplin county has gone on record, unanimously favoring the farm life school, and to this end has called a mass meeting of citizens in Kenansville, when Governor Kitchin, Drs. Hill and Stevens will discuss this important measure.

Bristol, Tenn.—Official announcement was made that all financial arrangements have been made for the extension of the Virginia-Carolina Railroad from Abingdon, Va., to Wilkesboro, N. C., and that final survey preparatory to starting work at once is being made.

Durham.—Samuel M. Holton, a prominent member of the Durham bar, died unexpectedly at his home in West Durham. Mr. Holton had been absent from his office only a few days and although his health has not been good for sometime his family and friends did not anticipate any serious results.

Newton.—July 6, a conference will be held at Conover by representatives of the Mission Synod of the Lutheran Church to decide on the question of continuing the theological department of Concordia College or changing the curriculum to the usual classical courses. It appears likely that the change will be made.

Washington.—Representative Webb has received advices from the Department of Agriculture that the soil survey map of Mecklenburg county has been sent to the printer and will be ready for distribution about a month or six weeks. Mr. Webb will be glad to furnish the publication to all who write for them.

Raleigh.—The contract for the erection of a modern seven-story hotel building at the corner of Martin and Salisbury streets was awarded to J. H. Pierce and Son, of Norfolk, Va., by Messrs. Jones and Bailey. The building itself is to cost \$50,000, exclusive of the plumbing, wiring, etc. When fully completed it will have cost \$75,000.

Raleigh.—Governor Kitchin has ruled that he has no authority to employ counsel on the part of the state to go to Baltimore to make the legal fight for the extradition of Madam Hunter, the Gypsy fortune teller, who is charged with fleeing Mrs. Annie O. Eatman and others here out of large sums of money by playing on their credulity as to power of working "spells."

Greensboro.—Prof. Jerome Dowd, professor of sociology and economics in the University of Oklahoma, was the guest of former Sheriff J. A. Hoskins at Summerfield. Mr. Dowd's visit was in connection with the proposed memorial to be erected at the grave of his great-grandfather, Charles Bruce, on the home place of Sheriff Hoskins.

Raleigh.—In connection with the effort to get into the state library copies of all North Carolina books and pamphlets either by North Carolinians or concerning North Carolina there has just been added to the library a copy of "The Historic Sketch of the Reformed Church of North Carolina," gotten out by a board of editors under the auspices of the Church.

Raleigh.—W. S. Wilson, president of the Wilson Lumber Company, Zebulon, had his shoulder broken and his hip badly injured in a crash of freight cars in the Zebulon freight yard. Wild cars ran into a lumber car in which he was inventoring some lumber and caused Wilson to be thrown violently against the side of the car. Grover Finch, an employe of the lumber company, had his teeth knocked out in the same accident.

Washington.—Senator Overman introduced a bill providing for the payment to the heirs of former United States Senator John Pool of Elizabeth City, the sum of \$6,543 for services in the Fortieth Congress from March 4, 1867 to June 24, 1868.

Sanford.—In the Superior Court V. M. Dorsett, of Siler City, was awarded damages amounting to twelve hundred and fifty dollars against the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad for expelling him from the train and refusing to pull his mileage on the train after he had tried to get a ticket and could not do so.

Newton.—A terrific storm struck Newton and wrought considerable damage. The Fidelity hosiery mill was unroofed and a lot of hosiery soaked, the smokestack blown down, and the box factory damaged.

Newton.—A land deal of interest has been made at Catawba, whereby Capt. James Sherrill sells 250 acres of his large holdings along Lyles creek, in that part of the county, to Mr. A. A. Spencer, who lives near Hickory. The property has timber and fine meadows and brought \$30 an acre. Mr. Spencer will make it his home after January 1.

RAIN AND HAIL IN WASHINGTON

A HEAVY STORM WAS THE CAUSE OF ADJOURNMENT OF THE SENATE.

PRESIDENT GETS DRENCHED

Wind in Washington Reaches Velocity of 60 Miles—Climax of a Day of Intense Heat—Thermometer Registers 102 Degrees.

Washington.—A deluge of rain and hail, accompanied by thunder and lightning and a wind that attained a velocity of sixty miles, forced an adjournment of the Senate, caught President Taft in the open on the Chevy Chase golf links, caused the destruction by lightning of one of the big dairy stables, entailing a loss of \$50,000 at the soldiers' home and played havoc with shade trees. The storm lasted only twenty minutes and was the climax of a day of intense heat, the thermometers on the street level registered 102 degrees.

President Taft had with him on the Chevy Chase golf links General Edwards and Major Butt. Because of the suddenness of the downpour, the three were drenched. Led by the President they fled to the nearest shelter, the caddy house, where they remained until the downpour ceased and then resumed their game over the soggy course.

The hail beating on the glass roof of the Senate chamber, caused such a din that Senator Borah, who was speaking, could not make himself heard and the Senate was obliged to adjourn.

Parks and streets throughout the city were littered with prostrate trees.

Attempted to Secure Agreement.

Washington.—The tension that exists in the Senate over the reciprocity measure was emphasized by incidents that occurred in the confused proceedings. The session began with an unsuccessful attempt by Chairman Penrose of the finance committee to secure an agreement for a vote on reciprocity July 24, on the wool bill July 26 and on the free list bill July 28. Friends of reciprocity will insist upon coupling all three measures in any agreement to vote. After refusing to permit such an arrangement, the opponents of the reciprocity bill allowed that measure to advance one important parliamentary step before they realized what had happened. For a quarter of an hour the Senate was in executive session. At its conclusion, no one being ready to speak on the measure and following the parliamentary custom of that body.

Permission to Make Rates.

Washington.—Permission was granted by the Interstate Commerce Commission to the Carolina, Clinchfield & Ohio Railway and connecting carriers to make rates on coal which, in some instances, are less for longer than for shorter distances over the same lines and in the same direction. The order affects coal shipments from mines at Dante, Clinchfield and Hurricane, Va., to points in North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama and Florida. By the terms of the order differentials favorable to the Virginia mines are established on coal shipped to points throughout the Southeastern territory.

Weather Bulletin.

Washington.—Drought in the cotton belt was broken generally by showers and conditions were generally favorable, according to the national weekly weather bulletin issued. Conditions by states follow:

Virginia.—Temperature and precipitation above normal; abundant sunshine.

North Carolina.—General rain needed.

South Carolina.—Rain above normal in sections; hot weather.

Georgia.—Rain needed in interior; temperatures above normal.

Florida.—Temperature and precipitation above normal; abundant sunshine.

Over Niagara Falls in Biplane.

Niagara Falls, N. Y.—With the whir of his biplane motor drowned in the roar of the cataract and man and machine momentarily obscured in spray and mist, Lincoln Beachy, the California aviator, after circling above the falls, swooped beneath the arches of the upper steel bridge and down the gorge almost to the whirlpool. Rising again between the precipitous sides of the lower river, Beachy soared to the Canadian side where he made a successful landing. Many people watch the flight.

Next Convention at Nashville.

Nashville, Tenn.—Nashville gets the 1912 convention of the Southern Commercial Congress. Secretary E. S. Shannon of the board of trade, received a telegram from Clarence J. Owens, commissioner of agriculture for the Southern Commercial Congress, Washington, D. C., stating that the executive committee had unanimously decided to hold the next annual convention in Nashville. It is expected that the convention will bring some 4,000 or 5,000 visitors and delegates to Nashville.

THE REASON.



De Quiz—Are you in favor of a safe and sane Fourth of July?

De Whiz—No; let the boys have all the giant firecrackers they want.

De Quiz—But such things are dangerous.

De Whiz—I know it. I haven't any boys.

HIRAM CARPENTER'S WONDERFUL CURE OF PSORIASIS.

"I have been afflicted for twenty years with an obstinate skin disease, called by some M. D.'s psoriasis, and others leprosy, commencing on my scalp; and in spite of all I could do, with the help of the most skillful doctors, it slowly but surely extended until a year ago this winter it covered my entire person in the form of dry scales. For the last three years I have been unable to do any labor, and suffering intensely all the time. Every morning there would be nearly a dustpanful of scales taken from the sheet on my bed, some of them half as large as the envelope containing this letter. In the latter part of winter my skin commenced cracking open. I tried everything, almost, that could be thought of, without any relief. The 12th of June I started West, in hopes I could reach the Hot Springs. I reached Detroit and was so low I thought I should have to go to the hospital, but finally got as far as Lansing, Mich., where I had a sister living. One Dr. — treated me about two weeks, but did me no good. All I thought I had but a short time to live. I earnestly prayed to die. Cracked through the skin all over my back, across my ribs, arms, hands, limbs; feet badly swollen; toe-nails came off; finger-nails dead and hard as a bone; hair dead, dry and lifeless as old straw. O my God! how I did suffer.

"My sister wouldn't give up; said, 'We will try Cuticura.' Some was applied to one hand and arm. Eureka! here was relief; stopped the terrible burning sensation from the word go. They immediately got Cuticura Resolvent, Ointment and Soap. I commenced by taking Cuticura Resolvent three times a day after meals; had a bath once a day, water about blood heat; used Cuticura Soap freely; applied Cuticura Ointment morning and evening. Result: returned to my home in just six weeks from the time I left, and my skin as smooth as this sheet of paper. Hiram E. Carpenter, Henderson, N. Y."

The above remarkable testimonial was written January 19, 1880, and is published because of the permanency of the cure. Under date of April 12, 1910, Mr. Carpenter wrote from his present home, 610 Walnut St. So., Lansing, Mich.: "I have never suffered a return of the psoriasis and although many years have passed I have not forgotten the terrible suffering I endured before using the Cuticura remedies."

Awful!

Mrs. Willis—Isn't it awful the way people paw over goods in a store?

Mrs. Willis—Shocking. I went over to the waist counter this morning and sicked up every single garment and here wasn't one that didn't have the marks where somebody had been handling it.

A half truth always seems more impregnable than a many-sided view; a liberal is always at a disadvantage in contention with a dogmatist.

Wm. Winslow's Soothing Syrup for Children teething, softens the gums, reduces inflammation, allays pain, cures wind colic, 25c a bottle.

A lot of the money people marry or is counterfeit.

Remedies are Needed

Were we perfect, which we are not, medicines would not often be needed. But since our systems have become weakened, impaired and broken down through indiscretions which have gone on from the early ages, through countless generations, remedies are needed to aid Nature in correcting our inherited and otherwise acquired weaknesses. To reach the seat of stomach weakness and consequent digestive troubles, there is nothing so good as Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery, a glyceric compound, extracted from native medicinal roots—sold for over forty years with great satisfaction to all users. For Weak Stomach, Bilioussness, Liver Complaint, Pain in the Stomach after eating, Heartburn, Bad Breath, Belching of food, Chronic Diarrhea and other intestinal Derangements, the "Discovery" is a time-proven and most efficient remedy.

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W. B. Richards

You can't afford to accept a secret nostrum as a substitute for this non-alcoholic medicine of known composition, not even though the dealer may thereby make a little bigger profit.

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"The cook says she is going to leave," said Mrs. Crosslots mournfully.
"Are you sure she's in earnest?" rejoined her husband.
"Yes."
"Nothing will change her mind?"
"Nothing."
"All right. Then I'll go down to the kitchen and discharge her."
Life is for the most part but the union of our individual selves.—Cowper.

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