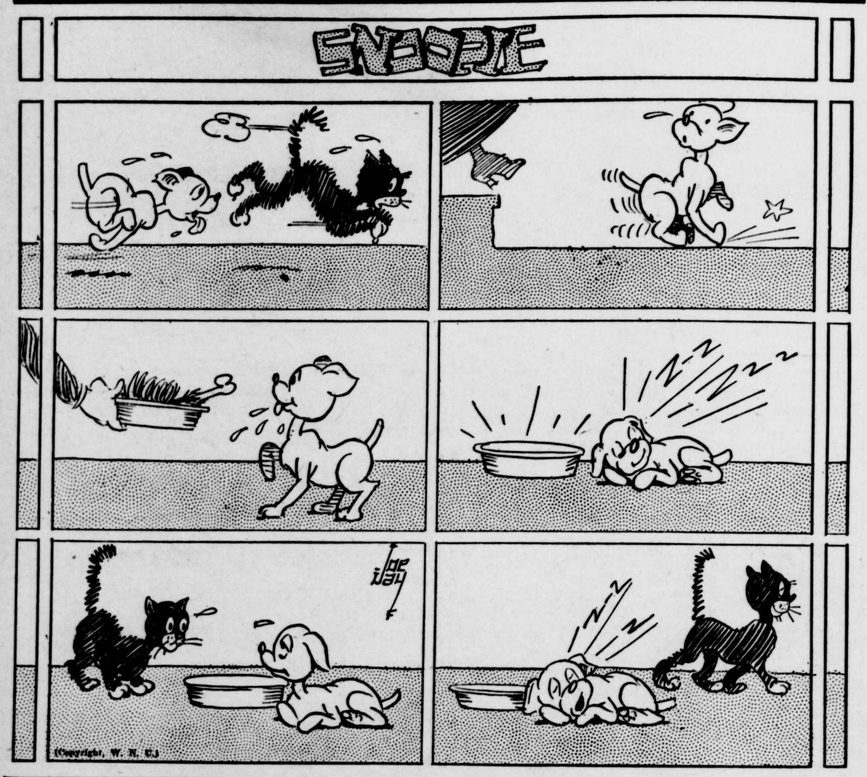
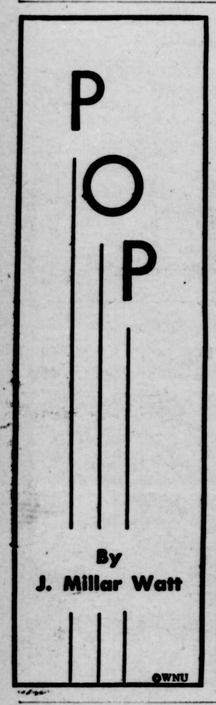
OUR COMIC SECTION





FOR ROUGH SAILING

"He's plunged into the sea of matrimony—how will he keep afloat?"

"He has a light mind and a buoyant heart."

Dramatic Situation

The critic started to leave in the middle of the second act of the play.

"Don't go now," said the manager. "I promise there's a terrific kick in the next act."

"Fine," was the retort; "give it to the author."—Christian Science Monitor.

Suits Me

Father—Say, it's two o'clock. Do you think you can stay all night?

Suitor—I'll have to telephone home first.—Columbia Jester.

Oooh!

A tourist, on his way to Europe, was experiencing seasickness for the first time. Calling his wife to his bedside, he said in a weak voice:

"Jennie, my will is in the Florida National bank. Everything is left to you, dear. My various stocks you will find in my safe-deposit box." Then he said, fervently: "And Jennie, bury me on the other side. I can't stand this trip again, alive or dead."—Tale Spins.

Awaiting Classification

"Are you a flyer?"

"That is still to be determined," answered the aviation student. "I have not yet had a crash. Only time can decide whether I am to be classed as a flyer or a flopper."

March of Civilization

Explorer—Just to show you the advance of civilization—in the past the Eskimos used to eat candles for dessert.

Old Lady—And now, I suppose they eat electric light bulbs?

BUG SPORT

Bugs—Hey fellows, this bumping the bumps is great.

Not Appreciated

"Do you keep anything from your wife?"

"Well," answered Mr. Meekton, "I try to tell her everything. But Henrietta finds my conversation so dull that she generally goes to sleep before I am half through."

Tall Order

Customer (excitedly)—A mouse trap, quick—I want to catch a bus.

Shop Assistant — I don't think we've got one quite big enough for that.

Hurry, Pop! What's the Reason For All These Fake Whiskers?

Peggy Hopkins Joyce plays hostess to all the Santa Clauses in New York at a luncheon in the Hotel Waldorf-Astoria. Lucky no youngsters were around or there might have been trouble!

What will you answer this Christmas when starry-eyed Junior raises his face and asks:

"Daddy, how come I saw three Santa Clauses downtown today?

Or:

"Mother, why was Santa Claus riding in an automobile today? Are his reindeer hurt?"

Or, looking at a newspaper:

"Why was Santa Claus so thin when I saw him on the corner today? He's fat in this picture!"

This is the season when harassed parents must think up quick answers or destroy Junior's faith in St. Nicholas. For Santa Claus, though a messenger of joy, can also be a pest. In Omaha a sympathetic mayor last year ruled that the army of fake Santas must leave the streets, thereby bringing sighs of relief from Mother and Dad.

But in other towns and cities, papa may restrain an impulse to strangle every red-suited gentleman he meets on the street. To prevent this mass liquidation, thoughtful persons have now offered a solution which has worked before and should work again. When Junior wonders about so many different kinds of Santas, the explanation is that they aren't Santas at all, but just his helpers. Simply wreathe your face in a benevolent smile, take Junior on your knee and repeat the following:

"You see, Junior, Santa is a very busy man and he needs lots of help. So he has helpers who ask boys and girls what they want in their stockings."

The only trouble is that Junior may answer:

"Yeah, but papa, why did that man there say that he really was Santa Claus and that he'd be sure to bring me a big train set, an' a lot of toy soldiers and a drum an' a . . . ?"

Maybe the situation is hopeless!

Christmas Toys

KEENE, N. H.—This community is toyland each Christmas season as workers in the toy factories rush to put last-minute touches on miniature locomotives, automobiles—and even auto trailers!

American Turkey Has Foreign Name

You'll eat your turkey and like it this Christmas, but do you know where this festive bird got its name?

The turkey is the only species of poultry native to this country. Its name is attributed by some to its call notes, "turk-turk-turk"; others believe that its head ornaments, resembling the fez worn by natives of Turkey, gave rise to its name.

Another explanation is seen in the fact that the first turkeys from America were sold in Spain, largely by Hebrew merchants. Since the bird was frequently confused with the peacock, it is said that the Hebrew traders called it "tukki," their name for the peacock. With the widespread use of this name in English, it easily became the recent "turkey."

Christmas Celebration Dates Back to 354 A.D., Roman Records Show

The earliest celebration of the birth of Christ, December 25 of each year, took place in the Fourth century, and the custom spread from the western to the eastern church. Before that date the commemoration of Christ's nativity and baptism took place January 6.

First mention of Christmas is found in a Roman document known as the "Philocalian calendar," in the year 354, and the first English celebration of the festival was in 598, when St. Augustine baptized 10,000 converts.

In 567, the Council of Tours, France, declared a 12-day festival from Christmas to Epiphany, and later, from 991 to 1016, the laws of Ethelred ordained that all strife should cease at Christmas. In Germany, Christmas was established in 813 by the Synod of Mainz, and in Norway by King Hakon the Good, in 950.

'Good King Wenceslas'

King Wenceslas and the legend of his Christian charity belong inseparably to Christmas atmosphere in Anglo-Saxon countries. Wenceslas was a duke of Bohemia in the Tenth century whose memory is revered throughout Czechoslovakia. His "feast" falls on September 28, which is a national holiday.

Chinese New Year Gift

An ornamented gift box of tea is an appropriate gift among the Chinese on New Year's day.

His Last Dime

By Katherine Edelman

DAN DRISCOLL was broke. Well, almost broke. He had one thin dime, hiding in the dark depths of a purse that had once held bills of three figures.

He had held it for 20 years, ever since he had found it while ploughing on his father's farm. His lucky dime—that's what he had called it. Dan laughed grimly at the thought. Lucky! Had anyone ever been so unlucky as him? Here was the whole town preparing for Christmas, shopping, spending oodles of money, and he was a penniless, weary wanderer. A lucky dime!

A little place around the corner caught his eye. Dan entered, his nostrils quivering under the tantalizing odors. He looked around with greedy eyes, his mouth watering with longing. Soup, roast fowl, potatoes, luscious mince pie! But he mustn't think about such things. He had just one dime—the price of a cup of coffee and a doughnut, or a hamburger. Which would it be? The queer little man inside the counter waited while Dan weighed the important question. The hamburger won. While it was being cooked to order, Dan dug into his pocket and took the dime from the battered purse.

Hungry as he was, he handed it over before attacking the food. His voice was a bit apologetic. "It's an old timer," he said; "been in my pocket for years and years."

The old man didn't seem to be listening. He was peering through his spectacles at the coin.

"You're sure you're telling the truth about this dime?" he queried.

"The absolute truth," Dan answered. "But, if you won't believe me, you can have your coffee and hamburger."

A shrill laugh ran through the place. "It's a good thing you ran across someone who knew, and better, somebody who was honest," the little man was saying excitedly. "Do you know that you have one of the rarest dimes at large? It's—it's worth thousands."

"You mean, this thing I've held on to for years is worth money?"

"It's worth big money," the cafe owner was waving his hands in the air, the dime clasped between his thumb and first finger. "I've been looking for one of them all my life!"

"Hand me that menu!" Dan Driscoll cried commandingly. "I'm going to have a Christmas dinner right now. I'm going clear down the line, from soup to mince pie."

©—WNU Service.

A YULE STORY

Hawaii Yule Greetings Broadcast to Islands In Pacific Territory

HONOLULU.—For the past three years Hawaii has broadcast Christmas greetings on December 24 to several lonely islands which have become potentially important along aviation's equatorial Pacific area. The messages, from station KGU, go out to the dozen or so young Americans who for three years have been keeping the Stars and Stripes flying on Howland, Baker, Jarvis and other tiny Pacific islands.

Tree Used 32 Years

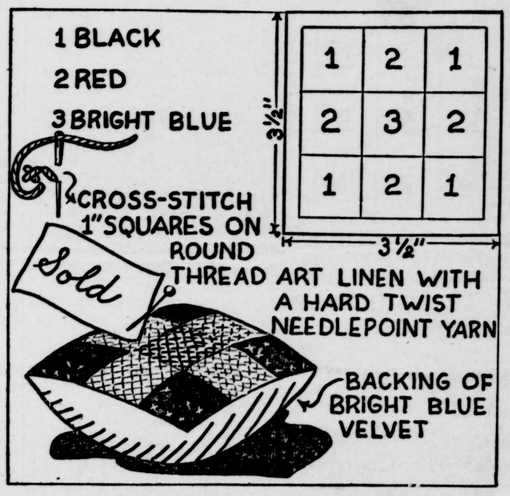
A family in Wichita, Kan., has been using the same artificial Christmas tree each year since 1906. The tree was purchased for the family's eldest child, now thirty-three. A music box, operated by a spring, serves as a base for the tree.

Sweden Celebrates Early

In Sweden Christmas is celebrated on December 24. Fish and rice porridge are the occasion's most popular dishes.

HOW TO SEW

by Ruth Wyeth Spears



Cross-stitch pincushion a best seller.

THE Town Improvement association was giving a sale to raise funds in a village where we were visiting. Our hostess had been to the sale early in the day and triumphantly displayed tiny cross-stitched pincushions purchased for Christmas gifts. They were so colorful and quaint that we went in search of some. We found them, but on every one was pinned a ticket "SOLD"! The lady had scored a hit who made those little three-inch pincushions as her contribution to the fancywork booth. They were kept for display even after they were sold.

The top of the cushion should be made on tapestry canvas or round thread art linen so that the threads may be counted easily in making the cross-stitches. This foundation material should be marked off in 1-inch squares as shown in the diagram at the upper right. The numbers indicate the color used for cross-stitching each square. The velvet used for backing adds the richness that all small gifts should have. Sawdust or hair from an old mattress are most satisfactory for stuffing.

If you would like to make some of these cushions for gifts or for your next bazaar, clip these directions and keep them as they are not in either of the books offered below.

NOTE: Mrs. Spears' Book 2—Gifts, Novelties and Embroidery, has helped thousands of women to use odds and ends of materials and their spare time to make things to sell and to use. Book 1—Sewing, for the Home Decorator, is full of inspiration for every homemaker. These books make delightful Christmas gifts. Mrs. Spears will autograph them on request. Crazypatch quilt leaflet is included free with every order for both books. Address: Mrs. Spears, 210 S. Desplaines St., Chicago, Ill. Books are 25 cents each.

ASK ME ANOTHER ?

A Quiz With Answers Offering Information on Various Subjects

The Questions

1. What does the investment of this country in South America total? In Europe?
2. Which of our states has the greatest seacoast? The smallest?
3. What three American plants are carnivorous?
4. Can you complete this quotation: "The ladder of life is full of splinters, but they always prick the hardest—"?
5. What animal utters no sound at all?
6. Why, according to Tennyson, was the strength of Galahad as that of ten?
7. How many of the bills introduced in the Seventy-fifth congress became laws?
8. Name the nearest and farthest planets from the sun?

The Answers

1. In South America it totals 2,560 millions. In Europe, 2,372 millions.
2. Greatest, Florida; smallest, New Hampshire.
3. Three American plants that catch and eat insects are the sundew, the pitcher plant and the venus fly trap.
4. "When we are sliding down."
5. The giraffe.
6. Because his heart was pure.
7. During the Seventy-fifth congress, 17,104 bills and resolutions were introduced in both houses. Of these, 1,759 were enacted into law.
8. Mercury is the nearest, being 36,000,000 miles away from the sun. Pluto is the farthest away, being 3,700,000,000 miles away from the sun.

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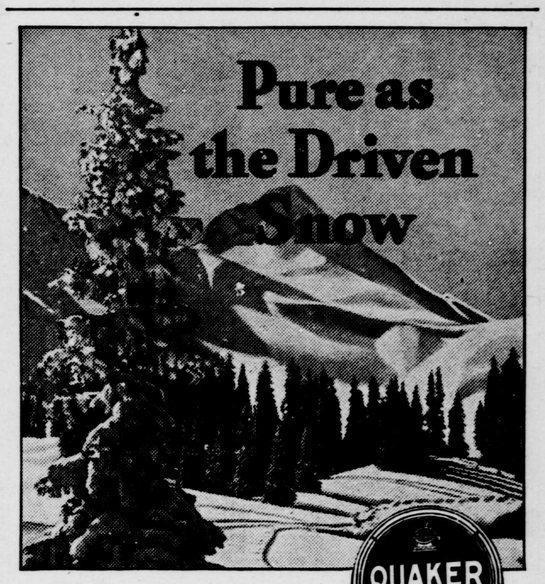

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