Sopronia Protects Jim

By LOLAH TREADWELL LEE

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(WNU Service)

WITH faltering step the old lady approached the desk of the Traveler's Aid in the interurban depot.

"I'm Mrs. Cutler," she informed the attendant, hesitantly, "Be ye right sure nobody's asked fer me?" For the second time the girl shook her head.

Daisy Cutler walked slowly back to the bench and sat down beside her aged suitcase and shopping bag.

For a moment her faded, blue eyes stared anxiously at the door which led to the street, then from her purse she took a letter and opened it.

"Your boy's in a mess," she read slowly. "You better come here. Get the early train from Sunset Point. It gets here at ten. I'll meet you. Something's got to be done about Jim. Your Sister, Sopronia."

Daisy sat staring into space, the letter crushed in her work-worn hand.

"I wonder what Jim could'a done," she mused. "It's only been a week since I got that long letter from him. He's a good, hard-working boy an' a good son to me. Sopronia allus said I was too easy with him, but her boy, Fred, never did love an' trust her like my boy does me, even if I didn't lick him enough, like she said."

Again she glanced toward the door. Coming toward her was Sopronia, her square-cut face barren of expression.

"I'm right glad to see you, Daisy," she said, as she stooped to pick up the suitcase. "Come on, we'll get a street car right away."

"I couldn't help bein' late," she went on. "The car's right close. Come on." With the suitcase in one hand and a healthy grip on Daisy with the other, she started toward the door, talking constantly and at the top of her voice.

Several times Daisy attempted to speak, then gave up in despair.

Impatiently Sopronia helped her up the step and onto the car; then still gripping her arm, dropped the suitcase and turned to the conductor.

"I want off at Salina street," she informed him, grabbing his shoulder and turning him completely around from counting change into another woman's hand.

He nodded and she steered Daisy to a seat, then piled the suitcase and shopping bag near her.

"I told him," she resumed, utterly oblivious of the other pasengers, "that not while I lived could he marry such a woman. He just laughed at me, his own aunt, an' it made me mad! I been tryin' to watch over him an' he ain't got no sense."

"I wish you'd a let me be, though, Sopronia," came Daisy's quavering voice, "I ain't got much money an' travelin' costs a lot."

"Well, if he's goin' to live in my house, he's a goin' to be decent!" came firmly from Sopronia. "I know that girl! Her very name means carousin' an' doin' things as ain't decent! I mind the time back home when she stepped on my corn right after church services, so's I wouldn't see her squeeze the preacher's hand. She makes her livin' now posin' fer artists. I seen one o' the pictures! She didn't have no clothes on, jest a filmy piece o' lace a floatin' about her middle."

Daisy opened her mouth to speak but Sopronia took no notice.

"I come to Los Angeles to live, Daisy; to git away from kin-folks," she went on. "Then your Jim had to walk in on me an' ask to live with me. What could I do but take 'im in?" She folded her hands across her stomach, stiff and taut. "He stays out nights, sometimes till eleven o'clock. He smokes cigarettes an' reads magazines with pictures o' naked women in 'em!"

"But Sopy—"

Sopy shook Daisy's hand rudely from her arm.

"I'm goin' to have my say!" she informed her vehemently. "Jim can't run around with that girl! As soon as he seen her he grinned an' she set her cap fer him. I reckon I know the signs! She ain't no better than she should be! She rolls her eyes at the men an' puts black paint around 'em, too! She paints her lips an'—"

Daisy closed her eyes wearily but the alert Sopronia put the quietus on such rudeness.

"What you goin' to do about it?" she demanded, pompously. "You're his mother. If my boy Fred acted out like that I'd—"

"Sopy," said Daisy, wearily, "you wrote me to come here, that my boy was in trouble. I been here an hour an' you ain't done nothin' but go on about a girl. What's she got to do with it? Who is she?"

"You ought to know!" exploded Sopronia, "I'm a talkin' about that awful Sybil Fairstone!"

Daisy, her eyes full of disgust, looked her sister up and down.

"Why, Jim ain't nothin' to her," she said slowly. "Your boy Fred married her last week an' my Jim stood up with 'em."

It's Simple at That

Little Johnny, a city boy in the country for the first time, saw a cow being milked.

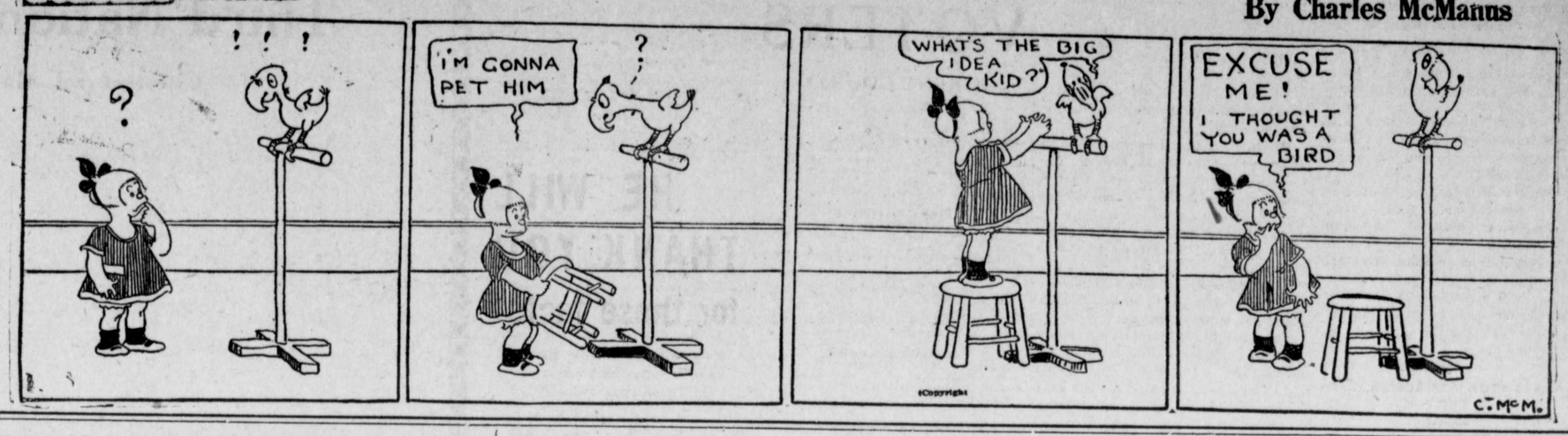
"Now you know where the milk comes from, don't you?" he was asked.

"Sure," he replied. "You give the cow some breakfast food and water and then drain the crankcase."

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CONDITION OF MARYLAND CROPS

FRUIT ONLY SLIGHTLY DAMAGED

The following report of Maryland crops is from the United States Department of Agriculture.

COLLEGE PARK, MD., April 11, 1932.—Maryland farmers report winter grains and pastures are in better than average condition, according to Rihard C. Ross, agricultural statistician for the Maryland Crop Reporting Service. The yalso say that the severe cold wave and storm of early March retarded early spring farming operations, but caused little serious injury to crops.

The cold weather kiled some of the buds on the earlier varieties of fruit trees, particularly peaches and cherries, but fair to good crops of all fruits can still be produced if favorable conditions prevail from now until harvest. High winds damaged some of the trees, particularly in the northern and western parts of the State.

WHEAT

Condition of winter wheat was reported at 87 per cent on April 1. This compares with the ten-year average of 86 per cent, and last year's condition of 58 per cent. and is the same as was reported last December 1.

It is, of course, yet too early to forecast acurately the final yield per acre of the wheat crop, but on the basis of April 1 condition in other years it seems probable tha ta crop of about 6,800,000 bushels will be produced. Production during the five years 1924 to 1928 averaged 9,638,000 bushels.

Condition by counties is as follows: Allegany, 86; Garrett, 83; Washington, 87; Frederick, 92; Carroll, 92; Montgomery, 90; Howard 93; Baltimore, 95; Harford, 83; Cecil, 83; Kent, 80; Queen Annes, 89; Caroline, 68; Talbot, 84; Dorchester, 80; Wicomico, 90; Somerset, 70; Worcester, 88; Southern Maryland counties 78 to 86.

Stocks of wheat on Maryland farms on April 1 was estimated at 1,454,000 bushels, somewhat more than at this time in either 1931 or 1930, and about 32 per cent greater than the five-year average of 1926 to 1930. Farmers have been reluctant to sell wheat at the low prices offered them and probably have fed less wheat than they did last year when they had short supplies of corn and other feed grains.

RYE

Rye condition was reported at 88 per cent, which compares with 85 per cent on December 1. Condition at this time last year was 65 per cent and the ten-year average is 87 per cent.

PASTURE

Cold weather during March retarded growth of pastures. However, the moisture situation was much improved during the month and good supplies of grass will be available after the weather ha sbecome warmer. Condition was reported at 80 per cent, compared with 55 per cent last year, and 78 per cent for the ten year average.

To Reduce Sweet Corn Acreage

Reporst from 178 firms representing 56 per cent of the total acreage of sweet corn grown for canning in 1931, indicate that these firms intend to contract or plant for the 1932 seaso nan acreage about 39 per cent below the acreage planted in 1931. The 178 reports received were well distributed among all important producing areas and should be fairly representative of the approximate change in acreage now intended for the country as a whole.

Should this 39 per cent reduction be carried out on the total acreage, the 1932 planted acreage would amount to 218,550 acres compared with 359,590 acres planted in 1931. Allowing for a usual abandonment not in excess of 4 per cent, the acreage for harvest in 1932 would be around 211,000 acres compared with 351,030 harvested in 1931, and with an average of 315,900 acres harvested during the five year period previous to 1931.

In Maryland the acreage of sweet corn has increased from 35,500 acres in 1928 to 40,200 in 1931. The intended acreage for 1932 is estimated at 67.1 per cent of the 1931 acreage or 31,490 acres.

Subscription to the Transcript $1.50 per annum.

Scientists Unable to Explain "Cosmic Rays"

For many years scientists have been puzzled by rays of enormous penetrating power which are found to reach every part of the earth's surface. The most powerful X-rays are completely stopped by less than a quarter of an inch of lead; these cosmic rays, as they are called, pass easily through 16 feet of lead. What are they and whence do they come?

It is known that they come from outside the earth, for no response is obtained when detecting apparatus is used at the bottom of a deep coal mine. Sir James Jeans believed they were caused by the annihilation of matter at the very confines of the universe. Dr. Robert Millikan held the opposite view. He believed they were brought about by the creation of matter, and he called them the "birth cries of nature."

These rays can now be counted as they arrive by means of an amazing electrical device known as the Geiger counter. They dart through a vessel filled with electrified gas, and as each impulse arrives it causes a click to be uttered by a loudspeaker. Intensive research in connection with cosmic rays is being carried on, and interesting discoveries may be in store.

Mastery of India Won at Battle of Plassey

Great Britain's control over India may be said to date from the time of Robert Clive, who in 1744, at the age of eighteen, was sent from England to be a clerk for the East India company. He soon gave up the pen for the sword and became a great military genius. The old Indian empire of the Great Moguls had fallen into the hands of provincial viceroys and in the fight for supremacy Clive aided certain of these against others backed by the French. His great victory of Plassey, in June, 1757, with 3,200 men opposed to 50,000, determined the struggle. In 1773, the three provinces of Madras, Bombay and Bengal were placed under the administration of a governor-general, and Warren Hastings, the first governor-general, laid the foundations of the present administration of India. After the Indian mutiny of 1857, the direct sovereignty of India was transferred from the East India company to the crown and on January 1, 1877, Queen Victoria was proclaimed empress of India.

When Worlds Were Born

Where do meteorites and shooting stars come from? Astronomers believe that millions of years ago, when the sun's family of worlds was born, there was a great planet revolving between Mars and Jupiter. For some unknown reason this planet exploded, giving birth itself to a vast family of tiny planets of which over a thousand are known. It is of the smaller fragments that the meteorites are formed. Shooting stars are believed to be a kind of celestial smithereens resulting from the destruction of comets. In certain cases comets themselves have failed to put in an appearance when they were due to return, but great showers of shooting stars have occurred instead.

Various Odd Foods

Uncooked monkey brains on the half skull, pickled water beetles, fried locusts and cobra and python steaks are specimens of the many strange and unusual foods that grace the world's dinner tables.

Pigskin and birds' nest soup are popular Chinese appetizers. Silkworms are eaten after the cocoon has been unwound. Horses, donkeys and camels, after they have lost their usefulness as beasts of burden, are consumed by some Asiatic tribes. Caterpillars, frogs and snails are relished when obtainable.

Symbolic Character

The book "Moby Dick" is a South sea romance by Herman Melville. Moby Dick is a ferocious white whale, who was known to whalers of the period as Mocha Dick. He is pursued in a fury of revenge by Captain Ahab, whose leg he had bitten off; and under Melville's handling the chase takes on a significance beyond mere externals. Moby Dick becomes a symbol of the terrific forces of the natural universe, and Captain Ahab is doomed to disaster even though Moby Dick is killed at last.

George and Betsy

A group of third-grade children in Muncie had read the story of Betsy Ross and the first flag and was presenting an informal dramatization of the story for the children of the entire grade.

When the conversation concerning the flag was ended, dramatic young George Washington ended the play by saying: "Well, so long, I'll be seein' you."

To this, demure Miss Betsy responded, "O. K."—Indianapolis News.

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