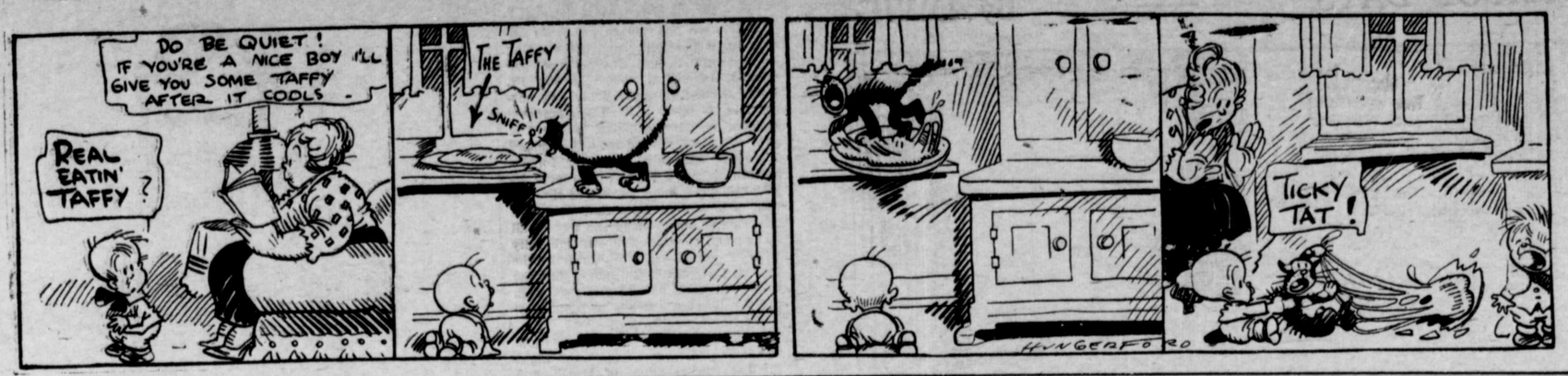
SNOODLES

By CY HUNGERFORD



BLUE-WINGED TEAL PROPOGATE HERE

The question of whether or not blue-winged teal propagate in Maryland has been settled to the satisfaction of E. Lee LeCompte, State Game Warden, and he feels that he has come out ahead in a controversy with Dr. E. W. Nelson, former chief of the United States Biological Survey.

For some years, Mr. LeCompte explained yesterday, he has argued that the bird breeds on the marshes of the Blackwater river, in Dorchester county. Dr. Nelson, on the other hand, claims that it does not breed farther south than New Jersey.

To back up his argument, Mr. LeCompte captured several blue-winged teal in their breeding places and now has them at the State game farm at Gwynnbrook. At his insistence, O. L. Austin, Jr., ornithologist for the Biological Survey, made a trip to the swampy regions of the river and found a number of the birds during the incubation period.

The blue-winged teal are a small species of wild duck and are found in large quantities in some sections of the Chesapeake Bay. Thousands of these birds used to use in Chester River and their peculiar trate of never flying over land afforded excellent sport of shooting them as they came out of narrow inlets.

Claude Taylor Pierce, 42, of Wilmington, Del., was found strangled to death last night by his father, John M. Pierce, a contractor, in a bungalow they were building along the North East river, near Holloway Beach, seven miles southwest of Elkton.

The body was discovered, head downward, wedged in a trap door in the kitchen floor. The theory was advanced that the victim had undertaken to reach down the doorway for something when he lost his balance and fell.

Massachusetts Held as Nation's Apple Nursery

Massachusetts is the cradle of American horticulture, according to records in the division of horticulture at the Massachusetts State college. Studies conducted at various times by the college fruit specialists indicate that a total of 142 named varieties of apples have been developed in that state by fruit growers and breeders.

Of those the Baldwin apple probably is the most prominent today. This apple originated in Wilmington about the year 1740, so far as can be determined from old records, and today constitutes the principal variety in New England commercial orchards. Hubbardston is a variety which takes its name from the town in which it was originated approximately 100 years ago.

Benoni, mother, fall orange, roxbury russet, and Tolman sweet are other Massachusetts bred varieties that are still prominent today.

The oldest planted fruit tree in America is a pear tree between Danvers and Salem on the farm once owned by Gov. John Endicott. There is some evidence to indicate that the tree was brought over from England in 1630 by Governor Winthrop.

Hand of Time Falls on Historic Scottish Oak

The old "Convenanters' oak" at Dalzell, Scotland, which has weathered the blasts of storm and time for centuries, met with mishap recently. A violent windstorm bereft the famous "auld aik tree of Dalyel" of much of its ancient grandeur. The "Preacher's oak," as it is sometimes called, is known to visitors and picnic parties to the beautiful seat of Lord Hamilton of Dalzell as an object of great historic interest. In the troublous religious times of long ago it is on record that the ousted minister of Dalzell was sheltered and protected by the laird of Dalzell as far as possible, and that he secretly visited the parish and preached to his people from the great oak in front of Dalzell house. The great branches of the tree—each the size of an ordinary tree—grow from the top of the stem, which at four and a half feet from the ground is twenty-one feet in circumference.

Good Reading

A good book is like a symphony, some passages will strike one as glorious, at the first hearing, which a second reveals as commonplace, whereas this movement, this chapter, which sounds only blurry, at the second hearing develops into the most exquisite music of the afternoon.

The plain fact is, as every reader knows, that sometimes an interesting "quotation" will elude one and never be found again. Perhaps it is just as well. It is good to know, in small affairs, that our searching is not always fruitful, that we cannot always be successful. Failure is just as inherent in the scheme of things as success. The great book of common sense teaches one that.—Charles E. Tracewell, in the Washington Star.

Pioneer Mince Pies

Tradition states that mince pies were originally oval in shape, to represent the cradle in which the Holy Child was laid, and the medieval cooks filled them with the choicest and costliest of meats, all shredded and minced together, as emblems of the gifts of the Three Wise Men. For centuries they occupied the place of honor on the baronial table, and in an old Fourteenth century manuscript we find the following recipe: "Take a pheasant, a hare, a capon, and two pigeons, take out as many bones as may be, and chop them up fine, add the livers and hearts, two kidneys of sheep, salt, pepper, spice, and vinegar. Put the meat into a crust made craftily into the likeness of a bird's body, close it up and bake well."

Law of Little Value

The long-established American custom of permitting works of art over one hundred years old to come in free of any customs duty has not been entirely nullified, but several countries have lessened its value by censoring exportation of antiques. Italy has stringent rules and Spain has recently absolutely forbidden sales of such objects abroad. If works of art over one hundred years old are not permitted to leave their countries of origin, it is of no value to have them duty-free here.—Exchange.

Topsy-Turvy Woman

A woman who lived in a topsy-turvy world, who wrote, read, and spelt backwards, is mentioned in the British Medical Journal. She was admitted to the Devon County mental hospital suffering from fits and suicidal tendencies. It was found that in writing she reversed her words and when she drew pictures she drew them upside down. When she wanted to read she turned the book upside down. When she was asked to spell a word she spelt it backwards.

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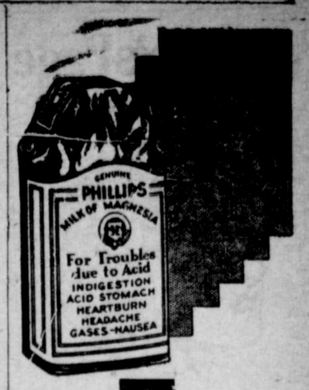
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