JUST IN FUN

A Good Yarn

The shop assistant was trying very hard to make a sale, but the customer waved aside every shirt that was put before him. Wearily the assistant showed him the last of the selection.

"It's wonderful value, sir," he said earnestly. "Worth double the money. Latest pattern, fast colours, hole-proof, won't shrink, and it's a good yarn."

"Yes, and very well told," came the curt reply.

Plain But 'Olesome

A very pleasant-looking, but not too beautiful, little lady entered a London store. Noticing a striking poster advertising their beauty service, she asked the liftman whereabouts in the store the beauty parlour was situated.

The man glanced at her face and noted with satisfaction that she apparently did not make-up.

"Miss, yer don't want ter go mucking yer face abaht. Why not stay as yer are—plain but 'olesome!"

Danger Spot

Two dogs were walking down the street;
Said Fido, "Poodles, I declare
We ought to have a sign put up,
'Beware of the boy who lives in there'."

Not Her Own

Mrs. Hatt stopped to talk to her friend, and her husband waited a short distance away.

Presently she rejoined him.

"H'm," he said, "and what was Mrs. Brown talking about?"

"Business," she replied, off-handedly.

"Yes, I know," murmured her husband, "but whose?"

Beaten to It

A young woman about to be married decided to test her sweetheart, and called on a girl friend.

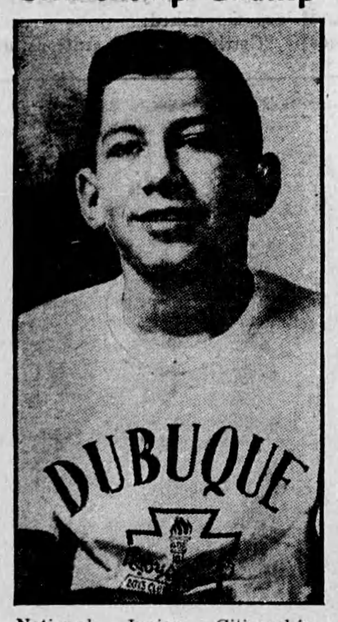
"I want you to go for a walk with Jack," she confided, "and at a suitable moment ask him for a kiss."

Her friend blushed, but consented.

The following day the bride-to-be called round to see what had happened. "Did you ask Jack to kiss you, dear?"

"I didn't get a chance," was the reply. "He asked me long before I was going to.'

Citizenship Champ



National Junior Citizenship champ is the title of Daryl Koch, 13, of the Dubuque, Ia., Boys' Club, an honor awarded him in a field of 375 National Boys' Clubs of America for his participation in sports, panel discussions on juvenile problems, and junior high school scholastic standing.

Her Wasted Life

As he was under orders to go abroad, the ardent young soldier begged his girl friend to marry him at once.

Rather worried about it, the girl sought advice from the maiden aunt who'd brought her up.

"Tell me what you'd do, aunty," she asked. "I suppose you think it wouldn't be sense to marry because I'm so young?"

"Well, dear," said her aunt, "I dunno! If I had my time over again, I think I'd get married before I was old enough to have sense not to."

Milk a la Tray

The mistress was exacting, and she had the new maid flustered. One of her orders was to bring a glass of milk every evening at seven o'clock. The first evening the maid appeared with the glass of milk in her hand.

"Jane," said the mistress sharply, "don't ever do that again. Always bring it on a tray."

The following evening Jane appeared at the door with a worried look on her face and a tray full of milk in her hands.

"Excuse me, ma'am," she said anxiously, "but do I bring a spoon with this, or do you lap it up?"

FLAMES LICK SKYWARD OVER TEXAS CITY

The blast-smashed town of Texas City lies in the foreground at right. Montanto Chemical's once gleaming styrene towers and the neat concrete roads of its 30-acre plant are at left, a mass of fire-blackened debris under the smoke of the still burning area on the second day of the Texas City disaster. In middle, background, are fuel storage tanks, many of which exploded into flames.

When the French Line freighter Grandcamp put into Texas City, on Galveston Bay, crew members began loading her with ammonium nitrate, badly needed for fertilizer in France. Nitrate is ordinarily stable, but may explode if exposed to intense heat. A few days later a small fire was discovered in the hold of the Grandcamp. In less than an hour the ship exploded and set off a chain of explosions.

A City Devastated

Within two hours the city was devastated. Continuing explosions collapsed buildings, sent chunks of masonry, steel and flaming timbers hurtling through the air. The Monsanto plant, adjacent to the docks, became a flaming oven of wreckage as its chemical supplies ignited. Black smoke veiled the area. Beneath it seeped poisonous fumes released from the chmicals.

The explosions continued. A second nitrate-filled ship exploded, causing new destruction. Observers likened the holocaust to a wartime bombing. Gen. Jonathan M. Wainwright, hero of Bataan, in the city to proffer Army aid, said: "I have never seen a greater tragedy in all my experience." About 550 persons were killed; 3,000 were injured. Property damage was estimated at over $125,000,000.

The fate of Texas City put other port cities on their guard against similar blasts. Huge stocks of ammunition containing ammonium nitrate were left at the end of the war. These stocks are beng processed and reconverted for use as fertilizers. Explosive experts attending the meeting of the American Chemical Society at Atlantic City last week pointed out that until the processing of the nitrates is completed, the danger of explosions will remain a real one.

Mystery Story: "A Falling Mouse"

In the heart of New York City, within sight of Radio City, there is a small vacant corner lot. Brick buildings rise on two sides, while the others are bounded by a high wire fence.

Peering through the wire wesh, a dozen men and women watched something taking place inside, relates the Philadelphia Inquirer. A cat had discovered a mouse hidden under a mass of wind-blown papers. It would pounce first at one place then at another as it detected the scurrying of the mouse beneath the papers. Finally, the mouse reached the nearest wall and began climbing straight upward on the face of this precipice of brick.

While the cat watched below and while the people watched outside, the mouse pulled itself higher and higher. It moved more slowly searching for clawholds, mounting upward brick by brick. It was more than two storeys in the air when it lost its hold.

Women screamed as it plunged downward. It struck the ground and, to everyone's open-mouthed amazement, instead of lying there stunned or dead, it scampered off and later made good its escape.

* * *

At Cornell University, another mouse survived an even more spectacular fall. Within a few days of giving birth to a litter, a mother mouse fell three storeys to a concrete walk below. She not only escaped death but later gave birth to a full litter of uninjured baby mice.

The ability of small animals to sustain long falls lies in the relation of their body weight to their external surface area. The smaller the animal, the greater is the proportion of surface area to body mass. An ant is buoyed up by the air when it falls from a cliff. A horse is not . . . . It is too heavy in proportion to its surface area to have its fall checked by air pressure.

India's irrigation system, the world's largest, waters over 55,000,000 acres.

STUFF AND THINGS

"——you're going to meet a tall, dark handsome man!"

VOICE OF THE PRESS

Teen-Ager

Definition: A teen-aged boy is a person who flops on the sofa on the back of his neck and scatters his legs over half the living room.

—Stratford Beacon-Herald.

This Year!

With maple syrup at six or seven dollars a gallon, who now would call the farmer "a poor sap?" He's the "candy kid."

—Ottawa Citizen.

Long-Awaited Operation

Certain types of deafness can now be relieved by chiselling a tiny window through the bone of the inner ear. This gives hope that new progress will be made in that long-awaited operation which is designed to get a joke into a Scotsman's head.

—Peterborough Examiner.

History-Book Problem

We have often noted in Canada that history text books vary beyond recognition according as they are written in English or French, and the problem of producng a book that will be even reasonably acceptable to the two main divisions of Canadians has never yet been satisfactorily solved.

—Halifax Chronicle.

Only The Best

Jap night spots recently noticed a slump in food business when a report circulated that poisoned meat had been sold on the black market. One place that specialized in "beefsteaks" put up a sign stating: "Absolutely safety guaranteed for our beefsteaks. We are using horsemeat as heretofore."

—Variety.

Better In The Open

It may actually be much safer to let the Communists operate in the open in North America. That way, we shall at least have some idea of what they are up to. And there will be less chance of the public growing complacent and imagining that Communism is dead and buried, merely because it has been declared illegal.

—Edmonton Journal.

Or, There Aren't Any

As one pessimist remarked, the car you can't get in a model that hasn't been decided on yet is unavailable in most colcrs.

—St. Thomas Times-Journal.

Office Boy Not Extinct

An M.P. says that "the office boy is as extinct as the dodo." We disagree; they call them "junior executives" now, and pay them more, but their capacity is just the same.

—Peterborough Examiner.

Why Bother?

More men are wearing plain knit ties, we learn from a press report. This brings up the question, why wear ties at all? One of the most foolish customs is that of men who bind their necks almost to strangling point with various kinds of fabrics. Some of the gaudy ties that one sees are almost as ridiculous as the women's hats that strike your eyes in the Easter parade. Men who laugh at the things women are pleased to call hats might do well to take a second look at their ties.

—Chatham News.

What About the Pork?

Farmers throughout this district are being urged to grow more beans for canning purposes this year. What about the pork? Have you noticed they don't even print "Pork" on the labels of the cans any more.? There was a time when you could find a tiny square of pork among the beans, if you had good eyesight.

—St. Thomas Times-Journal.

First Billionaire

Henry Ford, the world's first billionaire, was the King Midas of all time.

Compared to Ford, Croesus, the last king of Lydia and from whom we get the phrase "rich as Croesus," was a piker.

Ford started life as a $2.50-a-week mechanic and died with a fortune estimated at more than a billion dollars. His wealh has never been equalled by any ruler or potentate in history.

Russia Showing Stereoscopic Movies

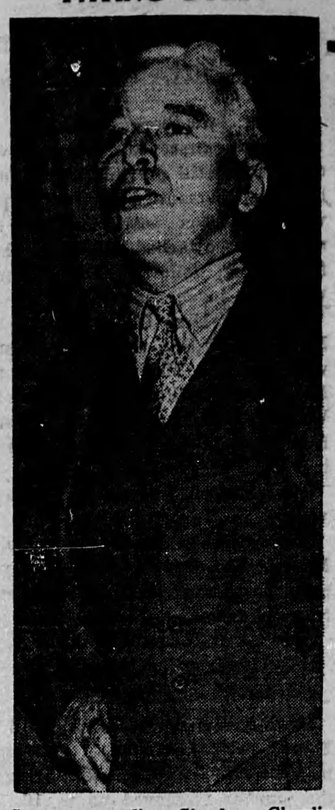
A new stereoscopic screen for three dimensional films is being built in Russia, Tass, the official Soviet news agency, reported.

Moscow's first stereoscopic movie theater recently opened but only 180 spectators can be accommodated.

When the new "integral" screen is completed it will be possible to show three dimensional films in large theaters, the Tass agency said.

The Soviet Government has provided funds amounting to about $4,000,000 for further research in the field of the stereoscopic movie theater, according to Semen Ivanov, an inventor of the stereoscopic screen.

'PAYING GUEST'



Screen comedian Charles Chaplin is in serious mood as he vehemently answers questions of newsmen concerning his alleged leftist leanings and failure to become an American citizen. At New York interview he declared he is a "paying guest" of U.S.

Communism: World Conspiracy

Odd the woolly arguments that are being made against the United States barring Communists from government departments, comments the Ottawa Journal. For example, that this is an interference with conscience, aimed at a man's right to think as he pleases.

The Government of the United States is not making it a crime for a man to be a Communist. It merely says to such a man: "If you are a Communist, or subscribe to what Communism is today, an attempt to overthrow democratic government, then we can't provide you with facilities for your work. You may think as you please; we are not going to make easier your revolutionary acts."

Communists, it is argued, are being made into outlaws. Communists are already outlaws—have put themeslves outside the law by their creed that they owe allegiance to no authority outside of Moscow.

To speak of Communism today as a party, as an economic creed, is to abuse language. Communism isn't a party, and isn't an economic creed—it is simply an international conspiracy. As such, strictly speaking, it can claim no rights.

Liberia is the only independent republic on the continent of Africa.

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POP—Same Old Story By J. MILLAR WATT