The Free Press Short Story

CHARLES G. D. ROBERTS

oldest settlers had there been remembering a thicket of birch saplings them all intently for a few moments, then winter so severe. All the which he had passed a few hundred country about the Ottanoonsis and yards back. Here, with the aid of the Quahdavic waters was buried under an long sheath knife, which he carried at news of a banquet had spread swiftly unprecedented depth of snow. Never his belt, he gathered an armful of the among the hungry wild folk, and the before, it was said, had such implacable aromatic branches, the favorite forage careass was half grawed away. cold fixed its grip upon the land. Storm of the moose, oiled upon the heels of bitter storm till landmarks were all but blotted out, and the hollow the great bull grunted eagerly, catch sight of any of the banqueters. the little, lonely backwoods cabins were the cow and calf got to their feet as if Bome thirty or forty paces away the tops emothered to the caves. The scattered settlers gave up, before midwinter passed, all efforts to keep their roads open, and all their necessary travelling was done on snowshoes, tramping their trails seven, eight, nine or ten feet above the hidden ground. The little trees were

rough wind had shaken their branches free of the intolerable burden, and left them standing sharply dark against the wide white desolution. For the wild creatures of the forest it was a prolonged tragedy, except those which were so fortunate as to be hibernating, sleeping away the bitter time in their deep holes beneath the know where the flercest cold could not touch them. Among the chief aufferers were the moose. These heavy animals, accustomed to select a sheltered spot in the

domes and pinnacles, except where

woods for their winter home, and tramp out a maze of narrow pathways all about it, leading to the thickets of young birch. poplar, and striped maple whose twigs furnished them their food, early found it difficult to keep their paths open. As the winter progressed they browsed away all the edible twigs and even the coarser branches of the thickets in their immediate neighborhood. These consumed, they could only reach further supplies, and these all too scanty, by

the smothering depths of the know. Some of these imprisoned moose families aucceeded in getting enough forage to keep them alive, if barely. Others, less fortunately situated, slowly starved to death. And so that winter were grimly on toward the late release of apring.

from the color of his bristling shock head, and branches which they loved. big stoneware molasses jug, and he pulled on his thick blue home-knit periment. By his third visit the bull loungers in the store, and set out on prehensile muzzles. The dark cow, of

to the farm. It was late, already just on sundown herself more greedy and familiar than -an hour later than he had expected the others, pushing them rudely aside to to be. He had waited to get the mail,- try and get more than her share of the inexerable winter loosened suddenly, and muffin batter before baking makes a for there was a story running in the tid-bits which Rusty took to bringing fell away. As the snow shrank, awailed delicious variation of the recipe. weekly paper (last week's issue) which them in his capacious pockets. he was eager to get on with. Now, he thought of all the chores awaiting him a keen reader of all the nature stories at home, after supper, which would have he could get hold of, Rusty liked to exto be cleared up before he could get to periment on the tastes of the moose

Half a mile down the road a new idea staler and harder the better-and corncame to him. By striking away from cake and even soggy cold buckwheat were soon able to forage for themselves, Place in a pan and dot with places of the road, across the valley on his left, cakes, while the most tempting ginger- and Rusty's visits to the hollow under butter. Bake in hot oven until the he could save nearly a mile. In ordin- bread was scornfully rejected. Bugar the hemlock grew more and more in- crumbs are brown. Serve with the folary seasons this would have meant no they would have note of, but sait they frequent. They were no longer needed, lowing sauce. saving, the intervening country being an licked up enthusiastically, following him indeed; but he had become so attachedalmost impassable tangle of swamps and around for more. He tried them with to his charges, and to the sagacious deadfalls and dense undergrowth. But a handful of grain-oats-on a tin plate; old builf in particular, that he hated to let now, he reflected, it would be as easy but the bull, after an inquiring sniff, them slip quite out of his life. It had travelling as by the road. Billy of him blew into the plate a great, gusty breath to be, however; and in this fashion not to have thought of it before! Drag- from his wide nostrils, and the oats finally, it came about ging the loaded loboggan easily behind flew in every direction. Onts were scarce | One morning, after an arduous struggle him, he struck off at a long, loping and precious, so Rusty did not try that he arrived, wet and exasperated, at the stripe through the forest. Boy though experiment again. But the oats were hollow under the hemlock, to find that he was, he knew that his woodsman's not wasted; for a pair of saucy, smartly- the cow and the yearling had gone. But sense of direction and his familiarity feathered "whiskey-jacks," or Canada there, all expectant, was the faithful with the lay of the land would guide Jaya, known to Rusty as "moose-birds," bull, who knew that this was Rusty's him straight to his destination.

corridors of towering spruce and hem- last grain. Nothing was small enough and these the bull devoured appreciativelock, skirting the dense groups of tall, to escape their bright, confiding, im- ly, stopping now and then to nuzzle the alim white birches, avoiding the snowy pudent eyes. swells and mounds which meant, to his Meanwhile the body of the dead calf lip. At last, with a shamefaced grin, experienced eyes, traps for his snow- rigid and pathetic, had lain ignored in Rusty flung his arms about the great khoes, Rusty Jones struck on across the the very centre of the hollow. At last animal's neck, and murmured: "Good-by, valley till he was within less than a Rusty-took notice of it and decided that you old beggar. Take care o' yerself, an' mile of his father's lonely little farm. It was a blot upon the kindly scene. keep out o' the way o' the hunters when Then, in the cold, blue-grey, ghostly He decided to get rid of it. Selzing it next full comes round. Gee, what a pair twilight, he checked himself on the by the rigid hind legs he started to o' horns you must have on that big head brink of a deep hollow in the snow; half drag it to the side of the yard, intending o' yourn!" overshadowed by a spreading hemlock, to hotst it up over the edge. But the He turned away rather hurriedly and and found himself peering down upon a cow, seeming suddenly to remember that started homeward on a longer but less huddled group of moose. He had never this dead thing had been her calf, ran at obstructed route than that by which her - imagined there were any moose within him with an angry grunt. Startled and had come. a dozen miles of him. Yet here, in the indignant, Rusty struck her a sharp blow. He had not gone many paces, howtangled recesses of the valley, a little across the muzzle and shouted at her with over, when he was startled to feel

moose family had chosen to "yard up" that voice of assured authority which he long muzzle thrust over his shoulder, In the gloom of the trodden and The stupid cow drew back, puzzled both cat the bull had followed him. Deeply littered hollow he made out their forms by the blow and the shout. To add to touched, but somewhat embarrassed to -a gigantic brown bull, a dark smallish her bowilderment, the sagacious old bull, know what to do with him, Rusty fondled cow. and two yearling calves. They were which had become as devoted to Rusty the devoted beast affectionately and all lying down; but one of the calves, as a faithful dog, hunged at her so flercely continued his journey. The bull accompstretched awkwardly on its side, was with his massive, unantiered head that anied him right up to the edge of the obviously dead and frozen stiff. The she went sprawling halfway across the open, in full view of the farmyard. The others were all staring up at him with hollow. And there she stood, wagging her farmer was lowering the bucket into the pathetic, hopeless eyes, as if too des- long ears in puzzled discomfiture, while well, and the sharp clanking of the pairing for fear. But presently the great Rusty laboriously holsted the awkward chain rang on the still spring air. The bull staggered to his feet and stood in weight and pushed it forth upon the big black-and-white farm dog, barking threating attitude, ready to defend his upper level of the snow. charges to the last, even against the This accomplished, he dragged it a greet Rusty. The bull halted, waving his most terrible of all enemies, Man. Rusty few yards away and left it behind a long ears." Jones perceived that he was pitcously white-domed bush, where it would no "Better quit now!" said Rusty_"Goodemaciated, the shagey hide drooping in longer offend his vision. Then he went by, an' take keer o' yerself!" creases on his flanks. Rusty's kind grey down again into the hollow and stroked Not allowing himself to look around, they lose their shiny appearance. Pold keeps digestion perfect. It is the safe,

He dropped the rope of his tol

RUSTY JONES' MOOSE

new life already flowed in their veins, of a buried spruce supling had been and all three fell hungrily to the feast, jarred clear of its swathing and stood Rusty hastened to fetch them another out sharply against the whiteness.

oboggan rope once more, "I guess that'll out the form of a red fox, crouching do yous for to-night. I'll bring yous submerged from sight, forgotten. The some good hay to-morrow mornin'." taller spruce and fir towered in snowy

> ise of his lateness but adament as his promise of the hay. "We hain't got more'n enough hav

to see our own critters through." his mother, decidedly, father'll let you take some straw. Plenty good enough for them kind."

Bob Jones, a huge, lean, backwoodsman, known throughout the settlements, for obvious reasons, as "Red Rob," laughed good-humoredly.

poplar for 'em. Rusty." said he. their natural fodder, anyways. But ye're goln' to hev yer work cut out fer yeh if ye're goin' to feed all the starvin' critters in the woods this winter."

"That's all right," said Rusty cheerfully, helping himself liberally to molarges. on his pile of hot-buckwheat pancakes. "I'll take 'em a bundle o' straw in the mornin', and after that I'll chop wood for 'em. Don't worry. I'll see "em through all right. If you two had soon long and painful flounderings through pitiful them poor beasts looked. bu'd feel jost as Y do about it. But We hain't got none too much for our-

Jones betake himself to the hollow under At Brine's Corners, outside Emith's the hemlock, axe in hand and dragging face of the enemy! store-which was also the settlement his toboggan, and leave for his sembre post office,—young Rusty Jones, so called proteges a two-days' supply of the twigs was roping parcels, and an oat-bag, a found that they preferred this rough a fodder to the best out straw, and even kerosene oil tin, accurely upon his .to- to the few wisps of choice timothy hay This done to his satisfaction, which he once brought them as an mittens, slipped his moccasined feet into the leggy yearling had become so tame the mooschide thongs of his anowahoes, that they would come up and anatch the waved farewell to the little group of fodder from his hand with their long. his four-mile tramp over the buried road suspicious and jealous disposition, was slower to be won, but when won showed

Being something of a naturalist, and

-that frequented the moose-yard lost usual hour of saming. Busty had his Threading his way through the silent no time in picking them, up to the very pockets filled with dry corncake and salt,

used with the yoke of oxen on the farm, gently brushing his neck. Noiselessly as a

up appealingly and was granted a small lump; and then the cow, forgetting her resentment, came nosing in to claim her share. But Rusty, still indignant at her, would only allow her to lick the last grain or two from his palm

"That'll larn yeh," said he severely 'not to be gittln' so fresh."

On Rusty's next visit to the mooseyard, two days later, he was at first surprised to observe the numerous tracks of wild creatures on the surrounding snow. The neat footprints of foxes predominated, and the slender trails of the weasel, But there were also standing out conspiciously, the broad, spreading padwithin the memory of the and started off on a run up the slope, marks of a big lynx. Rusty examined stepped around behind the shrouded bush to look at the body of the dead calf. The scratched his red head thoughtfully and When he threw his burden down into peered about him to see if he could eyed it piercingly, understandingly-and "There," he panted, picking up his presently, through the thick green, made

> In a few seconds the fox, perceiving When the boy got home, very late, with that he was detected, stood up and stared his story, he found his father and mother Runty in the eyes with a fine assumption sympathetic enough in regard to the of unconcorn. He yawned, scratched als ear with his hind paw, licked his splendld, tawny brush and trotted away with elaborate deliberation, as much as to say, "That, for you!" till he had gained cover. Rusty, who know foxes, could picture the furry humbug throwing ed egg on toust, milk or coffee, dignity to the winds and running for dear life us soon as he felt himself out of.

"Gee," he muttered, "that red beggar's got a fine pelt on him." He wondered "Reckon ye'll hey to chep birch an' how many viollars it would be worth. He called to mind also those tracks of the big-lynx, and wondered what a lynx pelt would fetch. He thought what a scheme

it would be to set traps around the dead calf. But this plan he threw overboard promptly with a grunt of distate, had always detested the idea of trapping. tea. Then - he - thought-of - his min, which he used chiefly against the marauding hawks when they came after his chickens.

"Easy enough to got a shot at that red varmin, he's so bold an' sassy," he mused. Still dewelling on the price of that pelt, he pictured himself richer and of course you're right about the hay, the forest more healthful for the fox's Then his thoughts turned to the

Thereafter, for the next few weeks, owner of the pelt. He had rather liked regularly every other day would Rusty the audacious insolence of the creature -such a fine piece of camouffage in the "After all," he murmured to himself

"I guess I won't bother. It don't seem quite fair, when they're all so starved an' I've tricked 'em all into comin' round here by putting out that there .carcass. I better let 'em all have a good time while it lasts. " An' bosides, if I fired gun here now it would score my moose out of their senses." Having come to this decision, he

turned back to the moose-yard, thinking, know! An' maybe ho'd be right!"

above by warm rains and ardent suns. mysteriously undermined beneath, the tangled undergrowth began to emerge. slowly, almost imperceptibly at first, but used. Fresh fruit should be cooked in each day quicken black and sodden, He found that they liked bread-the from its hiding and the valley became pears and roll them in crumbs (dried

boy lovingly with his long sensitive upper

loudly, came capering down the slope to

AT PEACH WITH THE KITCHEN By Barbara B. Brooks

place. It is where the kettles scorch, Warrett Wallace Charters, and even though the butcher fatled to in which she was once deficient

dld she do it?

peace to the kitchen. The kettle sings, the people she was most given to criti-The amlight, drifting lazily through the claing. crisp gingham curtains, enhances with noft golden flecks the polished surfaces your career, and you are fastening upon of the new companionable pots and pans, yourself a habit that is bound to offeet and causes a halo of cleanliness to whine to a great degree all the hard work 'you above the scrubbed lineleum.

recipes which would be safe for the unskilled cook to try. .

Breakfasts

Grapefruit, soft cooked egg, broiled bacon, whole wheat toust, butter, plum nitter, milk or coffee. Haked apple, corn flakes, cream, poach-

Italian spaghetti, celery, bran muffins, pears an gratin, ginger sauce, hot bever-

Escalloped oysters, head lettuce salad French dressing, rye bread, butter, chocolate blane mange, hot beverage.

Dinners Vegetable soup, pot roast of beef, good points, the fault is probably due to browned potatoes, buttered broccoll, hot your narrow vision. gingerbread with vanilla sauce, coffee

Escalloped potatoes with ham, carrot and pine apple salad, ice cream corn flake macaroons, tea or coffee,

> BRAN MUFFINS 3 tablespoons shortening

14 cup augar

1 egg (well benten) 1 cup sour milk 1 cup bran

1 cup flour

1 tempoon baking powder 14 tempoon soda Touspoon milt

Cream the shortening and sugar, ad ear and sour milk. Add bran and let soak until most of the moisture is taken Sift flour with baking powder, sods and salt and add to first mixture, stirring only until flour disappears. Fill greased muffin tins two-thirds full and bake in a moderate oven (40 degrees 1%) for 20 to 25 minutes. Yield: 8 large or 13 small muffing

Note: If sweet milk is used instead o sour milk, omit the half teaspoon sods with a deprecating grin, "But what a and use 3 tempoons baking powder. blame fool father would call me, if he Raisins or dates may be added if desired. Government are growing totals 32,000 A small slice of apple, sprinkled with At last, at long last, the grip of that cinnamon and sugar, placed on top the

PEARS AU GRATIN

Either canned or fresh pears may be water until tender. Drain six halves of more difficult to traverse. The moose bread crumbs or rolled corn_flakes)

GINGER SAUCH Melt one tablespoon of butter, add one tablespoon of flour and one cup of syrup. Bring to boiling point, add three tablespoons chopped preserved winger and three tablespoons symp from preserved ginger. Syrup used in this recipe is that from the canned fruit or the water in which fresh fruit has been

cooked. In the latter case, add sugar TTADIAN SPACINGTIT

14 cup off 14 teaspoon black pepper

I onion (sliced) 3 tablespoons tomato paste 15 cup water 2 cups tomatoes

1 bay leaf

1 teaspoon sugar 15 pound spagnetti la cup cheese (grated)

black pepper and heat two minutes. Add and cook until it is a deliente brown. Mix tomato paste with half cup water and add this to the oil, pepper and onlons in three installments, allowing the mixture to boil up after each addition. Add tomatoes, bay leaf, and salt and cook slowly for 45 minutes. Put in the sugar and cook 15 minutes longer. Magnesia Best for drain and mix with the tomato sauce, Servé on a platter and sprinkle the spaghetti with grated cheese.

Yield: 6 servings. CORN PLAKE MACAROONS

2 cur whites

1 cup mugar 3 cups corn flakes

14 cup mutments

I cup coconnut 16 teaspoon vanilla extract

gave him a generous portion of salt as a great moose faded back, like a shadow, Drop on a well greated baking sheet. everywhere sell it on

Some years ago I had among my To the bride, attempting her first students a young woman who proved to meals in her own small home and in be a striking example of the extent to her own inexperienced manner, the which one can develop the very trait in kitchen, "generally, is a most confusing which one is most lacking," says Doctor the stove blisters and the dishes are she is known for her gracious and tacteverlastingly dirty. True, it is the place ful manner, and for the friendly cowhere mother reigned serenely even operation she can get among all kinds though the unexpected guests were many of people; yet these are the very traits

TO DEVELOP A GRACIOUS MANNER

send the proper cut of meat. But how "As a student, this young woman was exceptionally bright and keen. She was Buch an unfriendly kitchen the would- so efficient herself that she seemed to be cook finds. The once levely chocolate have only contempt for those who were cake rises only to fall; the dessert, in not her equals in this respect. While spite of all efforts is lumpy. The diffi- pursuing post-graduate studies, she was culty usually lies in the menus which already working in a department store the bride selects to prepare for her but her lack of tast and especially her nusband. She longs to set before her severe criticism of anyone she did not king a feast but often something goes like, was ruining her chances of success wrong-so the first meals should be "I was able to show her that the people simple. After all, simple foods, well who did not like her and from whom prepared, are far better than elaborate she could not get co-operation were those who lacked her mental quickness The preparation of simple meals brings and decisiveness, and that they were

"'Here you are,' I said, 'Just starting do. If you don't develop friendliness, We are suggesting a few menus and you are no better than a failure now." "These were the specific rules I gave

'1-Impress upon yourself the idea that you are not going to make critical statements about anyone during the next

two weeks.

"'2-You are to stop having critical thoughts about people, and you are to try to feel friendliness. Study the people you meet. - For every bad point you notice about them, try to find two good ones. Notice the little courtesies of people on a street car or in a crowd anywhere. Make a list of the people whom you have criticized most. Study their good points until you see how unfair you have been to them. Remember if there is a person in whom you cannot find half a dozen

" '3-Regardless of your likes and discan't work hard for some one you don't like, there is a splendid chance to be critical not of the person you dislike, but of yourself for not being dependable." "-Hoffman.

HAVE GIVEN AWAY, 116,000,000 TREES

From 1901 to 1930 over 116,000,000 young trees have been sent free to over 100,000 applicants-living-in the Prairie Provinces-Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta-by the Canadian Government Forest Service of the Department of the Interior, Last year more than 6,000,000 tree seedlings and cuttings were shipped. In the past 30 years several millions of trees have also been sold to Prairie farmers by commercial nurseries According to the official inspection reports fully 80 per cent. of all the tree plantations set out on the Canadian Prairies in recent years have flourished. The area of the plantations in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta on which trees supplied by the Canadian

acres or 50 square miles. The average plantation is 1,936 square yards or nearly half an acro-in extent. The farmer in Western Canada had learned that besides being things of beauty trees are an aid to his business. Experience has taught him that the planting of shelter belts around his farm increases the water conserving power of It is estimated that a shelter belt of trees on a prairie farm ackis an average of about \$1,000 to the value of the property.

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F.) about 15 to 20 minutes. Remove puns from oven, place on damp towel and remove macaroons immediately with a spatula or sharp knife. If macaroons become hardened to pan, they may be put in the oven for a few minutes to

Note: A standard measuring tablespoon which has a round bowl may be used for shaping macaroons. This insures a regular shape and better appearance Either, brown or white augar may be

Yield: 114 dozen.

Gas on Stomach

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