

The Free Press Short Story

The Individual with the Big Foot

BY M. GAUSS

DEAR the summit of Big Twin Mountain, just below the ledge where the rocks become inaccessible as Church spires—in the sandy earth close to the mouth of a small cave—Morrel Denning spied the print of a naked foot. He spoke aloud—although he was alone!

He began to do this deed. He began to have a fairly clear idea of the man with the great, bare foot. In his mind's eye he saw a huge, filthy, powerful creature—cruel, yet cowardly. "I say, we must get that youngster away from such a brute."

Not long after this the dogs came up the trail; they had followed it straight to the mountain top, but they could make nothing of it. Noon came and passed. Finally the trail on Big Twin was abandoned. The tracks were lost among the rocks near the top. The summit of Big Twin had never been scaled.

In the late afternoon the search party gathered on Little Twin and looked across to the inaccessible heights. "But I say," insisted Morrel, "a man as big as that could not scale such rocks. I couldn't do it myself."

Apparently the owner of the big foot had turned toward the grove, where no print would, of course, appear on the pine-carpeted earth. Morrel walked that way. As he neared the thicket, a crashing of twigs indicated that his man was near. The pursuer penetrated a short distance farther until he found fresh footprints similar to those near the cave. He followed these until they disappeared again; then he returned to the path which led down the mountain.

The object of the search was a boy of ten or twelve, a wiry little fellow who hunted on the mountains, always accompanied by a magnificent deerhound. His parents were wealthy people, members of the famous "Winter Colony," owners of homes and hunting lodges around Twin Mountains.

Several of the high-school boys, however, who know Morrel Denning, was not in the habit of making mistakes. He went, with him up Big Twin to the cave. They declared that the prints were the same as those in the canyon below. Now, under close inspection, fresh clues developed. Close to the cave some one discovered the unmistakable footprint of the Washburn boy. It was much fainter than that left by the great bare foot, perhaps on account of the lighter weight of the child, nor was there a sign that the dog had been present. In one place a huge limb had been broken from a tree. The feat had been performed within a few hours; it was certainly the achievement of a powerful individual.

Now cheers rose from the watchers on Little Twin as Morrel reached the farther side of the gorge. "You've got five hundred feet below you," Dick called across. "Look where you step over that chasm."

At sight of the dead animal Morrel's blood thickened. The dog was a superb specimen; besides—it skinned Denning to reflect that the child was doubtless up in the hands of a man who could

swayed his hands to the watchers, shouting. "Found! Found!" The mystery of the child's disappearance could wait. The rescuer devoted himself to the problem of getting Tommy down from his perch.

When the two had reached firm ground and the search party met them, the child was asked to clear up the mystery of his capture and kidnapping the previous afternoon. "Nobody took me away!" insisted the boy. "It was out with Boris—that's my dog—and he found a trail of big feet and followed it, and so did I till we came to a cave up on Big Twin."

"The LOWLY HOG DOES ITS BIT FOR SCIENCE"

Of what particular value are hogs except to produce our ham and bacon? Why are they experimented upon, and why is such care taken in the procuring of accurate experimental data?

RESPECT OTHER PEOPLE'S OPINIONS We can respect opinions that we do not share, and the more we know, the more likely we are to respect others' opinions.

DEFINED "What is a paradox, Mister?" "Two wharfs side by side, sir."

HIGH PRESSURE The advertising man was proposing. "Remember," he said, "this is the last day for this astounding offer."

Garden Fertilizer for Sale FLOW SHARES GROUND Farmers' Necessities and Repairs Supplied PERSONAL SERVICE. J. W. Barberree

Money Coming In? Did you ever need money—as badly as you need it right now? Could you make use of some real cash? It can be had by sending...

VILLAGE OF ACTON Court of Revision The Municipal Council of the Village of Acton will meet as a Court of Revision in the Council Chamber, Acton, Ontario, on Monday, the sixth day of May, 1932, at eight o'clock, P. M.

INSURANCE FIRE, CAR, CASUALTY, Etc. E. HARROP Representative GORE DISTRICT MUTUAL NORWICH UNION CANADIAN FIRE INSURANCE COMPANIES

TENDERS FOR COAL SEALED TENDERS addressed to the Acting Chief Purchasing Agent, Department of Public Works, Ottawa, will be received at his office until 12 o'clock noon (daylight saving), Wednesday, May 25, 1932, for the supply of coal for the Dominion Buildings throughout the Province of Ontario, including the City of Ottawa.

Persian Balm is irresistible. Fragrant as summer flowers. Cool as a mountain spring. Wonderfully invigorating. Softens and whitens the hands. Makes skin soft-textured and youthful.

THEN CAME THE DANDELION. BARBARA B. BROOKS March winds blew; April rains fell and then came the dandelion. It is the Spring parade of "greens" which invades our markets every year.

DANDELIONS AND BACON 1 pound dandelions 3 strips bacon Salt and pepper 1 cup water

WILTED DANDELION GREENS Wash greens thoroughly and shake until dry. Fry minced bacon until crisp and then remove pieces of bacon. Add lemon juice or vinegar to the hot bacon fat and heat quickly.

PLAIN COOKED DANDELIONS Drain boiled dandelions, shake over fire to dry, season with salt and pepper, vinegar and oil.

CORN BREAD WITH BACON This is exactly the corn bread to go with the greens. 2 eggs 1/4 cup sugar 1 cup milk 1/2 cup all-bran 1 cup corn meal 1/2 cup flour 1/2 teaspoon salt 2 teaspoons baking powder 3/4 pound bacon (diced)

STRAWBERRY CULTIVATION The strawberry is one of the most important small fruits grown in Canada, and as it is native to all parts of the Dominion as far north as the Sixty-fourth parallel it is perhaps as widely cultivated as any of our fruit crops.

Department of Public Works, Ottawa, May 2, 1932

Make Your Own Repairs with The NEW IVORY GYPROC Fireproof Wallboard. ANY man who can drive a nail can put up fire-safe ceilings and partitions of Gyproc. Measure the area to be covered, then order as many sheets of Gyproc as you need. It cuts to size like lumber and you nail it to the studs, joists or over old plaster.

IT'S the Extra Years of Service that Count. Superior wire and superior processes of manufacturing build extra years of service into every rod of "OJIBWAY" Fence. That is why each roll of "OJIBWAY" means lifetime satisfaction.

Canadian Steel Corporation. 1. All "OJIBWAY" Farm Fence is zinc-insulated to stand FOUR one-minute immersions by the Prece Acid Test. 2. Made throughout... line wires, locks and stays... of Full Gauge Zinc-insulated Copper Bearing Galvanized Steel Wire. 3. Guaranteed Full Length Rolls. 4. The "OJIBWAY" Guarantee of Service will be gladly explained by your Dealer. No other fence carries as high a guarantee... and at no advance in price.