#### The Free Press Short Story

#### WALLY GETS A BIRD

PRANK PANRINGTON

T was Porky Wilson's afterneon the men who buy game from him can't be off, As he and Wally Waldo much better." walked down the street he had "I'd think you'd hear him shoot and on his arm a battered basket filled with go get him," said Wally. useless old bottles that had been dis- "He's too smart for me. He hunts carded at the drug store where he was with a rifle with a silencer. employed as errand boy and bottle wash- he doesn't have anything else er. They were just the thing to throw he just lies around there in the bird into the river behind Wally's house to cover, hidden, and picks off the birds shoot at with Wally's twenty-two calibre without any noise. I can't stay up there rifie. Porky himself was armed; the and watch all the time. Well, you boys forked tips of a sling shot were sticking go on and hunt all you want to, and out of his hip pocket. Evidently he before you go home come up to the

with his own weapon. "Say, that's a lot of bottles, Porky. the beechnuts over the hill." Aren't they any good to put medicine The boys thanked Mr. Tanner and in?" said Wally.

'em. What I don't pink with my old semi-cleared land. It was there that that We'll trade some of the time. You partridges or heard them drumming. go on down to the river, and I'll go in cartridges never been opened."

and his newspaper." Wally said. "He might take to count ten very rapidly. sks up in bed and reads. I told him "Say." ejaculatew Porky in a whisper, what we're going to do, and he said, 'If "it's right under our noses." partridge I've shot with a rifle in the way." woods back of the old place."

they aren't flying," observed Porky.

ought to give 'em a chance. I told pa on their stomachs so they could see that, but he said he guessed all the ahead under the low branches. partridges a feller'd get with a rifle would be fair game all right. I'd like to go and Porky in a whisper. "Right in the middle get him one. He can't eat much of any- of those hemlocks. It showed against crib. thing, and he says a partridge would the light in the clearing behind." taste just right. The season's open to | Wally wriggled and twisted to see the the rifle that Wally was still holding specific for cuts, burns, scalds, and vari-

'em now." one o'clock. We've got all afternoon, and "Yes, sir, I saw it move in there when we can get over to Tanner's woods on it drummed," whispered Wally. "I've got it." our bikes in half an hour easy enough." my eye right on it, too. There. It moved

and plugged the bottle at which Porky any closer.". had been vainly popping with his sling He worked his rifle into position, lay-

mounted from their bicycles just where hemlocks. Porky tried to get to his feet an old road from Tanner's woods came but the branches prevented him, and he out on to the highway at the foot of the came down in a heap. Both boys were hill. They concealed their bicycles in scared, but Wally took time to put a new the bushes over the sence and started cartridge into the rifle. up the hill.

Porky suddenly as they came upon a as a man emerged from the hemlocks; notice tacked to a tree. "'Trespassing he was bare-headed, and his left hand forbidden under penalty of the law. No was holding his right, from which blood hunting, fishing or berry picking allowed on this farm. 'G. A. Tanner, owner.' What d'know about that? The old skinfint! We wouldn't hurt his old woods." Pork sat down disconsolately.

"It's only a little way back down to his house," said Wally. "We'll go and you work in a drug store," said Wally. ask him if we can hunt on his hill." side the road near his house when the him, "We'll fix you up all right. It's my boys approached. "Hello, boys! Doing fault. I thought I saw a partridge."

a little hunting to-day?"-

pa He's sick." "Who's your pa?" asked Mr. Tanner. "He's Ellery Waldo," replied Wally.

sometimes. I s'pose you think it's a kind | parently only a flesh wound. of mean man that puts up a sign telling folks not to hunt on his land, don't you?" touches Wally stepped back from the

Porky looked the other way, but Wally two and gripped his rifle. answered. "We thought—that is—it seemed sort of funny, but of course it's all

town got so they didn't have any regard anyway." for my rights. You'd think they owned the woods. They'd break down fences getting over 'em, and they'd start fires in the woods any place and not put 'em but when they left; and they'd overrun the place till there wasn't any hunting for me. You see, I like to hunt a little once in a while myself. So I posted her up; and now it's better; I was out this morning a couple of hours. The village sports think I'm a pretty mean man, but I'll let most any feller hunt if he'll be decent and ask me-except one pothunter in town that I won't let on my farmi It's that Nick Dibble, and I've warned him to keep away or I'd have him arrested. And yet he comes when he known I ain't on the hill, and he shoots the game and then goes and sells it. He breaks the law hunting on a posted farm, and he breaks it selling the game. The law Goesn't mean anything to him, and

planned to have a little target practice house; I want to see what luck you have. You'll prob'ly find the birds working in him.

went back to the woods. Over the tor "Nixle; just junk. See, a lot-of 'em of the hill there was some good partridge cover-scrub hemlocks and thorn apple "They won't float long when we get at bushes and a few beech trees, a piece of twenty-two you'll plug with your aling the boys on their hikes had often seen

and get the rifle. I've got a box full of for any sign of the birds, which they hoped they they might see picking up Wally ran into the house, and Porky beechnuts or the little red thorn apples. continued down the garden path toward As they crawled along they heard the the river. He tossed one bottle out into drumming of a partridge, the mugled beat the stream and was shooting buckshot of the wings that begins slowly and loudat it with the sling shot when at last ly and then comes faster and faster and ends in a low ruffling—the call of the "Pa's sick, and I had to get him a book bird to its mate, lasting as long as i

you were as good a hunter as I used to be, "It's farther away than it sounds," reyou'd go out and get your father a plied Wally. "Funny about that; you' partridge to tempt his appetite. When never can tell just where it is by the I was your age I could pick 'em off the sound, but I guess it's over in that little limb of a tree with a rifle. Many's the clump of hemlocks. Let's crawl over that

They proceeded on hands and knees "Well, he must be some shot all right, under some low bushes, keeping quiet, but I s'pose you can hit 'em better if moving with great care and listening deal." for the occasional drumming. After some "It isn't being a good sport to shoot time they got within thirty yards of the a bird sitting still," said Wally. "You clump of hemlocks. They lay almost flat

"I saw something move then," said

spot. Then came another drumming. ready. "Let's go then," urged Porky. "It's just So close it sounded that the boys started. Wally slipped a cartridge into the rifle again. I'm going to shoot. We won't get

shot. "It don't seem like much of a ing the barrel over a stone and putting chance to get a partridge," Wally finally his chin down into the dirt to get low replied, 'but prob'ly we might go any- enough to sight. There was a moment of suspense, then the sharp snap of the Half an hour later the two boys dis- cartridge followed by a yell from the

They made their way out of the tangle "Oh, say, look at that!" exclaimed of brush and came into the open fust screamed when he saw the boys

"It's Nick Dibble!" said Wally. "O my!" exclaimed Porky. "What'll

"You're pretty near being a doctor; "Fix up his hand. He ain't killed." To Mr. Tanner was mending a fence be- the man Wally said as they approached

"Fool kids like you got no business "Well we started to, and then we saw around with a gun anyhow," replied a sign that said no hunting allowed," Dibble. "This'll cost you something. My Wally replied. "We wondered if you'd hand's a goner, and, even if it gets better, care if-we'd go in your woods to hunt. I'll be knocked out of work for months. You see, I wanted to get a partridge for Your fathers'll have to settle. I know you both, and I'll have the law on you."

From being frightened Wally grew angry as he realized that the poacher, "Um-hum. You dont' say! Ellery caught in the act, was trying to make Waldo and I went to school together, and capital of the accident. But he said we used to go hunting on this hill just nothing as he and Porky bound up the like you two boys. Yes, sir, he'd hunt man's hand with their handkerchiefs, partridges with a rifle and get 'em too stopping the bleeding of what was ap-

. As Porky was putting on the finishing

"You boys be on your way," said Nick "I'll get myself, home best I can if don't bleed to death on the way. You've Boys, I've had to do it. Hunters from no business here hunting on posted land

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nervously, but with sufficient determination. "You stand right there, Mr. FARMS Weekly News Letter

"Well I guess not! What d'you mean?" demanded the man. "Don't pull any of that stuff on me. Put that toy

"Just a minute," said Wally, a little

"It's only a twenty-two." Wally admitted, "but it shoots awful strong. If not be stressed too strongly. An exyou don't stand right there, it may go off periment carried on for 10 years by the in your direction. Now, Porky, you go Field Husbandry Division at the Central in the bushes there and get his gun and Experimental Farm, shows that wheat,

out of there. Who d'you kids think you The average increase of grain sown early gun down! Point it the other way!"

locks, and soon he came out, dragging a for peas. rifle with a silencer on the end of the barrel, and a small wooden box about the size of a bootblack's kit with some- marl are employed as soil dressings to poscher had been posching; he had been When purchasing ground limestome, its using the contrivance for imitating drum- composition and fineness should be con-

violent, and at last Wally said, "You've 60 per cent, should pass a sieve of 80 get to stop talking, Mr. Dibble. Your meshes to the linear inch and all should language ain't fit to hear. Now you go pass a 10 mesh sieve.

right ahead of us down the hill, March!" Nick hesitated as if inclined to attack turn to the right. The trio went up the run outdoors in a fresh paddock. road to where Mr. Tanner was still mend-

As he saw the group aproaching he rose garden the mulch should be light dropped his hammer and stood open- ened with a fork and gradually removed. mouthed. "Well, I'll be tectotally ding- It is a mistake to take it all off at once busted!" said he. "You got him, didn't | When the frost is out of the ground the you? Some bird you got!"

Mr. Tanner the poscher's rifle and box. and the beds levelled. "Dr've him over into the cornerib there by the wagon house," said Tanner. "We will stick him in there, and you boys fust important to leave no stumps as they town. I'll take care of the rest of this collect disease germs.

At command Nick scrambled up on top of the pile of yellow ears in the corn-

"You don't need to worry about it," youd reproach.

"I thought you put in another cart. ridge after you shot him!" exclaimed

said Wally. "There ain't any load in

"I did." replied Wally, "but while you

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### DOMINION EXPERIMENTAL

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The importance of early seeding canoats, barley and peas seeded as soon as "I didn't have any gun," protested the land is ready to work give higher Nick. "I ain't left anything. Come on yields than when sown at later dates. are enyhow? Jesse James? Put that over that sown two weeks later was 14 bushels per acre for oats, 13 bushels for But Porty was already in the hem- barley, 18 bushels for wheat and 4 bushels

Ground limestone, slaked lime, and thing like a drumhead stretched over correct acidity and furnish lime for plant one side. Porky thumped the drum- growth. Of these sources of lime ground head, and it told the story how the limestone is the most commonly used. ming in order to bring the partridges to sidered; a good grade material will contain at least 80 per cent. of carbonate of Nick's language became suddenly lime and for a prompt action in the soil

Care of the New Pigs

The nursing sow and litter require care the boys, but the muzzle of the twenty- and good feeding in order that the pigs two did not waver, and he could see that will be strong and healthy, and the sow the hammer was drawn back. He started will be in fit condition to produce a They crept through the cover, alert on ahead of the boys, and Wally soon second litter this year. Supply a milkdirected him to an open wood road that producing ration. It should consist of led down to the highway, where they oats, middlings and skim-milk. Encouremerged after a slow journey. There age the pigs to start eating at an early Nick was about to turn to the left and lage by placing some feed in a low trough. go into town, but Wally ordered him to As soon as weather permits, let them

The Bose Garden As soon as the snow has gone in the soll that has been mounded about the Wally told the story, and Porky gave rose bushes should be put back into place

In cutting off limbs from trees it send out the constable when you get to become very unsightly and are ant to

Its Quality Sells It.—The fact that so crib, and Tanner shut the door and fast- many thousands of intelligent people continue to use Dr. Thomas' Eclectric Oil 'Now take that toy gun away from that speaks volumes for its healing efficiency. haby before he hurts himself with it," Every since it was first introduced it has said Nick through the bars of the corn- grown steadily in public favor, owing entirely to its manifold usefulness in The farmer grinned as he looked at relieving and healing sickness. As a ous inflammatory pains its record is be-

#### WHEN ADVICE IS UNWELCOME

The advice which is least valued is that which is always on tap. young people are too ready with advice. They do not stop to think of their lack of experience, nor of their ignorance of certain factors in the case. Advice bubbles out of them as water bubbles from a spring; but while spring water is always welcome, advice is frequently unwelcome.

. If you want your counsel to be walued, wait until it is solicited. Do not volunteer to arrange other people's business. Do not be impatient to make suggestions as to the way your classmates or your neighbors should conduct their affairs. Even when your advice is asked, do not give it as though you believed yourself infallible. It will be more palatable if seasoned with modesty.

#### ALL KINDS OF BAIT

The keeper discovered a stranger fishing in a private stretch of water and ordered the offender to draw his cast. The angler obeyed, and it was seen that his hook was baited with a piece of car-

The keeper burst into laughter and said: "If that's the bait you use, you can't do any harm. Get on with dt!" Several hours later the two met outside the private grounds. "Great Scott!" exclaimed the keeper looking at the basket full of trout. "You didn't -catch all these trout with a piece of carrot. did you?"

"No," replied the sportsman. "I caught you with that!"

THE SOURCE

Woman-Oh dear Troubles never come singly. Her Husband-No, marriage is th source of them all:----

were fixing his hand I took it out. I was afraid I might shoot him again. I was

The farmer roared with laughter. Pretty soon Wally and Porky joined him, but Nick raved until the farmer picked up the fellow's own gun and said, "You quiet down, old sox, or I'll show you how your gun works!"

"Boys," he continued, "you didn't exactly get the bird you went after, but I'll admit you got a bird all right. Now come into the house and get a piece of my wife's chocolate cake. And I've got a pair of partridges I shot this morning; I want you to take 'em home to your folks. And you, young Waldo, tell your pe I sin't forgot the time he got two partridges with one shot, and I want him and you boys to come out when he gets around, and we'll all have a good day together."



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