

TELLS OF BURLESQUE ON "RIP VAN WINKLE"

Rich Memories of Old Time One
Night Stands Recorded by
Pioneer Manager

Rich memories of twenty years as manager of a "one-night stand" theater are recorded in the March Scribner's Magazine by Charles Newton Hood of Medina, N. Y.

"The funniest performance I ever saw on any stage was a presentation of 'Rip Van Winkle' by the Larsen Stock company, which once played a week stand of rep. at our house," he says. "There was a matinee for ladies and children on Saturday. The play was 'Rip.' Just before curtain time the manager, W. H. Wright, came to me and said: 'We can't have 'Rip' played to that house.' I looked in and saw nearly 400 children, mostly under ten years of age, and a very few ladies. No men at all. It was too late to change the bill, so Wright simply gave orders to change the immortal comedy into a farce. And the actors did it. They surely played horse with it. 'Rip' did a song and dance with the gnomes, substituted a pop-gun for the decapity shot-

gun, and the whole company lost no opportunity to burlesque every line and situation, including the forcing of 'Rip' to really eat a 'cold potato.' Specialties of the most incongruous sort introduced at every opportunity. The children went into ecstasies of merriment. I remember that in the scene of Rip's return he had pasted his whiskers under his chin, Rube fashion. They seated the old man in a patent rocker, which was in itself a little out of character, and the other actors sought every occasion to tip him suddenly backward in the midst of his most effective speeches with his heels flying in the air, and before that act was over the entire cast joined with Rip in a wild Virginia reel. I have often wondered if, later, when some of those children saw Jefferson, they did not feel that, some way, Joe's version lacked something."

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT THIS STATE

Automobiles in Illinois are valued at \$293,000,000.

It costs the average farm family \$1690 to live a year in Illinois. This is about \$120 more than the national farm average.

Chicago families use 88 per cent more electrical appliances than does the average family in the United States.

John is the most popular Christian name in Illinois telephone directories; then William, James, and Charles.

Illinois death rate is decreasing at the rate of 4-10 of 1 per cent a year.

During January, electric light and power companies of Illinois produced 565,900,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity, an increase of 11 per cent over January, 1926.

There are more than 400 varieties of fish in Illinois waters.

An average of 640 gas and electric meters are installed daily in Illinois.

Outside of Chicago, 67 per cent of Illinois bank deposits are in "savings."

A new mountain chain, 1,000 miles in length, has been discovered in Siberia. Evidently a lot of little things have been overlooked in that country.

If New York keeps on dumping its garbage into the sea maybe in a few years you will be able to walk out to the end of the nine mile limit.

Excavators two thousand years hence, digging into American cities

will probably come across a lot of queer things in the cellars.

The German girl selected to come to the United States to represent her country in the international beauty contest has long hair. She won't have a chance if there are any barbers on the jury.

Scientists say that the American woman's feet are growing larger. Maybe it is because she has to stand up so much in the street cars.

Judging from the glowing reports which come out of the big league baseball camps in the south there won't be enough pennants to go around this year.

The old-fashioned man who used to put his fourteen-year-old son on the train for a twenty-mile journey and tell the conductor to take good care of him, now has a grandson of the same age who can drive the distance in twenty-three minutes.

With Babe Ruth getting \$210,000 for three years' play the average youth will be easy to convince that there is more in training for baseball than for a college professorship.

President Coolidge and President Hindenberg exchange greetings over the new trans-Atlantic cable but there is no report to the effect that their conversation was anything like that between the governors of North and South Carolina.

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