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# The Women's Nook

JOAN SELKIRK

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## Jennie's Kitten

**Children's Story**  
Jeannie was lying across her bed sobbing when Aunt Madge came into the room.  
"Why, whatever is the matter dear?" she asked, "Do you feel sick?"  
The little girl raised a tear stained face from the pillow.  
"No, not sick," she said. "But Mary Kent has the dearest little cuddly grey kitten with a blue ribbon on its neck and I wish I had one."  
Aunt Madge knew that Jeannie was just having a little homesick cry for her mother but she just said soothingly.  
"Well, we must see if we can get you one. We really should have a cat in the house. I heard a mouse in the pantry last night and old Barn Pussy never comes up to the house for her mice at all."  
So at the Women's Institute meeting that afternoon Aunt Madge laughingly told about Jeannie's desire for a cat.  
If anyone has a grey kitten that needs a home we will be glad to look after it," she said.  
Nobody said anything at the time but after Mrs. Brown reached home she phoned Aunt Madge.  
"If the little girl wants a cat we can spare one. Send her over for it tonight."  
So after tea the twins went across the fields to Mrs. Brown's. Later in the evening they arrived home, each carrying a kitten.  
"Mrs. Lester called us in when we were passing and gave us the other one they explained and went to fix a bed for their pets."  
When Mrs. Murphy came in the morning to do the washing she was carrying a covered basket and wearing a broad smile.  
"I heard that Jeannie wanted a kitten," she said, "so I just fetched them each one."  
And as she opened the basket two little grey furry balls tumbled out and stood blinking at the sudden light.  
When the twins came from school each one was carrying a box.  
"More kitties, Auntie," laughed Jeannie. "Mrs. Bent sent them to school with Jimmie and the other parcel was in the mail box with 'From a Friend' written on it."  
Everyone seemed to have heard that Jeannie wanted a kitten. In the next few days they found no less than three cats sitting in the snow by the big front gate. People must have dropped them here when they were passing, knowing that the children would find them.  
Grandad has been away for a few days and on his return the twins ran to meet him to tell him the cat joke.  
"Wait a minute, twinnies," he said, "I brought a surprise from the city for you."  
He opened a pretty wicker hamper and there curled up on a blue cushion lay the loveliest white Persian kitten.  
The twins shouted with delight and laughed until Grandad thought they were going crazy.  
They kept the white pussy in the house and put the nine grey kittens in an old box stall in the barn. One night the door of the stall was left open and in the morning there was not a cat to be seen except old Barn Pussy who sat there contentedly

## WITH THE BIRDS

In the Public Schools of today children are being taught a great deal more about our feathered friends than they were twenty-five years ago. Then people had not grasped the idea that birds are a tremendous help in the business of agriculture, which is the backbone of our country, and they were not offered the protection that they are to-day.

It really is so easy to encourage the birds around one's home—a feeding table in winter, a bird bath in summer and a few bird houses around the grounds and we will be repaid for our trouble many times over. Place these things well out of reach of cats—it would be poor policy to invite a visitor to a meal and then let the visitor be eaten. We have found the windmill an excellent place for a feeding board for crumbs and grain and a lump of suet tied on one of the supports has provided many a chick-a-dee and woodpecker with a warming meal. If this is near the house, so much the better. The little visitors which enjoy this hospitality are very interesting to watch.

A good thing for a Women's Institute, Community Club or Horticultural society to do at this time of year is to organize a bird house competition for the children of the neighborhood. These bird houses should be made from plans decided on by the club and not left to the competitor's own judgment. At a school fair I once saw the prize awarded to a so-called bird house which was built like a doll's house with chimneys, verandah and even a little garden around it. It was about two feet square, beautifully made, but of course no self-respecting bird would ever consider it as a dwelling place. Different kinds of birds like different sized houses and are particularly fussy about the size of the front door. So let the club find the correct measurements from the district representative or from the Department of Agriculture and have a list printed with the entry blanks at the local printing office.

Then for the display of the finished houses either show them at a club meeting or borrow an empty window from any score in town and leave them there on display for some days. This may be a money making scheme by selling the little houses on a small commission. It would be a good plan to have special class for grown people and let Dad show us what he can do in the line of the more difficult houses that martins prefer.

Just as this time of the year when there is a promise of Spring in the air, tragedy in the form of an ice storm, puts an end to many a promising bird career. If the ground and trees are covered with a hard coating of ice for two or three days it is impossible for the little beaks to peck through it to get food and many birds starve to death. This is the time the feeding tables get in their good work and many a bird is saved to delight us with its summer songs and to help our farms and gardens by its destruction of insect pests.

For scientists say that if bird life were to come to an end all over the world that in three years all life would come to an end. Destructive insects would increase at such a rate that man could not control them and in three years there would not be any vegetation left on the earth.

So with this in mind it will pay us to be kind to the birds and give them a chance to increase and look after the insect population for us.

washing her face.  
That evening after school Uncle John called the children to the barn. "Come and I'll show you why barn Pussy chased all the other pussies home," he said.  
The twins ran to look and there curled up in the hay under the stairs was old Barn Pussy with six tiny wee kittens!  
Grandad laughed about the cat story for weeks afterwards.  
"At your next Institute meeting, Madge," he said, "I wish you would announce that we need a new cow. And see if the neighbors will give us a cattle shower instead of a cat shower."

## Our Library Corner

**IN THE GARDEN OF DELIGHT**  
By L. H. Hammond  
This is a charming story written by an invalid who suffered greatly but managed to keep a sunny outlook on life. Her motto was that it doesn't matter if you are a coward as long as you don't let anyone know (which wouldn't be a bad thing for all of us to remember). The birds were her joy throughout her years of illness and she whimsically describes their actions, finding that her own friends and relations all have their counterpart in the birds which come to her window. The tangled love story of her two adopted children works out to a satisfactory ending. This is a book which will delight any Nature lover and would bring special joy to a "Shut-in."

**THE BURGESS ANIMAL BOOK**  
Any child who loves the Burgess bed-time stories would be delighted with this book. It is really Natural History told in a most interesting and impressive manner. The famous Peter Rabbit goes to school with Mother Nature as teacher and each lesson is the life story of one of the wild animals of North America. Ask for this book at your Public Library or suggest to some kind relative that it would make a very suitable birthday present.

## Household Hints

A small pinch of soda added to the salad dressing will keep it from curdling.  
To brown a cake place a dish of cold water in the oven just before the cake is put in. This will prevent burning and the cake will be a rich brown color.  
Never clean windows when the sun is shining on them.  
Common kitchen salt is an excel-

lent occasional dentifrice, as it whitens and preserves the teeth, removes tartar and hardens the gums. It should not be used often however, as it has a tendency to injure the enamel if used constantly.  
When frying ham or bacon place it in the pan before putting the pan on the fire. It cooks better than if done in a hot pan.



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Dr. J. A. Amyot, Deputy Minister of the Public Health for Canada, who has been created a Chevalier in the Legion of Honor of the French Republic in recognition of the services he rendered to the Allies during the Great War.

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