

# A THANKSGIVING OF LONG AGO

BY LINDA STEVENS ALMOND

Once upon a time when your great great grandmother was a little girl there proceeded to help Amelia Ellen off lived a little girl named Amelia Ellen.

Early one Thanksgiving morning everybody in Amelia Ellen's home was up preparing to go to Grandmother's to spend the day.

Amelia Ellen had cross-stitched on papier-mache a motto which she was going to take to Grandmother. It said: "Let Us Be Thankful."

It was rolled very carefully and put in a box under the seat of the sleigh along with a plum pudding, a pair of dressed chickens, and woolen gloves for Grandfather.

Hot bricks were ready. Amelia Ellen was bundled snug as snug in her big coat and tippet, and a knitted cap all fleecy-lined was tied over her brown curls. Little Ponto, her puppy, was wrapped in a shawl to be carried along.

"Ready!" called Amelia Ellen's father as Mother locked the front door and came tripping down to the sleigh where Frolic was impatiently prancing to be off.

"Ready!" laughed Mother as she hopped in with extra robes beside Amelia Ellen. Jingle-jingle went the sleigh bells, and off dashed Frolic over the crunching snow.

Oh, such fun! Ponto "woof-woofed" as he peeped his little black head out of the shawl to look-upon the snow-clad world. Father was thinking of the delicious roast turkey, being prepared at Grandmother's, the cranberry sauce, pumpkin and mince pies. Mother was thinking of the happy afternoon with Grandmother, chatting before the fireplace, and Amelia Ellen was thinking of the fun of popping corn and roasting apples with her little cousins.

Suddenly it began to grow cloudy. "I believe it is going to snow," said Father.

"It is snowing," said Mother, and sure enough fine fleecy flakes were tumbling all about them.

Before long they reached the sawmill. "Why?" gasped Father. "The bridge is under repair. We shall be obliged to go all the way around by the ferry."

"Oh, dear!" lamented Mother. "That is a good ten miles."

But Amelia Ellen, snug as could be, didn't mind a mite. Oh, it was great fun rushing along with the sleigh bells jingling, and snowflakes dashing in your eyes! So they turned into another road. "Faster and faster! Feel the snow," Father began to look anxious. "It's growing into a regular snowstorm," he said, "If it keeps up this rate."

"At this rate?" asked Mother anxiously.

"Well, we just can't go on," said Father. "That's all. See, poor Frolic is beginning to fight her way."

In a little while the snow became blinding, and Father decided they would have to stop at the first house. Presently they turned into a lane. It wasn't a very inviting-looking place to stop, for the house was dreary and dilapidated looking, but of course it could not be helped. A man came down to the sleigh and when Father explained their plight, he invited them to come right inside. So Mother and Amelia Ellen, with Ponto in her arms, jumped out, and hastened indoors while Father and the man went down to the barn to put Frolic up and cover her with a warm blanket.

A little girl just Amelia Ellen's age opened the door. She was very shy and did not know what to say, but when Ponto jumped out of the shawl she began to laugh and forgot her shyness.

"What is your name, little girl?"

live at Amelia Ellen's house, and the little girls became devoted friends and remained so as long as they lived.

## Care and Feeding of Swine.

Among the work carried on at the Central Experimental Farm last year, as recorded in the report of the Director of the System for the year ending March 31, 1926, were a comparison of housing methods of swine during winter and a study on causes of soft pork, in addition to feed and breed comparisons.

The pure-bred swine kept at the Central are Yorkshires and Berkshires. The feeding of cross-bred hogs versus purebreds resulted in the Yorkshire pen making slightly larger gains than the Berkshire-Tauworth cross and at about the same cost per pound of gain. The Yorkshire and Berkshire cross did not gain as much per day, but did not consume as much meal per pound of gain. The Berkshire failed to show as rapid and economical gains as any of the other three lots under test.

In a test of a semi-solid buttermilk, Prolac (an American feed sold specially as a milk substitute for pigs), ground flax and tankage as substitute for the raising and fattening of pigs, compared with skim milk and buttermilk, the pigs fed on the latter two substances stood first in economy, rate of gain and thriftiness, but were followed very closely by the tankage pigs. The tankage was fed at the rate of eight per cent. Prolac although not giving as good results as buttermilk or skim milk proved a good feed, but says the report, seems to be too expensive to be highly recommended for pigs.

Pigs fed outside but provided with good sleeping berths besides making economical gains proved more thrifty than those fed inside in a warm and inexpensive pigery.

Investigations into the causes of soft pork, as to the cost of pigs at birth and at weaning age, and to determine the value of potassium iodine for brood sows during the gestation period, are being continued this year.

## Store Only Good Sound Potatoes.

The potato crop has suffered injury on some soils, varying from slight to serious in accordance to the amount of blight, black scurf and stem end rot present. Since a diseased or unsalable potato takes up as much room in the storage bin as a sound potato it is good practice to gather separately and keep out of the storage all tubers showing dark sunken areas on the surface and a brownish discoloration of the flesh (Late Bight Rot). It is also advisable to examine tubers for Stem End Rot. Evidence of this trouble is shown by a decayed and sunken area at the stem end of the tuber. When a cross section is made near the stem end a brownish ring is usually plainly visible. Do not use good storage space and labor on a potato that should not or can not be stored. The loss of potatoes on heavy soils will be greater than for some years past.

## Giving Thanks.

Thanksgiving! Why we ought to be thanks giving!  
Each day we're living!  
For air and sunshine and a house to hold.  
Out too much cold.  
And light and laughter and the friendly words.  
Of neighbors, and for birds  
And fields, and little hills, and roads that go  
Far far! And for the corner movie show,  
And for the church and parsonage, and too,  
The little school where we learned all we knew  
Until Time taught us lessons still un-gauged!  
And for the zest  
Of living,  
Each day we're here, we ought to be thanks giving!  
—Mary Carolyn Davies.

## Reflections.

Thou art, oh God, the life and light  
Of all this wondrous world we see.  
Its glow by day, its smile by night,  
Are but reflections caught from Thee.  
And all things bright and fair are  
Thine!  
—Thomas Moore.

# S.S. LESSON

Oct. 31. The Evils of Strong Drink (World's Temperance Sunday), Prov. 23: 29-35. Golden Text—At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder.—Prov. 23: 32.

ANALYSIS  
I. THE QUESTION, 29-30.  
II. THE ADMONITION, 31-35.

INTRODUCTION—Wine is very frequently mentioned in the Old Testament and was a common beverage of the people. The vineyards of Palestine and Syria produced abundantly. The early grapes ripened in June, but the vintage, or grape harvest proper, began in September. Then the grapes were gathered in baskets and some were dried in the sun to be used as raisins. The greater part of the fruit was carried to the deep wine-presses, and was there trodden under the feet of the harvesters until the expressed juice flowed through a pipe leading from the bottom of the press into the vat which was placed below. There it quickly fermented and was then stored in large skin bottles, and when the lees, or tartarous matter, had settled, it was poured again into fresh vessels and became the well-refined wine of the banquet table. See Isa. 25: 6.

While commonly used by the people, the dangers of excess in the use of wine are recognized in many Old Testament passages. See, for instance, the story of the drunkenness of Noah in Gen. 9: 20-24, of Nabal in 1 Sam. 25: 36-38, of Lot, of Ammon, and others. The drunkards of Ephraim are denounced by Isaiah (28: 1). The mother of King Lemuel warns him against drinking wine lest it lead to the perversion of justice (Prov. 31: 4-5), and the wise man in Proverbs 23: 20-21 advises earnestly against winebibbing and gluttony:

"For the drunkard and the glutton shall come to poverty.  
And drowsiness (the drowsiness induced by excessive eating and drinking) shall clothe a man with rage."

See also Isa. 28: 7; 5: 11; Hosea 4: 11; 7: 5; Prov. 20: 1; 21: 17; Jer. 23: 9 and 13: 1-3.

I. THE QUESTION, 29-30.

"Who hath we? The Hebrew is literally, 'Whose is Oh? whose is Wee?' Who are they who are habitually saying Oh and Aah? Who has pain and remorse? Moffatt paraphrases:

Who shriek? Who groan?  
Who quarrel and grumble?  
Who are bruised for nothing?  
Who have bleary eyes?  
Those who linger over the bottle,  
Those who relish blended wines.

The word "babbling" should be rendered "complaining" as in the Revised Version. Those who indulge too freely in wine bring trouble and sorrow upon themselves. They get into needless quarrels and difficulties, involve themselves and others in shame and misery, suffer, causeless, hurts both of body and mind, and bear in their inflamed eye the marks of their folly for all to see.

"The mixed wine" of v. 30 is wine to which spices have been added to make it hotter and improve its flavor.

II. THE ADMONITION, 31-35.

"Look not thou upon the wine."  
The description that follows is of wine at its best, when it is most attractive, most alluring, and therefore most dangerous. Moffatt renders:

"So look not on the wine so red,  
That sparkles in the cup;  
It glides down smoothly at the first,  
But in the end it bites like any snake,  
It stings you like an adder."

For the latter part of v. 31, compare Song of Songs, 7: 9. The meaning is probably that given in the Revised Version, "When it goeth down smoothly," or that of Moffatt's rendering given above.

The "adder" was some venomous reptile, but the species is unknown to us. There are, however, several poisonous species in Palestine.

"Thine eyes shall behold" strange things (not "strange women"). The reference is to "the distorted fancies of the drunkard." The "perverse things" are his foolish, irresponsible ravings. Moffatt renders:

"You will be seeing odd things,  
You will be saying queer things."  
The exact meaning of v. 34 is unknown. It may refer to the heavy unconsciousness of a drunken sleep, insensible to the conditions and possible dangers round about, like the sleep of a sailor on the sea, or of a pilot bound to the mast, asleep at his post. When he awakens from his sleep he congratulates himself that though he was beaten he was insensible to the blows. Hat awake he says, "When I am fully awakened I will take to the drink again."

Horton's comment (in Expositor's Bible), is interesting:

"The insecurity of the (drinking)

habit is incredible. It leads to the destruction of every faculty which God has mercifully given us to protect us from danger and guide us through life." The ready perception of things is marred, the quick rallying of the attention is delayed, the exercise of the understanding is prevented, the will is paralyzed, the conscience dies. Or as the Scottish proverb tersely puts it, "When ale is in, wit is out."

## Improvement of Fox Breeding.

An experimental fox ranch has been established at Summerside, Prince Edward Island, in connection with the Dominion Experimental Farms System. The ranch is under the direction of Mr. G. Ennis Smith, an authority of wide experience, and covers around five acres, with thirty-five breeding pens, thirty-five male pens, two large exercising pens and one trap pen. At present the stock consists of thirty-five female and forty male foxes. The plan as a whole is considered to constitute one of the best and most complete fox ranches in existence. In his annual report covering the year ending March 1, 1926, the Director of the Dominion Experimental Farms says that a deal of credit is due Canadian National Fox Breeders' Association for their contribution in land, animals, and buildings and for their active support in the establishment of the ranch.

Experimental work commenced last October. Among the problems under investigation outlined in the report of the Director of the Dominion Experimental Farms, that is at the free disposal of the Publications Branch, Ottawa, are the maintenance ration required by foxes in captivity and the vitamins needed for the normal development and function of the animals in such condition. Naturally the object particularly sought is the perfect fur in color and texture.

As the report states the silver fox breeding industry, although of recent years it has made rapid strides, is a comparatively new business and little scientific or instructive literature on the care and feeding of these animals is as yet available and the development of the industry is being seriously retarded and injured by very large losses resulting from malnutrition and faulty feeding. It is hoped and expected that the work carried on at the ranch will bring about great and speedy improvement in this respect.

## Frost Injury to Apples.

Mr. H. N. Racicot, Plant Pathologist at the Ste. Anne de la Potherie, Que. Dominion Field Laboratory, in his report to the Dominion Botanist, notes a peculiar "breaking down" of apples in storage that had never been noticed before. It was first noticeable by the darkening of the skin in spots. Later these spots became slightly sunken, with a softening of the tissues underneath. On cutting through these spots the tissues were found to be a light brown. It was ascertained that apples picked prior to the cold and snowstorm of October 7 were free from this and that it was in apples picked after that date that the trouble appeared. The varieties affected were in order of severity, Fameuse, Scarlet Pippin, McIntosh Seedling, and Milwaukie, but a percentage was found in all varieties. The loss was estimated at upwards of twenty-five per cent.

For the fruit of the time of our toil,  
For whatever we have fought for,  
Whether born of the brain or the soil,  
Be the meed we have sought for,  
For the gifts we have had from His hand,  
Who is Lord of the living,  
Let there ring through the length of the land,  
A Thanksgiving! Thanksgiving!  
—Clinton Scollard.

## Thanksgiving Decorations.

Wishing to brighten my Thanksgiving table, I tried my luck with carrots. Large ones were cut into two-inch pieces, the centres hollowed out with an apple corer, the top edge cut into points. These were the nut cups. A bit of wax paper was put inside to keep them dry.

Other pieces were cut with a paring knife into small vases of varying size and shape. Handles were pieces inserted into slashes at the sides, an occasional pin helping out. All were hollowed with the corer to hold a little water.

Then the bouquets! They were round slices, the edges notched and rounded to form petals, and stuck on toothpicks. The apple corer will make tiny oval pieces which can be bell-flowers. When these were inserted into the vases, bits of green top went with them, kept fresh by the water.

Fearful and wonderful flowers like tulips were also made, to surround the centerpiece, resting in green tops of celery and carrot.

The centre was a wiled cabbage with its outer leaves on. Each leaf was rolled gently back and folded under like a flower petal. When enough of these to look like a big rose were down the cabbage was hollowed out in the centre and carrot slices placed inside for color. The whole thing rested all night in a pail of water and was beautifully fresh for dinner, really lovely to look at. Sclars trimmed off broken parts.

The "art works" were all kept in water overnight and came out glowing. The whole effect was amazingly gay.—C. S. M.

## Live Stock Marketings in Ontario.

According to statistics given in the recently published sixth report of the commercial live stock marketed in Canada, by the Dominion Live Stock Branch, the average of the last five years of live stock marketed in Ontario was 7,869,540 cattle, 183,727 calves, 1,870,617 hogs, and 236,327 sheep. Last year was the best in cattle for Ontario, 407,660 being marketed. It was also the best for calves, 209,521 being marketed. Hogs fell away to 1,488,567 in 1925 compared with 1,771,946 in 1924, and sheep was the lowest in all the five years; the figures last year being 188,492 compared with 319,407 in 1921. Bruce was the highest county in cattle, Glenora in calves, marketing no fewer than 15,455 to 1,996 cattle, York in hogs and in sheep. Grey canis very close to York in sheep.

The report, which is to be had free on application to the Publications Branch, Ottawa, notes that there was a marked improvement in the quality of the cattle and that evidence of the insistent demand for export cattle is to be found in the fact that the purchase of stock at country points for direct shipment in 1925 exceeded the average of the previous four years by over 45,000 head, or was approximately 148 per cent greater. There was also improvement in the quality of calves and in lambs.

Record volume of store cattle buyings for shipment to country points in the province was an outstanding feature of the year's business.

## A Laugh.

A laugh is just like music,  
It freshens all the day,  
It tips the peaks of life with light  
And drives the clouds away.  
The soul grows glad that hears it,  
And feels its courage strong,  
A laugh is just like sunshine  
For cheering folks along.

—Anon.

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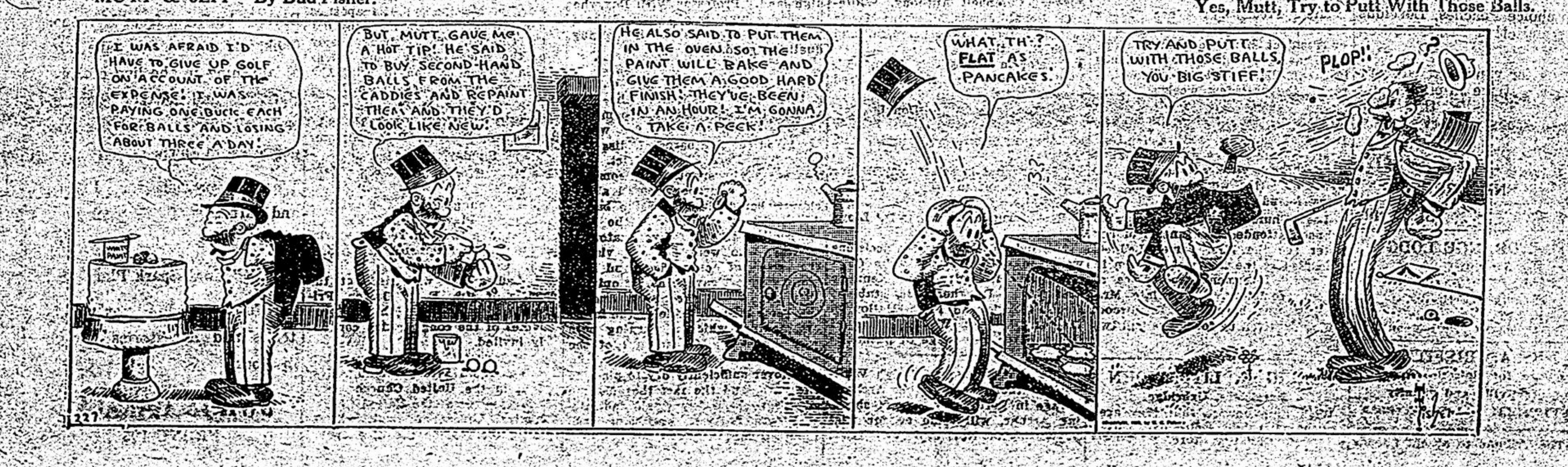
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96 MUTT & JEFF By Bud Fisher



Yes, Mutt, Try to Putt With Those Balls.