

# WHEN BALDY FADDEN DISAPPEARED

By CLARENCE L. HAY

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THE most important person on Hester street was "Baldy Fadden," but "Baldy" was not aware of the high esteem in which he was held. His inability to estimate his own importance resulted from a lack of years. He was but four, and at that interesting period of life one is not able to recognize his status in the community.

It was on one day in early spring that "Baldy Fadden" surprised Hester street, and made its mixed population use up all the expressions of astonishment they knew. "Baldy" disappeared! It was not a common disappearance resorted to by the ordinary child who wishes to make its parents familiar with the agony produced by a temporary parting; it was a startling, mysterious disappearance, that stirred the East side from the "Panhandle" to "Hell's Kitchen."

The Caparelli occupied a front apartment on the fourth floor of a tenement house and on the morning of the mysterious disappearance Mrs. Caparelli placed her son on the little fire balcony overhanging the street. The balcony was but four feet long and two wide, with a railing that was twice the height of Caparelli, junior, and it had neither trap nor ladder.

The first and only thought which leaped with stunning force into the mind of the woman compelled her to spring to the railing and stare with wild eyes into the street beneath. But there was no commotion such as her imagination had pictured. Everything was peaceful. Half a dozen loafers stood around unconcernedly in front of Mulligan's saloon; Pietro and Battisto, the fruiterers next door, were standing chatting on the sidewalk, while the vendor of popcorn, standing nearly underneath the Caparelli apartment, yawned lazily as he stared at the passers-by. Furthermore, there was no trace of "Baldy Fadden" alive or dead, on the street or sidewalk.

The woman, frantic with apprehension, screamed out a torrent of questions to the men on the street, but they signified in a dozen different ways that they were ignorant of the whereabouts of her son. The frightened mother gazed hopelessly up and around, and then, recognizing how utterly impossible it would be for "Baldy" to leave the balcony in any other way, she shrieked again and again, and Hester street arose to wrestle with the mystery.

Unless "Baldy" had suddenly grown wings and flown into space, there were but four ways to account for his disappearance: The first and, of course, the most probable, was the theory that he had fallen into the street, but the evidence of twenty-five people, who were in different positions in front of the apartment house, swept the surmise to the scrap heap of knocked-out suppositions. The peanut vendor offered to stake his immortal soul against ten cents' worth of nuts to prove that nothing had fallen from the Caparelli apartment, and the huge volume of supporting evidence, added to the fact that there were no parts of "Baldy" visible, or no signs to prove that he had struck the street in a forcible manner, proved that the peanut vendor was not reckless in wagering his soul against a quart of nuts.

The suggestion that someone, standing at a near-by window, might have looked "Baldy" by means of a long pole was also scouted, when the residents of the flats to the left and right had been examined. A cousin of the Caparellis who, while admitting that she had seen "Baldy" on the balcony, was above suspicion, lived to the right, and a brother workman of "Baldy's" father resided on the left. His reputation was unimpeachable. The roof was now the only place to look for traces of kidnapping, but the roof offered no solution to the growing mystery. The janitor had not unlocked the trap door up to the time that "Baldy" had disappeared, and, on either side, the roof of the house was inaccessible except by means of ladders and ropes, and regarding these there was not the slightest trace to prove that they had been used. The mystery was stupendous.

At ten o'clock five detectives of the Italian squad, who thought they detected the work of the "Black Hand," were busy on the spot. Eleven policemen wrestled with the crowd and crows in turn, and Mrs. Caparelli, in between numerous hysterical fits, gave interviews to thirteen different newspaper men, who photographed the wonderful balcony and then rushed away with the news. For the unexplainable and unaccountable is always news. If "Baldy" had been smashed up on the street like hundreds of other East-side children, the incident would have been of only paragraph value, but the fact that he had left the balcony by ways and means that suggested the supernatural made the disappearance of great news value in a dull season. "Baldy Fadden" appeared in letters five inches long, and a special spook writer, who had just contributed a series of articles to a leading magazine, was employed by one sheet to investigate and to search-light the mystery.

Two hours after the disappearance Hester street was blocked to traffic. Ten thousand theories had been advanced up to that time. It was suggested that "Baldy" had been hooked

by the trailing anchor of an airship, that he had been grabbed by an eagle, or had been consumed by spontaneous combustion. Suppositions didn't end there. A man suggested that "Baldy" had suddenly developed the alleged gift of the wise men of the Yaguis and walked away on the atmosphere. Others hinted darkly at the mysterious powers possessed by a withered lady from Lombardy who resided across the street, while many more muttered prayers and called upon patron saints to protect them from the devil, whose finger, they clearly perceived, was in the pie.

The thing was incomprehensible. From a small balcony, 45 feet above the ground, in one of the most thickly populated districts in the world, a child had been spirited away right from under his mother's eyes, and five detectives, eleven policemen, three spook authorities and three thousand people were unable to tell how the thing had been done. The disappearance of "Baldy Fadden" threatened to become one of the mysteries of the century, and in the cars it took precedence of politics and stock jobbing while the delings of the "Glants" and the "Sox" were forgotten in the babble or conjecture.

As it often happens in cases of the kind, Caparelli, senior, was saved much of the anguish that the disappearance of the boy brought to his wife. A messenger had been dispatched to acquaint the father, after investigation had proved that "Baldy" was not on or around the home reservation, but it happened to be one of those days when fool things happen one after the other. Caparelli, senior, had been transferred from his regular gang that morning, and had been sent out to the Bronx to assist on a dump. The messenger was an Italian new to the city, and not having any money in his possession at the moment he ran to acquaint his countryman of the misfortune, and, furthermore, laboring under the idea that the Bronx was but a few hundred yards away, he started to walk. While he was plugging gallantly northward the mystery in Hester street was deepening, and Caparelli, senior, was busily engaged shoveling refuse of various kinds that was being dumped into the pit.

At five o'clock in the evening Hester street was a seething mass of eager-eyed, excited people waiting in an atmosphere charged with mystery. The day, that had opened brightly, had turned dull and heavy, and on the minds of people born in southern Europe the unaccountable disappearance of "Baldy Fadden" worked like mental yeast in raising all the terrors of the past from the dark corners of their brains.

It was half-past five when the first illuminating ray pierced the gloom surrounding the happening. Battisto, who owned the fruit shop to the right of the Caparelli apartment house, dashed through the crowd that struggled on the stairway, and shouted a message over the heads of the women sympathizing with the mother of the lost boy.

"Caparelli!" he screamed. "Caparelli! Ah, Mother of God! Caparelli has the child! He has him! Ah, it is good, good! Caparelli just telephoned that he had 'Baldy'! Ah, it is good! He has him at de dump away out—out, ah, yes—out at de Bronx!"

After screaming out the message he fainted in the hallway, but upon being brought round, he repeated the astonishing information. Caparelli, senior, had spoken to him over the phone from a rubbish pit far out in the Bronx, and asked him to inform Mrs. Caparelli that the child was safe, and that he, Caparelli, was then on his way home with the lost one.

Hester street gasped. The mystery was not yet explained—it had deepened. What devilish agency had spirited the child away from his mother to the place his father was working? Pious Italians muttered their prayers as they waited for the explanation that would be forthcoming.

Caparelli's arrival was something that will be long remembered on the East side. With "Baldy Fadden" on his shoulders he walked through a crowd of cheering, shouting people till he placed the boy in his mother's arms. Hester street wept. Excited women waved tablecloths from the windows, and men howled with joy.

Then curiosity grasped the crowd with a clutch of iron. The mob swept around Caparelli, shrieking for explanations. They screamed their questions in a score of tongues, and pushed madly behind the laborer in their wild pursuit of knowledge.

Caparelli turned and put up his hand. "Dere is leetle to tell," he said quietly. "I see it all an' I tank de good Lord. 'Baldy' has told me dat he was on de balcony, yes, eet is so. 'Baldy' was dere, an' underneath, ah, I tank de good God, was de truck loading up de rotten bananas dat Biptisto sends to de dump. Ah, you see it now! 'Baldy' fell into de rotten bananas an' sink down in dem. You understand? No one see him, an' when he fall de driver whip up his horse an' not seein' 'Baldy,' drive my boy all de way out to de dump where I was work. Ah, when I see my boy tipped out in my feet I tink him dead! I cry an' I cry again, but he was only stunned an'—"

Hester street drowned his sobs with a cheer that went rushing away toward Chinatown. When it had died away, a shrill voice broke the silence with a yell of "Churnal! Churnal! Ori about the findin' of 'Baldy Fadden.'"

But the article by the spook authority that had appeared in the earlier edition had been cut out. The banana truck had ousted the spooks in the last round.

## Madge Bellamy



Charming Madge Bellamy was born in Hillsboro, Texas, and received her education in San Antonio. She is 5 feet 3 inches tall, weighs 112 pounds, has dark hair and brown eyes. One of the most beautiful of "movie" stars, she has been seen in some of the most popular pictures.

Your Health

By ANDREW F. CURRIER, M. D.

### RICKETS

RICKETS, or rachitis, is the result of bad nutrition, affects all the tissues of the body, and chiefly leaves its mark on the bones—which it softens and then deforms.

It usually occurs before the third year, but the bone deformities appear later.

It is caused by food which is not assimilated, but also by neglect of the skin, bad air, insufficient sleep, etc.

The children of the poor have it, but so do those of the rich. In this country it is common among negroes and Italians, but not among Irish or Germans.

In the great European cities one sees it everywhere. The urine of rachitic children contains phosphates in abundance and the bones, being deficient in lime, bend and break easily.

Rachitic children have soft spots in the bones of the skull; and the membranous portions of the skull, where you notice throbbing and pulsation in an infant, and which ought to harden during the first few months of life, remain soft.

All the bones of the skull, instead of being firmly united, are loose and easily moved.

The face of a rachitic baby is small, and the head seems disproportionately large.

The liver, spleen and lymphatic glands are enlarged, the muscles soft, and the ligaments weak.

The child's appetite may be good, he may even seem voraciously hungry, but his food doesn't appear to nourish him, he becomes fretful, gets diarrhea and this alternates with constipation.

He is sensitive, cries when touched, his diarrhea is offensive, the appearance of his teeth is delayed, and when they break out, they are irregular and of poor quality.

When he begins to walk, the weakness of the bones of the legs becomes apparent and they bend or break easily; the joints are weak and he falls frequently.

When he tries to move himself with his arms, the arm bones bend or break and there may be an outward hump on the spine.

On the ends of the ribs there are knobs or bead-like structures, the breast bone projects and the child becomes pigeon breasted.

The pelvis may become deformed and, in females, this has a very important bearing upon the successful delivery of offspring, if impregnation should ever occur.

Rachitic children are frequently bow-legged, knock-kneed or flat-footed; they are also sensitive to bronchitis and croup, and die from these diseases more frequently than children who have better physical development.

If they reach maturity, they are short and poorly formed and their limbs often reveal the marks of early disease.

Rachitic children should be taken to the mountains or seashore, if possible, and should have abundance of good plain food which they can assimilate—which will be indicated by the change in their stools and in their general nutrition.

Fats in the form of cod-liver oil, or olive oil, should be given them; also as much of eggs, milk and cereals as they can dispose of. Treatment with mechanical apparatus is important to prevent deformities, and they should have all possible benefit from public parks, sea-baths, sleep, fresh air, and life in the country when this can be provided.

(© by George Matthew Adams)

Pneumatic linings for automobile cushions have been invented that can be inflated to take the place of springs and padded upholstery.

## LIVE STOCK NEWS

### SOY BEANS FED TO PIGS ON PASTURE

Soy beans as a supplement for corn fed to pigs on pasture compared favorably with tankage, especially when minerals were fed, in experiments conducted recently at the Indiana station. With pigs on alfalfa or clover pasture, and with corn at 84 cents a bushel and tankage at \$65 per ton, the soy beans have been worth \$1.48 per bushel without mineral and \$1.91 per bushel when minerals were fed, according to C. M. Vestal, who had charge of the tests.

In the tests which have been carried on during the past three summers pigs weighing about 70 pounds were self-fed corn and supplement on clover or alfalfa pasture to market weights of slightly above 200 pounds. On a ration of corn and soy beans the pigs gained 1.5 pounds per head daily and consumed 318 pounds of corn and 43 pounds of soy beans for every 100 pounds of gain. When a mineral mixture of ten parts acid phosphate and one part salt was added to the corn and soy beans the gains were increased to 1.62 and the feed consumed per 100 pounds gain was 325 pounds of corn, 26 pounds of beans and 6 pounds of minerals. On corn and tankage on pasture the pigs gained at the rate of 1.55 pounds and took 332 pounds of corn and 26 pounds of tankage for 100 pounds of gain. The 26 pounds of beans and 6 pounds of minerals thus replaced 26 pounds of tankage and 7 pounds of corn without reducing the gains to any appreciable extent.

When the same rations were fed to similar pigs in the dry lot the beans were less valuable than on pasture but were still a rather good substitute for tankage when mineral was fed. On corn and soy beans alone the pigs gained 1.3 pounds daily and required 304 pounds of corn and 88 pounds of beans. The addition of minerals increased the gains to 1.52 pounds daily with a consumption per 100 pounds of gain of 311 pounds of corn, 63 pounds of beans and 7 pounds of minerals. On corn and tankage the pigs gained at the rate of 1.61 pounds and took 342 pounds of corn and 33 pounds of tankage. In the dry lot it will be noted, the soy-bean consumption was considerably higher proportionately than the tankage consumption when both are compared with the corresponding consumptions in the pasture tests. In the dry lot soy beans and minerals and tankage made pork at about the same costs, while on pasture the costs of the soy beans-mineral gains were about 30 cents less per hundred pounds than when tankage was fed. Apparently beans, assisted by a good mineral mixture, can be profitably used for pigs running on good pasture.

Other recent feeding tests at the Indiana station show clearly that fattening hogs will eat whole soy beans as readily as ground soy beans. In one test gains made by pigs fed the two kinds of beans were identical, while in another whole beans produced slightly larger gains. In both tests less corn but more beans were required by the pigs fed whole beans. In costs of gains the pigs fed the unground beans had a slight advantage.

### Crude Petroleum Useful as Cure for Hog Mange

Crude petroleum as a dip is the remedy for the mange in hogs. Since crude petroleum varies in composition and some kinds are injurious to the skin care must be taken in using it. If a particular kind has been used before and known to be all right, it may be used on all the herd, but if it has not been tried it is a good plan to test it out on a few of the hogs before treating all of them. Brands of heavy composition are recommended because of their high content of sulphur. If one dipping is not effective it should be repeated in one or two weeks.

### Nourishment for Lambs

Before leaving a lamb to get its own nourishment, see that all locks and tags of wool are trimmed away from around the udder of the ewe. The young lamb will often suck at such tags instead of the teat. It not only fails to get milk but it may pull off and swallow some of the wool. This may cause much trouble and even the death of the lamb.

### Live Stock Items

"Better sires—better stock."

Of all farm animals, horses are the most likely to be harmed by moldy or spoiled corn, according to Dr. C. H. Stange, dean of veterinary medicine at Iowa state college.

Cracked barley can be included in the feed ration for chicks after they reach the age of five or six weeks.

It never pays to overcrowd hens—they need a comfortable house, dry and roomy, with plenty of fresh air and sunshine.

Grain feed such as sprouted oats, cabbage, turnips, beets and rape are necessary for the health of the pullets. A disease similar in symptoms to roup is sometimes caused by lack of green feed.

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The finest animal swimmers among animals are deer and bears. A deer will frequently swim across broad lakes, or visit islands for the sake of good grazing. Red deer, when hunted into the sea, have been known to swim for miles.

**Chinese Walled City.**

Peking is surrounded by a wall 50 feet high and 40 feet thick. The walled portion of the city is 16 miles in circumference. The city is one of the few walled places of size remaining as they were in ancient times.

**Pin Production Large.**

The output of the pin factories throughout the world totals something like \$4,000,000 a day. If these pins were placed end to end the line would stretch half-way across the Atlantic. A few weeks' total would encircle the earth.

**Picturesque Cities.**

Damascus leads the world in picturesque cities. Its bazaars are the most interesting in the Near East. One can buy there products of the looms of Persia, the silks of China and wonderful brass and inlay work.

**Credit Mobilier Scandal.**

The Credit Mobilier, a construction company, organized under a charter from the Pennsylvania legislature, was charged in 1872 with corrupting public office holders. It made enormous profits from the Union Pacific railroad.

**Maine Boundary Dispute.**

The "Aroostook War" is the popular name given to the move the state of Maine made in 1839 to enforce its rights on the territory claimed by itself and Canada. It cost the state a million dollars.

**Abolish "Woman Killers."**

The house of few rooms with wall beds and built-in features, long popular in California, is coming into greater favor throughout the country. They accommodate the family just as well, save money in construction and are not "woman killers."

**Invaluable Bible.**

The "Silver Bible" containing a translation of the four gospels by Ulfilas is the only extant writing in the Gothic language. It is about 1,400 years old and is preserved in the Upsala university, Sweden.

**Called Down.**

"Don't throw banana peels on the edge of the Grand canyon," said a ranger to a careless tourist. "You want somebody to slip and fall three miles?"—Louisville Courier-Journal.

**Uncle Ez Sez.**

"Even admittin' dat folks am descended from monkeys," remarked Uncle Ezra. "Ah knows some people dat ain't no special credit to deir ancestors."—Boston Transcript.

**A Difference.**

Flintina—"They say at twenty she was the observed of all observers," Carnovsk—"Yes, and now, at sixty, she's preserved of all preservers."—Town Topics.

**Sable Philosopher**

You needn't pray fer de good Lord ter put you on de right road; you knows befo'han' when de road's right an' when it's wrong, fer you's got a conscience what makes no mistake.—Atlanta Constitution.

**Ancients Knew Corn.**

Corn is found among the relics of the most ancient tribes of Indians. It was cultivated by all the agricultural natives of which there is any record.

**Danger of Bad Teeth.**

"Bad teeth" are hotbeds of germs that may cause meningitis and blood poisoning," says Doctor Bronte, specialist of the government.

**Repair Cracks in Plaster.**

Equal parts of plaster of paris and whitening mixed with water is good to repair cracks in walls before they are painted or papered.

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**Pocket Money.**

If I felt called upon to advise parents, I should enunciate solemnly this golden rule: If you wish your son to be honest, see to it that he has pocket money. The sum need not be large, but it must be his own. — Henry James Forman, in Hearst's International-Cosmopolitan.

**Tower of London Schools.**

Two little schools are conducted in the Tower of London. One is for pupils from five to eight year old, and the other is for older children. The pupils are the children of soldiers garrisoned at the Tower, and of the warders.

**Java a Volcano Center.**

The island of Java in the Indian ocean is the center of the most active and most destructive volcanic region in the world, the East Indies. Java has the doubtful distinction of having 21 active volcanoes.

**Scoffing Laugh.**

A scoffing laugh is generally referred to as Abderian laughter from Abdera, a seaport town in Thrace, noted as the birthplace of the cynic, Democritus, who is known as the laughing or scoffing philosopher.

**Only the Shell.**

The pastor who was fond of figures of speech was making a funeral oration. He began his address, "Friends, we have here only the shell of the man, the nut is gone."—The Churchman.

**Rocky Mountain Peak.**

Mount Massive, which is 14,424 feet high, is the loftiest peak of the Rocky mountains in the limits of the United States. Mount Brown, thought at one time to be higher, has proved to be lower.

**We'd All Like to Try.**

A multi-millionaire says that money cannot measure happiness, but he is not willing to lend his yardstick to those who would like to prove it.

**Canary Ventriloquist.**

A canary that sings, then replies ventriloqually as if the notes came from far away, is owned by a New Zealand man.

**Eggsact Fact Laid Down.**

Farm life has its drawbacks, but it isn't necessary to put down a quarter when you eat an egg. — Duluth Herald.

**Worth It.**

In Australia a man walked 50 miles in his sleep. We understand that when he got back the sermon had finished. — Passing Show (London).

**Women and Her Clothes.**

"When men stare at her, she knows everything is fixed right; when women stare at her, she wonders what is wrong."

**On the Make.**

In the country life is what you make it, while in the city life is what you make.—Columbia Record.

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