

A Box That Moved of Itself

By GROVER J. GRIPPIN
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There's no telling what young people between childhood and man or womanhood will do. There is a case on record of a girl of thirteen shopping with her mother who disappeared in a throng. The police hunted for her for a long while without getting any trace of her. The case was given up as one of those mysterious disappearances that are never solved. But the girl turned up finally, and what do you suppose was the cause of her disappearance? She had gone off voluntarily through a window, or, rather, a romantic desire to try the world on her own account.

But a stranger case than this came under my observation. I am a freight agent on a railroad, and it happened in the freight house in which I am employed. One afternoon I received a box about six feet long by two feet broad and deep. It weighed, I should think, about a hundred pounds. It was marked: "Glass. Handle With Care. This Side Up." Near one end was also written: "If Stood on End This End Up."

I received the box on the platform, and, since I didn't care to be saddled with broken property, I laid it carefully on a truck, wheeled it into the freight house and, being crowded for room, stood it on end, being particular to put the end up as directed. I noticed that the top was neither nailed nor screwed on, and I wondered how it had been fixed as firmly as it was. But this was merely a passing thought, for I didn't take the interest and had not the time to investigate the way lids were fastened, provided they were secure.

I received the box about 6 in the evening and after disposing of it and other freight locked up and went home to supper. Having some statements to make up in the evening, I returned to the freight house, lighted up and went to work in the little space fenced off for an office. I was figuring when I heard a cough outside.

The idea occurred to me that some one was in the freight house. The door being right beside my office, no one could have entered without my knowing it; consequently some one had come in surreptitiously. No one would be likely to do that except for the purpose of robbery. All this passed through my brain in one-tenth the time it has taken to tell it. The first thing I did was to open a drawer in my desk and take out a revolver.

Thus armed, I went out in among the freight and looked about. I admit I dreaded being shot from a dark corner, but for that matter I could have been shot while sitting at my desk. I saw nothing, heard nothing, and after walking about for a while I made up my mind I had been mistaken. I started to go back to the office and had reached the door when I heard a giggle.

All idea of fear left me at once. Tossing my revolver on to my desk, I turned and went back for another hunt. Passing the box that had been marked to be carefully handled I noticed that instead of the top one of the sides faced me. I knew very well that the box could not have moved itself and suspected that here was the solution of the matter. Going up to it, I began to pull it about, when the top came off and out stepped a girl about fifteen years old. The most astonishing thing about her was that her face was on a broad grin.

"Well, I'll be hanged!" I exclaimed. Her response was a giggle the same as I had heard shortly before.

"Who are you?" I asked. "A runaway." "From where?" "From home." "What did you run away for?" "Oh, it's an elopement." "Rats! You're nothing but a child. Where's the young fellow in the case?" "Hiding behind the boxes. I let him in at the window while you were gone."

I hastily examined the lid of the box and found it had been held in place by clamps on the inside that could be easily turned. Then I called to the young fellow to come out of hiding. I heard him climbing over the boxes from the back part of the house and presently he came down into the dim light. He wasn't much older than the girl.

"Now, you children tell me all about this escapade at once," I said. The girl made the explanation. She told me that she loved "Willie," as she called him, and that she knew her parents would not consent to a marriage since they were so young, so they thought that they would elope. Willie had proposed the plan they had adopted. He had made the box, put her in it and shipped her as freight to my station, where he proposed to join her.

"And now," she added, "won't you just go like a dear, good man for a clergyman? We love each other and would like to be married at once. Consider my reputation."

"You little chit!" I replied, astounded at her impudence. "Do you suppose I'm going to aid in the marriage of two children just out of the nursery? You come into my office and stay there till I telegraph your parents."

The girl, who had taken the lead from the first, begged hard to induce me to let them go their way, but I was obdurate.

MAT GIANTS QUIET OF LATE

Hack and Zbyesco Are Not Doing Any Challenging.

GOTCH TO MEET MAHMOUT.

Champion Will Give Turk Chance at Title Next Month—Humboldt Man Is Sorry "Russian Lion" Is Going Home. Roller Says Gotch Is Afraid of Hack.

Now that the wrestling season is on the wane the foreign giants who have been on the trail of Gotch for the title have evidently lost their voices or discharged their press agents. At any rate, for the past few weeks Hackenschmidt and Zbyesco, great at permitting many opponents to stay the limit, have failed to challenge the champion for a million dollars a side. It was the Mahmout jolt that stopped them. When Gotch came out of his retirement he announced that he would not meet Hack or Zbyesco unless either one met and threw the Turk. This they openly refused to do, giving as a reason that the Mahmout had a great habit of misrepresenting things in case he came out second best. It was a very poor excuse, for they tackled every other mat artist in the country.

In talking to the writer about Hackenschmidt recently Gotch said: "Hackenschmidt has been over here since November, and it is idle for him to say that he is in condition for a championship match, for his exploits against the men who opposed him on the mat have proved different. Have not his handicap matches with Zbyesco convinced the majority of spectators that the Pole is the better man of the two? Now, with the season half finished, I have been back in the game a little over a month, and Hackenschmidt is talking of his early departure for home. His manager talks of a match on Labor day one minute, and the next minute Hackenschmidt says he cannot return to America so soon. If the 'Russian Lion' really wanted a return match with me he would be willing to wait a few weeks longer, when the clubs would make him an offer which he could not refuse."

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"Gotch," said Dr. Roller, "is the roughest wrestler on earth. He is tricky and treacherous and resorts to all sorts of tricks to win his matches. He is afraid to meet Hackenschmidt because the Russian would crush him in anything like a square deal. In the last match they had Gotch won the decision by unfair work, and Hackenschmidt had no chance with the tactics Gotch was employing."

"When Gotch came out of retirement and announced his intention of defending his title George Hackenschmidt was the first to challenge him, and I know that the reason Gotch does not accept is not because Hackenschmidt quit in their last match, but for reasons that Gotch would not like to make public."

As Zbyesco and Hack are going to return to their native lands, Gotch will give Mahmout a chance at the title. Kansas City promoters have offered a good sized purse for the contest. Although no date has been set for the bout, it is more than likely it will be held about the middle of April.

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A WIDOW'S WANTS

By M. QUAD
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It was generally understood in the village of Crowell that Deacon Henderson had his eye on the Widow Glazier. Why not? The deacon was fifty-five and a widower and wanted a home. The widow was fifty and lonely.

Deacon Henderson dropped into the widow's cottage one day, and after complimenting her on her hollyhocks and tomato vines he said: "Widder, do you know what the folks are saying?" "La, no!" "They are saying that you'd be ought to get married."

"But I can't get my breath! It's all so sudden. Deacon, if we get married we'll live in your house, won't we?" "We will."

"And you'll put down a new carpet on the parlor floor?" "For why? The one there is a good one."

"It's a rag carpet, and it's twenty years old. I helped Sarah cut and sew the rags. I shall want a Brussels with patterns of roses."

"Um! Too much extravagance." "Then I won't marry you."

The deacon went away in a huff and trying to make himself believe that he had a lucky escape. However, after thinking it over for a week he returned to say: "I guess I'd be willing to buy that carpet."

"But I want something else. We must have three lace curtains. They must be long 'nuff to sweep the floor." "Store carpet and store curtains!"

"Why, widder, you'd bankrupt us in a month! No, no! Green paper shades are good 'nuff for us."

"Then I guess we won't get married. Folks have hinted that you was stung, and now I see you are."

Away went the deacon for the second time, and for two days he parted himself on the back. He could figure that he had saved over \$50 on that deal. The rag carpet and the paper shades looked good to him as he sat in the parlor, but after three or four days he found the old loneliness creeping over him. He would give in to her. He waited one day more and then called on her under pretense that he had mislaid his family almanac and wanted to know when the moon would be in her third quarter. After finding that out he said:

"Well, widder, maybe you are right about the carpet and curtains." "Deacon, I've been thinking since you were here we must have four stuffed chairs to put in that parlor to go with the new carpets and curtains!"

"Saints and sinners! Stuffed chairs! Stuffed chairs in our parlor! Never. Widder Glazier, never! The carpet and curtains would tempt Satan 'nuff. I don't propose to risk any more."

"Four stuffed chairs, deacon, and maybe a sofa to boot." "I'm going home. Good day!"

Those stuffed chairs, with an additional sofa looming up in the near future, were a shock to the deacon. They meant extravagance; they meant vanity; they meant the breaking down of long erected barriers. No; it could not be. He must continue his lonely life by his lonesome. He did continue it for ten long days and nights. Then he went over to ask the Widow Glazier if the fater bug had yet appeared in her garden and to offer to lend her some Paris green to dope him with if he had. No, the bug had not appeared. But the deacon had other things to say. Lending on the well curb and the widow standing in her kitchen door, he observed:

WHAT WILL THE CHICAGO CUBS DO?

Signs Go to Show That Great Machine Is Breaking Up.

DISSENSION IN THE RANKS.

Many of the Leading Players Are Dissatisfied With Places on Team and Would Relish a Trade—Kling Isn't in High Favor.

Is the great Chicago Cub baseball machine in the process of disintegration? It looks that way to many followers of the game. When the team was going good, all the athletes working together like clockwork, Chance's club was the greatest in the baseball world. Three straight pennants were won and two world's championships. Then John Kling, known as the greatest catcher in baseball, dropped out for a year. Kling's absence apparently started the shattering of a great club.

The Cubs were whipped by Pittsburgh the year Kling was out. The Cub players and followers of baseball everywhere held the opinion that Chicago would have fronted the Pirates in the pennant race had Kling been in the game. The next year, last season, Kling returned to the Cubs, and the Cubs again won the National league pennant. That was sufficient proof for the bugs. Kling's absence lost Chicago a pennant the year before. Sure, Mike!



SOME OF CHICAGO'S RECRUITS TRYING HARD TO LAND PLACE ON TEAM.

Didn't Kling come back the next season, and didn't the Cubs again fall into their winning stride? Can you doubt it? Everything went smoothly enough last season while the Cubs were walking away with the pennant. But when things went to the bad in the world's series with the Athletics trouble broke in the camp of the Cubs. Chance "called" Kling, and there were words between the manager and the catcher. Kling expected to be traded during the winter. He believed he would play much better ball with some other club. Now that he is dissatisfied will he work with the Cubs in the same old way? Tinker is not pleased with his berth at short and was anxious to replace Steinfield at third, but Chance said no. Evers says his ankle, which he broke shortly before the world's series last fall, is as strong as ever. But is it? We can tell better later. Hofman has had a run in with Owner Murphy and would have quit only for Chance. If the team strikes fails by the wayside Artie is apt to quit and put in his time at the brokerage business.

Overall is tired of pitching and is anxious to try something else. But Chance says he must stick to the slab. Brown talked of quitting the game early in the year. He is dissatisfied also and would like to be traded. With such lack of harmony among the club players Manager Chance will have his hands full this year.

The Cubs may come back and show all other ball clubs the way this season, but there'll be many an eye on the lookout for open breaks, showing dissension in the Cub ranks.

Manager Chance is highly pleased with the twelve new men who now grace the Cub ranks. The youngsters who are trying to make the team are as follows: Pitchers—Clarke, Kirwan, Toney and Grimm; Infielders—Baler, Cooney and Fisher; Catcher Angermeier and Outfielder Ball. Chance recently stated that the recruits on hand were the best he had had in years.

Read the Morning Enterprise.

Put Yourself in the Ad-Readers Place...

When you write your classified ad—or any kind of an ad—try to include in it just the information you'd like to find if you were an ad-reader and were looking for an ad of that kind.

OWEN G. THOMAS
Cor. Main and Fourth Sts., Oregon City

THE HALL OF FAME.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN—Sixteenth president of United States. Born Hardin county, Ky., Feb. 12, 1809; died Washington, April 15, 1865, having been shot in back of head the night before at Ford's theater by John Wilkes Booth, assassin. Descended from Quaker family of English origin. Parents exceedingly poor. Settled with family in Indiana in 1816 and in Illinois in 1830. Was farm laborer, storekeeper, surveyor, captain in Black Hawk war. Whig member of Illinois legislature 1834-42. Whig member of congress 1847-49. Admitted to bar in 1836. His debates with Stephen A. Douglas in 1858, in which Lincoln took pronounced stand against slavery as an institution, attracted national attention. Nominated for president by Republican party in 1860, elected, inaugurated March 4, 1861. As executive he handled the serious problem of the civil war. Emancipated all negro slaves as a war measure Jan. 1, 1863. Re-elected president in 1864.

Junior League Entertainment. The Junior League of the Baptist church will give a musical and literary entertainment in the church parlors on Friday evening, March 31. Considerable time is being spent in making preparations for a good program. All friends of the young people are invited to be present and the program is certain to have numbers on it that will greatly interest you.

Ordinance No.

An ordinance to change the grade of Ninth Street, Oregon City, Oregon, from the west side of Monroe Street to the west side of Jackson Street. Oregon City does ordain as follows:

Section 1.—The grade of Ninth Street, Oregon City, Oregon, is hereby changed from the west side of Jackson Street from the present existing grade to the following described grade: Commencing on the west side of Monroe Street at the established grade of 248.00 feet on the south side of Ninth Street and 246 feet on the north side of Ninth Street, thence on an ascending grade to the east side of Monroe Street and the north side of Ninth Street at an elevation of 247.00 feet and 249.00 feet on the south side of Ninth Street, thence on an ascending grade to the west side of J. Q. Adams Street at an elevation of 265 feet on the south side of Ninth Street and 265 feet on the north side of Ninth Street, thence on an ascending grade to the east side of J. Q. Adams Street at an elevation of 268 feet, thence on an ascending grade to the west side of Jackson Street to the present established grade of 276 feet.

Read first time at a special meeting of the City Council held March 15th, 1911. L. STIPP, Recorder.

Ordinance No.

An ordinance to amend section 21 of Ordinance No. 229 approved Dec. 19, 1897. And providing for the payment of \$100 in quarterly installments to each of the fire companies, from the general fund, for expenses. Oregon City does ordain as follows:

Sec. 1.—That section 21 of ordinance No. 229, "entitled" an ordinance regulating the Oregon City Fire Department, approved Dec. 9, 1898, be and the same is amended to read as follows: Sec. 21.—That each company of the Oregon City Fire Department shall hereafter be allowed for ordinary expenses, such as lights, fuel, janitors' fees, etc., the sum of one hundred dollars (\$100) per annum, to be paid to each of said companies, in four equal payments, quarterly, as follows: January 1st, April 1st, July 1st, and October 1st, of each year, the same to be paid out of the general fund.

Read first time and ordered published at a special meeting of the City Council, held March 22nd, 1911. L. STIPP, Recorder.

Ordinance No.

An ordinance providing for the erection of a fountain with lights, in the Seventh street Park under and by the direction of the Council, and appropriating one hundred fifty dollars (\$150) out of the general fund to pay for the same. Oregon City does ordain as follows:

Sec. 1.—There shall be erected in the Seventh street Park, Oregon City, Oregon, a public fountain, with electric light or lights attached thereto, the same to be done under the direction and supervision of the City Council, and there is hereby appropriated out of the general fund of said City, the sum of One Hundred Fifty Dollars, (\$150) to pay for the same.

Read first time and ordered published at a special meeting of the City Council, held March 22nd, 1911. L. STIPP, Recorder.

Ordinance No.

An ordinance declaring the assessment for the improvement of Center Street, Oregon City, Oregon, from the north side of Seventh Street to the north side of Ninth Street. Oregon City does ordain as follows:

Section 1.—The assessment for the improvement of Center Street from the north side of Seventh Street to the north side of Ninth Street, is hereby declared and levied according to assessment roll, No. 3, new series, and the whole cost of the said assessment is \$7018.61 Dollars.

Section 2.—Whereas the condition of said part of said Center Street is and was dangerous to the health and safety to the people of Oregon City and it is necessary for the immediate preservation of their health and safety that this assessment should be made at once, an emergency is hereby declared to exist and this ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after its approval by the Mayor.

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