



The story so far: Santa's helper, Tinker, has come from the North Pole to ask Steve and Nancy to help the toymakers with their problem of making a present for Santa Claus.

Chapter II

Steve and Nancy helped wipe the paste off of Tinker with a cloth. Before long he was dry and sitting in front of the heater getting warm.

"I think it is a wonderful idea, giving a present to Santa Claus," Nancy said. "Have you decided what it is going to be?"

"No, Miss Nancy," Tinker re-

plied. "You see, we haven't had much of a chance to talk about it. Santa is such a hard worker that he always seems to be somewhere around when we get ready to decide what to do. It is getting so close to Christmas that it seems as though we won't get to make anything at all unless we can find some way to get his mind off his work."

Getting Supplies

"He sent me down here to get some supplies, and I thought it would be a good chance to tell you children our problem and see if you would help us."

"Of course we'll help you," said Steve. "But do you suppose that Santa will be angry when we come to the North Pole without being asked?"

"Well, I'm asking you," Tinker said. "And besides, Santa always enjoys seeing you children. He has just been so busy he has forgotten to ask you up this year."

Suddenly the children heard footsteps in the hall outside.

Where to Hide

"Quick, Tinker, you've got to hide," Steve said.

"Where?" said Tinker, looking around frantically.

"Here, under the bed," Nancy said.

But there wasn't time to get under the bed because the door started to open.

"Back into the paste," said Steve, and Tinker dove in just as Steve and Nancy's mother and father walked into the room.

Bedtime Soon

"Well, how is it going?" asked Dad, looking at the paper chain.

"It looks to me like you have a long ways to go. You'd better get right at it or it will be bedtime."

Mother was folding back the covers on the two beds and putting some newly ironed dresses in the closet.

"Your Mother tells me you got your watch today, son," Steve's father said. "How do you like it?"

"What was that?" Steve asked. His mind had been on poor Tinker in the paste and he had not heard what his father had said.

"Uh, oh yes, I got two A's and a B in school today."

"These children!" his father mumbled as he went out the door.

"Here, you children are about through with your paper chain for tonight. Wouldn't you like to have me clean up the paste dish for you?" Mother asked.

"Oh, no," both children said at once. "We'll be glad to clean it up."

"That's strange," their mother said, closing the door behind her. "I've never had them offer to clean up something, especially if I said I would do it for them."

Out of the Paste

"Poo-ooh," said Tinker, coming up for air. "My, I thought they would never leave. Now, let's be on our way North in Santa's big sleigh."

"Just as soon as I tell Mother and Daddy," Nancy said.

She went into the bedroom down the hall where Mother was putting her little brothers Dave and Bill to bed. She started to tell her mother and then thought, "Oh, if I said anything now, Dave and Bill will want to come, too, and they are too little. I'll just leave Mother a note in our room. We won't be gone long, anyway."

Off in the Sleigh

Dressed in their warmest clothes, the two children stepped through the window of their room, out onto the garage roof and climbed up to the peak of the house. There sat the shiny, gold sleigh and the eight reindeer with the silver harness. The reindeer shook their heads and nuzzled their noses into Steve's pockets to see if he had any sugar.

"Come on, children," Tinker shouted. "Let's get in and be on our way to the North Pole and Santa Claus."

Tomorrow: The Toy Workshop.

Neuberger Draws Dam Comparison

WASHINGTON (AP) — If the United States won't finance a federal dam in Hells Canyon, Sen. Neuberger (D-Ore.) said Tuesday, it is difficult to understand "how the same Treasury can help pay for a dam across the Nile River in Egypt."

Referring to reports of negotiations between the United States and Egypt for financial assistance for Egypt's Sad-El-Ali project, Neuberger suggested in a statement that Uncle Sam ask the World Bank for 300 million dollars to build a federal Hells Canyon Dam.

The Power Commission has authorized the Idaho Power Co. to build three dams in the Snake River between Oregon and Idaho. The private utility projects would flood the site of the proposed federal Hells Canyon Dam.

"Secretary of the Interior McKay has abandoned North America's finest remaining hydroelectric site to the Idaho Power Co. For piecemeal use, on the grounds that our Treasury is so depleted," said Neuberger. "Yet this same Republican administration favors both American and World Bank assistance to Egypt for erection of Sad-El-Ali, the high dam across the Nile River."

Washington Solon Sick, Said 'Better'

TYLER, Tex. (AP) — Rep. Russell V. Mack, 64, Republican of Hoquiam, Wash. who was admitted to medical center hospital here Monday morning, was reported much improved Tuesday.

Mack's physician, Dr. Ben Wilson, said the congressman was suffering from bronchial pneumonia, but also has a comparatively mild coronary occlusion. Dr. Wilson said Mack's condition is not considered serious.

Hospital officials estimated Mack would be hospitalized for a week or 10 days.

Mack told physicians he became ill Sunday night and stopped at a hotel in Grand Saline, Tex. He was sent to the Tyler hospital after treatment in Grand Saline.

Lane County Mercury Mine To Produce

EUGENE (AP) — The Black Butte mercury mine, 16 miles south of Cottage Grove, will go back into production next month, the Mercury and Metals Corp. announced here.

Richard P. Fischer, San Francisco, president of the firm, said the mine had been acquired on lease with an option to buy. He said the firm will spend about \$250,000 for exploration and initial production.

The mine has not been in operation for some time. It is Oregon's second largest mercury-producing mine. Fischer said he believed the mine can be operated profitably, despite the low-grade mercury deposit there.

School Officials In Portland Eye Educational TV

PORTLAND (AP) — Portland school officials, looking for ways to meet the worsening teacher shortage, will begin another review of the possibilities of educational television.

The Portland school board, which once decided against a non-commercial TV station, said the matter will be taken up again now that other points, particularly Bay City, Mich., have used television to alleviate teacher loads.

"I think we're going to have to pursue all avenues of television in the light of the problems we will have after 1960," said board member James C. Yeomans.

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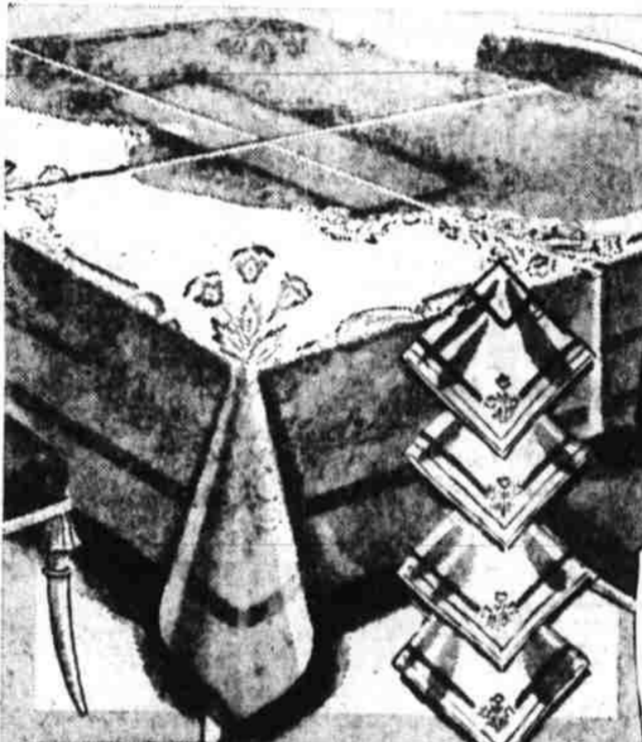
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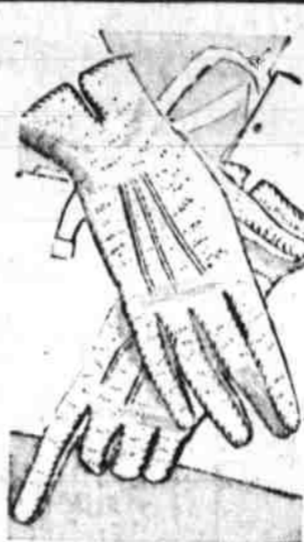
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