

Peddler of Dreams

By PEGGY DERN

Chapter 20
She was in happy tears and his arms, trying to laugh through her tears. When Ma Green and Jason came in from the kitchen over her head he looked straight into Jason's started eyes.

"Do you mind, old man?" asked Garrett.
Jason flushed, looked swiftly at Felicity's face and then put his hand in the food. Garrett extended "If it had to be anybody, I'd rather it was you," answered Jason.

"Well, now, this is what I call a real Christmas," said Ma Green frankly wiping her eyes, "frankly a little yet laughing too."

Christmas morning dawned bright and warm, mild. The children were awake with the dawn and streaked across the space between the trailer and the cottage and stood, wide-eyed and incredulous, before the magnificence of that totally unexpected tree. The bulging stockings were thrilling enough in themselves to be all they had hoped for.

Dinner was served at one o'clock in the afternoon, because of the children and because of the party at the Fleming place tonight.

It was an extremely merry feast and the afternoon was equally as joyous. The party at the Fleming place was to begin at ten and the children had been allowed, since it was Christmas, to stay up and see Garrett and Felicity in costume before they left.

"I didn't interrupt anything," Cornelia said brightly, "but there's been somebody knocking at the door for ages."

Ma Green swung open the door. A man stood there, blinking a little in the flood of yellow light that rushed out upon him. He was not tall, but very dapper-looking, though the cuffs of his light overcoat were worn and his shoes, though neatly polished, were broken.

He bowed, said, "I'm sorry, I'm looking for a trailer that houses the Horne family."

Felicity had whirled at the first sound of his voice. "Father!" she gasped.

The man's face lit up and he cried, "Why, Miss, my dear—how lovely you look! How much like your mother."

She was in his arms before he had finished and he held her very close. Jason was behind her, holding out his hand, saying eagerly, "This is great, Father! How are you, sir?"

The newcomer stared at Jason, even while he gripped that outstretched hand. "But—good heavens, you can't be Jason! Why— you've grown up!"

"Ma Green, this is my father," said Felicity with almost a ring of defiance in her voice, as though she read Ma Green's thoughts. "And Father, Ma Green, is our friend who has given us a marvelous Christmas."

"I have heard so much about you from my daughter, Mrs. Green, that I have some vague idea of how deeply I am in your debt," he said handsomely, extending a well-kept hand.

Ma Green was on the verge of making a caustic remark and Felicity knew it. So she cut in hastily by introducing her father to Garrett.

"Ah, yes—Mr. Forbes," said Burton, and studied Garrett shrewdly as he extended his hand with a genial smile and a cordial friendliness that the younger man didn't seem too disposed to accept.

"But, Father—why are you here? Did your show close?" demanded Jason, speaking the thought that was in the minds of all the others.

Burton had obviously prepared himself for this question and said smoothly, "No, it didn't close. It was much too fine a play. We were doing excellently, but unfortunately the theater has been previously leased to another attraction. When we were ready to move, we found no place to move to, so the show is temporarily suspended."

Ma looked at Felicity and said, "But, my dear, why the costume? You look charming in it, of course, but isn't it rather—er—dressed up?"

"or a simple home dinner?" "Garret and I were going to a party at the Fleming place," answered Felicity.

"You're going there to dinner, of course?" "Why no, Father, we've had dinner here," said Felicity. "Have you had your dinner, Father?"

"As a matter of fact—I'm afraid I haven't," Burton said awkwardly. "Then I'll get you something—"

"You'll go on to the party and I'll fix your father some dinner," interrupted Ma Green, her glance at Burton still hostile. "There's plenty left."

Felicity was heartily glad when they reached Casa del Mar and she could put the thought of her father in the back of her mind and give herself up to the glamour and excitement all about her.

Susan herself was exquisite as a maid of old China in a long tunic of wisteria-colored satin, embroidered with huge pink chrysanthemums, over trousers of pale roid.

"Felicity, you're lovely!" she exclaimed. "I promised Tippy you would come up and say hello to her."

"Oh, may I?" Susan nodded, and together the two girls mounted the stairs to the nursery.

Felicity held Tippy close. "Are you happy, darling?" she asked unsteadily.

"Well, gosh, yes, Fila," answered Tippy instantly. "Susan is swell to me and the baby's darling, and—well, I'm having a grand time."

Outside in the hall Felicity said, "My father is here. I haven't had time to talk to him about your taking her, but of course he will have to give his consent."

(To Be Continued)

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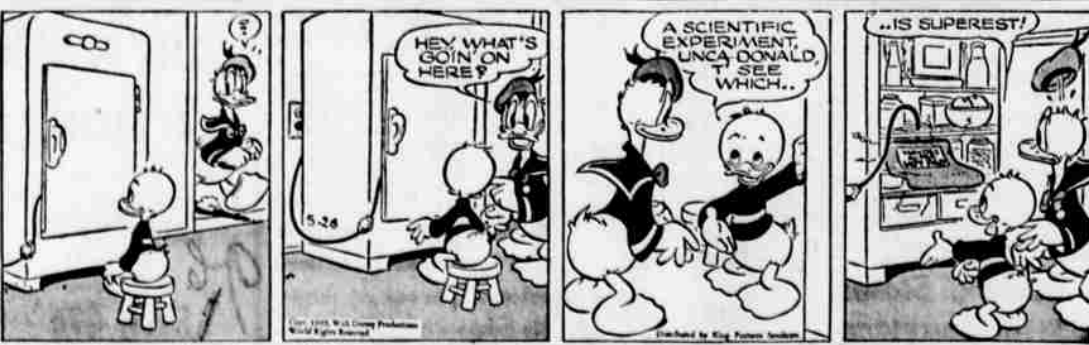
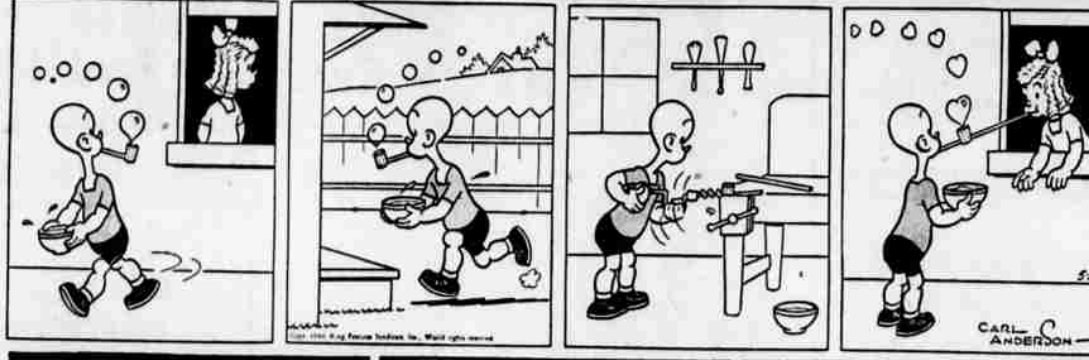
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RADIO PROGRAMS

| THURSDAY—P.M. | KSLM 1260 AM | KGW 930 AM | KOCO 1490 AM | KOIN 970 AM |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|--------------|---------------|
| 5:00 | Fulton Lewis, Jr. Frank Hemminger | Woman's Secret | Sleepy Joe | Herb Shriner |
| 5:15 | Paula Paradise | Sonor Side | Rhythm Ranch | Lillian Shaw |
| 5:30 | George Moran | George Moran | Time Tunes | Cliff Clark |
| 5:45 | Ed. E. Murray | Ed. E. Murray | Time Tunes | Ed. E. Murray |
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FRIDAY—6 A.M. TO 4:45 P.M.

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DIAL LISTINGS: KEX, 1190; KOAC, 590

KEX Thursday P.M. — 9:00, Scullery; 9:15, Cade; 9:30, 11:30, Kex; 11:45, Kex; 12:00, Kex; 12:15, Kex; 12:30, Kex; 12:45, Kex; 1:00, Kex; 1:15, Kex; 1:30, Kex; 1:45, Kex; 2:00, Kex; 2:15, Kex; 2:30, Kex; 2:45, Kex; 3:00, Kex; 3:15, Kex; 3:30, Kex; 3:45, Kex; 4:00, Kex; 4:15, Kex; 4:30, Kex; 4:45, Kex; 5:00, Kex; 5:15, Kex; 5:30, Kex; 5:45, Kex; 6:00, Kex; 6:15, Kex; 6:30, Kex; 6:45, Kex; 7:00, Kex; 7:15, Kex; 7:30, Kex; 7:45, Kex; 8:00, Kex; 8:15, Kex; 8:30, Kex; 8:45, Kex; 9:00, Kex; 9:15, Kex; 9:30, Kex; 9:45, Kex; 10:00, Kex; 10:15, Kex; 10:30, Kex; 10:45, Kex; 11:00, Kex; 11:15, Kex; 11:30, Kex; 11:45, Kex; 12:00, Kex; 12:15, Kex; 12:30, Kex; 12:45, Kex; 1:00, Kex; 1:15, Kex; 1:30, Kex; 1:45, Kex; 2:00, Kex; 2:15, Kex; 2:30, Kex; 2:45, Kex; 3:00, Kex; 3:15, Kex; 3:30, Kex; 3:45, Kex; 4:00, Kex; 4:15, Kex; 4:30, Kex; 4:45, Kex; 5:00, Kex; 5:15, Kex; 5:30, Kex; 5:45, Kex; 6:00, Kex; 6:15, Kex; 6:30, Kex; 6:45, Kex; 7:00, Kex; 7:15, Kex; 7:30, Kex; 7:45, Kex; 8:00, Kex; 8:15, Kex; 8:30, Kex; 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