"Oh, you wonderful, wonderful thing!" cried Henrietta.

Chapter I

Once Upon a time in a land far away there lived a little girl named Henrietta. Her family was very large and very poor.

She lived with her parents and her grandparents and two uncles and two aunts in a teeny tiny house. There was hardly room for her to move without stepping on some one.

There was never a Christmas in this house. Worse than that — there was never enough to eat. Nor enough blankets to keep a body warm at night. There was hardly ever a bright new toy for a child to play with.

But Henrietta didn't mind. She was a cheerful, happy child. Only sometimes she was lonesome.

With no children to play with and no toys and no money to go to the movies with or anything—well, you could understand why she would be lonely now and then.

But one day Henrietta met Willie and she thought she would never be lonesome again.

It was near Christmas. Henrietta was coming home from the store with a bag of turnips for the family dinner. When she came to her house she saw sitting on the bottom step, the littlest, softest, brightest looking brown and white puppy you ever dreamed of.

Henrietta stood there and held her breath and gazed down into the deep brown eyes of the puppy. The puppy gazed up into the soft blue eyes of Henrietta. For a long moment there seemed to be nothing else in the whole world except this one little girl and this one little puppy.

Henrietta dropped to her knees. She put down the bag of turnips. Slowly she held out her hand. She never said a word. She dared not breathe. Suddenly a stump of a tail sticking from under the puppy began to wiggle furiously and the little dog leaped into Henrietta's arms.

"Oh, you wonderful, wonderful thing!" cried Henrietta.

She scooped up the puppy and leaving the turnips forgotten on the sidewalk, ran into the house.

"Mother! Father! Grandmama! Grandpapa! Everyone! Come quickly!"

All the family came. They saw at once this marvelous thing that had happened to Henrietta.

"He's mine!" cried the little girl. "He has no collar and he wants me and oh! I love him so!" She pressed her face into the soft warm fur of the puppy's neck.

The family smiled and patted the dog and spoke gently to the child. All the family except one. Henrietta's father stood there silently. He watched the child and the dog and slowly, sadly he shook his head.

Henrietta turned to her father. She was afraid. "I can keep him, father?"

The father cleared his throat. His voice, when it came, was tired and old. "Poor folks can't afford a puppy, Henrietta. We have no food nor room to spare."

"But, I'll give him food from my own plate!" cried Henrietta. "And he can sleep with me. Why, you won't even know he's in the house. I promise! I promise!"

The puppy wiggled free from Henrietta's arms and dashed to the father's feet. He licked the father's broken shoes lovingly.

The father did not smile nor speak.

"Christmas will be here soon," said the mother, taking pity on Henrietta. "Let the child have her dog."

"I'll call him Willie!" exclaimed Henrietta. She threw herself down beside the scampering pup and gathered him into her lap.

"What's the harm?" mumbled grandpaps. "Let the child have her dog."

"I'll love him for ever and ever!" whispered Henrietta. The dog escaped from her and ran joyously round and round the tiny room.

"It's the only Christmas she will have!" said the uncles and the aunts.

"He's my dearest friend!" breathed Henrietta. "My only friend."

But the father stood stolidly in the kitchen doorway and said not a word.

"Oh, father, please!" cried Henrietta and she burst into tears.

(Next: Life With Willie)

Lebanon Mill Men Honored

Lebanon—About 25 per cent of all employees of Lebanon's Crown Zellerbach paper mill received pins in recognition of service ranging from 40 to five years Monday evening. The annual pin presentation banquet was held at Melody Lane and honored 42 workers.

A. B. Layton, who made the principal address and is a vice-president of the corporation, stated that the Lebanon mill is going through revolutionary changes due to research and development.

He cited the example of the pilot plant which is changing the entire operation of pulp manufacture from a calcium to an ammonium base process. The new processes nearing completion allow the mill to dump waste into the river without pollution, and also to make more of the by-products useful.

Assisting in the pin presentations was Hugh Croner, mill supervisor.

ROUND 'EM ALL UP

Tokyo (UP)—Police raided a school yesterday and arrested all the teachers and students. They were charged with conducting on-the-job training in the science of burglary.

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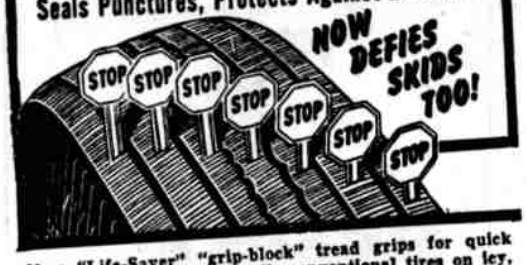

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