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EVER DINE ON A MONKEY ROAST?

It's One of the Delicacies From Hunter's Paradise of Mexico Relished by Natives.

Mexico City.—Mexico is a hunter's paradise. Almost within sight of the capital are forests that abound in wild game, offered at all seasons in the Mexico City markets.

Venison is a staple and wild ducks and geese may be purchased for a few centavos. Live quail, pheasants and pigeons are sold on the streets. Indians from the hills frequently trudge to the city with a wild boar, and turkeys may be had for the price of a paltry tip to a native hunter.

If one is so inclined, a tender monkey may be procured for Sunday baking—a dish that Mexican epicures, especially of the tropical regions, relish above all others.

Ralpha and the "Stop" Sign

By MYRTA A. LITTLE

©, 1922, by McClure Newspaper Syndicate.

This story is going to be about a girl and a railroad—and a few other things.

Ralpha Thomas—the girl through school, and home in Brenton, living on the sleepy, beautiful street with colonial houses on both sides, had been wishing for two things with a vengeance.

The things hadn't come, but the Eastern Branch railroad had, suddenly. It had also bought and paid for its right to cross Brenton's aristocratic thoroughfare, staid old families notwithstanding, and in so doing had incidentally and quite unconsciously tied itself up with Ralpha Thomas' two wishes.

First, Ralpha wanted something to happen, anything 'most, from a balloon ascension to a new kind of cereal; and second, Ralpha wanted to prove somehow that she could do something besides eat, sleep, look pretty, and play lady for her doting father and mother. So, she went hunting, found something interesting—unusually interesting—made plans, and put them up to her father, with results as follows:

"It's preposterous! A Brenton Thomas doing such a thing! Why, it's worse than your last threat to act for moving pictures!" said father, his fingers meeting precisely over patched knees. Ralpha plumped herself on the patches.

"It's not fair to lose all the fun on earth because you're a Brenton Thomas, dad," she pleaded.

"Have you spoken to your mother about it?"

"Mother said it was a joke, and I'd soon get over it. She said nobody but men—er—tended railroad crossings, anyway. I won't get over it, though. Henry Jones, the crossing man, can't—work—any longer, men are scarce—and—"

"Here I have looked forward to your marriage to some prosperous—let us say, writer, and now you're daring to think of being a—crossing tender!" groaned the squire.

"Exactly!" beamed Ralpha. "A crossing tender. Sit in the dinky little crossing house by the hot little stove. Then when the train whistles, dash out and hold up the sign with 'Stop' on it."

"Stop!" said Squire Thomas.

"Exactly," said Ralpha. "Stop everything that's likely to get in the train's way. It isn't as if there were lots of trains, either, I'd be on duty at seven, off at seven at night. Time off at noon. Nice salary. Bigger later, maybe, if—well, if—" Ralpha had the grace to blush, though at the time her father did not know why she blushed.

Father tried another tack. "You do not consider the lives that would be in your hands, Ralpha. You are flippant. You'd have to do more than listen for whistles. What that young Jones put such notions into your head for—"

"Henry Jones is all right!" said Ralpha Thomas, emphatically.

"What did he leave his crossing job for, then? Good job—for him! What did he come to Brenton for in the first place? Where did he come from."

Ralpha evaded the question. "Oh, please, dad," she pleaded. "Let me—just try."

"No, Ralpha, no!"

But, being Ralpha, she did, of course. In fact, in a couple of days Squire Thomas found himself telling two of his friends that daughter thought it would be an interesting experiment, the authorities considered her dependable, a godsend as it were, and so—on and on. So all Brenton was converted, thought it was a jolly idea, liked to see the bright-haired girl holding the black and white "Stop," at the little crossing, and called at the little gray house and told her so.

Ralpha was happy as a June day. The signals were magic things, the green and red and white lights that pricked the darkness, the round flare of the engine like a great sunburst out of nowhere, the tapering threads of track, the puffs of smoke and steam with the sunlight playing on them, the shrieks of the whistle, the big healthy rumble and roar, the hurrying folks, waving their hands, maybe, from hundreds of passing windows. Oh, it was great! It got into Ralpha's blood, just the way it had been intended that it should.

And, at the very start, the man appeared. He had a brand new office in the city five miles from Brenton, and a home in the country, three miles north. He drove a brave, trusty car that slid through the snow like a friendly bob, and from the day Ralpha took up her new work, he always waited at that Brenton crossing, in the morning for the up accommodation to plod by, and in the evening for the down accommodation. Naturally, he talked with Ralpha, while she held the "Stop" sign, and afterwards. Gradually they made astonishing plans, as had also been intended. The man's name was Norton. He was large, dark, rich, had fascinating business connections, and was obviously interested in Ralpha Thomas. He brought her books to read. Ralpha was thrilled; read them from cover to cover. It wasn't all she did. Among other things she signed a contract. Oh, things were happening, all right.

"Good work," said the station agent to Ralpha, after the first month—not about Norton's plans, but about the way Ralpha tended the crossing. "Fine you got permission for this—other business, too!"

"Sh-h!" warned Ralpha. "Mum! It's awfully good of the railroad, of course, but think of the boost it'll be for Brenton. And I'm not neglecting my crossing."

The test-day came. It was afternoon, one minute before schedule time for the 5:16 express. It always passed the down accommodation at Brenton or between Brenton and the first station down the line. It would pass at Brenton tonight. Ralpha was ready for it standing erect, alert, the black "STOP" held firmly in her hands, a new tingle in her fingertips.

Up to the street chugged the brave and trusty car that meant that Norton was, as usual, on time to wait for the down accommodation. Down the street, riding his white horse was Henry Jones. Ralpha stood straight and small, "Stop," held high above her head. The express shrieked at the first curve. Jones' horse reared, the brakes on Norton's car evidently refused to work. It was just as if all the perverse fates on earth were gathering right there round that brave "STOP," to see to it that Ralpha's wish came true, and something—happened.

Something did!

After it happened, presto. Squire Thomas himself descended on the scene. From the corner grocery he had been watching his daughter and Norton and the down accommodation more closely than anybody knew. Now he was right on hand, kicking the pieces of Norton's car out of the way, so he could get to Ralpha, and snatching her out of several men's arms with worthy vim. As a matter of fact, however, Ralpha didn't appear to be hurt, and she did appear mightily—surprised, to say the least.

"O, dad, whatever did you have to turn up now for?" she groaned.

"It's all Norton's fault," glowered father, meaning the accident.

"I jumped," said Norton cheerfully. "Not a scratch."

"Worse luck!" raved father. "That Jones chap's to blame, then. If he'd stuck to his job in the first place, Ralpha wouldn't—"

"I've stuck, all right," said Henry Jones. "You bet. But we'll have to do this thing over again anyway, Squire. Just a test, for lights and things. Greatest thing ever. Aristocratic old town, railroad crossing main street, pretty girl crossing tender, all full of love for the railroad. Dandy night pictures we've got—train coming, Ralpha standing there, you bet! Tried crossing stunt myself, y'know, at first, so I could write my synopsis better. Norton here, director, new corporation in the city. This'll make a five reel, with all the other stuff we've—"

Suddenly the Squire noticed a menacing click click from near by. "What's that?" he demanded.

"Moving picture machine, of course. Camera man's still at it. Thinks we can use this for the real thing I guess. Been looking long time for an aristocratic father, Squire Thomas. You wouldn't—Oh, but, Ralpha said you wanted her to marry a prosperous writer. Great little actress she is. Hasn't she worked! Five year contract signed. Salary raised twice. You wouldn't mind being my father-in-law sometime—in a picture and in—real life—"

"STOP!" thundered the Squire, but nobody seemed to hear him.

NATURE KIND TO OLD MAMMY

Tessie Explains Why She Has No Need to Waste Her Substance on Milliners.

Tessie is the fashionable washerwoman par excellence. There was a time when she used to be a regular old Southern mammy, but now she's so stylish she never wears the same hat for more than a week.

Tessie dotes on them, talks about them all day long while washing and laundering the family's linen, and sometimes wears them when hanging out the wash on the roof.

But just how Tessie managed to wear so many different hats became a mystery. Her salary would never permit such extravagance. None of the hats was a "hand me down" or made over. So there was nothing else to do but to put the question up to her.

"Where do I buy mah hats?" she repeated. "Why, I don't buy 'em; natchur gives 'em to me."

When Tessie was accused of spoofing she explained how nature shed its generosity upon her. Tessie, it seems, seeks windy neighborhoods.

"Las' week," said Tessie, "I got that velour tam when it was blown off'n a woman ridin' on the L. This here beaver sailor came a-rollin' down Third avenue in that win'storm the other day. But mah best gift from natchur was blown off'n Riverside drive fire escape. It was a red and orange turban with a emerald hatpin in it."—New York Sun.

Auto Wheelbarrows.

Auto wheelbarrows, designed by a contracting firm, are really miniature dumping trucks with a new arrangement of their parts. The machine described in Popular Mechanics Magazine, is built on a light truck chassis, with the driver's seat at the rear, back of the wheels. The engine is placed between the front and rear wheels, and the hopper is in front of the engine, directly over the front wheels. The dumping mechanism is operated by means of a lever. These machines have a much greater capacity than the ordinary wheelbarrow and have proved economical of both time and labor.

STATE NEWS IN BRIEF.

Cottage Grove. — Cottage Grove's auto camp park has been opened for the summer with a caretaker in charge. The fee will be 50 cents for the first day and 25 cents for each subsequent day.

Jordon Valley.—The county court of Malheur county has called for bids for the construction of about six miles of graded road on the Jordan Valley-Nyssa Market road. Work will commence on the road in June.

Brownsville.—A barbecue and old-fashioned picnic for the pioneers of the upper Calapooia river valley will be held at Crawfordsville June 13, one day before the commencement of the annual pioneer picnic at Brownsville.

Salem.—Loganberry production this year will probably be materially under that of last year owing to winter injury. The vines are in a poor condition to produce a crop this year, and it is thought by growers that some yards will be a total loss.

Grants Pass.—Farmers of this vicinity were disappointed by the small amount of rain which fell during the past few days. Although the district is now supplied with water from the ditches of the Grants Pass irrigation district, crops had been planted which needed rain.

Salem.—The Oregon Growers' Cooperative association announced Sunday that practically the entire pack of gooseberries, raspberries, strawberries and cherries for the year 1922 have been sold subject to future delivery. Most of the berries will be consigned to the eastern markets for disposition.

Salem.—Gasoline sales in Oregon during March of this year represented an increase of 516,413 gallons over the sales for February, according to a statement compiled by the secretary of state here Saturday. The March distribution of distillate showed an increase of nearly 300 per cent over the previous month.

Salem.—A proposed constitutional amendment authorizing the city of Portland to raise by general taxation the amount of $3,000,000 and to expend the same in holding the so-called 1925 exposition, was submitted to the secretary of state here today. The tax, if approved, will be distributed over a period of three years.

Newberg. — Work of clearing the ground for the new American Legion Community Memorial building was begun Saturday by a squad of legion men. Actual construction of the building will be started just as soon as the weather will permit. The finance committee reports more than $16,500 pledged, which leaves about $3000 to raise.

Salem.—The Starr Fruit company, which now operates in Portland, The Dalles and Freewater, will erect a modern cannery and preserving plant in Salem this summer at a cost of $75,000, it was announced here Saturday. The company expects to handle 275,000 cases of fruit here this year. The location for the plant has not yet been announced.

Hood River.—Preparations are being made for the construction of two bridges on the Mount Hood loop highway in the upper Hood river valley. One of the spans, of steel, will bridge the east fork of Hood river. The other crossing a tributary of the east fork, will be of reinforced concrete. The Union Bridge company of Portland has the contract for the work.

Jordan Valley.—Wool growers of this section of Malheur county who pooled their clips of about three-quarters of a million pounds have sold their wool at 33 1-3 cents a pound. The clip will be lighter this year, due to poor fall range and a severe winter. February lambing in this section brought an average of nearly 130 per cent, while April lambing will possibly not exceed 65 per cent.

Grants Pass.—The Josephine county rodent drive, just completed, was a success from the standpoint of the interest aroused and the acreage covered, said County Agent Howell. The farmers co-operated in covering the non-resident and government lands, the poison for this having been furnished by the government and county court. A total of 10,291 acres of non-resident land and 17,020 acres of government lands were covered.

Bend.—Oregon juniper, once regarded as useless, now is one of the most costly woods on the market. When converted into small slats for making lead pencils, it sells for approximately $270 a 1000 feet board measure, according to C. S. Hudson of Bend, the leading spirit behind the local juniper "refining plant." The Bend juniper mill employs 30 or more persons and supplies lead pencil stock to practically all the large pencil factories of the east, and to some in Europe.

AILING WOMEN OF MIDDLE AGE

Mrs. Linton Tells How Helpful Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound is at This Period

Denver, Colorado.—"I have taken Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound for seven years and I cannot tell you the good it has done me. It is good for young and old and I always keep a bottle of it in the house, for I am at that time of life when it calls for Lydia E. Pinkham's help. My husband saw your ad. in the papers and said 'You have taken everything you can think of, now I want you to take Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound!' So I let him get it, and I soon felt better and he told me 'I want you to take about six bottles.' So I did and I keep house and do all my own work and work out by the day and feel fine now. I tell every one about the Vegetable Compound, for so many of my friends thought I would not get well."—Mrs. R. J. LINTON, 1850 West 33d Avenue, Denver, Colorado.

After reading letters like the above, and we are constantly publishing them, why should any woman hesitate to take Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound if she is in need of help? It brings relief where other medicines fail.

Villon, French "Genius of Gutter."

Francois Villon is the name by which the great French "genius of the gutter" is known in literature. It is a name he adopted for more reasons than one, and was the one he used as a writer. He had very many others that he appropriated at various periods of his life, for he was of such a villainous character that he was almost continually in trouble and assumed one name after another to throw the authorities off his track.

Long Enough.

"Did the sar-major go this way, sentry?" "I don't know, corporal." "Well, you keep your eyes open. What do you think you're here for?" "Here for? Two perishing hours!"—Calcutta Looker-On.

Real Cultivation.

That is true cultivation which gives us sympathy with every form of human life and enables us to work most successfully for its advancement.

Mrs. Caroline Boles

YOUR KIDNEYS
Your Good Health and Long Life Depend on Your Kidneys. That's Why Insurance Companies Always Insist on Urinalysis.

Beaverton, Oregon—"I take great pleasure in stating what Dr. Pierce's Anuric Tablets have done for me in a very severe case of bladder and kidney trouble. For ten years I was distressed about every thirty minutes. I doctored and doctored but no relief. My last doctor bill was $175.00, and I was no better. I went back to my old home and my folks wanted me to give Dr. Pierce's Anuric Tablets a trial so I did and I also took the Golden Medical Discovery' with them to work on my liver. Now I can walk, ride, go to town and go for five or six hours without being distressed. I can not praise the Anuric Tablets too much for they are wonderful for the kidneys." Mrs. Caroline Boles, Box 363.

Write Dr. Pierce's Invalids' Hotel in Buffalo, N. Y., for free advice. Send 10c for trial pkg. Anuric.

After close observation we conclude that the minimum on which a family of five can live is the sum the provider happens to earn.—Mansfield News.

TREES AND SHRUBS
Fruit trees budded from bearing orchards. Apple, Pear, Cherry, Peach, Plum, Prune, Apricot, Quince, Grape Vines, Shrubbery, Plants, Raspberries, Blackberries, Logans, Dewberries, Asparagus, Rhubarb, Flowering Shrubs, Roses, Vines, Hedge, Nut and Shade Trees. Carriage paid. Satisfaction guaranteed.
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