

BROADWAY AND MAIN STREET

Butterflies, Beetles, Cyanide Make a 'Surprise' Vengeance

By BILLY ROSE

When Martin Quint, 71, married Ellie Reynolds, 34, their friends in Nyack didn't give the union much chance of success. Five years later, however, they were ready to admit they had been wrong—Ellie was doing a good job of taking care of Martin, and as for the old coot—well, he was a lot friendlier than anyone had ever thought possible.

On their fifth anniversary, Martin sent Ellie to New York on an errand, filled the parlor with gifts and paper curlicues, and invited a dozen neighbors in for a surprise party.

The plan was for a lookout at the railroad depot to phone when he saw Ellie get off the train, and then they would turn out the lights and hide. When Ellie walked in and turned them on again, everyone would yell, "Surprise!"

Well, what happened was a surprise, all right, but there was no yelling. As the front door opened, Quint and his guests heard Ellie whisper, "Sssh! He might be awake."

"I don't like this sneaking around," said the voice of a man. "Why don't you ask him for a divorce?"

"Think I'm crazy? He doesn't figure to live much longer, and I'm pretty sure to get the savings and insurance. Thanks for taking me home. See you Tuesday at the regular time."

Then Ellie closed the door and switched on the lights . . .

AFTER THE embarrassed guests had left, she said to her husband, "I suppose you want me to pack."

"Why should I?" said Martin. "It's only human nature for you to take up with someone nearer your own age."

"Don't you want a divorce?"

"Not unless you insist on it. All I ask is that you stop seeing the

young man as long as I'm alive. If you'll agree and put it in writing, I'll fix it so you'll get every cent I've got."

And that's how it was arranged. An agreement was signed and locked in the wall safe, and the couple went on living together.

Of course, the neighbors gossiped a lot, particularly when it was whispered around that Ellie was still seeing the young man, but their talk seemed to make no impression on Martin. Instead, he busied himself with a new hobby—the study of insects—and spent most of his waking hours in a spare room over the garage, mounting butterflies and beetles on small exhibit boards.

"I wouldn't mention this around," he told his wife. "As it is, people think I'm not quite all there."

One evening, just after Ellie had brought him the usual glass of warm milk, Martin began to have convulsions. Ellie phoned the doctor that her husband was having a heart attack, but by the time he arrived the old man was dead. The doctor examined the body, then called the coroner, and an hour later the corpse, together with the empty milk glass, was taken away.

EARLY THE following morning, a detective rang Ellie's doorbell.

"I have a warrant for your arrest," he said. "According to the coroner, your husband died of cyanide poisoning, and the drug-store in town reports that you

A Song for Comfort

THE things that are too hard to bear
God does not bid me bear.
I never yet have walked alone
Through dark hours of despair,
And always He has kept His word:
The promised strength was there.

And so today, my heart, be still,
He knows that you are torn,
He also knows that even this
Great sorrow can be borne.
His voice still speaks across the years:
"Blessed are they that mourn."

The grief that is too hard to bear
We need not bear, or fear.
Be comforted, remembering
That One who cares is near,
And He will hold us by the hand
Until the dark skies clear.

GRACE NOLL CROWELL



bought a bottle of the stuff two weeks ago."

"That's right," said Ellie. "Martin used the cyanide to kill the insects he was studying. There are hundreds of specimens in the laboratory over the garage."

"I never heard of his being interested in bugs," said the detective. "Can I see this laboratory?"

Ellie led the way up the garage stairs and opened the door. There was nothing in the room but a

few bits of junk and an old bicycle.

"I'm sorry, but you'll have to come along," said the detective. "You're the only person who figured to profit by Mr. Quint's death."

"I swear I didn't do it," said Ellie. "Both Martin and I knew he wouldn't live long, and we signed an agreement which explains everything. It's in his study."

She ran into the house, opened the wall safe and took out a brown envelope, but when she tore it open there was nothing inside but a piece of blank paper.

Blank, that is, except for one word penciled in a childish scrawl—"Surprise!"



TIME MARCHES ON . . . Just on the off chance that anyone is wondering what a 1901 calendar looked like, here is an example, albeit partially obscured by a young lady in a bathing suit that definitely is not 1901 style. This also might make you think, as the world moves on toward 1950, that it's been a long time since things have been as simple as they were at the beginning of the 20th century.

New Year Is Age-Old Rite

The history of the celebration of New Year's Day takes one far back into antiquity, and encompasses many peoples, lands and customs. It is only in relatively recent times that the New Year has been ushered in on January 1.

This holiday has been a mobile one and various races have marked it at various seasons. For example, the ancient Persians and Egyptians celebrated New Year's September 22 at the autumnal equinox, while the Greeks did so at the winter solstice on December 21. The vernal equinox, March 22, marked the beginning of the year for the Jews.

The famous Pope Gregory, in 1582, instituted what has since been known as the Gregorian calendar. Europe during the middle ages had observed New Year's on March 25, but with the advent of Gregory's far-reaching time-recording system the day adopted for the beginning of a new twelve-months was January 1.

All countries did not adopt the change at once, but the Christian world accepted it generally in 1752 when the British Parliament finally established New Year's Day as January 1.

New Year's customs always have had a joyful theme. Few tears mark the death of the old year.

Beginner-Easy!



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Cross-stitch and other easy embroidery for kitchen towels! Pattern 690; transfer 8 motifs 5 1/2 x 7 inches.

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Name _____
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FIRST AID TO THE AILING HOUSE

BY ROGER C. WHITMAN

Finishing An Attic

QUESTION: We are considering finishing off our attic. In each end we placed louvers for cross-ventilation. These were put in to help prevent the formation of condensation on the roof sheathing. Should these be closed up before finishing the walls? We intend to insulate the roof.

ANSWER: Instead of closing up the louvers permanently, have them fitted with doors which can be opened and closed by means of a long cord, and a catch for easy opening and closing. In this way you can have the benefit of the ventilation in the summertime, and can close the louvers whenever you wish.

Keep Posted on Values By Reading the Ads

Save Money On This Home Mixed Cough Syrup

Big Saving. No Cooking. So Easy. You'll be surprised how quickly and easily you can relieve coughs due to colds, when you try this splendid recipe. It gives you about four times as much cough medicine for your money, and you'll find it truly wonderful for real relief.

Make a syrup with 2 cups of granulated sugar and one cup of water. No cooking needed. (Or you can use corn syrup or liquid honey, instead of sugar syrup.) Then put 2 1/2 ounces of Pinex (obtained from any drugist) in a pint bottle, and fill up with your syrup. This makes a full pint of medicine that will please you by its quick action. It never spoils, and tastes fine—children love it.

This simple mixture takes right hold of a cough. It loosens the phlegm, soothes the irritated membranes, quickly eases soreness and difficult breathing.

Pinex is a special compound of proven ingredients, in concentrated form, well known for its quick action in coughs and bronchial irritations. Money refunded if it doesn't please you in every way.

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If you feel run down, and colds hang on—maybe you don't get enough natural A&D Vitamin food. Then try good-tasting SCOTT'S EMULSION. See how you begin to get your strength back! How you can fight off colds! Scott's is a "gold mine" of natural A&D Vitamins and energy-building natural oil. Easy to take. Economical. Buy today at your drug store. MORE than just a tonic—it's powerful nourishment!

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The Fiction Corner

BENNY WISES UP

By
Richard H. Wilkinson

BENNY got a big kick out of eavesdropping on the sheriff. It smacked of adventure and the wild life he loved. He got a bigger kick when he heard Sheriff Conrad mention Slick Dearborn.

Slick Dearborn was the smartest outlaw with whom Conrad had ever had to contend.

He was Benny's idol, for he represented the dangerous freedom of which the boy had always dreamed. One day three weeks ago Benny had seen Slick in the Faraway Saloon, and something about the worshipful look in the youngster's eyes had attracted the outlaw's attention.

Benny had been almost speechless with gratitude when the outlaw spoke to him. They had a long conversation, and when it was over Benny knew a sense of importance that was almost the fulfillment of his dreams.

Ear glued to the side of the building, Benny held his breath while Sheriff Conrad and his deputy, Joe Hicks, carried on their low-voiced conversation.

At 4 o'clock that afternoon Benny drew rein in the secret canyon where Slick was hiding. He gave the secret whistle that he and the outlaw had agreed upon, then waited breathlessly.

Minutes passed and nothing happened. Benny moved down the canyon a ways and whistled again. Suddenly two men emerged from behind a boulder. One of them was Slick Dearborn. Benny shouted at them.

"Slick, I just heard the sheriff and his deputy talking. They found out it was you who held up the



At four o'clock that afternoon Benny drew rein in the secret canyon where Slick was hiding.

bank last week, an' they know you're hidin' up here an' they're comin' to get yuh."

"You come with us," said Slick shortly.

"Nemmine keepin' guard," Slick called, and the other outlaw slid back to the ground. "We gotta get out of here and git fast, Kid, did anyone see you leave town?"

"No, sir. Not a soul. I done jest like you told me."

"Good. You're comin' with us."

The second outlaw came from behind a screen of bushes riding one horse and leading another. Slick swung aboard the extra animal.

There came the sound of a shot. The second outlaw uttered a scream, clutched at his breast and plunged from the saddle. A second shot followed, and Slick's mount went to its knees.

S LICK SWORE VIOLENTLY as Benny crawled up beside him. "You damned little rat! Thought you said nobody followed you out of town?"

"Honest Slick—"

"Shut up!" Suddenly Slick seized him around the middle and leaped out of plain view of the two coming up the canyon. The pair reined in, holding their fire as the outlaw, using Benny as a shield, began shooting rapidly.

Sheriff Conrad and Joe Hicks, sensing the bandit's purpose, flung themselves from the saddle and scurried for shelter.

Benny suddenly understood the

purpose he was serving, suddenly knew that Slick was using him as a means of protecting his own hide.

"Slick! Slick! Lemme go. They'll blast me down in cold blood!" "Shut up, you rat!" Slick brought the barrel of his gun down crushingly on the boy's head. Benny gasped, struggled feebly, then went limp . . .

When Benny opened his eyes he found Sheriff Conrad and Joe Hicks bending over him.

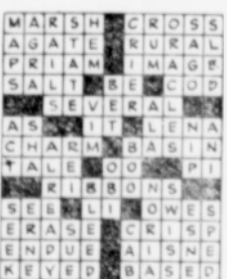
"Feeling better kid?" "Ye-ss. I'm all right. Where's—Slick?"

"Taken care of," Sheriff Conrad eyed Benny intently. "Listen, Benny, you better get home before your maw begins to worry. You can say you helped us run down Slick Dearborn. Fact is, you did. When we saw you talkin' with him three weeks ago we figured somethin' like this, which is why we did some talkin' so you could lead us to where he was."

"Gosh!" said Benny. There were tears in his eyes. For the first time in his life he realized what a perfectly swell guy Sheriff Conrad was.

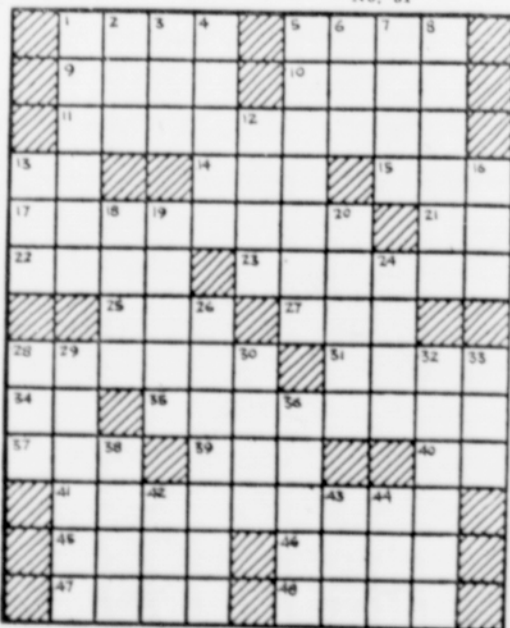
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

LAST WEEK'S
ANSWER



- ACROSS
1. Detest
 5. Fish
 9. Top
 10. City (Peru)
 11. A rare-earth metallic element
 13. Man's nickname
 14. Flowed
 15. Keg
 17. Warlike people of S. Russia
 21. Electrical Engineer (abbr.)
 22. Twofold
 23. Pot
 25. Humble
 27. Also
 28. Put away for safe keeping
 31. Plaster
 34. Exclamation
 35. People who jeer
 37. Ancient wine cup
 39. Body of water
 40. Pronoun
 41. Gazelles
 45. Sesame (var.)
 46. Market place
 47. Is in debt
 48. March date

- DOWN
1. Consecrate
 2. American Philological Association (abbr.)
 3. Denary
 4. Additional
 5. Coverlet
 6. Hebrew letter
 7. Soot
 8. Famous Hebrew prophet (Bib.)
 12. Cut irregularly
 13. Division of a play
 16. Winged insect
 18. A vat for fodder
 19. Laugh loudly
 20. European ermine
 24. Resiliency
 26. Carnivorous mammals
 28. Chinese silk
 29. A red, fleshy berry
 30. Combat between two people
 32. Relies on
 33. Beast of burden
 36. Mother-in-law of Ruth (Bib.)
 38. Afresh
 42. Golf term
 43. Cushion
 44. Before



Star Dust

STAGE-SCREEN-RADIO

BY INEZ GERHARD

EVELYN KEYES bobbed up all over New York while on location for Columbia's "The Killer That Stalked New York"—during a traffic rush on west 47th street, in Pennsylvania station, in a tiny historic graveyard on the lower East Side. Just before fleeing through the graveyard to escape a



EVELYN KEYES

detective, she had to scramble up and down a wobbly, rusty fire escape on a tenement. She did it over and over, for hours and hours, while bitter winds blew. Wound up with hands filthy and scraped and clothes unfit for further use. Meanwhile Paulette Goddard was urging her to come yachting in the Caribbean!

Jimmy Durante plays his first dual role in "The Great Rupert," the George Pal production in which he co-stars with Terry Moore and Tom Drake. But you may not recognize him. Jimmy always has yearned to drive a circus wagon, so he got his wish. At his own insistence, he was permitted not only to drive the wagon, but also to appear behind a luxuriant beard.

Mary Jane Higby also has been doing a stint in a dual role. The heroine of "When a Girl Marries," "Joan Davis," has been menaced by a tough waitress bent on blackmail. And the tough waitress—Mary Jane Higby.

Ever so often a radio or picture star is stopped by a policeman while speeding to an important engagement. The policeman recognizes the star—and doesn't give him a ticket. Anyway, that's the story. But Jay Jastyn, doing 45 miles an hour in New Jersey on the way to NBC, was stopped, recognized as "Mr. District Attorney"—and given a ticket!

A new canine star is looming up—Chinook, who will be featured in Monogram's "The Courage of Captain Plum." Kirby Grant will star, and the picture, set to start January 11, will be filmed at Bartlett's Cedar Lake, Big Bear.