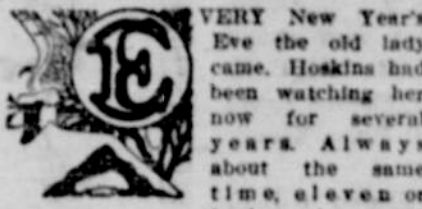


On the Bridge at Midnight

By Martin R. Reagan

(©, 1924, Western Newspaper Union.)



VERY New Year's Eve the old lady came. Hoskins had been watching her now for several years. Always about the same time, eleven or twelve, she would come and take her stand in the middle of the bridge looking expectantly down the river. As the "Amalia," an old barge engaged in the Indian trade and scheduled to arrive annually in London on January 1, sailed up the river, she became violently agitated. When it passed directly under her, she shouted loudly in a cracked, hoarse voice, and tossed a purse down to a certain sailor on the deck who greeted her with wild cheers. She would watch the old boat glide easily up the river till it was out of sight. Then quietly she turned toward the south and walked away.

Now Hoskins was a conscientious thief. It was not his policy to rob old women of their purses. The opulent old men of Hyde Park, and the young men, too, were his game. But lately there were too many in the business for any profit. And the newspapers were against him, daily reminding their readers to beware of pickpockets. People watched one more now and one had to be on one's guard at all times.

Reluctantly Hoskins forsook the old field of his activities and sought other prey. It was a hard year, however. What little he picked up from the Christmas shoppers he already owed to friends. He was facing the New Year almost penniless. Then he remembered the old lady and her fat purse. He despised himself for thinking of it—he a man of principles—but starvation is starvation, and it was New Year's Eve. Tonight she would come.

He concealed himself in an old crevice in the masonry. It was a perfect hiding place. He could see out easily and not be seen by anyone. About midnight he heard the slow, heavy step of the old lady. She passed close by him and advanced a few yards. He emerged from his hiding place and followed. About to make a quick spring at her, she turned, and faced him. He composed himself with difficulty, tipped his hat and bid her happy New Year in a weak, strained voice.

"Oh, thank 'ee, sir; the same to you, sir."

"Fine weather we been 'avin'?"

"Fine, indeed. And fine for that boy o' mine what's comin' in tonight from them 'ot 'eathen places." The old lady sniffed. Hoskins edged a little closer to her.

"Ain't seen yer boy for some time?"

"Only from the bridge 'ere onct a year. Ain't seen him to 'old in my arms since he was a lad o' twelve. The hoarse old voice trembled a little—a little—almost broke down. "An' 'ard life for a lad, that, on them ships, and no 'ome, and an 'ard life for me what's his lawful mother never to lay an arm on him in all these years."

Here she broke into a heart-breaking sob. "It's a bad 'un I've been, sir. I couldn't let that lad o' mine see his mother was such a miserable old witch. It'd break his 'eart. I get together all I can in the world and give it to him onct a year for his 'oliday. It's the best I can do for 'im. Don't know who he thinks I am. He never troubled to find out. But—'Ey, 'ey, there," she shouted suddenly.

The "Amalia" was steaming up the river. It was directly under them now and a little youth in uniform jumped about eagerly on deck, signaling to the old woman on the bridge. She dropped the purse squarely into his hands.

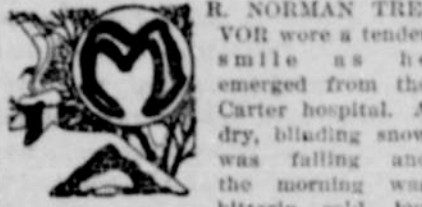
"Ooray for 'er Majesty," called the youth, his gay voice continuing to sound merrily as the barge disappeared up the river.

Finally the old woman turned to Hoskins. "Good night, sir, and God bless you in the New Year," she said softly, and walked away. Hoskins stood motionless, gazing up the river after the small hazy object that was the barge. There was a sentimental look in his eye, and a softness in the droop of his mouth. "God bless them," he breathed. "I would 'a been a bad way, that, to begin the New Year."

A NEW YEAR VICTORY

By Katherine Edelman

(©, 1924, Western Newspaper Union.)



R. NORMAN TREVOR wore a tender smile as he emerged from the Carter hospital. A dry, blinding snow was falling and the morning was bitterly cold, but there was a warm glow around his heart that made him insensible for the moment to cold and chill.

Within his soul he felt the thrill of victory, a victory won over the greatest enemy the world knows. For, once more his hand had helped to avert the sword of the grim reaper—his skill and sureness of touch had brought back another soul from the brink. It had been an emergency call this time, a call that came just as the bells were tolling the birth of the New Year, with the chances 100 to 1 against winning the fight, but again science and skill had added another victory to its long list. George Hamilton would live; his family in the little cottage in Bower street would have him back with them before many days and, instead of mourning and sadness, there would be joy and happiness in the little home. "Thank God that I was able to do it," Doctor Trevor whispered to the skies as he got into his little car. "It seems like an omen of good to have this happen just as the year was born."

For this time he knew that he had won a double victory. For many years he had tried hard to interest the old and wealthy Mrs. Whiteside in the building of a new hospital for Carter, to be operated along new and up-to-date lines. It was sorely needed in the town and it had been the dream of Doctor Trevor's life since he had come there. Several times he had thought that Mrs. Whiteside was on the point of consenting, but always at the last she had fallen back on the oft-used argument that people were just as well off and got along just as well or better before all these new fandangie ideas were known.

Then last night had come the call from the Hamilton home. For years the Hamilton family had been counted by Mrs. Whiteside as her own special proteges, and she had spoken her mind quite plainly to Doctor Trevor this time: "They say the case is almost hopeless—that there is not the equipment in the old hospital to handle such a case and that he cannot be moved to the city. Doctor Foster said there was a chance and you were the only one here that could take it. If you succeed, it means the new hospital within the year."

"As Doctor Trevor drove to his home this early New Year morning, the big building, with all its modern equipment for helping humanity, loomed before him already—a dream building that would soon become a reality.

A Prayer

By Rev. Alan Pressley Wilson

(Copyright, 1924, WNU)

ON LORD, we beseech Thee to grant that Jesus the Christ may dwell in our hearts through faith to the end that we, being rooted and grounded in love, may be strong to apprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and the height and depth of the love of Christ.

Come into our hearts and lives and dominate our wills as we enter another New Year and grant that we may live all through this year in accordance with Thy divine plan for our lives.

This we ask in the Name and for the sake of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

SHELburn NEWS

Jan. 13

Mrs. W. H. McLain returned from Portland Sunday noon where she had been two weeks caring for Mrs. C. McLain who has been quite ill, but is improving nicely and was able to come up to her father's Saturday evening where they are caring for her and baby Ronald.

T. M. Russell made a business trip to Stayton Monday.

Mrs. Carl Follis returned to her home at Leneve, Ore., Friday, after spending a few weeks with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. George.

T. M. Russell made a business trip to Salem Tuesday.

Geo. C. Miller and Mr. and Mrs. W. H. McLain attended the annual meeting of the Forks of the Santiam N. F. L. A. Tuesday.

Mt. Pleasant-Cole News

Jan. 12

George Sandner was looking over the telephone line last Wednesday.

Dave Aegerter made a business trip to Stayton Wednesday.

Gus Nemeyer delivered his hogs to Stayton Wednesday.

Louis Geisler delivered meat to Gehlen Bros. of Stayton Wednesday morning.

Joe Senz, Ben Darby, Linn Lambert, Louis Geisler and Pete Fiedler made a business trip to Albany last Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. Louie Ray and son visited at Ben Darby's Wednesday afternoon.

Mrs. Ben Darby and Joe Senz visited at Parberry's Tuesday afternoon.

Ben Darby and Mr. Roewin called on Floyd Fitzwater Tuesday afternoon.

J. A. Senz sawed wood for Barnard Minten Tuesday and for George Sandner Friday afternoon and Saturday.

Linn and Mr. Lambert were shopping in Stayton Wednesday.

Carl Kraschnewski was in Stayton Wednesday.

John Sandner, sr., was a Stayton visitor Thursday.

Mr. and Mrs. Ben Darby were in Stayton shopping Wednesday.

Mrs. Silbernagel and Sylvester visited at Louis Geisler's Wednesday.

Theodore Belcoe and Earl Darby visited at Isaak's Saturday afternoon.

Mrs. R. F. Darby visited with her mother last Saturday.

Miss Mary Hora spent Sunday with home folks, returning to Mill City in the evening.

Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Parberry and son and wife spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Ben Darby.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Peters and son Elvin spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Louis Ray, and visited Ben Darby and family Sunday evening.

Frank Hora visited last Sunday with Harold Darby.

Arnold Senz called on Ed Roberts Sunday afternoon.

Ben Darby, Mr. Parberry and son made a business trip to Alton Vernon's Sunday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Cooley spent Sunday with their daughter and family, Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Maertz.

Mrs. Maggie Krum of Salem spent Sunday and Monday with home folks, Mr. and Mrs. John Sandner, sr., and family.

Erdeena Cothren has returned home, after several week's work at Portland and different places.

Geo. Sandner and family attended Sunday school and church Sunday morning.

Gael Trexler, Lucille and Maxine Chrisman have been absent from school on account of whooping cough.

GILKEY STATION

Jan. 13

Henry Struckmeier and wife of Albany and daughter, Mrs. Alma Hazen of Yakima, Wash., are visiting at the Richard Struckmeier home.

Jean Kelly, who has been working for the county at Lebanon, spent the week-end at home, Mrs. Kelly taking him back Sunday night.

F. I. Jones and wife and son, Harry of Stayton visited at the parental home of J. G. Holt Sunday.

U. G. Holt and daughters, Beryl and Virginia, and Annabel Hawley of Salem were guests at the J. G. and T. M. Holt homes Sunday.

Franklin Gilkey has gone to Corvallis where he will complete his course at O. A. C. this spring.

A farewell surprise party was given at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Wilson Young Saturday night for their daughter, Hazel, who is leaving for Portland where she has employment. A very pleasant evening was spent and luncheon was served at a late hour to James Richardson and wife, R. Preever and wife, John Shepherd and wife, J. H. Kelly and wife, F. W. Struckmeier, J. G. Holt and wife, S. B. Holt and wife, F. W. Mespelt and wife, Violet, Lucille, and Floyd Crenshaw, Lucille Sommer, Lola Watson, Jack Goar, Harold Riggs, Herman Zeller, Orville Sheiman, Loren Thompson, Mr. and Mrs. Young, Lyman and Hazel Young.

F. W. Mespelt was a business visitor at Lacombe Saturday.

Will Mespelt has rented his place to Will Martzel and has moved to Albany. He intends to work for the county.

Those going from here to the county convention of the Farmers' Union at Sweet Home Saturday were: J. H. Kelly and wife, J. G. Holt and wife, S. B. Holt and wife, and Leo Zeller.

Little Junior Kelly, grandson of Mr. and Mrs. J. K. Reiley, who has been very sick in a Salem hospital, is reported some better.

Harold Reiley, who has been working for the S. P. Co. at Roseburg for some time, spent the week-end at his home here.

Miss Opal Mesoelt spent Thursday night with Miss Pearl Miller at North Santiam.

Several of the young people from here attended a party at North Santiam Saturday night.

Fred Mespelt and wife and daughter, Opal, visited at the Joe Kitchen home in Albany Sunday.

The Thursday thimble club met with Mrs. Pansy Shepherd last Thursday. The semi-annual election was held and the following officers elected for the next six months: Pansy Shepherd, president; Hattie Kelly, vice-president; Anna Holt, sec-treas. The next meeting will be with Mrs. Edie Sommer.

Richardson Gap Reviews

Jan. 13

Mrs. L. P. Arnold was a Scio visitor Saturday afternoon.

Rev. Henry Albers and wife of Albany were visitors at the G. W. Arnold home Sunday afternoon.

We notice that Lonard Arnold is making important "business" calls to Albany lately.

The rock crusher at Roner's has begun to work again.

Ralph Hassler has stopped working at the Ambroek & Donahue sawmill and started working at the rock crusher.

Mrs. Ella Cree of Portland has returned home, after spending a week with her sister, Mrs. G. E. Rodgers.

W. T. Hassler is installing some new carbon lights.

A. A. Muck and family have removed to Falls City. A family by the name of Bruce have purchased the place and moved in, and their two sons are attending school in Scio.

E. L. Bilyeu and wife attended a community meeting at Providence school house Monday evening.

Art Westenhause was a business visitor in Scio Monday.

Miss Aileen Mumper of Scio was a visitor at Piatt's Tuesday and also attended the Arnold community meeting in the evening. We are all very sorry to hear that she is soon leaving for Salem, where she has accepted a position.

Miss Delta Piatt and her nephew Everett Ambroek, were visitors at G. W. Arnold's Thursday afternoon.

Mrs. Lora Piatt and daughters, Delta and Elsie, were visitors at G. W. Arnold's Sunday.

Sunday evening Mrs. Lora Piatt and daughters and the Arnold sisters, Reta and Dollie, were in Scio.

News From Lyons.

Jan. 14

The Sunday school contest party held at the community hall Friday evening was a very pleasant social affair. About 75 people, young and old, were in attendance.

Arthur Vaughn and wife, Mrs. Helen Vaughn and Mrs. Wm. Swank were callers at the Mercer home Sunday.

Mrs. Williams and Mrs. J. H. Johnston called on Mrs. Caddie Martin Saturday.

Cecil Manning and wife of Salem were Sunday visitors at Alex Boedeker's.

Ed Trask and wife spent Saturday evening and Sunday with relatives in Stayton, also attended the revival meeting at the M. E. church.

G. F. Johnston and son, Kenneth, of Salem spent the week-end with relatives here, returning to Salem Sunday evening.

Mrs. Maude Johnston called on Mrs. Lloyd Davenport Saturday evening.

Miss Surry of Howell spent the week-end with her grandmother and aunt at Lyons, returning to her school Monday morning.

Mrs. D. C. Abeis is on the sick list.

Wm. Swank called at Jack Johnston's Saturday.

Baptist Church Notes

Sunday school at 10 o'clock every Sunday morning. Everybody is invited to attend.

Christian Endeavor every Sunday evening at 6:30.

Prayer meeting every Saturday night at 7:30.

Junior Endeavor at 2:00 Saturday afternoon.

Mr. Fred Waehita will preach next Sunday.

Iowa College Outlines Dairying Fundamentals

Following an analysis of the work of cow testing associations in Iowa, dairy experts at Iowa state college emphasize the following points as deserving of consideration as a guide to increased profits from the dairy cow:

1. The production of feeds best suited to dairying, especially alfalfa hay.
2. The elimination of the scrub or grade sire.
3. The use of pure bred dairy sires from good producing ancestry.
4. The weeding out of unprofitable cows through cow testing associations.
5. Rational feeding.
6. Giving the cows the attention that their importance demands.
7. Regularity of milking and feeding.
8. Providing a succulent feed throughout the year.
9. Breeding cows to freshen in the fall of the year except when one is retaining milk.
10. Supplementing poor pastures in late summer with either summer silage or soiling crops.