

Friday the 13th



Are you afraid of black cats? Do you walk around and not under ladders? Do you think the number 13 is unlucky? Whether they admit it or not, most Americans are affected by superstitious beliefs, and some will be uneasy until Friday, November 13, has come and gone. A saying familiar to almost every child is "step on a crack—break your mother's back". Two little first-grade playmates at Lincoln school weren't a bit concerned about such a saying last week, and skipped merrily up and down the sidewalk while Photographer Robert Vroman took pictures. Joel Stewart (at left) is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Glenn L. Stewart, 317 Maple street; and his companion, Kenny Rex Jones, is a son of Mrs. Edith Ruth Jones, 505 North Riverside avenue.



"Never light three on a match" is one of the best known superstitions in America. Posing for this "three on a match" picture are Richard A. Greer (at left), N. D. (Duke) Gladfelter and Robert Cunningham, all employees of Medford branch, United States National bank. Before lighting his own cigarette, Mr. Gladfelter, an assistant manager of the branch, took a fresh match. Origin of this superstition is variously credited to the Russian orthodox church, in which laymen are not permitted to light any three articles from the same flame, or to World War I when during trench warfare a three-match light might mean death from a sniper's bullet. Mr. Greer is in the bank's consumer credit department and Mr. Cunningham is also an assistant manager. All three men have been working on the current United Medford Crusade in addition to their bank duties.



Many adults believe that black cats are a symbol of bad luck, but the small daughters of Mr. and Mrs. John Dumas love little Blackie and don't give a thought to luck, good or bad. Leslie (at left) was two years old last February and Melinda will be four November 20, just a week beyond the "bad luck" date on the calendar. Mr. and Mrs. Dumas recently moved from the east side to a home on Leland avenue off Stewart avenue. Vergilius Ferm's book on American Superstitions says that black cats are a bad omen only if one crosses one's path; if a strange black cat comes to make its home with a family, it is said to bring good luck.



Show people are universally superstitious, and they have many bad luck omens. However, the cast of the coming Medford High school play, "Dino" threw caution to the winds and boldly set the performances for Thursday and Friday, November 12 and 13 and are ready to take the consequences. In the picture above Ken Hall, who plays Mr. Falcaro, dares Linda Jo Waltermire, student director, to walk under a ladder. Posing at left are Craig Wright, who plays the title role in the drama, and Carol Slater, also in the cast, who uses a rabbit's foot charm to dust powder on the young actor's face. "Dino" is the story of a 17-year-old just released from four years in reform school and the struggle he has to adjust to home and neighborhood life.



Pretty Nancy Hamilton, daughter of the Moore Hamiltons and a student at Southern Oregon college, throws a bit of salt over her left shoulder, an act which superstitious folk believe will ward off evil resulting from spilled salt. In olden times salt was believed to have magic qualities.

