

Girl, 8, Grabs Bag of Money

New York—(UPI)—Was the little girl a prankster or a trained robber? Was the man who ran off with the money her father, her mentor, or just a bystander who saw an opportunity?

These questions were unanswered today because the little girl, the man and a bag containing more than \$5,600 cash were all missing.

Monday afternoon Miss Catherine Bacon, 62, a bookkeeper for a West Side cafeteria, was walking to a bank to deposit \$5,675 which she carried in a paper bag. While she was waiting to cross the street a girl about 8 grabbed the bag and started running.

Miss Bacon ran after the girl shouting "Help! A thief!" A woman passerby stopped the little girl.

Just when Miss Bacon reached the scene, a man of about 40 with a black mustache appeared and said "let me help you."

In the confusion the man scooped up the money and fled.

When police arrived they found Miss Bacon left holding a \$50 bill, a \$1 bill and a piece of the bag.

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IT TICKLES—Dami Scalici, seven months, The child and his parents, coming to live in the United States, were met by grandpa Charles Croce. —(UPI Telephoto)

Bavarian Hills Echoing Again With Christmas

Berchtesgaden, Germany — (UPI) — The hills around this peaceful Bavarian town are echoing again this Christmas with a most unpeaceful sound — the boom of blunderbusses fired by the "Berchtesgaden Christmas Shooters."

The Shooters—"Weihnachts-schuetzen"—are carrying out tradition that goes back hundreds of years.

Church records show that the birth of Christ was celebrated with noisemaking as far back as 1666 and that the custom was considered ancient at that time.

Presumably, it goes back to pagan days when people made noise to drive away the demons and evil spirits that supposedly haunted the dark forests nights.

Not Expecting Demons — The Shooters aren't expecting demons this Christmas, but they go at their job with just as much enthusiasm as their ancestors. Their antique blunderbusses have been cleaned, oiled and packed with powder and shot, and the Weihnachts-schuetzen have garbed themselves in the traditional Bavarian costume of leather shorts, high socks, plumed hats and Alpine jackets.

About a week before Christmas, they headed for the hills that surround Berchtesgaden to await the signal to blast away from the town's church bells.

In an effort to stamp out what it considered essentially a pagan practice, the 17th century church often inflicted fines and punishments on the Shooters, but the tradition was too firmly rooted.

In 1669, the church finally gave up trying and sanctioned the custom by permitting a fusillade at the opening of a monastery.

Since then, shooting clubs have been organized around Berchtesgaden and in the last century they were drawn together into the "Verenigte Weihnachts-schuetzen" or "United Christmas Shooters."

Each year, the noise reaches a climax on the last Sunday before Christmas and again on Christmas Eve with about 500 of the Shooters taking part. But they get help from farmers coming to town for church services. The farmers fire one shot upon leaving home and another upon returning.

The Shooters no longer restrict themselves to Christmas. They also welcome in the New Year and such events as the harvest season and consecration of churches.

Boy Scouts

Cub Scout Pack 14 had its annual Christmas meeting recently. Treats provided by the Crater Lions club were distributed.

Awards were presented as follows:

One-year service star: Oliver Sellers, Den 2.
Two-year service star: Grady Brown, Ken Farmer, Lane Forncrook, Billy Mayer, Jay Poulos, Bill Savard, Donn Stroh, David White and Mrs. Savard.

Three-year service star: Bobby Joe Ellis, Mrs. Ellis. Bobcat pin: Scott Lewis.
Wolf badges: Oliver Sellers, Robert Brown, Breton Morris, Gold Arrow, wolf: Robert Brown, Bear badge: Steven Phillips, David Branchfield, Bruce Mackenzie. Gold arrow, Bear, Donn Stroh.

Silver arrow, Bear: Donn Stroh, Bill Savard. Lion badge: Bill Savard, Russ Ferguson, Steve Edson. Assistant denier badge: Michael Folland, Den 2; Grady Brown, Den 10; Russ Ferguson, Den 1. Denner badge: Bill Little, Den 2; Bill Savard, Den 10.

of rare lace than the skeletons of common leaves.

If you have any further questions on this particular subject, please consult someone who knows, for the above constitutes my entire knowledge of the subject.

(Released by The Register and Tribune Syndicate, 1959)

Small Worlds Around Us

By Lynn M. Watkins

Here's How You Make A Skeleton—Out of Leaves

Several letters lately have asked, "How do you make skeletons-out of leaves?" It's a good thing the "out of leaves" appeared.

I guess the whole thing has been brought about by the revived use of skeletonized leaves in floral arrangements; a trick which I understand to be pretty generally the vogue a few years ago. Lately many people have seen and admired leaf-skeletons in floral bouquets and are curious to know just how it is done.

To make a "skeleton" out of a leaf takes a little doing. I found there was little use in asking, for even those who knew didn't feel like giving the secret away, so I had to start out cold.

The idea is to soften or completely eat away the leaf tissue, leaving the veins intact. It is the series of veins that make the skeleton. Surprisingly enough, very few chemicals will accomplish the purpose; a leaf is impervious to most liquids; a leaf is protected by Nature with a thin film of lacquer-like material.

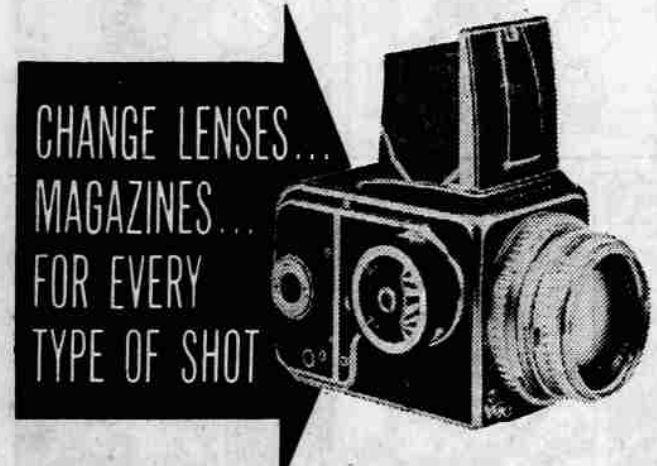
I was told a tablespoon of clothes bleach in a quart of water would do the trick, if the leaves were left for 24 hours. It didn't work; I had been misinformed. After considerable mixing and boiling, I found a weak solution of lye, a teaspoon to 32 ounces of water, did pretty well if extreme care was exercised and the leaf quickly washed as soon as the tissue was softened.

A safer but slower way is boiling the leaves for a half hour in a quart of water to which a tablespoon of soda has been added. Allow the solution to cool with the leaves still in, then place them on a newspaper and wipe gently with a soft cloth. Then the resultant skeletons should be placed between the pages of a magazine to dry, and flatten out. After they have dried they can be tinted with water colors, oils or aniline dye.

Inasmuch as any method requires some patience and care in handling, the proper leaves should be selected to start with; otherwise your efforts are wasted. Some leaves are naturally more adaptable than others and lend themselves better to skeletonization. The long, slender leaves of any of the species of rubber trees make very beautiful specimens, as also do the heart-shaped leaves of the sea-grape.

Both these have delicate and complicated series of veins, and of course the veins are the skeletons of the leaves after the leaf tissue has been removed. Avocado and locust as well as magnolia leaves are also interesting. In fact, after you have mastered the technique you will find an endless list of material.

The end result, if the operation is successful, is a thing of beauty. No wonder it interests everyone who has seen the finished product. A few of these leaf-skeletons are actually breathtakingly beautiful; they look more like bits



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Many Believed Suffering From Carbon Monoxide

By DELOS SMITH
UPI Science Editor

New York — (UPI) — The case of an excessively good humor cop rouses the suspicion of two medical scientists that a lot of people are suffering from low-grade carbon monoxide poisoning without knowing it.

Excessive good human was not his only suspicion-rousing flaw, however. Between times he was highly nervous and irritable, and he was given to attacks of light-headedness and mental dullness. His gait now and then took on a stagger.

Occasionally, he blacked out and would be out for 15 to 30 minutes. During that time you might see his hands twitch. His appetite was shot and he had been losing weight for months.

Drs. Gordon J. Gilbert and Gilbert H. Glaser of Yale University School of Medicine, had two chances to find out what all this added up to. The first chance they missed, despite the finest tools of diagnostic science.

They got the correct answer the second time. It was low-grade carbon monoxide poisoning of long duration. The cop had directed heavy New Haven, Conn., traffic until he began figuring age was slowing him down, since he was feeling so washed-up. He wasn't yet 50 but he transferred to a job in the police garage.

He didn't know it but he was jumping from the frying pan into the fire. Carbon monoxide accumulates more readily in a garage than in a street. But more and more carbon monoxide is presented to the lungs of city dwellers as their streets become more and more cluttered with gasoline-burning engines.

The scientists made the point that carbon monoxide poisoning is no black and white business as most people, including many doctors, believe. It's not a simple alternative between being killed by it or not having any of it in you, messing up your nervous system, they said.

Heavy carbon monoxide poisoning is plain to anyone.

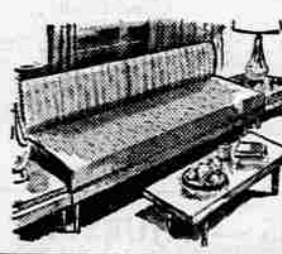
The victim, if not dead when found, is in a coma. But low-grade poisoning can be chronic and it is insidious, producing contradictory symptoms which can baffle. They argued against the widely held view that "carbon monoxide is quickly eliminated from the body by ordinary breathing of uncontaminated air."

They noted that American public health authorities were

"becoming increasingly aware that chronic carbon monoxide poisoning is frequently encountered."

They reported the case of the cop to the scholarly New England Journal of Medicine which remarked editorially that "the disease is probably widespread although not commonly recognized." For that reason, it added, the report "is both timely and provocative."

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