



Small Worlds Around Us

By Lynn W. Watkins (Register & Tribune Syndicate, 1961)

A Silly Goose?

Just Determined
Like all his kind, he was terribly flat-footed. He had about as much arch to his feet as does a sheet of paper. With no instep at all he was ill-equipped to walk any distance, which makes the feat he accomplished all the more remarkable.

It was only because he had been a part of the South Carolina barnyard for three years that he had been given a name. So they named him Bill.

To the family he was considered little more than a future entree for some holiday dinner when they desired a change from pot-roast or the Sunday chicken. This, of course, was before Bill performed a miracle and became a highly irregular gander. Was Sold

Because Bill had become a fixture about the place, as well as somewhat of a pet, his owner couldn't bear to eat him. So when a chance came to dispose of Bill for a three dollar consideration by a neighbor who lived on a farm five miles away, it looked like a proper solution. Bill was captured, placed in a gunny sack and carried away to his new home.

The barnyard didn't seem the same without Bill, but the three dollars was silently real, and it seemed to justify the transaction. Cash on the barrelhead was a little more comforting than a raucous voice in the barnyard. Besides Bill wasn't the kind of a goose that would ever lay a golden egg. The three dollars he brought would be his limit.

Familiar Voice

Later that day a familiar voice came from the barnyard. Bill was back, with his flat feet painfully protesting every step of the way, he had tiredly picked them up and laid them down, times without number, but always in the general direction of home. In his little head was a determined purpose, in his pitifully short, eight-inch stride, a dedicated intent. The road was rough and stony. There were hills and gullies. To the flatfooted goose the path was uphill all the way, but he waddled on - five miles in about eight hours.

Bill stayed; the three dollars was returned.

Christopher May Be Stricken From Roll of Saints

Washington - (UPI) - Will St. Christopher go the way of St. Philomena?

Some Catholic scholars believe there is a good chance he will.

The name of Philomena was stricken from the roll of saints by a recent Vatican directive. Scholars of the Sacred Congregation of Rites decided there was no sound historical basis for attributing heroic martyrdom to a young girl whose body was found in a Roman catacomb in 1802.

Travelers' Patron Saint

Christopher is known as the "patron saint of travelers." Millions of Catholics and a considerable number of non-Catholics, carry Christopher medals on trips, or display them from the dashboards of automobiles.

When the United States finally placed a satellite in orbit in 1958, after several humiliating failures, members of the launching crew disclosed they had bolted a Christopher medal to the successful rocket.

Catholic scholars who are dubious about St. Christopher's future status point to the text of the instruction issued by the Sacred Congregation of Rites at the time that Philomena was dropped.

It noted that there are hundreds of saints, of unquestioned historical authenticity, whom Catholics may venerate. Little Historical Evidence

Popular legend, which has been enshrined in a famous woodcut by Albrecht Durer, depicts St. Christopher as a riverman who carried stranded travelers across a swollen stream on his shoulders.

Church scholars have found little historical evidence to corroborate the legend. The only firm fact that is known about St. Christopher, they say, is that a church bearing his name was built near Constantinople around the middle of the 5th Century A.D.

A voice typewriter claimed to be without equal in efficiency was unveiled recently before a group of members of the World Acoustical Society visiting Japan.

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