

THE PRACTICAL JOKER

By GEORGE ELMER COBB

"I'M SORRY for you, Ned," observed Cyrus Moore.

"I'm sorry for myself," responded Ned Dayton, rather glibly. "Look here, Cyrus, you're the best chum and you are the cousin of the girl I love. You must know her father and his ways pretty well. Is he really the terrible tyrant they describe him?"

"No," explained Cyrus, solemnly, "he's a regular ogre. He'll probably gnash his teeth and jump on you and maybe throw you from his office window. I know two fellows who made up to Lella and submitted their prospects to the old man. One has left town and the other is running yet."

Ned looked pretty much concerned. If he had not been so much in love, he might have noticed a sly twinkle in the eye of his mischief-making comrade.

"Well," observed Ned after a moment of serious thought, "I'll be damned if I don't try to get into his den, come what may."

Ned was inspired with no ordinary love for pretty patted Lella Allen, the alleged ogre's only daughter. He had come down to Hopetown at the invitation of Cyrus Moore, his chum, to meet his fate. It was decidedly up to him now to advise stern dignified old Judge Allen that he wished to enter his family as a son-in-law.

There could be no possible objections to this, except that Ned had no business experience and was credulous and innocent of the ways of the world. If this latter had not been true he would have discounted Moore's lurid references to Lella's father and have recalled Moore's reputation as a practical joker on all occasions.

Ned had not as yet seen Judge Allen except at a distance. Of a very tall figure, a rather severe and ultra-dignified looking person, Ned could show up pretty well, however, as to family income and prospects, if he was only given a chance to present his claims.

"That's just it, you see," declared Cyrus, the sly tease, "it's breaking the first ice with the judge that counts."

"Say, couldn't you introduce me?" suggested Ned with eagerness.

"Me? Why," declared Cyrus, "I would do you your case at the start. Truth is, I am down in the judge's bad books for a joke I played on him. Mixed up some law references he had in an important case and made a monkey of him. Oh, say! I fairly shouted Cyrus, as though struck by a sudden idea of tremendous force—"the very thing!"

"What is it?" inquired Ned hopefully.

"Why didn't I think of it before!" exclaimed Cyrus, "I can put you in just right with the judge—burrab! I. D. L. A. S. O. M."

"Eh!" stared the bewildered Ned, wondering if his friend was taking leave of his senses.

"I Dearly Love A Son Of Momus"—see?" pronounced Cyrus.

"I don't," confessed Ned in hopeless wonderment.

"Secret society. Great go in town two years ago. Got the judge to join. Initiated him. First thing you do when you see him shout that at him. Then give the password."

"What is it?" inquired Ned in his artless way, catching on.

"Seque-medalian."

"What'll he do then?"

"Recognize you as a brother member—take you to his fraternal and paternal arms. Oh, how lucky I thought of it!" and Cyrus chuckled till he wriggled.

In perfect good faith Ned Dayton called at the office of Judge Allen the following day. He stated his name. Yes, his host had heard him mentioned by his daughter, but he said so gruffly and he scanned the young man over as if he was on the witness stand.

"Judge Allen," spoke our hero, "I have come on a very particular errand, but first—I. D. L. A. S. O. M."

"What?"

"The eminent jurist turned black in the face. He gave his innocent visitor a terrible look."

"Seque-medalian," added the over-confident Ned with a knowing smile.

"Why—why!" fairly shrieked the judge, jumping to his feet and seizing a law book. "Did you come here to insult me? If you don't get out of this office double quick I'll break every bone in your body!"

Bang! Smash! Clatter!—the perturbed Ned got through the doorway just as the ponderous law tome grazed his head, shattering the glass in the office door and preceded him on a rushing roll down the stairs and to the street.

Experiments Show Coal Is of Vegetable Origin

Though geologists have been fairly sure that hard coal was formed like soft coal from plants which grew in remote geologic ages, there has been no absolute confirmation of this. However, Prof. H. G. Turner of Lehigh university claims to have proved the vegetable origin of anthracite.

Soft coal is made up of enough light to pass through and submitted to microscopic examination shows definitely its vegetable origin, but this method has been impossible for use with anthracite because no matter how thin hard coal is cut it is still opaque. Professor Turner found that by first giving the surface of anthracite a fine polish, then drying it thoroughly and later heating the polished surface in the flame of a blowpipe, it was possible to make out the structural details of the coal through a microscope. The final heating burned away some of the coal, leaving a sort of skeletonized surface or etching.

As in the case of the soft coal, some pieces of anthracite resemble frag-

Ned sought his friend Cyrus for consolation, but found that he had suspected, and mysteriously left town on a fishing trip. He dared not venture to call at the Allen home that night, but managed to meet Lella on the street.

"Oh, if I only had that scapegrace, Cyrus Moore!" cried Lella, when Ned had narrated his dismal story.

"Why, what has Cyrus got to do with it?" asked the unsophisticated Ned.

"He has played one of his practical jokes on you and I will take delight in boxing his ears when he puts in an appearance again!" declared the irate little miss. "About two years ago some jokers got papa to join the 'Sons of Momus'. They gave him a terrible initiation and he never forgives even an allusion to the host."

"I certainly have put my foot in it!" groaned poor Ned.

"You certainly have," agreed Lella. "What can I do?"

"Go and see papa and explain," advised Lella.

Somewhat Ned could not summon up the courage to do this. He passed the Allen home the next evening. There were no lights in the house and he took up his station in the shadow of a big tree.

"The family have gone out to some neighbor's, I suppose," he reasoned. "I'll stay here and catch the judge as he returns."

It was nearly one-half an hour later when Ned picked up his ears. The gate latch of the Allen place clicked and some one came out. He recognized the light overcoat the judge wore. As the pedestrian passed him Ned stepped out from cover.

"Just a word, judge," he began—burr!

The wearer of the overcoat shot out his fist, dropped something he was carrying and put down the street on a run.

"Well, this is queer!" commented Ned, staring vaguely after the fugitive. "He dropped a package, I declare!"

Ned stared hard as he opened a pillow case to find it stuffed full of silverware, documents and jewelry. He guessed the riddle speedily—a burglar had looted the Allen home, taking the judge's overcoat as well.

Ned sat down on the front steps to await the return of the Allen. Soon Lella and her father came into view.

"Why, Ned!" exclaimed the daughter.

"That young man!" growled the judge. "You'll find a better password than your last one, if you expect to stay around here."

"Yes, see—this is my password on the present occasion," explained Ned, as he handed over the stolen plunder and explained about it.

The judge was fairly delighted to recover the papers of great value, he declared. Ned took heart.

"Judge Allen," he said manfully, "there's only one password I'll ever use, if you consent to my plea for happiness."

"And what's that?" asked the judge.

"Lella—first, last and all of the time—Lella!"

Authorship's Penalties

The editor sent for a certain author who had submitted an unsolicited manuscript.

"I am glad to make your acquaintance, sir," said the editor, enthusiastically. "The story you sent us is splendid. But why use a noun de plume? Let us publish it over your name and it will make you famous."

"I'm not after fame," objected the author. "It's money I want."

"But you'll get just as much money in either case."

"No, I won't. If I publish it under my own name my wife will get the money."

It Was Patrick Henry

A certain officer was in bad humor. His superior had just "called him" about the condition of his troops. So he tried to pass it on down the line. In a gruff voice he bawled out, "Not a man in this division will be given liberty today."

At that a disguised voice from the rear said, "Give me liberty or give me death!"

"Who said that?" demanded the angry officer.

Voice from the rear: "Patrick Henry!"—Wall Street Journal.

Watch the Back Door

A few days ago a burglar broke into a Kansas grocery store. He found it easy to jimmy that back door, although the front door contained a large expensive burglarproof lock. Many people, says the Progressive Grocer, protect their homes the same way—big strong locks on the front doors—small cheap locks on the back door, so that any bright school child can pick without any difficulty.

Something Big Left Behind

Says the West Point News—"A man who is too big to have his neighbor call him by his first name has already outgrown the best things of life."

Prolific Banana

Bananas are imported chiefly from the West Indies and Central America, although some are produced in Hawaii, California and Florida. The banana is a great perennial herb. It grows from 10 to 30 feet tall and produces a bunch of fruit, after which the stalk dries or becomes weak. In the meantime suckers have arisen from the root stalk to take its place and bear in their turns.

Thought and Action

The greatest events of an age are its best thoughts. It is the nature of thought to find its way into action.—Bovee.

DAIRY FACTS

HOW TO BUILD MILK WELL REFRIGERATOR

While time is slack on the farm, dig a pit for a water heater in the springy spot where water has never yet failed. Scoop it out as deep as your conscience will allow, stone or cement it up, leaving steps if possible whereby one may descend to a reasonable depth if water is low. In any case, when the well is completed, manufacture a ladder as long as the water in the well is deep, and attach to this a rope by which it may be lowered. It sometimes comes in handy unexpectedly.

Next in importance is the curb built over it, with a door with a lock to it. Besides this door have a trapcover, also with lock, to fit over the well inside the curb. These locks are a double precaution to keep out children and thieves.

Inside the curb arrange a pulley, by which the water may be lowered and withdrawn. Let the water be a set of square shelves, somewhat smaller than the well's diameter, held in conjunction by slats attached to the four corners, but all four sides of the shelves left open to the cool influence of the underground refrigerator, or enclosed to prevent articles from being tipped off the shelves into the water, by wire netting.

This well is not used to draw water from, and if articles in the water are in water-tight receptacles, like glass jars or butter crocks, they may be lowered even under water. A leg of mutton, a fowl, or a beef shank, does better, and keeps better, if hung in the air, rather than laid upon a shelf, so a separate rope may be kept for such articles, which may be lowered separately until almost touching the water. Many farms have already such a spring or well, needing only a little work to be fitted with apparatus for a refrigerator welcome to next summer's housewife. This is a job for fall, while the woodwork may be attended to in the workshop this winter.

A can of milk, a bottle of cream, may be lowered under water and kept sweet when the ice is short.

Amount of Concentrates to Feed Producing Cows

A common rule for feeding grain or concentrate mixtures is to give the cows producing a milk relatively rich in butterfat, one pound of the feed for every three pounds of milk produced. To cows producing milk testing low in butterfat, the ratio should be one pound of the grain for every four pounds of milk produced. Where one knows the approximate amount of butterfat produced by a cow each week, it is safer to feed as many pounds of grain daily as the cow produces pounds of butterfat during the week.

A few exceptions should be observed to the above rules. Just before freshening, grain should be fed sparingly for a few days. Also, when the cows have reached a full flow of milk and fall to respond to additional feed, it is wise to reduce the amount to the point where the production of milk can be maintained.

Low Temperature Makes Any Cream Whip Easier

Low temperatures and a high percentage of fat are the chief factors which contribute to the successful whipping of cream, say New York experiment station dairy specialists. Holding cream at low temperatures for several hours will improve the whipping quality of the product, even if the cream is not particularly rich in fat.

Cream containing 30 per cent fat and cooled to 40 or 50 degrees and held for 24 hours is in prime condition for whipping. It is said. Thinner cream will whip well if held at a low temperature sufficiently long. Pasteurization seems to reduce the whipping quality of cream, but cooling and aging will overcome this effect to a large extent.

Dairying Hints

Calves need regular feeding if they are to make regular gains.

Keep the young calves in a well-lighted, clean stall continuously until at least one month old.

Test your milk cows. You may be feeding some fine-looking cows that are not making good at the pail.

It is unlawful to add water to milk after the milk is in the can, but there is no law against supplying clean fresh water to a cow and so increase the quantity of milk she produces.

Clean utensils are essential. Never use rusty pails and scald the utensils after each milking.

Many good milk cows spend the night shivering in the cold after giving a bountiful supply of nice warm milk for the family table.

The average dairy cow of the United States produces 3,412 pounds of milk every year. In Holland the average cow gives 7,553 pounds. In Switzerland she brings 6,950. And in Denmark the yield is 5,966 pounds.

There is only one right way to wash a milk can, pail or other dairy utensil, and that is to rinse first with cold water, then wash thoroughly with scalding hot water and finish by cooling with cold water and setting out in the sun.

In handling test cows a feeder is always careful to have the animals in prime condition before the real work starts. There must be a reserve established before the work starts, to assure a maximum production for a continued period.

STATE NEWS IN BRIEF.

Pendleton.—A reunion with two brothers from whom she had been separated for 40 years, was effected here Friday, when Mrs. Rose Ornduff arrived from Hillsboro and met C. F. Daniel and W. P. Daniel.

Tillamook.—The Coast Power company of this city was host to its executives and employees and their families at its third annual banquet Tuesday in the basement of the Methodist Episcopal church. About 75 were present.

Albany.—Inspection of the country schools of the county has been about half completed, according to reports of the school superintendent, Mrs. Edna Geer. The condition of the schools, as revealed by Mrs. Geer's report, is generally good.

Salem.—The Garibaldi water district has filed with the state engineer application covering the appropriation of water from Struby creek for domestic and industrial supply for the city of Garibaldi. The cost of the development was estimated at \$30,600.

Klamath Falls.—To meet the overhead and interest charges on outstanding bonds and to raise funds for improvement and construction work on the first unit, the Klamath drainage district has made a special levy on property holders within the district of \$13.19187.

Dallas.—The home of Mr. and Mrs. U. S. Loughery, just north of the city limits, was destroyed by fire, with all its contents, at an early hour Friday. Mr. and Mrs. Loughery were absent and were unable to explain the cause of the fire. Some insurance was carried.

Roseburg.—Turkey buyers Saturday procured a carload of birds in the northern half of the county for shipment to New York. Approximately 22,000 pounds of prime birds will be moved in the shipment. The buyers paid 30 cents for tops, 24 cents for seconds and 20 cents for culms.

St. Helens.—The school census for Columbia county shows there are 5581 children of school age residing in the county. This is an increase of 244 over the 1923 census. There are 3099 boys to the 2872 girls. St. Helens district has the largest school population, the census showing 1017.

Klamath Falls.—As a result of the approval by President Coolidge Saturday of the deficiency, the board of directors of the Klamath irrigation district has called a meeting for December 15 to devise ways and means for the relief of farms on the Klamath project, it was announced this evening.

Bend.—A contract for 10,000 wool fleeces in 1925 at 42 cents a pound was signed Friday by a group of local sheepmen with a Portland wool buyer. Forty-two cents was paid by local woolmen to be the best price ever paid for Oregon wool. It is unusual for contracts to be made so far in advance.

Salem.—In accordance with a legal opinion handed down by the attorney-general a few days ago, the state tax commission announced Friday that the collection of the state income tax for 1924, based on incomes for 1923, would proceed as if the law had not been repealed at the general election last month.

Scotts Mills.—At a community meeting held here Saturday largely attended by citizens of Salem, Silverton, Mount Angel, Willhoit, Scotts Mills and vicinity, it was the unanimous opinion that Scotts Mills needs a railroad and has the natural resources tributary to it to guarantee a large tonnage.

Salem.—There were three fatalities due to industrial accidents in Oregon during the last week, according to a report prepared Friday by the state industrial accident commission. The victims were Clarence Ingalls, Birkenfield, logger; James Holobow, Oregon City, laborer; and Morrill Lofton, Glenwood, loader.

Salem.—The per capita cost for housing and caring for prisoners in the Oregon state penitentiary has decreased \$10.50 during the present biennium, as compared with the cost for the biennium of 1921-22, according to a report filed with the state board of control by A. M. Dalrymple, warden of the institution.

Tillamook.—"Evangeline," pure-bred Jersey, owned by Louie Weber, claims high place among pure-bred cows in the county's three testing associations for the October tests, with a production for the month of 1584 pounds of milk and 80.78 pounds of butterfat.

"Daisy," grade Guernsey, owned by Dave Fitzpatrick, tops the list of pure-bred and grade cows in the three testing associations, with a production of 1172 pounds of milk and 85.79 pounds of fat.

Salem.—Oregon receives the lowest rate of interest of any state, with the exception of Delaware, Georgia and West Virginia, on its deposits of public funds in inactive accounts, according to a statement issued by Jefferson Myers, state treasurer. The state treasurer's statement shows that Oregon, West Virginia and Georgia receive 2 per cent interest on deposits in inactive accounts, while Missouri, California and Ohio, which demand bids for public funds, receive a much higher rate of interest.

Mrs. Fred Dewitz



If You're a Young Woman or Even in Middle Life Here is Some Good Advice For You

Salem, Ore.—While bringing up my family I depended upon Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription to keep up my strength. It was especially beneficial to me during the trying months of expectancy, relieving me of nausea and quieting to my nerves, and I do believe that I would not have come thru the critical time of life so easily and comfortably as I did had it not been for Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription. I have given the "Prescription" to my daughters also when they had need of a special tonic and nerve and they have always been benefited and strengthened by its use. Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription is truly a woman's medicine that I take pleasure in recommending.—Mrs. Fred Dewitz, 625 N. Capitol St. Send 10c to Dr. Pierce's Invalids' Hotel in Buffalo, N. Y., for trial pkg. Write for free advice.

Thrill of Time. Gladstone, when prime minister of England, remarked: "Believe me when I tell you that the thrill of time will repay you in after life with a usury of profit beyond your most sanguine dreams, and that the waste of it will make you dwindle, alike in intellectual and in moral stature, beyond your darkest reckoning."—Time.

Origin of Americans. The habit of calling inhabitants of this country Americans probably arose from the fact that any other distinctive title is awkward. Canada lends itself easily to the forming of the noun Canadians, Mexico to Mexicans. Citizens of the United States of America are most conveniently designated as Americans.

The Greatest Power. You can't accomplish what you can't imagine. The minute you say to yourself, "Oh, that isn't possible," it isn't possible to you. But some other fellow who, with his mind's eye, sees the thing finished, will come along and do it. Creative thought is the greatest power in the world.

The Work Habit. There are three habits which, but one condition be added, will give you everything in the world worth having, and beyond which the imagination of man cannot conjure forth a single addition or improvement. The habits are the work habit, the health habit and the study habit.—Elbert Hubbard.

Castles. I find the gayest castles in the air that ever were piled far better for comfort and for use than the dungeons in the air that are daily dug and caverned out by grumbling, discontented people. A man should make life and nature happier to us, or be had better never been born.—Emerson.

Like Spoiled Children. When we humor our weaknesses they force themselves continually upon our attention like spoiled children. When we assert our mastery of ourselves and compel its recognition, we stand secure in our sovereign rights.—Charles B. Newcomb.

Retreat of Napoleon. On the retreat from Moscow, Napoleon traveled from near Vilna to Paris in 312 hours, a journey of about 1,400 miles. This was an average of almost five miles an hour, and was remarkable, considering conditions of roads and weather.

Hatred Is Like a Gun. Hatred is like a gun with the end of the barrel plugged up. Its recoil is more harmful than its shot.

Origin of Name Calvary. The name Calvary is derived from "Calvaria," which is the Latin equivalent for Golgotha, meaning a bare skull. The name was given to a rock or prominence shaped to give the semblance of a skull.

Another Blessing. There is this to be said for burial in the potters field—no one 3,000 years from now will disturb the peace of the grave.—New York Tribune.

To Save Paint Brushes. It is advisable never to put a brush away, even overnight, full of paint. A brush should always be cleaned of all surplus paint after use or its chisel edge will be damaged.—Popular Science Monthly.

Stray Bits of Wisdom. Sweet is true love, though given in vain, and sweet is death that puts an end to pain.—Tennyson.

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P. N. U. No. 50, 1924

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Dahlia Temple No. 202, I. B. P. O. E. of W., of Portland, Oregon, meets the 1st and 3rd Tuesday nights in each month at Stag Auditorium. All visiting Daughters Elks in good standing in their respective Temples are invited to meet with us.

LOUISE THOMAS, Daughter Ruler.
BEATRICE H. CANNADY, Daughter Secretary.

Syracuse Lodge, No. 1, K. of P., meets the second and fourth Friday nights each month at the Stag Auditorium 381½ E. Morrison St.

W. C. HOLLIDAY, C. C., 108 N. 6th St.
BOYCE STRAIN, K. of R. & S., 223 Mead St.

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