

BILLY WHISKERS

By FRANCES MONTGOMERY

Billy ran away from his captors when their auto went into the ditch. He crawled under a fence and came out on a bank near a stream.

"I must swim that stream or my pursuers will follow my tracks and catch me. Gracious! I do wish that old stake would come untied."

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and drop off. It hinders my progress so. But once in the stream I will swim it as long as I can, for there will be no bushes, trees or stones for it to catch on."

In the water he plunged, but what was the matter with this quiet-looking deep water? He could make no progress against some force that pulled his legs together and made it impossible for him to move them. And what was more, he found himself being carried swiftly along downstream.

"Oh, I know what is the matter now. I have jumped in a mill race, and the miller has just opened his gates to let the water out, and I am caught in it at the critical moment. Well, I can float if I can't swim, and that will be an easy way to be carried away from my pursuers. I'll just keep my head above water and let the stream carry me where it will until it has lost force and momentum. Then I can swim ashore and proceed on my journey unmolested, for whoever is after me will never think to follow this stream."

Hunt
Billy was right, for when he was missed and they all started in different directions to look for him, the one who tracked him to the stream went back and reported that he had followed him to the stream, where his tracks disappeared in the water, but Billy could not get across unless he went to a bridge a mile or so upstream, as the water was very deep.

"Drat that old goat!" exclaimed Mr. Dates. "I could choke him! First we have him and then we don't. He is certainly worse than a basket of eels to hold on to."

"How about the reward?" asked Mr. Dates suddenly.

"Well," replied Mr. Strobel, "the advertisement still holds good and goes on in the papers, but the farmer's son won't get it unless he finds Billy again for us."

After floating downstream with the current for twenty minutes, Billy came out of the water on a nice green meadow. He stopped to eat a good dinner and then, seeing two old cows in the same meadow, went over to talk to them.

"Good day!" greeted Billy.

"Oh, mercy, how you startled me!" said one cow. "I never heard you coming."

"How did you get here? And where do you come from?" asked the other.

She Objects
"Not so fast, Dame Crumple Horn!" said Billy.

"Don't call me Crumple Horn. That is not my name and I don't like it, anyway."

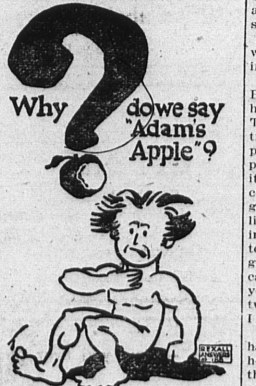
"Pray, then, if you will favor me with your name I shall be only too glad to address you by it."

"My, isn't he the polite one!" said the other cow, in a sarcastic tone. "What might your name be?"

"Oh, my name is just plain Billy Whiskers. Ever heard of me?"

"Well, I should say we have!" spoke up the first cow. "My sister

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lives on the very farm where you were born, and where your wife and children live now."

"You don't mean it!" exclaimed Billy, all excitement. "When did you hear from them last?"

"Only last week, when a carrier pigeon stopped here in the meadow for a drink and to eat a few seeds on her way back to the old farm up in Wisconsin. She had been sent with a message clear through to Philadelphia, and was returning when she stopped."

"But what did she say about the people on the farm? I am all impatient to hear."

"Well, for one thing, she said that your grandchildren, the twins, were just as mischievous as you were at their age, but that they were growing fast and bid fair to be as good-looking as their grandfather."

Billy, swelled up with pride at this flattery.

"She also said," continued the cow, "that your little wife Nannie was anxiously awaiting your return, and that she expected to see you soon, though she had not heard directly from you for some time, although she had sent several messages to you by different birds, dogs and horses, but they all reported they had heard no word whatever about you on any road they had traveled."

"I know why," said Billy. "It is because I have been kept shut up in a studio doing movie stunts. But I am out now, and your conversation has made me homesick to see my wife, children and grandchildren, so I am going to start this very day if you will be so kind as to tell me in what part of the country I am now."

"You are about twenty miles from Chicago in a line directly west of it."

"That is you so much? Then all I shall have to do will be to travel in a straight line to the northwest until I come to the Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad, and then follow it until I get to within six miles this side of Fond du Lac, then leave the track and go for half a mile east, and I will be on the dear old farm. As I am feeling fine after my bath, and the wound in my leg is all right now (for I see the bandage has come off while I was in the water), I think I shall wish you both a pleasant day and say good-bye."

An Invitation
"Won't you stay and let us eat some fresh meadow mint together?" asked the cow. "If you do and then take a drink of water it will make your mouth feel nice and fresh and cool. We love it after eating dusty dry grass."

"Thank you, but I had some just before I spoke to you. And I find it, as you say, most refreshing. Ta-ta to you!" and with a frisk of his tail Billy was gone.

"My, what a fine, good-looking goat he is, to be sure!" said one old cow.

"Yes! But not to be trusted," replied the other. "He would just as soon jump a fence and run away from his master as he would to chew his cud. There is no knowing what those good-looking, lovely people and goats will do when things get monotonous for them."

And the old cows went on eating their meadow mint and walking to the stream to let the water run through their mouths to cool them, while Billy made straight lines toward the northwest, turning neither to the right nor left for roads to follow, but jumping fences (now his leg was all right), swimming rivers and creeks, climbing hills, penetrating thick woods, cutting across people's gardens and farmyards, letting absolutely nothing stand in his way but a house or a barn. These he would run around and come back to his straight line, keeping it as before.

He had started for home and he was going to get there in a jiffy if fast traveling would do it.

The next day was Sunday, though Billy did not know it until he heard the church bells ringing. Then he noted that all the autos, trucks and grocery wagons that passed him were filled with picnic parties, which was a sure sign that it was Sunday. Everybody that could get out into the country was going for a picnic. But Billy paid little attention to them, as he was in a hurry to get home. Along toward noon, however, he began to grow hungry, and a merry twinkle came to his eye. Now wouldn't you like to know what caused that twinkle? You will never guess, so I will tell you. It was this:

Billy knew all these picnic people had good luncheons with them, so he decided to watch for a party that looked as if they had a big one. He also wanted a party which had selected a nice place in some woods where he would have a chance to hide and sneak up when they were not looking and rummage in their lunch baskets.

Billy kept on trotting down the road and passed several parties, but either they looked as if their lunch was made up principally of pickles and cake, as the party was composed of young people, or else they had selected a spot too near the road and in too open a place for Billy to have a chance to steal their luncheon without being seen. At last, however, he spied an ideal spot for a picnic on a little knoll covered with tall trees, back of which were some thick hazel bushes, and at one side there gurgled a little stream of clear water, where the picnickers could get clear, cool water to drink.

[I am afraid the picnickers would not think Billy a very welcome guest at their picnic. What do you think about it?]

SAFE
Two Scots were playing a match at golf and were getting over the course slowly. At length one said: "Man Sandy, do ye no think we might speed up a wee bit? The two players behind us will be gettin' exasperated and drivin' intae us."

"Nae fear o' that," chuckled Sandy; "one o' them is owin' ten shillins."

Ruffles, Roses Are Trimming Of Dance Frocks



By MME. LISBETH
Chiffon dance frocks, especially for the young girls, have been popular since chiffon was invented. I presume, it is a soft, dainty fabric, cleans well, and has good wearing qualities. All qualities which recommend it to the woman who has to be careful of her dress expenditures.

Pictured is a particularly attractive frock with the plain, straight bodice and ruffled skirt that seem to be the best liked of all the season's offerings for youthful dance frocks. It is developed in old blue chiffon and features the French color combination of blue and pink, as the large flower forming a corsage and the smaller ones trimming the numerous ruffles of which the skirt is composed are deep pink roses. They are fashioned of lace and ribbon, and add to the youthful charm of the frock.

Chiffon is sometimes used in combination with taffeta in the building of dance frocks. In that case, of course, the taffeta is used as a foundation with the ruffles of chiffon superimposed on the silk. The stiffness of the silk and the fullness of the skirt give a crinolene effect that is very quaint. Flowers, either of velvet applied on, or in clusters of single flowers sewn loosely, are much used to trim these frocks.

OUCH
Although he was a particularly long-suffering parent, there were times when his nerves gave away under the fire of the innumerable questions of his small son.

One evening as he was settling down to a quiet perusal of his paper a small voice piped: "Dad, am I made of dust?"

"I think not," was the weary reply, "otherwise you would dry up now and again."

TWO MILLIONAIRES' SONS GO TO WORK AS CLERKS IN STORE



Two heirs to millions, Charles H. Sabia, Jr. (above), son of the New York banker, and Raymond Mellon (below), son of Charles S. Mellon, former president of the New York, New Haven and Hartford Ry., are now carrying their living as clerks in a department store in Albany, N. Y.

HOW'S YOUR HEALTH?

By Dr. W. F. Thompson

"It takes meat, milk and eggs," said old Doctor Wilde, "To fatten the legs Of an underweight child."

Vaccination beats fumigation. Ask the blessing — pass the dressing.

Drinking maketh a full man; eating, a heavy one.

The sum total of individual health is public health.

Go west for your trouble— Go west, if you must; But you'll need something more Than alkali dust.

For fat folks, the best part of the doughnut is the hole.

Man's funny: He hunts duck to get thin, then eats the duck.

Well, anyway, we can now swap the apple sauce for cranberry sauce.

Though we're thankful that we're living, And so express it on Thanksgiving, There follows then that burning question: What is good for indigestion?

We're progressing: Marital differences are now settled automatically.

If you are too poor to afford a big Thanksgiving dinner, be thankful for that.

Someone has figured out that a high school education is worth thirty-three thousand dollars, a college education, seventy-two thousand.

Cover not thy form with flannel, With thine office piping hot; Wearing cotton all you can'll Promote comfort, like as not.

In the overheated home or office, the flushed face, dry nostrils and a sense of chilliness means that the heat is too high, moisture too low.

When we understand that the only way to destroy germs in the nose and mouth is to destroy the nose and mouth, we will understand that germicidal sprays and mouth-washes are useless.

TOO MUCH

"How's your baby getting on?" asked Green. "Can he talk yet?" "No, he's only beginning to," replied Black.

"He's a bit backward, surely," said Green. "He's older than ours and ours can talk splendidly."

"Well, ours can walk across the room without being held," countered the other.

"My dear chap, ours toddles down the street to meet me every evening. How about your baby's teeth?"

"Well, he's got a few." "Ours has got them all but three and he's—"

Here he was interrupted by the exasperated Black. "I say," he exclaimed, "does yours use a safety razor or an ordinary one?"

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