

ECHOES

By Claude G. Miller
Comments and Slams
Made in Fun

When Benjamin Franklin was about ten he went to school and in his time the teacher always looked at their hands to see if they were clean. One day Benjamin, who had been playing marbles, noticed that it was almost school time, so he hurried off to school. When he was almost to the building he noticed that his hands were extremely dirty, so he began to lick the dirt off one of them.

Something happened before he got the other one licked so that he had to go inside the school. So holding his dirtiest hand behind him, he marched up before the teacher.

"Benjamin," his teacher said as he examined his hands, "If you can find a dirtier hand in the school, I'll let you off, today."

Benjamin immediately drew out his other hand, "Here it is," he said. Benjamin got off.

Mr. Decker (reprovingly) When I was your age, I had the reputation of being the brightest student in school.

Son, John Decker—Gee, Pop, I'll bet you had a lot of fights.

Say fellows, did you ever try this one when mother smells smoke on your clothes: "Oh, no, mamm, but some of the other fellows were smoking and I guess I got some of their smoke in my clothes."

Mr. Brammer of the Y says that nothing is going on up at the Y—and just then Kenneth Whitmoe went by.

Of course, fellows don't forget to read Mr. Brammer's essay on Boy Scouts in this issue, then maybe you won't call the Boy Scouts Camp Fire Girls.

And too, the swimming hole is getting thawed out—I suppose it will be full of fellows in a week or two.

Let's join the bell-hops and run.

HOW POOR JUMBO
FOUND A HOME

One beautiful spring afternoon in Chicago, a little girl whose name was Mariam Willard was taking a stroll in a shady park near her home. Mariam's parents were very wealthy and they were very proud of their only child, Mariam.

As Mariam was gazing with admiration at the beautiful flowers



in the park, along came a cross looking man called "Ginger" with a hand-organ and monkey. The little monkey was named Jumbo, and he had to dance and dance all day long. When he was so very tired that he could not dance any longer, his master would jerk the robe and make him get the money from the people who had watched him. As he held the cup toward Mariam, Jumbo looked right at her with his great wistful eyes and the little girl's heart was so filled with sympathy for the little monkey, Jumbo that she ran all the way home and told her mother and father the pitiful little story about Jumbo; and she said she wished that she could buy Jumbo from that cross old man, so that she could make him have a good time and keep him for a pet. Her father found it hard to refuse his daughter anything and so he gave her the money with which to buy Jumbo.

The next day Mariam watched for Ginger to come up the street

with Jumbo and his hand-organ. After what seemed years of waiting, she saw him coming, and hurried out to buy what seemed already her pet Jumbo. Ginger agreed to sell Jumbo so the bargain was soon closed and Mariam had Jumbo all for her own.

We may be quite sure that Jumbo was well taken care of by his new mistress, and he and Mariam had many a good romp together in the park.—By Irene Austin, Whitewater, Ind.

THE TWINS' CHRISTMAS

That night Mary and Harry went to bed early. While they slept something surprising was going on.

Mrs. Hulp took the letter to Santa Claus, you remember. "Pretty good letter," said Santa. It may be difficult to find this gift. "I think I can help you in that matter," said Mrs. Hulp. "How?" asked Santa. "By giving these children a home," she promptly replied. "Good, I think you will make a good parent." "I'd better be moving on then," she said. Good-night. Good-night.

From Santa's shop to the orphan's home, Mrs. Hulp went. She talked with the matron for quite a while. Then the matron put on her hat and coat. From the orphan's home to Mrs. Hulp's home they went. Mrs. Hulp got her husband to get the automobile. Then all three got in and Mr. Hulp drove them back to the orphan's home. They got out and went to Mary and Harry's room. Mr. Hulp picked up Harry and Mrs. Hulp picked up Mary and they carried them down into the street and put them in the auto. Then he drove them back home. Mrs. Hulp put them in separate rooms in little white beds. They did not awake.

Christmas morning dawned bright and cheery. The snow glistened like diamonds. Mary was first to wake. Just then a maid with a nice white apron appeared. "Good morning, dear," she said. Are you ready to get up?" "Yes, ma'am. Whose house is this?" she asked. "Mrs. Hulp's, dear." "Am I to live here?" she next asked. "Yes, dear." Oh! is all she said. So Mary got up. The maid helped her dress.

Harry was up also. He was as surprised as Mary. He had a maid to help him dress too. His maid's name was Stella. Mary's maid's name was Susie. They both were kind to the twins. Mary and Harry had many new clothes.

Mary and Harry went downstairs together. "Just think we are really adopted," said Mary. "Let us show father and mother how we appreciate this home." "How?" asked Harry. "By calling them father and mother, and after breakfast we will sing a "Christmas" song. "All right," said Harry. Just then the door opened and in stepped Mr. and Mrs. Hulp. "Good-morning children," they said. "Good-morning mother. Good-morning father, they said. "Sit down to breakfast and eat your fill," said father. The children obeyed. Hardly anything was said while they ate. After breakfast Mary spoke. "Father and mother, Harry and I have a little Christmas song we would like to sing to show how much we appreciate our home." "We will be glad to hear you," said their new mother.

Then they sang. After that father said, "Children, come and see what Santa brought you." The children followed him into the parlor. There was a Christmas tree and many toys. There were skates, balls, sleds, candy, nuts, a doll for Mary, a tricycle for Mary and one for Harry and there were many other toys. Besides toys there were clothes for them. Father and mother gave them each a box of candy. "Now come with me to the stable," said father. They did so. Out in the stable was a pony and cart. On the cart was a little card with writing on which said: From Father and Mother. Mary read this and both of the children jumped up and down for joy. "Oh thank you, thank you," they said. The pony was brown and white. "Let's name him Nixie," said Harry. "All right," said Mary. "Father," said Mary. "Father," said Mary, "tell us how you brought us here last night." "Yea, do" said Harry. So father sat down and told them. "Well, this is the happiest Christmas I ever had," Mary said. "Me, too," said Harry.—(The End.)—By Julia Sur.

The shortest verse in the Bible is John 2:35, "Jesus wept."—Contributed by Paul E. Monroe, Vale School.

THE RUSSIAN SENTRY



One of the army of troops that are used for guard duty photographed in full dress uniform. A force of these men are guarding the palace which holds the former Czar and Czarina prisoners.

Escaping from a Mad Bull

One evening as I was going home from school on horseback I had to pass through a field in which a large red bull was being kept. He had never bothered me on any of my trips, until on this memorable evening on which my story is centered.

Some hunters had passed through the field about an hour before and by their teasing the bull had been made angry. When he saw me riding through the field he determined to take his revenge out on me. The bull came at us roaring and beating like a whirlwind. My horse became frightened and I was thrown off its back onto the ground with the bull charging down towards me.

The first thing I saw was a tree and I took advantage of it. Soon I was perched on a limb about twenty feet from the ground. In my solitude I remembered that I had a rope in my pocket. I made a slip noose on one end of the rope and threw it over the bull's head just as he was making an attempt to knock the tree down with his head. I drew the rope up tight and tied it around the limb. Mr. Bull rushed back to make an

other rush at the tree but the rope did its duty. The rope strangled him and he fell helpless to the ground. I untied my rope and descended to the ground. Seeing the bull was not in a dangerous condition I tied the rope around the trunk of the tree near the ground and scampered off to where my horse was. On returning home I passed the house of Mr. Jones who owned the bull and told him where he would find his ferocious animal. But I did not care to go back and renew his acquaintance, myself.—From Whitewater School.

NIG AND THE MICE

Nig is my old black cat. There were some mice in the house. Nig caught them all. Oh, I am not telling you where I got it. Well, a friend of mine in the country gave her to us. She caught a mouse in papa's drawer. There are many mice in the stable back of us. She catches many of those mice. When she wants something she stands on her hind legs and begs like a little dog. One day she thought she would dine on the canary. Papa punished her and she has never done it since.—Charlotte Spalding, 4A Grade.

HOW EVERETT AND JUNE MADE FRIENDS WITH THE ELVES

Once upon a time there was a little girl and her brother, living together. The little boy whose name was Everett, worked at farmer Brown's, who was their neighbor. The little girl whose name was June, stayed at home and did up the house work.

Everett did not work very much. They were rich and did not have to work unless they pleased.

One day June thought that she would take a walk. She told Everett to stay at home and keep house. Everett did as he was told, and June started out early in the morning about 8 o'clock.

She walked along till she came to a little house, she went in but there was nobody at home. She laid down on a couch and after awhile she fell asleep.

The owners of this house were two little elves. Their names were Robert and Ralph; pretty soon Ralph came in to get their dinner. He began to get dinner in a few minutes dinner was ready. He called Robert, he came in and they ate dinner. After dinner they washed up the dishes, Robert washed them and Ralph wiped them, soon the dishes were washed and wiped.

They went in the room where June was, to rest awhile; Ralph went in the door first, he saw June and told Robert about her. Robert said: "Let's kill her," Ralph said: "No, we will not kill her, she is too pretty to kill; let's wake her and tell her she has to get us twelve diamonds and bring them here before tomorrow night, or we will kill her."

So they went in and awakened her and said: "What is your name?" June said, frightened. "My name is June." Very well said the elves, but why did you come in our house? "I—I came—came in and I—I didn't see anyone, so I lay down to rest awhile, I had been walking for a good bit," said June.

"Well," said Robert, you have to bring us twelve diamonds by tomorrow night or we will kill you." Alright, said June, and she started off for home.

When she got home she told Everett all about it. He said: "How can we ever get twelve diamonds, we haven't enough money."

"I'll ask farmer Brown about it," said June. So she trotted off over to farmer Brown's.

Farmer Brown said he thought that there was a fairy that lived nearby, but he did not know just where. And he said he thought that she could give her a little advice.

June went back home and told Everett, he said that she had better go hunt for her. So the next morning June started out at 6 o'clock in the morning. She came to a little house and knocked at the door, some one came to the door and said: "Who is here?"

"It is me," said June. She looked and there was an old man, so she ran on farther till she came to a big tree and out jumped a fairy. June said: "Do you know where I can get twelve diamonds?" The Fairy said: "What do you want them for?" June told her about what had happened and the fairy said, "Well there is a bird's nest up on that hill and there are twelve diamonds in it but you will have to get the diamonds when this bird is off the nest." June thanked the fairy and went up on the hill and as it happened the bird was off and was nowhere to be seen.

So she crept up and got the twelve diamonds and ran home as fast as she could, she was so happy she could hardly wait to tell Everett.

When she got home she went to show Everett the diamonds but there was only eleven so she went back to hunt the other one, she had dropped by the side of the tree that the fairy came out of.

When she got there she found it and went home again, but she did not run this time. When she got home it was just 12 o'clock and Everett had dinner ready, she ate dinner and then she got the twelve diamonds and took them to the elves.

They had been watching her all the time and saw how hard she had worked to get the diamonds, so they asked her and Everett to come and live with them, so they did and rented the little house. June and Everett lived in and lived happily with the elves ever after.—Bernice June Meyers, 5th grade, Jackson's Hill School, age 10 years.

Forks were first used in 1220.