



YOUNG FOLKS



Fun of All Kinds
Puzzles—Stories—
Things to Do—Pen Pals

Almanacs Were Chief Weather Forecasters

Long before there was any United States Weather Bureau or weather service of any kind, Americans turned to their almanacs to find out what the weather would be—the next day, six months, or even a year ahead.

Since the beginning of mankind almanacs of some kind have had a place in the lives of people. The pyramids of Egypt were used to observe the planets and try to determine the proper time for planting. And after that came farmers' almanac tablets. Much smaller, they were still heavy enough to test the strength of an ox to move. Then in 703 A. D. came a planting almanac in the form of a four-sided stick with symbols on it. When held to the sun, it was supposed to be pretty accurate; cloudy days it was no good at all.

The first printed almanac appeared with the first printing press. And one printed in Nuremberg in 1472 is said to have been useful to Columbus in his discovery of the new world.

Printed almanacs soon began to carry such items as astrology, quack medicines, proverbs of so-called wisdom and the like. In 1570, a law was passed in Prussia which decreed that they were permitted to "tell more lies than truth." But even then the almanac people had their troubles. Two were hanged on suspicion that they started the Great London Fire of 1666 to make their predictions come true. And one had to quit because Jonathan Swift started the rumor, which quickly grew, that to really tell the weather, one should expect the exact opposite of what his almanac said it would be.

The oldest known almanac printed in English is dated 1495. Exactly 144 years later the first American almanac came off the printing press in

Cambridge, Mass. This was in 1639. Since that date, the almanac has been a part of the American scene. The Old Farmer's Almanac, which first appeared in 1793, is still being printed today. 167 years later. Others did not last as long.

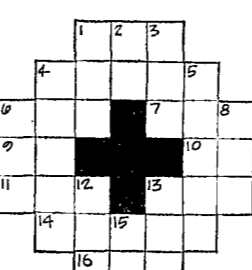
One of the most famous was the one brought out in the early part of the eighteenth century by Benjamin Franklin. Using the pen name Richard Saunders, he called it Poor Richard's Almanac. Today copies of Poor Richard's sell for as high as \$500, are eagerly sought and highly prized. Through the years, almanacs have treated about every subject of interest to the people: weather, seasons, health, religion, food, education, finances, crops, birds, farm animals, taxes, reading, entertainment, and dozens of others. But the gems of wisdom of Poor Richard's Almanac such as "Early to bed and early to rise, makes a man healthy, wealthy and wise" remain among the most popular of all.

—M. S. Shelton

Puzzle Pete's COLUMN

On Variety Lane:

CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 1 Cabin
- 4 Musical qualities
- 6 Harder
- 7 Article
- 9 Not "down"
- 10 Half an em
- 11 Writing tool
- 13 Aged
- 14 Artist's frame
- 16 Golf term

DOWN

- 1 Land parcel
- 2 Upon
- 3 Obtain
- 4 Indian tent
- 5 Nut's home
- 6 Dine
- 8 Conclusion
- 12 Short sleep
- 13 Above (poet.)
- 15 South America (ab.)

TRUE OR FALSE

Puzzle Pete wonders if you can tell which (if any) of these sentences are true or false?

- Nevada is a Southern state.
- A ton of coal is heavier than a ton of feathers.
- Only four of the months of the year have 30 days each.



PLAYED BY EAR

Each of Puzzle Pete's words ends with an EAR. Can you complete the words correctly from the clues?

- EAR (bright)
- EAR (to fleece)
- EAR (bedaub)
- EAR (weapon)
- EAR (seem)
- EAR (make beloved)

TRIANGLE

Puzzle Pete has based his word triangle on PARADES and wonders if you can outfit him from these clues: The second word is an abbreviation for "South America"; third "an Indian weight"; fourth "a heating device"; fifth "avail" and sixth "a legislative body."

- P
- A
- R
- A
- D
- E

PARADES

Collection of Plants and Flowers Will Never Fade—It's of Glass

In a museum at Harvard University in Cambridge, Mass., there are models of flowers and plants that look so real that you even imagine you can smell them. The fruit makes you hungry. These models are made of colored glass by a special process. Leopold Blaschka, the son of a glass worker in Bohemia, was thrilled by some rare sea creatures that he saw while traveling on a steamship to America. Back home in his father's shop he made glass models of them. Soon he was making and selling to museums his models of delicate sea life that could not be kept alive and preserved in any way.

In 1886 Professor George L.

Goodale of the Harvard Botanical Museum saw some of Mr. Blaschka's models of fish, which by then he was selling to museums all over the world, and asked him to try making models of plants and flowers. This unusual collection with thousands of models showing 164 families of plants was sponsored by Mrs. Elizabeth C. Ware and her daughter, Mary, and given to the Harvard Museum as a memorial to Dr. Charles Eliot Ware. The artistic work of making these unique flowers took the full time of Leopold Blaschka and later his son, Rudolph, for 49 years until the son died at the age of 82 in 1939. The model you see first as you walk into the door is a

honeybee about six inches long taking nectar out of a giant flower. But most of the models are life size. They show interesting facts of plant life. For instance, they show different kinds of pitcher plants trapping flies and other insects. Some show the clever ways flowers have of brushing their pollen onto bees while they sip nectar. One shows how the tumbleweed curls its stalks up into a ball that the wind rolls across the desert and scatters its seeds.

One part of the display has models as they look under a microscope. A bristling yellow ball about the size of a golf ball is a grain of pollen magnified 2,000 times! The microscope brings out strange

facts. A plant that eats insects catches them on its leaves with tiny hooks that entangle their feet. People used to believe the fig tree had no blossoms but here the microscope shows tiny white blossoms hidden in the crochets of the branches!

One highly magnified model shows the important life process called photosynthesis that makes green leaves, with the help of sunlight, turn soil into food.

These models look much more real and beautiful than ordinary artificial flowers because they are exact copies of real flowers. The Blaschkas invented clever ways to make colored glass lovely, glossy and frosty like leaves and petals. That is why the flowers look so dewy fresh and the fruit so tempting.

The Blaschkas had a large garden beside their studio near Dresden, Germany, where they raised flowers to copy. They were allowed to pick flowers in the royal gardens and in botanical gardens where many kinds of flowers were grown. The son, Rudolph, came to the United States twice to collect wild flowers which he sketched or preserved in alcohol.

This popular exhibit attracts more than 200,000 visitors each year. It is of special interest to students of botany. This is the only place in the world where they can see samples of every family of plants in bud, blossom and fruit.

—Sylvia E. Clark



Harvard's famous glass plants look almost real enough to smell.

MOVIE MADNESS--



"Mrs. Washington, the 'Cherry Tree Chopper' has struck again—I don't think we'll ever capture him!"

Captain Hal Lists Only Interesting Pen Pals

WANT PEN PALS? Print your name, address and age send to Captain Hal, care of this newspaper. These readers want letters from you. All you have to do is write them.

- Elizabeth Hemker, RD No. 3, Box 212, Wadsworth, Ohio. Age 12.
- Sandra Bryant, 522 Lynn Dr., Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio. Age 9½.
- Loretta Koch, 4826 Marion Circle, Corpus Christi, Tex. Age 11.
- Bruce Bursey, 40 Jasper St., Saugus, Mass. Age 10.
- Karin Bursey, 40 Jasper St., Saugus, Mass. Age 7.
- Eloise Makuley, 6541 Glenwillow Dr., North Royalton 33, Ohio. Age 11.

- Grace Berrube, 365 Main St., Lewiston, Maine. Age 13.
- Grace Hinojosa, Box 695, Hebronville, Tex. Age 13.
- Sherry Ladnier, 701 Dunnan St., Pascagoula, Miss. Age 14.
- Phyllis Palumbo, 33 Westford St., Saugus, Mass. Age 11½.
- Maxy Anderson, Box 337, R.D. 1/3 Saugertus, N. Y. Age 14.
- Carolyn Nan Wiley, Box 234, Loxley, Ala. Age 13.
- Toby D. Ellison, 679 Upson St., Akron 5, Ohio. Age 12.
- Diana Hindman, 103 Bass Bary Dr., Chippewa Lake, Ohio. Age 9.
- Tyra Hutchison, R.D. No. 1, Shreve, Ohio. Age 11½.
- Tammie Farmer, 87 South Main St., West Salem, Ohio. Age 10.

- Jack Fortune, 9221 Albion Rd., North Royalton 33, Ohio. Age 11.
- Thomas Phillips, 8077 Albion Rd., North Royalton 33, Ohio. Age 10.
- Irene Djordjevic, 7126 Albion Rd., North Royalton 33, Ohio. Age 11.
- Gary Stribicki, 9945 Ridge Rd., North Royalton 33, Ohio. Age 10.
- Beatrice Arispe, 1806 Sherman St., Corpus Christi, Tex. Age 12.
- Marian Johnson, 618 Cliffside Dr., Akron, Ohio. Age 10.
- Barbara O'Dell, 252 Newton St., Akron, Ohio. Age 11.
- Linda Perry, 19 Ashland Rd., Malden, Mass. Age 12.
- Sandra Campbell, 812 Kipling, Akron 11, Ohio. Age 12.

Short Story From Real Life--

Cowboy Solves Mystery of Missing Freight Car

Who would think anything as big as a freight car could get lost? But it did. Stranger still, it was a cowboy in search of a lost steer who found it.

Newspapers played up the mystery on their front pages not so many years ago. No wonder, for it isn't every day that a freight car disappears as completely as if it had vanished into thin air—right on the main line of the Union Pacific.

For more than a year, officials of the railroad were at their wits' ends to know what could have become of it. The car had been loaded with \$50,000 of silks at San Francisco, and it was in the middle of a train known as a "silk special."

At Green River, Wyo., the train, consisting of 16 cars, was carefully checked and inspected. Numbers were taken, seals were examined, and all customary precautions observed.

Then came the long run through the Bitter Creek country, across the Red Desert and over the mountains to Laramie.

There, another inspection was made. The train was late and the conductor was impatient, but the inspector could not make the freight cars in the train agree with the way-bills.

He found only 15 cars, whereas 16 were called for. Making a careful examination, he discovered that No. 907 was missing. When none of the train crew could account for it, at last the train was allowed to proceed. Meantime, the telegraph wires hummed with the car's



One day a cowboy suddenly came upon a freight car in a lonely gulch.

strange disappearance. All stations were contacted, but no agent had seen or heard anything of the missing car. The man at Green River was sure that No. 907 had left that point all right.

Days, weeks and months passed, and the mystery remained unsolved. Then one day a cowboy, riding across

the Red Desert in search of a straying steer, suddenly came upon a freight car in a lonely gulch. It was miles from any station.

At first the cowboy felt like rubbing his eyes, but he had made no mistake. It was a real railroad car, intact and with its seals unbroken. He took the car's number and then he rode to the nearest railway telegraph station.

The operator did not seem interested until he mentioned the car's number—907. The agent rushed to his telegraph key to call Laramie.

The amazing news sped to the Union Pacific head office at Omaha. Soon a wrecking train was on its way to the

Red Desert. The lost car was raised from the gulch and put upon the track. An examination of its contents showed that the merchandise had suffered no damage.

How did the missing car get into the gulch? The mystery was not solved until all the evidence was placed together. The train hands remembered that in the run down the mountains the train had broken apart.

This had happened before on long grades, and the crew did as they had always done when such a thing occurred. The men on the detached cars tended the brakes, and after the train had rounded many sharp curves, they finally managed to bring the cars under control. At a safe stopping place, they coupled the train together once more and resumed the run.

But unknown to the crew, while the train was rounding one of the sharpest curves, one of the cars (No. 907) had slipped out of its coupling, jumped the tracks, and hurled down into the gulch. Perhaps it would still be there today if a cowboy had not gone into the desert after a stray steer.

—James Aldredge

Puzzle Answers

- PARADES
- SENATE
- STEAD
- ENNA
- SER
- SA
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TRIANGLE

ENDERS

PLAYED BY EAR: Clear

WACKY COMPASS: Time have 30 days)

TRUE OR FALSE: False



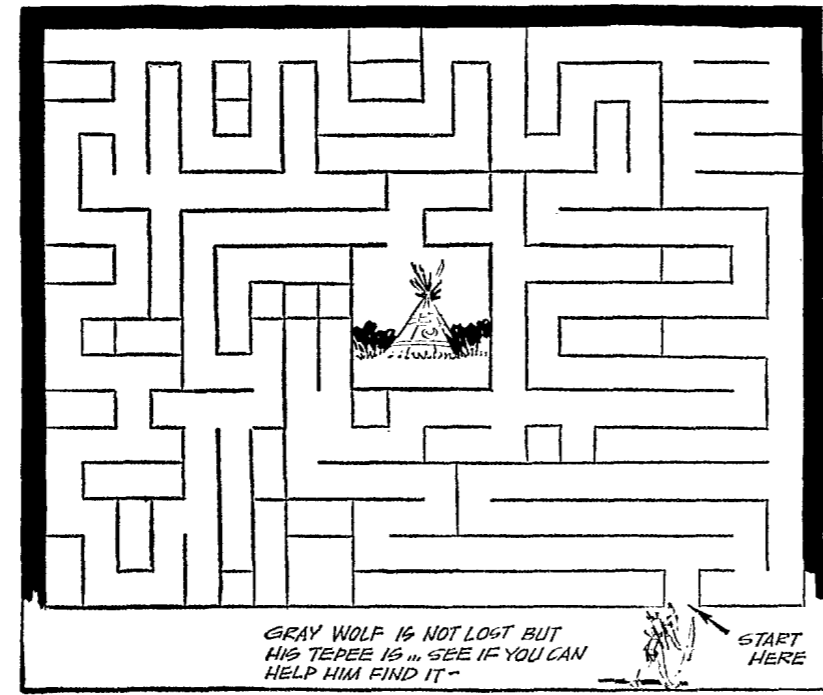
CROSSWORDS

It's Fun

By Elizabeth H. Hickey

It's fun to make a scrapbook of boats or dogs or scenes. With the pictures that I cut from mom's old magazines. It really is surprising how much I learn about boats or dogs or places just from cutting pictures out. With a little paste and scissors it's such a pleasant way to while away the hours of a rainy Saturday. So if you're feeling lonely with nothing much to do. Why not make a scrapbook? It's lots of fun to do!

Grab a Pencil and Find His Way Home--



GRAY WOLF IS NOT LOST BUT HIS TEEPEE IS. SEE IF YOU CAN HELP HIM FIND IT.

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