

How she recalls April Fools of past

By NANCY MITCHELL

How well I remember the good old April Fool Days when I outweighed, outshined and outdressed my three kids. In those days I took advantage of my motherly status to acquiesce them with the fun and games of April Fool's Day, and they bravely endured my practical jokes.

When they were small, I started on a small scale. Like turning all the clocks ahead so they get ready for school a good hour before necessary. Or making them foolish enough to help them miss an hour of school by turning the clocks back.

As they got bigger, so did my sneakiness. Naturally, I tried the usual paper in the sandwich, salt in sugar bowl and hiding their socks routines. Not very original, but good for a laugh.

But, as the old saying goes, my chickens came home to roost with the fox last year. The worms turned too cleverly. My yearly excursions into the realm of practical jokes were simple-minded compared to what my juvenile delinquents came up with. It was the year of the retaliation (Get Mom!)

On the fateful April first, my husband and sons let me sleep in, unaware of my fate. When I awoke, they already had gone their diverse ways into the world. Strange.

NO ONE WAS waiting to be wailed on this morning.

My second clue came when I noticed all the clocks in the house were stopped. Even the grandfather clock. A check of the calendar confirmed my worst suspicions. Holy holidays, this is it. I exclaimed.

"April Fool's Day. And I have a funny feeling I'm the target for the day."

Obviously the cowards left me to discover each new "joke" slowly and painfully. All the light fixtures not only had the plugs pulled out, the bulbs were loosened and pruned indecently with the fateful words: "April Fool's Day."

For months, every time one of those bulbs burned out, the boys laughed hysterically, reminding of the great Get Mom Day. Wonder what the Edison Company did with those April Fool bulbs?

The TV set wouldn't work, of course, until its plug was replaced. But even then, I still had to go find the screwdriver and retask the wires.

"How really, Brian," I thought, "that was a bit much!"

Naturally the salt was not in the sugar bowl. It was in a glass of orange juice. The sugar was in the pepper shaker and the pepper was mixed in with the instant coffee.

They really got to me with that one. I saw small blobs of butter on the kitchen chair seats just in time. I sure hope Father didn't have time to sit down this morning. Or was he in on this conspiracy? Finally, I was beginning to wonder.

A SPRINKLE OF green oregano spice covered the tub of oleo with little green flecks and looked positively gross. The bread and eggs were hidden in the piano bench. I never did find my vitamin pills, but my plants all started to grow like mad.

By now I was peeking into, checking through, looking under and tasting everything before I made a move. You can see why it took me so long to fix my breakfast. Every time I reached for a fork, a spoon or a knife, it was gone.

They had hidden all the silverware. Ever try to eat a fried egg with your fingers?

The final blow was the Holy April Fool to end it all. Considering what I went through all that morning and the suspicious way I checked everything, it seems hard to believe that I blithely spent all that time plucking at the seat of my pants wondering why they were sticking to me. When the light finally dawned, I rushed into the bathroom to investigate. I kept saying to myself, "They wouldn't. They couldn't be that dirty pool."

But they did.

They had very carefully smeared a light film of vasoline all over the toilet seat. Not enough to be noticeable at the time of use, but just enough to be effective.

I couldn't help but laugh. I laughed at the sheer genius of it. I laughed so hard, I had trouble getting my underpants off.

BUT EVERY CLOUD HAS a silver lining, you know. After I recovered my composure and went to put the greasy parts in the dirty clothes hamper—I found the silverware.



Hills SPOT unit arrests juvenile roof job burglar

A 13-year-old youth was apprehended Saturday, March 27 by Farmington Hills police after entering the G&J Party Store, 3040 Eight Mile in Farmington Hills, through a hole he knocked in the store's roof with a sledge hammer.

According to a Hills police report, the lone male juvenile was arrested by the undercover SPOT unit shortly after 12:30 a.m. as he was observed taking \$22.51 in cash from the register.

A SPOT officer watched the youth walk around the rear of the building, climb a fence and jump onto the store's roof.

The juvenile then crawled on his stomach across the roof and began to hammer a large hole in the ceiling with a three-pound sledge.

SPOT arrested the youth after he emptied the money from the cash register.

Damage to the party store was estimated at \$25.

The youth remains in the custody of Oakland County Juvenile authorities pending action by the juvenile court.

HILLS POLICE still are investigating two other robberies committed within the past two weeks, in which over \$1,350 was stolen.

Meadow Party Store, 2108 Farmington Road, was robbed March 22 shortly after 9 p.m. by a lone male who entered the store and held a gun on the clerk while he put \$950 into a brown paper bag.

According to a police report, a customer was in the store at the time of the hold-up but was forced to the rear of the store to hold the money bag for the clerk while he emptied the cash register.

The suspect then told the clerk and witness to hold for five minutes before attempting to call police.

After the suspect fled the store, the clerk

ran out of the building and saw a car speed away southbound on Farmington Road.

IN ANOTHER armed robbery, a gunman stole \$480 in cash from the Kinsey Shoes store, 2200 Middlebelt in Farmington Hills, March 18, just before closing.

Police said a gunman approached the store manager while he was at the rear of the store.

He then announced the holdup and pulled a gun on the manager, forcing him to walk into the back room.

The robbery checked several locations in the store for money before emptying the cash register into a Kinsey Shoe bag.

Two young (teenagers were in the store and watched) the suspect escaped on foot in an unmarked direction.

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Carter rep speaks to area Democrats

A Michigan representative of the Jimmy Carter for President Committee, the head of Farmington's recreation department and a spokesman for the Citizens Lobby will speak at the Thursday, April 1 meeting of the Farmington Democratic Club at 8 p.m.

The meeting, which is open to the public, will be at the Farmington Community Center, Farmington Road north of Ten Mile.

Doug Gaynor, director of the Farmington Area Recreation Commission, will report on recreation plans for both years for the coming year.

Doug Ross, executive director of the Michigan Citizens Lobby, will explain the petition drive to change the state income tax system. Ross is rescheduled from the March meeting.

For more information, call 474-3865.

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