

Bananas the Only Clue

By MARIE DALE

AUNT SALLY STONE had come to spend a few months with her nephew, Jim Leroy; and thereat lay advantages and disadvantages for Jim. It was pleasant to think that from him at dinner in the dining room of the apartment hotel where he made his home. It was not so pleasant to have to burden himself with the duty of telephoning to Aunt Sally when he would be half an hour late.

All this solicitude was tiresome. Even more tiresome did Aunt Sally become concerning Jim's lunches. She figured out just how much it must cost Jim to buy his lunches at a restaurant. Then at breakfast one day Aunt Sally said:

"Jim, I found out that they put up lunches here for the boarders. You know you pay for lunch whether you eat it or not. You're entitled to it. So I told the waiter to have yours put up with the rest."

Jim offered a few objections, but in vain. So he started off with his bag of lunch. And Jim continued to carry his bag of lunch though he did not eat it. Aunt Sally would be with him only a month more.

Jim's habit was to lay the bag of lunch beside his desk. One day he was so busy with outside business through the first hours of the day that when he returned at about three he found the bag for the first time that he had had no lunch. He was hungry, and he thought that even one of those cheese sandwiches would be palatable. And that was when he noticed for the first time that his lunch bag disappeared—all save the banana.

"Apparently my lunch eater does not like bananas," thought he. Jim studied the faces of the office boys, trying to single out the one with the hungriest, most pinched expression as the probable lunch snatcher. But he found that they were all in the habit of lunching at a little lunch counter around the corner.

Once he asked Miss Baldwin, who was his dictation whether she had any suspicions on the subject.

"I can't think," he said, "that I object at all. Whoever takes it probably knows that I don't want it anyway. I am concerned to think that anyone working here has such a flat purse as to need such a trifle as lunch. I'd take it up with the salary committee if I thought we didn't pay enough."

Pretty Molly Baldwin looked reflectively at the end of her pencil and her eyes were lowered. "Don't you think that there might be some one who—well, some one who had enough money to spend who still liked to be economical? She—she might be having some one at home, or saving, or something, and so might be glad to eat the lunch that would otherwise be thrown away. It costs forty cents at least to get lunch even at a cheap place, Mr. Leroy, and forty cents a day for five days a week is two dollars and two dollars a week for a year is a hundred dollars!"

Jim was looking out of the window and really said nothing. But Molly said: "What did you say, Mr. Leroy?"

"I was saying, or, rather, thinking, that you were a girl after Aunt Sally's heart. I never knew anyone else who figured things out that way, but apparently you do, too."

Then, as there seemed to be nothing else to do, Molly left the room or started in. As she went, Jim called her back.

"Will you go to lunch with me," said Jim, surprised at his own quick decision. "I thought we could talk over some business."

To which Molly thankfully consented.

On the list of "Specials for Today" on the menu of the restaurant where Jim and Molly lunched, was written "Banana Shortcake."

"Won't you have some of this?" asked Jim.

"Oh!" said Molly with a little frown, "I can't endure bananas."

When Jim returned the untouched bag of lunch was standing beside his desk. His work as a detective was progressing.

As Jim expected, the confession came without grilling. It was the night Jim was taking Molly home from the theater that after many false starts and a blush or two she told Jim that she had taken the lunches.

"Only I never ate the bananas," she added. "I don't like them."

"You suggested," said Jim to reply, "that possibly the lunch eater needed to save money. Your family does not seem to need of help. What in the world are you saving money for?"

"Every girl who works ought to have money saved to buy furniture and things," said Molly in her frank, sweet way.

"Are—are you thinking of being married?" said Jim with difficulty.

"Oh, I'm not engaged—of course not," said Molly in confusion. They had reached Molly's front porch by this time and Jim stayed Molly's hand before it touched the bell. He took the hand tenderly in his and watched to see whether her expression showed resentment. Seeing none, he took courage.

"Would you—could you—do you think you'd care to be engaged to me?" And before Molly pressed the button that summoned her watchful mother to the door he had said yes to Jim's query.

Strain on Holiday Paro



Wife—I've spent the five hundred you gave me for Christmas shopping and I haven't a penny left to buy a present for you, dear.

Hubby—Humph! I'll give you a quarter more, then.

Better and Better Christmas

"Never was the world so full of happiness, or so deep for the cure of selfishness. Never so many men of good will, never so ardent a desire for peace on earth, never so many things to make Christmas merry. —Woman's Home Companion.

Lighting Christmas Candles

The custom of lighting candles at Christmas is an ancient one. According to the old idea, these candles were to be lighted on Christmas eve, placed on the window sill, and left burning there all night.

Christmas a State of Mind

Christmas is observed just because it had, and still has, to do with peace. Christmas is a state of mind. It is a beautiful spirit.

True Spirit of Christmas

It is well to be benevolent and to seek out the needy and distressed and relieve their necessities. This is indeed a true spirit of Christmas.

Christmas Belief in Silesia

In Silesia there is a belief that a boy born on Christmas day will become either a lawyer or a thief.

Telephone service has been opened between Great Britain and Gibraltar by way of Madrid.

COUNTY ADDED 58 MILES OF CEMENT ROAD DURING 1923

Inter-County Highways Have Been Part of Large Amount Of Work Completed

With the completion of this season's work in road building, Oakland County has added more than 58 miles to its splendid system of concrete highways, according to a statement issued by Luther D. Allen, chairman of the Oakland County Road Commission. This makes a total of 705 miles of improved roads in Oakland County system, in addition there are several miles of state trunk line highway within Oakland's boundary.

Mr. Allen's statement continues: "The ever increasing road mileage in Oakland County has been brought about by several contributing causes: First, its proximity to the city of Detroit; the phenomenal growth of Pontiac County, with its four hundred lakes, as a playground and recreation center; the growth and development of subdivision property in the southern part of the county and the organization to take into account all these factors in planning and developing roads to meet required needs."

Among the important projects completed this year are the Lasher road, the West Rochester road, the continuation of the John R. two sections of Fourteen-Mile road, and sections of the Oak Hill and Bozic Lake roads; seven miles on the White Lake and four miles of the Sherwood road.

In addition there have been several inter-county projects, including the Eight-Mile or Base Line, which is the boundary between Oakland and Wayne Counties. This road is being developed as a super-highway on a 204 foot right-of-way, and is one of the major thoroughfares of the Master Plan for the metropolitan area. This project is being built by the State Highway departments for the three counties, Oakland, Macomb and Wayne, on an assessment district basis.

Detailed descriptions of some

of the assessment districts roads include the West Maple road, A. D. No. 114. Length 6.26 miles; 20 foot road on 36 foot grade, standard construction; connects the Orchard Lake road with the Walled Lake road.

Thirteen-Mile road, A. D. No. 117. Length 8.83 miles; standard width and thickness; extends from the Woodward super-highway westerly to the Orchard Lake road pavement.

Bogie Lake road, A. D. No. 132. Length 4.85 miles; extends from the Commerce road north to the White Lake road.

Oakland County Road Commissioners are: Luther D. Allen, Bloomfield, will be chairman; Ross G. Thompson, Highland and Isaac Bond, Farmington.

Birth of Flaming Star; Christmas Poinsettia

THE name Poinsettia comes from a Frenchman of Louisiana, S. C. who introduced it into California.

The story of its birth as a Christmas flower is not so well known.

It is the story of a little Mexican girl, explained and alone, coming to the great cathedral on Christmas eve with her meager offering of tall weed stalks, heavy with large yellow seeds, clasped tightly in her poor little half frozen hands.

There were other offerings of great beauty and price laid upon the altar, and the poor little child, alone in a shadowy corner of the great church, prayed that she might be taken to join her mother, father and baby brother who but a short time before had passed on to the other world. She thought it she had only one blessing to offer instead of the weeds her prayer might be answered.

Yet even as she prayed a radiance shone about her and a presence came beckoning her to follow. Lifting she followed the presence, even to the altar and placed upon it her offering of weed stalks. The presence looked down upon her and smiled and the child raised her face to his and on her wan little countenance was reflected the same wondrous smile; and as she smiled, about the yellow seeds burst forth leaves of glorious crimson forming a flaming star of wondrous beauty, seemingly imbued with the spirit of fire.

It was thus the Flaming Star, our Christmas poinsettia, was born—Florence Ilwaco Wells.

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FARMINGTON ENDS LOSING STREAK BY BEATING HOWELL

Victory After Two Defeats Re-news Hope Of Successful Season

The first league basketball game of the season was won by Farmington High from Roosevelt High, Ypsilanti, on the home floor Wednesday evening, by a score of 23 to 16. This victory, after defeats by Howell and Walled Lake, has given Farmington more hope of a successful season.

In the first quarter Roosevelt had the edge on the Blue and White. Farmington couldn't get its passing combination of Otis, Cox and Schweim working and had trouble finding the basket. The score stood 10 to 2 in favor of the Purple and Grays Schweim scoring Farmington's lone basket.

In the second quarter Farmington tilters pulled themselves together and started scoring. The half ended 11 to 10 in favor of Farmington.

During the last half, Cox succeeded in breaking up so many of Roosevelt's passes that the visitors were able to add only six points to their score. Three baskets in a row by Turner, Drake and Otis piled up a lead that the Blue and Whites held to the final whistle.

The lineup follows:

First Team			
	FG	PP	Tot.
Cox, G.	3	0	6
Drake, F.	3	0	6
Schelm, C.	3	0	6
Turner, F.	0	0	0
Otis, G.	2	1	5

Substitutes			
	FG	PP	Tot.
McCully, F.	0	0	0
I. Cox, F.	0	0	0
Measell, F.	0	0	0

Total 11 1 23

Referee: Farrar of Trenton.

Farmington's next game will be at Northville January 4. The Farmington girls' team will make its first appearance the same night and the boys' second team will also play.

Second Team Wins
Fendt, starring for Farmington with four field goals, featured Farmington High School second team's defeat of Roosevelt. Reserves by a score of 17-12 Wednesday night.

The first half, in which Fendt

made his brilliant showing was hard fought, the score being 11-7 in Farmington's favor at the end of the period.

The last half was less exciting, only one basket being made in the third quarter. But in the last period more scoring was done. The game ended 17-12 in Farmington's favor.

The lineup was as follows:

Second Team			
	FG	PP	Tot.
Fendt, F.	4	0	8
Nicholson, G.	1	2	4
Cairns, G.	1	1	3
Measell, G.	1	0	2
Tasgart, F.	0	0	0

Substitutes

	FG	PP	Tot.
Jubb, F.	0	0	0
Marsh, G.	0	0	0
Total	7	4	17

Santa Claus May Pass By Two Runaway Boys

(Continued from page one)

telephone call was made to the police booth. Deputy Lee Doyle responded.

"Sure our folks know we're going," they still insisted. But Deputy Doyle, was "from the South," too—Missouri—and he called Mrs. George Bisset, Jack's mother, of 1055 Lakeside avenue, Gross Point. In answer to Deputy Doyle's questions as to whether she had a son and where he was, Mrs. Bisset responded that she had, and that he was in school. When Deputy Doyle informed her that Jack was "on the way to Texas," via Farmington, she nearly collapsed.

Equal surprise was expressed by the family of Arthur Ford, who lives at 1015 Beaconsfield avenue, Gross Point. The parents started for Farmington at once.

As for Santa Claus Arthur was asked if he didn't think December an inadvisable time of the year to leave home without notice, inasmuch as "Santa Claus might not be generous next week." A contemptuous smile curled his lips as he answered: "Santa Claus! Why, whaddya think—we ain't kids!"

Well then, he was asked, what about father—his generosity might be affected.

"Now that's what's worrying me, all right, responded the ever-ready Arthur. "And that's just why I wish this was all over with."

Gifts that Bring Yuletide Joy



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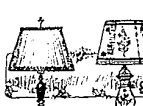


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