



BEDTIME STORIES FOR THE CHILDREN

Uncle Wiggily and Mrs. Bushytail.

BY HOWARD R. GARIS.

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"Oh, Aunt Belinda!" cried Jennie Chipmunk one day, as she came scampering into the hollow tree where Mrs. Bushytail, the squirrel mother of Johnnie and Billie, was washing the dinner dishes. "Oh, Aunt Belinda, will you take me to the moving pictures this afternoon? There is going to be the play of Cinderella."

"Oh, I don't see how I can take you!" spoke the squirrel mother, slowly.

"Please, Aunt Belinda!" begged Jennie. You see, Mrs. Bushytail, who was Jennie's aunt, was named Mrs. Belinda Bushytail.

"I haven't time," went on Mrs. Bushytail. "I have too much to do. But perhaps Nurse Jane Fuzzy Wuzzy will take you."

"Yes, I will be glad to," spoke the muskrat lady nurse, who kept house for Uncle Wiggily Longears, the rabbit gentleman. "I have nothing to do."

"Then, I'll stay home and do my work," said Mrs. Bushytail, and she put her paw up to her head.

"Does your head ache, Auntie?" asked Jennie, looking over her shoulder to see if the stripes on her back were running properly up and down, which they were. I am glad to say.

"Oh! it doesn't ache very much," replied the squirrel lady. "Run along with Nurse Jane to the moving picture show of Cinderella."

So the muskrat lady and the little chipmunk girl went to the animal show, given by Jack-in-the-Pulpit in a snow cave with a sheet of white ice as a screen for the pictures.

And Mrs. Bushytail went on washing the dinner dishes, putting the acorn cups and saucers where they would dry in the sun.

Uncle Wiggily Longears, the rabbit gentleman, who was paying a nice, long visit to the Bushytail family, sat fast asleep in his easy chair. He always went to sleep after dinner. This time he was waiting for Auntie and Johnnie, the boy squirrels, to come home from the hollow stump school, taught by the lady mouse, with a rat gentleman, for janitor, who rang the bluebell flower to call the animal children to their lessons.

"We'll have lots of fun with Uncle Wiggily," said Billie, and he and Johnnie scampered home from school after lessons were over for the day. "He promised to help us make a snow house."

"And a snow man, too," said Johnnie. "I'm glad he's visiting us."

"So'm I. Come on, let's run."

The two little squirrel boys were soon at their hollow tree home in Woodland. Uncle Wiggily was still asleep in his chair, but he awakened when Billie and Johnnie came scampering in.

"Come on out and play with us in the snow, as you promised!" chattered Billie.

"All right," said the bunny uncle, stretching and making his pink nose twinkle. "But first, Billie, you go to the store for some lollypops. We'll get them in the snow house when we get it made."

"Oh, goodie!" cried Billie, as he scampered on to the lollypop store.

When Uncle Wiggily went out in the kitchen to get his overshoes, made from the leaves of the rubber plant, the bit gentleman saw Mrs. Bushytail tying up her head in a wet towel.

"What is the matter?" asked Mr. Longears. "Are you ill?" Shall I send for Dr. Possum?

"It is only a headache," answered Mrs. Bushytail. "But, oh! it aches so hard that I can't finish my sweeping and dusting. If Nurse Jane or Jennie Chipmunk were here they would do it for me, but now I shall have to let it go—and I don't like to."

"Sweeping and dusting, eh?" Uncle Wiggily exclaimed. "Why, Johnnie and I ought to be able to do that for you, hadn't we, Johnnie?"

"Well—er—hm!" sweeping and dusting girls' work?" asked the squirrel boy sort of wiggling his paws sideways.

"Girls' work?" cried Mr. Longears. "What if it is girls' work? Boys aren't any better than girls; are they? Why, I've often dried the dishes for Nurse Jane when she was tired, and washed them, too. A boy oughtn't to be ashamed to do girls' work to help his mother when she has a headache."

"Well, of course, I want to help mother," said Johnnie. "But if the other animal boys saw me sweeping and dusting they'd call me 'sissy' and 'girl-boy,' or they'd laugh at me."

"What do you care?" asked Uncle Wiggily. "Don't you like your mother better than any boy friends?"

"Of course!" chattered Johnnie. "I will help sweep and dust, Uncle Wiggily!" and he spoke bravely.

"All right, and I'll help you. We'll get done before Billie comes back, and then we can play. Now, Mrs. Bushytail, you go up and lie down and your head will feel better soon," said the bunny uncle.

clips let me have same, and I shall publish them.

Elsie May McMullin, 74 St. James Street—A big welcome to the large Corner, Elsie, and I hope you will enjoy same, now that you have at last joined it. Did you see your letter in print as requested? In the contests I hope you will try harder, and soon manage to get a prize.

Nelda Maude Jamieson, East Bathurst—What a splendid writer you are, Nelda. I must compliment you upon being included in the list of awards for good work this week. Write to me again, and let me know if there are any more boys and girls near you who would like to join the Corner.

Lillian Barker, Fredericton—Glad you were so delighted with the book, sorry to hear that you have been sick, but hope you have completely recovered. That's right, be sure and call to see me when you visit St. John. As mine is not until next year, you would be sure to forget if I told you now, eh, Lillian? Thanks for the good wishes.

Jack Rosenthal, 48 Paradise Row—You will no doubt be delighted to see that you have been successful in winning a prize this week, in the "same word" contest. I hope you enjoy reading the lovely Henty's book, which I am awarding. Now you must get others to join also, Jack.

Agnes Miller, Centerton—Pleased to hear that your certificate arrived safely, and that your Papa had named it. What a clever little knitter you must be to have made seven pairs of socks. Thanks for your good wishes Agnes.

Willie Sharp, Mouth of Jemseg—You had a hard time in the contest, Willie, but did not manage to get the prize this time. Did I ever tell you that I think you do neat writing? I think you do nice work.

Arnold Morris, Newcastle—A great big welcome to our happy Corner, Arnold. You may enter as many contests as you desire. I have made a note of your birthday.

Arnold Sharp, Lower Jemseg—All though you did not manage to get the prize, Arnold, you deserve great praise for your work to only six and I awarding you a special consolation prize, which I hope you will like. So you have started school. Well, I hope you will get on fine, as I am sure you will enjoy same. School life is great.

Gladys Patterson, Cady's—One more huge welcome to the Corner, Gladys. My word how the happy league is growing. Would your brother Frank, like to join the Corner also? Let me know. How far have you to go to school? Always pleased to have your interesting letters.

Jessie Flewelling, Oak Point—Pleased to get your welcome letter, and to hear that you are all well. How did you get on in the exams? Glad you are enjoying it. I am going to sympathize with you in the loss you have sustained, as I am most sorry to hear that both your parents, as well as your brother, are not alive. You must write whenever you like Jessie, and I shall always be pleased to be of assistance to you. Remember Uncle Dick, has a big warm heart for all his kiddies.

Vivian Soper, Head of Millstream—Sorry to hear that your mama has been so sick, but hope she will soon be better. You will have had to be quite a little nurse, Vivian. You seem to be doing well at school. What a cute little kitten you must have. I should so like to see it.

Jessie Ferguson, Sackville—Delighted to have you as a member of the rapidly growing Corner, Jessie. All my kiddies get a big welcome. I am sure if you work as hard in the next contest, it will be well worth your while to manage to capture a prize. Thanks for the good wishes.

Minnie Estabrook, Sackville—Yes, I made a mistake, and wrote "master" I did not know she was your cousin. You seem to be doing great with your chickens. I hope the thirteenth does not prove unlucky, in your case! Yes, it is getting quite warm now.

Mary Hoyt, Hampton—Another big welcome to the Corner, Mary. What a pity I did not get to know of your birthday, until too late to send you good wishes. As you say you like to paint, I hope you will try and color "Towers" in this week's contest.

Hilda Chown, Millstream—Very much thanks for your most interesting letter, and I am glad you are enjoying the book so much. Glad you are getting your seat made to join. I expect you will be trying to get a button, eh? Pleased your foot is better. Thanks for the good wishes Hilda.

Ora Tait, Jordan Mt.—I am pleased you have decided to leave the pretty little birds alone. It is nice that your father is getting better again, and I hope his progress continues.

Eldon Tait, Jordan Mt.—Yes, you are quite right about the Scotch Uncle, which no doubt will please you. Shall be glad to have the pictures referred to. What a great time you have had fishing. I should like to have the space to write much more, but as unable, as your letter was most interesting, Eldon.

Marion Pearson, Cyrena—What a nice little letter you are able to write. You must now try to win a

button of Uncle Dick, as you are so anxious to see him. Yes, painting is also work, and you are clever at same for your age.

Lloyd Hooper, Back Bay—Glad to hear your most interesting letter, Lloyd. I gave same to our scout editor, who is writing you in the scout columns. You seem to have a regular "swoon" of animals. No, I am sorry to say I don't like lobsters a bit. Thanks for the love you have sent to all kiddies and to me. You are a lucky boy to trust such fine rides in your motor, boat.

Mary Alice, Coles Island—I can hardly say how delighted I was to receive the two beautiful bunches of Mayflowers. It was most thoughtful of you, Mary, to send me one of the bunches to the Editor, as I understood same was for him, and he wishes me, to thank you.

Mary McMurray, Fairville—No, the attempt to send your letter in time to be judged with the rest. Although you did not manage to get a prize, you must not be discouraged, as your work was most promising, and I shall look out for you.

Evelyn Wanamaker, The Range—I am sure the certificate will look fine framed. The "May Queen" was quite late in arriving, was it not? Thanks very much for the puzzles you sent, Evelyn, but I hardly think them suitable for the Corner, owing to the difficulty of printing same. I shall, however, be pleased to have others.

Geraldine Madden, Campbellton—Very glad indeed that you have at last decided to enter the contests, and also that you have been enjoying the Corner so much, Geraldine. Yes, everything must be looking very pretty in the country just now, as spring is doing her artistic work.

Arthur LaPoint, Sydney—So you have three brave brothers at the war. What battalions are they in? I should like to know. Do you get letters from them? They do not manage to get the prize, I must say the attempt was splendid, and I am sure if you continue as well you will not be long before you succeed.

Lois Steeves, Renforth—I was pleased to hear of you, and the other day and also to have your road attempt in this week's contest. You will be pleased to see that you have succeeded in getting a certificate of merit.

Ruby Slipp, Central Hamstead—Your letter came to hand alright, Ruby, as also did the post card, and I am glad to see you. The other day I did not manage to get the prize, I must say the attempt was splendid, and I am sure if you continue as well you will not be long before you succeed.

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Canadian Boy Scouts

NEWS OF THE CITY AND PROVINCIAL TROOPS CONDUCTED BY PERCY GIBSON.

SCOUT NEWS

St. Paul's Troop.

The St. Paul's Boy Scouts had a most enjoyable time Saturday afternoon. In charge of Assistant Scoutmaster Hamm and McPherson they visited the section of the country beyond Rockwood Park where they engaged in a mimic battle during which the scout signs and summer drills were gone through with. After the battle the scouts gathered round the masters and for some time had an interesting and instructive talk.

Stone Church Troop.

Members of the Stone Church Troop of Boys Scouts were taken to the first show of the Imperial on Monday, which they enjoyed very much. Their usual weekly meeting was postponed owing to their headquarters being engaged for other purposes.

St. Paul's Troop.

Quite an unusual event took place among members of St. Paul's Church Troop of Boy Scouts, Tuesday night, when they held their meeting in the school-room of the church. It appears that some five boys were absent from the hike which the boys held on Saturday, and last Tuesday evening the absentees were arrayed before an appointed judge and jury, with lawyers in office.

So far as is known this is the first time that such a procedure has been carried out in St. John among the Boy Scouts.

The Scouts also had a visit from the president of the Local Association, A. C. Skelton, who was most favorably impressed by their smart appearance.

Mission Church Troop.

The Mission Church Boy Scout Troop under the Rev. Mr. Young, held a meeting last Tuesday night and were given valuable instruction in scoutcraft.

1st King's County Troop.

Members of the above troop held a most successful concert in aid of the school funds, last Tuesday evening, in the School House, Hampton. A general outline of Scoutwork in general was given in display form, to a large audience, and ice cream was served during the course of the entertainment. The Scouts' work was frequently enquired, and the subject of instigated praise.

Welsford Troop.

The Welsford Troop held a most instructive meeting on Thursday evening, when the following subjects were discussed: Semaphore signalling, Morse signalling, Stave Drills and Scout's Pace, Reading of Camp Fire Yarns, Breathing Exercises, Compass Work, and a review of past work. The boys also went into details as to the coming concert which they purpose holding. This troop has made remarkably fast progress, this season, under S. M. Wood, and his able officers, and great praise is due. The system of their meetings might well be followed by other troops who are anxious to become more efficient.

St. James' Troop.

Members of the St. James' church troop of Boy Scouts had quite an active time last Thursday evening selling tickets on behalf of the Military Tattoo which took place last night. Their efforts met with success. The boys also went for a short route march around the principal streets, headed by their own bugle and drum band.

Fredericton Boy Scouts.

Professor Miller recently delivered a most interesting lecture on Forestry, to members of the above scouts, which was much enjoyed.

On Wednesday, the usual weekly meeting was held, when Miss Stuart gave a very valuable and instructive lecture on First Aid. The boys added to their knowledge greatly, and the future work ought to prove the value of these addresses. A business discussion then followed, after which the scout law was repeated, fees paid, and the roll called. Some very interesting reports were read as to the different patrols.

Raven Patrol, First Fredericton Patrol.

The Raven patrol held their weekly meeting at Patrol Leader Porter's residence. The roll was called, and the fees paid. The Scout Law was repeated after the Patrol Leader. They had signalling and boxing practice. On Saturday, May 6th, the Raven Patrol turned out and carried and piled wood for a lady.

Scout Contest.

A most interesting contest, open only to Boy Scouts has been running in this column for the past two weeks. The efforts submitted were both numerous and original. After giving careful consideration it has been decided to award the prize of Insignia to Scout Donald MacRae (St. Paul's Troop). Who gave the following answer: "Motherland versus Fatherland." Scout MacRae is also to be congratulated upon his good handwriting.

Answers to Correspondence.

S. M. Wood, Welsford—Many thanks for letter, and shall expect a visit from you next week. Tuesday is the best day to see troops at work. Very glad

to have such a good report as to the work in Welsford. See my remarks re same this week.

Scout Urquhart, Fredericton—The report of the Fredericton troop came duly to hand, from which I am pleased to note that such progress is being made. The lectures of Forestry, and First Aid ought to prove very valuable. Glad to have news of the patrols also.

Scout Donald MacRae, St. Paul's Troop—You will no doubt be pleased to see that you have been successful in the recent Scout Contest, the prize for which will be presented to you on Tuesday evening.

Scout Hooper, Lone Scout, Back Bay—Your letter to our Uncle Dick has been handed to me. I am pleased you are carrying on the good work in spite of being a lone scout, and also to hear that you "recruited" your class. Go on doing the useful thing. When you visit the city I will be glad if you will call.

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