

BILLY WHISKERS

By FRANCES MONTGOMERY

Nellie was soon back from her errand, bringing her big brother and the hired man with her.

As Nellie's father turned his back to the well, Billy stood on his hind feet and Stubby climbed out of the well as he had once before. When Mr. Noland turned around there was Stubby frisking around his feet.

"I'll be switched if here isn't that clever little dog again! How in the world do you suppose he got out of that well unless spooks boosted him?"

"Or the goat butted him out. That is more likely," replied his son.

"Now put the ladder down the well, and I'll go down and fasten the rope around the goat's body while you and Dan fix a brace to put the pulley on to pull him up," said Mr. Noland, ignoring his son's remark.

The hired man lowered the ladder into the well, but it had scarcely touched the bottom and found a secure footing when Billy climbed up the rungs as nimbly as a cat. This act made Mr. Noland's eyes fairly pop out of his head, while all the rest stood with open mouths. None of them had ever seen any animal as large as Billy climb a ladder. You see, Billy's old circus stunts stood him in good stead once in a while. When he traveled with the circus the clowns had taught him to climb a ladder half-way to the top of the big circus tent.

"I claim this goat as my own," said Nellie's brother.

"And I the cat!" said Nellie quickly.

"But where do I come in?" said Nellie's father. Just then Stubby barked, and Mr. Noland said: "Well, I'll take the dog, and I

think I have the best of the bargain at that, for he can almost talk. If it had not been for the dog, neither of you would have had a pet. It was he that led us to this abandoned well."

"You forget, father, that the cat showed you the way, too," said Nellie.

"I think the best thing we can do now is to go home and get some supper and also give our new-found friends some food. I'll wager that they are hungry. They must have come a long way, for I never saw any of them around here before, and I know every dog and cat in the town. I won't say goat, for no one owns a goat," said Nellie's father.

Get Good Supper

"So it happened that the chums were given a good supper and beds of straw in the woodshed and then left to themselves for the night. At least that is what all of them thought, but the day being the Fourth of July made a difference, for just as they were dropping off to sleep the stick of dynamite which had been stuck in the woodshed and burned a hole through the roof.

Fire!

Some sparks fell down and set fire to the straw on which the chums were sleeping, and in a few minutes straw, woodshed and all were in a blaze, and they only escaped with their lives because they were high jumpers and thus able to jump through the little window in the side of the shed. Billy was so large that he could not make it the first time and he fell back into the fire, but the second time he went through, taking half the side of the woodshed with him. His hair was all on fire, but he had sense enough to roll in the sand and put it out instead of trying to run. If you run when your clothes are on fire you only feed the flames with the breeze you make and the fire burns faster than ever. When it was all out Billy went down to the lake and had a good swim to rid himself of the smell of burnt hair.

A Funny Sight

When he came back he was surprised to see a ring of people encircling something that was making them laugh and clap their hands with delight. When he was near enough to stick his head between the crowd of people, what do you suppose he saw? There were Stubby and Button, flying round and round, being chased by Fourth of July nigger-chasers, or snakes, as some people call this kind of fireworks. They are funny-looking things that, when set on fire, twist and turn like live snakes, and no one can tell where they are going next. The consequences are that they are always surprising one and coming after them when they least expect it. The crowd had contrived the idea of making a circle so Stubby and Button could not run away, and then setting off a lot of these to chase them. It was Stubby's and Button's frantic efforts to escape that had caused all the fun and laughter.

Butts Boy, in Air

"Here is the goat!" cried out a lad. "Let's get him in the ring, too!"

But instead of getting him in the ring, as proposed, that lad found himself going up in the air like a balloon, one of Billy's mighty butts having sent him.

This broke up the party, and when all had disappeared and the three friends were alone again Billy said: "Didn't I tell you the Fourth of July was a bad day for animals?"

Goes to School

The next morning Mr. Noland took Stubby away out into the country with him in his auto, and Nellie carried Button over to her friend's to show her the big, fine cat she had found out on the rocks. Consequently Billy was left alone to amuse himself as best he could.

He wandered around for a while and at last went down to the lake and took a swim, coming out as clean and white as a fresh bale of cotton. Then, not knowing what to do with himself, he decided to go up into the town and see how it looked to him. Not being a very large town, he had no difficulty in locating the main street, and then the largest church, the movie theatre, and the schoolhouse. As he walked down the street he stopped to help himself to a peach here and a plum there at the different

fruit stands, as well as to several bunches of asparagus and a peck or two of green peas that he saw in baskets outside the grocery stores.

When he reached the schoolhouse he found it was recess time and all the children were out in the yard playing tag, leap frog, crack-the-whip, and such games as children always play at school. Billy stood watching them for some time and as they seemed to be having great fun he thought he would go in and join in a game of pussy-wants-a-corner he saw four or five girls and boys playing. Much to the surprise of this group, the first thing they knew a big white goat was running from tree to tree to get an empty corner, just as they were doing. At first they were so astonished that they stopped playing, but soon they went on, as Billy kept running from tree to tree, frisking his little paint brush of a tail and kicking up his legs with glee. You remember he had lost part of his tail in France in the war, where it was blown off by a bomb which sent him flying up in the air.

Presently all the children had stopped their games to watch Billy play pussy-wants-a-corner. He was just beginning to grow tired of the sport when the school bell pealed out that recess was over and all the children ran to form in line to march back to their rooms. Each room had a separate line of its own. When Billy saw this he went and stood in line. As he knew nothing about the different rooms, he selected a line in which stood a pretty little girl with yellow hair hanging in long braids down her back. She was the last one in the line and, being very busy talking to the little girl just in front of her, she did not notice that anyone was standing behind her.

"Her hair looks just like straw. It is just the color of it," thought Billy. "I wonder if it tastes like it too." And thereupon he began to chew the end of one of her braids.

[We shall find out how the little girl likes it.]

Mrs. Carrigan Wins Appeal In L. A. Court

Lomita Woman Discharged After Sentence by Judge Hunter Here

At a hearing in Judge Hardy's department of the superior court, sitting at Los Angeles July 24, the appeal of Mrs. Rena Carrigan, convicted in the Lomita justice court on a charge of keeping a house of ill-fame, was granted and the verdict set aside.

Prepared for a lengthy argument on the errors in law and insufficiency of evidence, Mrs. Carrigan's attorney, J. M. Wapner, was spared the trouble when Deputy District Attorney Jordan asked that the appeal be granted and the defendant discharged.

In his recommendation to the court Mr. Jordan stated that he could not express his opinion of the case in open court.

Of five cases against her in the past few months, Mrs. Carrigan was acquitted twice by jury, two charges were dismissed, and the last was won by appeal.

UNDERGOES OPERATION
Mrs. M. Mickelson of South Cypress street is in a Los Angeles hospital recovering from a major operation.

Mrs. Lewis Ripple and daughter Betty, of Carson street, were visitors in Los Angeles Friday.

OHIO POLITICIAN HELD BY U. S. IN MAIL FRAUD CASE



Harry Newman, prominent Ohio politician, and one of Cox's managers in the Democratic convention, is being held by U. S. officers charged with using the mails to defraud in connection with stock selling.

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WOULD CHLOROFORM SUB-NORMAL TOTS



Wide attention is being attracted by K. C. McLeod of Edmonton, Canada, educator, who contends mentally subnormal children should be chloroformed to death and their parents isolated, as means of improving the human race.