

BILLY WHISKERS

By FRANCES MONTGOMERY

We left all the motion picture men trooping out into the yard to see if Billy could butt. What they saw was the president running for dear life toward his auto, with Billy only five feet behind him. If the goat overtook him, it meant that the president would be butted or hooked up to the sky like a rubber ball, and this he well knew. But just at the critical moment he reached the auto, jumped in, slammed the front door, and started the machine. But he did not start quite quickly enough. It was a touring car, and on reaching it Billy made a flying leap and landed on the back seat just as the car started. Then with another jump he cleared the back of the front seat and sat up straight like a person right beside the president. In this way they went flying round and round the training ring, which was built like a ring for training horses. The president's face was white with fright and anger, and in his excitement he lost control of his car and did not know what he was doing. When he came to the gateway he shot through it, passing all his men, who stood rooted to the spot. Out of the gateway they went at full speed, and down the street, over car tracks, past big buildings that were being erected, until they ran into a sand heap before a building. This stopped the car so suddenly that it sent the president over the wheel and into a bed of soft mortar some men were mixing, while Billy made a jump and

landed on his feet. He stopped to give one look at the president floundering in the mortar, with the men trying to get him out, then turned and quickly trotted back to Toodles, saying to himself: "I guess I have punished him enough for using a sharp stick on me."

President Peeved

As the president passed Snub and Nick at the gateway on his way back to the studio, Nick said: "Mr. Strobel, shall I get that cayenne peppah to sprinkle on dat goat's nose now to make him butt?"

"No, you idiot! And get out of my sight!" shouted the president.

"Pears to me Mr. Strobel acts rather peevish this here morning," chuckled Nick, and he and Snub winked at each other as they disappeared around a corner of the stable.

Mr. Strobel was taken upstairs to one of the dressing rooms, where he had a bath while a man came in in an auto to his home to bring him another suit of clothes, as those he wore were ruined.

"I expect you want to sell that goat or turn him loose now, don't you," asked Mr. Dates, the director, when Mr. Strobel walked into the office after he was dressed.

"Not on your life!" declared Mr. Strobel. "I like him ten times better than I did before," and, being a good-natured man, he began to chuckle at his own mishap, and soon all in the office were talking about Billy's encounter with Mr.

Strobel and having a good laugh over it.

Praises Billy

"I tell you what, boys, that goat proved himself to be a good jumper and to have lots of pep. The way he jumped into that car over the door and then sat up on the front seat, as if he were human shows he can make a good actor of him," said Mr. Strobel; which it really did, and some time later they really staged that very scene for the movies.

"Why, Billy Whiskers, what ever did you do to the president?" was Toodles' greeting.

"Nothing at all! Nothing at all! He did it all himself!"

"Did what himself?" asked Toodles.

"Flew over the wheel of the car and landed in a vat of mortar!"

"He never could have done that himself. You must have butted him," declared Toodles.

"No, really and truly I didn't. We were just riding along in the car as nice as could be and I was enjoying the ride and seeing how scared Mr. Strobel was, when he ran into a pile of sand. That stopped the car suddenly, but Mr. Strobel went on and landed in the mortar."

Fears Results

"Why, that is terrible! Probably he will be hurt dreadfully, and he might even be blinded if the stuff gets in his eyes."

"I can't help that. He brought it all on himself by punching an innocent goat in the ribs with a sharp stick. I think you will think twice before he punches another goat!" Billy chuckled, and then said: "Look! Here he comes now, none the worse for wear and only a little mused up."

"Come on over to the stables," suggested Toodles, "and I will introduce you to the animals while they are eating their dinners. It will be a good time to find them all together."

The first animal Billy met was a big baboon who took the part of an Irishman in the plays and was dressed up in a striped shirt and overalls, with a little cap set on one side of his head, a pipe in his mouth, and a dinner pail over his arm. He had been named Mike. His part was to personify an Irishman at work. If Billy carried a hod of mortar on his shoulder up a ladder to where workmen were laying bricks as well as any man could. Then at lunch time he would sit down beside the men, open his pail and eat his food, and if he did not want to drinking coffee out of a little cup that was in the pail. He would pull out the cork and tip the bottle up to his lips as the men did, and there were many other tricks he did, among them playing with a big, life-sized doll. He would hold it in his arms while he swayed back and forth in a rocking chair just as a mother does while putting her baby to sleep. After a while he would put a comforter and blanket it gently some more. It would take much longer to tell all the things Mike did.

In the cage next to him was a medium-sized monkey whose stunts were to ride the Shetland ponies and jump through paper hoops with the trained dogs. This monkey's name was Maggie.

There was Ben, a black bear, and Polly, a green parrot, and Big Ears, a baby elephant, and last but not least, a big white goose named George.

They all expressed themselves as being happy to meet Billy and hoped he would enjoy performing with them.

Eat Dinner

After the introductions were over Toodles and Billy walked over to one corner of the stable and ate their dinner. And this is where Nick found them when he came to get them for a new performance they were about to put on in the studio.

"Now, Billy, our troubles are now to begin," said Toodles, "for now we are all to go into the studio and rehearse our parts before they take our pictures for the film production. I just hate rehearsals, for some of the animals are so slow, or they get stubborn and won't go through their parts, and it is very tiresome for those who have to wait."

"What do you suppose we will have to do this time?" asked Billy.

"This will be good."

"I hear it is to rehearse a circus performance where the two baby elephants are to be dressed up, one in a woman's clothes and the other in a man's. The one who represents a woman is to carry a big doll dressed as a baby in long clothes, while the man is to carry a satchel. When dressed they are to stand on their hind legs and walk in the grand opening parade. Every person and animal in the parade has to do some stunt if they can be taught one. If not, they are to walk around in line anyway."

"Do you mean to tell me that this film company owns a whole circus—animals, bareback riders, clowns and all?" asked Billy.

"By no means! I see you know nothing about the production of moving pictures, so I will explain to you that when the movie people want a circus, horse, mountain, or anything else in their picture, they go to the mountain, circus, whatever it is they require for their picture and take the whole troupe of animals, people and so forth to the place where their background is. They save a lot of money in this way. They pay so much to the owner for the privilege of photographing it and using it in their picture. We will all be taught our parts here and then taken to the circus for a last rehearsal. When the director thinks the actors have their parts well learned the camera man shoots it."

"Shoots it?" said Billy. "And why does he shoot it, I should like to know?"

[Toodles explains the shooting to Billy in the next story.]

Dance at Keystone Boosters' Hall, Saturday night, Oct. 11.—Adv.

SPOTLIGHT ON SPORTS

By JACK KEENE

An echo of the 1923 football season is heard in the action of the Wisconsin officials in dropping Walter Eckersall, famous old player, coach, official and writer, from his list of officials for grid games this year.

The move recalls the Wisconsin-Michigan game last fall. Michigan won the game 6 to 3, the spectacular touchdown of Tod Rockwell turning defeat into victory for the Wolverines.

The play under dispute occurred in the second quarter. Wisconsin had scored a field goal in the preceding period. Rockwell was in the game as a substitute for Uteritz, star quarterback. Wisconsin punted. Rockwell fumbled and then recovered the ball 65 yards from his own goal. He began to run down the field, slipped, fell, recovered himself, slipped and fell again, and then plunged on.

Wisconsin players, believing first that he had been fumbled and then that he finally ran out of bounds, did not try to halt him. Eckersall allowed the touchdown. He pointed out that as his whistle had not been blown he had given no indication that play was ended. Col. Munna, who was in the game, said that Rockwell had not gone out of bounds.

Col. Munna's name also is missing from the list of 1924 officials.

When the game ended Eckersall was escorted off the field by athletic officials and police to prevent possible injury to him by peeved students.

The action of the Wisconsin officials indicates that they still feel themselves the victims of the decision, but it cannot cast any reflections upon the capabilities of Eckersall or Munna as officials. The game was a hard-fought one and meant much to both teams. It was a hard one to lose. Probably the ill-feeling against Eckersall still lingers around the Wisconsin campus to such an extent that officials deemed it wise not to open an old sore by having Eckersall officiate this season.

"Dr. Johnny Lavan," dentist and erstwhile shortstop, will devote the coming winter and spring to one patient—the Kansas City team in the American Association.

Dr. Lavan was called into consultation by club officials several weeks ago when the teeth of the Kansas City players got sore from snapping at the heels of all the other clubs in the league.

Good, who became manager of the club in mid-season, 1923, had done good work with it last year, winning the A. A. championship and then defeating the Baltimore Orioles, International flag winners, in the "little world's series" that followed.

His efforts in 1924 proved unavailing, however, and he was released. Lavan had been signed a short time before the season opened. He was a free agent at the time, having been declared such after ten years of service in the big show with the Cardinals, Browns, Athletics and Washington.

"Dazzy" Vance has many years ahead of him before he can equal in point of service the records of Christy Mathewson, Walter Johnson and other veterans of the mound. But his work the past two seasons—and especially this—places him on a par with "Big Six," "King Walt," Ed Walsh, Cy Young, Grover Alexander, and other greats in the matter of natural skill. And Vance is young yet.

When the Army and Navy elevens clash late this fall in their annual game a "home-built" team will be pitted against an "assembled" one.

Close followers of the two teams point out that the Annapolis stars expected to shine this season are mostly men who were developed under coaches at the academy. The Army team is composed mainly of men who had achieved some measure of success on the gridiron before entering Uncle Sam's institution.

Three of the men counted on as towers of strength in the Army

backfield this year are "Tiny" Hewitt, Harry Wilson and Bill Wood. Hewitt won fame as a line plunger with Pittsburgh two years ago. Wood was a star of the Johns Hopkins University eleven before joining the soldier boys four years ago. Wilson was on the Penn varsity for three seasons and an important member of the team each of those years.

Of the men, mostly newcomers, on whom the Navy coaches are counting for backfield material this year Phippen is the one who won any fame on the college grid honors before donning the sailor togs. He was a member of one of the much-heralded Centre College elevens.

The Navy must develop a complete new backfield. Cullen, Eichel, Devens and McKee were graduated last June.

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By Mrs. Thompson

BEWILDERED STEP-MOTHER

Dear Mrs. Thompson: I am bewildered and do not know what to do. My youngest step-daughter and my youngest brother have been keeping company for some time and now wish to be married. They are both in their late teens and old enough to get married. They are no blood relation and consequently I myself do not see any harm in it. The trouble is that one of my sisters has turned up and now wishes this girl and she refuses to recognize her as a daughter-in-law. She has also told me that I was trying to break up her home, my brother being her main support. But I have had nothing whatever to do with it. I have never had my brother and mother would think the very best of me if I refused to let them board with me, as they both wished to work to get money enough to buy a home. My brother is about 30 years old and my mother wants him to stay single until she dies. My brother told her she might live twenty years or more and then he would have nothing. She is getting old and is very sensitive and everything my brother does against her wishes she says hurts her. I do not doubt she has a very good heart and is a willing to go to the end of the earth for her son. If she had the right attitude she would want to make herself so lovable and unselfish that she would be welcome with any of her children. It is not right that your brother alone should remain single in order to support your mother. All of the children ought to help toward her support.

PASTOR KNEW HIS STUFF

At a prayer meeting in a negro church the pastor was explaining the passage which tells of the passing of the Children of Israel through the Red Sea.

"It is all very simple," he said. "You know that water generally flows down hill, but in this instance things was just reversed. The water, instead of flowin' down hill, done suddenly flow up hill, leavin' the bottom of the sea all dry, so that all the Children of Israel jus' passes ober without eben wettin' their feet. Then—"

"But," interrupted a young negro who had been to college, "it wouldn't have done that, pastor. It would have been against the law of gravitation."

"You jest set down, sah," answered the pastor. "You don't know what you are talkin' about. This all happened three thousand years 'fore the law of gravitation done been discovered."

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