A Fourth of July Obstacle Race

AND HOW INDEPENDENCE WAS DECLARED

"IN MY young days," said Grandaunt Mary, "girls didn't want to go in with the boys to play games."

Grandaunt Mary shook her head and rocked peacefully, looking over her spectacles at Grandniece Mary, who was doubled up in a discontented heap in a corner of the roosecented veranda.

"It isn't the games," wailed Mary, discontolately, "it's a race—a Fourth of July race that I want to go in."

"Dear, dear child, you'll get yourself all heated up if you flounce about like that, and so you would in a race. We'll go and see the boys, and you can wear your pretty new white dress," commented Grandaunt Mary, adding, with no idea of further rebellion which she was arousing in her greatniece's breast.

"I don't want to be dressed up," Mary was beginning in a still greater outburst of vexation when she was interrupted by a new arrival—a thin girl with bright blue eyes and bright red hair, who dashed around the corner of the veranda as if it weren't a very hot third of July indeed, and the hottest part of the afternoon.

"Oh, Mary!" cried the red-haired girl.

"Oh, Bunny!" cried Mary, "have you heard about it? These hateful boys aren't going to let us be in the races. They say they don't want girls on the program at all. And with our records, too!"

"Who told you?" demanded Bunny.

"Tom," said Mary. That settled it. The news was evidently authentic, for Tom was Mary's brother, and both girls knew his word was not to be doubted. Besides, he was chairman of the committee on Fourth of July sports, which the boys of Dougiaston were going to hold at the village school grounds. An admission of 25 cents for grown-ups and ten cents for children was to be charged, and with the proceeds new suits were to be bought for the junior ball team. Of course, in some places the girls wouldn't have thought of having a part in so important an event, but the girls of Dougiaston and their summer sojourn were very fond of all sorts of sports, and Bunny and Mary were members of a small group of girls who had come from big schools where athletics and gymnastic work were a most important part of the course. Consequently they felt deeply aggrieved at being debarred from participating in the Fourth sports.

"And it would be much more interesting if they had at least one girls' race," wailed Mary, burstingly, for again with her complaint. "Everybody is always more interested in the girls' events than in boys. I'm sure more people would go."

Bunny suddenly sprang into the air and began clapping her hands in the wildest fashion. "Mary, you're a dear, a dear," she cried. "I'll think of something and we'll do it, too. Bring your gym bloomers and come over to my house right after tea and tell Mary and Evelyn. I'll tell the rest of the girls."

"There, now," said Aunt Mary, "what is that child going to do?"

"I don't know, but Bunny's found a way," carolled Mary joyously, and she ran gayly off to look up her gymnasium suit.

On Fourth of July morning the boys of Dougiaston had a surprise. Tom Mason, Mary's brother, saw it first. It was a banner—a large white banner, which was swung across the main street from the post office to the principal grocer's opposite. Tom approached it curiously. On it he read this legend:

GIRLS' FOURTH OF JULY SPORTS.
This afternoon, between the hours of two and five o'clock, the girls of Dougiaston will compete in racing, jumping and basketball, in Judge Ransom's meadow. Admission 25 cents for adults, 10 cents for children.
LEMONADE FREE.

Tom stood spellbound a second. Then he turned and ran straight for the house of his chum, Johnny Driscoll. He stopped only a second, and that was to gaze over into the Evans meadow. Preparations for the afternoon's event were already in progress. A group of girls were pacing off distances for the obstacle race, and his own sister was trying a hurdle with red, white and blue garlands.

"And they're going to do it up fancy like girls do," groaned Tom to Johnny a few moments later, in reference to the paper garlands.

"They'll get the crowd," said Johnny dolefully.

"Sure thing," acquiesced Tom. "Judge Evans' man had a dozen banners to put up, and everybody'll see them."

"There's only one thing in our favor," he declared, "and that is the openness of the meadow. Anybody can see the races there without paying admission, and, of course, some people will be mean enough to do it. So if they want to make money they'll have a hard time, while, of course, there's a fence around our place. Not that that will do us any good if the folks can find something else to see that's just as lively and that they don't have to pay for if they don't want to."

"The only thing for us to do," said Johnny, firmly, "is to get all the fellows together."

It was rather a sheepish lot of boys who later marched two by two up to the Evans place. The Evans meadow was by this time assuming a decidedly gala appearance, with its abundance of flags and garlands flying from fence posts and trees.

Tom as leader of the opposition called a parley. His overtures were responded to with suitable reluctance by Bunny as queen of the Amazons. "You know," said Tom, "you only asked for one obstacle race, and we're willing to let you girls have half the events if you'll only combine with us. You can't make much money here, anyway. You can only keep us from making any at all, and we'll give you half the proceeds."

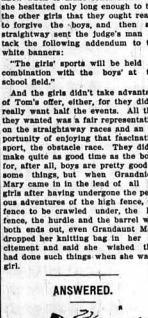
Now there was one very good thing about Bunny, which was that she knew when to make concessions. So she hesitated only long enough to tell the other girls that they ought really to forgive the boys, and then she straightway sent the judge's man to tack the following addendum to the white banners:

"The girls' sports will be held in combination with the boys' at the school field."

And the girls didn't take advantage of Tom's offer, either, for they didn't really want half the events. All that they wanted was a fair representation on the straightaway races and an opportunity of enjoying that fascinating sport, the obstacle race. They didn't make quite as good time as the boys, for, after all, boys are pretty good at some things, but when Grandniece Mary came in in the lead of all the girls after having undergone the perilous adventures of the high fence, the fence to be crawled under, the low fence, the hurdle and the barrel with both ends out, even Grandaunt Mary dropped her knitting bag in her excitement and said she wished they had done such things when she was a girl.

"And the Lemonade Free," Added Johnny.

ANSWERED.

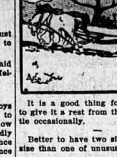


The Professor—Let me see! What day of the month is this?

"The Fourth of July!"

NOTES FROM MEADOWBROOK FARM

By William Pitt



It is a good thing for the pasture to give it a rest from the grazing cattle occasionally.

Better to have two silos of medium size than one of unusually large size.

Never let the ground bake and crack. Keep the surface broken that a fine mulch, as then you will have a blanket of pulverized soil which will prevent evaporation from underneath.

Frequent and continued use of oil cake meal was supposed by some orchardists to possess an injurious cumulative effect upon trees which should be guarded against.

Stomach worms in sheep can be prevented by keeping tobacco stalks, leaves and stems where the flock can have access to them. They will eat what they need of them. Tobacco waste can be bought cheaply.

The English sparrow may eat bugs and injurious insects and noxious weeds, but not to the extent that the cowbird does or the granary is handy to be pilfered. It is amazing how much grain the little pests will get away with in the course of a year.

Scheduled among the rainy-day jobs is that of oiling the harness. Do you know how best to go about it? Clean it first thoroughly, washing it with soapy water. Then after it is dry work through the hands and apply the oil, rubbing it well. Repeat every when the cook or the granary is handy to be pilfered. It is amazing how much grain the little pests will get away with in the course of a year.

The Wisconsin Agricultural college is pursuing a very interesting investigation which promises to throw much needed light upon the ash constituents of feed and their part in animal nutrition. Actual tests have shown that a heavily milking cow excreted two ounces of lime daily when on a common dairy ration. She ate only half that much lime. In four droppings she lost one-fourth the entire lime content of her body. Lime cannot be very successfully administered from the feed, but phosphates fed to pigs on a corn diet materially improved their rate of growth and increased their strength of bone.

Humus in the soil is essential to fertility, for it is of good quality it is rich in both nitrogen and mineral plant food. The maintenance of fertility may almost be said to consist in keeping the soil well supplied with humus. Some first step in renovating worn-out soils is to give them an abundant supply of humus of good quality. Perhaps the best source of humus is stable manure containing both liquid and solid excrement, especially when the stock are fed rich nitrogenous foods. Even a poor quality of barnyard manure, which has lost much of the plant food leached out of it, has considerable value because of the humus it makes.

If a horse could talk, this is what an old experienced horseman, who has been fondly for the animal, declares he would say: Don't ask me to drive through narrow bridges or lanes. Don't let some blockhead drive me that has got less sense than I have. Don't run me down a steep hill, for anything should give way I might break my neck. Don't whip me when I get frightened, for I will expect it next time and may make you trouble. Don't trot me up hill, for I have you, the buggy and myself to carry. Try running up hill with a load yourself. Don't drive me with an "over check" on, the sun hurts my eyes, and I can't see where to step. It's inhuman and cruel. Teach me to stop when you say "whoa," and this you can do without jerking my head off or tearing my mouth. It may check me if the bits should drop out of my mouth and save a runaway and smash-up.

Corn root worms are a serious pest in some sections. They are small, slender, white grubs, about half an inch long when full grown. Fall plowed, infested stalks of corn may be pulled out easily and will break off at the place where the root-worm has been at work, leaving the greater part of the roots in the soil. Frequently stalks infested by the root-worms are blown to the ground by the wind, the root system having been so cut off that the stalks cannot stand the strain. Bowman and Pressley have shown how a continuous cropping of corn on the same ground will very soon increase the number of root-worms to an alarming extent, and consequently decrease the yield. Rotation of crops is the most effective preventive of root-worms. The beetles of the root-worms usually deposit their eggs in the old infested fields. If by changing the corn crop such a field to another which was not in corn the preceding year, these eggs are left behind.

Three crops from sheep every year: Wool, lambs and mutton.

Salt mixed with tobacco waste will encourage the sheep eating it to eat it. The tobacco is good to give relief from stomach worms.

The better breed of cow the more difficult it is to raise the calf, but see what you have for your extra trouble after she is raised.

A calf every year is a heavy strain on a cow. Two calves every three years makes of her a better milker and brings stronger calves.

Regularity in feeding and only in such quantity as will be eaten up clean have important influence upon the development of young pigs.

It is quality of flavor in butter that counts, and you must begin to put it in from the time the milking is begun until the cream is ready for churning.

Preparing to attend some one of the agricultural fairs to be held next week and later? Better do so. Plan to go and take the wife. She will enjoy the few days off.

If your fields produce about fifty bushels of corn to the acre you can figure on its making ten tons of silage when put in and about eight tons when it is taken out.

The campaign against the lice in the hen house should have been begun two months ago, but it is not too late to do it now, for the longer you let it go the worse the lice pest will become.

Dairying is good for sections where the soil is naturally poor or where it has been run down by careless cultivation. It helps build up the soil. But don't make the mistake of keeping poor cows to build up the soil, for it will prove a losing business.

It is a great mistake to sell whole milk to market, for when you do the skim milk is not kept to feed to the stock one of the richest elements for making pigs and lambs is lost. Keep the skim milk home by means of a separator. Sell the cream, feed the skim milk to the calves, hogs and hens.

Can fruit be grown cheaper than it can be bought? is the query we are often tempted to put to ourselves. This depends, of course, largely on the man, but certain it is that where little fruit is raised there little is used and on farms where there is fruit there it is used in season through, there you will find a family better contented and better nourished.

Stomach worms are spread in a flock by the eggs and worms from the infested sheep being eaten with the foliage by the sheep. Lambs should never be pastured on fields on which sheep were kept the previous season. If new sheep are introduced into the flock it would be well to provide against the spread of the trouble by pasturing the new sheep apart from the rest of the flock until you are reasonably sure they are not afflicted with stomach worms.

The appetite of a pig is not an invariably safe guide as to the amount of feed that may be consumed to the best advantage. Under five or six months of age he will eat too much of a concentrated food and above that age he will eat too little. These tests show that pigs may be induced to eat 14 per cent more feed for the six months, than pigs otherwise fed. During the second month of a pig's life it should have a little food that it will get enough water and not an excess of nutrients. It was found that maximum gains are produced at the minimum cost by starting the pig on approximately six pounds of digestible crude protein per day for the first 100 pounds live weight, increasing the quantity to 7 during the first seven weeks, decreasing to 6 the following four weeks, and then feeding .65 pounds during the last seven weeks, the growing period. During the first four weeks of the fattening stage this is reduced to approximately .33 pound which is fed to the close.

Where prairie dogs are a pest any method of exterminating them is more than welcome. The most effective method seems to be by way of poisons, and Prof. S. A. Johnson, of the Colorado Experiment station, recommends the following:

Strychnia sulphate, one ounce; potassium cyanide, three-quarter ounce; syrup, corn starch, wheat, one bushel; oil of anise, one tablespoonful. Dissolve the strychnia sulphate in a pint of boiling water. Separately dissolve the potassium cyanide and add the solution of strychnine sulphate, stirring the mixture thoroughly. Add the oil of anise. It is important that the substances be mixed in this order, for when the strychnia and cyanide are put together the cyanide tends to precipitate the strychnia. The syrup some what thickens the mixture so that the separation takes place more slowly. Put the wheat in a vessel which does not leak and pour the poison over it. Stir until every grain is wet. Then sprinkle in a pound or two of fine cornmeal to take up the extra moisture and coat the grains with an outer layer of poison. The poisoned grain should be distributed on the day in which it is made, since it deteriorates rapidly. Place about a teaspoonful near the mouth of each dog hole on a bright day. One bushel will probably be sufficient for a town of ten acres.

Seek Prevention of Consumption.
The municipal authorities of Berlin have decided to introduce another feature in their administration of tuberculosis. Heretofore, municipal effort has been confined to the maintenance of one or two homes for curable consumptives, but it is recognized that, useful as this is, it alone cannot cope with this disease. They have resolved, therefore, to devote more attention to preventive measures.

Important to Mothers.
Examine carefully every bottle of CASTORIA that and sure remedy for infants and children, and see that it bears the
Signature of Chas. H. Fletcher
In Use For Over 30 Years.
The Kind You Have Always Bought.

Opportunities.
"Opportunities are dancing on every man's desk!" shouted the high-brow lecturer.
"Yes; but they ain't half as liable to bite ye as the spring fever or hen's germ," echoed the chronic grouch.

Ask Your Druggist for Allen's Foot-Ease.
"I tried ALLEN'S FOOT-EASE recently, and have just bought another supply. It has cured my corns, and the hot, burning and itching sensation in my feet which was almost unbearable, and I would not be without it now.—Mrs. W. J. Walker, Camden, N. J." Sold by all Druggists. 25c.

Accounted For.
She—Do you know, dear, I had my heart set on ice cream to-night.
He—I thought you seemed rather cold-hearted!

Little children are suffering every day in the year with sprains, bruises, cuts, burns and burns. Hamlin's Wizard Oil is banishing these aches and pains every day in the year, the world over.

The wife of a dyspeptic man may not agree with him any more than her cooking does.

Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup. For children teething, softens the gums, reduces inflammation, allays pain, cures wind colic. 25c a bottle.

You cannot build a frame house unless you have the rocks.

Smokers like Lewis' Single Binder cigar for its rich, mellow quality.

The ancient watch dog is a member of the old guard.

DODD'S KIDNEY PILLS
FOR KIDNEY, LIVER, RHEUMATISM, BRIGHT'S DISEASE, DIABETES
25 & 75 Cents "Guaranteed"

OLD SORES CURED
Also Eczema, Blood Poisons, Ulcers, Mouth Ulcers, Scrofulous Ulcers, Varicose Ulcers, Inflammation, Rheumatism, Pimples, Boils, Carbuncles, Eczema, Blood Poisons