

LEAP YEAR, GIRLS!— "GET YOUR MAN!"



By ELMO SCOTT WATSON
Thirty days hath November,
April, June, and September,
February hath xxviii alone,
And all the rest have xxxi.
—Richard Grafton's "Chronicles of England," 1590.

COURSE that isn't exactly the form of the well-known jingle which you learned as a child, but it's the earliest known statement of the case. Something similar to it is still quoted among the Quakers in Pennsylvania who say:

Fourth, eleventh, ninth and sixth,
Thirty days to each affix;
Every other thirty-one,
Except the second month alone.

A more complete statement, and one nearer the present-day version, was given in "The Return From Parnassus" (London, 1606) as follows:

Thirty days hath September,
April, June and November,
February has twenty-eight alone,
All the rest have thirty-one;
Excepting leap year—that's the time
When February's days are twenty-nine.

And the New Englanders have made it a little better verse by phrasing it thus:

Thirty days hath September
April, June and November;
All the rest have thirty-one,
Excepting February alone,
Which hath but twenty-eight, in fine,
Till leap year gives it twenty-nine.

All of which serves to remind us that February 29 is approaching and the appearance of that date on our calendars means that this is a leap year. As for what a leap year is and why it is called that, let Mr. Webster explain as follows: "Every fourth year in which any fixed date after February LEAPS over a day of the week and falls on the next week day but one to that on which it fell the year before. Centennial years which are exactly divisible by 400, as 2000, and others exactly divisible by 4, as 1908, are leap years."

Mr. Webster's dictionary does not explain how February happened to become the month which would be affected by leap years but Mr. Chambers' "Book of Days" does. Here is what he says:

February was one of the two months (January being the other) introduced into the Roman calendar by Numa Pompilius, when he extended the year to twelve of these periods. . . . It has been on the whole an ill-used month, perhaps in consequence of its noted want (in the northern hemisphere) of what is pleasant and agreeable to the human senses. Numa let fall on it the doom which was unavoidable for some one of the months, of having, three out of four times a day less than even those which were to consist of thirty days. That is to say, he arranged that it should have only twenty-nine days, excepting in leap years; when, by the intercalation of a day between the 23rd and the 24th, it was to have thirty. No great occasion here for complaint. But when Augustus chose to add a thirty-first day to August, that the month named from him should not lack in the dignity enjoyed by six other months of the year, he took it from February, which could least spare it, thus reducing it to twenty-eight in all ordinary years in our own parliamentary arrangement for the reformation of the calendar, it being necessary to drop a day out of each century excepting those of which the ordinal number could be divided by four, it again fell to the lot of February to be the sufferer. It was deprived of its 29th day for all such years and so it befell in the year 1800, and will in 1900, 2100, 2300, etc.

Since 1925 is divisible by four, it is a leap year and that may be a cause for rejoicing by some of us, not because the much-abused February gets back its 29th day this year, but because girls and women who have had to wait in vain for a proposal of marriage need wait no longer. They can take matters into their own capable hands and be perfectly justified by custom, tradition or what-not in doing a bit of proposing themselves. Just when the privilege originated giving women the right to do the proposing during a leap year is unknown. It may date from 1288 when a law

was enacted in Scotland which read as follows:

It is statut and ordalint that during the rein of hir maist blisat Migeste, for ilk year knowne as lepe year, ilk mayden layde of bothe hiegh and lowe estatit shall have liberte to bespeke ye man she likes, Albeit he refuses to talk hir to be his lawful wyfe, he shall be muled in ye sum ane pundis or less, as his estatit may be; except and awis gif he can make it appere that he is betrothit ane ither woman he then shall be free.

Perhaps the custom goes back even further than that, but whatever its origin it has become a fixed part of our social tradition, even though it is probably more of a popular joke than an actual custom, limited to regular four-year periods. For the men who are bold enough to say that they know all about women will tell you that

First, then, a woman will or won't, depend on't.
If she will do't, she will; and there's an end on't.
But if she won't, since safe and sound your trust is,
Fear is affront, and jealousy injustice.
—Aaron Hill's "Zara."

Which, in the case of "popping the question" can be translated into the statement that if she decides to propose, she will whether it's leap year or not, and if she doesn't so decide it wouldn't make any difference to her if every year were leap year.

Fiction furnishes several examples in support of the above statement, as for instance in William Dean Howells' story, "Dr. Breen's Practice," where a real proposal comes at last for the heroine herself, the lover being too slow in coming to the point so she helped him along.

Frank Stockton, in "The Late Mrs. Null," takes a humorous view, placing his hero and heroine outdoors in an advantageous place. Being sure of this desired catch, she said: "Mr. Croft, I am going to give you your choice. Would you prefer being refused under a cherry tree or a sycamore." There was a smile on her lips which he did not quite interpret, but he said, "I decline being refused under any tree." "Well, I prefer the cherry tree, and there is just the one nearby."

And if we believe what we "see in the papers," leap year proposing this year is neither a popular joke nor fiction, but a very live fact. Here is the news story that came from Emporia, Kan., recently:

Emporia's bachelors, at least 100 of them, are rallying to parry a thrust made at them this week when Probate Judge Wilford Riegler published in an Emporia newspaper a list of men whom he declared were the most eligible bachelors in the city. Judge Riegler presented the names with the suggestion that, this being leap year, the men would be available for marriage, and he recommended each one on his list. The news of the publication of the list spread rapidly. Telephones began to ring and the bachelors were fairly swamped with calls from women. As a result the men have organized a protective alliance.

"Millions for defense, but not one cent for matrimony," was the motto adopted.

If women needs historical precedent for taking advantage of the leap year

tradition and proposing, such precedents are plentiful enough. There is for instance, the case of Priscilla, the Puritan maiden, who didn't put the question direct, although young Alden would have been a dillard indeed if he didn't know what she meant when she said "Why don't you speak for yourself, John?" Somewhat similar is the case of the late Adeline Patti, who is said to have remarked to the man who later became her husband, when he told her that all Paris was saying that they were engaged, "Well, why not? I am sure I will be happy."

Another instance is the late Queen Victoria who invited a young man to be her escort and made him her Prince Albert. She was a bit slow in popping the question, so the gossips say, and nearly lost him.

Which brings to mind that her great grandson, Edward Albert, prince of Wales, despite the anxiety of the whole British Empire over the question of when he is ever going to marry and make sure that the House of Windsor will have a future line of princes of Wales, still seems very much content to remain a bachelor. He is, therefore, one of the most eligible men in the world for some leap year proposing. Of course, it simply "can't be done" in the case of Edward Albert David Windsor, but judging from all the fuss that was made over him when he visited this country a year or so ago and the way in which he was sought after by matron and maid alike, even he would not be safe from leap year proposals if he came to America again in 1928.

If some fairy should promise the average girl that one of her leap year proposals should be accepted by any one of three eligibles she might name, it is doubtful, however, if the prince of Wales would be the first on her list. For Miss America seeking a husband that might be has a new hero who holds first place in her affections. In the United States army he is known as Col. Charles A. Lindbergh, but to the whole world who has thrilled over his exploits in the air, he is "Lindy." And what American girl would not place "Lindy" ahead of even the prince of Wales in her list of three?

Going on the assumption that they would be two of the three, who would the third man be? That might be the most difficult selection of all, for there is a great variety in the opportunity offered to the girl who wishes to exercise the prerogative of "woman proposes" this year. This year's crop of desirable "catches" among the world-famous single men include not only an internationally known aviator and a prince of royal blood, but among others, a world's champion prize fighter, a President's son, a famous scientist and explorer, a Presidential possibility, a United States senator, and a famous editor and author. Who are they? Why, Gene Tunney, John Coolidge, Lincoln Ellsworth, Gov. Albert C. Ritchie of Maryland, Senator Robert M. LaFollette, Jr., of Wisconsin, and Henry L. Mencken, editor of the American Mercury.

There's a list for you! "Leap year, girls—Get your man!"

cattle and food for bees. Gradually its use as a vegetable became known in Greece, and at a later date in Britain.

Parasols were similarly despised until a short while ago, and shalloos brought over by the Crusaders were grown merely as a useful and effective antidote for snake bites.

Travelers from Asia introduced the onion. The best imported onions come from Brittany, Tripoli and Madeira, being of more delicate flavor and texture than the Spanish variety.

EASY LESSONS IN AUCTION BRIDGE

By PAUL H. SEYMOUR
Author of "Highlights on Auction Bridge"
(Copyright, by Hoyle, Jr.)
Article Twenty-Three.

Declarer's Play of a No Trump (Continued.)

HERE is a deal which will illustrate a number of points upon the present subject:

♠-Q, 10, 5, 3	♥-A, 10, 9, 8	♦-10, 9, 7	♣-A, K, J
♠-8, 6, 4	♥-7, 5, 2	♦-K, 2	♣-K, J, 9, 7, 5
♠-9, 7, 7	♥-K, 6, 4, 3	♦-5, 4, 3	♣-Q, 8, 6
W	N	E	S
♠-A, K, J	♥-Q, J	♦-A, Q, J, 8, 6	♣-A, 5, 4

West deals and finds that he cannot bid because his five-card suit does not contain three sure tricks and his hand does not have two quick tricks. He passes and North and East pass also. South as fourth hand realizes that he should not make an original bid without an especially strong hand—one that gives promise of going game—but he has three suits protected and four and a half quick tricks. As the probable tricks are obtained by doubling the quick trick values this would make nine probable tricks or game, so he bids one no trump after which all pass.

Senior leads the fourth best of his long suit, the seven of clubs. Dummy is spread on the table, and declarer looks over the two hands to estimate the number of probable tricks and lay out a campaign for the play.

The application of the rule of eleven shows him that junior holds two clubs above the seven, and that if senior has five clubs junior must hold three. One of junior's must be an honor because if senior held King, Queen, Jack he would have led the King. The diamond finesse, if taken, must be made towards senior. If it loses and senior has five clubs he will make four of them, which with the diamond trick will prevent game. Declarer has four sure tricks in spades, one in diamonds and one in clubs, and can get three in hearts even if that finesse towards junior fails provided junior has at that time no club to lead. Therefore declarer decides not to try the diamond finesse but to hold up his Ace of clubs until the third round and then finesse the hearts. Having analyzed the hand in this way he proceeds promptly and plays as follows:

1	W	N	E	S
1	-	-	-	C7
2	-	-	-	C10
3	-	-	-	C6
4	-	-	-	H8
5	-	-	-	D9
6	-	-	-	H4
7	-	-	-	H10
8	-	-	-	S4
9	-	-	-	S8
10	-	-	-	S2
11	-	-	-	SQ
12	-	-	-	C9
13	-	-	-	DK

Declarer Secures three odd tricks.

At trick 5 East leads diamonds because that suit is dummy's greatest weakness and South promptly puts on the Ace, because he has decided not to take that finesse. At tricks 6 and 11 declarer overtakes his own tricks in order to leave the lead where he wants it.

The points to be studied in this deal are: (1) making the preliminary survey; (2) holding up the Ace of adversary's suit; (3) refusing to take a tempting finesse towards an adversary holding established cards.

When dummy contains a long suit of Ace and five small cards and no entry in any other suit, and declarer holds King and two small ones of dummy's long suit, a situation is presented which many players fail to handle properly. The adversaries hold four of that suit and if they are evenly divided declarer can establish the suit by leading the King, following with a small card and winning with the Ace in dummy; but if the adverse cards are divided 3-1 the suit would be blocked on the third round and declarer would get only two tricks from it. This is too great a risk to run, thus the proper way to play this combination is to lead the King, then follow with a small card and play low from dummy (called ducking) giving the adversaries the second trick. When declarer again gets the lead he leads his last small one to dummy's Ace and makes the three remaining small cards good, taking five tricks in the suit. Such a suit should be led early in the game before the adversaries have any established cards to play when they are allowed to take the trick.

Religion Bows to Hunting

When the news comes to a church full of Faroe Islanders that whales have been sighted man, woman and child drop everything and run. The Islanders depend very largely on the whales for their winter supply of meat fat and oil.

The Faroe Islanders are a very religious race and so a messenger goes to the church, opens the door quietly and whispers "Grindabund" to the nearest man. He, in turn, whispers to his neighbor and tiptoes softly from the church, and so the message is passed on to all who are to take part in the drive.

Generally, the pastor shortens the service and often goes, too, but when the sacrament is being administered no message is sent to the church. No man would leave the Lord's table to join in a grind. Should he dare to do so, no blessing would follow him or his.—The Forum.

An Alsatian Dog Hero

The hero of the day in western Washington, in the United States, is a big Alsatian dog named Arnold von Winklerfried. His latest feat was the rescue of a boy scout after the young man had been lost for more than three days in the dense woods of the Cascade mountains. After a number of searching parties had failed in their attempts to find the boy, the dog succeeded. This is his thirtieth rescue, and so far he has never had a failure.

Help Kidneys By Drinking More Water

Take Salts to Flush Kidneys and Help Neutralize Irritating Acids

Kidney and bladder irritations often result from acidity, says a noted authority. The kidneys help filter this acid from the blood and pass it on to the bladder, where it may remain to irritate and inflame, causing a burning, scalding sensation, or setting up an irritation at the neck of the bladder, obliging you to seek relief two or three times during the night. The sufferer is in constant dread; the water passes sometimes with a scalding sensation and is very profuse; again, there is difficulty in voiding it.

Bladder weakness, most folks call it because they can't control urination. While it is extremely annoying and sometimes very painful, this is often one of the most simple ailments to overcome. Begin drinking lots of soft water, also get about four ounces of Jad Salts from your pharmacist and take a tablespoonful in a glass of water before breakfast. Continue this for two or three days. This will help neutralize the acids in the system so they no longer are a source of irritation to the bladder and urinary organs, which then act normal again.

Jad Salts is inexpensive, and is made from the acid of grapes and lemon juice, combined with lithia, and is used by thousands of folks who are subject to urinary disorders caused by acid irritation. Jad Salts causes no bad effects whatever.

Here you have a pleasant, effervescent lithia-water drink which may quickly relieve your bladder irritation.

Could Name It

John Barrymore, whose favorite part is Hamlet, was telling Hamlet stories at a Hollywood reception. "Then there was Garrick Betterton's performance in Milwaukee," Mr. Barrymore said. "His Hamlet wasn't anything to write home about. It went from bad to worse, in fact. "When Betterton hissed out the line, 'There's something rotten in the state of Denmark,' a gallery god hissed down at him: "'And you're it, Ham, old boy.'"—Kansas City Times.

Friendship's Blessing

The slightest token of friendship, when proffered with affectionate regard, carries with it a blessing out of all proportion to the effort it costs.—Charles Forrest Moore.

The End of Evasion

"Our friend Dodge tells me that he is doing settlement work lately." "Yes, his creditors finally cornered him."—Boston Transcript.

Garfield Tea

Was Your Grandmother's Remedy

For every stomach and intestinal ill. This good old-fashioned herb home remedy for constipation, stomach ills and other derangements of the system so prevalent these days is in even greater favor as a family medicine than in your grandmother's day.

Don't Fuss With Mustard Plasters!

Don't mix a mess of mustard, flour and water when you can relieve pain, soreness or stiffness with a little clean, white Musterole. Musterole is made of pure oil of mustard and other helpful ingredients, and takes the place of mustard plasters. Musterole usually gives prompt relief from sore throat, bronchitis, tonsillitis, croup, stiff neck, asthma, neuralgia, headache, congestion, pleurisy, rheumatism, lumbago, pains and aches of the back or joints, sprains, sore muscles, bruises, chilblains, frost-bite, colds of the chest (it may prevent pneumonia).



HEALTH HINTS

Keep your vital organs active and you can forget about your health. Aid nature and she will repay you with renewed life. Since 1696, the sturdy Hollandens have guarded off kidney, liver, bladder, bowel troubles with their National Household Remedy—the original and genuine



PASTOR KOENIG'S NERVINE

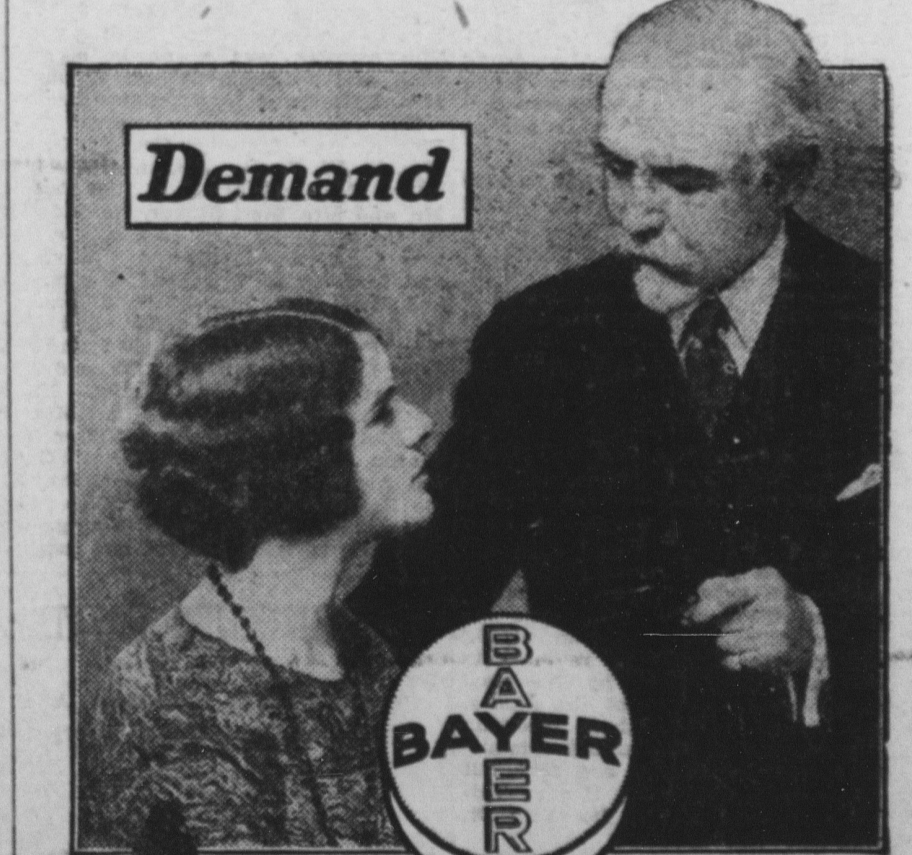
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German Jews Like Berlin

That almost one-third of the Jews in Germany live in the capital, Berlin, is one of the interesting facts revealed in the statistical yearbook for 1927, recently published. It appears that the total number of Jews in Germany is 564,000. Of these, 172,000 are citizens of Berlin. Another interesting figure contained in the annual is that of the number of avowed believers in the Greek orthodox faith in Germany. There are 10,000 of them.

Simple Enough

Boarder—"But why are the towels so small?" Clerk—"Well, there isn't much water."—Detroit News.



ASPIRIN

The whole world knows Aspirin as an effective antidote for pain. But it's just as important to know that there is only one genuine Bayer Aspirin. The name Bayer is on every tablet, and on the box. If it says Bayer, it's genuine; and if it doesn't, it is not! Headaches are dispelled by Bayer Aspirin. So are colds, and the pain that goes with them; even neuralgia, neuritis, and rheumatism promptly relieved. Get Bayer—at any drugstore—with proven directions.

Physicians prescribe Bayer Aspirin; it does NOT affect the heart

Aspirin is the trade mark of Bayer Manufacture of Monocetateester of Salicylicacid

Admitted

Mr. Martin was talking at the Christmas dinner table in his usual manner about the inconsistency of woman. "These girls who protest they are never going to marry!" he broke out. "Everybody knows they will belie their own words at the first opportunity." He paused, and evidently hoped that Mrs. Martin would come to the

Vegetables Transplanted

rescue of her sex. But that discreet woman held her tongue. "Why, Mary," he continued, "you remember how it was with yourself. I have heard you say more than once that you wouldn't marry the best man alive." "Well, I didn't," said Mrs. Martin.—Los Angeles Times.