



THE GLORIOUS FOURTH.

There was pleasant excitement for the little girls in wading the raging waters of the Gunnison River, while the older ones visited the wishing well to learn their fortunes.

By and by the mistress of Willow-spring appeared, with buckets and baskets, and the gay company, reclad and dry, sat down to a banquet at Camp Comfort.

Such a dinner! Do you know how good even the plainest fare tastes when eaten out of doors, with song and laughter? You can well imagine, then, how delicious was this bountiful picnic spread.

Lemonade ran free; there was ice cream galore, and the cake was in big slices and often passed. There had been mishaps, of course. Marie showed a rent frock; Almon had burned his fingers; Dan's hat was found soaking in Silver Lake, and Jennie's shoes had sailed down Gunnison River.

Nobody minded these little drawbacks, and the hours flew swiftly by and the children were surprised when told it was supper time, and they must come to the house.

Dan's sound waves spread to an appalling distance at this reminder, but as he suddenly began to turn somersaults no special result followed. So, with chatter and song the children trooped in to tea.

After this all voted to return to Sylvan Dell, where the remaining crackers were soon popping, while torpedoes added to the din.



There lived in China, years ago, An odd old mandarin, Whose temper was so peppery They called him Sin-ah-sin.

He wandered through the crowded streets In search of daily bread, And wore a garment long and straight, Which once was brightest red.

But worn in all the dust and rain, In dampness and in dew, It stiffened slowly with the grime, And turned a dingy hue;

And like a cylinder became, So long, and straight, and round, It wrapped Ah-sin from head to heels, And in it he seemed bound.

And out upon the collar high His yellow queue hung down, Till nothing of that mandarin Was seen, but just his crown.

This robe so heavy did become, That he could scarcely walk, And o'er the top of it he tried In vain, alas! to talk.

The boys they chafed, and taunted him, And missiles at him cast, And called him shabby Sin-ah-sin, As he went dragging past.

Though Ah-sin's blood did often boil At cruel jest and jeer, The while he wore that rigid coat The lads had ne'er a fear.

And so, one pleasant July day, The gamins round Ah-sin Said, "Let us have a little fun With this old mandarin."

And stepping up applied a torch To Ah-sin's precious queue, When flashing forth a brilliant light, They heard a noise, and whew!

They saw Ah-sin, from out their sight Go up in flame and smoke, While o'er their heads, in tiny bits, Flew pieces of his cloak.

With pent-up wrath he did explode, That poor old mandarin, And far from coats, and cares, and boys, Went grumpy Sin-ah-sin.



On the Fourth of July, at Willowspring, Rockets and racket are quite the thing, For on that day the chief of joys Are piles of powder and heaps of noise. That it was a hot day mattered nothing. Dan fired the first cracker at day-break, and kept up the cannonade till breakfast time. After this he and the girls were busy getting ready for company.

The cousins came in full force, eight of the first class, all girls, and four of the second degree, these, luckily, having two boys in their number.

Dan led the way to Sylvan Dell, and the celebration, which began on the arrival of the party, was worthy of the day.

A pole was set by the boys, a flag run up and a salute fired by the whole party.

Louise took charge of Camp Comfort, with some of the lesser girls for helpers.

Ruth, who began with much enthusiasm, dropped pretty soon into a sheltered nook, and, finding a book, which, by force of habit, she had tucked under her arm, she was soon absorbed in its pages.

The rest of the girls possessed themselves of Poplar Lodge and began putting that mansion in order.

The boys belonged to all outdoors, and at once began to fill their domain with racket.

Dan had built dressing rooms, so, as soon as bathing suits could be donned

the waters of Silver Lake received them, and its waves were soon anything but silvery, as the vigorous youngsters kicked and sprawled among them. The waters rose so high as to run over the dam in a threatening way, which caused the dripping boys to begin repairs at once.

Dan was in his element to-day, and the sound waves produced by his voice seemed to interfere with all others, and the result was confusion.



How many of my boy and girl readers can tell who Betsy Ross was? How many can tell what she did that such a question should be asked? And yet Betsy Ross's name ought to be familiar to all of us, and every time we see the Stars and Stripes floating from the flagstaff we should be reminded first that this is a glorious country we live in, and, second, that Betsy Ross, a modest Quakeress of Philadelphia, was the first one to make that beautiful emblem. Betsy Ross's name as a girl was Elizabeth Griscom, and she was born in the city of Philadelphia January 1, 1752. Her father was a prosperous builder, and assisted in the erection of the State House, now Independence Hall, from the belfry of which,



on a famous day in 1776, rang out the message of "Liberty to all the world and to all the nations thereof." When she was twenty-one years of age Elizabeth Griscom married John Ross, and they settled down in a little house in Arch street, Philadelphia. It was in this house that the first United States

Ross, a niece of Colonel Ross. She was a young and beautiful widow, and known to be an expert at needlework. They called to engage her services in preparing our first starry flag. General Washington unfolded a paper on which had been rudely sketched a plan of a flag of thirteen stripes with a blue field dotted with thirteen stars.



Mrs. Addie G. Weaver, of Chicago, in a little book entitled "The Story of Our Flag," tells the history of the adoption of that flag as follows: "There is no record that Congress took any action on the national colors at this session—but this flag was made by Betsy Ross at this time. The proof is positive that the committee approved the finished flag of Betsy Ross, and she was instructed to procure all the bunting possible in Philadelphia and make flags for the use of Congress. Colonel Ross furnishing the money. Congress was very slow to act. The records



Silver Lake had just gotten its face smooth when into it again plunged the harum-scarum boys, and the girls followed the Gunnison River to its source in the big spring. Here one of the girls, reaching too far, fell into the cold, deep water, but was drawn out, dripping, by her sisters. The sudden dip did not depress any one, however, and was not reported at the house.

While all these things had been going on in Sylvan Dell the older people had sat about the cool rooms in the Willowspring house, talking of old times and telling the pioneer stories grandpa had taught them, and which still have interest for young and old among his descendants.

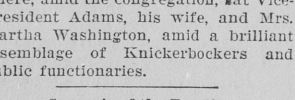
When night came on Uncle Will sent up rockets, pinwheels and sky-screamers, while a fresh lot of firecrackers were provided and the children, roused to new vigor, made this hour the very noisiest of all.

At last it was over, the fun and the fireworks, the feasting and frolic, and Dan and the Willowspring girls bade their guests good-by, well pleased with the success of the celebration at Sylvan Dell.

A Memorable Fourth. Memorable was the Fourth of July of 1789 in New York City, when President George Washington resided in an Executive Mansion fronting Franklin Square, at the northwest corner of Cherry street. The Society of the Cincinnati then gave their first dinner at the City Tavern, now the site of the Bored Building, on lower Broadway, with its President, General Baron de Steuben, in the chair; but a slight illness prevented President Washington from occupying the seat of honor. Alexander Hamilton, however, was a guest, speaking to a toast, although fatigued by having made an address in St. Paul's Church in the morning, where, amid the congregation, sat Vice-President Adams, his wife, and Mrs. Martha Washington, amid a brilliant assemblage of Knickerbockers and public functionaries.

Souvenir of the Fourth. Another souvenir of the great day is a square box daintily decorated with bow of red, white and blue ribbon and an American flag. The contents of the box prove to be chocolate wafers, which are much appreciated by the women and children of the family.

Chocolate Fireworks. Packages of scarlet-coated Fourth of July fireworks offered for sale in the confectioners' windows turn out to be chocolate "works" of superior delicacy. The packages are arranged as follows: Small firecrackers, three in a bunch, or six in a bunch, costing respectively five and ten cents.



with the white crosses of St. Andrew and St. George in a field of blue. This flag was unfurled by Washington in Boston January 1, 1776. It was in the latter part of May, 1776, that Washington, accompanied by Colonel George Ross, a member of Congress, and Robert Morris called upon Mrs. Betsy

show that the resolution for the adoption of the flag was dated over one year after it was actually created by the committee of which Washington was chief, that is, on June 14, 1777.

Before the adoption of the national emblem each colony had its own distinct flag. One of these was the "Appeal to Heaven" flag. The two upper flags in the group were used at the battle of Bunker Hill. The pine tree flag had been officially adopted by the Massachusetts Colonial Assembly in April, 1776.

First to Sign the Declaration. "John Hancock was the first to sign the Declaration," says Lora S. La Mance in "New" Lippincott, "and his bold, heavy, inky-black signature is a character-study in itself. There is dash and fire, frankness and firmness in it, and the tremendous flourish at its close shows ready wit, firm nerve, and sure execution. Hancock was Governor of Massachusetts many terms. He left most of his fortune to colleges and for benevolent purposes.

Roger Sherman died in 1793, the same year as Hancock. Shoemaker, surveyor, lawyer, storekeeper, Mayor, Congressman, Judge and Supreme Judge, Senator, member of the Committee of Declaration and of the Boards of War and Ordnance, he disproved the old proverb about Jack-of-all-trades by being a success at all. He was sagacious, practical, and of quickest wit. Senator Randolph, proud both of his aristocratic birth and of having the blood of the Indian Princess Pochontas in his veins, despised Sherman because of his lowly origin. Once when the latter was speaking he interrupted him:

"Can the Senator from Connecticut tell me," piped he in his shrill, sarcastic voice, "what he did with his leather shoemaker's apron when he came to the Senate?"

"Quick as a flash came the answer, 'I cut it up to make moccasins for the Indian Senator from Virginia!'"

Utterly Impossible. Jimmy—"D'yer know dat firecrackers wuz invented by de Chinese?" Tommy—"Aw wotcher givin' us? W'y, de Chinks don't celebrate de Fourth!"—New York Journal.

Willie Dreams of a Giant Cracker. The latest conceit in den furniture is "marine oak." Neat and cosy-looking little cabinets, cases, closets, etc., are now being placed on the market by manufacturers of artistic furniture that are as close an imitation of the furniture of the cabins and the forecastles of sailing vessels as it is possible to make them. They are made of the best oak, and stained with a pigment which the furniture men have lately discovered that gives the wood that peculiar yellowish color wrought by the damp sea air on oak furniture.

These curious and handy little cases and cabinets are equipped with rusty locks, hinges, keys and chairs that complete the tout ensemble of "boardship furniture. With furniture of this kind a bachelor can fix up his room so that it will resemble in every detail the cabin in a sailing vessel.—The Marine Journal.

OATHS STRANGE AND MIGHTY.

Many Odd Customs of Swearing Court Witnesses.

"How very few persons know the history and nature of the judicial oath and affirmations administered in courts of law," said Lawyer Emanuel M. Friend yesterday to an American and Journal reporter. Mr. Friend described the oath as a solemn affirmation and attestation or promise made under an immediate sense of responsibility to God, and the invoking of divine vengeance in case of falsely speaking under the same.

"Oaths are not the creation of municipal law," said Mr. Friend, "for they have been in use from earliest ages, and it has always been considered as supplying the strongest hold on the conscience of man as a pledge of future conduct, or guarantee of veracity.

"The substance of an oath has nothing to do with Christianity, and is used in all countries; though forms differ, the substance is the same, which is that the Deity is called upon to witness the truth of what is said, as, for instance, a Jew is sworn on the Pentateuch or Old Testament, with his hat on, closing his oath with, 'So help me Jehovah'; and the Mohammedan on the Koran; a Gentoo by touching with his hand the foot of a Brahmin or priest of his religion; a Brahmin by touching the hand of another such priest; a Chinaman, by breaking a china saucer.

"The swearing of a Chinaman is done thus: On getting into the witness box he kneels down, and a china saucer being placed in his hands he strikes it against the brass rail in front of the box and breaks it. The oath translated into English is: 'You shall tell the truth, the whole truth.' Then the saucer is cracked and the officer administering the oath continues: 'If you do not tell the truth, your soul will be cracked like the saucer.'

"Chinese are also sworn by what is known as the Joss stick burning, which is a ceremony of burning one of the sticks used by their Joss in the presence of the Joss, which signifies that their idol is called upon to witness the veracity of what they speak.

"Affirmations consist of the raising of the right hand above the head, and, instead of swearing to the truth, the witness affirms. In olden times theft was punished by the burning of the palm of the right hand of the culprit, and when the hand was raised, if the scar caused by the burning was there, the testimony of the witness was not taken. It is also said that the index and second finger of the thief were amputated, and that when, being called upon as a witness and the right hand was raised for the purpose of affirmation, if one or both of these fingers were missing, the testimony could not be taken.

"The devout Hebrew, in affirming, raises the right hand and extends the thumb, index and second fingers, which forms the letter Scheen, meaning the first letter of the word Schadie or God.

"The devout Christian affirms in the same manner and it is said that the three fingers represent the Trinity. The forms of oaths vary according to where and for the purposes used, and are regulated principally by usage, and affirmations are permitted for the reason that, in many instances, persons, by reason of religious conviction, are prevented from taking the oath. But, as far as legal effect is concerned, the affirmation answers all the purposes of an oath, and when false testimony is given, where one has affirmed, the legal crime of perjury exists just the same as though an oath were taken."

A Children's Park.

Joaquin Miller, "the poet of the Sierras," is building in California a park designed exclusively for the use of little children.

In the park there will never be any carriages or roads for them, only little paths or trails such as the maker of the park once followed in the Sierras, and there will never be a policeman with his club in sight. In the park for children there will not be as much as a single official or park commissioner; nobody under pay.

Joaquin Miller says that he expects the place to run itself now that he has got it started. There is, henceforth, to be only one man on the place, and he, with his family, a flock of sheep, some cows, horses, fowls, fishes for the ponds and fountains, and no rent to pay, will be a lord and a happy one.

The work of building this park for children has been to the poet a labor of love. The idea came to him in 1863, but it is only now that he has been enabled to carry it out.—Philadelphia Record.

Marine Oak the Latest.

The latest conceit in den furniture is "marine oak." Neat and cosy-looking little cabinets, cases, closets, etc., are now being placed on the market by manufacturers of artistic furniture that are as close an imitation of the furniture of the cabins and the forecastles of sailing vessels as it is possible to make them. They are made of the best oak, and stained with a pigment which the furniture men have lately discovered that gives the wood that peculiar yellowish color wrought by the damp sea air on oak furniture.

These curious and handy little cases and cabinets are equipped with rusty locks, hinges, keys and chairs that complete the tout ensemble of "boardship furniture. With furniture of this kind a bachelor can fix up his room so that it will resemble in every detail the cabin in a sailing vessel.—The Marine Journal.



KEYSTONE STATE NEWS CONDENSED.

PENSIONS GRANTED.

Minister Gives Thief Advice—\$10,000 Fire—Enamelled Green—Excited Over Gold Strike.

Pensions were granted during the past week to the following: James G. Covey, Coudersport, \$8; William Turbaugh, Altoona, \$12; Henry DeLancy, Keating, \$10; Orange Scurliff, Balston, \$8; John B. Harry, dead, Unionville, \$30; Elizabeth W. Harry, Unionville, \$12; Elizabeth M. Patton, Greencastle, \$8; Margaret Fry, Dravosburg, \$8; Thomas Drayton, Russell, \$8; John T. Cavanaugh, Sharon, \$6; Walter R. Collins, Bradock, \$10; William Richardson, Callery, \$12; James M. Crawford, Canonsburg, \$10; Joseph R. Miller, Harriety, \$8; Frank S. Sawdey, Gillett, \$17; John O. Womer, Hill, \$12; John Moyer, Huntington Mills, \$12; Benjamin Henderson, Gastown, \$12; George Rime, Lewisburg, \$10; Jacob Lehr, Garrett, \$12; Philip Taylor, Elkland, \$24; James S. Duncan, Oil City, \$8; John Felt, Indiana, \$8; John H. Seitzer, Williamsport, \$12.

Boyd Henihan, Frank Shumaker, Henry Whiting, Ford Neeky and Robert Ashbaugh are serving a 10 days' sentence in the county jail at Kittanning in default of the payment of fines and costs inflicted on charges of riotous and boisterous conduct in the streets of Leechburg.

N. S. Worthimer, of New York, and Sylvan Friedlander, of Newark, N. J., convicted of conspiracy to defraud insurance companies out of \$63,000, were sentenced at Reading. Worthimer was sent to the state penitentiary for 18 months and Friedlander for 15 months.

A unique baptismal service was conducted at the Fairview Presbyterian church, near Canonsburg. Eleven persons were sprinkled with water from the River Jordan. The water was procured by the pastor, Rev. A. B. Brown, while on a recent visit to the Holy Land.

A committee of five councilmen, at Oil City has been appointed to investigate charges against City Engineer Reoss. The complainants allege that the engineer was furnishing material to contractors having city contracts, contrary to law.

Two additional cases of smallpox were discovered at New Kensington. The victims were Mrs. Tucker Shepard and H. O. Haughman. The board of health sent notices to all residents of the town requesting them to get vaccinated.

Judge Wilson at Beaver Falls decided that under section 27 of article 3 of the constitution the state has no right to appoint inspectors of food-stuffs, but that such a power is lodged exclusively with counties and municipalities.

The Rev. N. N. Buxton, of near Sharon, found a burglar trying to open one of his windows. He gave the thief a sound pummeling, and before letting him go advised him to depart from his evil ways.

Charles Brennan was held up by negro highwaymen at Washington, and his watch and revolver taken. William Reed was arrested for the crime and had the stolen property on his person.

The annual convention of the Methodist Protestant Christian Endeavor Society of the United States will be held in the Methodist Protestant church at New Brighton from July 3 to 6.

The postoffice department has taken charge of the postoffice at Wighton, Chester Hill borough, Clearfield county, it being alleged that the postmaster is \$1,000 short in his accounts.

The Canonsburg board of health had an analysis of a number of water wells analyzed by a chemist, who pronounces the water impure. Typhoid fever is prevalent in the place.

The dead body of Atchison Watson, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Watson, of Castle, Greene county, was found near his home. How he came to his death is a mystery.

The gas well in the yard of Robert McKnight's home in Beaver Falls came in with 600 pounds of rock pressure. It is the great 't strike yet made in that town.

The papers committing Walter Forman of the Biddle-Dorman gang to the Western penitentiary for life have been received by the sheriff of Allegheny county.

Edward Scanlon, of Beaver Falls, fell into a vat of green enamel, and when taken out was coated from head to foot. The enamel was removed with difficulty.

H. C. Golden, of Kittanning, was awarded a prize at Trinity college, Hartford, Conn., for his essay on "The Commercial Supremacy of the United States."

Peter S. Kuse, at Corry, attempted to kidnap the 8-year-old daughter of Martin McGraw. The girl threw herself from the buggy, suffering severe bruises.

Gov. W. A. Stone has appointed Morris D. Howe, of Wellsboro, Tioga county, a factory inspector. He takes the place of William M. Carney of Pittsburgh.

The United Presbyterian church of Mt. Pleasant, which was organized in 1802, and is the oldest institution of the town, celebrated its centennial.

Seventh week of anthracite strike ended June 28, with no peace in sight.

A demented man, captured near Conneautville, is supposed to be Robert Wallace, of Oil City, who has been missing for some weeks.

Judge John M. Greer announced that he had granted every application for license in Butler county, with two exceptions.

The Beaver Valley Traction Company is extending its line from the east end of Freedom to Conaway and Baden.

President Roosevelt will be the honor guest and deliver an address at Pittsburgh during the celebration July 4.