

# LEAP YEAR, GIRLS!- "GET YOUR MAN!"



By ELMO SCOTT WATSON

Thirty days hath November, April, June, and September, February hath xxix alone, And all the rest were xxxi.—Richard Grafton's "Chronicles of England," 1590.

OF 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 m'x; 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. Chambers 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 not wanting (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, 2200, etc.

Since 1928 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 statute and ordain that during the reign of his most blissed Megeste for ilk year known as lepe year, ilk maiden layde of bothe highe and lowe estate shall hae libertie to bespeke ye man she likes, Albeit he refuses to talk hir to be his lawfull wyfe, he shall be mulcted in ye sum ane pundis or less, as his estate may be; except and avise gif he can make it appear that he is betrothit aneither 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 held 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 marry 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 need 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 dullard 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 matrons 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 a new hero who holds first place in her affections. In the nation's States lunch 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. Parsnips were similarly displaced until a short while ago, and shallots 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 Madra, being of more delicate flavor and texture than the Spanish variety.

**WANTED**—Women and Girls who send for FREE 4-color publication entitled "GIRLS' NEWS." Sold in Paris, London, etc. Those who are willing to use a little energy in this connection—No "No"ing, just "Yes"ing. Write for the new book, "GIRLS' NEWS" and we will send you in this connection. Address Dept. 10, North American Type Corporation, 100 West 42nd St., New York, N. Y.

**NEW TREATMENT STOPS FITS**  
Brooklyn, N. Y.—Wonderful results are reported by Epilepsy Colonies using a new remedy that stops the most stubborn cases of Epilepsy fits or spasms and is not habit forming. Any reader who sends name to Epilepsy Co., Dept. 29, Box 71, St. Johns Place Station, Brooklyn, N. Y., will receive a free booklet explaining this new guaranteed treatment. Write them today.

**SCHWEGELER'S "THORO-BRED" BABY CHICKS**  
Our breeders are bred for high egg production. Leghorns, Rocks, R. Reds, Anconas, Minorcas, Orpingtons, Wyandottes, 12 and up, 100% delivery guaranteed. Post-paid. Member International Chick Raisers' Association. Write today for FREE Chick Book. SCHWEGELER'S HATCHERY, 215 Northampton, BUFFALO, N. Y.

To Give Your Perfumes That Real French Touch use The Belgian Trading Co. Inc., Essential Oils, Avenue de la Gare, 10, Brussels, Belgium. Few as Good, None Better, 211 Water St., New York City.

**STOPS OIL PUMPING**  
Squeeze RINGS-AVAILABLE. Seal from tube thru spark plug hole. \$1. Circular, C. J. Althaus Co., 125 Westchester Ave., Buffalo, N. Y.

**HOMESPUN TOBACCO; CHEWING 5 LBS.**  
\$1. Smoking 5 lbs. 75c. Pipe free. Pay when received. Satisfaction guaranteed. Farmers Union, Dept. 25, Paducah, Ky.

**District Agents Wanted**—Sell Health and Accident Insurance. Good pay. Liberal policies. Claims promptly paid. Experience unnecessary. Federal Casualty Co., Detroit, Mich.

**VICTOR 333 LOUD SPEAKER** made by Victor Talking Machine Co., only \$19.50, order yours today. C. O. D. orders filled. T. White, 501 W. 26th St., New York City.

**Something Wrong**  
"Is your new car speedy?"  
"Can't keep up with the installments."

**Write for 24 page FREE BOOK**  
showing floors in colors; how to modernize your home at little expense by laying parquet, cement and beautiful.

**OAK FLOORS**  
over old worn floors. Addressable value. If you build or remodel, don't fail to write for free books and suggestions.

**OAK FLOORING BUREAU**  
1293 Parkers' Building CHICAGO

W. N. U., PITTSBURGH, NO. 7-1928.

When people point out your faults, cheerfully admit them. Then, they'll almost apologize.

## Spain Handicapped by Old Farm Machinery

If the old Roman plow is not soon banished from Castile there will be danger of a grave economic crisis in Spain. The average value of the Spanish wheat crop is about \$400,000,000 for an area of 10,000,000 acres, mostly sown and reaped by hand. Thousands of sun-blackened men, crouching low as they toil with sickles through vast fields, betoken the backward conditions and the starvation wages. As a result of these primitive methods Castilian wheat cannot compete in the world markets, though its quality is renowned through the ages. Wheat harvested thousands of miles away in America or Argentina can be sold in Spanish ports at less than the cost price of the domestically grown cereal. The government has had to restrict wheat imports, creating an unsound economic situation. The situation can and must be saved by the extensive use of tractors, deeper tillage and increased fertilization.

## Stand Up for Bagpipe

Scotsmen are aroused over the recent declaration of Sir Alexander Mackenzie that the old-fashioned fiddle and not the bagpipe, is the national instrument of Scotland. They claim that the statement is an assault on tradition that has been firmly established. When H. R. Hevelis, an authority of the last century, was quoted to the effect that up to the sixteenth century the national musical instrument of Scotland, was of Ireland, was the harp, it brought forth further protests from the champions of the bagpipe.

## Tim and the Pears

Thomas W. Lamont, the noted banker, favors reasonable publicity for industrial corporations, and at a luncheon before his departure for Europe he said:

"Publicity would do away with the corporations—few enough in number—that treat their shareholders as little Timmy treated his sister."

"Little Timmy came home and said to his sister:

"Mrs. Smith sent you five great big juicy pears for minding her baby. I ate two and lost one, and Bob and Dick swiped the other two."

But if some people didn't speak in bromides and threadbare expressions they'd never talk at all.

Reason is a man's guide, but principle is his safeguard.



# 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

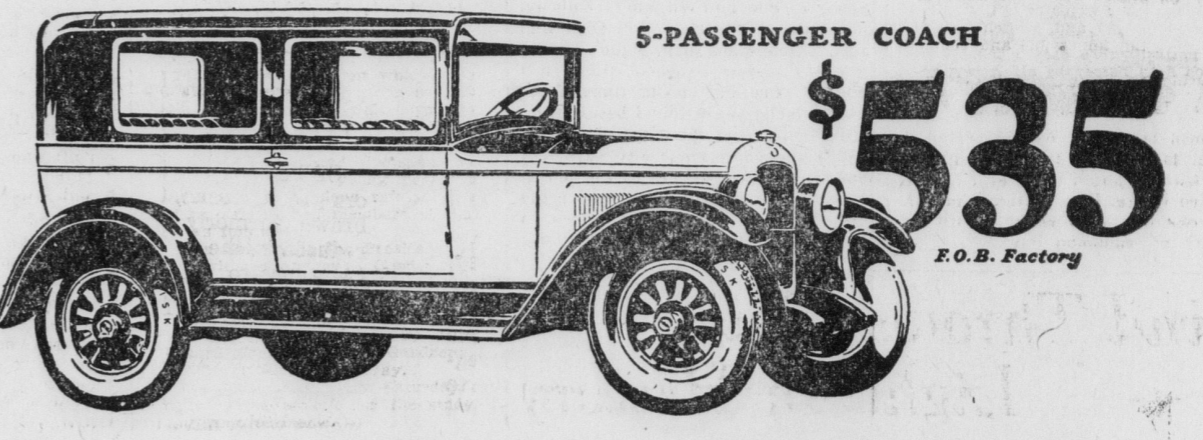
**Boys Fountain Pen Girls**  
Beautiful Self-Filling Fountain Pen and Automatic Penel given for selling only FOUR packages of A-B-C Window-cleaner at 25 cents each. Cleanse without water. Every woman buys. You sell only FOUR. American Beauty Sales Co., 78 Winslow Ave., Buffalo, N. Y.

**Wingold Buff Orpingtons**, 1st prize winners Madison Square Garden, Cleveland, Pittsburgh. Great winter layers; flock average 254. Ideal market fowls. Stock eggs, baby chicks. Catalog free. F. A. Postner, Box A, Berona, O.

**One Month's Savings (\$80) Will Buy Interest** in one of quickest-profit industries known, poultry raising. Write Orange Blossom Poultry Farms, Inc., Winter Haven, Fla.

**APPLE TREES 25c. PEACH 10c. PEAR, CHERRY 60c.** Spruce varnished 10c. 12 1/2 ft. record, Catalog free. MALTA NURSERY, RT. 2, Malta, O.

# 4 Great Plants At capacity to meet demand for the Perfected Whippet



5-PASSENGER COACH \$535 F.O.B. Factory

"The most valuable car ever offered for so little money"

John R. Willys, President, The Willys-Overland Company

So rapidly has demand mounted for the perfected Whippet, that four great plants—at Toledo, Elmira, Pontiac and Toronto—are taxed to capacity, and enlargement and expansion, to permit even greater production, are already under way. People continue to express amazement that cars of such remarkable quality and mechanical perfection can be offered at such low prices. Here is true beauty—in color, lines, proportions and interiors. And here, too, are features which distinguish the finest American cars—low-slung full vision bodies, BIG 4-wheel brakes, gasoline tank at rear, full force-feed lubrication, silent timing chain, oversize ball-bearing tires and snubbers and long semi-elliptic springs. See this car—ride in it, and compare it with any other light car—for looks, for performance, for quality, for all-around desirability—in short, for value.

THE WHIPPET NOW ON DISPLAY FOR PROMPT DELIVERY  
WILLYS-OVERLAND, INC.  
TOLEDO, OHIO

## 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 baffle their own words at the first opportunity."

## Vegetables Transplanted

The carrot 'nec grew wild in Greece, where it was used only as fodder for

## 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."

**Quick! STOPS COLDS**  
Millions rely on HILL'S to end colds in a day and ward off Grippe and Flu. No quicker remedy for you.  
Price 30c  
CARA QUININE  
Our food causes  
d Breath  
The Sensible  
AMBERLAIN'S  
PLETS "Help You Stay Well"  
N CHILDREN FRET  
For the little tots to fret and  
if they felt right. Constipation,  
headache, worms,  
feverishness, bad  
breath; any of these  
will make a child fret.  
They need the pleasant  
remedy—MOTHER GRAY'S  
SWEET POWDERS. They  
regulate the bowels,  
break up colds, relieve  
feverishness, soothe  
disorders and stomach  
troubles.  
Packets for over 30 years. All drug  
stores. Gray's Sweet Powders. Ask  
for Free. Address  
MOTHER GRAY CO. Le Roy, N. Y.

**HEALTH HINTS**  
vital organs active and you  
about your health. Aid nature  
to repay you with renewed life.  
The sturdy Hollanders have  
kidney, liver, bladder, bowel  
with their National Household  
the original and genuine  
**OLD MEDAL**  
HARLEM OIL  
ROMAN  
EYE BALSAM  
Night upon retiring  
and strengthen  
eyes by morning  
372 Pearl St., N. Y. City.  
ores, Fistula, Poll Evil  
is Balsam of Myrrh  
not bottles if not suited. All dealers.  
CERTAIN, MAKE MONEY.  
success certain. Learn now  
35, Muskogee, Okla.

**Do You Really Well?**  
There Must Be Kidney Action.  
courselves running down,  
red, nervous and  
stiff and achy, sub-  
backache, drowsy  
lizzy spells? Are kid-  
and burning in  
often this indicates  
and shouldn't be  
stimulant diuretic  
tion of the kidneys  
the elimination of  
Doan's are endorsed  
your neighbor  
DOAN'S PILLS  
60c  
RETIC 75c KIDNEYS  
Mfg. Chem. Buffalo, N.Y.

**KOENIG'S WINE**  
lepsy  
siness &  
ssness  
YOUR DRUG STORE  
Sample  
DICINE CO.  
ST. CHICAGO, ILL.