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The Cake Lady

By Mildred White



(Copyright, 1929, Western Newspaper Union)
TESSIE LOUISE was making a great deal of trouble. From the time her invalid mother had brought Tessie to the city hospital to be treated for her spine, the golden-haired baby had been the pet of the nurses. And as her stay was prolonged, partly because the mother was too ill and too poor to yet understand the care of her child.

"What in the world," asked the autocratic young house doctor, "does that child want?"

"Tessie wants a Nora Christmas doll," the nurse said eagerly.

Doctor Bruce wrinkled his brow. "What does she mean?" he asked.

"Miss Nora Dean," the girl answered, "is a young woman who visits the children's ward and has been much interested in them. She lives in a cottage out on the lake shore, and last summer she came in and took two of our little convalescents for a month's stay there. Tessie Louise was one, and she so fell in love with Miss Dean at the time that we could hardly

convince her back. But it was necessary that she should come. Yesterday, Miss Dean came to the hospital with a basket of Christmas cakes, made like dolls, with currant eyes, and colored frosted dresses. The kiddies were so pleased; they call her the Cake Lady.

Doctor Bruce frowned. "That's bad practice," he complained, "allowing women to come in here and feed our patients. I did not suppose—"

The pleasant nurse hurried to champion her friend.

She has helped us in many ways. I should call Miss Dean a philanthropist if she were not—"

The pleasant nurse paused, "in humble circumstances herself."

"The young woman you speak of lives on the lake shore?" the doctor asked.

The nurse nodded.

"Her uncle was an old sea captain," she told him, "Miss Nora made her home with this uncle and aunt when she was as small as Tessie here.

"Now she lives on in the house at the water's edge to take care of her aunt, who is old and crippled. And still that girl—"

The pleasant nurse choked up unaccountably.

"Well, she's always trying to do things for others," she finished; "that is the way Nora Dean finds happiness."

"Great Sport!" interrupted the doctor. "There goes Tessie again; that noise must be stopped. She must not disturb the sick ones."

The prettiest nurse came hastily.

"Tessie says she won't stop until she is taken to Miss Nora. I really wish we had made arrangements yesterday to have her driven out to the lake shore for over Christmas."

"How far out is it?" Doctor Bruce asked briskly.

"I'll take her in my car," he explained. "It's closed and comfortable."

Donald Bruce sighted the cottage as he brought his car to a stop in the

roadside. Then he gathered his small charge in his arms and made his way to the white door.

"Come in," Nora greeted cheerily, "the nurse phoned me of your coming. There's a new Christmas doll for Tessie Louise in the oven, and a lot more—to take back."

It was a broad, white kitchen, redolent of sugar and spices, and an old lady in a rocking chair near the window relieved Tessie of her wrappings.

"You must give the doctor a cup of coffee, Nora dear," the old lady said, "before his cold drive back to the city."

But Donald Bruce seemed in no hurry to return.

"This," he said musingly, "smells like my grandmother's kitchen. Used to spend our Christmas with grandmother when I was a boy."

"We are going to have a roasted chicken for dinner," the old lady suggested tentatively—"I wonder if it might not seem just a bit like being at grandmother's—if you'd stay and eat with us?"

It was remarkable how swiftly the afternoon hours flew in the lakeside cottage.

"I'm so glad," the old lady whispered at parting, "that you decided to wait to take Tessie back with you. It has been a happy Christmas for Nora. I can see it in her eyes; and usually happiness is only Nora's through the giving. She's the dearest girl in the world!"

"She is just that!" Donald Bruce answered solemnly.

His eyes were on Nora, as he clasped the old lady's hand.

Christmas Toys the Boys Can Make

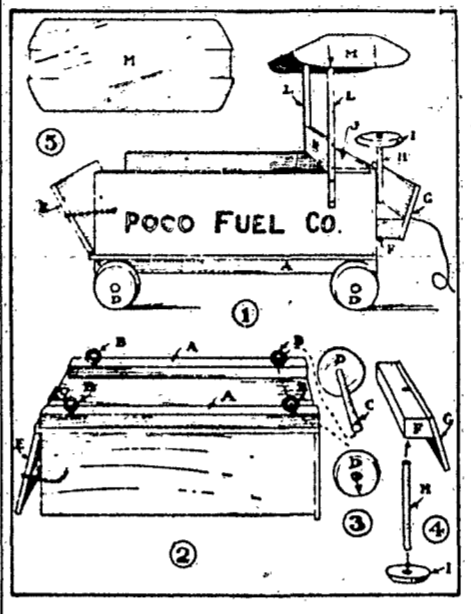
By A. NEELY HALL

(Copyright by A. Neely Hall.)

When painted in bright colors, the toys shown in the illustrations will be as pleasing to those young relatives whom you wish to remember on Christmas, as any similar toys in stores.

The auto truck shown in Fig. 1 has a cigar-box body 5 inches wide, 8 inches long and 2 inches deep. Cut wooden strips A (Fig. 2) 1 inch wide and 1 inch thick, by the length of the box, and nail them to the box bottom close to the sides. Screw screweye axle bearings B into these strips. The screweyes should be 3/4 inch in diameter, because the wheel axles C (Fig. 3) must be of this diameter to fit the holes of the spool wheels D. The wheels are spool ends. Remove the rear end of the box and hinge it to the box bottom (E, Fig. 2) for an end gate.

Fig. 4 shows a detail of front platform, F, dashboard G, steering post H, and steering-wheel I—a spool

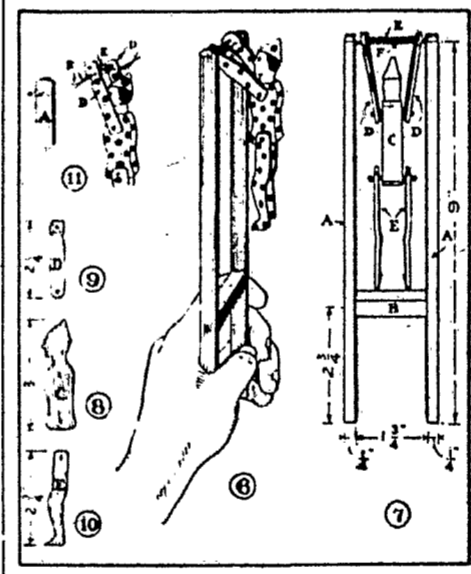


and. Fasten these pieces as indicated. Fit seat J across the box top, and seat back K to its edge. Nail canopy supports L to the seat back and box sides, and tack the canopy M to the supports near the top.

The clown turner (Fig. 6) is made to perform upon his turning-pole by squeezing the lower end of the uprights. The squeezing causes a pair of threads F (Fig. 11) to unravel then twist, and the untwisting and twisting makes the clown turn.

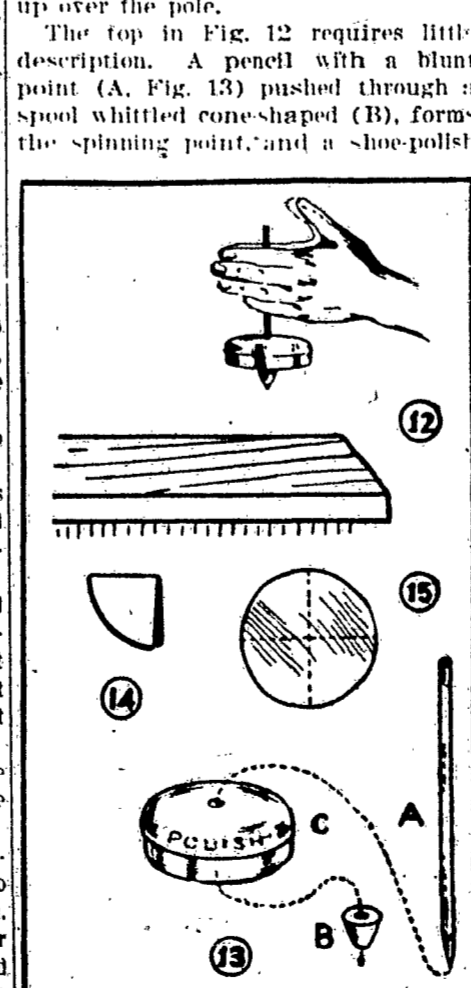
Fig. 7 shows dimensions for uprights A and connecting block B. Fasten B between strips A as shown.

Patterns for the clown are shown in Figs. 8, 9 and 10. Cut the body members out of cigar-box wood, punch holes where indicated, and with pieces of hairpins or other small



wire, pivot the arms and legs to the body. Pierce a small hole through each hand, and whittle the ends of a match to fit in the holes. The match (E, Fig. 7) forms the turning-pole. With a coarse needle pierce a pair of holes through the arms at the wrists, and another pair through uprights A near the top. Run heavy linen thread through the holes in the wrists, and twist their ends (F, Fig. 11), then run the ends through the holes in upright A, and tie. The threads must be twisted when the clown hangs down (Fig. 11), untwisted when he has swung up over the pole.

The top in Fig. 12 requires little description. A pencil with a blunt point (A, Fig. 13) pushed through a spool whittled cone-shaped (B), forms the spinning point, and a shoe-polish



can (C), pierced to push over the pencil end and rest upon the spool end, completes the top.

The top is spun by twirling the pencil between the palms, in one direction, then the other alternately (Fig. 12).

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