The Courier Journal — Youth Section

JOE AND JUDY By Weiss

Christopher's Masterpiece

By Sister M. Marcellina, O. S. U.

MOTHER was worried. It was too bad, too, because it was Mother's birthday and everyone should have only happiness on that important day. Because Mother always made the children's birthdays very special, the children were going to give her a happy time on hers. They were getting dinner all by themselves, and Mother was to be the honored guest.

It had all been planned weeks before. The big day came on Saturday this year. Angela would bake the cake and prepare the food, with Peter as her chief assistant. Christy would prepare a centerpiece and decorate the table. Ann and little Mary would set the table with the best china and silver. John would run the errands.

And what was Mother worried about? Daddy had phoned that he was bringing home to dinner a customer of his, a most important guest. It was not that Mother feared the dinner would not be fine enough. No, she was filled with wonder as to how the table would be decorated.

CHRISTY WAS VERY mysterious about his plans for a centerpiece. Early in the afternoon, when Angela's cake was already baked and ready to be frosted, Christy shut himself out on the cool, screened back porch, gave orders that no one should come near, and went to work.

When Daddy and his guest arrived, Mother made them welcome. She explained about the children's plans, hoping that Mr. Anderson would understand that not even the coming of a guest could interfere with the important event.

Then they went in to dinner. At first glance everything seemed lovely. They said the Grace before meals and were seated before Mother looked more carefully at the table. And then Mother saw it! Even as she looked, she could see out of the corner of her eye that Mr. Anderson was staring in fascination.

"DO YOU LIKE IT, Mother?" Christy asked. "I carved it myself."

"Christy, this is [illegible] fine. It looks like butter. Christy, what did you carve it from?"

"It is butter, Mother! We had a story in school about one of Italy's greatest sculptors. His name was Antonio Canova. He was only a young boy helping in the kitchens of his master's castle. One day which there was going to be a banquet, the carver [illegible] didn't come on time. [illegible] carved out a lion from butter. It was the most [illegible] the master had ever had on his table. He was so pleased he sent Antonio to Venice to study.

I thought this was such an important party, being your birthday, Mother, so I carved a lion out of butter too.

"Christy," Daddy said, [illegible] them. He had been acting as though he had a cold, snorting into his hanky.

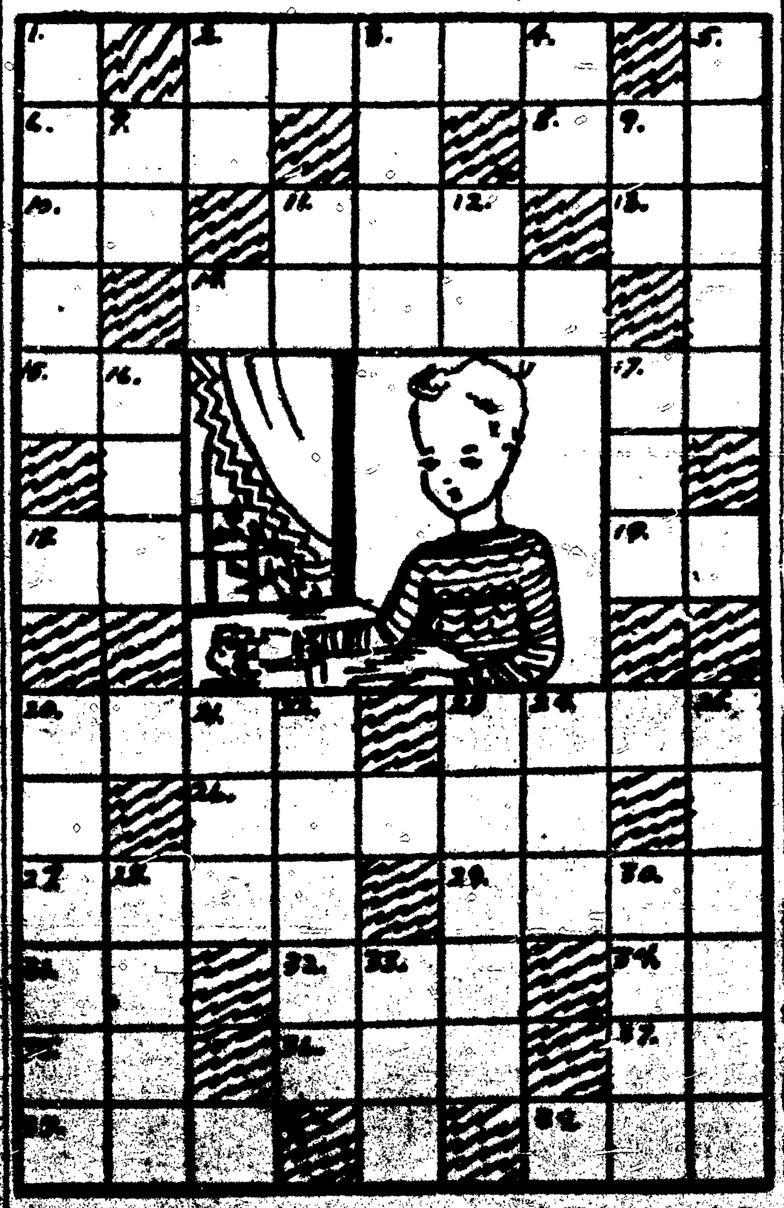
"Christy, what did Antonio do with the lion after the party was over? And what have you planned to do with yours?"

"Well, sir," Christy answered, "I hadn't thought about that. You can't put a butter lion on the mantel. It would melt when it was hot. And if you keep it in the ice box, no one could see it. I guess about the only thing you can really do with butter is eat it, even if it is carved into a lion."

"I think your lion is very much like Antonio's, Christy. Antonio's lion has been remembered for many years. I don't think any of us will ever forget yours. Antonio's lion was on the table for a banquet. So is yours. I'm sure his was used later and I'm sure it tasted good. I think yours will taste especially fine, don't you?"

"And let me tell you, Christy," said Dad, "there's nothing I like better on my bread than a little fresh lion."

ARTIST CROSSWORD PUZZLE



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Down
1—Used by artist in painting
2 False god
3 By one's self
4 Vehicle on runners for traveling over snow and ice
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