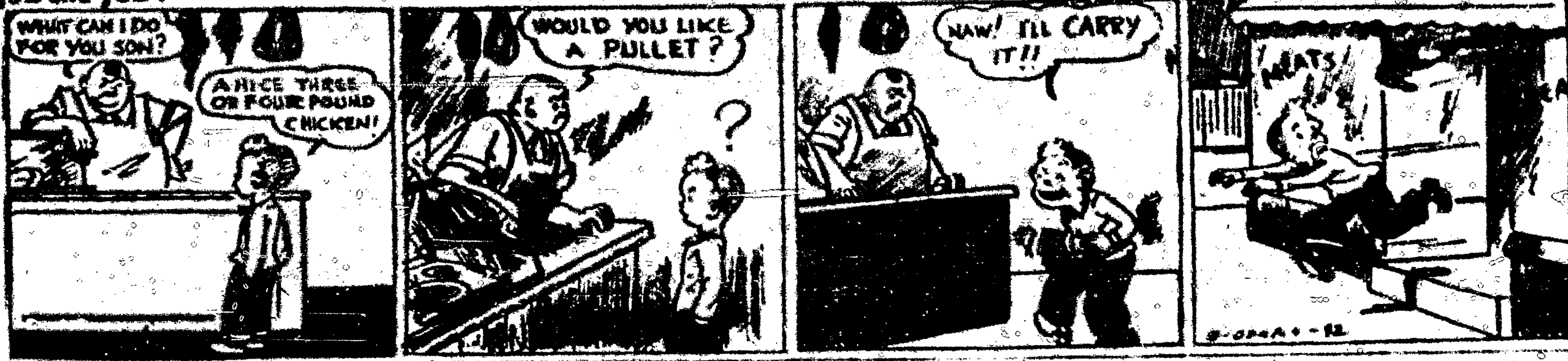


# The Courier Journal

# Youth Section

JOE and JUDY

By Walsh



## Promotion for a Good Cadet

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

NICKY was already in bed when the bugles sounded. In a few minutes the bugles would play taps and the lights would go out. He looked around as one by one each small boy knelt for a last night prayer, then tumbled into bed. When the sweet notes of taps sounded, Nicky closed his eyes.

In the dark Nicky didn't exactly cry, but a few tears did run down his throat and made a salty taste in his mouth. Captain Lawton had scolded him again at drill today. Nicky really did want to do well, but somehow he didn't seem to care much when he didn't.

So many things had happened to Nicky. At first there had always been Dad to love him. Nicky's mother had gone to heaven when Nicky came to Dad, so Dad had to love him enough for two. They got along fine until Nicky was five years old. Then one day Dad told him two amazing things. Dad had to leave him to be a soldier, and Nicky had a new mother.

NICKY AND his new mother learned to love each other dearly during the time they waited for Dad to come back to them. Once Dad came home on furlough and Nicky thought he was there to stay. That was in March when Nicky had his sixth birthday. But Dad went away again, this time across the ocean.

"But the war is over now," Nicky thought. "Why doesn't Dad come home? And why did Mother send me away? I didn't even get to go home to her at Thanksgiving time. Nobody came to visit me, either, and I won't have anyone to come for the big drill exhibition before Christmas vacation."

When Nicky heard the knells of a rosary, he knew he hadn't fooled Sister Mary Helen about the loneliness. She was coming to sit by his bed and talk. Nicky was glad. He liked this nun who was sister prefect of the junior division.

Sister talked a while in quiet, comforting tones.

"YOU'D LIKE to win a promotion, wouldn't you, Nicky? Captain Lawton was not pleased with you today. You could take over the company at drill and give orders better than anyone if you wanted to. Think how proud your Dad would be if you did well at the drill exhibition."

"But Dad's so far away, Sister. I haven't even had a letter for a long time. And Mother—well..." Nicky swallowed hard. He had been so sure Mother loved him dearly, but she hadn't even come once to visit him.

"Nicky," said Sister. "You know that statue of the Boy of Nazareth down in the lobby? Don't you think the Boy Jesus always did His best even when no one could see him? He is the leader of all the cadets in this school, Nicky. Every time you march past that statue at noon, call out His name to help you do what's right. Then from His statue care of all your troubles."

"YES, I WILL, Sister. And I would like to be more than a buck private."

The thrill of retreat ceremony came to his mind, when, in dress uniform, with shoes well-shined, belt buckles polished, and Pershing cap at the proper angle, he stood at salute while the bugles sounded and the flag came slowly down into the arms of the color guard.

With a smile on his face now, Nicky remembered the hours in chapel, there in the front seat so close to the Boy Divine of Nazareth.

"I will do better," thought Nicky, and fell asleep.

CAPTAIN LAWTON did not have to scold Nicky again at drill, yet he felt that this cadet could do still better, could be exceptional if he got his heart into it. Nicky spoke to the Boy Jesus each time he marched past the statue.

"I'm trying," he'd say. "It's fun being a cadet, but I do want to know about Dad—and Mother."

The big day of the drill exhibition found the cadets excited and happy. Parents and friends of the boys crowded around the sidelines of the gym.

AS THEIR DRILL proceeded, the Captain called one cadet after another to give commands. Each boy did his best. Promotion depended on his performance. At last Captain Lawton called on Nicky. And then the Captain stared in amazement. Nicky seemed to be transformed. He snapped out his orders in a ringing voice and handled his company so expertly that the audience burst into cheers and applause.

"What got into the boy?" wondered the Captain as Nicky came forward to salute. But he knew the answer to his question almost at once, when Nicky turned smartly on his heel and brought up his hand to another salute, this time to a soldier in the crowd near the door. Dad had arrived just in time to see the drill.

Later that afternoon Nicky sat on a couch in the lobby. Dad's arm was around him, and Nicky listened to all Dad had to say.

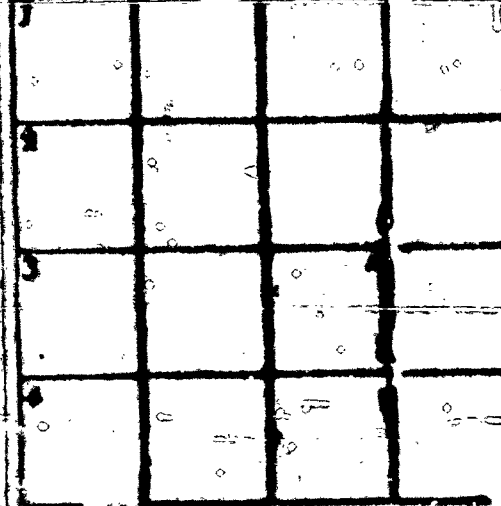
"I COULDN'T WRITE for awhile, I was so busy just getting back as fast as ever I could. This time I won't have to go away again, either. And Mother sends her dearest love. She wants me to tell you what she has been doing. Mother has been busy getting you a new baby sister and learning how to take care of her. You know when Mother got you for her boy you were big, but your new sister is very small. Mother had to learn to let while you were in school."

But for Christmas vacation we'll all be together. Won't Mother be proud when I tell her about today! You'll have a new stripe on your sleeve when you come home."

Nicky leaned his head against Dad's shoulder, and looked at the statue of the Boy Jesus.

"I'll have a real family to go home to on vacation, and you and Mother can bring my baby sister to see me on Sundays. Oh, Dad, I have so much to tell you about school, but first let's go and Sister Mary Helen. I have to say 'thank you' to her for something special."

## Word Square



- 1 Bugle call for lights out
- 2 Having strength of mind or body
- 3 Agreement
- 4 Dispatch

## BRAINY BETSY

Here are some sentences in which the words are out of order. Each sentence is a wise saying which everyone knows and often says. Can you arrange the words in the right order?

- Betsy says if you find them hard you should do the last one first and follow its advice.
- 1 to Early bed rise and to early healthy wise and Makes a wealthy man.
- 2 in nine A time stitch saves.
- 3 count before they Don't hatched your are chickens.
- 4 you leap Look before
- 5 burn Make the hay while shines
- 6 at you succeed If don't first, again try try.

## CADET CROSSWORD PUZZLE



- Across
- 1 Cadet wears this on his head
  - 2 Groups of boys for games
  - 3 At a distance
  - 4 To fall in drops
  - 5 Opposite of soaked
  - 6 Attempt
  - 7 Organ of hearing
  - 8 This given to officers
  - 9 Seventh note of diatonic scale
  - 10 Quick sigh with tears
  - 11 Same as 13 across
  - 12 Toward
  - 13 Each; one
  - 14 Name given to infantry soldier
  - 15 Damage
  - 16 Musical instrument which sounds reveille and taps
  - 17 Fountain
  - 18 White garment worn by priests at Mass
  - 19 Glass with "clink"
  - 20 Machine which staples paper
- Down
- 1 Boy of military school
  - 2 Fearful
  - 3 Two of a kind
  - 4 Nickname of editor of school paper
  - 5 One who draws, paints
  - 6 Cadet's look in these to see if hair is combed
  - 7 Catch sight of
  - 8 Second note of diatonic scale
  - 9 Hair
  - 10 Captain (Abbr.)
  - 11 Lieutenant (Abbr.)
  - 12 Suit worn by cadet
  - 13 Grew old
  - 14 Opposite of little
  - 15 Recklessness of surprise
  - 16 Be obliged
  - 17 Blow given with open hand
  - 18 Buck used in a monetary
  - 19 Supporting band
  - 20 Means by which cadets come to school

## Word Scramble

Here is a list of some of the things cadets do at a Catholic military school. The letters of each word are scrambled. How many can you unscramble?

YUBOT XOB LIDAL  
DERI YPAL LUBSAT  
MISW GIEN ORW

## WORD LADDER

Climb down this word ladder from SHIP to FLAG, changing only one letter at each step.

SHIP

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FLAG

## Answers

1. SHIP  
2. SHIP  
3. SHIP  
4. SHIP  
5. SHIP  
6. SHIP  
7. SHIP  
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