

THE KIND DEEDS MESSENGER

The Latham Foundation Story Service
for the Public Schools

The Horse That Helped Bring News to Lincoln

By E. M. S. FITE

"Love of all living creatures is the most noble attribute of man."—Darwin.

AND Daddy dear, Jack Martin is a really, truly nice boy now!" This from little Virginia Mann, who had been telling her father of a splendid kind deed Jack Martin had done to an old over-worked horse.

A year ago, you will remember, Jack Martin, then a very rough and ready lad, had sneered at Tom Mann and called him a "sissy and a 'fraid cat" when Tom had cried over Jack's abuse of a cat. Tom finally got Jack to go home with him to hear a talk about Abraham Lincoln which Mr. Mann gave Tom and Virginia that evening, and from that time until now Jack's treatment of animals had been very much changed; and while he was still rather rough in many ways he was no longer cruel, and that he was not ashamed to do a kind deed to an animal quite openly was shown by what he had done after school when he saw a man whipping an old and tired horse to force him up a hill at the head of a load which was much too heavy for the horse.

Virginia told her father that Jack had made the man unhitch his horse and lead him home, and had threatened him with arrest if he tried again to force the old horse to draw that load. So many people crowded around in a threatening manner that the man was afraid not to obey Jack.

Tom Mann had let Jack know that his father was going to tell something about Lincoln and a horse this evening, so Jack made one of the three listeners as he had done many evenings since his first introduction to Mr. Mann and the story hour a year ago. When the children were ready for the story and the logs stretched out before the open fire Mr. Mann began.

"Well, Jack, I hear that you used your authority as a good citizen this afternoon. I am glad to know that you are not afraid to stand for the right even when it brings you into public notice in a way you may not like."

"Yes, sir," said Jack, "I did go after that man pretty rough I guess, but then a feller can't stand by and see an animal mistreated and do nothing."

"And to a horse, Jack—a horse is one of the finest and best friends man has ever had," replied Mr. Mann. "This evening I shall tell you something about the horse. I think that we haven't had a special talk about this animal and he certainly deserves all of the kindness and praise we can lay at his door. I shall tell you also a pretty story about one horse in particular that helped to bring glad news to our much loved President, Abraham Lincoln, during the Civil War.

"By the way," continued Mr. Mann, "while that war period is in our minds you may like to know that not alone Mr. Lincoln, but the greatest generals of both armies, North and South, loved their horses greatly and their names have come down in history linked with the names of the beautiful, faithful horses they loved. You children might find it of interest to compile a list of those horses and their owners."

"Daddy," said Tom, "tell us something about the horse first, then tell about Mr. Lincoln. Virginia and



We have but to note the intelligence in the eye of this "Noble Charger" to believe Henry when he said: "Jesse knows things. Mr. Lincoln knows danger, feels it, and he steers around like a cat when things are not safe."

I have never had a horse, we've just had an automobile to ride in, and I'd like to know something about horses."

"When I was a lad, Tom," said Mr. Mann, "I lived on a large farm, as you know, and all of the work was done by draft horses. In those days there were no automobiles so my mother's carriage was drawn by two beautiful carriage horses. I had my pony to ride when I was quite small, and when I was older I had a saddle horse to ride. My little girl cousin called him 'a horse-backing horse.' So, you see, I know something of horses at first hand, not just from hearsay."

"What is the difference between a draft horse, a carriage horse, and a saddle horse?" asked Virginia.

"A draft horse," replied Mr. Mann, "is a strong, heavily built horse that is slow going but capable of drawing heavy loads; our draft horses used to come from Normandy, but now they are bred in large numbers in this country, in the state of Montana. A carriage horse is a lighter built horse, more highly bred, has smaller feet and more slender ankles, and can travel at a fast trot, which is the gait for a carriage horse. A really fine saddle horse is seldom used for driving. He has learned to go at a trot, a canter, or a gallop, which are the gaits best suited for easy pleasure riding, but not at all suited for driving.

"But all horses are descended from the wild horse," continued Mr. Mann, "and a young horse has to be 'broken' to the saddle or to harness for driving before he can be ridden or driven with safety. You may be very sure if a horse has bad habits, such as kicking or biting, and is stubborn, the fault is due to a very cruel 'breaking-in' or to a cruel, unjust master; the horse is noted for repaying a *kind* master with love and kind obedience. If a young horse is carefully trained by kind methods and never learns fear through unkind treatment he may be counted upon to repay his master and owner with life-long devotion and faithful service. Fear and a whip should never be used as part of the 'breaking-in.'

"The Arabs have the finest horses in the world, the most highly bred, and they are treated as a dearly loved child. An Arab will have his horse sleep by him in his tent; he shares all his master has. A story is told of an Arab and his horse which is said to be a true story. They were taken prisoners, and as the Arab lay bound on the ground, the guards asleep, he heard the footsteps of his horse quite near. He softly whistled to his friend and the horse knew that sound in a moment. He came close and at the word of command picked up his bound master in his teeth, and then at the word *Home* he was off like a flash and so fleetly that none could overtake him, and he landed his master safely with his wife and children before the morning."

"There are so many straps and buckles to a horse's clothes, Daddy, and it seems to me a bit must hurt his mouth most terribly. I would hate to have to be driven about with a hard bit in my mouth if I was a horse," said Virginia.

Mr. Mann replied to this that the mouth of a horse is very tender, but as there has never been learned a more humane way of driving a horse the bit is still necessary. "But we can see to it that only a bar bit is used, and one that is long enough so that it does not pinch the horse's lips. The only improvement over the steel bit is one made of India rubber, and I wish they were in more common use," said Mr. Mann. "You see, the reins are attached to the ends of the bit and it is by pulling on one or the other rein that the driver guides the horse, and this should be done as gently as possible. Should you ever have anything to do with horses remember that the overhead check rein should *never* be used. It is most cruel and produces suffering. Its object is to force the horse to hold his head very high. The owner who uses it thinks that a horse looks better that way. He does not consider the horse's feelings, besides making it much harder for a horse to pull a load. If it is only a carriage it reduces his pulling power; and his harness should fit well so that there will be no rubbing to produce raw places and sores."

Mr. Mann saw that the children were really interested so he continued: "Among the needs of a horse is regular and careful feeding—not over-feeding—and frequent watering so that he will not get so thirsty that he will drink too much at one time. When heated from driving a horse should be rubbed down and allowed to cool off gradually before he is fed and watered. And he should have a stall large enough to lie down in. It is cruel to tie a horse in his stall and force him to stand all night after working all day. How would we like to be treated that way do you think?"

"Another thing, a horse should be allowed to keep his mane and tail as they grow. They should not be cut off. They are needed for protection against flies and other insects during hot weather. A long tail is much more beautiful than a bobbed tail, but a bobbed tail is thought to be more fashionable. An owner who really has the welfare of his horse at heart will always be careful of his feet, he will see to careful shoeing, and he will always see that his horse's hoofs are scraped out at the end of the day so that stones or other things will not become packed in the foot and cause trouble. The care of his feet means comfort for the horse and easy traveling for his master. Then, kiddies, our horse is entitled to a day of rest each week just as we are after we have worked all week. And each year he should be given his vacation by turning him out to grass without any work for several weeks. The master who treats his horse with kindness and consideration will prolong his usefulness and his faithful service will never cease. And when he is old he should be cared for and not made to work. By a long life of service to man he has earned this rest at the end of his life. It is not humane to work a horse until he dies in harness."

"When does a horse begin to work, Daddy, at what age?" asked Tom.

"A colt, which is the name for a young horse, is usually three years old before he is broken to harness, and then he is only given light work to do. A baby horse, called a foal, is allowed to run with his mother without being trained, as he hasn't the strength to carry or draw loads.

"To my mind," continued Mr. Mann, "the saddest life a horse can have is being used in the mines, 'way down under the earth, where horses are used to draw the loaded cars of coal. Once taken down in the mines a horse usually stays there for the rest of his life. The miner comes up to the surface at the end of his day and can see the sun and grass and trees, but the horse does not. He eats, sleeps and works underground with no place to run, no green grass to eat, and never sees the sunshine.

"In 1923, in the state of Indiana, there was a cave-in of a mine where a pony was used, and the pony and three men were caught down in the mine and couldn't get out. Other miners worked hard and got the three men out, but the pony was still down there and the mine began to fill with gas and the men were told that it would be unsafe for them to try to save the pony. But I want you to know what a splendid thing seven of those men did. They were real humane workers, for they had love in their hearts for that animal, and they felt that his life was just as important as theirs. In spite of the gas in the mine they started to work to save the pony.

"They forced 'food and air down to the pony by a corn shredding machine provided with a blower at-

tachment,' and they kept on digging out the earth that had caved in until there was space enough for one man to crawl in. He crawled in and found the pony was still alive, and then the seven men between them managed to get the pony out. He was lifted to the top in a leather sling made for the purpose. The pony had been entombed for 255 hours before the men got him out. He was saved from death by slow starvation in a living tomb. Wasn't that a splendid heroic deed for those miners to have done? The people of the town were all crowded around the mine and there was great rejoicing when the pony was saved. The men were given the Humane Service Medal by the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, and they told this story in print, and the name of the pony was Rex."

His listeners were much thrilled as Mr. Mann told of the rescue of Rex, for as he told it it sounded even finer than it looks in print. Then Jack Martin spoke: "Now, sir, won't you please tell us about Lincoln and the horse?"

"Well, Jack, the horse was named Jess, but he wasn't Mr. Lincoln's horse. The story goes something like this, as it was published in Collier's Weekly by Miss Ida Tarbell. It was during the war between the North and the South, which in your histories is called the Civil War, that President Lincoln had been waiting anxiously for news from General Grant at the front. No news came and because he was so anxious he spent much of his time each day in the telegraph office hoping to get a message the moment it came. The Secretary of War, Mr. Stanton, had said that no newspaper men should go to the front with the army. In spite of this order Henry Wing, a very young lad of seventeen, ran off and joined the army. He was on the staff of the New York Tribune, which was a large and important newspaper.

"In some way Henry managed to get to the front and was in the field when a very important battle was fought, so his first thought was to get back to Washington with the news to his paper. His was a loyal nature and he never dreamed of giving out the news of the battle to anyone until his paper had it first. In order to reach Washington Henry had to pass through the enemy's lines, and he knew if he was caught he would be shot for a spy. He was riding his dearly loved horse, Jess, and he knew that he could not take him through the lines, and he had to find some way to disguise himself. He was being chased by the enemy, and Jess, seeming to sense that they were in danger, gave a great bound and rushed for the river where it was deep water and swam across. Henry led Jess into a thicket and tied him loose, and poured out all the oats on the ground he had for him to eat, and with his arms around Jess' neck and his mouth close to his ear he promised his horse that he would come back, but he had no idea when that might be and his heart was heavy at having to leave Jess.

"By the help of a friend near Culpepper Henry changed his clothes from the Tribune uniform he wore to rough and ragged clothes such as were worn by field hands, and when he left Jess tied in the thicket he was about 30 miles from Washington, but he had to walk the distance, and this he did on the railroad ties. When he reached Union Mills Henry tried to send a telegram to his paper, but he was not allowed to use the line for the newspaper. He tried to get permission to do this through Mr. Stanton, but when he declined to give his news to the Secretary

of War he was thought to be a spy, and the men at Union Mills had orders to hold him until morning, then shoot him. Henry was heartbroken over the failure to reach his paper, but he was determined to give up his news to no one else first.

"Mr. Lincoln in his restlessness went that evening to the telegraph office to see if a message had come through from the army, and there he was told of the orders about the young man at Union Mills who was to be shot and who would not give his message to anyone but the Tribune. A change came over the President's face as he listened. He sat straighter, his eyes lost their dull look. 'Ordered him to be shot?' he asked.

"'Yes, Mr. President,'

"'He's at Union Mills?'

"'Yes.'"

"'Ask him if he will talk with the President.'"

"Henry Wing said that he would tell the news to the President if he would first send one hundred words to the Tribune. This was done. The President sensed the truth. He realized that here was a fine loyal boy who felt that his first trust was to his paper, and one who would not break that trust for the Secretary of War, even though it meant his life. President Lincoln sent a special train down the line to bring Henry to Washington, and had him taken to the White House, where the lad told his news to the President and the Cabinet officers. It was 4 o'clock in the morning before Henry went to his hotel to rest. Before leaving Henry told Mr. Lincoln a special message General Grant had sent to him. This and the news of the successful battle Henry had brought made the President so happy that he put his arm about Henry's shoulders and kissed him on the forehead.

"That night Henry told the President about Jess, told of his promise to go back to Jess. He said: 'I never break a promise to a horse, Mr. President. Jess knows things, Mr. Lincoln; knows danger, feels it, and he steals around like a cat when things are not safe. That's the way he acted yesterday morning. It made me a little careful.'"

"The next day the President sent a special train with a guard, and water and oats, to bring Jess back to Washington. When Henry left the train and got near to where he had left Jess he crawled through the thicket and there the horse stood, head stretched out, eyes alert, ears forward, legs far apart, not a muscle moving, not a sound, the very picture of intentness. And when he saw Henry it was as if he would spring to meet him, for with one snap of his white teeth he bit almost through the leather strap which held him. He had not tried to get away before. He had been waiting faithfully for Henry to come back as he had promised. Tears streamed down Henry's face as he threw his arms around Jess' neck, while softly Jess nuzzled his neck, whinnying his delight.

"Henry took Jess back to Washington in the boxcar. All of the newspaper men in Washington got together and bought the finest saddle and bridle for Jess that could be found, and it was given to him that afternoon on the White House lawn with Mr. Lincoln present. Mr. Lincoln asked Henry if he might ride Jess, which he did. Mr. Lincoln was a very fine horseman and never looked so well as when in the saddle. He told Henry good-bye and said: 'You will be coming to Washington some time and remember this, that when you do come I want you always to come and see me. I shall want to talk with you.'"

"So, kiddies, that is all I shall tell you about horses tonight. Another time we may have more stories of horses. Good night and sweet dreams to you. Come again soon, Tom."

QUESTIONS

1. Tell in what way the horse is a friend to man.
2. How does a horse repay kind treatment?
3. Is a horse to blame for his bad habits, such as biting and kicking?
4. How do work horses differ from horses used for pleasure riding and driving?

5. How are these different horses called?
6. How does a saddle horse differ from a horse for driving?
7. By what name is a young horse called, and at what age is he trained?
8. What is the training called and what method should be used in the training?
9. Should a horse be whipped into obedience? Why?
10. Should the mane and tail of a horse be cut? Why?
11. Tell of the kind of care a horse should have to keep him in fine condition.
12. What is the bit for, and what kind of a bit should be used?
13. How should a horse be rewarded for a lifetime of faithful service?
14. What horses are the most intelligent?
15. Tell some stories that show keen intelligence of the horse.

San Francisco Kind Deeds Clubs

VERY encouraging reports are coming in from the San Francisco schools. The visits by the Latham Foundation to these schools were made as late as November, but in spite of the Thanksgiving and Christmas activities many of the children, encouraged by their splendid teachers, have formed KIND DEEDS CLUBS in several of the schools, and in three of them the members have been so active that they have earned their Honor Buttons.

Reports to date show that the 29 members of the KIND DEEDS CLUB in Mrs. Loudon's room, 5B grade, Hearst school, were the first to earn their buttons.

In Argonne school, 6B grade, Mrs. Mallon's class, seven members of the KIND DEEDS CLUB have earned their buttons.

From 6B grade, Grant school, Mrs. Cupples writes: "I am happy to state that 47 of us (now 6B) have fulfilled all the requirements for earning our buttons. We recited our pledges and recounted our KIND DEEDS at our weekly meetings. At our next meeting I shall ask the children which they consider the 'best' kind deeds so far reported, and promise you an early accounting.

"I can assure you that we loved your visit and it has proved a very great inspiration to us.

"My pupils are awaiting the arrival of the badges most eagerly. Our little Secretary, June Oleson, has returned to her home in Hawaii, but she begged that we please send her her badge, which I promised faithfully."

The KIND DEEDS CLUB in Miss Noonan's class, Marshall school, gave an interesting play which taught the children how to be kind to animals. The play was taken from the Kind Deeds Messenger.

Garfield school has a splendid active KIND DEEDS CLUB, judging from reports sent in by Miss Watts, who is as enthusiastic as the children. She has not mentioned the number of children enrolled, but judge the entire class is enrolled.

In the Kate Kennedy school there are KIND DEEDS CLUBS in six rooms—Miss Cadman, Miss Davis, Miss Fishbon, Misses Maschio and Connelly, Misses Meagher and Mayers, Miss O'Connor. We shall hope for a demand from them for Honor Buttons very soon, and the same from the Marshall school, where there is a large enrollment of KIND DEEDS CLUB members in eight rooms, namely, the rooms of Misses Bryan, Castle, Flanagan, Gaidella, McGowan, Noonan, Nyhan and Redwin.

Many letters have reached the Latham Foundation from the Andrew Jackson school, Patrick Henry school,

Golden Gate school, and from about 40 children who wrote about the KIND DEEDS CLUBS and the KIND DEEDS MESSENGER, but gave only their home addresses and did not state where they went to school. In writing to the Foundation will the children please always state the school they attend and give the grade they are in? These many letters are greatly appreciated and we hope to have more of them, and to hear of the work being done by the club members in these schools.

Early Returns of Kind Deeds Clubs' Christmas Work

MRS. Borneman reports that the KIND DEEDS CLUBS of the six primary schools of Hayward, supervised by her, sent 23 Christmas baskets to the local Associated Charities and 11 baskets to the Salvation Army.

The KIND DEEDS CLUB of the 6th grade, Niles school, Miss Jacobsen's room, made eleven scrapbooks, which were to be sent to the "shut-in" children of Rose Avenue Cottage and Del Valle.

The children of the KIND DEEDS CLUB in the Palomares school, Mrs. Brothers, Principal, and Miss Niderost, teacher, filled two Christmas boxes and sent them to the office of the Latham Foundation. They were passed on to a young mother who was out of work and her 4-year-old child, and a lady of 76 years who is quite lame and earns a meager living by sewing.

The KIND DEEDS CLUB members of Warm Springs school, Leslie H. Maffia, Principal, Miss Davis and Miss Freitas, teachers, gave their savings, \$8 in cash, to purchase something special that the "shut-in" children could eat at Christmas, as they are not allowed to eat as other children do because of their condition.

These few splendid reports reached the Messenger just in time to be run in this issue. There will be many more reports later, some which will show KIND DEEDS done to animals for Christmas. Of this we feel sure.

The Humane Poster and Essay Contests for 1928

"The chief value, as I see it, in this contest should be the awakening of a desire on the part of children to act humanely toward all animal life, and if it is able to accomplish that, then it is very much worthwhile."—Charles E. Teach, Superintendent of Schools, Bakersfield, California.

THE printed announcements of the Latham Foundation Statewide Humane Poster Contest for 1928 have been distributed and the returns are awaited with a great deal of interest. All posters are to be in the hands of the Foundation by March 1. The time and place of exhibit will be announced later.

The Latham Foundation Essay Contest for the Alameda County schools will close March 1. This contest is for grades 4, 5 and 6; 7 and 8; and the high schools, three divisions for which there will be six prizes each.

Since the last issue of the Kind Deeds Messenger Alhambra and Berkeley have ordered the Messenger for use in their schools as a teaching medium for Humane Education. So the good work spreads.



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