

HOW CINDER JACK WON THE BEAUTIFUL PRINCESS

By LOUISE SAUVAN

THERE was once—I don't know where, beyond seven times seven countries—and at a cock's crow even beyond them—an immense, tall, quivering poplar tree. This tree had seven times 77 branches; on each branch there were seven times 77 crows' nests, and in each nest seven times 77 young crows. May those who don't listen attentively to my tale, or who doze, have all these crows about their ears; and those who pay me the courtesy of attention have a long life and a good time throughout it!

Now, there was once, I could not tell exactly where, a peasant who had three sons. One morning he sent out the eldest son to guard the vineyard. The lad went and was cheerfully eating a cake he had taken with him when a frog crept up to him and asked him to let it have some of his cake.

"Anything else?" asked the lad angrily, and picking up a stone he sought to drive the frog away. The frog left without another word. Soon the lad fell asleep and on his awakening the whole vineyard was laid waste. The next day the father sent his second son into the vineyard, but he fared like the first.

The father was very angry about it and really did not know what to do. Then his youngest son, who was always sitting in a corner among the ashes and who had been nicknamed Cinder Jack, spoke up.

"My father," he said, "send me out and I will take care of the vineyards."

His father and brothers laughed at him, but allowed him to have a trial; so Cinder Jack went to the vineyard, took out his cake and commenced to eat. The frog again appeared and asked for a piece of cake, which Cinder Jack gave to him at once. Having finished the breakfast the frog gave the lad a copper, a silver and a gold rod and told him that three horses would appear shortly—one of copper, one of silver and one of gold, and would want to trample down the vineyard; but if he tapped them with the rods he had given him they would at once become tame and be his servants, and could at any time be summoned to carry out his orders.

Cinder Jack waited patiently, and presently, exactly as the frog had predicted, the three horses appeared prepared to trample down the vineyard, and were immediately subdued when Cinder Jack tapped each horse lightly with the rod which matched its own color. The vineyard produced a rich



harvest, but Cinder Jack never told his father or brothers how he had been able to preserve the vineyard, and again spent his time, as usual, lying about in his favorite ash corner.

Soon afterward, one fine Sunday in May, the king had a high fir pole erected in front of the church and a golden rosemary tied to the top, and promised that any one who was able to take it down in one jump on horseback should have an opportunity to woo the princess for his wife.

Of course all knights of the whole realm tried their fortunes, but not one of them was able to jump as high as the rosemary was. But all of a sudden a knight clad in copper mail, on a copper horse, appeared with his visor down and snatched the rosemary with an easy jump and quickly vanished. At home the two brothers told Cinder Jack what had happened, whereupon he said that he saw the whole performance much better from the top of the haystack.

Next Sunday a still higher pole with a golden apple on top was set up, and the king announced that whosoever wished to marry the king's daughter had to take the apple down. Again hundreds upon hundreds tried, but in vain, till at last a knight in silver mail, on a silver horse, took it and disappeared. Cinder Jack then told his brothers that he saw the festivity much better than they did. He had seen it, he said, from a pigstye.

The third Sunday a silk kerchief interwoven with gold was displayed on top of a still higher pole, and as nobody succeeded in getting it a knight in gold mail on a gold horse appeared, snatched it down and galloped off. Cinder Jack again told his brothers that he had seen all from the top of the house.

The king now had it announced that the knight who had shown himself worthy of his daughter should report himself and should bring with him the gold rosemary, the apple and the silk kerchief; but no one came. So the king ordered every man in the realm to come to court, and still the knight in question could not be found, till at last he arrived clad in gold mail on a gold charger. Whereupon the bells were at once rung and hundreds upon hundreds of cannon fired. The knight, having handed to the princess the golden rosemary, the apple and the kerchief, respectfully demanded her hand, and having obtained it, lifted his visor, when, for mercy's sake, it was Cinder Jack, whom they had even forgotten to ask to the king's presence!

ADDITIONAL COMPOSITIONS BY THE JUNIORS

How Ralph Saved His Father's Valuables

MILTON MEADOWS,
Monte Rio, Sonoma County, California.
Graduate of Sheridan School.
Age 14 Years.

When Ralph came home from school one afternoon he found the big house empty and lifeless. Father and mother and all the noisy, cheerful brothers and sisters were all away on one errand or another. He shouted upstairs and downstairs, but there was no response. He felt lonely and desolate, so he put on his cap to go out again into the bright sunlight, when suddenly there was a vigorous rapping at the door, and before Ralph had a chance to do anything two vicious looking men dashed into the room.

Ralph, unobserved by the men, crawled under a lounge to see what they were going to do. The first thing they did was to take all the silver ware and pack it into a sack. They then went to a safe and tried to open it with a number of tools, but in vain. The two then became desperate, and with the aid of dynamite, blew the safe open. They then fell to work filling a sack with the money and valuables gotten from the safe. When this task was completed they turned to leave.

In the meantime Ralph, seeing that the two men were about to rob the house, ran down to a police station and told the chief what was happening. Accompanied by two policemen he came back to the house. The trio arrived just as the thieves were about to leave.

"Halt!" cried the policemen. The thugs, surprised, turned around, and when they found themselves looking into the barrels of two 44s they trembled with fear. The policemen quickly handcuffed the two and brought them before the judge. The thugs' booty was restored to Ralph's father and each one was given five years in the penitentiary.

When Ralph's father learned that his son had saved his valuables he gave him \$25. As soon as Ralph received the money he went to a store and bought a catcher's mitt, a bat, a fielder's glove and a \$1.25 ball and a fishing and hunting outfit.

Ralph's Surprise

DORIS LINTRUP,
Thirty-fifth Avenue and Kansas Street,
Oakland. Fruitvale School No. 3,
A Eighth Grade. Age 13 Years.

When Ralph came home from school one afternoon he found the big house empty and lifeless. Father and mother and all the noisy, cheerful brothers and sisters were away on one errand or another. He shouted upstairs and down-

stairs, but there was no response. He felt lonely and desolate, so he put on his cap to go out again into the bright sunlight, when suddenly there was a vigorous rapping at the door and instantly Ralph thought of the many tricks the big boys played on the smaller boys when they were alone. He decided he would let them have their joke for a little while, but when it went too far he'd stop it.

While waiting for a second knock he heard a noise, which sounded as though it were in the house. He became frightened for a few moments, because he was all alone. The telephone was not within reach and he was afraid to move. "Why didn't I telephone when I first thought?" said Ralph to himself. If only Roy would come or even Ben, he would be saved. Ralph couldn't imagine what the boys were up to. He sneaked upstairs and looked out of the window, and to his surprise, he saw a wagon with the name, "Children's Joy." It was bringing something he wanted.

He was downstairs in a shot, and to the door. "See here, young fellow; you have kept us waiting here for the door to open," said the driver, "and we have a mind to take your things back again." Ralph explained his reason and the men felt sorry for him. They had brought an aeroplane from Uncle Jack. Ralph couldn't wait until his mother and father came home to use it. He was kind enough to let each boy have a chance at going up into the air.

Ralph's Fright

HELEN CLARK,
518 California Street, Sallinas Lincoln
School, Fourth Grade. Age 9 Years.

When Ralph came home from school one afternoon he found the big house empty and lifeless. Father and mother and all the noisy, cheerful brothers and sisters were away on one errand or another. He shouted upstairs and downstairs, but there was no response. He felt lonely and desolate, so he put on his cap to go out into the bright sunlight, when suddenly there was a vigorous rapping at the door and Ralph saw the ugly head of a tramp looking in at the window. For a minute he stood rooted to the spot and then rushed upstairs in time to see the tramp start after him. He rushed into a bed room and up some stairs to the garret. He crept across the threshold to a box and crouched behind it, dreading the time when the tramp should find him. Meanwhile the tramp followed him to the door, but he did not come in. Instead he stopped and looked around. Up the stairs came a rush of feet and the tramp fled. Ralph's mother ran into the room and up to the garret. Ralph was found unconscious in his hiding place. When he came to himself his first words were: "Has the tramp gone?" "Yes," was the answer.

Captured

GLEN KELLY,
Tiburon. Tiburon School, Eighth
Grade. Age, 13 Years.

When Ralph came home from school one afternoon he found the big house empty and lifeless. Father and mother and all the noisy, cheerful brothers and sisters were away on one errand or another. He shouted upstairs and downstairs, but there was no response. He felt lonely and desolate, so he put on his cap to go out again into the bright sunlight, when suddenly there was a vigorous rapping at the door, and he opened it to disclose one of his best friends standing by the side of his bicycle, all out of breath.

"Is—any one—home?" he gasped.
"No," replied Ralph.
"Look what I found on the beach," he said, displaying a damp piece of paper.

On it was what seemed to be a chart, but on closer inspection proved to be a map of where a buried treasure was hidden.

"Let's go after it," Ralph said. It seemed funny to think of hidden treasure in these days, but it was true. So it was all fixed that the boys should start in a few days, as soon as Louis' sloop could be overhauled. It was of the centerboard type, and a very fast little boat.

So on the second day all was ready for a long voyage. As it was among the Florida keys, the sea was pretty calm.

They bade every one goodby and, as a stiff breeze was blowing, they were soon on their way.

It was early in the morning and they had all day to reach the island in which the treasure was located. It was one big tack all the way, so they soon reached their destination.

As it was too late to search for the gold they anchored in a tiny harbor until morning.

The boys were soon asleep, having dreams of heaps of gold. They were up bright the next morning and rowed ashore, carrying with them a pick and shovel and the chart.

When they reached the land they saw the prints of feet on the sand. The boys thought nothing of it, as many fishermen visited these islands.

They soon found the spot mentioned in the chart. Ralph struck something like metal, when a fishing boat sailed up beside their own. They quickly covered up the big hole and made believe they were hunting for turtles' eggs.

A number of Italians rowed ashore and walked up to Louis and Ralph.

"Whatta you got, boys?" one of them asked.

"Turtle eggs," replied Ralph, disclosing some of the soft eggs.
A few grunts and they went back to their boat and sailed away.
The boys set to work again and soon

had an oaken chest on the sand. This they carried to the rowboat and transferred it to the sloop. They were both very happy, laughing and yelling. They then set sail and started back home.

All went well until the fishermen's boat was seen to chase them. Louis put on all sail and they were going at a fine clip, but the other boat at last caught up and a number of the fishermen boarded the boys' boat.

The boys were powerless and one of the men went below and returned with the box. They opened it and expected to see lots of gold, but instead there was nothing but a dead dog.

The men were certainly disgusted and left the boys.

Louis soon explained to Ralph that he had suspicioned the Italians and removed the gold, which was safe.

The boys reached home without any other adventures and a considerable amount of money was in the box, which made them rich and, of course, they lived happily all the rest of their lives.

The Boys' Heroism

RUTH MORRIS,
1424 Lake Street, San Francisco.
Age 11 Years.

When Ralph came home from school one afternoon he found the big house empty and lifeless. Father and mother and all the noisy, cheerful brothers and sisters were away on one errand or another. He shouted upstairs and downstairs, but there was no response. He felt lonely and desolate, so he put on his cap to go out again into the bright sunlight, when suddenly there was a vigorous rapping at the door, and as Ralph went to open it a boy of his age burst into the room and cried, "Be quick and follow me!"

The two boys ran out of the house, and, after having closed the door behind them, Ralph said, "Why, Joe, what has happened?"

"Well," said Joe, as they hurried in the direction of the pond, "you see, Mary, Jack, Susie and Tom hunted all over for you to take them for a boat ride, but when they could not find you, Tom said that he would row. So the four of them got into the boat, and at the deepest part Susie turned the boat over by reaching for a water lily."

The boys soon reached the pond and saw the children. Joe and Ralph lost no time in taking off their coats, hats, shoes and stockings. Joe was the first to bring one child back to land in safety. In five minutes people were encouraging Joe and Ralph in saving the children. I am sure that after that Tom did not go in the boat with his other sisters and brothers without Ralph or Joe.