

# Daddy's Evening Fairy Tale

by MARY GRAHAM BONNER

## THE THREE TOADS.

"I do not mind if my throat is larger than my head," said Teddy Toad, "for I can make pleasant sounds which are like singing notes."

"It is so pleasant to be down by the pond and to see the yellow spring cowslips," said Timmie Toad.

"I," said Miss Tessie Toad, "will wear a bright colored frock on the warm summer days when the sun is shining brightly and when I have been very busy. Some creatures wear old dull things when they are busy but when I am busy I like to look bright."

"And you do, you do," said Teddy. "You do, you do," agreed Timmie. "I do, I do," said Miss Tessie Toad. "I sometimes become so much interested in singing," said Teddy, "that I forget to be on the look-out for danger."

"Yes, I remember my grandfather used to tell us," said Timmie, "of the time he had been singing and had not been paying attention to anything but his own voice when along came a snake and gobbled him down, swallowing him whole. Luckily he hadn't swallowed him down very far, and a kind person came along and took the snake and pressed upon the snake, not with kind words but with hands, and the snake let go of my grandfather."

"He came out of the snake's mouth and hopped off in safety. But he said all people wouldn't have done what this kind person did, and that ever after he was more careful to pay attention to what was going on about him, or what was coming toward him. "It was a narrow escape which my grandfather had."

"And we should all be careful too," said Teddy. "But it is hard to think of anything else but music when we are singing on a lovely spring day."

"I am much larger than you are," said Miss Tessie Toad to Teddy Toad, "and I am also larger than you are," she said to Timmie Toad. "We lady



"I Am Much Larger."

toads like to be larger. We also wear gayer colors than you do and we like to look brighter.

"You have black throats. We all wear yellow-brown suits with touches of color but as I've said we wear more colors than you do."

"And right that is," said Teddy Toad, "for a lady toad should dress up more than a gentleman toad. Ladies are supposed to dress up more than gentlemen, though in the bird world it is usually the other way around I've been told."

"Of course," said Timmie Toad, "you ladies do not sing as we do. We are the singers."

"That is all right," said Miss Tessie Toad, "for we like to hear the music as we think of the bright colors we are wearing, and as we gaze at our handsome suits and dresses."

"We don't like to sing if it is cold," said Teddy Toad, "for we care about the warm weather. We like to sing a song like this:

"Oh, when it's warm we're glad,  
But when it's cold we're sad,  
And when it's cold we don't care to sing,  
Whereas, when it's warm we think it's  
the thing  
To sing and to sing from morning to  
night,  
And from night to morning is also all  
right."

"Baby toads which have grown out of tadpoles and toads several years old like the ponds," said Miss Tessie Toad, "but the others like the grasses and the paths. When we become older we do not wear such smooth suits but wear rougher ones which are suitable for us because of our age."

"We all live a long time, a very, very long time and we sleep during the winter. We moult our skins and shed them and swallow them, for we're our own waste paper baskets in that way."

"Altogether it is nice to be a toad, and we're very well meaning and pleasant and friendly to people. We will never do them any harm and we will destroy bugs and insects which hurt their gardens. We drink water differently from other creatures. We take it in through our skins instead of swallowing it."

"Yes, altogether, it is very nice to be a toad, very nice!"

## Always Got the Neck.

All members of small families wonder how it would feel to be a cog in the larger family mechanism. Here is how it works for one thing. A friend, with seven sisters and one brother recently told me he was fifteen years old before he knew a chicken had anything but a neck.

## Mispelled Words

The word "stylish" in the ad of Mrs. F. Popovich was misspelled in our last issue. Those to receive the Jacobs candles are Miss Mabel Broussard, 129 Sildell avenue; Mrs. E. F. Burmaster, 829 Atlantic avenue, and Miss Hilda Carroll, 727 Patterson street.

# ABC

## SHOPPERS' GUIDE

AND

## BUSINESS DIRECTORY

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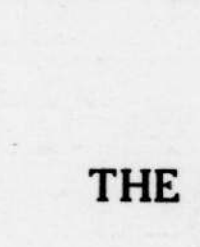
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