Harpo Marx Tells Of Practical Jokes

I've spent a lifetime as a clown in the theatre. I've played the harp on concert stages. I've written a book called Harpo Speaks! And now I find that I'm in danger of going down in history as a practical joker.

The trouble is that in my book I casually recalled a few pranks that I took part in.

Now, I don't mind practical jokes as long as they are goodnatured (some can be pretty cruel, and those I hate). So 1 don't resent being classed as a practical joker-except that I really don't rank with the great practical jokers, such as the late Charlie MacArthur, Hugh Troy, and Jim Moran.

MacArthur himself thought the best practical joke he ever heard of was wrought by Waldo Peirce, artist, poet, and bohemian.

MacArthur's favourite spoof flashes back to Peirce's Paris days. Knowing his concierge liked pets, he bought her a

Two days later he substituted a turtle a size larger. Next day he switched that for one which was even bigger still.

Madame was overjoyed that the little creature was thriving, but day by day the turtle grew until the good lady found herself sharing the apartment with a 300-pound Gargantuan.

At that point, Peirce began reducing the turtle until it gradually returned to its original size. Peirce told the lady the truth going out of her mind

One of my favourite pioneer practical jokers on this side of e Atlantic was a roly-poly New Yorker, Brian G. Hughes. On rainy days, Hughes would his umbrella in a tempting spot,



by Laura Wheeler

up - love these cozy chill-

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and watch for someone to pick

Hughes would follow, for his umbrella put on a remarkably spectacular performance. When it was opened it unfurled a gaudy banner announcing to the world "This Umbrella Stolen from Brian G. Hughes."

The most efficient practical joke is one that delivers a message without a word being uttered. One year I was at Alec Woollcott's summer retreat, Neshobe Island in the middle of Vermont's Lake Bomoseen. Alec's island was well off the mainland and only specially invited friends were ever expected to set foot

One day Alice Duer Miller, the novelist and a member of the inner circle, went for a walk and rushed back with harrowing news—a group of tourists had rowed over to the island and were having a picnic.

I volunteered to deal with the erlopers. I stripped off my clothes, put on my red smeared myself with mud and went whooping and war-dancing down to the shore, making goony grimaces and brandishing an axe. The picnickers snatched up their belongings and rowed away

fast enough to win a boat race. This gag not only scattered the poachers but started a spate of juicy rumours about the maroon which effectively snuffed out all picnic plans for years to come. Stuffed shirts are the best tar-With an air of suave dignity, I

> noted for its solemn, stuffy atmosphere. I couldn't resist trying to deflate the place a bit, Here's what I did. went to Woolworth's and bought practically all the fake emeralds, rubies and diamonds

in stock and dumped them all in e bag. Then I went to Tif-With an air of sauve dignity, I askeć to be shown some diamonds. The clerk drew out a tray of thousand-dollar gems. While I examined them I gently

turned over the bag from Wool worth's behind my back. Jewels went spilling and bound ing all over the joint. Instantly ells rang, buzzers buzzed, and detectives jumped out of the woodwork. All the other custom ers were hustled out. The doors

were locked. Meanwhile the whole sales staff, including the manager, down on their hands and knees retrieving my sparkling gems. nd they put all the loose jewels in it. As he dropped in the last

The store detective hustled me out of the door, with the recomnendation that I never return to Tiffany's, by the way, denies to

his day it ever happened. That's heir joke on me! I'm indebted to H. Allen Smith, the Boswell of practical jokers. and his book, The Compleat Practical Joker, for refreshing my memory on the details o me of these gags, like this one pulled by Lucius Beebe.

Beebe brought a ventriloquist friend of his to Yale University and introduced him to the college chaplain as a famous preacher from the Far West. As Beebe had deliver a sermon in the Yale

Working himself into a froth of religious fervour, the fraudulent preacher suddenly cupped his hands to his mouth, raised his eyes towards heaven and shouted: "Am I right?" Down through the roof floated a voice from afar: "You are right,

The American college campus has been the breeding ground for some of our most spectacular practical jokes. It was at Cornell, for instance, that Hugh Troy, the most eminent practitioner of the art, really got his start.

At Cornell he is chiefly re-membered for his rhinoceros joke. Troy and a friend had found a wastebasket fashioned from the foot of a rhinoceros. One snowy night they made rhinoceros tracks leading down and into Lake Beebee, the local

Next morning the university's zoology professors confirmed the fact that the footssteps belonged to a rhino. According to H. Allen Smith,

those who drank swore they could taste rhinoceros. Troy also owned a skeleton backed in a suitcase. As he strode through some busy spot like Grand Central Station he would et the suitcase fall open, the keleton clattering all over the

uilding. We need more free-wheeling spirits, more impractical jokers, r. this grim twentieth century to





BOBO AND FIANCE - Bobo Rockefeller, 44, is kissed by her fiance, Charles Mapes Jr., 41, shortly after they announced their engagement in New York. Mapes will be Bobo's third husband. Her second mate was Winthrop Rockefeller.



Last week we had just about | trials and tribulations in their everything in the way of wea- | fight for political freedom. That ther - ice, snow, high winds and be complications so he was under observation for nearly three days before they operated. Joy and Cedric stayed with Dee and her family so Joy could spend as much time as possible with Ross. was as happy as a lark the first few days. One day his mother took him to a telephone booth so he could talk to me—
and to his Daddy. Was he ever

that it was also the size of a nage dairy farm— "Price Brother's Dairy"— with a herd of 400 excited! This was part of the cows. Eventually City Dairy conversation: "Grandma — do bought Price's out — they in turn

you know what? I'm in a big, sold to Bordens. Price Brothers, ald, the manager understood big hospital. There is another at last. Abruptly, his attitude little boy in my room and are we their 700 acres into a fruit farm, having fun! And tomorrow I'm going to have my tonsils out." Needless to say the next day he been told they made wonderful wasn't talking much, either on the telephone or elsewhere. He has had a rough time, poor little fellow, but I think he is coming along all right now, although he will be in hospital for a few days from us, the interior of which I

We haven't been able to get in to see hi mas I was practically blind in one eye most of last week. I always have this trouble in winter - bright sun on the white snow is my undoing. Last week I wrote about good neighbours we had had in the past. Well, we have good neighbours here too. One of them is als

bringing along bones and odds and ends for the dog: two others will do any necessary shopping for us - or drive our car if am unable to handle it myself. return Partner shovels their driveways, keeps ar eye on the children and goes down to the road for their mail every day as the husbands are away all day. have heard people say — "Oh, I couldn't live in a subdivision. There is nothing to see, nowhere to go and no one to talk to!" Well. you know the ansizer to that one. To have friends you have to be friendly. Shut yourself away from everything and everybody and you naturally create a vacu-um. One time we had neighbours like that on the farm but we broke down their reserve and

since then we have been the best of friends. One time they even lived with us for three months between moves. However being friends doesn't necessarily mean We have often had sharp differences of opinion with many of our friends, especially in regard to politics! Partner starts a little good-natured needling and be-fore you know it a real argument half the university population quit drinking tap water, and

is in full swing. The best joke around here lately stems from the fact that at the last municipal election Partner voted for one candidate and I for the other!

plaster a few smiles on the crusty old face of the globe. Right now I am more concern-

That I kept to myself for quite awhile but eventually, for pure devilment, I let it leak out. Of course I was told we killed each other's vote and might just as well have stayed at home. With that I don't agree. We exercised our franchise; as loyal citizens we cast our vote. How, and for whom, was our own business.

ed with past generations; their

below zero temperature. It was uncomfortable for everyone but uncomfortable for everyone but worse for some than others. For getting more benefit than I give instance our five-year-old grand- It is simply amazing that one can son Ross went into the Sick | move into a new locality, know-Children's Hospital last Monday ing little of its history, and then for a tonsilectomy. The doctors had reason to expect there might recorded in history, books of the recorded in history books of the past. For instance anyone living west of Toronto has probably heard of a subdivision known as "Credit Woodlands". We live just across the road from it. It used to be a lovely wooded section that we had admired for years. What we didn't know was that it was also the site of a huge

deprived of their cows, turned

planting 1,000 apple trees. By

those who should know I have

cider. Only one of the four bro-

Tom Price, who spends most of his time in Toronto but has a

wonderful log cabin about a mile

Modern Etiquette

By Anne Ashley

Q. If a combination breakfast

and lunch is served after a morn-

ing wedding, is it all right to

call this "brunch" on the recep-

A. No, it would not be. At or

before noon and until one

'breakfast." After that, the word

Q. How can I prevent eggs

o'clock, the correct word is

s "reception."

from cracking.

them?

your chair.

Some people are no good at

counting calories — they have the figures to prove it.

ters is now living - 90 years old

mate came up for payment. bought Price's out - they in turn Christopher Wren's domestic architecture, built in co-operation with the famous carver Grinling Gibbons in 1689, writes Melita Knowles in the Christian Science Monitor.

am hoping to see before too long. Another thing, every fall we find wonderful mushrooms on our acre lot. Why wouldn't we . it was part of a mushroom farm! Far too much local history is being lost and I am glad Lady Tweedsmuir had the foresight to realize it and to encourage countrywomen across Canada to mak y effort to preserve records and stories from pioneer days to the present. Churches, hospitals and so on erected during the last few years should not be considered too modern for local histories otherwise, in a few years, their origin may also be forgotten.

damage caused by age,

cannot be accepted, use postal note for safety) for this pat NAME, ADDRESS, STYLE NUMBER. weather, dry rot and so on may

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be charged to public funds Who Would Be provements such as paints electric light and decorations A Royal Princess?

For most unroyal people coming home from holiday the bills are the most serious problem they have to meet.

Princess Margaret, home on January 28, from a three-week holiday in the West Indies, had to face repercussions of public criticism on two major counts, which point up the intricacies of life for a royal Princess who does not conform to the accepted royal pattern.

A storm had broken out over her husband Lord Snowdon's appointment to a big-circulation Sunday newspaper,, The Sunday Times. Though many sympathize with the Princess in her desire that her husband should have some outlet for the artistic talent which made him a successful professional photographer, some here feel she should have foreseen the difficulties which his acceptance of a newspaper posiion would make for the Royal

Scarcely had the repercussions of this furore blown over than it was announced in Parliament the royal home which the Ministry of Works is renovating for the Princess and her husband in a wing of Kensington Palace, is to cost the British taxpayer \$185,000, \$45,000 more than was originally

estimated a year ago. In addition Queen Elizabeth pays \$60,000 toward the cost f repair since the house is one f her "grace and favor" residences. These are royal properties which the soverign gives to near relatives, or to those who have rendered personal service

to the Crown. It is unfortunate the public has been reminded of the cost of restoring the Princess's new home at a time when the London County Council is under pressure to find homes for thousands of homeless people, and the government is having the great-est difficulty in holding down a "pay pause" for workers in the

terests of the national econr-"Is this (the increased charge for the restoration) the contri-bution the minister is making to the solution of national economic problems?" Labor M.P. William Hamilton asked in Parliament when the supplementary esti-Actually, though, there are other reasons for refurbishing of this house, apart from its use as a residence for Princess Margaret, her husband and infant son David. No. 1A Kensington Palace is a Wren house which has been

allowed to deteriorate since it was twice blasted by Nazi bombs in air raids. The reddish-brown, 20-room stone residence is one of the finest examples of Sir The cost of restoring this home comes under a plan by which, since 1953, the Ministry of Works

has renovated many historic houses for private owners. Such buildings are considered part of the national heritage which would be lost except for an Ex-chequer grant. Some of the restorations have cost the taxpayer the Snowdon repair. Castle Howard, for instance, in Malton, Yorkshire, home of George How-ard, cost \$249,000 to restore. The main idea in such renovation is

to the owner.

So if Lord Snowdon does

up his new appointmen portedly highly paid post have have to dig into his salary paid for decorations to No. 1A. Ozz wise Princess Margaret will be to pay the hills salary the hills. to pay the bills out of her a The block for the Prime W ister's residence off Whitele

preserved than the Wren wi at Kensington Palace, is be rebuilt inside its original to at six times the cost of f died as their farm bus collided with a treight train at the fog-bound grade crossing of a coun-Snowdon restoration. It's ly accepted the Prime Minis a grade crossing of a coun-ad and the Southern Pacific ad tracks near rural Men-And elsewhere on the must be housed in accord with his station, but he col have had a wonderful new ! for much less than this su of the valley, the fog the Ministry of Works had be spawned ghostly mayhem. prepared to sacrifice h sive chain-reaction acci-

VERSATILE ATHLETE Laconic report of a junio school basketball game from

Illinois publication, the Harpe Quill: "The Terra Haute Flo weights defeated Colusa 13 ut and Ted Kern was high per man for both teams, scori for Terra Haute and two s at the wrong basket for Colus

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INFANT DOLL

The motorist swerved into the opposite lanes, highway patrolmen reported, and cars and trucks began smashing together. lethora of lesser misadver tures was recorded in the fog-For a New Doll

nd valley. Sent to meet his er at a house 300 yards away ear-old Roland Soares of Modon not noticing that he passed father en route, became lost, ndered fourteen hours before ng located 4 miles from home. stries reported thousands nt from jobs or late in arrivet work. Many, presumably, the advice of the highway rol to stay off the highways.

ore sales dropped sharply as

pppers ventured out only for ities. Housewives learned to keep the porch lights burning

as many an auto-borne commuter tooled past his domicile acciden-ally in the murky gloom. he why of all the fog remained as simple as it was incurable. Weathermen said that a nearly nary high-pressure area es shed itself over the valley. each day at dawn the stagnan ool air under it combined with the moisture rising from the surof the rich black flatlands. "Tule fog"—a low-ceilinged va-riety which affects travel in the

r only occasionally but ground affic incessantly. "How can you tell when a man is really rich?" asks a read-er. When he's not afraid to ask store clerk to show him ething cheaper.

Five Guideposts To Traffic Safety











Auto safety experts offer these driving tips to help you stay alive. Drawings from Du

the villages. It closed is and clotted the highschools and cletted the high-ys. For six days recently, a comy — and deadly — miasma and over the entire Central Val-y of California, from Redding the north to Bakersfield, 447 ills to the south. The thick ill turned each road crossing to a potential death trap, and the weekend the toll of dead traffic accidents stood at 28. ic accidents stood at 28. Of those, eleven farm laborers

ving 40 autos and ten GALLIC INGENUITY-Wingtrucks (and, luckily, only six like deflector tubes on twin ries) was the most tacular of innumberable simstacks of French Line's new ilar accidents which plagued Route 99, the fast, multi-laned luxury liner SS France will blow smoke and soot far to which runs the length of the sides of vessel for benefit up was set off when a fog-dazed of passengers taking a turn around open deck. The \$80 million ship sees service soon. motorist became confused as a car ahead turned into a side road.

Babe Ruth's Widow

Talks Of Old Times It was May 6 1935, that George Herman (Babe) Ruth, then in the uniform of the Boston Braves, played his last major league baseball game, at Cincin-nati. Being an Ohioan, I might be tempted to stretch territorial jurisprudence a mite and say I remember it well, except for the

fact that I was barely six months old at the time. However, for any young baseball writer, it's just as much fun and an honest privilege to sit in with veteran scribes and baseball notables, as were gathering for the 23rd annual mid-winter

dinner of the Boston chapter of the Baseball Writers Association of America. Two of the head table guests first to arrive were Mrs. Babe Ruth and Bill McKechnie, who was managing this colossus of all

home run hitters when the Babe closed out his celebrated career. For Mrs. Ruth, here to present an award to Roger Maris, this was her first visit to the Hub in over 26 years. And she, like her husbard, who had a farm in nearby Sudbury, Mass., had come to know Boston "as a sec-

ond home."
"The Babe was never a city man," Mrs. Ruth divulged at a Wednesday press conference. "That's why he never spent much time in New York City itself, when he was playing for the Yankees. We would always leave for Florida two months before spring training started. And, oh!"

she enthused, "how he loved the road trips. We always travelled together."
Naturally, the questions soon putty?
A. By mixing some linseed oil got around to home runs and the record of 61 which Maris prowith some softened whiting to duced in 162 games this past sea- the proper consistency. Q. How can I clean rust off son, writes Bob Gates in the Christian Science Monitor. a sewing needle or pin? A. By pressing it, tip first, into a piece of soap. The soap "No," she replied directly, "I

didn't want to see Babe's record taken. It seemed to belong to him. And many people, my self included, still feel that it hasn't been broken, that Roger has just set another mark for others to shoot for. Who knows," she laughed, "maybe in a year or two we'll be playing 170-game seasons, or perhaps only 145." The "we" in the above quote is no mistake. This petite one-time Ziegfeld beauty is still an avid

baseball fan, heavily partial to the Yankees, but armed with a pretty good idea of who hit what and for whom. "How many would Babe hit if he were around today? Well . . ." she thought, "that would be pretty hard to say. But I know he'd really have a ball. He'd still swing that heavy bat, too, I be-lieve. He wanted wood in his ands, not those toothpicks (slim

handled bats) they're using to-Mrs. Ruth recalled, also, that the Babe was often more pleased with his early pitching feats than his home run records. "He was especially proud of having once struck out Ty Cobb, Sam Crawford, and Bob Veach loaded. And he gained six 1-0 vic tories while pitching against Wal-

ter Johnson," she added, beampointment," said Mrs. Ruth of the man who stroked an amazing 714 home runs, "was not being able to manage in the major leagues, That's something he wanted to do very much.
"The Babe," she said, "loved his baseball. To him it was more

fun than work. "At home? Well," replied the one who must have known him best, "he never worried about

the game. He rarely grumbled when he had a bad day. And, at the same time, he wasn't one t crow about it, either, when he hit a couple."

Ruth, who began his big-league career in Boston as a pitcher for the Red Sox and ended it here, too, as a Braves outfielder, is remembered as having once said: "If I had listened to Bill Mc-Kechnie, people could have look-ed at my record in years to come and seen that I had hit three home runs and a single in my

Bill, here to be honored for managing pennart winners in three different cities (the only one ever to do so), recalls the statement. But, as it happened, the Babe went out and played again — one more game before he finally retired — and he went 0-for-4, striking out three times. Happily, Mrs. Ruth, and millions more, have fonder memor-ies. And one of the first things she wanted to do upon her return to Boston was to take a

Silent Bowling By A Champion

stroll down Boylston Street,

leisurely, perhaps to recall a few.

We don't know whether there is a great moral lesson in the news item about Marge Merrick of Columbus, Ohio, the new queen of women's bowling, but it is interesting to note that she does very, very little talking on the lanes in major tournamen "Following the qualifying rounds in the world tournament

last month, I determined I wouldn't talk except to say 'hello' and 'goodby' while bowling," she explained. Friendly bowling - as distinguished from championship bowling — is something else again, and Miss Merrick admits that failure to talk under such circumstances "might be taken as downright unfriendliness." We believe the lady has a point - a good bowler must

concentrate, and a lot of useless chatter interferes with concen-tration. We hope it is not too ungallant to suggest that less talking and more concentration well could be applied to things other than bowling — driving a car, for example. — The Plain

enables some person to do so .

How Can I?

By Roberts Lee

on the spool, and, since

can do a better job.

thread will not then knot,

"It's a new technique!

MERRY MENAGERIE

the needle.

Dealer (Cleveland).

from a syringe. Five or six drops CAPITAL' GAIN Whatever a person saves from his revenue he adds to his capital, and either employs it him self in maintaining and district all number of productive hands, or

Joel Turner of Philadelphia had added cardboard sails to the lines of his tie-ups. The sails let for a share of profits. As the capital of an individual can be increased only by what he saves ... so the capital of a society can be increased only in the same pockets. manner. -Adam Smith.

bottoms cut out of metal wastepaper baskets. At the end of a Q. How can I make my own opened without chopping. was soaking his lines in

removes the rust and sterilizes Q. How can I prepare my thread for easier and more efficient quilting?

A. Immerse an entire of your thread into hot paraffin,

and let remain about five minutes. This will wax all the thread take the issue to court because they are under 21 and need per-

mission to marry.

The magistrate said Barbara would have three months in which to learn to cook before he grants the couple permission to "You can't expect young hus

bands to live on tins of sardines. They need a substantial meal," he dded.

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Ice Fishermen

And Their Antics Ice fishing has charm of a sort, but some of its elements are tedious, tiresome and pro-ductive of boredom as well as very few fish. This winter a student of human cddities has been observing Maryland ice fisher-

men at play and has concluded that the fishermen are more interesting than the fishing. For example: Reuben Levin of Coatesville, Pa., was fishing with a sawed-off billiard cue. Just the

right size and backbone for jigging a lure up and down.

Donald Dinges of Pascoag, R.I., was keeping nine holes from freezing over by squeezing drops of antifreeze into them

in each hole every half hour did Alan Soule of Lancaster, Pa., had fitted out a bicycle wheel as a reel. With tire removed and mounted on a sled, the wheel permitted him to reel in his line

the wind do the jigging while Turner kept his hands in his Several fishermen were equipped with metal discs. These were

day's fishing they fitted the basket bottoms into the holes. Returning next day, they built fires on them and the holes were rewhisky flask. Kept them pliable

And there was one fellow who in cold weather, the fellow pointed out, a warm, friendly glow suffusing his features. — From SPORTS ILLUSTRATED.

Straight Advice To

A Would-be Bride A magistrate has ruled at Folkestone, England, that a 19year-old girl must learn how to cook a "tasty meal" before she can marry her 19-year-old fiancé. In doing this, the magistrate backed up a stipulation made by Barbara Cairns' father which prompted Barbara and her hus-band-to-be, Eric Goldsack, to

The court made no ruling as to who would judge Barbara's

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GAP—Signals were crossed somewhere and one of the posts has no sea gull in scene from London's Battersea Park.

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from bursting when hard-boiling A. The eggs will not burst if one end of each egg is pricked with a needle before placing in the water. This makes an outlet for air and prevents the shell Q. If guests "overstay" their welcome and you are becoming tired, is there any tactful way you can remind them that the hour is late? A. If surreptitious glances at your watch, or a stifled yawn, don't work — you can always begin emptying ashtrays and collecting used glasses. This may be somewhat obvious, it is true, but if your guests have been thoughtless enough to drive you to it, there's little else you can do, short of falling asleep in

CAPITAL CHITCHAT — Mrs. Pierre Salinger, left, wife of the White House press secretary, and Mrs. Alexi Adzhubei, wife of the editor of the Soviet newspaper, Izvestia, engage in some small talk in Washington Mrs. Adzhubei is the daughter of Soviet Russia's premier, Nikita Khrushchev

