

CHRISTMAS and NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS FROM KING'S COUNTY

With A Wave Of The Wand

— by —
BENSON DULAY

The famous stage and T.V. magician lets you into some of his professional secrets.

"I wish I could do a few conjuring tricks," said a young man to me recently. "I envy people like you who can make the most amazing tricks look so easy."

Well, now, there is nothing difficult about the majority of the simple, "party" type of conjuring tricks, nor need any of you go on vainly wishing that you could be a conjurer. All you need is a little patience, a few very simple pieces of apparatus and some self-confidence. The rest will come from practice. There is nothing more to it than that.

So here goes. Let us take a look at a few, easily-performed tricks, so that you can practice them in time for your Christmas parties. For the way, before we start, let me just warn you never to perform the same trick twice on any particular occasion. In other words, never give your audience a chance to discover the secrets of your tricks.

For our first trick, you will need half-a-dozen silk handkerchiefs—

two of each of three different colours. We will assume that they are red, blue and green. Now you take these three handkerchiefs and join them together, by knotting them at the corners. If you like, you can hand them to one of the audience for this to be done.

After flourishing them and assuring your onlookers that the handkerchiefs are securely tied together, you screw them up and place them in the inside pocket of your jacket. That done, you suggest to your audience that the handkerchiefs are not tied together, and that you will produce each of them in turn—according to the colours requested.

"Red!" calls one of your friends. And diving your hand inside your buttoned-up jacket, you produce the red handkerchief.

Green and blue follow as the colours are called. Marvellous! Actually, before you started your performance, you tucked three coloured handkerchiefs—not the ones that were knotted together, of course—into the pocket of your waistcoat nearest to your inside jacket pocket. Thus, you see, the knotted handkerchiefs remained where you had placed them; although, to your audience, it must have seemed that you produced the handkerchiefs separately from the same pocket.

There is only one point to remember about this trick. You must be quite sure you know the sequence of the three handkerchiefs which you have hidden away in your waistcoat pocket. A mistake will ruin the whole trick, for the essence of it is in producing the required handkerchief without apparently looking.

Talking of handkerchiefs, ask one of your audience for a white one, and, having been offered one, watch the consternation on the face of its owner when you announce that you are going to burn a hole in it! Of course, you take no notice of his protests, and, twisting it up in your cupped left hand, you pull about an inch of the hankie clear of your thumb and first finger and then set light to it. Let it burn for a few moments, then stub it out with your fingers and, with a flourish and some suitable patter, open the handkerchief—and reveal that it is quite whole and shows no sign of a burn.

How is it done? Quite simple, really. When you accept the handkerchief from your friend, you



May the coming year bring you happiness, luck and much success!

BANKS Jeweller SOURIS

A Woodland Carol



When you have located the ten naughty creatures who have not turned up for choir practice, you can colour the picture and use it as a Christmas Card.

have a small piece of white linen, similar to the average type of hankie, concealed in your left hand. Now, when you twist the handkerchief through your cupped hand, it is the separate piece of linen you draw up between your thumb and fingers and it is this same piece of linen that you burn. As you stub it out with your right hand, you can easily screw up the charred remains and conceal it in your hand while you hold up the undamaged handkerchief.

Just one more trick with a handkerchief. This time you must use your own. Flourish it in front of your audience, quickly flicking it backwards and forwards to show both sides. Now, take the hankie and fold it diagonally in half, before you roll it into a shape resembling a paper fire-lighter spill. That done, you can

apple with a bowler hat and show them to your audience. "But I shan't need the apple," you say, and, cutting it up into half-a-dozen pieces, you hand them round to your friends. "Hope you enjoy it," you continue. "Meanwhile, I shall replace the orange in the hat. You keep your audience amused with some funny patter until the apple has been eaten. Now you come to the startling part of the trick, by announcing to the audience that they were mistaken when they thought it was an apple they had eaten. "You see, you must have eaten an orange—for the apple is still in the hat!"

You prove it by producing from the hat—an apple! There is no deception, really. Before your performance, you have "doctored" the fruit. The

it will keep your audience amused and bewildered—so long as you don't drop the egg!

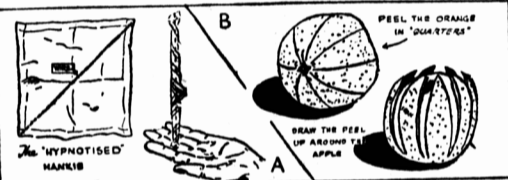
Card tricks are always popular, so you should include at least one in your performance. Try this one. It's quite easy, so long as you practise it carefully beforehand.

Six members of your audience are asked to select a card from a pack. Each is told to remember his card and then to place it in an envelope. When you have collected the envelopes and placed them on your conjurer's table, you announce that you will tell your audience the value and suit of each of the selected cards, without looking.

It sounds impossible, but it is really just a neat deception. First of all, you need a confederate in the audience, who will arrange with you beforehand to choose a certain card—we'll say the Jack of Clubs. Now, then you collect the six envelopes, you must take care to place your confederate's envelope at the bottom.

Now, having pattered for a few moments, you pick up the top envelope, pass it before your eyes, think deeply and then announce that it contains the Jack of Clubs. Your confederate will immediately agree that the card he selected was certainly the Jack of Clubs. You can now open the envelope, produce the card it contains—which is not the Jack of Clubs, of course—and place it face down on the table. (You do not reveal the cards to your audience until the end of the whole trick!)

You now know the designation of another of the cards, and when you pick up the second of the envelopes and go through your magical thought act, you can announce that the card he selected



Season's Greetings
THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATRONAGE, FAVORS AND MANY KINDNESSES!
CENTRAL MARKET
SOURIS

MERRY CHRISTMAS
We want to wish you and your loved ones a Glorious Holiday and a very Happy New Year!
Eastern Packing Company
SOURIS

SEASON'S GREETINGS
Best wishes to all of you for the merriest of Christmases and the happiest of New Years!
H. L. Fouchere
Groceries — Meat — Confectionery
SOURIS

Season's Greetings
TO ALL OUR FRIENDS EVERYWHERE
WHEEL OF FORTUNE LODGE
Fortune Wheel Mrs. Harry Francis, Prop.

balance it on your hand—or even on your forehead if you are clever enough, and the handkerchief will remain stiffly upright, until you crumple it up and poke it back into your pocket.
Actually, of course, you must prepare the handkerchief first by stitching a piece of fairly stiffish wire-painted white, as in diagram "A". This will not be seen when you flourish it before your audience, but as should be obvious, when the handkerchief is rolled around it, the effect is as though the hankie were hypnotized. And then, if the wire is not too stiff, it will crumple up when you have finished with the handkerchief, and no one will be any the wiser—you hope!

Something a little different this time. Produce an orange and an

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS TO ALL
DIANA GRILL
SOURIS

A Merry Christmas
Happy New Year!
TO ALL
MORRISON'S
Rexall Drugstore
SOURIS

Good Wishes To Our Many Good Friends
PERCY'S
SOURIS

BEST WISHES
TO ALL OUR FRIENDS
BUD'S
Auto Accessories
MONTAGUE

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
BELLE'S DRESS SHOPPE
Montague
Mrs. L. H. Poole
Phone 68

announce the name of the card you took from the FIRST envelope—which again, of course, is acknowledged by the member of the audience who selected that particular card.

You carry on in the same way with the rest of the envelopes, until you come to the last one, which contains the Jack of Clubs—although you call out the value and suit of the card you took from the fifth envelope. Thus, having guessed correctly the six chosen cards, you can turn them up and show them to your audience, proving that there was no deception about the trick... not likely!

Time for just one more trick—another really good one, too. We will call it "The Magical Blackboard". Yes, you'll need a blackboard and a piece of chalk. And you must enlist the co-operation of one of your friends whom you will ask a few simple questions. First of all, his age—although you give your real age unless he likes. Okay, we'll assume that he says he is 24. Then write that number on the board.

"Then, if you are 24," you say, "you were born in 1929". And you write that date down under his age on the board.

Next, you ask him another question—how long he has been at work, or how long since he left school, or how long he has been playing football or cricket, or whatever game he favours. (Tell your friend you want round numbers—fractions can be awkward.) We'll assume that his answer is seven years—all right, scribble the number seven under the others on the board, and continue: "You've been playing football for seven years, which means that you started in 1946".

Again you write that number down in the form of an addition sum. Then, ask your audience to work out the sum, and the answer is 3906.

Next, you suggest that another member of your audience goes to the table at the side of the room

where he will find a sealed envelope. Tell him to bring it forward, open it and read the number that is written on the slip of paper inside the envelope.

Just listen to those gasps of astonishment as the number read out is "3906"—exactly the same as that on the board!

You can't go wrong with this trick, for no matter what questions you ask the answer must always come to 3906, which is the number you have written on the slip of paper inserted inside the envelope and sealed down before you start the trick. Well, try it for yourself with your own age etc., and you will see that I am right.

Just one word of warning. If you attempt this trick next Christmas—which is 1954, the answer to the sum will be 3908, so watch it!

So much for a few simple little tricks which anyone can do with short practice. Here's wishing you all good conjuring—and plenty of applause!

Benson Dulay.
(Copyright, N.F.L.)

Don't tell the children, but it is fairly certain that Dick Whittington, that most popular of all pantomime characters, never had a cat. Sir Richard Whittington, thirteenth Lord Mayor of London, is said to have made a fortune as a

ship-owner, and the ships he used in the late fourteenth and early fifteenth centuries were known as "cats".



JAMESON'S
the Season for CHEER

Here's hoping Santa's got a whole sleighful of good things to bring you... and we've got a whole sleighful of good wishes for Christmas and the whole year ahead.

JAMESON'S
Drug Store
MONTAGUE



GREETINGS AND AN ABUNDANCE OF CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S CHEER—

Our promise of dependable service holds true in 1954 as in past years.

J. A. MacDonald & Co.
CARDIGAN



MERRY CHRISTMAS and Happy & Prosperous NEW YEAR to all our friends and customers
THE PURINA STAFF
James E. Cudmore
MONTAGUE



We take this opportunity to wish you and your family a very joyous Christmas and a New Year filled with happiness. It has been our great pleasure to be your "family drug store", and we are, as ever, at your service.

Mabon Drug Co.
Prescription Sundries Veterinary Supplies
MONTAGUE



Here is hoping that the ruddy old gentleman in the red suit is good to you—that your stockings are chock full—and that the New Year is as bright as diamonds

V. R. Pepler, Jeweller
MONTAGUE



Once again cheerful greetings ring 'round the world. We like the season and best of all we like to say, "A Merry Christmas to you all."

HOOLEY'S Men's Wear
MONTAGUE

With the Keenest Appreciation of your good will and your patronage, with a sincerely repeated pledge to serve you well during the year to come WE SEND YOU OUR
Merriest Holiday Greetings
DOUG'S SERVICE STATION
MONTAGUE

Merry Christmas
And a Happy New Year
MINNIE'S
Gift Shoppe
MONTAGUE

merry, merry Christmas
it's no secret at all — we're wishing one and all the merriest kind of Christmas and happiest New Year.
Deluxe Dry Cleaners
MONTAGUE

Greetings
May all good things come to you at this Christmas season — may good fortune follow you through all the New Year.
MOSHER'S Meat Market
MONTAGUE