

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

The Ghastly Voice Of Bagswood Hall

BY JOHN MCKENNA

Any devotee of Charles Dickens could have told Sir Humphrey that he was positively asking for trouble by heading down on Christmas Eve in the monumental four-story of his cavernous and gloomy bed-chamber. The whole set-up fairly invited haunting.

But there was no such Dickensian around Bagswood Hall in the county of Grampshire just then. And even had there been, Sir Humphrey Hump-Brotherswate the country's least imaginative Prime Minister would have sorted out the ghosts were strictly for the pages of Dickens.

But the Dickensian would not have been started - as Sir Humphrey certainly was - when from out of the gloom a disembodied voice said, "Pig."

"There was not enough light in the room for Sir Humphrey to see whether the voice was indeed disembodied. But it certainly sounded that way.

Now, even Sir Humphrey's most loyal colleagues had to admit that partee was not his strong point, and on this occasion the most telling rejoinder he could think of was, "Ugh."

"Pig," said the voice obligingly. "Here!" said Sir Humphrey, getting into his stride. And he fumbled for the switch of his bedside lamp. Its light told him what he had surmised. The voice was disembodied.

He reached for the bell-pull. Then stopped himself. Suppose he did summon a servant, what could he tell him? That something or someone had said "Pig" at him, had probably that he thought it had probably...

"Imagination," Sir Humphrey snorted. The sound of his own voice was comforting. "Or the water pipes," he added aloud (for they were given to nocturnal rumblings).

He glanced around the empty room. He switched off the light. He sank back into the pillows... the next moment he was bolt upright, the hairs pricking on the back of his neck.

"Pig," the voice was repeating. Then in nightmarish elaboration, "Pig, bird, damnation."

There was no doubt about it this time. He scattered a carafe, an ornolu cigarette box and a copy of the Pig Marketing (Prosecutions) Report he grabbed for the light switch.

That he was frightening alone when the light snapped on was all the more eerie. You don't rise from newspaper-boy to the nation's number one Beer Baron to Prime Minister without learning how to handle intruders.

But intruder to handle, has to be an intruder at hand.

At the same time you don't get to be Prime Minister without learning to face facts. And sitting on the edge of his bed Sir Humphrey, reluctantly acknowledged to himself that, for the first time in his life, he was face to face with the supernatural.

Well, there were ways to deal with the supernatural - just like anything else. Hadn't he been compelled against his better judgment to agree to an outrageous subsidy for SIGPASAP (thus had the nation's headline-writers made manageable. The Society for the Investigation of Ghosts, Poltergeists, Articulate Spirits and Allied Phenomena).

"Well, they can ruddy well earn their money now," Sir Humphrey decided. He reached for the very private telephone which had survived the debacle of the bedside table.

On another bedside table in far-off London a very private telephone jangled. A sleepy voice said, "Sir?"

"SIGPASAP, you nunny. S for stupid, I for lnan, G for gross-negligence P for for."

"Ah, the Society for the Investigation of Ghosts, Poltergeists," he knew what it stands for, who's the head of it.

"Doctor Oswald Dinglestrop of Huhneb College, Oxford, sir."

"Then get him down here right away!" cracked Sir Humphrey. "But, sir..."

"Look here, I presume you wish to remain my personal secretary?"

"I shall arrange with the Air Ministry to have Doctor Dinglestrop picked up by helicopter within the hour, sir."



"Well, what are you going to do about it?" demanded Sir Humphrey. "Do, Prime Minister? If you mean can I exorcise this spirit, I'm afraid not."

"Look here, man," exploded Sir Humphrey, "I'm not going to have my night's rest, and incidentally my Christmas holiday, ruined by a ruddy gabbling ghost. Blast it man the Government subsidises you up to the hilt."

Dinglestrop interjected meekly: "It's a very small subsidy, Prime Minister. Hardly enough."

"It's an outrageous piece of feather-bedding extravagance," bellowed Sir Humphrey. "I want action. And I want it NOW!"

"Very well, Prime Minister," sighed Dinglestrop. Sir Humphrey paced impatiently up and down his bed chamber puffing exasperatedly at a cigar.

Dinglestrop had been poking and sniffing about the place for nearly half an hour during which time he had said nothing, acknowledging Sir Humphrey's questions with a polite smile.

Now he was shuffling about the debris of the bedside table, he straightened up and in his mind was a sudden copy of the Pig Marketing Prosecutions Report.

"Er... um... Prime Minister, were you reading this before you went to sleep?" he asked.

"Yes I was. But in the name of all that's wonderful has that got to do with this confounded ghost?" Dinglestrop ignored the question.

"What is it about, Prime Minister?" Sir Humphrey sighed the sight of one near the end of his tether. With heavy emphasis he said: "I cannot, Doctor, see what this has to do with the case in point. But if you must know, it is a report which is to be published soon concerning the case of half a dozen damfool farmers who are going to be dispossessed of their farms because they refused to comply with the very fair-minded requirements of the Pig Marketing Act."

"It was a very unpopular Act was it not?" asked Dinglestrop. "It was nothing of the sort," thundered Sir Humphrey. "You've been taken in by all this drivel the Opposition have been spreading around. It is meant to put in their place a lot of cocky farmers who think they know more about pig marketing than the Government and when a few more of them have been thrown off their farms they'll come into line."

"But what's this got to do with this ghost?" he concluded. "A great deal, if the theory forming in my mind is correct, Prime Minister," said Dinglestrop.

"You see," he went on, "the distinguished characteristic of Christmas ghosts and Dickens made the point most tellingly in his 'Christmas Carol' - is that they do not haunt simply for the sake of haunting. Their object is to warn the - if you will forgive the expression - hauntee. To give him a last chance to make amends."

Dinglestrop went on, almost as if talking to himself: "The association in this case is quite, quite clear." His spectacles glinted across at Sir Humphrey who had stopped pacing. "Obviously this spirit is warning you of the eventual and dire consequences if you persist in the prosecution of these pig farmers. But I confess I can-

not account for its reference to a bird. Does it convey anything to you, Prime Minister?"

Sir Humphrey barked "Damn it all man, I'm a politician not a blasted ornithologist..." He stopped. "Just a minute... no, no, absurd."

"Please, Prime Minister," Dinglestrop begged, "if the word stirs any association, no matter how tenuous, in your mind, you must tell me."

Sir Humphrey looked uneasy, and when he spoke the gritty edge had gone from his voice. "You may recall that about six months ago there was some opposition - ill-informed and misguided, mark you - to my Government's order banning the importation of turkeys for Christmas, and strictly limiting their production at home. But..."

"That's it, that's it," Dinglestrop interrupted eagerly. "It all fits now."

"Look here," said Sir Humphrey, "are you trying to tell me that this spirit fellow seriously wants me to repeal these very necessary orders?"

"It would appear so, Prime Minister. There's no other reasonable explanation."

"But, my good man, I can't believe that the spirit world or whatever you call it is bothered about political issues."

"Perhaps, Prime Minister," said Dinglestrop, "they don't regard these as strictly political issues. Rather human or moral ones."

Sir Humphrey was silent. He chewed abstractedly at the end of his now cold cigar. At last he spoke: "Pig, bird, damnation... last chance" you said, Dinglestrop?"

"Eh, what? Oh, I see. Yes, Prime Minister, Christmas ghosts are - traditionally - last chance warnings. Remember Scrooge and Marley's ghost in Dickens."

Silence again. Sir Humphrey chewed his cigar some more. It was Dinglestrop who broke the silence.

"With your permission, Prime Minister, I should like to take a look at the rest of the house."

"Eh? Oh, by all means, Dinglestrop."

Sir Humphrey resumed his musing as Dinglestrop left the room. Outside the bedroom door Dinglestrop paused. He heard a telephone being lifted.

On a bedside table in far-off London a very private telephone jangled. For the second time that night

pig farmer chaps until I speak to him personally. Is that clear?"

"Yes, sir, immediately, sir." The telephone clicked into silence.

"Cor," said the now far-from sleepy voice. "He's been at the bottle and no mistake. Some people just can't take spirits."

In a dusty attic under the rafters of Bagswood Hall, Dinglestrop was speaking sternly to the ghost he had conjured up (a medieval incantation had done the trick).

"I repeat, this is extremely irregular," he was saying. "As far as I can make out you have no legitimate association with this house. You simply turn up out of nowhere, and scare the daylight out of the Prime Minister of all people. And just at a time when SIGPASAP was considering approval of the Government for an increase of subsidy," he added to himself.

The ghost said: "Did I really scare him?" It sounded pleased. Then noticing Dinglestrop's deepening frown he hurried on: "At this time of year, Doctor, there's always rather a mix-up with us ghosts. We've rather got to take what we get in the way of haunting assignments. Naturally, all of the old stately homes and castles and

It is a pleasure to extend to all Compliments of the Season

RUSSEL F. CHING Produce Dealer Souris Phone 13

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year To All Our Customers SOLOMAN'S BARBER & BEAUTY SHOP GEORGETOWN

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year To All Our Customers F. J. DeLORY & SONS General Merchants GEORGETOWN

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year To All Our Customers SOLOMAN'S BARBER & BEAUTY SHOP GEORGETOWN

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year To All Our Customers SOLOMAN'S BARBER & BEAUTY SHOP GEORGETOWN

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year To All Our Customers SOLOMAN'S BARBER & BEAUTY SHOP GEORGETOWN

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year To All Our Customers SOLOMAN'S BARBER & BEAUTY SHOP GEORGETOWN

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year To All Our Customers SOLOMAN'S BARBER & BEAUTY SHOP GEORGETOWN

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year To All Our Customers SOLOMAN'S BARBER & BEAUTY SHOP GEORGETOWN

Dutch Honor Santa

The early Puritans who landed on the shores of new England banned Santa Claus as a Popish invention, but the Dutch of New Amsterdam (now New York) welcomed and honored old Santa.

The first Christmas card was designed in 1844 by W.C.T. Dobson, R.A.

To every friend near and far Our wishes follow where you are... MERRY CHRISTMAS

LESLIE BROS. TEXACO DEALER General Repairs ST. PETERS

It's a Pleasure to wish you once again a MERRY CHRISTMAS

K. E. MacCALLUM GENERAL MERCHANT Distributor C.I.L. Paint St. Peters Phone 5-3

Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year TO ALL P. L. BOUDREAU General Merchant GEORGETOWN

To All A Very Merry Christmas H. P. MacDONALD BUILDING MATERIALS AND PAINTS Kingsboro Phone 5-31

Our warmest wishes to you and your family for a Yuletide season chock full of good will and good cheer.

S. F. MacEWEN EGGS & POULTRY ST. PETERS PHONE 17

Good wishes to our many Good Friends. Wheel Of Fortune Lodge Mrs. Harry Francis, Prop. Fortune Bridge Phone 50-4

We couple with Christmas and New Year Greetings our Thanks for past favors.

JOHNNY'S SERVICE STATION Imperial Products Red Point

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR WILLIAM S. MARTELL CANNER OF FISH PRODUCTS DEALER IN FISHERMEN'S SUPPLIES BEST GRADES OF HARD & SOFT COAL WATER STREET GEORGETOWN

May peace of mind, good health and lasting friendships shine among the brightest of your Christmas ornaments.

Good wishes to our many Good Friends. Wheel Of Fortune Lodge Mrs. Harry Francis, Prop. Fortune Bridge Phone 50-4

We couple with Christmas and New Year Greetings our Thanks for past favors.

JOHNNY'S SERVICE STATION Imperial Products Red Point

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR WILLIAM S. MARTELL CANNER OF FISH PRODUCTS DEALER IN FISHERMEN'S SUPPLIES BEST GRADES OF HARD & SOFT COAL WATER STREET GEORGETOWN

Many thanks to our many Friends and Customers during the past year.

JACKSON'S SERVICE STATION B. A. Dealer ARMADALE

An abundance of Christmas and New Year's Cheer. Our promise of dependable service holds true in 1957 as in past years.

J. A. MacDONALD & CO. CARDIGAN

Dutch Honor Santa

The early Puritans who landed on the shores of new England banned Santa Claus as a Popish invention, but the Dutch of New Amsterdam (now New York) welcomed and honored old Santa.

The first Christmas card was designed in 1844 by W.C.T. Dobson, R.A.

To every friend near and far Our wishes follow where you are... MERRY CHRISTMAS

LESLIE BROS. TEXACO DEALER General Repairs ST. PETERS

It's a Pleasure to wish you once again a MERRY CHRISTMAS

K. E. MacCALLUM GENERAL MERCHANT Distributor C.I.L. Paint St. Peters Phone 5-3

Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year TO ALL P. L. BOUDREAU General Merchant GEORGETOWN

To All A Very Merry Christmas H. P. MacDONALD BUILDING MATERIALS AND PAINTS Kingsboro Phone 5-31

Our warmest wishes to you and your family for a Yuletide season chock full of good will and good cheer.

S. F. MacEWEN EGGS & POULTRY ST. PETERS PHONE 17

Good wishes to our many Good Friends. Wheel Of Fortune Lodge Mrs. Harry Francis, Prop. Fortune Bridge Phone 50-4

We couple with Christmas and New Year Greetings our Thanks for past favors.

JOHNNY'S SERVICE STATION Imperial Products Red Point

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR WILLIAM S. MARTELL CANNER OF FISH PRODUCTS DEALER IN FISHERMEN'S SUPPLIES BEST GRADES OF HARD & SOFT COAL WATER STREET GEORGETOWN

May peace of mind, good health and lasting friendships shine among the brightest of your Christmas ornaments.

Good wishes to our many Good Friends. Wheel Of Fortune Lodge Mrs. Harry Francis, Prop. Fortune Bridge Phone 50-4

We couple with Christmas and New Year Greetings our Thanks for past favors.

JOHNNY'S SERVICE STATION Imperial Products Red Point

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR WILLIAM S. MARTELL CANNER OF FISH PRODUCTS DEALER IN FISHERMEN'S SUPPLIES BEST GRADES OF HARD & SOFT COAL WATER STREET GEORGETOWN

Many thanks to our many Friends and Customers during the past year.

JACKSON'S SERVICE STATION B. A. Dealer ARMADALE

An abundance of Christmas and New Year's Cheer. Our promise of dependable service holds true in 1957 as in past years.

J. A. MacDONALD & CO. CARDIGAN

Dutch Honor Santa

The early Puritans who landed on the shores of new England banned Santa Claus as a Popish invention, but the Dutch of New Amsterdam (now New York) welcomed and honored old Santa.

The first Christmas card was designed in 1844 by W.C.T. Dobson, R.A.

To every friend near and far Our wishes follow where you are... MERRY CHRISTMAS

LESLIE BROS. TEXACO DEALER General Repairs ST. PETERS

It's a Pleasure to wish you once again a MERRY CHRISTMAS

K. E. MacCALLUM GENERAL MERCHANT Distributor C.I.L. Paint St. Peters Phone 5-3

Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year TO ALL P. L. BOUDREAU General Merchant GEORGETOWN

To All A Very Merry Christmas H. P. MacDONALD BUILDING MATERIALS AND PAINTS Kingsboro Phone 5-31

Our warmest wishes to you and your family for a Yuletide season chock full of good will and good cheer.

S. F. MacEWEN EGGS & POULTRY ST. PETERS PHONE 17

Good wishes to our many Good Friends. Wheel Of Fortune Lodge Mrs. Harry Francis, Prop. Fortune Bridge Phone 50-4

We couple with Christmas and New Year Greetings our Thanks for past favors.

JOHNNY'S SERVICE STATION Imperial Products Red Point

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR WILLIAM S. MARTELL CANNER OF FISH PRODUCTS DEALER IN FISHERMEN'S SUPPLIES BEST GRADES OF HARD & SOFT COAL WATER STREET GEORGETOWN

May peace of mind, good health and lasting friendships shine among the brightest of your Christmas ornaments.

Good wishes to our many Good Friends. Wheel Of Fortune Lodge Mrs. Harry Francis, Prop. Fortune Bridge Phone 50-4

We couple with Christmas and New Year Greetings our Thanks for past favors.

JOHNNY'S SERVICE STATION Imperial Products Red Point

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR WILLIAM S. MARTELL CANNER OF FISH PRODUCTS DEALER IN FISHERMEN'S SUPPLIES BEST GRADES OF HARD & SOFT COAL WATER STREET GEORGETOWN

Many thanks to our many Friends and Customers during the past year.

JACKSON'S SERVICE STATION B. A. Dealer ARMADALE

An abundance of Christmas and New Year's Cheer. Our promise of dependable service holds true in 1957 as in past years.

J. A. MacDONALD & CO. CARDIGAN

Dutch Honor Santa

The early Puritans who landed on the shores of new England banned Santa Claus as a Popish invention, but the Dutch of New Amsterdam (now New York) welcomed and honored old Santa.

The first Christmas card was designed in 1844 by W.C.T. Dobson, R.A.

To every friend near and far Our wishes follow where you are... MERRY CHRISTMAS

LESLIE BROS. TEXACO DEALER General Repairs ST. PETERS

It's a Pleasure to wish you once again a MERRY CHRISTMAS

K. E. MacCALLUM GENERAL MERCHANT Distributor C.I.L. Paint St. Peters Phone 5-3

Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year TO ALL P. L. BOUDREAU General Merchant GEORGETOWN

To All A Very Merry Christmas H. P. MacDONALD BUILDING MATERIALS AND PAINTS Kingsboro Phone 5-31

Our warmest wishes to you and your family for a Yuletide season chock full of good will and good cheer.

S. F. MacEWEN EGGS & POULTRY ST. PETERS PHONE 17

Good wishes to our many Good Friends. Wheel Of Fortune Lodge Mrs. Harry Francis, Prop. Fortune Bridge Phone 50-4

We couple with Christmas and New Year Greetings our Thanks for past favors.

JOHNNY'S SERVICE STATION Imperial Products Red Point

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR WILLIAM S. MARTELL CANNER OF FISH PRODUCTS DEALER IN FISHERMEN'S SUPPLIES BEST GRADES OF HARD & SOFT COAL WATER STREET GEORGETOWN

May peace of mind, good health and lasting friendships shine among the brightest of your Christmas ornaments.

Good wishes to our many Good Friends. Wheel Of Fortune Lodge Mrs. Harry Francis, Prop. Fortune Bridge Phone 50-4

We couple with Christmas and New Year Greetings our Thanks for past favors.

JOHNNY'S SERVICE STATION Imperial Products Red Point

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR WILLIAM S. MARTELL CANNER OF FISH PRODUCTS DEALER IN FISHERMEN'S SUPPLIES BEST GRADES OF HARD & SOFT COAL WATER STREET GEORGETOWN

Many thanks to our many Friends and Customers during the past year.

JACKSON'S SERVICE STATION B. A. Dealer ARMADALE

An abundance of Christmas and New Year's Cheer. Our promise of dependable service holds true in 1957 as in past years.

J. A. MacDONALD & CO. CARDIGAN

Dutch Honor Santa

The early Puritans who landed on the shores of new England banned Santa Claus as a Popish invention, but the Dutch of New Amsterdam (now New York) welcomed and honored old Santa.

The first Christmas card was designed in 1844 by W.C.T. Dobson, R.A.

To every friend near and far Our wishes follow where you are... MERRY CHRISTMAS

LESLIE BROS. TEXACO DEALER General Repairs ST. PETERS

It's a Pleasure to wish you once again a MERRY CHRISTMAS

K. E. MacCALLUM GENERAL MERCHANT Distributor C.I.L. Paint St. Peters Phone 5-3

Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year TO ALL P. L. BOUDREAU General Merchant GEORGETOWN

To All A Very Merry Christmas H. P. MacDONALD BUILDING MATERIALS AND PAINTS Kingsboro Phone 5-31

Our warmest wishes to you and your family for a Yuletide season chock full of good will and good cheer.

S. F. MacEWEN EGGS & POULTRY ST. PETERS PHONE 17

Good wishes to our many Good Friends. Wheel Of Fortune Lodge Mrs. Harry Francis, Prop. Fortune Bridge Phone 50-4

We couple with Christmas and New Year Greetings our Thanks for past favors.

JOHNNY'S SERVICE STATION Imperial Products Red Point

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR WILLIAM S. MARTELL CANNER OF FISH PRODUCTS DEALER IN FISHERMEN'S SUPPLIES BEST GRADES OF HARD & SOFT COAL WATER STREET GEORGETOWN

May peace of mind, good health and lasting friendships shine among the brightest of your Christmas ornaments.

Good wishes to our many Good Friends. Wheel Of Fortune Lodge Mrs. Harry Francis, Prop. Fortune Bridge Phone 50-4

We couple with Christmas and New Year Greetings our Thanks for past favors.

JOHNNY'S SERVICE STATION Imperial Products Red Point

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR WILLIAM S. MARTELL CANNER OF FISH PRODUCTS DEALER IN FISHERMEN'S SUPPLIES BEST GRADES OF HARD & SOFT COAL WATER STREET GEORGETOWN

Many thanks to our many Friends and Customers during the past year.

JACKSON'S SERVICE STATION B. A. Dealer ARMADALE

An abundance of Christmas and New Year's Cheer. Our promise of dependable service holds true in 1957 as in past years.

J. A. MacDONALD & CO. CARDIGAN

Dutch Honor Santa

The early Puritans who landed on the shores of new England banned Santa Claus as a Popish invention, but the Dutch of New Amsterdam (now New York) welcomed and honored old Santa.

The first Christmas card was designed in 1844 by W.C.T. Dobson, R.A.

To every friend near and far Our wishes follow where you are... MERRY CHRISTMAS

LESLIE BROS. TEXACO DEALER General Repairs ST. PETERS

It's a Pleasure to wish you once again a MERRY CHRISTMAS

K. E. MacCALLUM GENERAL MERCHANT Distributor C.I.L. Paint St. Peters Phone 5-3

Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year TO ALL P. L. BOUDREAU General Merchant GEORGETOWN

To All A Very Merry Christmas H. P. MacDONALD BUILDING MATERIALS AND PAINTS Kingsboro Phone 5-31

Our warmest wishes to you and your family for a Yuletide season chock full of good will and good cheer.

S. F. MacEWEN EGGS & POULTRY ST. PETERS PHONE 17

Good wishes to our many Good Friends. Wheel Of Fortune Lodge Mrs. Harry Francis, Prop. Fortune Bridge Phone 50-4