

BAPTIST FEATURES

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CHILDREN'S PAGE

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THE GOLDEN EGG

Gladys Cleone Carpenter

(Illustration enclosed)

The big city park was full of happy children. It was the day of the big Easter egg hunt for the East End.

Eggs were hidden everywhere. Some were colored hen's eggs. Others were candy eggs wrapped in thin paper. They were of all sizes and colors. The children were running everywhere looking for the eggs.

"I found a chocolate egg!" Warren called to his sister Edith.

"I found a little sack of small colored eggs in that old stump," Edith answered.

Hidden somewhere was one very large egg. Whoever found that was to get the big Easter prize.

Warren dashed about looking everywhere for this one special egg. As he looked he came almost to the edge of the park.

There were signs here, and Warren always read signs. They always gave rules. When he read them, he knew just what to do. These signs were about good manners in the park.

The first sign read: "DON'T PICK THE FLOWERS." It was near a big bed of lovely zinnias, but Warren didn't look for eggs among them. He turned and crossed a little rustic bridge to a tiny island. When he reached the island there was a sign: KEEP OUT!

Warren stopped. On the island in a pen he could see two Easter bunnies, but he didn't stop long enough to look at them.

As he rushed along looking for the big egg he ate some of the candy eggs he had been finding. Soon he came to another sign: TRASH IN THIS BIN,

Warren stopped and threw his candy papers into the bin.

The bin was by a big tree. Up part way on the tree trunk was a feeding platform for birds. On the platform, wrapped in paper, was a big egg! It must be the one for the prize!

Of course Warren was excited--but--he couldn't quite reach the egg. Maybe he could find a stone to stand on.

Suddenly he heard a bell: DING-DONG! DING-DONG! DING-DONG!

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That was the park bell that meant that all the children must gather at one place.

Away Warren ran to join the others. Children were running down from all parts of the park. They stopped in a big open place in the middle of the park. Warren found his sister and two cousins. He stood with them.

"Did anybody bring back the big egg?" asked the man in charge.

No one answered.

"Did any one of you see an egg that you think is the big one?"

Several children answered at once.

"Where did you see it?" the man asked May.

"In the eagle's nest in his cage."

"Wrong," the man said.

"I saw a big egg that belongs to the ostrich," said Edith.

"Wrong."

Now Warren told about the egg on the birdhouse above the trash bin.

"That's the one!" the man exclaimed. "I'll get it for you."

The crowd followed while the man went to get the egg and hand it to Warren.

Warren thanked him and tore away the wrapper. There was a huge, golden egg filled with candy!

Warren began to share the candy with his sister and cousins.

"Now you get the Grand Prize," said the man. "It's the two Easter bunnies on the island."

All the children rushed to the bridge with Warren.

"Oh, aren't they beautiful!" they cried when they saw the rabbits.

The man put the rabbits in a box, and set it on a cart. Warren and his sister and cousins started pushing them home.

All the children were glad that Warren won the prize. The reason they were glad was because he said, "All of you must come play with me and my rabbits!"

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EASTER ON THE RIVER BOAT
BY: Gladys Cleone Carpenter

The three Chinese children were very happy. The boys' names were Chiang and Wu Yung, and the little girl's name was Lotus Flower.

The children lived in a houseboat on a big river. Now they had come to shore to visit their cousin, Ling Tang.

"I'm glad that you came today," Ling Tang declared. "We'll have fun! It's Market Day and the day before Easter. We'll go to market this morning, and to the mission school this afternoon."

Before the children started to market Ling Tang's father gave each child some coins. He said they could buy what they liked.

The four hurried away. Soon they heard the noise of the market. The wares were spread along the roadside before big crowds that were walking along.

"Oh, what shall we buy?" asked Lotus Flower, all excited.

"I'd like to buy something to take back to the boat," said Chiang.

"I know!" declared Wu Wung. "I'll buy some firecrackers, so Father can shoot them. That will keep the river demons away, and we will be safe."

"I could buy some incense," decided Chiang. "Then Father can go to a fisherman's shrine. If he burns the incense before the idol he'll catch lots of fish."

For a while Lotus Flower couldn't decide what to buy. Then she saw a little jade monkey on a ribbon to wear about her neck. It would keep witches away, so she bought it.

When it was noon Ling Tang bought some crushed peanut bars for all of them and a wonderful warm crab apple that had been dipped in hot sugar and put on a stick, for each of them.

"Now it's time to go to the mission school," said Ling Tang. "On the Saturday before Easter, we hunt eggs and listen to stories."

The river children didn't know anything about Easter, but they liked the idea of finding eggs. Eggs were a great treat on the river boat. It was a happy day when they had them.

When everybody had reached the school, the teacher asked, "What story shall we have today?"

"Please, Miss White, tell my cousins about God," said Ling Tang.

The teacher told the river children how God made everything.

"Even the river demons?" asked Wu Yung. "Oh, no!" said the teacher. "There

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are no river demons. There are no evil spirits of any kind. God is all."

Then she talked about Easter and how Jesus had come back to life after he was dead.

"He is living now, in heaven," she said. "He helps us when we ask him. He helps us be brave when we are scared. He helps us know what to do when we are puzzled. He helps us feel that he is near when we are lonely."

Next the children had the egg and candy hunt, for Miss White was teaching them American ways. What fun they had!

Suddenly Lotus Flower put her hand to her throat.

"Oh, the monkey! I've lost it!" she exclaimed. All the children helped her hunt, but they couldn't find the little green monkey on the ribbon.

At last it was time for the children to start toward home. Each had some candy eggs, and some goose eggs covered with red paste to keep them fresh.

When they were almost home, Chiang suddenly cried: "Oh, we left the firecrackers and incense at the mission!"

They had set down their packages for the egg and candy hunt, and had forgotten them.

"You can't go back!" said Ling Tang. "There's your father at our house."

The children's father had come to take them back to the boat.

"Well, we don't need those things we lost," said Lotus Flower. "We know now that there aren't any demons or witches, and that burning incense does not make the fish bit."

When the four of them reached Ling Tang's home he got a basket.

"Put your eggs in it, he said. "You may have mine, too. And I want to give you something else."

When he came back he had covered the basket.

"Wait until you get home to look in it," he said. Of course the minute the children got back to the boat they looked into the basket. There were eggs for the whole family. There was a picture book about Easter. And there was something else.

Ling Tang had told his mother about the monkey charm that Lotus Flower had lost. She had gone at once to her lacquered jewelry box and taken out something and put it into the basket.

Now Lotus Flower found it. It was a chain to go about her neck. And from the

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center of the chain hung a tiny, white jade lily! It was very, very lovely.

Tomorrow the happy children would go on down the river. They would not be afraid, because now they knew that there were no river demons. And they would be glad they knew about Easter. They would be eating eggs and looking at lilies. But most of all they would be happy in thinking about Jesus. They would be glad he had risen, and that he loved and would help them always.

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THREE KEYS

BY:Laura A. Boyd

A _ _ _ key has two long, long ears;
Its voice is not so sweet;

A _ _ _ key at Thanksgiving time
Is very good to eat.

A _ _ _ key has a long, strong tail,
He swings down from a tree,
And when you visit at the zoo
I'm sure there's one you'll see.

Answers

Donkey; Turkey; Monkey

NOTE TO EDITOR: In setting type please
turn the row of answers
to the above upside down.

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