

Holiday Time on Butternut Hill

By Harrison
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Title: Holiday Time On Butternut Hill

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Language: English

Subject: Fiction, Literature, Children's literature

Publisher: World Public Library Association

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Racine, Wis.

Printed in U. S. A.



Christmas Time is the happiest of all times in the Great Forest.

And when the day arrives, every one in the Great Forest gathers on Butternut Hill before the great Christmas tree. What a happy time they all have! What busy days there have been, for they all have worked so hard on the Christmas presents for friends and loved ones.

Even old Mr. Owl, never a very cheerful soul, looks almost pleasant on this day and the three or four days that precede it. He too has presents to give; and what is more, there are going to be gifts for him.



Business is very good, so Mr. Mouse, Mr. Red Squirrel, and other merchants report. The sale of snow bird Christmas mittens has never been so large, which means that the snow birds are sure to receive gifts.

"Yes, sir," says Brother Gray Squirrel. "My brother and I have not had any rest at all, and our nuts are selling very rapidly indeed."

In front of the largest store in the Great Forest, old Beggarmen Bird plays on his fiddle, hoping to receive alms. On these days before Christmas,



every one feels very kindly disposed towards him, and he reaps a big harvest. Old Beggarmen really likes to play, and he plays very well indeed,



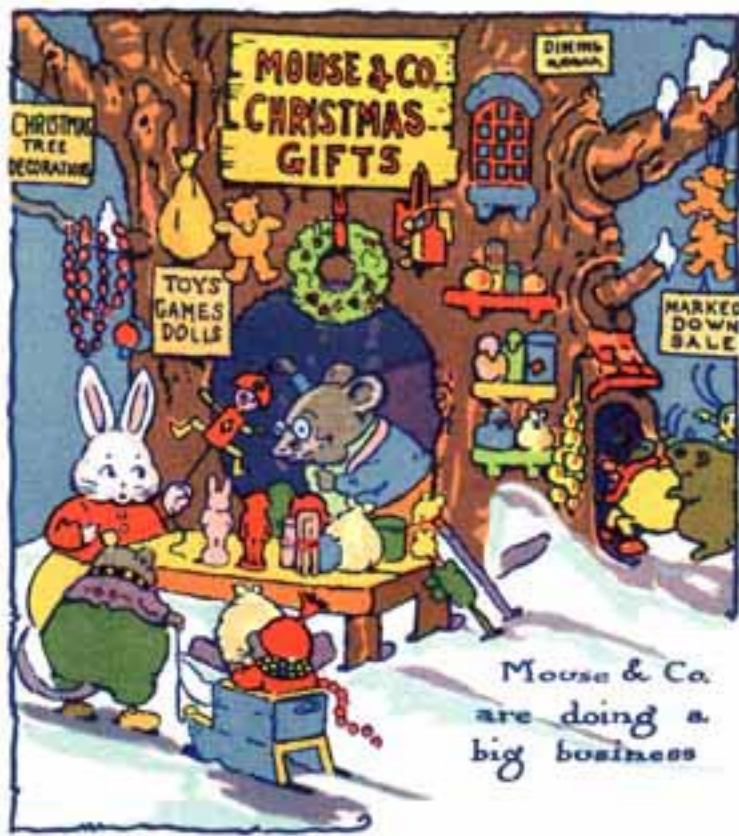
so many folks say. But he also likes to beg; he thinks it is an easy way to live.

Folks from the far-away country have come

into town to watch the great doings, and they have found comfortable seats. They are interested in everything that happens. They are in the way of Fussy Mr. Beetle and his son who are anxious to get to the big store of Mouse & Co., situated in the large hollow tree. Mr. Mouse has been so busy he has not had a nibble of cheese all day.

And whom do we see now? Old Mr. Bear, who should be asleep at this time! But he asked to be awakened for the great festivities; he loves a good time. He is bringing honey





as his
share for
Christ-
mas Day.

Old Mr.
Bear is
glad to
lose his
sleep. He
likes to
see hap-
py folks
and the
Christ-
mas spirit
which is
every-
where in
the Great
Forest.
The little
folks like





the friendly bear, and more than one has prepared a present for him.

Johnny Squirrel has a great smile on his face, for his supply of Christmas trees, holly, and bells is being sold very rapidly. It is surprising how much of his merchandise is sold even though there is to be the great Christmas tree



on the hill. It had worried Johnny at first, but he finds business all the better because of it.



Johnny Squirrel keeps calling everyone to come and buy; he is a great merchant.

But where are the Funny Bunnies who are never far away from excitement and gayety? Mrs. Funny Bunny, of course, never has an idle second. She has been busy until the very last minute getting the little bunnies fixed

up and in proper array.

Mr. Funny Bunny is anxious to get started and at last he does, with Tiny, Spark, and Tubby, dressed warmly, and very happy to get away.



It is almost two hours later before the rest of the Funny Bunnies follow. They are afraid they will surely be late, but as a matter of fact, the shops are still wide open, the folks of the Great Forest are eager to make last minute purchases



and bargain hunters are everywhere.

The noisy, boisterous Funny Bunnies are quite at home in almost no time. The bustle and excitement make their eyes pop; none enjoy it all as much as they do. Tubby Funny Bunny points to

Betsy Spider above him, still spinning a last gift for some dear friend. And all the time every little Funny Bunny keeps wondering and wondering what Santa will bring him.

But the greatest joy for the Funny Bunnies comes when, suddenly, straight in front of them, they see the wondrous Tree, already lighted,





already bedecked with presents. Not altogether ready, for a good deal of work still has to be done. Even so, it is very wonderful.

But we must turn from the Funny Bunnies who continue to nod gaily to interested friends everywhere. For there is much more to see. Mr. Meadow Mouse has not yet had time on



this day before Christmas for anything else than his duties at home. With the help of Mrs. Meadow Mouse, he is hanging the stockings of the family on the high mantel over the fireplace.

Tiny Meadow Mouse chuckles delightedly to see not one but both of his stockings there. Tiny Meadow Mouse has already been told what a



wonderful event Christmas Day is, and he wonders why it comes so seldom. Old Mr. Meadow Mouse believes in having everything ready for the holiday before going forth

to Butternut Hill. It would not do at all to let things go until they returned home, for what if Santa decided to visit them early?

Nor must we forget the newly-weds,

Young Mr. Funny Bunny and Young Mrs. Bunny Boy, who find they have so many friends and wonder what to make for the few they have forgotten.

They have found the list of homemade gifts very helpful, and they turn again to it for further suggestions.





They found ways to
make home-made gifts

The tapping we hear is Mr. Woodpecker at work tattooing Christmas greetings. He is helped by the Greeting Committee of the Great Forest.

Here are two late comers, hurrying, for they have no wish to miss anything that happens. An accident has delayed them, and their sled is a very wobbly affair, even now.



Mr. Woodpecker tattoos
another greeting



Getting ready for the holiday

need to hurry," says Tom Mink. "There is plenty of time," but they hurry, nevertheless, for they hear the noise of shouting, laughing, calling voices. They also hear the singing of the Snow

"Hello, hello!"
It is a merry, joyous greeting they receive from a happy and playful group sitting on a convenient log.

"No



It is a merry, joyous greeting they receive

Bird Chorus, whose Christmas carols are very fine indeed. Now Santa appears, and, as if by magic, there is a horde about him.

"Merry Christmas, Merry Christmas," everyone is shouting.



"Merry Christmas," Santa answers.

Now the real fun begins. Santa not only has a gift for everyone, which he picks from the wondrous Christmas Tree, but he has a kindly

word and wish as well.

What fun there is! Mischievous Sparky Funny Bunny with some friends allows Jack-in-the-Bandbox to escape, and he frightens Mr. Mouse out of a





year's growth. Everywhere there is gayety and good will until far into the evening when tired folks turn home to bed and thoughts of another wonderful Christmas Day to come.

The End.

