

TRIXIE
BELDEN

MYSTERY

FAN CLUB

A THANKSGIVING MICRO-MYSTERY

The Bob-Whites were gathered at the clubhouse on Thanksgiving Day. They'd just returned from a short cross-country ski run, organized on the spur of the moment by Jim to give them all some exercise before sitting down to big Thanksgiving feasts.

Honey sighed and stood up. "We should be going, Jim. Dinner is going to be ready earlier than usual this year." She turned to the others and said, "Daddy and Mother just bought a microwave oven, and they asked Cook to try roasting the turkey in it. It really cooks things fast."

Trixie jumped up suddenly, her face pale. "Gleeps! The turkey!"

Everyone stared at her in confusion. "I promised Moms I'd turn on the oven at ten o'clock," she explained, hurriedly buttoning her coat. "I forgot—and it's almost eleven-thirty now! Oh, woe!" She raced out the door.

"Moms and Dad and Bobby are visiting some friends in Croton," Brian said. "They'll be back in an hour or so. Looks like we'll be eating Thanksgiving dinner a little later than planned."

Mart, who loved food even more than he loved using big words, could only respond glumly, "Yeah—like about midnight."

A few minutes later, Trixie was back at the clubhouse. Her blue eyes were wide and her face was white.

"What's wrong, Trixie?" Honey gasped. Her friend stood trembling in the doorway.

"You look as though you'd just seen a ghost," Jim said. "What happened?"

"It's gone!" Trixie shut the door and leaned against it for support. "The turkey. . .it's gone! The oven is empty!"

"What. . .?" Brian demanded.

"You mean—" Mart began.

"Somebody has stolen our Thanksgiving turkey!"

The Bob-Whites all followed Trixie back to Crabapple Farm. They went into the kitchen and found that the oven was indeed empty. A thorough search of the house and yard revealed no clues. There were plenty of footprints in the snow—too many to tell if any might belong to an intruder.

"What do we do now?" Trixie asked as they all gathered in the front yard.

"Call Sergeant Molinson?" Honey suggested.

"And report a turkey-napping?" Mart said. "He'd think we're crazy!"

"Oh, what am I going to tell Moms and Dad?" Trixie moaned.

Brian nudged her. "Better think fast—here they come now."

"What's this, a welcoming committee?" Peter Belden asked as he and Mrs. Belden got out of the car.

"How's the turkey coming along?" Helen Belden inquired.

"I—I—ohhhh!" Trixie wailed.

Her mother nodded knowingly. "I suppose that means you forgot to turn on the oven, hm?"

"Yes, but—" Trixie began.

"Well, let's go have a look," Mrs. Belden suggested with a smile. Everyone followed as she led the way into the house.

Inside, the kitchen was filled with the wonderful aroma of roasting turkey. The oven was on—and the turkey was nearly done!

Can you figure out what might have happened?

ANSWER ON PAGE 4

HONEY'S MAGIC TRICK

"I'm so bored!" Trixie flopped down on the floor between Honey and Di. "Jim and Brian and Mart and Dan *would* have to come back from that camping trip with colds! If we can't have our party, I'll just die!"

Di smiled sympathetically. "Oh, Trixie, we can always have the party next week."

Honey jumped up excitedly. "I know what we can do! We'll have our own party right here! I'll ask Celia for some sandwiches and Cokes, and we can play some games. How would you like to start out the evening with a spooky telephone call to Gleeps the Ghost? He can read your mind!"

Di shivered and edged closer to Trixie.

"Gleeps!" Trixie exclaimed. "Sure! Why not?"

"Okay," said Honey. "Here—pick a card." Trixie shuffled the pack that Honey handed her and drew out a jack of spades. "Now I'll call Gleeps the Ghost," said Honey. "He'll tell you which card you just picked." Trixie looked skeptical.

Honey dialed a number on the phone by her bed. "Hello," she said. "May I speak to Gleeps the Ghost?" There was a moment of silence; then Honey said,

"Gleeps, will you speak to a friend of mine? . . . Just a moment." She handed the phone to Trixie.

Trixie listened. Then her blue eyes widened with amazement. "Honey," she whispered, "he says I picked the jack of spades. How did he do it?"

How do you think he did it?

See ANSWER below.

GIFT CORNER

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HONEY'S MAGIC TRICK ANSWER

In this trick, Gleeps the Ghost was really Honey's secret assistant, Mart. Honey had asked him ahead of time to stay by the telephone and wait for her call. When he answered the phone, Honey said, "Hello. May I speak to Gleeps the Ghost?" This was Mart's cue to start naming cards, very slowly and quietly. He said, "Ace. . . two. . . three. . . four. . . five. . ." and so on. When he got to the correct number of the card Trixie had chosen, Honey stopped him from counting further by saying, "Gleeps, will you speak to a friend of mine?" That was Mart's cue to start naming the suits of the cards. He said, very slowly, "Clubs. . . diamonds. . . hearts. . . spades." When he said the correct suit, Honey stopped him again by saying, "Just a moment." Now Mart knew both the number and the suit of the card picked. When Honey handed the telephone to Trixie, "Gleeps the Ghost" named the chosen card, in a spooky, hoarse voice, and then quickly hung up.

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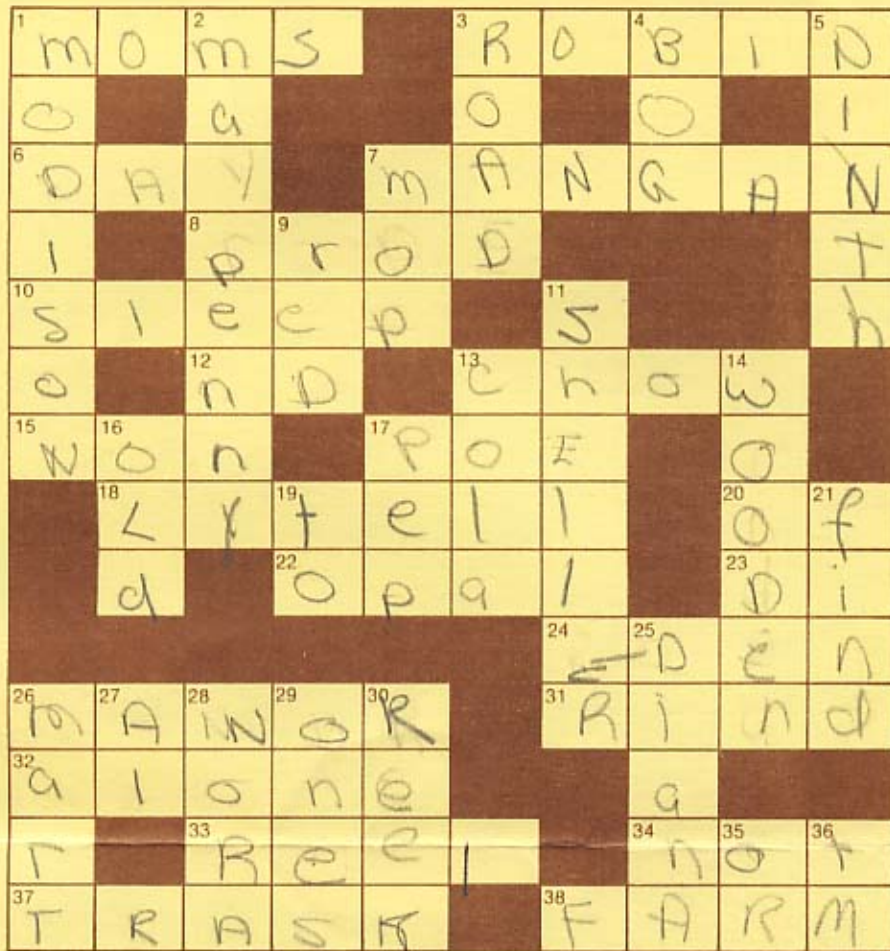
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BOB-WHITE CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

DOWN

- 1. Trixie calls her mother _____.
- 3. Name of the red trailer.
- 6. Opposite of *night*.
- 7. Last name of B.W.G. originally from New York City.
- 8. Device used to move cattle.
- 10. Opposite of *wake*.
- 12. Abbreviation of *North Dakota*.
- 13. Slang for *food*.
- 15. Negative prefix.
- 17. Author of "The Raven."
- 18. Glen Road storekeeper, Mr. _____.
- 20. Book title: _____ *Human Bondage*.
- 22. A semiprecious stone.
- 23. Diana's nickname.
- 24. A perfect place is sometimes called a Garden of _____.
- 26. Honey lives at _____ House.
- 31. Fruit covering.
- 32. By one's self.
- 33. Dance the Virginia _____.
- 34. Book title: *To Have and Have* _____.
- 37. Housekeeper at Manor House, Miss _____.
- 38. Belden home, Crabapple _____.

- 1. Fourth U.S. President, James _____.
- 2. Gamekeeper, Mr. _____.
- 3. Glen _____.
- 4. Another name for a marsh.
- 5. The _____ follows the eighth.
- 7. Not a broom, but a _____.
- 9. Color of the *Robin*.
- 11. One who shells.
- 13. A soft drink.
- 14. Captain Ahab had a _____ leg.
- 16. Opposite of *young*.
- 17. Energy.
- 19. Direction toward.
- 21. Seek and ye shall _____.
- 25. B.W.G. who has violet eyes.
- 26. Belden with the big vocabulary.
- 27. A nickname for *Albert*.
- 28. A girl's name.
- 29. Dollar bills are called _____.
- 30. Bad smell.
- 35. Neither/nor, Either/ _____.
- 36. Abbreviation of *trademark*.

ANSWERS ON PAGE 4

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TRIXIE BELDEN MYSTERY FAN CLUB
 P.O. Box 1
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FAN CLUB SPOTLIGHT

Gleeps! The Trixie Belden Mystery Fan Club now has over 24,000 members—and it's growing all the time. Who are all those Trixie fans?

Ninety to ninety-five percent of them are girls or women; the rest are boys. About three-quarters of the members are between the ages of nine and fourteen. The next largest group is between the ages of fourteen and nineteen; there are also members under nine and over twenty.

These facts and figures keep changing every day as fan letters and membership applications keep pouring into club headquarters. Welcome, everyone!

A THANKSGIVING MICRO-MYSTERY ANSWER

To make sure that Trixie remembered to turn on the oven at the correct time, Mrs. Belden telephoned Crabapple Farm to remind her. Getting no answer at home, Mrs. Belden then called the Wheelers' and explained the situation to Miss Trask. Miss Trask walked down to Crabapple Farm and took the turkey back to Manor House to give it a head start in the Wheelers' new microwave oven. While Trixie and the others were searching for clues outside, Miss Trask returned the turkey to the Beldens' oven to finish roasting!

BOB-WHITE CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS

1	M	O	M	S		3	R	O	B	I	N	5		
	A		A				O		O			I		
6	D	A	Y			7	M	A	N	G	A	N		
	I			8	P	9	R	O	D			T		
10	S	L	E	E	P			11	S			H		
	O		12	N	D		13	C	H	O	14	W		
15	N	16	O	N		17	P	O	E		O			
		18	L	Y	19	T	E	L	L		20	O	21	F
			D		22	O	P	A	L		23	D	I	
								24	E	25	D	E	N	
26	M	A	N	O	R			31	R	I	N	D		
32	A	L	O	N	E				A					
	R		33	R	E	E	L		34	N	35	O	36	T
37	T	R	A	S	K			38	F	A	R	M		