

Reel 205A&Bas far as the 2nd story is continued.

1. The Farmer and His Three Sons; this is a long folk tale about a quest for The Sword of Brightness in which ~~quest~~ three brothers set out and the youngest is helped by an old man to whom he is kind; he is given three objects to help him and, after putting the sword in the wrong scabbard, he is given two other tasks; he completes them all; his brothers steal the sword and the girl he has rescued, but he proves his claim and wins the girl when he alone can take the sword from its proper scabbard. This tale is well told by Mr. Wilmot MacDonald, Miss Louise Manny's informant from Glenwood, N.B. who had learned it in the lumber woods. Note that he uses the word her for it, and ends his stories by bringing himself in as though he had been on the scene in person.

He also tells briefly about how his stories were learned.

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2. Christmas Story: this also is a long folk tale. Here a stranger is given Christmas dinner but when his host accepts a similar invitation from the same man he finds he is to be put to death. He is given a room with nails in the floor to prevent rest, but is rescued by the man's daughter who also helps him perform impossible tasks by using magic, including the use of her cut-off fingers to make a ladder. They flee and are pursued but save themselves with three magic objects. Note how on page 8 the mountain is the biggest known in Canada, and the lake is at the head of Black River where the narrator lives. Also he again brings himself in at the story's end. Well told by Mr. Wilmot MacDonald, Glenwood, N.B. This is continued on 205B

The Farmer and His Three Sons

(The Sword of Brightness) xxxxxxxxxx

Reel 205A

Well one time there was an old fella and he had three sons, so they grew up. The youngest boy was twenty-one. Of course the other two was maybe twenty-eight and the other fella thirty, and so on, whatever. But the farm wasn't divided. There was no one had any holt off the farm, so the old man he decided, he says, "Yez got to earn this farm. I'm not going to give it to neither of yez, but youse must go," he said, "to this -." There was an old king and he was very wealthy and he had lots of money, and he had three swords. But he had a sword of silver and he told them whatever son could bring back this sword of brightness to him, which was three feet long - and get it from the king, he got what the old man had. So they started, eh. The three of them started out. Well two fellas, the oldest two, they was kinda well-to-do fellas and had been runnin' around, and the youngest fella, he hadn't been very popular anyway and they said to him, "What's the use of you comin'? You can't come because you don't know too much. You ain't got no too much learnin' and you'll never get anything from the old king." Well the young son, the brother, said, "Well I'm going to go. I'll stand just as good a chance as maybe you will." So they travelled all day. In fact they didn't know where to go when they started out where this king was, but they just started out to look for him.

So that night, when night overtook them, they come into a town. Well, they were walking down the street and anyway there was two hotels, one on each side of the street, and on the great big sign on the hotel, on the door, it said, "Come in and be welcome; pay nothing." So the two oldest boys said, "There's the place to stay; we ain't got to pay nothing." So the youngest fella on the other side it said, "Come in, be welcome, pay what you can." So the youngest fella went in there. So when he went in there was an old man sitting in a rocking chair all crippled up with rheumatism rocking in the chair, and the young fella spoke to him, "Do you keep boarders here for the night?" He said, "Yes." "Well," he said, "It don't look much like a boarding house." "Well," he said, "My help has all left me but you're a young man." "e says, "There's all kinds to eat here, go ahead. Go ahead and get her ready for me and you." So the young fella he got the stove going and he makes a big feed for him and the old man and sat down and he told him this transaction where he was going.

"Well," he says, "You have a good chance. You have a chance to do it providing you do what I will advise you to do." So they went to bed anyway, and next morning they got up and, they got their breakfast and the young fella washed the dishes and swept up the floor and he said to the old man, "Well," he said, "how much do I owe you?" "Oh no," he said, "you don't owe me nothing. You paid what you could," he said. "I'd have had a lonely night here all alone. I'm not able to get anything to eat, but you've paid what you could. But," he said, "you ain't got to go yet. You're in lots of time. Take it easy. Well I want to tell you. Well," he says, "lookit, I want to tell you. You go out to the barn and there's a straw in the red cow's manger, a great big wheat straw. You bring that straw in here and give it to me; I want it." So the young fellow

went out and he looked in the cow's manger. Well naturally the biggest stone was there and he just picked it up. Whatever the old man wanted it for he didn't know, so he took it in. So he took the scissors and he clipped off eight inches of the straw. He says,

"You put that straw in your pocket, and," he says, "it might come in handy." So they stood and talked for a while and the old fellow said to him - the young fellow he said,

"Well, I better be going.." "Well now," he says, "listen. You're lots of time ." he says, "You go out to the barn and go in the hen's house and bring me in an egg that the white hen laid last night," he says. "You might need that too." So he brought the egg in and he give hi, and the old fellow put it into a nice little box, about the size of an egg and he give it to him. "Now," he said, "you might need that."

Well, the young fellow thought, "well I'll have to go," he says, "my brothers has gone." He says, "It wouldn't make no difference about your brothers where they're gone. They're not going no place anyway. So," he said, "You're ready to go now?" he said, "Yes." "Well now," he said, "Listen. I'm going to tell you. Here's a little book. Now you put this book in your pocket and," he says, "when you're stuck and don't know what to do, or where to go, open this book and it'll tell you what to do." Well naturally when he got outside on the road and started to work he needed that book the worst in the world because he just didn't know where to go. Well he opened the book, and the book said, "Straddle your barley straw." Well naturally he didn't know how to straddle it, but he threw his leg over the barley straw, and when he did he was on a big gray horse's back oh going about forty mile an hour right in the road on the big horse, and he was settin' there, and the first thing he come and he seen this place and when the horse come up to it - before he got right handy to it - he opened the book and it said,

"Put the barley straw in your pocket." So he put the barley straw in his pocket and he was just walkin'. Well he come up to this place anyway, and here was six or seven soldiers all with guns, and they was around this building for fear would anyone would steal this sword of brightness was all hanging round the wall. And the book, he opened it again to read to see what he would do, and those soldiers never looked at him. They was leaning again the wall and they seemed to be all sound asleep, see? And it said to take the Sword of Brightness off of the wall. Don't put it in the gold scabbard; don't put it in the silver scabbard; but put it in the leather scabbard and nothing would happen. So when he looked at the Sword of Brightness it looked so good, to say that he'd have to put it in this old leather scabbard, he says to himself,

"Oh I'll steal the silver scabbard." So anyway, when he picked up the silver scabbard these big chimes of bells just started rattling, and up come the soldiers and they was going

to drive the bayonet in. A man got the old king and he told him where he come and what he had to do and he couldn't redeem his farm. "Well now," the king said, "we're supposed to kill you. You're not supposed to get out of here. You're the first man that ever got here but," he said, "we'll give you one chance. The next tree from here on to an old giant, he's got a tree with gold fruit on it, and if you can bring me back a gold fruit," he said, "you can get the sword of brightness." So he figured that the old giant was going to kill him there, so it was just would just cause him the bother of not killing him, so he started for this tree. Wax

Well, he opened his book and it said, "Straddle your barley straw." Well he started, and he was going up along mountain and he looks ahead and here was this great silver tree, oh the fruit on that it was just glittering for miles and miles, so when he come up he opened his book again and it said, "Put your barley straw in your pocket." Well then he was down walking again. So anyway he was down walking, and when he came up to the tree here was those two fiery dragons in the yard there just snorting, steam right out of their nose. Lookit here, and he was scared to death, but he must get this fruit. So anyway whenever he touched the fruit on the tree those big giant bells they started to rattle again and oh, they were going to murder him this time for sure. So he pleaded and where he had come from and he had got defeated on the other place where he couldn't get the sword of brightness and they sent him for this gold fruit from off of the tree, but they said,

"There's only one way for you to get this fruit," and he told him. He said, "There's a girl up here on the mountain," he said. "She was chained up there on the mountain. She was put up there. She come for the fruit too, and she was here yesterday, and we put her up there for to die - to starve to death, and you go up, and if you can get her off of the mountain without her killing you now, you bring her back to us, and we'll give you the gold fruit." Well he said he'd try it.

Well, he started up this mountain, so he travelled on his barley straw, away he went again, so when he was coming up this mountain his place long mountain he seen this place. He seen the crows and the ravens of all kinds flying over this girl and she was tied there, and stay there to die. So he got off of the horse. He put his barley straw in his pocket and he started to sneak up on her. Well then he thought to himself, "Now if I ever get there she's liable to - she'll likely scratch the eyes out of me head. She'll kill me anyway," so he opened the book, and the book said to take the egg out of his pocket and break it and put the shell on his head and you could fly all over the mountain. So he said to himself he'd just break it and whatever, see what happened anyway, so he turned into a little bird and he flew all over the mountain, and he flew down and when he took this egg off his head again he was a man and he pounded down on her and he grabbed her. Well he talked to her and he told her that where he had come from and all like this, and boys, he got her untied and he took her back. Well now, he started down the mountain eh, so him and her got on the barley straw

straw again and they come with this big grey horse again just blying down off of the mountain and they come to the fruit tree. So the old giant was so enjoyed about it and everything like that, he give him the gold fruit to take to the king .

So he straddled his barley straw, him and his girl again- he took the girl rightw with him, and he come to the fellow with the sword of brightness. So he went in and he give him the gold fruit and and he told the old king where he had to go. He was caught there and the old giant was going to kill him, and he was so overjoyed he said, "Being as you wanted to steal the sword of brightness," he said, "with the gold scabbard," he said, "we'll put it in the silver scabbard that mates it, and here's the lock and here's the keys to lock it. No one can get into this ," he said, "except you."

Well he put those keys in his pocket anyway, and him and the girl started on their barley straw again. Well he come back to about a mile from home, see, and they was awfully tired so they got off their horse and they went over and they sat down on the side of the road. So he laid his head down on her lap and he fell asleep. Along come the other two sons that never was no place, stole the girl from him, took the sword of brightness, and went home. So when the young fellow woke up, here he had nothing no more than he started , see? Well all right. They tore that girl and they made her go. They ~~kixkixkixkixkixkix~~ gagged her and tied her and made her go. Well they didn't have no idea where she come from nor nothing, see? Well they had nothing and she told nothing.

So the old man, they walked right in, and took the girl in and they said they got the girl toop made up this great story, to their father, and they wanted the farm be's done all these belongings between them. And there was this sword of brightness. Well it was laying on the table . No one could get it out of the scabbard, see? So when the young fellow wakes up he turns around and he starts home. And when he was coming down by, along the old man's property, she seen the young fellow coming, so anyway, the girl says,

"There's the man that got me off of the mountain.."

"Oh no," this fella said. "No." She was telling the old man all the time that "them boys never was on the mountain for me ." So when the young fella come they decided that - well, the old man says to them , " If you're the men that got this sword of brightness, why not take it out of the scabbard? " And the young fella said, "They couldn't take it out of that for I got the keys that unlock that. The king give it to me ." So the old fella he took the keys and he unlocked it and he pulled the sword of brightness right out of this scabbard and he said, he told all his transactions where he was and everything , so the other fellas - both sons was put out and he got the farm, and when I left they had a family of three children.

Told by Mr. Wilmot MacDonald, Glenwood, N.B., and recorded by Helen Creighton, September 1960

(over)

(1) young?

Question: Where did you learn this story, Mr. MacDonald?

Answer: We had to learn it, and an awful lot of it we had to make.

It's according as we made it. There might be maybe - when we started that story it might be five minutes long, then we kept adding on to this and it's according as we worked away in the lumber woods. Maybe a black stranger, he'd come in and he'd say, "Boys, I can put some more to that story." "Well I'd be only too glad if you could," so we'd have to get his -

Q: What do you mean by a black stranger?

A: Well a black stranger would - a man we always called a black stranger, he'd never be a man we never had seen before. This was a new fella we'd got acquainted with. He ~~was~~ was a black stranger to us and he turned out to be about the finest fella we ever knew, because he'd have something on the ball. Maybe he could sing us a few songs and tell us a few stories and go on, and we'd get what he knew, see? And at the last of it, agin ye get about sixty years of years of age, you have a lot of old cogwheels in your head, ain't ye?

Q: In the first place did you learn it from your own mother or your father?

A: Oh no, in the lumber woods, yes .

Explanation by Mr. Wilmot MacDonald at the end of story.

Reel 205B

1. Conclusion of Christmas story on 205A.
2. Ghost Story; long story of haunted house and man who stayed there for night, told as if narrator himself had the experience; probably traditional, but Canada brought in and Black River and Cnatham near story-teller's home; well told.
3. Ghost Story; local happening in which he thinks old friend buried alive; note how kindly narrator had looked after her, and how he makes story live.
4. Ghost Story; local happening, woman in trance buried alive and casket opened by husband after he had been disturbed by her; this ends on note of levity followed by short reference to his own wife.
5. Bull Story; concluded 207A; European folk tale; mother dies and boy brought up by uncle who in time gives him a Bull calf; when usefulness over uncle says will be butchered; boy dreams if horn unscrewed, bull will talk; tries it and this is so. In bull's head food and clothes; bull tells him to ask to lead him to butcher, and once outside bull runs away with him; bull fights in forest and is killed as boy knows by muddy water; takes rib from bull as advised and with it rescues girl whom he marries.

Narrator: Mr. Wilmet MacDonald, Miss Louise Manny's informant, Glenwood, N.B. Stories well told. The Bull Story might have been even better if not at end of long recording session.

This guy that I was going to tell you about, he was married and they had a little boy. But anyway, his mother took sick and she died. Well then, he couldn't very well bring up that kid, for the kid was only about three or four year old, so he went to his uncle, and he asked the uncle how much would he take a week and look after the baby, board it. So it was all in the family and it was only a small trifle that he wanted, and the old man said that he would bring all his clothes and when it got go~~x~~ to school he would buy all his books and look after him, but he just wanted him for to board him and look after him. So he did.

But when this boy come to be about thirteen year old, the old uncle that he was staying with give him a little bull calf. So this calf grewed up to be, oh, a great big animal. So it was around the barn; they had it there for breeding purposes and everything like that, and the young fellow was making quite a few dollars with it, but they after the bull got so old they decided, oh the uncle said to him, "We're going to sell the bull to the butcher." Well the young fellow didn't want that to happen, to get rid of his only little animal he had in the world, so he didn't want to part with that. Well the uncle said,

"The bull is too big now, we got to get rid of it; we're going to sell it to the butcher." So anyway he thought pretty hard on this, and he went out under an apple tree and he laid down and he fell asleep, and he had a dream. So he dreamed that he went to the barn and he screwed off the right horn off of the bull, and when he screwed off this horn off of the bull, the bull could talk. And there was everything in the bull's head that you would imagine. All kinds of clothes and there was anything you wanted to eat in the bull's head,

and the bull could talk. Well he woke up laughing to himself, which when he laid down he was crying about the bull being sold. So the bull could talk, so he went out and he give her a yank anyway, he said,

"I'm going to try her a yank." So when he he tried her a yank she started to spin off and behold ye it was , everything was right. So he told the bull what was going to take place. Well the bull said, "The only thing feryou to do, when they're come, when the butcher come for to buy me," he said, "you tell your uncle thay when, the last time you're going to lead me out. You want to do the job, lead me out and," he says, "whenever my heels is clear of that barn door, you jump onto my back and that's the last they'll see of us." Well he did so. The butcher come and the young fellow ^{old} said to the uncle, he said, "Being as you're going to kill the bull I want to lead him out for the last time." Well the uncle said allright, he was going to get this chunk of money and he just blabbered the young lad up that way so anyway away he went. So he just got clear of the barn and when he jumped onto that bull's back he just roared to the old man. He said,

"Good morningboss," he says, " when we're straight hard putting." So they travelled all that day. So that night they come to a brook and they got off, and the young fellow screwed the horn off of the bull and took this big tablecloth and spread it on the ground and he had smything you anted to eat there, baked beans or everything. So he had a big feed of hot biscuit, and the bull after that, he fed around and drunk water in the brook, and he fed along the side of the road and the first thing this awful howling and roaring struck up in the woods. And anyway he said, the bull said to him, he says,

"I got to go to a bull fight to-night and," he says, "lookit, when I'm gone," he said "if that brook runs clear of water all night, I'll be back in the morning, but if she runs muddy, you'll know I'm dead, and," he says, "you take my track the next morning and you follow me and," he said, "when you come to me and if I'm dead, you take a rib out of my right side, take a strip of skin from the bottom of my heart to the bottom of my tail, and wear it as a belt, and no matter what you ask those things to do, for you, they'll do it. So, the bull went. The young fellow laid down behind the fence and he slept there all night and he watched the brook and by and by the brook got a little muddy and then it cleared up and it stayed clear all night, so the bull came back the next morning with just a little tear in his side from another bull's horn. So he screwed his horn off anyway and spread his tablecloth out and they had their breakfast and had a big jettin' (?) on to the bull's back and away again. So they travelled all the next day. So the next night they come to another brook and he had his supper. So this awful deathly roaring was in the woods again, so he told him the same story and what to do. So when the bull was gone about an hour the brook got muddy and it stayed muddy the whole night. Well he knew his friend was gone. So he took his track the next morning and he followed and he went way into a big swamp where there was a big herd of wild animals, cattle and everything, and here was his bull dead. So he took his knife and he took this skin, what the bull told him to do, and this rib out of his right side. So he travelled anyway and he come into a town. So he went into a house anyway, and he get talking to a man and he had a great herd of horses, lovely horses.

So the young fellow told his all about where he had

come and what this old uncle had done to him and he didn't have too much money, and everything, so this old fellow said,

"Well John, I can't do nothing for you," said. "I can't keep you here, ~~xxxxxxx~~ but," he says, "I have a lot of horses and," he says, "I'll tell you what I'll do. I'll rig you all up and I'll give you a horse, and a saddle and you start, and if you can get a job," he said, "keep this little horse and," he said, "when you ever get able, you send me so much money," which was only a mere trifle, about forty or fifty dollars for this outfit and, he said, everything would be all right. Well he said he would.

So he travelled and travelled with his horse day after and day after day, day, till he travelled to a place where there was a girl and she had done some bad crime and this old king was going to put her to death. So they took her down to the shore and they tied her, and there was a great fish was going to come in from the sea for to kill her, eat her. So he found out about this girl, so anyway he said,

"I'm going to try to save her life." Well, "this guy said, "if you can save her if you can have her for your wife." So he went down and he had a talk to the girl anyway and she asked him; she said she'd be only too glad, but he said, "I can get you," he said, "clear," he said, "if I can kill this fish. We don't know how big this fish is or anything like that, but we're going to try it anyway." So he stood his horse there on the shore with the saddle, and they took some pictures of him and her, and then there was another guy was kinda going with her, see, but he couldn't save her life, so the old man ^{an awful} thought a lot of this other fellow, see. But anyway, he sat down there talking to her and he said, "when that fish is coming, ~~xxxxxx~~ you tell me when he's coming." So he sat there for awhile and by and by she

says,

"That fish is coming; I can see it coming." So he up and he jumped on his horse and he waded out for to meet the fish which he couldn't wade out too far because he was down there at the head of Black River. The bog was awful deep. So anyway, he waded out anyway, and the fish was coming, so when it come pretty handy to the shore he thought he'd try this rib. The bull told him what to say, those words, and he said,

"Rib, rib about." Well, it just turned the fish over but it didn't kill him and he swam back down the river. So he come back in and she says, "Did you kill him?" He said, "No, I only turned him." w

"Well," she says, "I'm afraid."

"No," he said, "never mind," he says, "never mind. We'll see what we can do next time he comes." You tell me when he's coming again." So he sat there and talked away to her, and she said, "He's coming again," so he went out again and he met his fish." So nexax was going to try this skin, which he forgot, and he says,

"Rib rib about," again, and he only turned the fish again, and he swam back down the river. So anyway he come back in and he said,

"No, I didn't get him yet, but," he says, "you tell me the next time he's coming; we're going to try him again. This time and for all. This will be the final trip." So there were thousands to see this, all up on the bank now watching what this man was doing. So anyway, he wasn't gone over three or four minutes till back he come. This time he's coming to get her for sure, so he went out and he just waited till he come up pretty handy and he took this skin from his side and axd he pulled her out a long whip like that and he said,

"Split him belt." Well it split that fish wide open,

and when he come up he was ninety feet deep, seven hundred and sixty-five feet long, which was a nicetroun, So anyway he come in and they took the pictures, Well then, down steps this other fella. Well, the girl is all right now. The fish is dead, and well then they takes their pictures, they takes their pictures with this horse and the fella that saved her, and the girl. Well then this other, the old man, her father, wanted this other fella and the horse and she said no. So they had quite a row about it, but anyway the young fellow said, he said, he didn't mind saving the girl and he didn't care whether he had her for a wife, for he didn't have too much to keep her, anything like that, only just going through the country, but she said if she didn't get him she'd just as soon be dead anyway, see?

But anyway, the girl was still tied with this awful chain. Well he said to the other fella, he said, "If you can untie her and take her from this chain without hurting her," he says, "the only thing, you can have her for your wife." Well then they run them all the crowd away; they couldn't do it. So ^{he} they made them all get off of the whole shore and everything like that, and so he went out and he put his arms around her and he talked to her and he told her he was going to cut this chain from her legs, with this belt. So he just roared to this belt for to, "Split his belt chain," he said. Well the links just flew off her, never hurt her at all, and him and her went up on the road and they went down in this place and that night about ten o'clock they was married, and I stayed around there and they had a couple of children when I left there. I stayed around there for a few years you know and she couldn't get hold of that belt, though ^I you know; or I'd a done wonders with it. So there you go.

Told by Mr. Wilmot MacDonald, Miss Louise Manny's informant,
 recorded by Helen Creighton, September 1960.