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"THE SKUNK"

By Robert North Bradbury.

The humane young hunters, accompanied by their dog, Rags, arrive at their cabin in the mountain wilderness. Reminiscences of unpleasant encounters with skunks inspire them to study that prolific fur-bearing little animal, at close quarters with comparative immunity. So, with a cracker box and springs taken from a shade roller they construct a box trap, using a slice of bacon for bait.

In the meantime an elderly spinster living inthe neighborhood has lost her pet parrot--which is seen enjoying its brief liberty near where the boys set their skunk trap. Having prepared their trap, the boys retire to await developments. The parrot's curiosity enhanced by the smell of bacon causes it to investigate. When the boys are sould asleep in thekr cabin, the skunk in the case takes it into its head to investigate the boys. It enters the cabin, making himself quite at home until the dog, Rags, wakes up and objects. There is a tremendous skurrying about in the dusk of the cabin, which wakes the boys who bring up thereserves in aid of Rags against the mysterious enemy. The mystery is soon solved. The skunk escapes, leaves the dog and the boys badly "gassed."

In the morning at the trap they are rewarded with a parrot--which is restored to its tearful owner, and later on the desired, and odoriferous capture is made.

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