

[TVM]

A TROTTY VECK MESSAGE

# Chuckles



*The world looks brighter  
from behind a smile*

Published by the  
**TROTTY VECK MESSENGERS**  
SARANAC LAKE, N.Y.

[TVM]

## TROTTY VECKS

*are men and women, who, having a wide vision and cheerful disposition themselves, have it in their hearts to give cheer and courage to others — to send a message "of good tidings" wherever the postmen of the world carry their letters.*



**T**HE PUBLICATION of the TROTTY VECK MESSAGES was begun in 1916 by two young men — two messengers of cheer — who were obliged to live in the mountains but who believed that the only way to conquer mountains is to climb — and climb cheerfully.

*These little books are still being published up in the mountains by the survivor.*

PRINTED IN U. S. A.

## Trotty Veck

Toby Veck was a messenger. He was called Trotty from his pace; a weak, spare old man; but a Hercules in his good intentions.

He loved to earn his money. He delighted to believe that he was worth his salt. With an eighteen-penny message in hand; his courage, always high, rose higher; and he had perfect faith in his ability to deliver, no matter how difficult the errand or how complicated the route.



(For the story of Trotty Veck see "The Chimes" by Dickens)

Trotty's headquarters were in a sheltered niche of a church wall, and his dearest friends — the inspiration of his life — were the chimes which measured off the record of his working hours. Wind and rain or fall of snow only increased his courage, made him more anxious to be helpful in his calling as a "common carrier." Trotty was an optimist; a messenger of cheer. You and I can be messengers of cheer: we can be Trotty Vecks.

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CHUCKLES

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If a man cannot smile  
he is built wrong. If  
he can smile and won't  
keep away from him

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**HOME:**

the place where we  
are treated best  
and grumble most

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**LET THEM DO AS HE DID**

**A** FEW days after a father had placed his two children in school, a book agent called and said:

"Now that your boys are in school you ought to buy them an encyclopedia."

"Hanged if I do," replied the father, "let them walk the same way as I did when I was a lad."

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**Digging wells**  
is about the only business  
where you don't have to begin  
at the bottom

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**FOND PARENT:** What does my son do with his week-end?

**THE DEAN:** Judging by his work lately, I think he merely hangs his hat on it.

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**MRS. GOOD:** I am collecting for the Church Rummage Sale. What do you do with your old clothes?

**MR. HARDUP:** Oh, I hang them up very carefully at night and put them on again in the morning.

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**a real diplomat**

a man who remembers  
a woman's birthday  
but forgets her age

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**COURAGE AT THE DENTIST'S**

**T**WO small boys entered a dentist's office and one addressed the dentist as follows:

"Say, Doc, will you pull a tooth right this minute? Don't want any gas or nothin'. Just give her one yank."

"Surely," replied the dentist, "My little man, that's what I call being brave and courageous. Now just show me the tooth you want pulled."

"Come, Wilfred, show Doc your tooth."

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**TO CLIMB HIGHER KEEP ON THE LEVEL**

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**Some folks**  
**would rather blow**  
**their own horn**  
**than listen to**  
**a military band**

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**MRS. LYON:** Oh, John, I am so nervous, I can just feel there is a mouse under the bed.

**MR. LYON:** Feel there is a cat there too, my love, and go to sleep.



**“it allus has”**

The rain it poured,  
The sea it roared,  
The sky was draped in black.  
The old ship rolled,  
She pitched and bowled  
And lost her charted track!

“Oh dear, Oh dear!  
Sir, will it clear?”  
Loud wailed a dame on deck.  
As they heaved the lead  
The skipper said,  
“It allus has, by heck!”

— Writer Unknown



A good memory test:  
try to recall the things  
you were worrying  
about last week



Many autos are wrecked  
by a loose nut on the front seat  
as well as one under the car

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*Most people enjoy  
entertaining guests  
when they are that way*

Some folk's idea  
of a good time  
is to be utterly  
miserable



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INVOLUNTARY VOLUNTEERING

**A**FTER returning from a twenty-mile hike, the officer in command of a negro-company said before dismissing his men, “All men who are too tired to take another hike, step forward two paces.”

The entire company stepped forward except one big, husky six-footer. Noticing him the officer said,

“Well, Johnson, ready for ten miles more?”  
“No, sah,” replied Johnson, “Ah’m jest too tired to even take dem two steps.”

**MOTHER:** Do you know what happens to little boys who tell lies?

**BOBBIE:** They ride on the train with Dad for half-fare.



fear  
has  
big eyes





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.....  
*The most useless exercise in the world is running into debt*  
.....



Some people do not seem to grasp why they were given two ears and only one tongue



**THE SECRET OF HIS SUCCESS**

**T**HE editor of a country newspaper retired with a fortune. When asked the secret of his success he replied:

"I attribute my ability to retire with \$100,000 savings, after thirty years in newspaper work, to diligent application to work, pursuing a policy of strict honesty, always practising rigorous rules of economy and to the death of my uncle, five years ago, who left me \$110,000."



**The only people who enjoy hearing your troubles are lawyers — they get paid for it**



*There are two kinds of people in the world: those who use a telephone book and those who put it back*

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CHUCKLES

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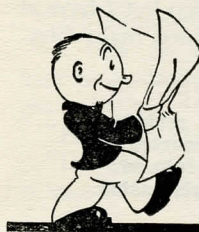
**Trouble is like an ugly dog — looks worse coming than going**



**DIFFICULT TO COLLECT**

**A** solemn-looking man was seen riding continuously on a merry-go-round at an amusement park. A fellow passenger said to him, "My but you must be enjoying yourself, you have taken so many rides!"

"I don't like it at all," replied the sad-faced one. "In fact it makes me dizzy and it gives me a headache, but the owner of this outfit owes me ten dollars and this is the only way I can collect the money."



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The early bird not only catches the worm but gets first whack at the morning paper  
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**A SIGN ON A NEIGHBOR'S FRONT DOOR**

**Enter without knocking  
Leave the same way**



*All people make mistakes — that's why erasers are put on lead pencils*

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*Putting your best foot forward  
does not mean to kick about everything*

THE BISHOP'S PREFERENCE

**A** SHY young lady sat next to a distinguished Bishop at a formal dinner. For some time she hesitated to speak to him but finally, seeing some bananas passed, she seized the opportunity to start conversation.

"I beg your pardon, but are you fond of bananas?"

The Bishop, who was slightly deaf, replied, "Pardon me but what did you say?"

"I said," replied the young lady, blushing furiously, "Do you like bananas?"

The Bishop pondered a moment, then answered, "It is a curious question but I have always preferred the old-fashioned night-shirt."

THE SUMMER RESORT

**Where mother gets rested;  
where sister gets courted;  
where brother gets tutored;  
and where father gets busted.**



The man who distrusts  
everyone he sees  
must spend much time  
in front of his mirror

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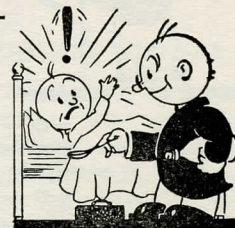
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THEY DIDN'T CARE TO SEE IT AGAIN

A couple from the country left a New York theatre after the second act because they read in the program "Act III is the same as Act I."

*Evil thoughts  
like green apples  
upset the  
whole system*



A STEP FURTHER

**T**HE Scotchman treated the Irish family to a tune on the bagpipes. When he had finished he looked around and remarked with pride:

"Eh, mon, that's verra deefficult."

"Difficult it is?" remarked Pat. "Be jabbers, oi wish it had been impossible."

**You don't get dizzy  
doing a good turn**

If you must carry a chip  
on your shoulder  
get a job in a lumber yard  
where it won't be noticed



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**Hanging horseshoes  
over the door won't  
bring good luck  
if you spend the rest  
of the time just  
hangin' 'round**

*The man who thinks he is a big shot  
is usually the first to get fired*

**A SCOTCHMAN'S HINT**

**S**ANDY and his lass had been sitting together about half an hour in silence.

"Maggie," he said at length, "Wasna I here on the Sawbath night?"

"Aye, Sandy, I daur say you were."

"An' wasna I here on Monday night?"

"Aye, so ye were."

"An' I was here on Tuesday night, an' Wednesday night, an' Thursday night, an' Friday night?"

"Aye, I'm thinkin' that's so."

"An' this is Saturday night, an' I'm here again?"

"Well, what for noo? I'm sure ye're very welcome."

Sandy (desperately): "Maggie, woman, dae ye no begin to smell a rat?"

*A sharp tongue severs many a friendship*

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**GREEN:** What are you doing this evening?

**WHITE:** Celebrating my wife's fifth anniversary.

**GREEN:** Wedding anniversary?

**WHITE:** No, fifth anniversary of her fortieth birthday.

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**CARRYING THE DECEPTION TOO FAR**

**T**WO burglars broke into a drug store and just as they were making their get-away saw a policeman at the door. One said to his pal, "Quick, Bud, git inter that box and I'll tell de cop I'm de new night clerk." Then he let the policeman in.

"Who are you?"

"I'm de new night clerk."

"Huh! Guess I'll look around." The policeman approached the packing case and said, "What's in that box?"

"Bottles," replied the burglar. Thereupon the policeman gave it a lift and let it drop with a bang. Out from the box piped a shrill voice, "Crash, jing-le, tinkle, tink-le!"

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**The man who brags  
about running things  
at home usually  
refers to the lawn-  
mower and furnace**

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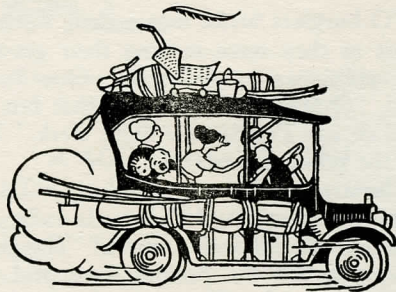
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THE FINAL INSTALLMENT

MRS. Jones had at last paid the final installment on her baby carriage.

"Thank you, madam, and how is your baby getting along?" asked the smiling collector.

"Oh, simply fine," replied Mrs. Jones, "he's graduating from high school next week."



Grinning, like a flivver, makes some folks look silly but it gets them there

*The less a man knows  
the easier it is to convince him  
that he knows it all*

**the bulldog wins  
because he hangs on**

MRS. FLUBB: How did you like Venice?

MRS. DUBB: Oh, we did not stay there because it was pouring rain and the streets were flooded.

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RIDING HOME IN THE SUBWAY WITH DAD

LITTLE ALFRED: Daddy, why do the ladies have all the straps?

—\*—\*—

**Days that should not be celebrated:**

Father's Day: When the bills are due.

Mother's Day: When the hired girl does not show up.

Brother's Day: When school opens.

Sister's Day: When the style is long hair and dresses.

Baby's Day: When mother is away and father is nurse.

—\*—\*—

*Being everlastingly on the job  
beats carrying a rabbit's foot  
for luck*



The greatest complainer  
of hard times  
is usually one who is  
looking for a soft job.

—\*—\*—

**remember the steam kettle:**

tho up to its neck in hot water  
it continues to sing

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**BOTH IN THE SAME PREDICAMENT**

**NERVOUS LADY:** Careful, driver, not so fast, this is my first ride in a taxi.

**TAXI DRIVER:** Mine, too!

**THE LONELY SUBURBS**

**H**E was going home and it was dark. His road from the station was a lonely one and he was hurrying along as fast as he could when he realized suddenly that a man behind was following him purposely. The faster he went the faster the man followed until they came to a cemetery.

"Now," he said to himself, "I'll find out if he's after me," and he entered the cemetery. The man followed him. He circled a grave and his pursuer dodged after him. He crawled under a hedge. Still the man was after him. At last he turned and faced the fellow. "What do you want? What are you following me for?"

"Well, sir, it's like this. I'm going to Mr. Brown's house and the station agent told me to follow you because Mr. Brown lived next door. Tell me something. Do you always go home like this?"

*Every black sheep  
was somebody's pet lamb once*



**Never meddle with a hornet  
Or a man who is minding his own business**

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CHUCKLES

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**BINX:** How much do you get out of your car?

**JINX:** Oh, about four or five times a mile.

All good things will come  
to the other fellow  
if you will only  
sit down and wait



*A great command of language  
enables one  
to keep still*



**DURING THE BASEBALL SEASON**

**T**HE new elevator man went to his boss and asked to have the day off to help his wife with the housecleaning.

"Jim, I am always glad to grant any reasonable request," said the boss, "but your wife has phoned and said she would not need you."

"Mr. Jones," replied Jim, "There are two persons in this building who handle the truth loosely and I am one of them. I'm not married."



*A good thing to take  
when you are run down —  
the license number of the car*

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CHUCKLES

A DIFFERENT KIND OF KNOCK

**A** MAN who was just learning to drive a car invited a friend to take a ride. In driving through a small city they found the traffic very congested. The friend said, "Tom, your engine is knocking to beat the band."

"Don't be silly," was the reply, "that's not the engine, it's my knees."

*Starting on a shoestring is more to be desired than ending on a rope*



You'll never offend a person by returning a smile

**Advice to the thin: Don't eat fast!**  
**Advice to the fat: Don't eat! Fast!**

Years ago it was the auto that used to scare a horse — now it's another horse

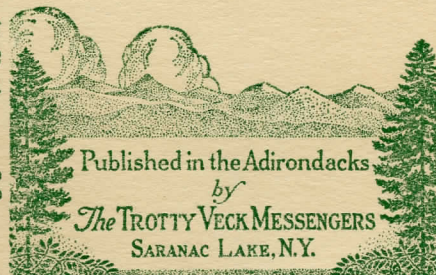
**MRS. DORAY:** Why do you go out on the front porch when I sing? Don't you like my singing?

**MR. DORAY:** It isn't that. I don't want the neighbors to think I am beating you.

[TVM]

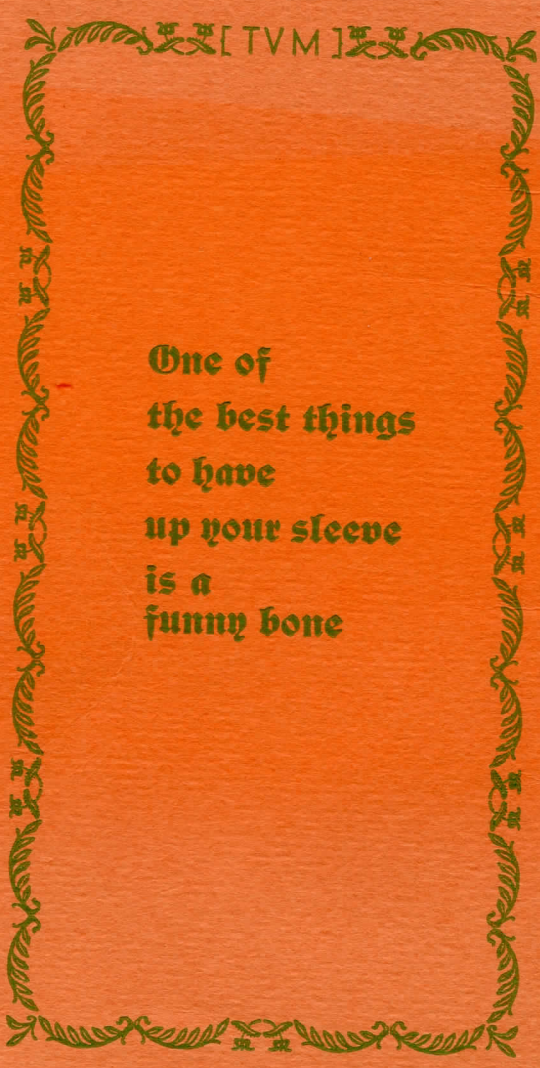
**T**HIS TROTTY VECK MESSAGE is one of a series of little books of "good cheer." If after reading this one you think you would like to see others, just write to the publishers (name and address below) and they will be pleased to send you an assortment, ON APPROVAL, with prices.

Information about the Adirondacks will be gladly furnished to anyone on request.



Published in the Adirondacks  
by  
**The TROTTY VECK MESSENGERS**  
SARANAC LAKE, N.Y.





One of  
the best things  
to have  
up your sleeve  
is a  
funny bone