

# PENNY POPS A TOOTH...

*Bill Saver*



The kids, Jack and Penny, were all bathed and dressed to hit the hay a few nights ago when Penny came over to give me her goodnight kiss before being tucked in.

As she said, "Goodnight, Daddy," I exclaimed, "What's that sticking out of your mouth? You look just like a certain dragon I've noticed cavorting around on the TV screen." "Oh! That's just a loose tooth," she giggled and made a dash for her bedroom.

As I followed her into the room, she quickly jumped into bed and pulled the covers over her head. To my, "Come on, let me see it," she laughed, "No. You'll pull it! I'll do it, myself!"

Knowing that procrastination in such things was not unusual with her, I persisted in my pleadings and Kitty added some persuasive remarks, calculated to produce the desired results. All the while, Jack stood by, grinning from ear to ear, as he had gone through the same thing only a few years earlier and still clearly remembered his own experiences. "It won't hurt, Penny," he chimed in, "that tooth is real loose."

As words were getting us nowhere, I attempted to uncover her head, saying, "I'm not going to pull the tooth. I just want to see how loose it is." With that, Penny popped her head out. "I'll do it my . . .," she started but never finished the sentence as the subject of the whole episode, a tiny incisor, dropped on the bed spread.

"Waaa," howled Penny, when she realized what had happened. And she sped to the bathroom for water to wash out her mouth and a look in a mirror.

"Now you'll have to buy me a new tooth!" Penny stated flatly, "and the good

fairy better leave something under my pillow tonight, too." With that, she winked at me.

"No," I said, "it won't be necessary to buy a new tooth for you at your age. Nature will see to it that a new one grows in. In fact, you can already see and feel the new one starting, but it's not like that at the CTA."

"Does the CTA have teeth, too?" she wanted to know.

"Well, not exactly," I said, "but it's like this—CTA's buses, streetcars, elevated-subway cars, tools, machines and other facilities are constantly wearing out from continuous use. Also passenger vehicles and other property are damaged by vandals—usually thoughtless pranks by the younger generation. As a result, new parts are being installed and repairs are being made every day so that all passenger vehicles and all other equipment is always in safe operating condition. Then, too, vehicles and other facilities must be completely replaced from time to time, as they wear out."

"Gee," she exclaimed, "I guess there's more to CTA than just driving a bus!"

"Yes, indeed," I replied. "In fact, each month CTA sets aside approximately \$800,000 for replacement of worn out and obsolete equipment. This is known as a depreciation fund."

"Gosh," Penny piped, "it sure would be nice if we had a system like that around here to buy new things, wouldn't it?"

"Yes, it would," I answered as I quietly turned out the light.

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**says:**

"Local transit vehicles are the most efficient users of street space. Automobiles carry an average of 1.5 people per trip. One CTA bus or street-car—seating 50 people—does the job of 32 automobiles, and occupies one-twelfth the street space."

## **DAY AND NIGHT...**

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